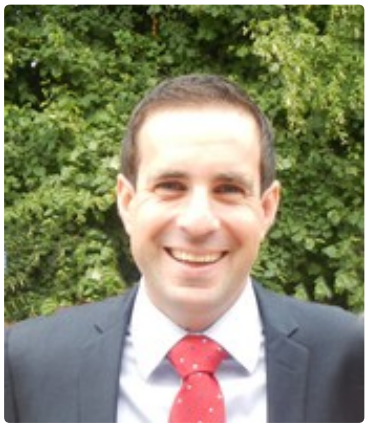
Headteachers Newsletter

September 2017

Welcome back to West Hatch



A new year, a new chapter

I'm delighted to be welcoming you back as the new Headteacher and I'm very much looking forward to helping support you and the schools' staff in ensuring your children are able to thrive at West Hatch and develop the skills, knowledge and understanding to be successful in the future. We have a new school vision this year which aims to support our students to be the best that they can be. Our school vision is:

We are a family dedicated to all our students excelling academically and personally in our school and beyond by seizing the opportunities we provide.
We unlock potential for all to thrive and open doors for all to achieve.

West Hatch is a school that is committed to developing the whole child. Our staff work tirelessly to ensure our students are provided with as many opportunities as we can both inside and outside of the classroom. We ask that parents support their children in taking every opportunity they are offered so that they are able to thrive and have successful futures.

Mr D Leonard

Headteacher

Staff Changes

Changes to the Senior Team

Firstly I would like to thank Mrs Howarth for all she has done in ensuring West Hatch is the school it is today. Following on from her retirement I am delighted to introduce Mr Sinfield as our new Deputy Headteacher and Mr Tester as our new Assistant Headteacher. Mr Sinfield will be leading on the school's curriculum and Key Stage 4 outcomes and Mr Tester is the schools Designated Child Protection Officer as well as leading on students pastoral well being and behaviour.

Mr Sinfield

Mr Tester

Other staff changes

As well as changes at a senior level, there have been a number of staff promotions at middle leadership level. In our pastoral team Mrs Jenkins has taken over Brunel House and Mr Limon is now Head of Fiennes House. Mr Calver, Mr Heeks and Miss Delaney have taken roles as Deputy Head of House for Roddick, Fiennes and Newton Houses respectively. Also Mr Taylor has been appointed as Head of Resistant Materials, Mr Howell is our new Head of Computing and we are delighted that Miss Lowry has rejoined the school as joint Head of Geography.

Important dates for your diary

There are a number of important events coming up which I would like to make you aware of. We have a series of information evenings for parents, these are as follows:
Year 7 - Thursday 7th September
Year 8 - We will be holding options evenings later in the year
Year 9 - Thursday 12th October
Year 10 - Tuesday 19th September
Year 11 - Thursday 14th September
Year 12 - Thursday 21st September

The schools Open Evenings are on the following dates:

Year 6 Open Evening - Wednesday 27th September
Sixth Form Open Evening - Wednesday 8th November

(*Please note, we will finish at 13:25 on these days and will have a late start (09:45) on the 28th September following Year 6 Open Evening)*

Please check the Schools website for other important dates such as parents evenings. We will be sending a reminder via parentmail before any event.

Record results for the school

I am delighted to inform you that our students performed exceptionally well at both GCSE and A Level this year, recording record results at both Key stages. 67% of all grades at A level were A*-B with 93% gaining an A*-C grade in their exams. At GCSE 74% of our students achieved a 4+ in English and Maths. All of these results significantly above both the national and county averages and we are very proud of how well our students have performed. I'd also like to thank all the schools staff and parents for their support and hard work in helping the students achieve so well.

For More information on our GCSE results please follow this link:
http://www.westhatch.essex.sch.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=223

and for A Level:
http://www.westhatch.essex.sch.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=222

Important information regarding the behaviour policy

At West Hatch we take the behaviour of our students very seriously. Students are here to learn and we will not allow any student to impinge upon the learning of others. The safety of our students is also extremely important to us and we take behaviour outside of the classroom as seriously as we do inside. I would urge you to read the schools behaviour policy which you can find by following the link below so that you are fully aware of the schools policy and procedures in dealing with both positive and negative behaviour. Mr Tester will also be sending out a parentmail detailing any adaptations to our policy and more information will be available at our information evenings for parents.

http://www.westhatch.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Policies&pid=112

Parents Voice

All Parents are welcome to join and discuss future events and have input into school life at our meetings.

West Hatch believe strongly in the importance of the relationship between Parents and the school. Parent Voice is not a fundraising committee, it is a chance for Parents to feel part of important decisions relating to the school and their children's education. The meetings are chaired by the myself, and it is a wonderful opportunity to really feel a part of West Hatch.

We meet every 2 months and we all have a chance to add items to the agenda and as well as the minutes being published on the website we are also emailed them individually.
Our next Parents Voice meeting is on the 4th October at 19:00.

If you would like any further information please email our Parent Governor, Marcella Lord on parentvoice@westhatch.essex.sch.uk

Keep up to date with West Hatch press releases

West Hatch High School email news service
West Hatch High School operates an email media service to keep people up-to-date with our news.
The service is provided by Everything Local News - www.everythinglocalnews.co.uk - which is part of the Everything Epping Forest local news and information website.
The media service is also on Facebook and Twitter (follow @ELNews_).
If you would like to receive our media releases at the same time as they are sent to the local newspapers, magazines and other news outlets, please email everythinglocalnews@gmail.com with WEST HATCH in the subject line.
Please note that no email addresses are passed on and you can ask to be removed from the circulation list at any time.

Interested in a career change?

If you are a graduate and are considering a career change please get in touch with us. We are always looking for talented individuals with a passion for education. There are a range of opportunities available for training. Please contact Mr Windsor on swindsor@westhatch.essex.sch.uk for more information.

And finally....

I would like to ask parents to inform us when their children achieve something significant outside of school as I would very much like to celebrate our students successes inside and outside of school within my newsletters. Please email into admin@westhatch.essex.sch.uk with any achievements you would be happy for us to publicise.

Could I ask parents to ensure their children have the correct uniform ready for the new year including skirts that are of the appropriate length (to the knee) and remember that Year 11 students are now required to wear a blazer throughout the day. Please do not allow your children to have piercings that are not in line with the schools behaviour policy, they will be told to remove them even if it will result in the hole closing, and students must not wear nail varnish. More information on the schools uniform can be found on the school website.

Can I please remind parents that parents do not drop their children off at school until 08:30 unless they have an activity or club which they are attending. Pupils should not be entering the

school building until after this time.

Can I also ask that parents ensure they make routine dental/orthodontic or other medical appointments outside of school time so that students do not miss lessons.

Thank you for reading this newsletter and I look forward to another successful year for our students at West Hatch.

Mr D Leonard
Headteacher

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