

# Headlines

Autumn Term

10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

"The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is excellent."

ISI inspection report



## Letter from the Headmaster

### Dear Parents

Thanks for your help getting back to a solid start. The boys were delighted with the new halls and accommodation... "Like going to a posh cinema" I was informed by a Year 4 boy, that's great feedback, however I won't be doing popcorn for my assemblies just yet!

For parents, new ones in particular, please do familiarise yourself with the Parent Information Handbook. It contains a lot of pertinent information and outlines the communication process to help get things done well and quickly.

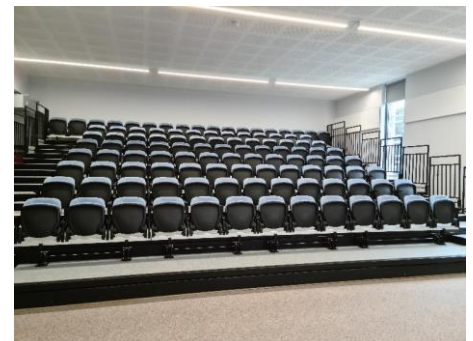
We have a couple of seminars laid on for you this term. We will do both on 'Teams' so if you would like to join, you may do so from the convenience of your home. We will also be looking for some parent volunteers to pose questions live, in order to break up the presentations. Please email Mrs Harmes ([sharmes@homefieldprep.school](mailto:sharmes@homefieldprep.school)) if you can help. The first is on the 16<sup>th</sup> September and will be my perennial lecture, with Q&A, on the world of senior schools and smooth transfer to them. It's probably of most interest to parents in Year 4 and above, but open to all.

Our second seminar will focus on our PSHE programme and how we seek to develop character and civic values across the School. Further details to follow. There will also be tips from the pros on keeping the boys safe online. We will send joining instructions out to you via email for both.

A few parents asked me about the recent noise in the press around older children being vaccinated without parental consent. Please do not worry. In my book adults protect and take care of children, not the other way around. Currently, we are Covid 'lateral flow' testing all the Year 7 and 8 boys, but entirely with your kind permission. It was good timing on the new build with the classrooms, Dining Hall, Performance Hall, ICT suite and Library all with 24/7 fresh air mechanical ventilation systems including automatic CO2 detectors and regulators. We are in a good place.

Enjoy the weekend, as ever the sun has come out just as term starts again!

**John Towers**  
Headmaster



*The new performance hall is now open for business with moveable bleacher seating*



*Fine dining in our new kitchen awaits the boys!*

## Lower School: Reception, Years 1 and 2

Welcome to the start of a new academic year, and for many of our boys in Reception, their very first experience of Homefield Preparatory School. Our new Tigers and Monkeys have settled into the school remarkably well given the very unique year our Homefield families have experienced. The boys are already well underway with their new topic 'Me and My Community' and have been exploring not only their wonderful new classrooms and their teachers, but also the larger school community that they are an integral part of.

If you have not already done so, can you please remember to supply a photo of your son so we can attach these to the pegs in the classroom. There are photograph permission forms that should have already been submitted to the admin team, and a kindly reminder to return these also.

The boys in Years 1 and 2 have demonstrated a growing maturity in their transition to a new part of the school, and in starting the year as role models to the new boys, not only those in Reception, but within Years 1 and 2. They have quickly established strong learning routines and we encourage you at home to discuss and celebrate not only what they are learning, but how they are feeling and how to approach challenge.

Across the whole Lower School, our staff are getting to know each of the individual boys in their classes and to bring out the best in each and every one; we acknowledge that as you settle into new school routines, questions will arise. Rest assured we are hosting a 'Meet the Teacher' evening before half term, hopefully face to face (all things going well in the world), where you will have the opportunity to discuss your son individually. We will communicate this date with you shortly as we plan this around all the other exciting events at Homefield. If you need to speak to the teacher about other matters, or beyond this planned session, we encourage you to make an appointment with your son's teacher via email, so that pick up and drop off time can continue to run smoothly and effectively.

### **Important Lower School days to remember:**

Reception Games: Tuesday and Wednesday for Sports Kit

Year 1 Games: Tuesday and Friday for Sports Kit

Year 2 Games: Monday and Thursday for Sports Kit

Clubs begin Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
Meet the Teacher Evening: To be held before October Half Term.

## Homefield Heroes

### Reception

Every single one of our boys AND their parents have demonstrated resilience, positivity, courage and kindness this week; all have been identified as an exemplary 'Homefield Hero'. Well done to you all on a grand start to your son's schooling career.

### Year 1

1H Alexander B for excellent focus and a hardworking approach toward his writing this week.

### Year 2

2H Jaydon for demonstrating resilience and dedication to his English comprehension.

2S Ryan for displaying excellent presentation standards in his English work.

## Learning Technologies

We have reset the passwords to all existing boys in our school and have issued new accounts to our new boys. Your son will be coming home with his office 365 letter (Teams) with his username and password written on it. Please work with your son over the next week or so, to help him access this resource. Form Teachers have a copy of your son's password. Any issues with passwords, please contact your son's Form Teacher in the first instance.

We would like to inform you that we have a dedicated Teams email address should you require some support using the platform.

Please use the following email address [teams@homefieldprep.school](mailto:teams@homefieldprep.school) should you need to get in contact.

Please save or make a note of the Teams email address in your address book within your email account. We will aim to get back to you as soon as we can.

Queries about homework or subject related matters should either go to the form tutor or subject teacher in the first instance, please refer to the staffing and our email contact addresses within the parent handbook or on our website for further details.





## Pastoral

### Years 3 and 4

A very warm welcome to Anish, Karsten, Aaron, Advik, Austin, Kaylan, Zane S, Zain I, Nathan, Max and Veer in Year 3, and Adam, Justinus, Gary, Hei, Alex, Aiden and Ezel in Year 4.

All have settled into Homefield life extremely well and have already built good relations with their peers and staff. Well done, boys!

### Years 5 and 6

We would like to welcome several new boys into the school and congratulate them on settling in so well. Thank you also, to their 'buddies' who have supported them during their first week.

Year 5 new starters: Arjun S, Deep, Alex M, Raghav and Cedric and their buddies: Alexander H, Jonathan F, Luke B, Lewis, Seyon and Austin

Year 6 new starters: Lucas C, Karson and Joshua and their buddies: Jaston, Shiven, George B and Tobi

### Years 7 and 8

It has been brilliant to welcome four new pupils to Year 7 this week. Mathew and Ryan have joined 7MJM and Sivan and Tony have joined 7MMC.

They have settled in extremely well thanks to their positive, friendly attitude and their helpful buddies Alex L, Ayaan, Jonas and Boris who have shown them the ropes.

We wish these four new boys all the best for their next two years at Homefield. It will be great to see them represent Homefield for the first time when they take on Cumnor House in a football fixture on the 20th September.

Also, Homefield Heroes for this week for making a superb start to the school year, with a highly positive attitude and showing respect and kindness to others:  
7MMC - Jonas  
7MJM - Mathew  
8CS - Zain  
8LC - Jasen

## Sport – Fantasy Football League

Here are the joining codes to take part in our extremely popular Fantasy Football Leagues this year.

The Homefield leagues will start this weekend and the deadline to have joined is **11.00am on Saturday 11th September**.

It is possible to sign up and join a league after this time, but you won't start scoring points until you sign up, so you will start behind your competitors if you miss the first week!

Please see the document emailed to parents earlier this week for the full information. Good luck!



**HPS Pupils, Parents & Staff: wmaate** (open to current pupils, current parents and current staff only)

**HPS Year 8 Pupils: 5vtvn7** (open to current Year 8 pupils only)

**HPS Year 7 Pupils: bjqqqy** (open to current Year 7 pupils only)

**HPS Year 6 Pupils: uma576** (open to current Year 6 pupils only)

**HPS Year 5 Pupils: stscnn** (open to current Year 5 pupils only)

**HPS Year 4 Pupils: d8lt04** (open to current Year 4 pupils only)

**HPS Year 3 Pupils: 1hsfje** (open to current Year 3 pupils only)

**HPS Junior Pupils: i7cihi** (open to current Year 1 and Year 2 pupils only)

**HPS Parents: emim4w** (open to current parents only)

**HPS Alumni: vmeclz** (open to ex-Homefield pupils only)



Over the summer we had some fantastic news regarding 2 of our 17 finalists in the London Regional finals of the Primary Leaders Award, a national STEAM competition.

Evan's entry that was previously graded as a Distinction shortlist, was up-graded to Highly Commended.

Yohaana in Reception was one of the few children in London to win the competition for his age/year group.

Our final results for 2020-2021, now stands at:

272 boys took part in the competition  
180 boys received a Pass grade  
70 boys achieved a Merit grade  
6 boys achieved a Distinction grade  
14 boys achieved a Distinction shortlist (into the London regional final)  
1 boy achieved a highly commended grade  
1 winner

Well done to all the boys that took part in this competition. All the STEAM teachers are looking forward to seeing and hearing about your innovative ideas for this year's competition.

## Charities

### Jeans for Genes Day

Next Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> September, all Homefield boys and staff will be able to take part in this important charity event which aids in the research and support of those with genetic disorders.

As part of their uniform for the day, the boys can replace their school trousers with a pair of jeans.

We will arrange a collection box upon the boys' entry to school for their £1 contributions towards the charity



## Philosophy

Aarav in Year 4 has been busy over the summer holidays and wrote a book on philosophy 'Philosophy of Life, views of an 8 year old', which he is keen to share. Here is just a sample:



Your interests may be unique, and it is *really good*, but tell yourself that, if anyone bullies you stand up to them. Whatever your interests are music, study, jokes, or anything else that you like, your mind has to drift off into a world of rainbows and happy memories. Sad memories sometimes mess with happy memories and make you fall out of the world.

The world I talk about is called the ZONE.



## Chapter4:What are Anxiety and Relief?

Your soul can control your emotions so that when you are tensed you can keep your feelings in. You might get excited too much to handle, sometimes. I would suggest that you should practice calming yourself down by going into the zone as that calms you down. When you calm down, the feeling of relief is normal. When you feel relief it is because you have finished a big job or you have been rescued etc. It does not mean that the zone makes you feel relief, but it does mean feelings can go very out of hand. Big things may not seem fine if you are yet to do them but the best way to forget it is to do fun stuff.

Could parents please ensure that their sons have everything they need for the school day (music instruments, sports kit, water bottles, etc.) before leaving home in the morning.

We cannot allow boys to visit the Front Office to make collections as the current office accommodation is not physically linked to the school building.

## Clubs

In the pursuit to find the next Aristotle or Magnus Carlsen, clubs return next week. There are a wide range of activities for your sons to explore and further develop their interests. Please do sign up your child to their favoured club ahead of next week. The sign up system will be available from 7.00pm today (Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September). For activities provided by external tutors, please see the school website for sign-up details:

[www.homefield.sutton.sch.uk/school-life/extra-curricular-clubs](http://www.homefield.sutton.sch.uk/school-life/extra-curricular-clubs)

## Learning Resources Centre

Boys are enjoying being back using the LRC and since the start of term a massive 441 books have been borrowed.

The LRC is open for Seniors at the following times:

Monday	Year 3	11.00 – 11.20am
Tuesday	Year 5	11.00 – 11.20am
Tuesday	Year 6	1.50 – 2.20pm
Wednesday	Year 4	1.50 – 2.20pm
Thursday	Year 7	11.00 – 11.20am
Friday	Year 8	11.00 – 11.20am

## Senior School Information

Parents may be interested in a virtual Q & A session for Homefield parents taking place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 8.00pm. This would be of interest to parents of boys in Years 5 and 6. Please email Sara Chesterman at [admissions@caterhamschool.co.uk](mailto:admissions@caterhamschool.co.uk) to register your attendance and access codes will be forwarded to you. To assist Caterham with their administration of this event, please put Homefield Prep School in the subject header.

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