



effort achieves



Hazelwick School Newsletter

September 2024

*Special
Edition*

Dates for your diary:

Wed 18th Sept 2024:
Open Evening

Thu 31st Oct 2024:
Deadline for school place
preference procedure

Sat 1st March 2025:
Offer date

Mon 7th July 2025:
Hazelwick New Intake
Parents'/Carers' Meeting

School Tour Dates:

Monday 23rd September
Tuesday 24th September
Tuesday 1st October
Friday 4th October
Monday 7th October
Thursday 10th October
Wednesday 16th October
Thursday 17th 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 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:



- “Going on a team-building day and taking part in all of the activities.”
- “Making lots of new friends.”
- “Going on the French trip to Boulogne, eating croissants and buying a beret.”
- “Going on the school trip to Cuckmere Haven.”
- “Joining the school football team.”
- “Winning the Xmas Factor.”
- “Getting lots of purple slips.”
- “Going to all different types of lessons.”



What has been your biggest achievement to date?

- “Getting a reward for English.”
- “Getting more than 300 achievement points.”
- “Representing the school in sports competitions.”
- “Getting the lead role in the school production of Annie. I made so many friends during the rehearsals and had a blast.”
- “Winning a match for the school cricket team.”
- “Getting full marks on a maths test.”
- “Getting published in Young Writers.”

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 8 students explored different ideas for a phone holder design. They learnt how to use the coping saw with precision to cut their design as well as other workshop equipment safely and with skill.



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.



Accelerated Reader Students

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

Drama Production - July 2024

Annie

Ms Grubb and Mr Bayliss joined forces once again to bring together the Drama and Music departments to produce Annie The Musical. The show was an incredible success, with performances to over 700 audience members, including two of our local primary schools. Reviews were rave, with comments such as “the quality of the performances was extremely high; great acting, fabulous singing, wonderful dancing, and the band was superb”, “I was blown away by the production last night and my 8-year-old was mesmerised and inspired to take to the stage in the future.”



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 Autumn Music Showcase took place in November and was a great success! Performers from Year 7 through to Year 13 took part in the concert. The showcase was a huge success and the performers did a fantastic job.



Haydn's The Creation

Throughout the autumn term, 60 of our Year 7 students worked with internationally renowned musician and composer Howard Moody and musicians from Glyndebourne Opera on a performance of Haydn's The Creation. Alongside this, the students composed a piece of music with Howard that reflected the growing impact of global warming on our planet – the Hazelwick song was called 'Pulling on my Heartstrings.'



The Wonder of Science

STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths



Students enjoying scientific discovery.



STEM@Hazelwick Student Robotics 2024

Student Robotics challenges teams of 16 to 19 year-olds to design, build and program fully autonomous robots to compete in an annual competition. This year Hazelwick's Year 12 team went all the way to the finals in Southampton. The team had to build a robot to collect asteroids and return them to their own planet. They did this by going through a design process generating ideas, prototyping, testing and modifying, before finally having a robot ready for competition. Although we didn't win this year, a great time was had by all.



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 six 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 twelfth year running, the Hazelwick team won the award for the most money raised with the absolutely incredible total of **£9,310.58**. This was a truly amazing result; their target was £1500, so to exceed that by over £7,500 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:

Caption competition, Women's History competition, Design a planet competition, World Quiz Challenge, Sixth Form Bench Ball competition, The Chase, Blackout Poetry competition, Penalty Shoot Out, Balance Test competition, Form photo competition, University Challenge, and a Winter photography competition. 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 Winton House.



Results

A-level

At A-level this summer, Hazelwick students once again achieved truly outstanding results. 53 students achieved all grades at A*/A with a fantastic 44% of all grades between A* and B, which is testament to students' hard work and determination.



Amongst these wonderful results were our highest attainers: Sophie Gallagher with an immensely impressive A*, A*, A, A; Anupreet Kaur with A*, A*, A; Haniya Semnani with A*, A, A, A; and Anastasia Panoschi with A*, A, A.



From our many high-achieving students, Haniya Semnani will be joining the University of Oxford to study Modern and Medieval Languages, Zain Razzaq will be joining Cardiff University to study Medicine and Emily Ferreira-Iodice will be joining University College London to study Pharmacy.

Other high-flyers go on to study a very wide range of subjects, including History, Law, Architecture, Paramedic Science, Criminology & Forensic Science, Oceanography and Aerospace Engineering, to name just a few.

A huge number of Year 13 students moved on to university, with 20% gaining places at Russell group universities and 40% 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

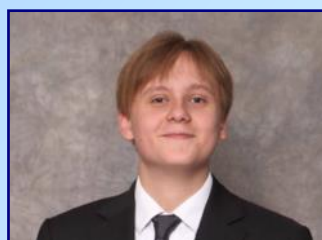
Impressive results

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 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 one 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



GROUNDS
Extensive, high quality
sports pitches and
playground



**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

We were delighted to welcome back four of our former students (Tarkan Ates, Alisha Mafaas, Ellie Murphy-Smith and Dara Osinowo - all of whom secured a place at Cambridge last year) to run a workshop for our Year 13 students who were applying to Oxford or Cambridge universities.



Talented Athlete Programme

Students on our Talented Athlete Programme attend a variety of fitness workshops throughout the year.



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 second after impressive displays.

Town Sports 2024

Town Sports is the final competitive school athletics fixture of the season. On Tuesday 9th July the school athletics team were successful in winning the town sports shield. With the exception of last year when we came second, we have won the shield for 11 years running.



Year 7 win Bronze at the Super Six Athletics

12 Year 7 students attended the annual Super Six competition at Ifield Community College. Each student had to compete in a track event, field event and a relay.

Team Hazelwick displayed great determination and attitude in all events, eventually finishing in the bronze medal position.

U14 Girls Cricket Fixtures

U14 Girls competed in cricket fixtures against a range of Sussex schools, many of which were new to the sport. By the end of the season, we turned a team of newbies to a team of amazingly skilful students.



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!

Annual Sportshall Athletics Competition

Students took part in the district round of school games competing in a range of indoor track and field competitions at K2 in February. Hazelwick secured Silver and Gold in some of the events.



Cross Country

Students from Years 7-11 at Hazelwick were chosen to represent the school at the annual Sussex Schools Cross Country competition.

Year 7 Rugby Team

Year 7 students most who have never played rugby before have played well this year in various matches against other local schools.



Educational Visits



Team-building

Year 7 students thoroughly enjoyed their two day trip to Calshot Activity Centre in their first term at Hazelwick. They developed a range of skills, formed new friendships and had lots of fun.



Boulogne

In the summer, Year 7 French students visit Boulogne where they practise their language skills around the town, including visiting a boulangerie and making their own croissants.



Paris

Year 8 French students use their listening, speaking, reading and writing 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 2024, the Year 7 students arrived from 27 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 sibling 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 27 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***