



**Special  
Edition**

# Hazelwick School Newsletter

**September 2021**

## Dates for your diary:

*Tues 14th Sept 2021:*  
Open Evening

*Sun 31st Oct 2021:*  
Deadline for school  
place preference  
procedure

*Tue 1st March 2022:*  
Offer date

*Mon 11th July 2022:*  
Hazelwick New Intake  
Parents'/Carers'  
Meeting

## Headlines

*Mrs A Fearon, Headteacher*

Welcome to this special edition of our Hazelwick School Newsletter!



Our newsletter, celebrating the huge number and range of activities that our students are involved in and their many successes, is produced at the end of each month. Past issues can be found on the school website ([www.hazelwick.org](http://www.hazelwick.org)).

In this special edition, we have put together a selection of articles to illustrate the breadth and variety of opportunities open to our students here at Hazelwick. Unfortunately, due to the many restrictions imposed upon us throughout the last two years, we have been limited in the breadth of activities that our students have been able to undertake. For this reason some of the events outlined in this special edition newsletter are from previous years. However, they give an excellent flavour of the richness of the experiences that we offer here at Hazelwick. As we return to normality, we are immensely excited to resume the full scope of opportunities available to our students.



Please visit the  
"Open Evening"  
section of our  
website for all the  
details that you  
need.

I do hope that you enjoy reading our newsletter and take the opportunity to discover about all the wonderful activities and opportunities that are offered at Hazelwick.

## Year 7 students on their first day at Hazelwick:



## Year 8 look back at the highlights of their first year at Hazelwick?



“My first day at Hazelwick. It was all so new but everyone made it feel a fun, safe place to learn.”  
“In Art being able to use lots of different media such as paints, oils, pastels and chalk.”  
“Meeting my new teachers. They are kind and very funny. I also have a wonderful Form Teacher.”  
“Realising that Science is my favourite subject.”  
“Learning History. This has helped me understand the past and what might happen in the future.”  
“Being able to use my imagination in Art, Drama and DT.”



## What has been your biggest achievement to date?

“Learning a new language and getting good marks in my German tests.”  
“Getting lots of awards and Purple Slips. I managed to do it all because of the staff and support.”  
“Becoming a Millionaire reader.”  
“Representing the school at cricket. We beat Imberhorne School.”  
“Being voted Form Rep!”  
“Growing my confidence and having zero Behaviour points and over 250 Achievement points!”

## Key Stage 3 Curriculum (Years 7 and 8)

All students at Hazelwick follow a broad and balanced curriculum at KS3, studying a wide range of subjects, all taught by specialist teachers.

The aim of the curriculum at KS3 is to excite and engage children, to broaden their experience, open up new areas of knowledge, develop their independent study skills and lay down strong foundations for success in examination work at KS4.

Students are grouped in a variety of ways that we feel are most appropriate to their age and ability.

Full details of the KS3 curriculum can be found on the school website.

## Enriching the Curriculum



### Chemistry Week

The Chemistry show during Chemistry week was great fun and attended by Year 7 students who observed demonstrations of 'exploding water', a 'thermite sparkler', 'a rainbow of flames' and 'screaming jelly babies'. Students were also able to make their own sparklers and produced fire-writing Christmas cards.

### Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge



### Accelerated Reader Students

Year 7 reflecting on their success as part of our Accelerated Reading Programme.



Members of Year 7 and Year 8 competed at the Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge in Brighton. It was our first visit, and we were pleased to beat some of the established teams in the speed challenge and other activities.



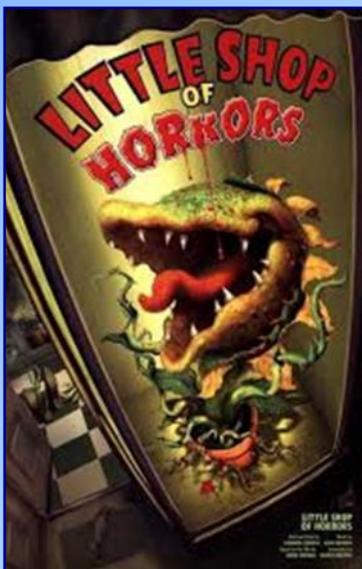
## Creative Arts

### Art Show

Our annual summer Art Show exhibited the high-quality work of our students across the specialist areas of Fine Art and Photography.

### Drama Production

Hazelwick students brought a firm favourite *Oliver!* to the stage. A cast, crew and band of over 100 students delivered a production which audience members claimed was 'better than the West End.'



We are hugely excited that our whole-school production this year will be *Little Shop of Horrors*. A wide range of departments are involved in ensuring the success of this venture from music and drama to art and technology. Auditions are already underway!



## The sound of (live) Music

The Music department keeps busy with their annual concerts.

The Live Lounge set saw very few microphones and a relaxed, acoustic setting. We had some excellent solo performances ranging from Year 7 up to Year 12, as well as several bands who have formed over the last few years. It wasn't all quiet, though. Mr Mapp's Soul Band launched the evening with a fantastic rendition of Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' and a rather lively choir finished the evening with 'Circle of Life'.



## Music Summer Concert

We hold an annual Summer concert. After recent virtual concerts, we are all looking forward to being able to perform live once again.



## Battle of the Bands!

Students have the opportunity to perform at Battle of the Bands and take part in a band photoshoot and studio recording session prior to the gig.



# The Wonder of Science

## STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths



Students enjoying scientific discovery.



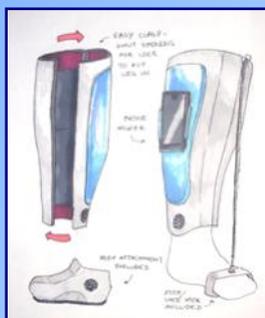
### Annual Maths Challenge

Hazelwick competes against teams from across the region. The last team to enter performed tremendously well, working together to solve some very demanding mathematical challenges.

### STEMfest!

Former Year 13 students Shivam Patel, Duvarakan Gunaratnam and Krishen Mistry took their ideas for using drones to monitor pollution to the Big Bang, National Science and Engineering Competition at the NEC. They were awarded a runners-up slot in the main competition but did walk away with a special award, The Air Products Protecting the Environment Prize.

### South of England Show 2019 - 'Young Artisan of the Year Awards'



Sanjeeve Gunaratnam, former Year 13, won 'First Prize' in the category of Design & Technology. Sanjeeve was congratulated by the judges and received £300 towards his prototype. Sanjeeve's design is for a client who has issues with shortened tendons in his heels and calves as a result of stunted growth through suffering with hydrocephalus.

## Charities and Community



**Year 7 Fun Run  
raising money for  
St Catherine's Hospice**



**Sixth Form  
Festive Friday**



### St Catherine's Hospice Youth Enterprise Challenge

Led by six of our Year 12 students in 2020, the team organised a wide range of fund-raising activities, including cake sales, a fun run, a hot chocolate stand, pie the teacher and non-uniform days, to raise money for St Catherine's Hospice. The school raised a phenomenal £6,368.18 and would have raised considerably more had the country not gone into national lockdown. We are confident that, as for the last 9 years, Hazelwick will have raised a winning amount.

### House System

The Hazelwick House System runs in addition to the well-established and highly effective Year Team pastoral system, to increase students' leadership opportunities and encourage further participation between different year groups. All students belong to one of 6 Houses, which are named after great British achievers - Duleep Singh, Equiano, Fry, Seacole, Turing and Winton. All students earn points for their House across all aspects of school life. There are regular events that take place throughout the school year, giving students the opportunity to compete together, often with other year groups, to earn points for their House. Events in the last year have included: House Crest competition, Black History Month Poetry/Spoken word competition, Virtual Bake Off, Spelling Bee, Mental Health poster competition, Masked Teacher competition, Balance Test, Taskmaster and Sports days. Each House also has a nominated House Charity for which they raise money throughout the year.



As well as taking part in events, students are key to the leadership of the House system with Charity, Sport and Student Voice representatives in every form, led by House Leaders and House Captains from the 6th form. It is excellent to see students from across the age range of the school working together to organise, deliver and enjoy events for other students.

## Results

### A-Level

At A-level this summer, in spite of external exams not taking place and the rigorous process of awarding Teacher Assessed Grades, Hazelwick students achieved outstanding results. Well over a quarter of all A-level grades were A\*/A with an amazing 54% of all grades between A\* and B, which is testament to students' hard work and determination.



Amongst these fantastic results were our highest attainers; Raunaq Singh with an immensely impressive A\*, A\*, A\*, A\* and Saptarshi Bandyopadhyay, Jenna Newton-Bradbury and Matthew Gallagher who all gained A\*, A\*, A\*.

Amongst our many high-achieving students, two have been accepted to study medicine: Rukhsar Hussain (St. George's University of London) and Nuha Abdul Latiff (Anglia Ruskin University). Other high-flyers have gone on to study a wide range of subjects including Zaira Khan (Radiography, radiotherapy and oncology at City, University of London), Ismail Saleem (Apprenticeship in Accountancy) and Kotryna Blankaite (Law at the University of Exeter).

A huge number of Year 13 students moved on to university, with over a quarter gaining places at Russell group universities and 38% studying at those listed in the "top 40". We are immensely proud of all of our Sixth Form students and, most importantly, we are thrilled that everyone of them were able to progress to their university of choice.



### GCSE

#### Impressive Results

Once again, we were thrilled that our students were able to achieve another set of excellent GCSE results. Almost 80% of all GCSE grades were 9-4 (or equivalent) and almost 30% were "top" grades 9-7 (or equivalent).

#### Outstanding Progress

Here at Hazelwick, we are committed to enabling each and every student to make excellent progress regardless of their prior attainment. A huge number of our students achieve a progress score of +1 or higher, showing that on average in each of their subjects they achieve a whole grade higher than national expectations. Many of last year's cohort achieved a score of +2 and some students even gained a progress score of higher than +3, with one student hitting a score which showed that she achieved over 3 1/2 grades higher than national expectations in every subject that she took. There are no performance tables again this year, but where these were published in 2019, the Department for Education placed us as the 6th top performing school in the whole of West Sussex according to Progress 8, the usual measure by which all schools are judged nationally.

# First Class Facilities for your Child

## Hazelwick School as an Academy

- Increased funding and greater autonomy
- Improved services for our students
- Site and facilities upgrades and developments
- Enhanced curriculum flexibility
- No change to our admissions criteria
- No change to our ethos

All student toilets across the whole site are individual cubicles, equipped with high-quality modern fittings.



**NORTH HALL**  
Mezzanine floor housing a fully-equipped multi-gym fitness suite.



## More Able, Gifted and Talented

Hazelwick is fully committed to ensuring that all students make the best possible progress, tailored to their individual needs. Within this is the wealth of opportunities that we offer to our able, gifted and talented students.

### More Able Linguists Teaching Primary School Pupils



### Talented Athlete Programme

Students on our Talented Athlete Programme attend a fitness workshop K2.



### Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Bronze Award

A group of 74 students from Year 9, 10 and 11 completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June in the Surrey Hills. The students completed two days of walking with all of their equipment putting their navigation skills to the test and developing their confidence, resilience and the ability to problem solve as a team.



## Sport

### Athletics - Track and Field Cup

Our fantastic athletics team competed in the annual Super Six Athletics competition.

The event requires each team member to complete one track event, one field event and a relay. After a tough afternoon of competition, the Hazelwick team, made up of boys and girls were runaway winners.



### KS3 Badminton Tournament



The KS3 badminton tournament was held at St Wilfrid's Catholic School.

Hazelwick entered two teams. Both teams played well but the A team just narrowly missed out on the final.

The A team had convincing wins over The Gatwick School and Oriel High School but lost 3-2 to St Wilfrid's Catholic School.

### Town Sports Triumph!

When last held in July 2019, the 63rd Crawley Secondary Schools' athletics competition took place at K2. Hazelwick has been the holder of the trophy since 2009. Students spend many hours in training prior to Town Sports resulting in Hazelwick being the winning school for many years.



### Sussex Schools

Amelia Cox, Nicholas Hollan-Ellidge and Thomas James competed for the Sussex Schools team at the National Championships in Leeds.

## Sport

### U14 Girls Football Team

The under U14 girls football team made an excellent start to the season in the County Cup after an 18-0 win over Steyning Grammar School which put them through to the second round where they beat Millais School.



### English Schools Cross Country Cup



Eighteen Hazelwick students travelled to Hurstpierpoint to compete in the English Schools Cross Country Cup. The Inter Boys qualified for the South East regional round.

### Year 7 Football Team

The Year 7 boys Football Team have worked really hard training. We look forward to their matches in the future.



### Year 9 Netball Team

In 2019 the Year 9 Netball Team become Crawley Schools Netball Champions after a convincing display against other local schools. Their success is testament to their great teamwork and dedication to training.

## Educational Visits

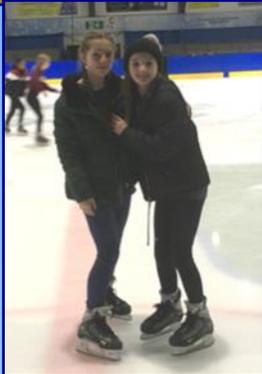
### Calshot

Year 7 students thoroughly enjoy their two day residential trip to Calshot Activity Centre in their first term at Hazelwick. They develop new skills, form new friendships and have lots of fun.



### Aachen

The Year 9 trip to Aachen is a great opportunity for the students to experience a taste of German school life and discover the magic of the German Christmas Market.



### Paris

Year 8 French students practise their language skills on the annual summer term trip to Paris.



### Exeter

Year 12 enjoy their annual sixth form trip to Exeter University. The students experience life in a university for a week and adrenalin-inducing activities such as coasteering and gorge scrambling.

# Transition at Hazelwick

## Helping everyone to find their way at secondary school

Transition to secondary school is an exciting process with a great deal to look forward to. It can also feel daunting to Year 6 pupils with lots to learn about moving to “big school”. At Hazelwick, a huge amount of care, consideration, preparation and communication with primary schools goes into supporting our 300 Year 7s make the move up to secondary school each year. This excellent practice was identified by the national educational magazine ‘Teach Secondary’, whose editor contacted Hazelwick in order to showcase our work on transition. They commented on the experience and expertise that Hazelwick staff have in supporting students into Year 7, along with the care, compassion and commitment they show to them. All staff at Hazelwick are focussed on ensuring the move is successful, beneficial and positive.

Hazelwick can look like a big school on paper and it can seem like a very big site when you visit. The school does everything it can to benefit from its size - the large spacious leafy site ensures there is always a calm feel and there is plenty of space for all year groups to have their own distinct areas for socialising, eating and playing. However, in spite of its size, every student is known and the school does not feel very large to our students. New Year 7s are supported by Sixth Form students as they settle in. The Sixth Formers escort groups to and from their lessons and support them at social time as well. Our large and diverse student body enables the school to offer a broad and engaging range of subjects. The transitions between lessons are very smooth and visitors always comment on how they cannot believe that there are 1800 students on the site.



In September 2021, the 300 Year 7 students arrived from 28 different primary schools. To coordinate their successful arrival, and ensure that all students are well understood, Hazelwick creates a partnership with primary schools. ‘Teach Secondary’ commented on this, stating that Hazelwick staff “work very closely with local primary schools, meeting both teachers and pupils. Through these conversations, they understand the friendship groups that already exist and are able to understand the needs of each child to create well balanced form groups that are paired with the right form tutors.” Armed with knowledge of every child, socially and academically, students are placed into 11 tutor groups. The information

from their primary school ensures the best combinations of classes to enable students to feel settled and comfortable in their new learning environment.

In July 2022, all students will be invited to attend an Induction Day at Hazelwick. They are welcomed on this day by the Headteacher before going through an engaging and carefully tailored programme of lessons, tours and team building induction activities with their new tutor group. This day gives the soon-to-be new Year 7s a range of experiences and they leave with new friends, an understanding of the school and an exciting and high quality shared experience with their new form teacher that stands them in excellent stead for their arrival in September.

Hazelwick staff seek feedback from students and primary schools every year to continually tailor the transition processes to the needs of the cohort. The involvement of our Sixth Form students epitomises the diligence and care shown in the transition process at Hazelwick. We believe that the whole school community has a role in welcoming Year 7 students into the school. This approach, alongside the very careful grouping and understanding of the children that are joining us, enables all students to quickly and happily find their way at Hazelwick and enjoy the start of their secondary school experience.

## **‘Your child – your choice’**

### **Secondary School Admissions in Crawley**

#### **Does my child’s primary school affect his/her eligibility for any secondary school?**

*NO – for any of the non-church maintained secondary schools in Crawley (Hazelwick, Ifield, Oriel, Thomas Bennett, The Gatwick School), your primary school does NOT make any difference to your chances of gaining admission.*

#### **I hear parents talking about ‘Feeder Schools’ having priority admissions. Is this true?**

*NO – in Crawley there is no such thing as a ‘Feeder School’. Your child has the same opportunity to come to Hazelwick as any other primary school child.*

#### **As an Academy, does Hazelwick have completely different admissions rules?**

*NO – they are broadly the same as for the other (Local Authority) secondary schools in Crawley and they have not changed drastically since Hazelwick became an Academy. Hazelwick’s admissions are still administered for us by the Local Authority’s Pupil Admissions Office.*

#### **Is there any selection at Hazelwick, either by academic ability or by ‘aptitude’?**

*NO – Hazelwick remains a fully comprehensive, non-selective, inclusive school.*

#### **What are the main factors that determine admission to Hazelwick?**

- *Living within the defined ‘catchment’ area.*
- *Having an older brother or sister already attending the school.*
- *How close you live to the school.*
- *Having an ‘EHCP’ or other specific exceptional need.*
- *Being in care.*

#### **The letter that came with my application form named a secondary school as the ‘catchment school’ for my address. Does this mean that my child has to go there?**

*NO – this simply reflects where your home is located. It is **your** decision as to which secondary school you want your child to go to. It is only when a school is oversubscribed that living inside the school’s catchment area gives you an advantage over those living outside it.*

#### **What is the size of Hazelwick’s annual intake into Year 7?**

*Hazelwick’s PAN (‘Published Admission Number’) is 300 – the largest in Crawley.*

#### **How many different primary schools did Hazelwick’s current Year 7 students come from?**

*In total, our current Year 7 is made up of children from 28 different primary schools.*

#### **If I want my child to come to Hazelwick, do I need to put Hazelwick as my first choice?**

*YES – definitely. If you believe Hazelwick is the best choice for your child, name Hazelwick as your first choice as this gives you the best chance of getting a place.*

***If you have any further questions about admissions to Hazelwick, contact Mrs Bending  
mbending@hazelwick.org.uk, 01293 403344***