

February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

A busy spring term is well underway and as we reach the halfway point in the school year, this newsletter will remind you of some of our forthcoming events. We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for your ongoing support of your children and of our school – attendance at recent Year 11 and Year 10 Parents’ Evenings was the best we’ve ever had and we were delighted with the feedback from 215 survey returns that 98% of parents would recommend our school to someone else. Hyde is a harmonious, aspirational and friendly school due to the fact that everyone makes the effort to work in partnership for the good of the pupils and the whole school community.

### Dates for your diary

Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Pupils finish for Half Term; there is no access to school for any pupils during the break.
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET Day – no pupils in school
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	School reopens
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 Industry Day
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Options Evening (Year 9)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9 Parents’ Evening
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Deadline for Year 9 options form returns
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	School finishes for the Easter break
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	School reopens
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 8 Parents’ Evening
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	School finishes for Half Term
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	School reopens
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 7 Parents’ Evening
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	School finishes for summer

Please note - full details of term dates are always available on the school website.

### Winter Weather

Please could you ensure that your child has a coat and footwear suitable for the weather, which as we all know can be changeable at this time of year! Once they have eaten lunch, all lower school pupils (Year 7, 8 and 9) are expected to go outside for the rest of lunchtime and will need an appropriate coat.

In anticipation ... in the very unlikely event that we have to close school due to severe weather conditions, we will update parents as soon as possible via the school website and the My Ed app.

### Anti-social behaviour in Hyde town centre

Many parents and carers will have heard about incidences of anti-social behaviour in Hyde town centre of late. Unfortunately, some of the youths involved (none of whom are Hyde pupils) have occasionally been present in the Lodge Lane area as our school finishes at 3pm and so to ensure the safety of our pupils we have requested a Police presence until this behaviour is resolved. I am aware that the Police are working closely with other agencies to identify and deal with those involved. Please rest assured that there have been no threats made to any of our pupils making their way home and we will continue to supervise their safe exit from school.

## Post-Ofsted Actions

In response to the Ofsted report issued after our inspection in July, the school has implemented robust plans to address the issues raised whilst maintaining all of the excellent practice already in place and I feel it is important to share some of these priorities with parents and carers:

- A full team of **permanent specialist teachers** is in place across the school. Maths results, for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running, were significantly above national levels and the best results in the school. At the top end, the proportion of Hyde pupils achieving a Grade 9 in Maths was almost double the proportion nationally. In Science, progress for some pupils had unfortunately been affected previously by staff absence and the lack of good quality supply teachers. We have invested in experienced and effective teachers in Science and progress is now strong.

- An external review has confirmed that the **quality** of pupils' work at Hyde is good and that teachers clearly have **high expectations**.

- All teachers are expected to plan work which provides appropriate challenge and support for all pupils in their classes. We have an **excellent team of teachers** at Hyde and directed time has been focused on the sharing of good practice.

- **Attendance** is a major focus this year and is not yet good enough. Whilst we had more pupils than ever achieving 100% attendance in the autumn term, we also had more pupils whose attendance dropped below the 95% trigger for concern.

Research clearly shows a direct link between good attendance and good achievement and we will be encouraging all pupils to be in school as much as possible; as parents and carers your support in this area is vital to us.

In September we appointed Mrs Lever as our Senior Attendance Officer and she is being supported by Mr Bashir who is working with Year 8 students whose attendance is a potential concern. After the half term break, all pupils will be issued with an up to date attendance printout for this year so far, detailing any absences or lates, and parents/carers will receive updated information about the school's attendance protocols. Please note that there are no changes to the guidance on taking holidays during term time and the school will not authorise these.

We are also aware that we need to congratulate all of those pupils with **good attendance** and we are introducing new systems to ensure that this happens more regularly.

- Hyde is an **inclusive** school and our support for pupils' wellbeing is a strength. Numbers have risen rapidly over the last 3 years and we are oversubscribed in Year 7; in September 2018 our intake will increase to 240 pupils and some remodelling of the building will take place over the summer to accommodate this.

- Pupil behaviour around school is typically very good with high levels of **cooperation** and **respect**. A small number of learners have reported disruption to lessons on occasion by other pupils and this is not acceptable. We have re-launched our behaviour systems with all our pupils to remind them of our high expectations and have simplified our rules with the mantra:

**Ready, Respectful, Safe**

We continue to receive many **positive comments** about our pupils from visitors to the school and from organisations hosting events that we take part in. The vast majority of Hyde pupils are **well-mannered** and **hard-working** young people who make a very **positive contribution** to our school community.

## Exam preparation

Year 11 have a second set of Mock Exams straight after the half term break and need to plan their revision carefully; these exams will enable them to identify the areas they most need to work on in the final run up to GCSEs. Staff are offering a large number of revision sessions before and after school and during lunchtimes for Year 11 and I would encourage all of the Class of 2018 to attend as many as they can to support their exam preparation. We are also delivering a 6 week course of mindfulness and relaxation techniques to support our Year 11s through the pressures of exams; this begins after the half term break and interested students simply need to sign up with Mrs Etches.

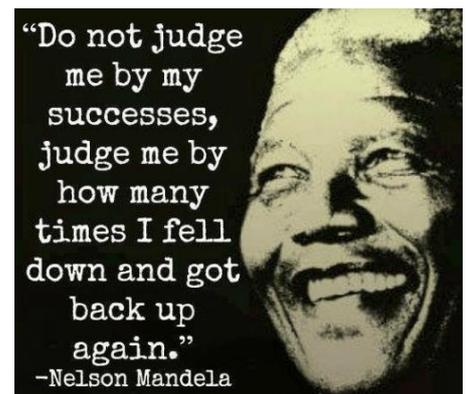
**For all year groups** ...please also note that through the school, your child has access to a service called **GCSEPod** free of charge. This superb service gives access to hundreds of professionally produced mini-lessons, in the form of short videos called "Pods", across 21 GCSE subjects. The Pods are produced specifically for learning, homework and revision and contain all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams that your child needs for GCSE success. Students in KS4 have already created their accounts online. If you have a child currently in KS3, they can access the GCSE Pod website and they can create their own account as well! Get them started early!

## Sporting Events

- We have hosted the Tameside schools' Table Tennis, Boys' Volleyball and Year 7 'Off the Blocks' competitions at Hyde CC. With only one more round of fixtures to play in the Y7/8 Volleyball, three of Hyde's 4 teams are in Gold, Silver and Bronze positions!!!
- The Year 9/10 Girls' Volleyball team won a brilliant Bronze in the Tameside schools' competition hosted at Fairfield.
- The Y7 Boys' Off the Blocks team won their heat and, having beaten them in the heats, just missed out on Bronze to West Hill in the final.
- The Y11 Football team are in the semi-final of the Tameside Cup vs St Damian's on Thursday 15th March...watch this space!
- Karen Grieg, the Head Coach at Manchester Thunder Netball Club, visited us recently, where she delivered a coaching session to all the girls involved in school Netball this year. Karen is an International netballer, who has also won the Superleague title as both a player and coach. She has also worked extensively in the England Netball Talent Pathway, and is passionate about the best ways to develop young players. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the session and will hopefully be inspired to keep working hard at their game.

## Growth Mindsets

At Hyde we encourage all our pupils to develop a **growth mindset**. We believe that all students' abilities and talents can be developed through dedication and hard work which lead to a love of learning and the resilience needed for great achievement. I would like to congratulate all of our pupils on their hard work this term and look forward to sharing their continued successes after the holiday.



Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. On behalf of all the staff at Hyde CC, I wish you an enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely,

*Andrea Radcliffe*  
Headteacher