



HORDLE WALHAMPTON SCHOOL

Wednesday, 22nd February 2012

Dear Parent,

Assignment Challenge

Children in Years Six, Seven and Eight who are preparing for entry to their senior schools, will need to learn to work independently using a multitude of media sources and information for their research. For this reason we have devised the 'Assignment Challenge' which will offer senior children at Hordle Walhampton the opportunity to improve their independent learning strategies.

This challenge is not a formal prep, as each assignment can take up to a fortnight or longer to complete, but will be marked and advice given as to how it might be improved. Over the course of an academic year, assignments will be set in a variety of subjects and the prizes awarded will take into account many criteria including depth of research, imagination of the method used and accuracy.

The Challenge will work like this:

- Topics will be set and a sheet outlining some specific ideas and expectations will be given to each child.
- There will be a deadline (we feel that this is an important part of the challenge) but the work can be undertaken at any time between the first and final day, whether at school or at home. Boarders will be encouraged to balance their time after supper between their assignment and any outstanding work and the middle of each assignment often coincides with an Exeat in order that parents can offer advice and encouragement, if they wish.
- At school, progress will be monitored by the child's tutor and the assignments graded taking into account what we hope will be widely varied approaches to the set topic.
- Having decided how to attack a topic, the child must agree this with the member of staff setting the work. For example, the wide ranging topic, 'Tudors' might encourage the writing of a short play of a particular episode during the reign of a Tudor, a Tudor song learnt and sung accompanied by a Tudor instrument, a camcorder recording of a visit to a Tudor building, warship, etc., or a piece of relevant research using the library and internet; art, music, drama and model making skills are encouraged. There must be an element of written work to accompany each assignment, however.
- Time taken over each assignment should be logged in the Homework Diary and the total amount noted on the final submission.

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Headmaster: Henry Phillips BA (Hons) Cert Ed LGSM

The dates of the assignments are listed in the calendar and have been chosen to allow ample time for revision, expeditions and other school events. There is a page in the homework diary which explains all of this, including the order of the assignments and a space for the grade awarded to be listed.

The **first assignment in Year Six**, which is starting now, is a '**Tutee's choice**'. This means that it is a topic where the child decides what they would like to do. It does not have to be on an academic subject. However, before starting, the tutee must talk to his or her tutor about the subject to get agreement on the scope of the topic and whether it is suitable or not. It is due to be handed in on **Friday 9th March** and will then be marked under certain criteria by the tutor and the best ones displayed in the Front Hall.

I do hope that all the children taking part will find the assignments both enjoyable and instructive. Please contact me if any part of this letter is unclear.

With all best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T.J. Norris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'N'.

T J Norris
Senior Master