



# HAWTHORN HIGH SCHOOL

## Health, Happiness, Success



School Lane, Hawthorn, Pontypridd, CF37 5AL Tel: 01443 841228 Fax: 01443 846464 Email: [hawthorn@hawthornhs.co.uk](mailto:hawthorn@hawthornhs.co.uk)

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

Headteacher's Blog – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Hello everyone,

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year at Hawthorn! We are delighted to see so many new faces joining us in Year 7 and the new year group has settled in exceptionally well in the first two weeks – it has been lovely to see ten of those pupils qualify for my Headteacher's award on a Friday morning. The cameras have been rolling since the start of term as Boomerang Productions begin their filming for the BBC of the next series of 'Our School' and I am delighted that so many parents have committed to the project. The film crew have been made very welcome at the school and feedback from staff and pupils has been very positive. A special thank you must go out to those families who have welcomed the cameras into their homes (I am not sure that the Hicks household in the mornings would be a place that I'd be brave enough to show to a TV crew!).

I am sure that you saw the relevant press releases with regard to the many successes that our Year 11 and 13 students achieved in public examinations during the Summer and it was lovely to see the highest percentage of Sixth Form students we have ever had achieving places at their chosen universities. Only one Year group has ever achieved more C grades at GCSE including English and maths than last year's Year 11 and results at the school improved significantly in both English and Maths (where performance will be in the top 25% of similar schools across Wales). Thanks to all parents for their support in preparing their sons and daughters for public examinations.

Our new 'split lunchtime' reorganisation of the school day has seen a very significant reduction in the length of queues in both the main canteen and the snack bar and pupils seem very positive about the atmosphere around the school during the lunchtime period. It was also lovely to welcome Daniel Davies back from his exploits in the Summer with 'The Voice Kids UK' and congratulate him on his phenomenal success in winning the competition – we are sure he is destined for great things and hope he will perform for us again at forthcoming whole school events! The new Year 12 have enjoyed an induction programme at the University of South Wales and we would like to thank the University staff for their support and the provision of such excellent facilities.

Year 9 are for the first time embarking on their studies in GCSE option subjects and staff have been very impressed by their mature attitude to these new and quite demanding courses.

We have also been delighted to welcome the following staff to the school in the Autumn term:

Mr Alex Morgan – Head of Maths

Mrs Fiona Middleton – Science Teacher

Ms Bethan Jones – Welsh teacher

Mr Joshua James – WRU rugby hub officer

**Ysgol Uwchradd Hawthorn, Lon Yr Ysgol,  
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The school's partnership work with South Central Consortium as a Teach First base training school is also continuing very successfully and we are delighted to welcome the following Graduates to the school:

Ms Madeline Hogben – Science Department

Ms Elodie Phillips – Science Department

Mr Vanya Burke – Maths Department

Year 5 and 6 **Open Evening will take place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October** and, if you have younger children in those year groups, we would be delighted to see you at what is usually one of the highlights of the school calendar.

Please be aware that we have now moved to an electronic process of communication with parents and we would urge any parents who have not yet given us their email address to do so at their earliest convenience (data protection advice is available on the school website homepage). I look forward to sending you the latest edition of the school newsletter in the coming weeks and months with further updates on all the exciting developments here at Hawthorn and, once again, thank you for your continuing support.

Regards,

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