



**High Weald Academy**  
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Principal: Mr Nigel Jones

Thursday 7th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

**RE: Closure of High Weald Academy (HWA) and confirming places in other schools**

As we have now completed our four bespoke parental information evenings in response to the DfE's decision to close HWA in August 2022, I wish to bring parents and carers up-to-date in terms of parental responses we have received regarding your son's/daughter's next steps beyond HWA.

Therefore I wish to sincerely thank those **50% of our families** who have already responded to the request to inform us of where they will be schooling their son and daughter next. A reminder that the closure plan sets out that year 10 pupils will move in January 2022 and years 7-9 will do so next September.

However, as we have stated, parents have a right to move at other times if they prefer and if the school they choose has places. Some parents are already taking such action and moving their children to schools like Mascalls sooner than the dates announced. Please note that places at schools in-year will be limited as staffing and curriculum plans will be based on the numbers of pupils who started at the school this academic year. Despite some pupils already moving schools, rest assured that even if you cannot gain an early move for your child, a place is guaranteed for you at Mascalls, our nearest "good" school, by no later than the dates already provided.

As a further offer to parents, the option of Mascalls free school uniform will apply whenever your child transfers. I include more details below about how to purchase Mascalls school uniform free of charge to parents. In relation to other schools, parents will need to communicate directly with those institutions about the uniform offer in place.

Most responses from parents are informing us their son or daughter will stay at HWA until the end of half-term two for year 10 and end half-term six for years 7, 8 and 9 and then move to their chosen school. This is welcome news. We will provide the best education possible for all those staying at the school for the rest of the year based on the talented efforts of our dedicated team of staff. We wish any child moving schools early all the very best for the future.

Thus, can I respectfully remind those who are yet to respond that the **local authority has set the deadline of 22nd of October** as a date to send your confirmation of where you will be sending your son/daughter once HWA closes and **I would respectfully urge those who have not sent their response in to do so as soon as possible.**

To those who have chosen Mascalls Academy (where of course each HWA pupil has a guaranteed space set aside for them, albeit Year 10 from January or Years 7-9 from September) I thought it would be useful to confirm information again around the process for choosing your free uniform via Barsleys of Paddock Wood:

- HWA issues the order form to the parents;
- Parents return the form to HWA (not Barsley's);



- HWA authorises the forms and send to Barsley's by email ([mens@barsleys.co.uk](mailto:mens@barsleys.co.uk));
- Barsley's then supply the goods to the customer when they visit the store in Paddock Wood; and
- Barsley's invoice HWA on a monthly basis.

This offer of free uniform is of course made in conjunction with the local authority's welcome decision to provide free transport to those HWA pupils who choose to move to Mascalls in line with agreed dates for transfer.

There is also still time to view Mascalls Academy via open days specifically put on for HWA pupils and their families. While there is one of these days going on today there is a further **one next Tuesday 12th October, 9am-11am**. Should you have any enquiries in relation to this event or indeed be seeking a separate time to view Mascalls please contact: [tina.banks@mascallsacademy.org.uk](mailto:tina.banks@mascallsacademy.org.uk)

Of course should you wish to attend this morning or indeed any other school's open morning we will authorise your son's/daughter's absence, but I would politely ask you to inform us through the usual channels beforehand.

Whilst for obvious reasons there has been much new information shared with our year 7-10 pupils, I am also writing today to our Year 11 pupils and parents so that they can attend a GCSE information evening next week so we can share various strategies we are putting in place to support our Year 11 to maximise their grades and plan for their destinations post-16.

Along with our Year 11 pupils and all those who are remaining, please rest assured we have an absolute commitment that we will keep growing our pupils as learners and responsible citizens so they are in the strongest possible place to benefit from their next steps into further education or indeed in Year 11s' case, the world of further study.

Finally, can I once again urge those parents who are yet to inform us of their next nominated school to do so **as soon as possible before the 22nd of October**.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Jones', with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

Nigel Jones  
Principal