

# The Hart

## NEWSLETTER

18 FEBRUARY 2022 • ISSUE 6 • SPRING TERM

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

**It only seems two minutes since we returned after the Christmas holiday.**

It has been a very busy and productive half term and I would like to thank all staff, students and parents/carers for your care and support of everyone within our school community. Please do take some time to read the excellent achievements and successes achieved during this half term.

Even during our most challenging days, where staff absence was high, we have

ensured that our students have been able to continue with their learning without bringing in external supply and avoiding home learning. I would like to thank the staff of The Hart School for their exceptional dedication and determination to do the very best for the students in our care, in particular the senior and middle leaders of the school. Many staff have covered for absent colleagues, taught live lessons from

home, worked on their days off or gone above and beyond to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students in their care. Whilst the nation may no longer perform a clap for heroes, each and every one of them deserves one.

Finally, I would just like to wish students, staff and families, an enjoyable half term. Please use it to recharge batteries ready for an important few weeks in the school calendar on return. We look forward to welcoming students back into school on Monday 21 February.



## SIXTH FORM APPLICATIONS AT ALL TIME HIGH

**This term we are celebrating more Year 11 students than ever applying to The Hart School Sixth Form for their Post 16 education.**

This term we are celebrating more Year 11 students than ever applying to The Hart School Sixth Form for their Post 16 education. Offering a huge range of subjects allowing students to indulge their passions, keeping their options for their futures open

and working with teachers that they have already built up excellent relationships with, our sixth form is the best destination for students that want a head start for the future. Though the application deadline has been reached, Mr Brennan will still accept sixth form applications.

We understand that the last two years have made choices difficult for students and we want them to know that they are always supported by the school. Applications can be picked up in person from the sixth form office or downloaded from the website.

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## UPCOMING KEY DATES

### Parents Evenings

The purpose of parents' evenings is for you to meet your child's teachers and to check that everyone understands the progress your child is making: their strengths and areas for improvement.

#### Year 9

Thursday 31 March 2022

#### Year 11

Thursday 7 April 2022

#### Year 8

Thursday 5 May 2022

#### Year 7

Thursday 26 May 2022

## QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

As you are no doubt aware, the additional bank holiday to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is on Friday 3 June 2022. This is in the middle of our Spring Bank Holiday and our GCSE exam season. We will therefore take our additional Bank Holiday on Thursday 21st July. This means that school will now close for the Summer break on Tuesday 19 July 2022. Our holiday pattern and term dates on our website have now been amended to reflect this change.



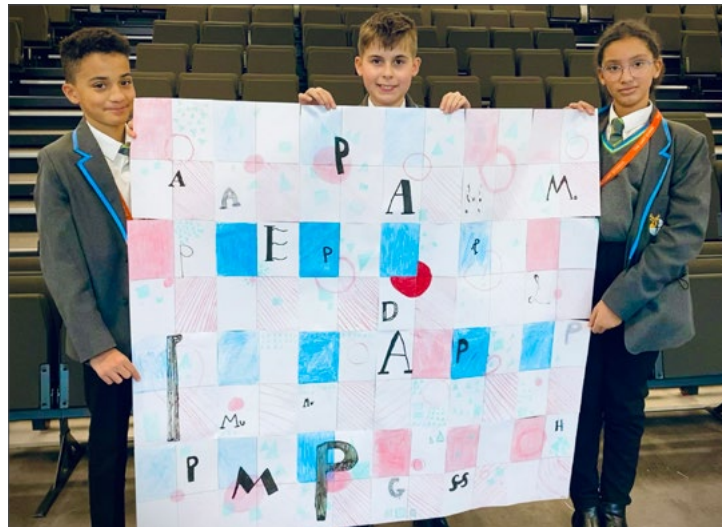
# KNOWLEDGE CONNECTED DAYS

**As a CET child, students are encouraged and developed to be creative thinkers.**

Creativity is all around us, and a very important thing that employers in this day and age look out for. Our concept days provide our students with a way to think outside of the box, to connect ideas and to develop their creativity. Following on from our previous day of 'Structure,' year 7 students were thrilled to find out that the day was going to be an off timetable focus to learning all about another concept: Pattern. From start to finish, students were engaged,

curious and creative in their responses, showing an excellent understanding by the end of the busy, action packed day. Students were very articulate, finding surprise in the idea that pattern was everywhere, and not only physically, but within our human behaviour and the way we organise our lives. The idea pattern presenting as 'rules' really interested the students, who enjoyed the element of discovery in the tasks and content of the day.

Some lovely work was produced, as you can see in the images. Year 8 also had the opportunity to re-look at the concept of Pattern, but through subject specific lessons. From Science to English, Performing Arts to History, IT to Maths, students explored how Pattern is evident in every subject we study, making connections between the curriculum and beyond. Well done Year 7 and Year 8 on a fantastic day of creativity and learning.



## THE PAIRED READING PROJECT

Since January 42 lucky Year 7 students have been taking part in the Paired Reading Project with Year 12 reading partners! Every Monday during tutor time the two-year groups meet in the canteen; Year 7 are able to share their chosen reading book with

their partner, exchanging knowledge and understanding about what they have read.

This is an amazing opportunity to build bonds, share reading and develop oracy skills.

Watch this space for regular updates!

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM)

We are pleased to inform parents and carers that Staffordshire County Council have confirmed funding for one week of Free School Meals over the half term period.

Vouchers for a value of £15 per eligible child, will be emailed out to parents whose children are eligible for FSM by Friday 18 February 2022.

# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The Hart School has an excellent tradition of offering a varied range of extra-curricular clubs and subject intervention sessions.

These allow students to experience different sports, hobbies and interests in addition to supporting and developing their specific subject knowledge in preparation for their respective examinations.

It has been fantastic to see the addition of the student leadership programme during this academic year. It is our belief that these new and challenging experiences help our students to grow and develop, in addition to helping to unlock possible hidden talents.

During this last half term, we have offered over 50 different clubs, activities, leadership opportunities and subject

intervention sessions. These have included: Italian Club, Netball Club, Keyboard Club, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Archaeology Club, Dungeons and Dragons Club, Art Club to name a few, as well as a number of Ambassador groups and a wealth of specific subject intervention sessions.

It has been fantastic to see our students attending these sessions and their expression of enjoyment when participating.

Extra-curricular activities, alongside the traditional curriculum, form an extremely important partnership. The link between the two forms a key part of developing the

whole child, and building the confidence of our students.

All the information regarding our 'Beyond the Classroom' offer can be found in the enrichment section of the school website. This will be updated prior to the start of each half term (and during the term if any changes arise). Please take the time to look at it and we encourage you to attend as many different activities as you can.

<https://www.hartschool.org.uk/students/extra-curricular>

On behalf of the school and all the members of staff who run these activities, we thank you for your current support and look forward to seeing many more of you over the next half term.



## FIRST AID

If your child feels unwell during the day, our first aiders are available at break and lunch. Students can also ask their teachers to email our student support officers if they are struggling during a lesson. Their well-being is obviously of our utmost concern, students should not be contacting home by themselves because our policy on phones is clear that these should not be used in school.



## SPECIAL VALENTINES

The Art Club have been working hard, creating Valentines wreaths and sharing the love for Valentines day.

The students have worked hard in producing some beautiful handmade flowers and, using twine and twigs, have created some amazing handcrafted wreaths. The Hart School has always valued it's important role in the community. As part of this project we delivered these wreaths along with handmade cards and chocolates to Horse Fair Care Home.

Brody Dent and Rosa Freeman represented the school on this visit and took great pride in sharing the gifts we had made as a group with the residents. It was a brilliant experience to see how pleased the

residents were with their gifts. We look forward to working with the Horse Fair Care Home in future projects.



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# ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

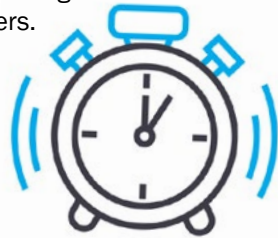
**Thank you for your support this term, as we have seen a resilient response to school attendance and regular routine despite the impact of COVID-19 and self-isolation following positive PCR tests.**

Regular attendance is hugely important to ensure students can make sustained progress to achieve their desired outcomes. It will also ensure that positive relationships are built with staff and peers thus allowing students to thrive.

We recognise that there will be a very small number of occasions whereby your child is unable to attend school, therefore please ensure you are reporting planned absence through Class Charts and uploading medical/ any relevant evidence. The attendance team will then add this to your child's file and code their attendance accordingly.

We would be very grateful for the support of all parents/ carers in ensuring that their child leaves home early enough each morning to get to school on time and in encouraging them to be punctual.

Although numbers of students who arrive late are small, they may miss the tutor programme, assemblies, and the beginning of their first lesson; this means that they miss important information and often disrupt the teaching and learning of others.



# RECRUITMENT AT THE HART

**On 1 March 2022, parents and carers will receive their letters from Staffordshire Local Authority informing them of the school their child will be attending in September 2022.**

As you are aware, The Hart School is oversubscribed and this year we received over 300 applications for 250 places in Year 7.

With the increase in student numbers at the school from September 2022, we have the following vacancies available to join our team:

- Teacher of English
- Teacher of Maths
- Behaviour & Curriculum Support Officer

To find out more about any of the roles advertised, visit:

<https://www.hartschool.org.uk/main/hart-school/vacancies>

Prospective applicants should review our recruitment pack before completing their application.



## UNIFORM

Thank you to all pupils who daily attend school in the correct uniform and who wear it with pride. We place significant value on our uniform as it provides a sense of belonging to our school.

We also appreciate that the holidays gives the ideal opportunity for haircuts, false nails, piercings and false eye lashes etc. Please can we ask for your continued support in ensuring that your child's uniform and appearance is in line with our uniform and appearance expectations when they return after the break to prevent any unnecessary disruption to your child's learning.

Many thanks in advance for your support.

### Homework Drop-In Club

*Our Homework drop-in club is now up and running. It is in the comfort of our beautiful, newly refurbished library, and runs from Monday-Thursday until 4pm.*

*Staff will be there to give a helping hand where needed. We hope this helps to support you manage and organise your time to ensure homework is completed on time.*

*Biscuits available!*



# OUR ALUMNI SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF STUDENTS

Former Rugeley students met with some of our excellent Year 10 students as part of The Aspire programme.

Our Alumni came in for the day to work with our students, sharing with them their careers journeys, what they had learnt along the way and what they wish they had known when they were in school. They were absolutely amazing and the students were so grateful afterwards for them giving up their time.

The incredible alumni team was made up of: Chris Bain, Yvonne Buckland, Heffy Wheeler, Carys Knapper and Helen Frances.

If you are an ex-student of any of the Rugeley Schools and would like to join our Alumni and support our students register here:

<https://www.futurefirsthub.org.uk/register/rugeley>



**Your Emotional Support Service**

**YES**

## Emotional Wellbeing Support Sessions

**Open**

Burton Lichfield Cannock

The Emotional Wellbeing Support Sessions are back to offer children and young people aged between 8- 18 years a Telephone Drop- In service & Online Zoom Group support for those struggling with their emotional wellbeing.

This is for you! You can decide what to talk about, so come and talk to us about what's bothering you.

Uttoxeter

For more information you can call YESS on: 07794 473442.

If the phone line is engaged, please leave a voicemail or text with your contact details on it and we will call you back!

Service Available School Term Time Mondays & Tuesdays Telephone Drop In Service 3:30pm- 5:30pm Thursdays Telephone Drop In 3:30pm- 4:30pm Online Zoom Groups 4:30pm- 5:30pm

Rugeley Tamworth

Supported by **BBC Children in Need**

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# HUMANTOPIA

Year 11 students given a whole day with the incredible humantopia team.

Humantopia courses are aimed at improving the mental health and wellbeing of participants by empowering them to make positive changes in their life. They also hope to improve life chances by developing a range of life skills which will help individuals to become more employable.

“That was the most important assembly of my entire life”. Year 11 student

It was an amazing experience and a real privilege to see our wonderful students being able to vocalise complex feelings and emotions.



# ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS

**We are delighted to announce that we now have a team of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors joining the student leadership team.**

Eighteen students have been selected from a number of applications and they will now work with Mrs Willett and Ms Kinnstein to create a whole school anti-bullying campaign to promote kindness within the school and beyond.

The students have completed their Anti-Bullying Ambassador training from The Diana Award and will continue to follow this

programme. The Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme itself is supported by HRH The Duke of Cambridge. The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Campaign engages young people, parents and teachers to change the attitudes, behaviour and culture of bullying by building skills and confidence to address different situations, both online and offline.

The programme equips students and staff with the tools needed to tackle bullying behaviour head on, transforming our school's approach to anti-bullying to create a safer, kinder school community. Students have already started to brainstorm some fantastic ideas for a whole-school anti-bullying campaign.



## 'HAVE A GO AIRGUN' SHOOTING

**Year 8 students from Hart School were invited to take part in a free 'have-a-go airgun shooting session' at Chase Leisure Centre.**

The session was run by British Shooting UK, in partnerships with our local clubs Rugeley Rifle Club and Target Sprint in Burntwood. British Shooting is the Governing Body for the Olympic and Paralympic target sports, and so we were lucky enough to meet a London 2012 summer Olympic competitor 'Georgina Geikie', who competed in pistol shooting.

The session provided students with an introduction into air gun & pistol shooting and information about shotgun shooting locally. Students competed in a number of different shooting competitions throughout the day and were rewarded with their target board as well as a goody bag sponsored by Burntwood Sprint.

The students relished this amazing opportunity, as they got to experience shooting with many different types of air rifles, airguns and pistols in many challenging situations. All students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and some of them even displayed high level skills of accuracy and precision. In addition, the students have been invited to take advantage of the clay pigeon shooting instruction from Paul Dancer, a private coach at Oakedge Shooting ground at Wolsley Bridge where we hope to widen their experiences further within the next month.



## LEICESTER TIGER TRIALS

**We are delighted to announce that of our Year 10 boys have been selected for trials with Leicester Tigers rugby club.**

The boys currently play for Rugeley Rugby club and have been working hard developing their skills and knowledge of the game over the last few months and years. The boys have a second part of the trial at the end of this month and then await the results.

Regardless of the outcome we are extremely proud that the boys have been giving this opportunity and we wish them every success in their rugby career. Well done and best of luck to: Warren Waller, Lewis McKail, Harry Lyons and Tyler Carroll.



## BIKEABILITY

**Year 7 students have participated in the Level 3 Bikeability Award.**



This is the third consecutive year the school has offered this award to Year 7 students. It is a national scheme funded by the Department for Transport and provided through Staffordshire County Council. The students were given the opportunity to gain a comprehensive knowledge of positioning, signalling, negotiating a variety of junctions and general road safety awareness on local school roads. This experience is very important as many of our students use a bike as their mode of transport to and from school, in addition to using it during their social time.

## ARCHAEOLOGY CLUB

**Our little group of budding archaeologists has had great fun this half term building castles to showcase learning from History lessons.**

There were moats, drawbridges and even heads on spikes! We have also been making Egyptian mummy worry dolls- amazing what you can do with some lollysticks and wool!

We began our journey in September looking at interpreting ancient languages and making our own (sweet filled) canopic jars. As well

as doing activities which allow the students to have fun we explore the skills archaeologists need to do their important jobs. Ask any of the members of the group what dendrochronology is and they will be able to explain how counting tree rings helps archaeologists identify when and where wooden artefacts have come from.



## OUR YEAR 9 SCHOLARS LINKING WITH THE V&A

**Our Year 9 Scholars are currently looking at Archaeology this term, with the aim to create an exhibition showcasing what they have learnt.**

Students are going to focus on the aspect of diversity and LGBTQ+ representation through time. They have made links with a curator at the V&A museum who leads on this topic and the exciting news is that he wants to showcase our students work by publishing it as part of the young people's museum exhibitions celebration of Pride.

As part of their investigations into how identity has been represented, students have studied and even had a go at re-creating Greek amphora. These fantastic pots are a gateway into how people viewed each other and what a diverse culture it was.



# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WRITE FOR RIGHTS

**Amnesty International is the world's largest human rights organisation supported by more than ten million people worldwide.**

Just before the holiday, members of Year 10 Book Club and Sixth Form Film Club took part in Amnesty's Write for Rights campaign. We looked at current cases of imprisonment which constitute human rights abuses and found out how Amnesty campaigns for victims to be released. We read about individuals who are being held captive for being part of the LGBTQIA+ community, their religion or race/ethnicity.

As well as campaigns throughout the year, Amnesty

holds an annual Write for Rights event where they invite people around the world to write to government officials appealing for the release of people who have been wrongfully arrested for being part of a minority group. There is also the opportunity to send messages of support and positivity to the person incarcerated.

Each of us chose the people we wanted to write to using guidance from the Amnesty information. Between us, we wrote to several of these brave people. Each case

was different: some were imprisoned for their sexuality while others had been peacefully protesting over climate and other important issues.

We were all grateful for the opportunity to learn about current human rights abuse cases and show our support.

Amelia Ball Year 10



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