

The Hart

NEWSLETTER

19 JANUARY 2021 • ISSUE 1 • SPRING TERM



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

As a school, we will continue to support families in receipt of free school meals. Week commencing 18 January, we will be using the Edenred ordering system. The school will be emailing families a 16 digit e-code which you can exchange online for a selection of supermarket 'eGift cards'.

I want to thank our incredible staff who have played an active part in the organisation and delivery of food parcels to our school community.

As a school, we will continue to provide food parcels in addition to vouchers for some families in need during these difficult times.

If you require further information regarding food parcels then please contact: Justine.Rumsey@hartschool.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to our first edition of our new 'The Hart Newsletter'.

Our newsletter is a vital link between school and home which is issued every fortnight via email. It contains important school information, as well as providing information relating to key aspects of school life. We hope you find it useful!

Firstly, I would like to congratulate our students on the superb way they are responding to the challenges of Lockdown and remote learning. It's been an incredible week of distance learning! Please pass on to our students how proud we are of their engagement with distance learning. Whilst this is not at all what we want and if it was safe to do so we would much prefer to teach our students in our classrooms, students have really risen to the

challenge of live lessons and their teachers couldn't be happier with them. Equally, a big thank you to parents and carers for your unwavering support. Staff are reporting outstanding examples of engagement, effort and creativity from students in school and out of school. Teaching staff are meeting (remotely) to share ideas, plan learning and discuss

progress and we are all learning new skills and exploring new ways to deliver content and are delighted with how the students are responding. Thank you for the support you are giving to your children to help to keep them attentive and on task. Thank you also for the lovely messages that have come into school in recent weeks about their experiences – it has been a joy to pass these on to staff in our remote briefings.



WE CAN • WE WILL • WE DO

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

We must submit a daily register to the government detailing attendance during this time, and we are checking your child's engagement with lessons at home as well, as part of this. It's all to make sure children are still receiving the learning they need during this challenging time and we also have a legal and safeguarding duty to know where all our students are and that they are safe.

REPORTING ABSENCE

If your child is feeling unwell then we ask parents and carers to continue to inform the school as normal so that we can accurately record an absence from online lessons. This is an important part of our safeguarding routines.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

In order for us to fully support your child in their lessons, we remind students that they should not activate the 'do not disturb' function on Teams, this will prevent teachers from fully supporting students learning

SCHOOL OPENING

We are currently receiving an increasing number of requests for children of critical workers to attend school. The size, layout and staff available places a limit on the number of students who can attend safely.

We would be incredibly grateful if you could consider this when requesting places and only use the places in school where there is no other choice. We do not want to refuse anyone a place that needs it, but we recognise that this may happen if the demand is greater than the supply we can offer safely.

HISTORY MADE

The Hart School continues to make history as one of its Sixth Form students has received the first ever offer to study at an Oxbridge university.

Anya Tregay, Year 13, has received an offer to study Law at Hertford College, Oxford from September 2021. This will be the first time that a student from a Rugeley high school has received this offer in the last 20 years. It may even be the first one ever.

We as a school, community and town could not be more proud of this young lady who has dazzled everyone that has had the privilege of educating her. Anya

studies literature, psychology and Spanish with an additional qualification in music. She has thrown herself completely into her studies and other aspects of school life such as the school council and various CET competitions that have run over the years.

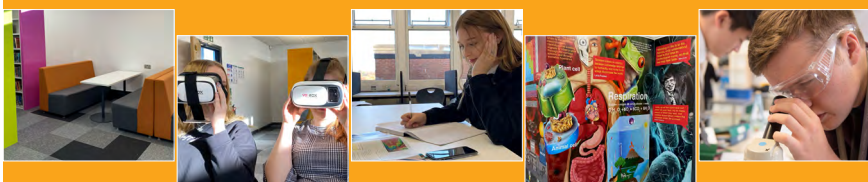
It is hoped that Anya will now demonstrate that anything is possible for the young people of Rugeley and

aspirations should have no limits. We hope this is the first of many and other students will see Anya as a role model whose footsteps are there to be followed.



The Hart School Sixth Form

The Hart School Sixth Form creates a bespoke curriculum for each student intake's needs. Recent investment includes newly refurbished Sixth Form areas, library and new ICT suite.



For application forms and information on vocational and academic courses, which include Level 3 Dance and Public Services, visit www.hartschool.org.uk/sixth-form or email Head of Sixth Form Mr Ben Brennan on ben.brennan@hartschool.org.uk

WE ARE STILL OPEN TO APPLICATIONS

WELLBEING TIP OF THE WEEK

One of the most important wellbeing tips that is being shared at the moment is the importance of daily routine in protecting mental health and wellbeing.

Support your child in sticking to regular routines around waking, sleeping, eating and physical activity. Routine physical activity is vital in helping maintain a healthy mind and even just a short walk will give time away from electronic devices. There are plenty of great online tools to create a wellbeing action plan, one which is recommended is:

<https://www.startnowcornwall.org.uk/wellbeing-action-plan/>

ONLINE SAFETY

With the new way that we are working online it is vital that we all do everything we can to stay safe online.

As students make the transition to a more independent stage children become more confident internet users with more varied habits. Internet use can be hugely positive for children, but it's vital to continue discussing online safety with them.

TOP TIPS FOR ONLINE SAFETY

HAVE FREE AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS

Encourage your child to talk to you about how they use the internet and show you what they do. Discuss with them the kinds of things they might come across. A good time to talk is when

they get a new device or mention a new website

START DISCUSSIONS ABOUT SOCIAL NETWORKING EARLY

Talk to children about the benefits and risks of social networking before they join any sites. Let them know that anything they upload, email or message could stay around forever online

CHECK AGE RATINGS

The age ratings that come with games, apps, films and social networks are a good guide to whether they're suitable for your child. For example, the age limit is 13 for several social networking sites including Facebook and Instagram

PUT YOURSELF IN CONTROL

Activate parental controls on your home broadband, all devices including mobile phones and games consoles. Safe search settings can also be activated on Google (and other search engines), YouTube and on entertainment sites like iTunes and iPlayer.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://kidshelpline.com.au/parents>



LATERAL FLOW DEVICE TESTING

New, simple and quick tests, known as Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests, enable schools to rapidly test pupils, students and staff, without the need for a laboratory.

I am pleased to say that we now have a fully operational testing centre for Covid-19 on site.

I am very grateful to all the staff who have voluntarily trained as operatives to support this important initiative in helping to stop the spread of the virus within the school and wider community.

Staff and the small

number of students who are currently working on site have been given the opportunity to take a lateral flow test (LFT) since the start of term.

While we continue to follow all the current social distancing and hygiene advice stringently, this does give those of us in school a degree of confidence that we can go about our daily

work in a safe environment. We look forward to the challenges of scaling up the testing when we are able to welcome all students back to school.

If you would like to become an LFD Testing centre volunteer at The Hart School, please contact us at: enquiries@hartschool.org.uk



WE CAN • WE WILL • WE DO

ACCESS TO DATA

The Government announced this week that additional mobile network data can be made available to students of families who do not have fixed broadband at home, cannot afford additional data for their devices or are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education.

If you believe this may apply to you, please contact Mr Thompson by email at david.thompson@hartschool.org.uk

REWARDS

As a school, we would like to take this opportunity to once again congratulate all of our winners from our first ever virtual rewards evening; we were so proud to see so many students nominated for each category making it so difficult to shortlist. All of our winners will receive their physical awards as soon as it is safe to do so but another virtual round of applause for:

Happy Award Winner

Freyja Taylor

Ambition Award Winner

Brooke Stuart

Resilience Award Winner

Samuel Jones

Tolerance Award Winner

Grace Mackie

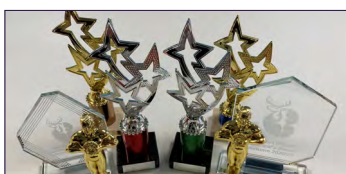
Community Honours Winner

Edward Cutler

Principals Award Winner

Levan Parsley

Thank you to our sponsors Blueprint and Rugeley Self Storage for supporting the event.



REMOTE LEARNING

Over the past two weeks, staff and students have been working remotely to reduce the spread of CoVid 19.

We have provided over 20 hours of live learning per week to every student; developed and delivered by our staff for our children.

Whilst it doesn't replace the nurturing environment of our face-to-face teaching, we have tried to make our lessons as engaging and immersive as possible. It takes a lot of detailed planning to ensure students can understand and access new material. For both staff and students,

the amount of screen time can be tiring.

Keep to your routines - get up at normal school times, (even get dressed for school!), take your breaks when you would normally have them (away from a screen) and make sure that you get physical exercise each day.

Thank you to everyone who has written in with support or suggestions, it is appreciated!

EXAMINATIONS

Update for Year 11 and 13 students due to take exams this year

You may have read in the press that Ofqual and the DfE are considering staging mini-exams at the end of the year to assist with the awarding of Teacher Assessed Grades for Y11 and Y13 students.

At the moment the proposal is subject to consultation and details are scarce but as soon as we have more details we will share them with students and parents.

What is clear is that Y11 and Y13 need to continue working hard in lessons, continuously revising content and putting in maximum effort. They have

been exceptional thus far and they need to keep going to make sure that when we reach the end point we have ample evidence of their achievements to inform our grades.

Please ensure that your child attends all their online lessons following their normal timetable.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21 JANUARY 2021

Y10 Virtual Parents Evening

28 JANUARY 2021

Y13 Virtual Parents Evening

REPORTS

We are a school that is always trying to improve and as such we have reviewed our school academic reports. During this academic year you will receive a report for your child that will contain Therapies.

THERAPIES

Therapies are resources identified by your child's teacher to help them to address any areas that they might be struggling with to support them in getting back on track.

We will limit the therapies to a maximum of two per subject, identifying the areas that will make the biggest impact on your child's performance.

We would ask that you encourage them to follow the links and work through the activity. We have identified material that your child can do independently, so that you don't need to be an expert(!).

CALLING ALL FORMER STUDENTS

DID YOU ATTEND FAIR OAK, HAGLEY PARK, RUGELEY ACADEMIES OR THE HART SCHOOL

WE NEED YOU

JOIN THE ALUMNI AND CREATE A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK

JOIN THE ALUMNI HERE

for more information email: alumni@hartschool.org.uk