

The Hart

NEWSLETTER

27 April 2021 • ISSUE 5 • SUMMER TERM

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back

I hope you enjoyed the Easter holidays and that you managed to take advantage of the good weather to enjoy the start of the restrictions beginning to ease. We have welcomed back students this week and as always it has been inspiring to see how all our young people have come back to school focused and ready to learn. The Year 11 and 13 students are working hard on producing evidence for teacher assessed grades and it has been delightful to see outdoor clubs starting up

again with so many students attending. We are also delighted to be able to offer more extra-curricular clubs after school, please see our website for the latest extra-curricular offer.

Face Masks

You may be aware that Government guidance was reviewed over Easter and the existing measures remain in place. Students must wear face masks in corridors, all communal areas at break and lunch and in classrooms. Students who are exempt will



be issued with an exemption card to show staff. All students have adapted really well and have been incredible in following this request.

May Day Bank Holiday

The school will be closed on Monday 3 May for the early May Bank Holiday. Please ensure that you do not send students to school on this day,

as the building will be closed and they will not be able to enter.

I hope that you and your families are keeping well and staying safe during this time. Thank you once again for all your ongoing support for the school, which is very much appreciated by the whole staff team.

OPPORTUNITIES KNOCK IN THE SIXTH FORM

Despite many people working remotely, we've still managed to give our Sixth Form students incredible experiences of the world outside of education.

Working with the organisation I Have A Voice, our students have attended a workshop all about how local elections work in readiness for the local council elections in May. This has been eye opening for many students that have developed a keen interest in politics.

Another exciting partnership has been made with Zero Carbon Rugeley. This programme looks at ways of making this town use sustainable energy with an eye to becoming carbon neutral. In line with Keele University, Regen, and the New Vic theatre, our students attended a Zoom conference where they discussed the potential for

renewable energy and the barriers for making it viable. It was also attended by some of our Year 8 Scholar Programme students that had won a competition through their presentation on ways to make the school 'greener'.



WE CAN • WE WILL • WE DO

KS4 IN-CLASS ASSESSMENTS

Students in Y10 and Y11 will be soon be completing in class assessments.

Year 11 students will be completing window 2 of assessments to support the Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) process. These assessments will form part of the evidence portfolio that teachers will use to assign grades.

Government guidance is clear that the evidence should be made up of a number of pieces of work at differing levels of control. To explain this, this formal assessment window would be considered to be a “high control” piece of evidence whereas a piece of work completed at home in the students’ own time would be considered to be a “low control” piece of evidence.

At The Hart School, we

will be making use of a range of evidence ensuring that our students are not disadvantaged in comparison to their peers in other schools.

Year 11 assessment window:
04/05/2021 -> 14/05/2021

Year 10 students will be completing assessments to inform decisions regarding the next steps in their education.

These assessments will help inform intervention invites for session that will be offered during May half term. We will also use the assessments to allow teachers to gain a thorough understanding of each student’s strengths and their areas of development, enabling them to shape and

adapt the curriculum over the coming weeks to meet the needs of students preparing Year 10s for the transition into Year 11 for September 2021.

Year 10 assessment window:
30/04/2021 -> 07/05/2021

Further details relating to timetables will be issued in due course.



ATTENDANCE



Once again, we thank you for your continued support when our students accessed their lessons remotely.

Now we are back into a routine at school, it is more important than ever that students understand the importance of attendance. Every day counts.

Our staff are so pleased to see students back into the physical classroom to deliver quality first teaching whilst thriving on the engagement of students. Attending school everyday will ensure our students are making rapid and sustained progress and a result; preparing for the next steps of their school life.

We look forward to celebrating the success of our students as they achieve 100% attendance from now until the summer break!

WELLBEING TIPS

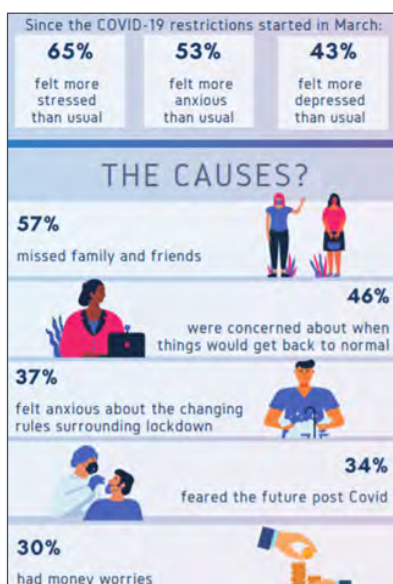
April is has brought sunshine and with an easing of some restrictions the opportunity to see family and friends which is good for all our mental health and wellbeing.

Although we are nearly at the end of April, it is Stress Awareness Month. This year’s theme is, ‘Regain Connection, Certainty and Control’. The Stress Management Society (<https://www.stress.org.uk/stressawarenessmonth/>) have top tips and advice on reducing stress and have been organising Stress Awareness Month since 1992.

Some of the suggestions for reducing stress include eating for wellbeing, exercising to combat stress and switching off from tech. One of the most challenging mental health strategies is being able to say ‘no’ – and this can be

to family, friends or work colleagues. One excellent phrase to use is: “I can’t give you an answer right now, but can I get back to you?”

May is Mental Health Month and this year’s focus is connecting with nature – we will be sharing ideas and suggestions in the May Newsletters for how to connect with nature and with Cannock Chase on our doorstep this could be an amazing opportunity to get out and explore - including finding the Slitting Mill Waterfall on the Heritage Trail.



VISITORS ON SITE

At present, to keep our school community safe, visitors on site are still restricted and, as such, parents/carers must only attend if an appointment has been made.

If you would like to contact a specific member of staff to make an appointment, then please call the school on 01889 802440 or email enquiries@hartschool.org.uk, Thank you for your continued support.

PTFA UPDATE

The PTFA would like to say a massive thank-you to everyone who bought a raffle ticket (or donated an Easter Egg) for our Easter raffle.

We raised a grand total of £472 which is being used to fund a range of after-school extra-curricular activities such as a botany club, engineering skills using Lego and a medical science club.

I want to give a special mention to Joyce from the Tesco's store in Rugeley for donating a very generous amount of Easter eggs. Also, Jemma from Morrison's Rugeley for a special donation consisting of an Easter bunny and a selection of Easter Eggs meaning we in fact had four prizes.



UNIFORM

At The Hart School we firmly believe that the wearing of a smart school uniform encourages pride and loyalty to the school and demonstrates that the student is a willing member of our community.

Parents and carers are asked to ensure that their child is dressed correctly for school. We particularly welcome your support on uniform and equipment.

Please check our uniform policy available on the school website to ensure you are familiar with the requirements.

I would like to take this opportunity to particularly draw your attention too a particular point based around school trousers:

- Tailored plain black Hart School skirt – should be knee length and not tight fitting
- Straight leg, full length plain black trousers – tight fitting/ leggings and/or denim effect

material is not acceptable

- Plain black leather or leather-look school shoes – shoes with rubber toe; pumps; training shoes; canvas or logo styles are not acceptable

Thank you for your support with this, we take great pride in our school uniform.

READING PROGRAMME

We are passionate about improving students reading skills and developing an enjoyment and love for reading.

To encourage this, we are beginning a Reading Programme in English lessons where students in Years 7-10 will read their own book for 10 minutes every week.

Not only will this benefit their reading skills but proficient reading is also proven to improve a student's literacy skills. A good reader will

naturally become a better writer, speaker and thinker.

To support this Reading Programme, please ensure your child brings a reading book to school every day. Should you have any queries regarding this please can you contact your child's Tutor who will be happy to offer support.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

Over the past week or so teachers have been working with students to identify the areas that they need most support with from the lock down period.

These small low-stakes assessments have been designed to help teachers and students work out what needs to be retaught or reinforced.

Most of the time teachers will be able to do this through a process called 'interleaving' this is when we recap previously taught material with new topics, teachers identify links between the new and old and use these links to reinforce the learning.

What we have learned through lockdown is that some aspects of remote learning have really helped some of our children. Our teachers are looking at what worked best and how we might use this moving forward.

As we start to draw our conclusions on this, we will begin to share them with you through the newsletter. If you have any observations on what would be good to retain

from remote learning, from a parent's perspective, we'd be really keen to hear from you,

please email Mr Redmond, daulton.redmond@hartschool.org.uk with the message title 'thoughts on remote learning'.



WE CAN • WE WILL • WE DO

RECRUITMENT

We are absolutely delighted to be welcoming two strong members of staff to join us on our journey to excellence.

Mrs A Cleary

Assistant Principal/ Teacher of Science

I'm a Science teacher passionate about fostering a love of this subject because of how much it explains about the world around us. Over the course of my career I've worked to deliver an inclusive Science curriculum that inspires children to think beyond the boundaries of the classroom. One that encourages independent thinking, develops a broad range of knowledge and promotes the development of skills, allowing children to achieve their true potential so that they are best placed to make the most of future opportunities.

My career as a teacher, Head of Year, Science Faculty Lead, Science Lead Practitioner and most recently an Assistant Principal has been a lot of fun. I have created giant fire balls, tried space ice-cream, learned how to save a life (along with over a thousand pupils), supported recent winners of a national STEM-based competition 'Solutions for the Planet', run trips to exotic places from Peru to Kenya and importantly supersized marshmallows. I look forward to more exciting adventures whilst at The Hart School.



Miss R Barry

Teacher of MFL

I began to learn Spanish at school and didn't initially fall in love with it as I struggled with it. It wasn't until I had to take a language at GCSE that I decided to work really hard at improving my language skills and I developed a passion for learning a language and ended up doing really well in Spanish as a result (an experience that helps me relate to struggling students and enables me to motivate them and build their confidence). I then studied Business Management and Spanish at the University of Leeds which gave me the opportunity to spend a year in Valencia, Spain. I decided to spend my year teaching as this was always something in the back of my mind as a career option. The year showed me what a varied and rewarding job teaching can be and confirmed my career choice after university. I secured my teacher training position before going off to travel for a year which was something I had always wanted to do as I love learning about new cultures and visiting new countries. I have been teaching now for three years and love that no day is the same, each student has their own unique personality and I feel fortunate to be able to help develop them into the bright, confident young adults that they will become. I am looking forward to this new journey at The Hart School and getting to know you all.

LETS WALK THE WORLD TO WELLNESS



In May, The Hart School is raising awareness for Mental Health and supporting Mental Health Awareness week. The theme for this year's week is nature.

To support the theme, we would like to encourage all students, staff and all members of the community

to come together and walk the world to wellness, whilst enjoying the wonderful nature around us.

We would like the school and community to register their steps in the month of May to see if as a team we can walk the world together.

We have also set up a just

giving page where you can donate to support YESS, Your Emotional Support Service, which is our local Mental Health and Well-being charity who provide telephone emotional wellbeing support sessions for young people and parents.

More details will be shared on

our social media platform over the coming days.



WE CAN • WE WILL • WE DO

OUR VERY OWN SUPER STUDENT

Year 8 student Adam Illingsworth raises over £600 for The National Autistic Society.

1 in 100 people are on the autism spectrum, and there are around 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK alone. Though everyone on the spectrum may have different experiences and needs, World Autism Awareness Week is a chance to speak up for the rights of all autistic people, and highlight the social, economic, health and educational obstacles that many autistic people face.

This is just what Adam did, he carried out a presentation to his tutor group and also recorded a short video about Autism that we shared on our social media. He wanted to raise awareness of both his own experiences and also Autism as a whole.

On Good Friday Adam participated in the Super 7 Challenge to raise money for the National Autistic Society. Adam chose to play board games for 7 hours. The challenge started by playing Exploding Kittens followed by Scotland Yard, Monopoly Empire, Top Trumps, Trivial Pursuit, Obama Lama and Mario Party.

Although at times it was challenging Adam stuck with it and successfully completed the challenge raising £615. Well done Adam and family.



COVID-19 DAILY CONTRACT TRACING PILOT SCHEME

The Hart School has been successful in our application to take part in the DHSC's daily contact tracing pilot.

The main aim of the pilot scheme is to compare the relative merits of keeping close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases in school and testing them daily, as opposed to self-isolation at home. This will inform the Government's ongoing strategy when a positive case of COVID-19 is reported in a school setting.

The particular focus of the pilot scheme will be to find out:

- The number of school days lost from COVID-19 or close contact with COVID-19 cases
- The number and rate of positive contacts missed by daily Lateral Flow Device testing.
- The estimated number and rate of within-school COVID-19

transmission events.

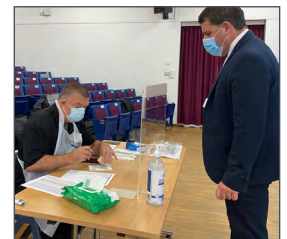
- The number and rate of COVID-19 cases transmitted to the second order (wider) contacts of positive contacts.

Ultimately, the findings of this research should help us to keep more students in School for longer when a positive case occurs in the School community.

Our staff and students who are identified as close contacts of a positive test result will continue to be required to self-isolate for 10 days, as per current Government guidance. Self-isolating close contacts will be provided with two PCR tests, which will then be sent to the Government's research facility at Porton Down for

analysis. This analysis will look at particular variants and how they be being spread within communities.

As ever, we are very grateful and proud of the support of our students, parents, carers, staff and other stakeholders in our efforts to meet the challenges of COVID-19 in School.



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

WE CAN • WE WILL • WE DO