

January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy new year to you all and thank you for your continued support of the school. I would like to take the opportunity of the new year to remind all stakeholders of some important items.

### Learning Expectations

All students have been reminded of the learning expectations this week and please find below a summary for you to discuss with your child at home:



## HDHS Learning Expectations

1. Follow all instructions first time. No arguing or questioning instructions.	We need to show <u>Preparedness and Independence</u> by following instructions. This allows everyone to learn and will help us achieve the best we can achieve.
2. No shouting out, chatting off task or negative/disrespectful comments.	This disrupts the learning of others. We need to show <u>Respect</u> to others and <u>Positivity</u> about learning.
3. Complete all work set in class to the best possible standard.	We need to show <u>Perseverance</u> by working hard and thinking hard. We need to show <u>Ambition</u> .
4. Phones/Headphones etc: Not seen, not heard, not confiscated.	We will only make progress by giving our full attention at all times. This requires <u>Perseverance</u> and <u>Ambition</u> .

### Uniform

Almost all students have come back to school after the break looking smart and ready to learn. Please can I remind all of some items in our uniform policy:

- Nails must be natural colour
- No trainers
- Earrings - up to 2 pairs of small studded, not hooped or dangly
- Hair must be a natural colour
- Hoodies are permitted to be worn as a coat and as such must be on top of blazers and never underneath
- Skirts to be of a suitable length

### Single-use Plastic Ban

In line with our own students' suggestions and concerns, we are trying to change habits in order

to be mindful of waste and as such the school has a ban on single-use plastic drinks bottles. Most students have adhered perfectly to this by using their HDHS refillable, biodegradable bottle that was given to them last term (students can use an alternative to the HDHS bottle if they have one). Please can I remind all that any single-use bottles will be taken from students to be collected at the end of the day.

### **Adverse Weather**

With the new term comes the prospect of adverse weather conditions. Please find below a reminder of how any changes to the school day will be communicated.

#### *Severe Weather Conditions*

*In the event of bad weather or an emergency the school will, very occasionally, need to be closed, but we will do our utmost to remain open. The decision to close is not taken lightly and is only made after full consideration of the safety of the site (including heating, pathways and the access road). Please note that site staff start to clear snow at 4.00am but it is not always possible to make a decision about school closure and site safety until around 6.30am.*

*Should the decision be made to have a later start or close the school in the event of bad weather or an emergency, the mechanism of informing you about the arrangements is shown below.*

a) A message will be placed on the home page of the school's website:

[www.hdhs.org.uk](http://www.hdhs.org.uk)

b) A message will be placed on our social media platforms eg the HDHS Facebook and Twitter page.

c) School closure lists will be available on the Essex County Council website and you are advised to use the link below.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/emergency-school-closures>

*There is often a 'time-lag' between making the decision to close and appearance on any website. This is because of the high volume of people trying to access the systems.*

### **'Late Start'**

*School will open at 10.15am and lessons commence at 10.30am.*

*Students attending school in extreme weather conditions should wear appropriate outdoor clothing, including footwear, and bring a change of shoes to wear inside the school buildings.*

*The situation can sometimes change suddenly and we may have to make decisions about arrangements at short notice, therefore we may need to communicate with parents via the system outlined above during the school day. **Parents need to make sure students have a house key or know a safe place to go if they arrive home early and finds that parents are out.** This is particularly important for younger students, who may not be familiar with coming home to an empty house. Unless told to the contrary, parents and students should assume that the school will reopen on the following day.*

### **HDHS is a Reading School**

We expect all of our students to be reading both in school and at home; as such, all students must have a reading book with them in school everyday as a part of their equipment.

### **Stakeholders' Surgery**

Each half term I reserve time to communicate with all stakeholders on any issue. No appointment is necessary. Please check the website for exact dates and times for the year and please do come in to speak with me.

May I wish you a happy and healthy 2020 that is successful for our learners.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Finch', with a small dot at the end.

**Kate Finch**  
**Headteacher**