



16th November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Now the clocks have gone back, the evenings are getting darker and there is a chill in the air as a sign that winter is on its way. As well as staying vigilant walking to and from school, you will find important tips for keeping our young people safe and warm on their journey. Thank you for taking the time to read and act upon the latest updates and reminders.

Important updates

P6 Celebrations - Going for Gold

We are excited to share with you that The Hazeley Academy has recently been awarded the Gold STEM Clubs Quality Mark. The award has been presented to Hazeley in recognition for the wide range of afterschool STEAM and Careers opportunities that are available to students. A massive well done to all the students who have attend the sessions or clubs, but also to staff and the wider Hazeley community for making them happen. If you haven't already done so, check out what P6 clubs are available this half term for our Hazeley students: [The Hazeley Academy - ExtraCurricular/P6](#)



Year Group Messages

Y11 PPE MFL speaking exams.

Please be aware that during the week beginning the 20th November, all Y11 MFL students will have their final mock speaking exam. They will have an invigilator for their preparation time and then have their individual speaking exam with their teacher. This will be a great learning opportunity for students to determine which areas they should improve on for their actual speaking exam in the spring.

Sixth Form Maths

Our first set of Maths results for the academic year are in. The Sixth Form A-Level Maths students were the first cohort up. There were some fantastic outcomes across the board. A very well done to all of those who took part. We achieved three gold awards and these progress to the next round and thirteen silvers. Congratulations to all involved.

General messages

Supporting Reading at Home

One of the most important, if not the most important thing that you can encourage at home is reading. Reading widely is the key to unlocking many aspects of school life: improving vocabulary,





empathy, inference, academic writing ability and supporting mental health. Our students have recently learnt that reading for 20 minutes a day can reduce feelings of stress by up to 68%, as well as totalling to an extra 1.8 million words consumed each year.

Students in Years 7-9 have fortnightly reading lessons, where they all use a programme called Renaissance (Accelerated Reader) – this platform has a feature called ‘Home Connect’, where parents can see information about your child’s reading habits and progress – we highly recommend all parents of children in Years 7-9 sign up for ‘Home Connect’ and click the email permissions to allow the system to update you every time your child quizzes or completes a reading based activity.

Log in to ‘Home Connect’ using: Renaissance - Log In (renaissance-go.com)

Username: Your child’s school Log-In, consisting of year of enrolment, first initial, surname. (eg. 22GStapleton)

Password: abc

Students in all years have access to our incredible ePlatform, where they can read eBooks and articles, including adaptability features that can change font size and background colour which is fantastic for students with dyslexia, and translation tools for students who speak other languages. There are also a number of audiobooks available on the ePlatform, and it can be downloaded onto phones and tablets. You can access our ePlatform here: [The Hazeley Academy - The Hazeley Academy \(eplatform.co\)](https://www.thehazeleyacademy.com/eplatform)

Log in: Usual school username – year of enrolment first initial, surname (eg. 22iread)

Password: Hazeley1 (or try hazeley1 if you’re having problems.)

Wordy Wednesdays and Literacy in Tutor Time.

Did you know that, since September, our students have been engaging in ‘Wordy Wednesdays’ in tutor time? This has ranged from reading passages together, doing quizzes about the benefits of reading, and working on Literacy activities together.

Perhaps the most powerful tool we are using is looking at the etymology and roots of words. It’s a known fact that 90% of the key words that our students will need to use in Maths, Science and Computer Science originate from either Latin or Greek roots – so we’ve been flexing our linguistic muscles every week to look at the patterns between words.

It’s a great conversation starter at home and might help to make sense of some of the trickier vocabulary used in subjects, from Year 7 right up to A Level. Have a look at some of the examples on this website and see if you can do some dinner table testing! www.readingrockets.org

Preloved uniform

Please be reminded of the excellent preloved uniform service we provide. We have a large range of preloved uniform in school if you child has outgrown their current uniform. Please contact enquiries@haz5d.com with the new sizes you need, and we will try our very best to resource this for you. We are only able to run this service due to the very generous donations you make in return of dropping outgrown uniform off to reception. This service is available to any Hazeley student. Thank you for your continued support.



Milton Keynes City Council Survey

MK City Council are asking schools to do a survey with students in all year groups to find out about how they travel to school and why they choose to travel using that method e.g. car, cycle, walk etc. By gaining these responses, they wish to improve the safety for the young people in the city. Please can you encourage your child to complete the survey. The link is here and is also posted on your child's year Team: [link to the survey](#). If you have any questions, please contact lmckenzie@haz5d.com

Cycling to school in Winter

As mentioned in my introduction, please find a few tips for keeping our young people safe and warm on a cold school run cycling, or on scooters.

1. **Be safe and be seen** – proper bike lights, reflectors and hi-vis clothing are essential. Bike lamps are often used to help others see you in low light visibility. Some lights are designed to be fun and even attach to helmets. Make sure they are well fixed, and the batteries have plenty of life in them.
2. **Keep warm** – gloves are essential as hands take the brunt of the cold. Heat can be lost through the head even when wearing a cycling helmet, so a buff, snood or balaclava adds an extra layer of warmth.
3. **Waterproof clothing** – jackets being both windproof and waterproof is a lot to ask but layers of clothing underneath will trap warm air close to the body. Waterproof trousers are also a useful addition.
4. **Warm drinks** – it can be a real treat to have a warm drink at the end of a cold cycle ride, even a hot squash drink could make the difference to feeling warmed up at the end of the journey.
5. **Time** – when it is really cold, allow extra time to layer up, avoid slippery surfaces on the journey into school and de-layer on reaching the destination.

Thank you for taking the time to read these messages, and as always, thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards.

Miss T Whiteman
Head of School