



September 2016

Dear Parents /Carers

I am delighted to be the new Principal of Ark Helenswood Academy and am very excited about the coming years. I look forward to building a strong relationship with the local community and seeing you at key school events. The event dates for the first two weeks of term are on the reverse of this letter and all key dates can be found on our website.

Over the summer there was particularly good news for Year 13 students with an increase in results for the third year running. This ensured a greater proportion of students being accepted into their first choice university. Year 11 results were in line with national outcomes, with progress being made in English and maths. I would like to thank the staff, students and families for their hard work and support. You will be aware that we still have work to do to improve standards in line with Ofsted's judgement and I am very confident that we will continue to make progress with this. In our last Ofsted monitoring visit, Helenswood girls have been described as "friendly, good, humoured, considerate and polite." Everyone at the school deserves to be very proud that the girls have had this public recognition.

To ensure we maintain the highest quality of education and that your daughter(s) make excellent progress, it is essential that girls arrive to school punctually and every day. They should be ready and prepared to learn with the right equipment, their homework completed and their uniform worn correctly. They should be encouraged to read age-related literature beyond that provided by the school.

High attendance, excellent behaviours and a commitment to learning will continue to be rewarded through our reward and recognition systems. For the small minority of students that do receive behaviour sanctions we will remove the break and lunch time detentions and only have 20 minute and 40 minute after school detentions. We will continue to give you twenty four hours' notice of detentions set.

I appreciate that the use of electronic devices, including mobile phones, is prevalent in society. However, these are a huge distraction in schools. It is essential that electronic devices are turned off and placed in bags before entering the school site. Therefore, they should not be seen or heard at all during the school day and will be confiscated if they are. Any confiscated item should be collected by a responsible adult on Fridays at the end of the school day. To adjust to this, we will start the process in full from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September. If you wish to contact your daughter in an emergency, please contact the school office.



**PRINCIPAL: Tracy Dohel**

I very much look forward to working with you in the best interest of your daughter(s). It is well known that children make their best progress when a school and families work cooperatively with each other. As part of this, I always appreciate parent feedback and look forward to hearing from you and meeting you during the course of the year.

Should you have any concerns do write or call my PA, Pauline Ralph 01424753040/422470 to make an appointment and I will respond as soon as I possibly can.

Yours faithfully



Tracy Dohel  
Principal

#### Key dates for September 2016

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	start of Term 1 for all year groups – 8.45 pm
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	School photos for Years 7 – 10 East Sussex Music Service Parents' Meeting – 5.30 pm Year 8 & 9 Curriculum Information evening – 6.00 – 8.00 pm
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 8 HPV Immunisations
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 10 & 11 Curriculum Information evening – 6.00 – 8.00 pm