

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DO WE KEEP YOU INFORMED?

At HTC we use systems to securely send emails direct to parents and carers alongside notifications through Class Charts and Firefly apps and the College website. If your child is absent you will receive a message informing you of the absence and requesting that you contact the College. You will also receive messages from time to time, praising your child and informing you of events, such as review days, notification of Parents' Evening and College closures.

HOW DO I CONTACT STAFF?

By ringing the main College Reception you can be connected to the member of staff you would like to contact, or alternatively, you can email general@hordeantc.hants.sch.uk and your email will be forwarded to the relevant member of staff. Staff can also be contacted directly by logging into Firefly.

WHAT IS THE UNCRC (UNITED NATIONS CONVENTIONS ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD) AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR MY CHILD?

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a legally-binding international agreement setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities. These include:

- **The right to life.**
- **The right to his or her own name and identity.**
- **The right to be protected from abuse or exploitation.**
- **The right to an education.**
- **The right to having their privacy protected. To be raised by or have a relationship with their parents.**
- **The right to express their opinions and have these listened to and, where appropriate, acted upon.**
- **The right to play and enjoy culture and art in safety.**

Rights are not the same as 'wants'. What are termed rights are the basic human needs and values that apply or should apply to everyone. Although highlighting your child's rights it is important we identify their responsibilities too.

The College has a VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) called Firefly, through which parents, students and staff can communicate with each other, check homework progress, access resources, receive notifications and download reports including Progress Reviews.

WHAT IS THE HOUSE SYSTEM?

As part of our emphasis on rewarding students for their efforts and achievements, all merits contribute towards House totals in order to win the prestigious overall House Cup.

Students and staff take great pride in belonging to one of the five Houses; Athena, Tyche, Zelus, Cratos and Phoebe. In addition, each half term, students can be nominated for a publicised Olympic value for which they receive a badge in recognition.

WHY ARE BREAKS AND LUNCHTIMES STAGGERED?

This means that only half of the students in College take a break at any one time. There is, therefore, more room in our two restaurants, sandwich room and around the site for students to have a relaxed eating and leisure experience.

WHY DOES COLLEGE FINISH EARLIER ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS?

Extra-curricular clubs, revision programmes and activities are often held on these days. The flexibility offered by this arrangement allows us to maximise learning and motivation.

WHAT IS THE LEARNING MENTOR SYSTEM?

In addition to having a Tutor, many students will be given the opportunity to work with a member of staff on a one to one basis to improve a specific skill or subject area.

HOW CAN PARENTS/CARERS BE INVOLVED?

Parents play a crucial role in their child's education. We ask that you take an interest, provide facilities and opportunities for them to study at home and ensure they complete their home learning which you can see on Class Charts, come and watch them in performances, in sports matches and celebrate with us the fantastic achievements they can make! Parents can follow the progress of their child using Firefly (VLE), by responding to questionnaires and through direct correspondence. We are also delighted to welcome new members to our Parent Forum which holds half-termly meetings. The majority of meetings have a guest speaker from the College and provides parents and carers with a wealth of knowledge about College life.



HORNDEAN TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE



www.hordeantc.hants.sch.uk

