

Ref: JAS/VAR

3 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware HTC received a short Inspection earlier this term as we had previously been judged to be 'good' at the last visit in 2016. We are very pleased to report to our community that the school still remains 'good'. We were pleased and grateful that 130 parents responded to the questionnaire with 659 students also taking the survey. Parents wrote some very positive comments on the educational provision at HTC.

The letter acknowledges our strong 'inclusive ethos' which 'permeates every aspect of our work and which strongly supports students' development as young citizens.' The learning environment is described as 'stimulating' and the opportunities for learning in the daily curriculum and extra-curricular activities are described as 'excellent'. Ofsted comment that student numbers have increased and parents have confidence in what we are trying to achieve and students talk with pride about their College.

Ofsted report that there is a strong culture of safeguarding in the school. Staff understand their responsibilities, training is effective and they know how to keep students safe and are vigilant to local risks. "Students do feel safe and know who to talk to if they have worries or concerns." The letter also talks favourably about student leadership and the 'Equalities Group' which challenges discrimination and encourages independence.

The letter acknowledges the strength of our curriculum which earlier this year was chosen by Ofsted for an in-depth study because of its breadth and originality. We are pleased that it is acknowledged by the Key Stage 4 students that they have been well-served by the curriculum. We were asked at the previous visit to improve progress in Science which the Inspectors acknowledged has occurred. During the recent visit the Inspectors observed that progress in English was improving and that staff recruitment had been an issue. It is pleasing to report that staffing in English has stabilised and that we are already fully staffed for September. The national recruitment crisis is a challenge to all schools but it is always pleasing that so many of our staff want to remain at HTC and that those Teachers new to the profession and indeed from other schools want to work at HTC because of our students and our welcoming and supportive ethos.

The Inspectors also highlighted attendance, an area of our work that I have mentioned in the past. We are grateful to the majority of parents who support us to achieve a minimum of 95% attendance for every student. If students are not at College they are not learning and this limits their progress. We encourage all our parents to ensure that their children attend every day unless they are clearly unwell.

The letter can be read in full by following the link on the HTC website.

Students will be released from College at 11.55am on Friday 5 April. 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.

During the holidays we occasionally have some issues with students being on the College site. At this time the College is closed to all students, unless there are timetabled courses which at this time of year are usually dedicated to revision. Parents should ensure that their children are not present on the site at this time as the College cannot be responsible for their safety and well-being. This is also true at the end of a College day and into the evening when we have experienced students on site too.

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**

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

Professional Learning (Inset) Dates

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 23 April 2019 and it is a Week 2.** 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 Wednesday where we set our standards and expectations for the months ahead. House Assemblies occur the following Wednesday. The House Theme for the term is Excellence. Please note that Monday 6 May 2019 is a Bank Holiday.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy Easter and I look forward to working with you to ensure a successful education for your child as the Key Stage 4 students approach the public examination period.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J A Summerfield  
Headteacher