



Message from Kevin McKellar

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you so much to the parents that have contacted me about the changes to the GCSE Maths and English. Like many schools, we are very concerned about the media reports in relation to the way that the 2014 Key Stage 4 performance tables will now be calculated. These changes have been confirmed by the DfE. We are currently discussing with staff and governors how best to approach the November exams. The Maths department and the Year 11 tutors continue to work incredibly hard with our students to ensure outstanding results. There will also be changes to the English Language GCSE examination this year - the speaking and listening component has been removed from the syllabus for the exam. However, I am more than confident that we can still work with our students to further develop their writing skills and lead them to success in the summer.

You will be aware that education is in a state of flux at the moment. I will be writing to the Government to express our concerns about all of the changes foisted upon us.

The needs of our students must come first. My greatest concern is making sure that we get the very best out of every single student, ensuring that we equip them with all of the skills to tackle any problem, even changes in the GCSE examination system. We all know that sensible reform in the pursuit of rigour should be associated with greater clarity, consistency and logic not less. I totally understand your sense of confusion and I will be organising an information evening for parents once we have some answers to our questions, and once we truly know all of the facts.

In the meantime, thank you so much for all of your help and support. I really appreciate the fact that so many of you have taken the time to communicate your concerns about the changes to the GCSE examination. We are all in this together. We hope that we can convince the government that we should all want a reliable and well respected examinations system which provides reliable qualifications for students and reliable ways of measuring school performance. Please do not hesitate to get back to me if you have any more concerns.

Proposed Strike Action on 17th October 2013

Thanks also to the parents who have asked about the proposed strike action on 17th October 2013. Health and Safety concerns must always be our greatest priority, and we do have a number of staff who are members of the NUT and the NASWT. We hope that we can bring the Year 11 and 13 students in to school to work with them, but it really does depend on numbers striking on the day. It looks likely that the school will be closed for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. We will text you and put information on the website. If you have any concerns about this, then please contact Yvonne Weatherhead, our Deputy Headteacher, and she will explain things in greater detail.

Early Closure on Friday 18th October 2013

We will have early closure on Friday 18th October for staff collegiality and development. Mrs Weatherhead will be sending out the arrangements for this. Please note that we will be sending out extension work tasks to ensure that we are still challenging our students at every level.

And finally.....

Thursday 3rd October was a rather special day. It was our first enrichment day. Our Year 7 students watched a French film, a French play, learnt some historical social dance and developed their language skills. All of the Year 8 students visited Margate on an adventurous Geography trip to rebrand Margate as a seaside resort. All of our Year 9 students came into school dressed in smart clothes to take part in an ambitious stock exchange experience. Another wow factor moment. Our Year 10 students worked on what they need to do to ensure they all succeed over the next two challenging years in school. A code of conduct will be produced from this work for use over Key Stage 4. The Year 11 students had a Mathematics day in preparation for one of the most challenging and important exams. Year 12 students focussed on well-being and how to look after themselves to enable them to manage workloads and keep positive. The Year 13 students were working on their really important UCAS (University) applications. The school was buzzing. Thanks to the staff for working so hard to give the students the best possible deal.

Have a good week.

Kevin McKellar

Despite the presence of senior staff, the situation at the end of school on Golders Rise is becoming increasingly dangerous for children for the following reasons:

- ❖ Parents/Carers continuing to drop or collect children directly outside the school
- ❖ Parents/Carers slowing or speeding at the entrance or exit to Golders Rise
- ❖ Parents/Carers double parking at the lower or upper end of Golders Rise causing traffic to queue or attempt unsafe passing manoeuvres
- ❖ Parents/Carers blocking residential driveways

All of the above make crossing the road ever more hazardous for children and we are extremely concerned that it is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident.

I would ask that you **do not drop or collect children on Golders Rise**; no child needs to be dropped outside the school at the expense of the safety of others - children with problems with physical access should already have access to L.A transport provision. If you believe this to be an issue for your child please contact the school's SENCO immediately.



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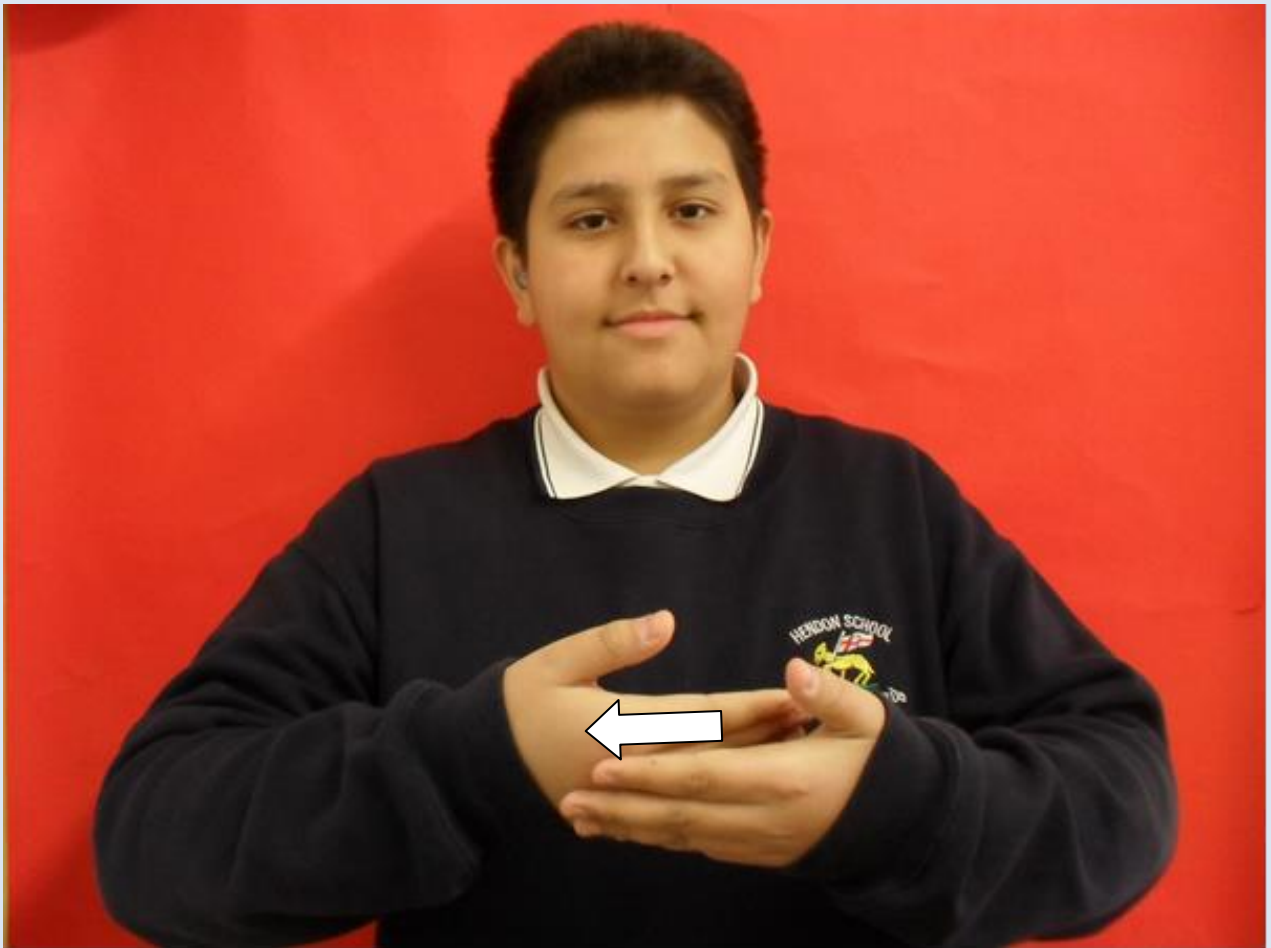


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Languages

Monday 7 October - Friday 11 October		
Monday 7 October	Girls Football Training Year 8 Football vs London Academy (Home) Year 7 and Year 11 Football vs MHC (Away) Year 10 and Senior netball training	After School
Tuesday 8 October	Year 9 Football vs MHC (Away) Girls Cross Country League 2 meeting at Allianz Park Year 11 Ladykillers Trip	PM
Wednesday 9 October	Year 12 Globe Theatre Trip Sixth Form History Conference Year 10 Football vs MHC (Home) Year 10 Netball vs Hasmore and Compton (Home)	All Day 3.30 pm
Thursday 10 October	Year 11 Maths Intervention Year 8 Football vs MHC (Home) Senior Netball vs Woodhouse and MHC (Away)	3.30 - 4.30 pm
Friday 11 October	Year 12 Othello Trip	