



HAWTHORN HIGH SCHOOL

Health, Happiness, Success



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Headteacher / Prifathro: Mr J Hicks BA(Hons) MA (Ed) NPQH

22nd September 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to a new school year. Hopefully you will have seen in the press the impressive GCSE and A Level results that students here at Hawthorn High achieved last summer which mean that over the last three years an average of more than 53% of our students have been **achieving the gold standard of 5 or more GCSEs at C grade or better (including English and Maths)** and which represents an 18% improvement on the figure four years ago. Such improvements cannot be achieved without all aspects of the school community working together and we are all so grateful for your continued support in achieving such impressive results. You can continue to monitor your pupil's homework through the 'Show my Homework' App details of which are available on the school website.

Our new Year 7 intake is the largest that the school has welcomed for many years and they have settled in wonderfully to life here at Hawthorn High.

There are many exciting developments at the school including:

- The opening of our completely refurbished school canteen and a new community and Sixth Form coffee shop.
- The establishment of a dedicated Sixth Form suite in partnership with the University of South Wales housing the majority of Year 12 and 13 lessons in their own part of the school.
- The school achieving lead school status to work in partnership with the University of South Wales in a bid to deliver dedicated graduate teacher training from 2019.
- The imminent launch of a new school website.
- Rehearsals beginning for this year's main school production 'High School musical'.

It has been delightful to see the pupils looking so smart at the start of this school year and wearing their blazers with pride. Can I take this opportunity to remind you that the school jumper is now an *optional* item of uniform and that hoodies are non- waterproof hooded tops and are not permitted to be worn instead of a coat or blazer. On especially hot days a decision will be made that 'shirt sleeves are in order' and blazer requirements will be relaxed during the day as appropriate. We are delighted with your support on this important aspect of school life.

If you have not already done so, please **download the school app** (available from google play and the app store) to stay abreast of all the latest information from the school and **follow us on twitter** to see all the exciting things going on on a daily basis. Once again, thank you for the support you give to the school and your children and we look forward to another successful year working in partnership with the whole community to achieve 'Health, Happiness and Success' for all the pupils in our care.

Regards,

Mr J N Hicks
Headteacher

Ysgol Uwchradd Hawthorn, Lon Yr Ysgol,

Hawthorn, Pontypridd, CF37 5AL

