



HEADMASTER'S END OF TERM LETTER

I am sure that the many of you who have supported the children in the numerous activities that have taken place over the past twelve weeks or so will agree with me that it has been an extremely busy and successful term. The highlights include an inspirational speech by Derek Redmond at the Senior School Speech Day, the Under 14 Girls Hockey squad reaching the National Finals, a most poignant Remembrance Service, at which the school was joined by several Old Hymersians and the stunning production of Jesus Christ Superstar.

The Christmas holiday provides us with a wonderful opportunity to recharge the batteries ahead of what I am sure will be an equally eventful Easter Term.

I am also taking this opportunity to alert parents to a number of items:

1. Staffing

The following staff are leaving Hymers at the end of this term:

Mr. Sam Canty will be leaving the Junior School after three years during which he taught Mathematics, Science and Games. He had also been a Team Leader for the past fifteen months.

Mr. Michael Williams is leaving the Modern Languages Department where he taught Spanish and participated on a number of Modern Languages trips. He had also taken charge of a number of sports teams.

Ms. Hannah Berridge began her teaching career at Hymers having gained a PGCE from Cambridge University. She made a significant contribution to the music department in her short time with us.

The following colleagues will be joining us in January.

Mr. Robert Poyser will be re-joining the Music Department on a part-time basis until the end of the academic year.

Ms. Maria Palafox Perez will continue in her role in the Modern Languages Department until the end of the academic year.

Mrs. Sarah Lord will continue to act as the Form Teacher of 11A as well as carrying out her duties as Head of Year 11.

Mrs Sue Atkinson will re-join her colleagues in the Junior School in early January until July. In addition to her teaching duties she will act as the Team Leader for Year 5.

2. Sports Kit Review

In response to feedback from the Parents' Questionnaire a committee has been meeting for several weeks to discuss the long-needed change of sports kit. We are now in discussion with various sportswear suppliers and would hope that over the next 18 months we will see a major overhaul of the current kit.

In light of this, the School Shop has asked if parents would kindly hold on to any old sports kit that they are no longer using. Having extra kit will benefit the school shop, the sports department and both new and existing parents by helping to make the transition to the new kit as smooth as possible.

Junior boy red and black reversibles, senior girl red and black hockey tops and tracksuits would be particularly helpful as they can only be ordered in large quantities which we hope to avoid.

The School Shop will let you know as and when appropriate, how this uniform will be collected and used and thanks you in anticipation of your help.

3. Uniform Issues

With the likelihood of cold weather in January and February, I always take this opportunity of reminding parents that the wearing of hoodies under the school blazer is forbidden as is the wearing of Ugg boots. I would be very grateful if parents can support the school in ensuring children do not wear these items for school.

4. Parking Issues

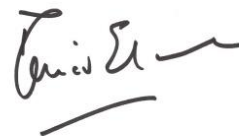
I have recently received a number of complaints from local residents regarding parents' parking when picking up children either at the end of the school day or after an evening event. Whilst I cannot control this issue, I am taking this opportunity to politely ask parents to be aware of the feelings of local residents.

As you will know, the school has been working closely with a local transport consultant with a view to possibly improving the traffic issues that exist around the school. I hope to be able to announce more details in the New Year.

5. Headmaster's Christmas Challenge

I very much hope that you will have a crack at my Christmas Challenge, the link to which is attached to this email.

Merry Christmas!



16th December 2011