

# Head's Newsletter

27 May 2022

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your families are keeping well as we head towards half term.

## Art Students Create Signs for Jubilee Fete

Recent newsletters have featured information for the Loddon and Chedgrave Jubilee Fete taking place on 4 June. Some of our art students have been using their lunchtimes to paint signs that will be used for the event, and I was really impressed with the professional standard and clean lines of what they produced! Well done and thank you to Jasmine Bollington, Danielle Peck, Holly Tidnam, Amelia Goff (all Year 9) and Lily-May Frost (Year 10) who with a little help from various other art club students worked brilliantly to get them completed. Thanks to Miss Cole for leading the project and supporting the youngsters.



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## Outstanding Martial Arts Achievements

Billy Baker and Oliver Wadhams (both Year 9) recently travelled to Birmingham to compete in the GB Open Karate Competition. Once again, they performed exceptionally and both were awarded medals. Congratulations on the amazing achievement!

More recently, the boys competed in Scotland in an event featuring teams from all over Europe. The standard was extremely high, and involvement represents a terrific accomplishment in itself. Oliver won gold medal in individual kata-bo event and silver in the kumite team event. Billy fought very well and amazed the audience and teammates with his sweeping techniques. Both boys represented GB, their karate club and school with implacable conduct and made their family/school community feel very proud!



There were also tremendous recent martial arts achievements for Mimi and Mila Tyler (both Year 8), who have been chosen to represent England at the WBC Youth Championships in Canada – the first time this event has been held! Following this event in August, the twins will also be competing at the World Championships in Italy later in the year.

Huge congratulations to Mimi and Mila and all the very best for the next competitions in which our students are involved.

## Rounders Fixtures

Congratulations to our Year 8 and Year 10 rounders teams who have both been victorious in recent fixtures against Long Stratton, winning 16.5 - 11.5 and 18.5 - 12 respectively. The lunchtime sessions are clearly paying off!

## Standing Triple Jump Champion

During conversation with the PE department this week, I learnt of an amazing achievement for one of our Year 8 students. Sam Barber, competing at the National Sports Hall Final, won the standing triple jump event in the under 13s category, making him the longest jumper in this event for his age! Sam, City of Norwich Athletics Club sessions, and I really look forward to hearing about how his jumping develops, A huge well done to Sam!

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## Netball Trip



Several staff accompanied students on a trip to the Copper Box Arena in London this week to see some live netball action.

In addition to taking the game in, the youngsters also got to tour the Olympic Park, including the Velodrome. The students I spoke to seemed to have had a fantastic time.

Thanks to staff who gave their time and effort to make the trip a reality.

## Uniform Expectations and Policy Update

Many of you may have already read the updated uniform policy that has been sent out to families earlier today. The major headline is that shorts are now a part of our uniform policy and can be worn for a part of the year as indicated in the policy. You may recall that we sought feedback on this earlier in the year, and the views obtained are a major factor in this development.

The half term break is a good time to reset standards of uniform for our return in June. If appropriate, please support us by ensuring your child removes hair dye of an unnatural colour prior to starting the next half term. Gel/false/painted nails are not permitted and we would also appreciate your support with this. Students should not be wearing jewellery other than one ring and a plain stud in each ear. If they are seen wearing other items, including recent piercings, the items will be confiscated by staff.

## Beccles & Bungay Harriers Athletics Club

We have recently been contacted by a local athletics club that run regular sessions for children and adults – please see the flyer attached. Please note, this athletics club is not endorsed or affiliated to Hobart High School.

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## Leave of Absence in Term Time

It is the time of year when we receive an increased number of requests for authorisations of leave of absence/holidays in term time. Please can you be aware of the following excerpts from a letter we have used in the past regarding these requests:

In the DfE policy document entitled, "School Attendance: Guidance for maintained school, academies, independent schools and local authorities" it states, "Head teachers should not grant leave of absence unless there are exceptional circumstances. The application must be made in advance and the head teacher must be satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances based on the individual facts and circumstances of the case which warrant the leave. Where a leave of absence is granted, the head teacher will determine the number of days a pupil can be away from school. A leave of absence is granted entirely at the head teacher's discretion".

The Local Authority operates a system where any student will meet the criteria for legal intervention where they have:

1. 10 consecutive sessions of unauthorised absence where some or all of the absence may be attributed to an unauthorised holiday in term-time (for absences from 1 September 2017) or
2. 15% unauthorised absence over a period of 6 school weeks for reasons other than unauthorised term time holiday

If a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued it is a fine of £60 per parent/carer per child which must be paid in one payment in 21 days. If unpaid, a further invoice for £60 per parent/carer per child is issued; both individual invoices would then have to be paid making a total payment of £120 in 28 days. You should be aware that failure to pay the total amount within the timescale will result in legal action being taken.

On a similar theme, requests to attend the **Norfolk Show** will only be considered for those students participating. Please provide evidence if this is the case.

Please contact the school and ask to speak to the attendance officer if you have any questions.

## Pride Month

As part of Pride Month celebrations, the Norfolk Library and Information Service are hosting an online Pride Writing Workshop which will be delivered by James McDermott, a local LGBT+ writer. The workshop will be online, via zoom, between 5.00pm and 6.30pm on Wednesday 15 June. Participants will learn tools and techniques to help them explore, assert and celebrate their identity. There are only 20 places available, so booking is essential. To secure your place, email [libraries.icconnect@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:libraries.icconnect@norfolk.gov.uk) with the header 'Young Person's Pride Workshop'.

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## Eligibility for Free School Meals

A reminder that the current benefits that attract Free School Meals are:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

## How to apply

Parents should be encouraged to apply on line and information and a link to the on line application service is provided at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk)

Alternatively, an application form can be issued to those who prefer not to use the on line service.

Please contact the school if you have any questions or would like support with an application.

## Well Done Year 11!

Well done to our Year 11 cohort, who have navigated the first two weeks of their GCSE exams. I hope you manage to mix revision over half term with some well earned rest!

## School Calendar

A reminder that should you wish to view our school calendar or term dates, they are available on our website via the home page. The calendar is also linked [here](#).

## Cleaning Vacancies

We currently have two vacancies to join our cleaning team. If you are interested or know someone else that might be the details are in the vacancies section of our website that you can access [here](#).

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## **Site Support Officer Vacancy**

Required as soon as possible at Pakefield High School  
Fixed term to 31 August 2022 in the first instance, with a possible extension  
Grade C - £9.99 per hour  
37 hours per week, however part time hours would be considered

For further information please see Pakefield's website [www.pakefield.org.uk](http://www.pakefield.org.uk)

Kind regards and have a lovely half term break.

**Ross Li-Rocchi**  
Head of School