



**Special
Edition**

Hazelwick School Newsletter

September 2023

Dates for your diary:

Thu 14th Sept 2023:
Open Evening

Tue 31st Oct 2023:
Deadline for school
place preference
procedure

Fri 1st March 2024:
Offer date

Mon 8th July 2024:
Hazelwick New Intake
Parents'/Carers'
Meeting

School Tour Dates:

Mon 18th September
Tue 19th September
Wed 27th September
Thu 28th September
Mon 2nd October
Wed 4th October
Thu 12th October
Fri 13th October

The tours will be at
9.00am and 11.30am
each day.

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

Headlines

Ms 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).

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.

We have also included some information about various aspects of school life that we hope will be of interest to you. There is a great deal more information on our website, or please do ask questions at the Open Evening.

You are also welcome to come to one of our Open Mornings, where you can see the school in action and talk to senior staff. To arrange a visit, please make a booking through our booking system via the school website.



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:



"The best highlight of the year was attending Calshot. Everyone was crashing into each other during skiing, and it was so much fun."

"My biggest highlight was the Geography trip to Cuckmere Heaven."

"I've really enjoyed making new friends."

"Achieving 231 achievement points."

"Receiving 5 purple slips."

"Taking part in the Xmas Factor."

"Joining the football team."

"Celebrating my birthday on Halloween at Calshot. We played trick or treat with everyone."



What has been your biggest achievement to date?

"Getting my gold award for achievement points."

"Making my handwriting neater with good practise."

"My biggest achievement is receiving the 100% attendance award."

"Achieving millionaire reader and receiving the award for French and Art."

"Full marks in an exam, excellent report, finding my way round school."

"Becoming more confident in talking to adults/teacher."

"Achieving top grades in history when I never did before!"

"Playing in the basketball team."

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.



Geography Field Trip

Year 7 and 8 Geography students enjoy a walk in Cuckmere Haven in the South Downs National Park. Students gain first-hand, practical experience of river and coastal processes.



Design Technology

Year 7 Design Technology students learn many new processes. They use CAD (Computer Aided Design) software to create their designs. Some designs are cut out of acrylic and mounted ready to cast.



Food & Nutrition

Year 7 Food and Nutrition groups learnt about the Eat Well Guide, Healthy Eating and the function of nutrients in the human body. The students had to plan and design a healthy pasta salad and then make it the next lesson.



Accelerated Reader Students

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

Drama Production Little Shop of Horrors

Mr Bayliss and Ms Grubb were thrilled to be able to join forces for the first time, bringing together the Music and Drama departments to produce the kitsch and wonderful 'Little Shop of Horrors'. A huge number of students from across all year groups uploaded audition tapes and two casts were chosen to perform. Mr Hone and Noor Azim from the Art department created an astonishing set and five, fully operational Audrey II puppets. Reviews were rave, with comments such as "better than the Broadway version", amongst them. On the last day of term, Mushnik's Flower Shop was dismantled, and Audrey II was recycled, leaving us all excited to plan the next show.





Creative Arts

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

Music Showcase

The Music Showcase took place in January and was a great success! Performers from Year 7 through to Year 13 took part in the concert which included hits from Stevie Wonder, by our senior band, a Violin solo and even a Pitch Perfect Mash-up sung by our choir.



Voices Together 2022

In March, our school choir visited Chichester Cathedral to sing as part of the Voices Together day with West Sussex Music.

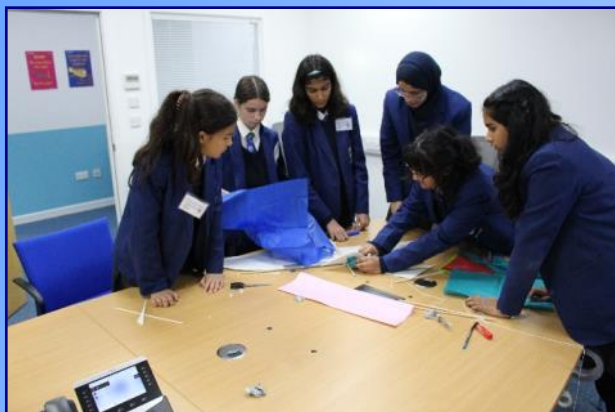
23 of our singers joined other schools from the local area for the day which culminated in a short concert.



The Wonder of Science

STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths

Students enjoying scientific discovery.



STEM@Hazelwick

Year 8 and 9 students attended a Girls in Engineering Day at Boeing Gatwick in the autumn term last year. The challenges were competitive and against other schools present. They competed in a Glider Challenge where they had to build a glider to meet specific criteria and had to design and make a 'Lunar Lander' that could fall from the greatest height and would not lose its load. The girls won the glider challenge for the longest flight for an unpowered glider.



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.



Charities and Community



Donations collected for Crawley Open House in December



Sixth Form Festive Friday



St Catherine's Hospice Youth Enterprise Challenge

Led by ten of our Year 12 students, the team organised a wide range of fund-raising activities, including cake sales, a fun run, a car wash, non-uniform days and sports events to raise money for St Catherine's Hospice. For the eleventh year running, the Hazelwick team won the award for the most money raised with the absolutely incredible total of **£10,064.00**. This was a truly amazing result; their target was £1500, so to exceed that by over £8,500 was phenomenal.

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: Design an Alien competition, Autumn Poetry competition, Sixth Form Bench Ball competition,



The Chase, Winter Treasure Hunt, World Cup Penalty Shoot Out, Rubix Cube competition, Balance Test competition, Winter Photography competition, Chopstick Challenge, Paper Aeroplane Competition and Balloon Race. 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.

The winning House this year was Seacole House.

Results



A-level

At A-level this summer, Hazelwick students achieved truly outstanding results. An amazing 28% of all A-level grades were A*/A with a fantastic 53% of all grades between A* and B, which is testament to students' hard work and determination.



Amongst these wonderful results were our highest attainers: Tarkan Ates with an immensely impressive A*, A*, A*, A* and Luc Best, Paul Fabian, Umar Kamran, Ellie Murphy-Smith, Alisha Mafaas and Dara Osinowo, all of whom were awarded A*, A*, A*, A.

Amongst our many high-achieving students, four will be joining the University of Cambridge: Alisha Mafaas (History), Tarkan Ates and Eloise Murphy-Smith (both Modern and Medieval Languages) and Oluwadara Osinowo (Human, Social and political Sciences).

Other high-flyers have gone on to study a very wide range of subjects, including Medicine, Architecture, Pharmacy, Law, Politics and even Cyber Security with Digital Forensics. 5 students have also gained places on Degree Apprenticeships, studying subjects such as Chartered Accountancy, Project Management and Marketing, Sales and Customer Relations.

A huge number of Year 13 students moved on to university, with 20 gaining places at Russell group universities and 60 studying at those listed in the "top 40". We are immensely proud of all of our Sixth Form students and, most importantly, we are delighted that every one of them was able to progress to their university of choice.



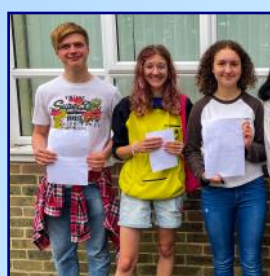
GCSE

Impressive results

Once again, we were thrilled that our students achieved another set of fantastic GCSE results. Almost three quarters of all GCSE grades were 9-4 (or equivalent) and over a quarter of were "top" grades of 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. Whilst this year's national whole-school Progress 8 scores are yet to be published, early indications show that a huge number of our students achieved a progress score of +1 or higher, showing that on average in each of their subjects, they achieved a whole grade higher than national expectations. Many of last year's cohort achieved a score of +2 and some even gained a progress score of over +3, showing that they achieved over 3 grades higher than national expectations in every subject they took.



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



GROUPS
Extensive, high quality
sports pitches and
playground



**Brand new fantastic sports
equipment in North Gym**



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 are the wealth of opportunities that we offer to our able, gifted and talented students.

Oxbridge Presentation

In June, we were delighted to welcome back two former students, Supriya Finch and Amy Hill, both of whom have just finished their first year at Cambridge University. Supriya and Amy - with input from another former student, Ebrahim Jadama - gave us a fascinating insight into what life is really like at Oxford and Cambridge Universities.



Talented Athlete Programme

Students on our Talented Athlete Programme attend RH10 Fitness for a day of training.

The gym is run and owned by a former Hazelwick student.



Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Bronze Award

A group of 77 students from Year 9 completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition on the 10th and 11th June in Dorking. The students completed two days of walking and camped for one night with all of their equipment, putting their navigation skills to the test and developing their confidence, resilience and the ability to solve problems as a team.

Sport — some examples of what's on offer

District Badminton Tournament



The boys' and girls' Badminton teams took part in the district tournament. Both teams managed to finish first after impressive displays.

Town Sports 2023

Town Sports is the final competitive school athletics fixture of the season. We entered into this year's competition with the same enthusiasm and commitment as always. It's a true pleasure to introduce new athletes and also witness the seasoned students show what they can do. We finished in a very respectable second place this year, with many notable performances.



Under 12 Girls Football

The Year 7 football team played in the Crawley Area 6 a side tournament. Hazelwick performed fantastically well winning three games, drawing three games and losing just one. They were rewarded with 3rd place in the tournament.



U15 Girls Cricket Team

Sport

Hazelwick Sports Leaders



Our Year 9 and 10 fully trained sports leaders helped to lead events at Milton Mount Sports Day.

They were involved in leading activities such as the speed bounce, foam javelin throw, bean bag throw and hockey dribble. Students also helped on the track, where they were deciding finish positions and handing out the all-important stickers!

Crawley Area 6-a-side Tournament

The Year 7 football team played in the Crawley Area 6 a side tournament in January at Oriel High School. The tournament consisted of 9 teams from the 7 Crawley schools and over two evenings every team played against each other. Hazelwick placed 3rd in the tournament.



English Schools Cross Country Championships

Alexander Sproston (Year 13), Amelia Cox (Year 13) and Alice Cox (Year 10) represented the Sussex Schools cross country team in the Spring. Competing against 300 other students, they ran exceptionally well on a muddy, hilly course. Alexander placed 31st, Amelia 29th and Alice 66th. In addition, Alice's team were awarded the prize for having the best overall total for the first eight runners to finish!

Under 14s Girls Basketball Team



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 a range of skills, form new friendships and have lots of fun.



Aushwitz

In November four Year 12 students flew to Poland for an emotional and moving visit to Auschwitz and the infamous building that has become synonymous with the Holocaust. The students also took part in two very insightful online seminars.



Paris

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



Exeter

A large number of Year 12 students 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 close to 1900 students on the site.



In September 2023, the Year 7 students arrived from 31 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 each year, all students that will be joining the following September are 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 a Looked After Child or living in care.*
- *Full details are in the Admissions Policy under Key Documents on the school website.*

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 preferences you want to put for your child’s secondary school. 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 31 different primary schools.

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

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. West Sussex also strongly recommends that parents/carers put their child’s catchment school as one of their three preferences.

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