

# Pupil Premium Newsletter

To keep you up to date with all that is happening which is pupil premium related, we intend to send out a newsletter to all our PP (Pupil Premium) families once a term.

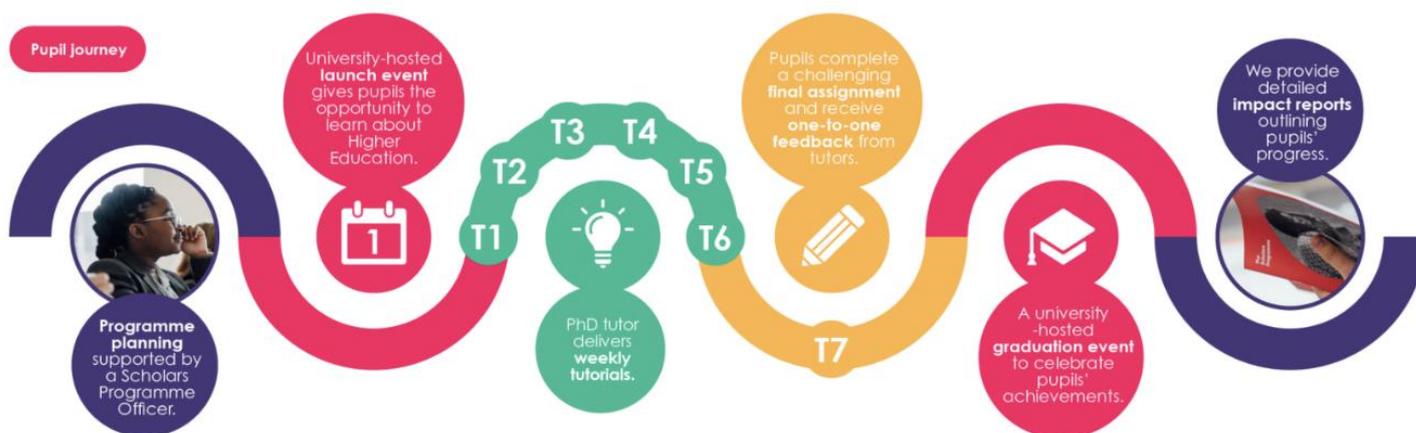
The plan is that this will give you some information perhaps you did not know about the schemes we are currently running at Hinchingsbrooke, in addition to giving you advice on what you can do at home to support your child.



## The Scholars Programme 2023



At Hinchingsbrooke, we are lucky to be one of the partner schools of The Brilliant Club! Below is an outline of what this involves for our Year 9 students.



This term, 14 students have been offered (and accepted) the opportunity to participate in the Scholars Programme!



On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January, Mrs. Bennett and I had the privilege of taking our first group to the spring term launch event at Oxford University. We had an inspiring day learning about life at university, applications, courses, learning skills and more. Students got to meet older students, who were from comprehensive schools too. We had a tour of Christ Church College and even got to eat lunch in the same dining hall that was used whilst filming Harry Potter!

Our students have now almost finished their tutorials with an enthusiastic PhD student from Cambridge University. They have been exploring nature through Eco gothic literature using text from the Hunger Games

and more. Each week they have gathered as a group for one hour to discuss themes, links and the subtleties of the plot and surroundings within different stories.

Students have been developing key skills, such as critical thinking, subject knowledge, written communication, and university self-efficacy.

At the end of the month the students will be submitting their final essay and will then be 'graduating' at Cambridge University. It has been a wonderful opportunity for students to see that they too could go to university, complete work at this level and even go on to post graduate qualifications! How inspiring!

Another group of 14 students will be starting their Scholar's Programme after the easter break!



Mrs Gratton



At the last coffee morning some parents suggested that students of services parents would benefit from having a club or meetings with other students who had similar experiences they could share with each other.



On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March we launched a services support group with a lunch event. Mrs Stevens has kindly agreed to run the group. Lots of sandwiches, crisps and cake were consumed by our hungry teenagers. They had the opportunity to talk to each other and say what they wanted this group to be.



There will be opportunities to meet each half term and we even plan to have a few outings together – perhaps a bowling trip of two!



## Why is attendance so important?

Missing a few days of school here and there may not seem a big deal, but research shows that it can have a significant impact on children's learning. Children who miss a substantial amount of school fall behind their peers, and struggle to catch up.

**Most of the work they miss is never made up, which can lead to big gaps in their learning.** Poor attendance often starts at primary school, and children who fall into this pattern are likely to underachieve at secondary school.



### Did you Know?

- Pupils who miss between 10 and 20% of school (that's 19 to 38 days per year) stand only a 35% chance of achieving five or more good GCSEs, compared to 73% of those who miss fewer than 5% of school days.
- Friendships can be affected by persistent absence, too: it can be hard for a child who misses lots of school to form relationships with their classmates.

### What can you do?

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day;
- Help your teen maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep;
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day;
- Keep your student healthy with regular healthy meals;
- If your teen must stay at home because they are sick, make sure they have asked teachers for resources and materials to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom;
- Make sure your teens are not missing class because of challenges with behavioural issues or school discipline policies. If this is a problem, contact us and work with us to solve these;
- Monitor your teens academic progress and seek help from staff where necessary. Make sure we know how to contact you;
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts – peer pressure can lead to skipping school/classes, and those who are more isolated may not want to come into school for that reason;
- Encourage your teen to join meaningful after-school activities;
- Notice and support your teens if they are showing signs of anxiety.

#### Attendance Incentive:

Free school meals students who improve their attendance the most, or have the highest attendance have a chance of winning a place to Thorpe Park on 18 July, and they can bring a school friend!

