



Welcome to HGS

19th June 2020

Edition 4



This is the fourth edition of our Transition newsletter. We hope that it introduces you to more of our HGS community and life at Secondary School. Thank you to those who have already returned their 'All about Me' activities from the second newsletter – we are enjoying reading them and starting to get to know you. Please return them by 1st July. Thank you also to those who submitted questions about HGS – we are looking at the range of questions and how best to give you as many answers as possible.

Meet four of our Heads of House



Ms Gunns is Head of Austen House – she also teaches Spanish and French. Ms Gunns is the Head of Year 8 (Y9 next year). She is part of our Y6-7 transition team so spoke to some of your Y6 teachers to start to get to know you.

Mrs Lowe is Head of Bronte House – she is also a History and Politics teacher. Mrs Lowe is the Head of Year 12 (first year of sixth form).



Mrs Taylor is Head of Curie House and also a Science teacher. She is Head of Year 13 (second year of sixth form)



Mrs Rowe is Head of both Pankhurst and Rosa Houses – she is also a Classics and Latin teacher. Mrs Rowe is the Head of Year 10.



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We also have a special Twitter account for Y6-7 Transition:

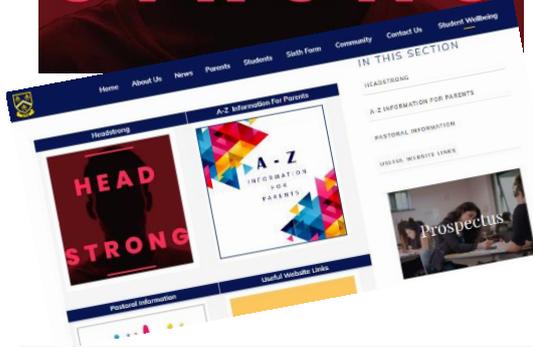
[@HGSTransition](#)

Transition Update?

In the last 4 weeks, we have spoken to Y6 teachers, Headteachers and SENCOs at all 38 of our feeder Primary schools. We have heard about lots of the fantastic things that you have done during your time in Y6 and before (you have all been busy both before and during lockdown!). Your teachers have also told us about aspects of secondary school that you might find challenging or worry about so that we can help you when you arrive in September.

What happens next?

We are busily planning for our 'Virtual' New Intake Day on Thursday 9th July. This includes making lots of films that you will be able to watch that introduce you to HGS and some of your new teachers. There will be some activities for you to do on the day and you will find out which tutor group you are in. There will also be information and film clips for your Parents and Carers to look at with you in the evening.



Headstrong is a weekly activity at Hitchin Girls' School which is designed to help look after our mental health and general well-being. The purpose of Headstrong is to help our whole school community to develop healthy practices to help us understand emotions, keep ourselves healthy and be the best version of ourselves. This has been a new program for us this year and will continue moving forwards. All of the sessions which have been piloted so far can be seen on the school website under **student well-being**. This section of the school website gives you links to lots of other well-being resources, so can be a useful place to look if you need any help. During your transition day, you will have a session to introduce you to Headstrong properly and to give you some activities to try in case you have any nerves about starting at a new school and to help you manage the feelings you have about changing school.

Learning Support

The Learning Support Department are made up of Mrs Cole who is the SENCO and Mental Health Lead and a team of Learning Support Assistants (LSA), Mrs Noble, Mrs Lawrence, Miss Rackham, Miss Casey and Mrs Rabel. You might see an LSA in some of your lessons to support the learning in the classroom, but you also might meet the team during reading buddies, the lunchtime homework club, the take a break club or possibly when they do work to help you with some learning outside of lessons. The whole learning support department will work with you and your parents to help your learning, particularly if you find some parts of learning in school a bit more tricky. We are all looking forward to meeting you soon!



Mrs Cole is SENCO and Mental Health Lead at HGS. She also teaches Philosophy and Ethics

What is Founders' Day?



Leavers' Supper

Founders' Day takes place on the last Friday in June. It is the last official day of school for Y11 and Y13 students. It starts the night before with 'Leavers' Supper', a formal dinner for staff and Y13 students. There are lots of speeches, containing memories of the students' time at HGS – trips, subjects, teachers and funny anecdotes. There are always tears as well as laughter!

Founders' Day itself starts with assemblies at HGS, where the official Prefect roles are handed over from Y13 to Y12 and prize winners are announced. Students from Y11-13 then attend a special service at St Mary's Church with HBS. The rest of the school take part in Sports' Day and Enterprise Day. Sports' Day sees the 8 House competing against each other, and Enterprise Day involves tutor groups planning and running fundraising stalls – hoping to win awards for innovation, creativity or greatest profit! This year will be the first year ever that Founders' Day and Sports' Day will be virtual!



Service at St Mary's Church with HBS



Fundraising activities for Enterprise Day



Spotlight on our Behaviour for Learning Policy

Our 'Behaviour for Learning' policy includes Rewards for effort, attitude to learning and community involvement and Consequences when HGS expectations aren't met.

R1 (10 pts)

These are given to recognise effort, participation in form running or a tutor group sport's team, supporting a charity event or taking part in a year group/school challenge. Students keep a record of these and once they have 5 x R1, they log them with their form tutor on a Monday morning.

R2 (25 pts)

These are awarded for significant achievement or effort, running a charity event or being part of a winning tutor group team.

REWARDS (R1-5)

R3-5

These are special awards: Heads of Department, Heads of Year and Heads of house can award an R3 (50 pts)

The Senior Team award an R4 (75 pts) and Mrs Manning can award a special Headteacher's R5 award (100 pts)

What do the points mean?

Students gradually collect reward points throughout the year. They are recorded on an online platform called Go4Schools and students and parents can access the information. Emails are sent home each week with a summary of rewards collected. At the end of each term, certificates are awarded according to the level of rewards points collected, with students aiming to achieve Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and even Diamond status! The reward points also contribute to the House Cup/Trophy competitions. Each term, the winning House is allowed to attend school in mufti (non-school uniform) and the House winning in the last week of the academic year win an extended fish and chip lunch on the field.



Teresa House tutors enjoying F&C last year!

What are consequences?

Consequences are reminders or warnings used when students aren't following HGS expectations:

L1 = Late to school

U1 = Uniform

E1 = Equipment

C1 = Warning about behaviour

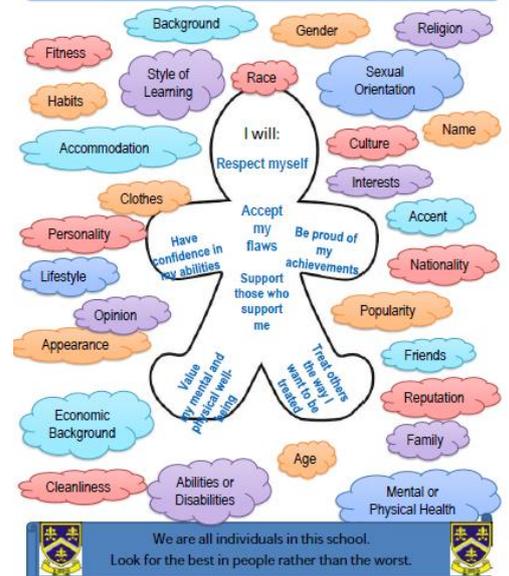
H1 = Homework

If a student receives 2 or more warnings of the same type in a week then they are issued with a detention. These take place after school for 1 hour and students use the time to complete homework. Y7 Students will have the whole system explained to them in the first few days so they fully understand how it works.

We recognise that this is very different to Primary School and can take Y7 students a bit of getting used to, so whilst warnings are recorded in in the first half term for students, they do not translate to detentions (there are a few exceptions). After October half term any consequences previously gained are removed and students start back with a 'clean slate'.

Charter of Respect

I will respect others regardless of their:



We are all individuals in this school.
Look for the best in people rather than the worst.

The HGS Charter of Respect