

Ref: JAS/VAR

17 December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

At HTC our Vision is to Achieve Excellence. We are highly committed to this and are proud of the opportunities that we provide for the students that enables them to fulfil their full potential, become highly educated, responsible and confident young people who are ready to face the challenges of their future. We endeavour to ensure that your child's education is the best that it can be; vibrant, exciting and unique in its nature. We enable all students to achieve more than they first thought was possible through our broad and balanced curriculum and high quality teaching.

Earlier this term OFSTED visited the Dimension Childcare. We are one of the largest Childcare providers in Hampshire and recently opened further provision for our community in the Baby Bungalow. We were delighted that OFSTED recognised that the provision was good in all of the key areas and they commented that *'Staff show a strong commitment to development and improvement, and make changes that have a positive impact on children's experiences. Partnership with parents is strong. Staff share a wealth of information with parents to support children's care and development. Parents welcome the opportunity to attend a variety of events to discuss their children's ongoing development'*. The dedicated and committed Childcare staff thoroughly deserve this accolade.

Staff were pleased to meet parents at the recent Year 7 Parent Evening. It was particularly pleasing to hear from parents directly how delighted they were about how well their child had settled into life at HTC and that the opportunities that we afford had developed the young people's confidence and interest. Parents spoke of our helpful, approachable and friendly staff and our inclusive and respectful ethos and remarked that the College offered something different and special. After the longest term of the year this is excellent feedback for all staff who work to support your children on a daily basis. We are very mindful of our responsibility to provide an excellent education and it is both rewarding and fulfilling for our staff to hear this. As we move into the second part of the year we will continue to fulfil our vision, despite working in a climate of financial cuts to provide that excellent education that every child so rightly deserves.

Learning in the classroom is of paramount importance for all of us and our Teachers and Support Staff work tirelessly to ensure that students make good progress. I emphasised in a previous letter the importance of literacy and that students should be reading widely and have access to a wide range of academic words. Not only will these help students in forthcoming exams, it will also enable them to access more opportunities beyond their Secondary education. Recent academic research has concluded that the more words you know the greater your capability to learn. This message was given to the students in Assembly. This term we have supported Year 11 and Year 10 students with their Pre Public Examinations and emphasised that they use the opportunity to see what they can remember and apply this to the questions, enabling them to adjust their revision for the final exams.

The Autumn Term has been packed with opportunities for our young people to access in addition to our extra-curricular offer. We held the very successful and moving Arts Showcase in November. There have also been many excursions to enrich the learning of students these include Greenpower, the Battle of Hastings and Windmill Hill residential, a number of Science visits including at HTC Operation Theatre Live, Maths Challenge, music at the Portsmouth Guildhall, Imperial War Museum, Southampton Mosque, Theatre trips, Fort Purbrook, the German Christmas Markets, Sports Science lectures, Panto at South Downs, WW1 Battlefields trip, and student representation at the Equality and Diversity County group from which we received very positive feedback from a local Headteacher about our students' presentation. The Headteacher said, "They were a real credit to themselves and everyone at the school, presented really well, answered some tricky questions very confidently and most importantly conveyed a really important

message about the centrality of Student Voice for our work in this area.” We are regularly praised for our Rights, Respecting work and share our good practice with our local partner schools.

Students showed, as I previously mentioned, tremendous respect during the activities that led to our Whole College Commemoration of the end of World War 1. Our activities drew the attention of the media and the students were featured on a full page in the newspaper of the day.

Two of our students along with students from other local schools were able to work with The Portsmouth News Education Correspondent in a Journalism Workshop where they have been encouraged to write a discussion piece for The News. The Horndean submission will appear at a later date. The Headteachers have also been asked to write for the Headteachers’ comment page and I have written an article about mobile phones and social media and its influence on young people’s lives. The links for the articles which you may find interesting are below.

<https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/our-region/waterlooville/class-act-oaklands-catholic-school-and-sixth-form-college-students-write-their-own-stories-for-the-news-1-8736217>

<https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/education/headteacher-s-comment-simon-harrison-crofton-school-the-death-of-school-trips-1-8736295>

<https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/education/headteacher-s-comment-julie-summerfield-horndean-technology-college-some-students-are-so-dependent-on-mobile-phones-they-can-t-use-an-analogue-watch-1-8736331>

<https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/our-region/waterlooville/class-act-crookhorn-college-students-write-their-own-stories-for-the-news-1-8736277>

<https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/education/class-act-purbrook-park-school-students-write-their-own-stories-for-the-news-1-8736125>

<https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/education/headteacher-s-comment-ian-gates-cowplain-school-lets-celebrate-our-teachers-1-8734059>

This term we have welcomed Mrs Tee and Miss Harrod as LSAs and Mrs Dellar to Science and welcomed Mrs Cowe back from maternity leave. We say farewell to Mr Herman and Miss Kitchingham, at the end of the term and thank them for their contributions to the provision at HTC.

Students will be released from College at 11.55am on Friday 21 December. All the buses will be on site at this time to take the students home. Students who have free school meals must ensure that they go to the College Restaurant at BREAK TIME to receive it.

At the time of writing this letter there is some uncertainty about the Denmead bus as of January. We will contact parents when we have any further information from the bus company. Information may also be posted on the bus website.

The dates below are a reminder of the term dates for this year – a further copy is accessible via the website.

## **TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2019**

SPRING TERM 2019

Monday 7 January–Friday 5 April 2019

Half Term

Monday 18 February–Friday 22 February 2019

Easter Holidays

Monday 8 April–Monday 22 April 2019

SUMMER TERM 2019  
Tuesday 23 April–Friday 19 July 2019

May Day  
Monday 6 May 2019

Half Term  
Monday 27 May–Friday 31 May 2019

Profession Learning (Inset) Dates

Monday 7 January 2019  
Monday 22 July 2019  
Tuesday 23 July 2019

**The dates for the forthcoming academic year 2019-20 are available on the College Website. The new College year will start on Thursday 5 September 2019.**

I would like to recognise the dedication of our Governing Body who support and challenge our work as we aim to provide a first rate education. On your behalf I would like to also thank all the staff and Governors at HTC for their hard work and dedication this term. The staff at HTC do really go that extra mile for every student and a good number of parents/carers acknowledge this via our surveys and at Parents' Evenings.

Students return to College on **Tuesday 8 January 2019 and it is a Week 2.** Monday 7 January 2019 is a Professional Learning Day for staff. The College re-opens for all Year Groups at 8.30am and their timetable and lessons start immediately for Period 1. A Whole College Assembly takes place on the Thursday where we welcome in the New Year and set our standards and expectations for the months ahead. House Assemblies occur the following Wednesday. The House Value for the term is Enthusiasm.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy Christmas and New Year and I look forward to working with you next year to ensure a successful education for your child.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J A Summerfield  
Headteacher