

May 2017



HOWARD OF  
EFFINGHAM  
SCHOOL

"Bringing out the best"

An Academy & part of  
The Howard Partnership Trust

Dear Parents and Friends

The Howard continues to be a hive of activity both in and out of lessons. Our sporting successes continue and as well as enjoying interesting and engaging lessons, students also have a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities to enjoy. These have recently included the return visit of the French exchange students to England, a rugby tour and a Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Do keep an eye on Ship's Blog for information about these and other events.

This is the point in the school year where formal education ends for Years 11 and 13. We are looking forward to a summer ball for each year of these year groups in June. Lessons and support continue, of course, to help students with the final preparations for their examinations. This is the first time that Year 11 students will be awarded a numerical grade between 9 and 1 for GCSEs in English and mathematics. Although there is a degree of uncertainty in predicting exactly how these will work out, we know how hard students and teachers have been working. Indeed, Heads of both English and maths have told me in the last few days how well prepared they feel the students are. I would encourage all those taking exams to make the most of the support on offer in school, not least to help retain a clear focus right up until the examinations take place.

You will be aware that the appeal against Guildford Borough Council's decision to refuse planning permission for our joint venture with Berkeley Homes began last week. I would like once again to thank all those of you who have been so supportive during this protracted period. I will, of course, update you as soon as we have anything to report.

As in previous years we will be changing our expectations for school uniform for the last half term before the summer break. Blazers become optional as we live in hope of some consistently warm weather. We will continue to expect uniform to be worn smartly and should the summer weather remain typically British, students should wear their blazers to keep warm.

We would request once again that when dropping and picking up your sons and daughters you park safely and with consideration to our neighbours.

I would appreciate your support with this issue and would like to thank the majority of parents who co-operate with us on this very important matter.



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## Sport

Howard of Effingham School Sport continues to progress from strength to strength and we are currently one of the leading state schools in the country for sport. Our Autumn sports season has to come to a close with two year groups once again competing at the South East of England Rugby Final: the Year 8s narrowly lost 32-30 and the Year 11s won for the fourth time in a row in tremendous style 64-8. The Year 8s and 11s then followed this up with impressive wins in the Surrey State School's 7s tournament and the Year 8s reached the last 16 in the national 7s tournament whilst the Year 10s in the same tournament played exceptionally well eventually losing to Brighton College 15-10 (who then went on to win the national final).



The Year 7 and 8 boys enjoyed their annual tour, where they travelled to Great Yarmouth to compete against 16 club sides over the bank holiday weekend. The Year 7s finished runners-up and the Year 8s finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in their respective age group tournaments. The girls' netball teams have also achieved great success this season as we look to develop netball within the school. Four out of the five age groups reached the county cup finals and the Year 11 netball team finished off their run of five consecutive district final wins.



The girls have also had a wonderful swimming season winning the Guildford and Waverley district championships at both Year 7 and Year 8 age groups. The hockey teams have recorded some excellent results once again with great wins over local schools: St Teresa's, Manor House, George Abbot, Rosebery, St Peter's, Box Hill and CLFS. Tali Gibbons in particular has been in tremendous form scoring 24 goals and has been selected by Surbiton to play in the European club championships this summer. We wish her the best of luck.

As we enter the summer season the students are enjoying the longer evenings, especially on the cricket square, rounders pitch, tennis courts and athletics track. The Year 8 girls' tennis team has been outstanding in the Aegon Schools championships with impressive wins over Kingston Grammar School and Hinchley Wood in the early rounds and have Claremont Fan Court and Fullbrook to play as they aim to reach the national knockout stages in this season's tournament. The Year 10 boys' tennis team have already booked their place in the knockout stages after impressive wins against their league opposition, in particular the tremendous 10 games to 2 triumph over RGS Guildford; playing on clay courts was a particular highlight. We wish all our tennis players the best of luck as they progress through the tournaments. In cricket, all five year groups are currently top of their Guildford and District cricket leagues and are looking favourites to make the finals to be played in July against the winner of the Godalming and district leagues.

Many of the year groups are still progressing through the county and national cricket competitions with the Year 8 cricket team looking forward to their game against RGS Guildford knowing the winners will play pre-tournament favourites Whitgift School in the county cup quarter finals. Sean Hunt and Tom Dennis (Year 10) were selected for the Surrey Schools Cricket team v Middlesex at the Kia Oval recently with both players playing well to win the game, Sean then followed this up with an outstanding 139 (hitting 10 sixes and 17 fours off 74 balls) against Whitgift in their county cup match. The girls' rounders teams are also looking favourites to win their district leagues with the Year 11 team already finishing the season as District and County champions.



Well done to everyone who has represented the school at sport this season and for the huge number of students who attend every training session.

## Year 13 Goodbyes...

On Friday 19 May, Year 13 met for their final assembly in a variety of fancy dress costumes which demonstrated that they had spent many hours preparing for their last day with us. From Disney characters, 60s dress, Donald Trump and the Mexicans; their creativity knew no bounds and we were not disappointed.



The assembly organised by the Senior Prefect team began with what has now become a Howard tradition of a Senior Prefect show-stopping and amazingly choreographed dance spectacular. With Kahoot quizzes, the students' goodbye film, and individual solos, there were some very happy memories to revisit.



We were sad to see the students leave. They have been a fun year group and we wish them all good luck for their exams. It is not their final goodbye though as their Leavers' Ball is at The Grandstand at Epsom Racecourse on 30 June and we are looking forward to seeing them there.

## Dates for your Diary

<b>JUNE</b>	6	Year 10 'Romeo & Juliet' English trip
	7 & 8	Year 10 Geography coasts trip
	12	Year 12 A2 Courses Begin
	13 & 14	Year 8 Geography Trip to Christchurch Bay
	20	Sports Day (field events)
	<b>21</b>	<b>Early closure - school finishes at 2.30 pm (INSET)</b>
	22	Sports Day (track events)
	22	Y12 'The Big Bang Experience' Trip
	23 – 24	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze assessed expedition
	<b>24</b>	<b>HowardFest 17</b>
	27	Inclusion Drop-in Clinic (15.45 – 17.00)
	27	Lower School Sports Award Evening (Hall, 18.00)
	28	Year 11 Leavers' Ball
	30	Year 13 Leavers' Ball
<b>JULY</b>	4	Summer Drama production
	5	Year 6 Induction Day Year 6 Induction Evening (18.30 – 21.00)
	6	Upper School Sports Award Evening (18.00)
	8 – 13	Years 7, 8 trip to France/Switzerland
	8 – 13	Years 7, 8 trip to Rhineland
	10 – 14	Years 10 & Year 12 Work Experience
	11 – 13	Year 8 Gaveston Hall trip
	11 - 13	Art Exhibition
	12 - 13	Enrichment Days
	12 - 29	Operation Wallacea
	14	<b>INSET - school closed to students for staff training</b>
	17 – 19	Celebration of Achievement events
	20	Year 10 Thorpe Park trip
	20	Years 7 – 9 Rewards afternoon
	<b>21</b>	<b>TERM ENDS</b> – 12.15 pm finish
<b>AUGUST</b>	17	A2 Level Results (from 8.00 – 2.00) and AS (from 10.00 – 2.00)
	24	GCSE Results (from 9.00 – 12.00)
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	4	<b>INSET</b>
	<b>5</b>	<b>TERM STARTS for students</b> – staggered arrival times for students to be confirmed

Please do take particular note of the date for 'Howardfest', Saturday 24 June. This is a music festival being run by the Friends of The Howard with the music department to raise general funds, but in particular to support the music department in providing new and additional computers. Please be aware that there will be no ticket sales on the gate for this event; all tickets must be bought in advance. More details will follow nearer the time.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable Half Term break.

Yours sincerely



**Helen Pennington**  
Headteacher