

The Hart

NEWSLETTER

4 OCTOBER 2021 • ISSUE 2 • AUTUMN TERM

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We have had another superb week at The Hart School this week. Students have settled into the routines of school life really well.

The changes around movement, dining and so on have been well received and our students have, as ever, been adaptable and taken these in their stride.

There is a real focus in lessons across the school and it's great to see our staff applying their findings from research into lessons and our students working with them to try out new ways of learning and improving their skillsets.

Autumn is certainly upon us

As anticipated, the temperatures have dropped. We've had more rain and both the mornings and evenings are becoming considerably darker. With that in mind, alongside safety and well-being, it is important that our students are prepared for the weather, checking the forecast before setting off and are taking care travelling to and from school.

As a reminder, hoodies are not permitted in school. Students will be asked to remove them if they arrive to school in a hoodie. Please ensure that your child has a suitable waterproof coat that can be worn over their blazer.

Umbrellas are available on Parent Pay at a discounted rate for families wanting to purchase these direct from the school.

Open Evening

We are very excited to be opening our doors to prospective students and their parents at our annual Open Evening events taking place this week on Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 October. So much has changed over the past 18 months and we are looking forward to showing off our fantastic teaching facilities and the exceptional learning opportunities available for all our students.

We are overwhelmed that both events sold out (800 tickets) very quickly and that so many families are considering The Hart School as their school choice.

Additional event to meet demand

Due to further demand, we have decided to offer a third event for families as we want to ensure that everyone who wants to visit the school before making their secondary school choice has this opportunity.

This will take place on Wednesday 13 October 2021. No pre-booking is required for this event. Please arrive to be seated for a 6pm start in the hall.

Early finish

As a reminder, school will be closing at the earlier time of 1.30pm on Tuesday 5 October to enable staff to prepare for the Open Evening. This is for Tuesday 5 October only. The school will operate normal hours on Wednesday 6 October. All students entitled to free school meals will be able to collect their lunch during break 1.

A reminder that a number of students have volunteered to help out in a variety of roles. Your child may therefore have brought a permission slip home asking to help out. If you could sign and return these by Tuesday please as it will help our teams plan provision for the evening.

Ms Sandham



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NATIONAL POETRY DAY

Thursday 7th October

Words give knowledge and power and there's nothing more exciting than listening to a live poem being read aloud; listening to our favourite song being played or reading a classic poem. From the classic, Shakespeare to across the pond with modern spoken artist Amanda Gorman: poetry is all around us and a part of our culture. This is why at The Hart School we will be celebrating National Poetry Day on Thursday 7 October in school and through social media.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

On Friday 24th September we held what we hope is the first of many Macmillan coffee mornings within school last week for staff and Post 16 students to raise money for this charity. Staff baked and bought cakes to raise a grand total of £146. Thank you to all who contributed. Lets hope 2022 can be a wider school and community event!

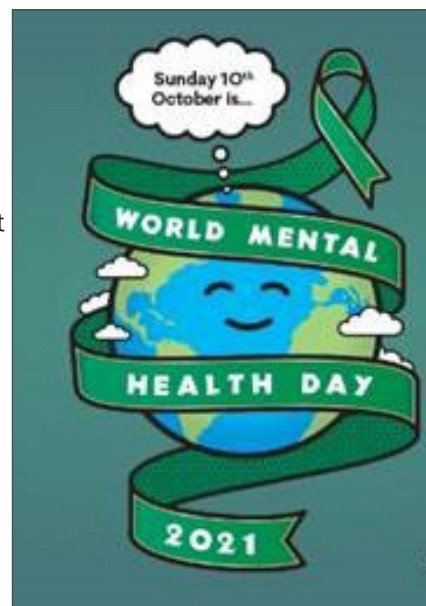


WELLBEING

This year, World Mental Health Day is on Sunday 10th October. This year's theme is 'Mental Health in an unequal world'.

The World Mental Health Foundation is highlighting the inequalities in both rich and poor countries around the world in providing mental health support to people suffering with mental disorders. The Mental Health Foundation (<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/>) has practical activities and guides for improving mental health, including overcoming anxiety, managing stress and sleep. Exercise is important for our mental health and just going for a walk can bring

both physical and mental health benefits. Now that Autumn is here and the days are getting shorter, it is getting dark much earlier which can make wanting to go for a walk much more difficult so try and set yourself a target of fitting in a walk at the weekend. Even a 10 minute walk can make a significant difference to your feelings of wellbeing. You could set yourself a challenge of walking somewhere you have not visited before – a different part of Cannock Chase or Rugeley.



SONGFEST

On Thursday 23rd September, four students from Years 8 to 11 travelled to Abbeyfield School to take part in SongFest 2021.

The students have been preparing for this event since last year, as unfortunately, the event had been postponed due to COVID-19.

Having worked with industry professionals from the Voices Foundation over Zoom, Demi-Leigh Morris, Jessica Farrant, Olivia Till and Elise Bolas finally sang in four-part harmony alongside students from the other CET high schools, in front of cameras which live-streamed the performance to audiences around the country. They performed diverse and difficult repertoire, such as Vivaldi's Gloria; Makale Mazembe – a traditional calling song; Sumer is Icumen

In – in old English with dialect from the 13th century and Ride this Train.

In addition to these group songs, our Singing Ambassador, Elise Bolas - Year 10, also performed a solo. It was an exciting and inclusive event, where even Mr Butterworth got roped into singing!

All four talented students were a credit to The Hart. Well done girls!

If you would like to be involved in singing at The Hart, join our extra-curricular choir, and enquire with Mrs Askey about the peripatetic voice lessons that we have on offer.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

This week saw the exciting announcement of our Year 11 Head Students.

Following a week of pitches by the shortlisted candidates to all year groups in assemblies last week all students were able to vote on who they felt would represent them as Head Student.

Despite it being nerve-racking, all candidates provided excellent pitches and showed courage, self-belief and confidence as they stood in front of their peers each morning. They are all a credit to The Hart School.

The votes were very close and last week we were able to announce our Head Students as Grace Illingworth and Joshua Jarvis.

During this week will be announcing the outcome of all of the other revamped student leadership roles. We look forward to keeping you updated on the fantastic projects we have planned for each of the teams.



STUDY SKILLS

Monday 11 October is our first Life and Soul Day of the academic year and we have an exciting day planned for our Year 11 students.

We will be welcoming external agencies into the school to help them develop their study skills. Students will have a session on mind-mapping – a key revision strategy, proven to help students learn and commit key knowledge to their long-term memory. We are also excited to welcome Positively You to the school. Positively You is one of the country's leading providers of student workshops and will be delivering a session with students on a range of study skills including visualisation, putting together a revision timetable, metacognitive strategies and dual coding. All of these strategies will be invaluable to our Year 11 students who are currently working hard in lessons and outside of lessons to prepare for their pre-public examinations in November.

We are even more delighted that, on the same day, Positively You will be running a virtual session for parents from 5pm-6pm. This fun and informative session for parents offers the perfect opportunity to share with you the ways in which you can support your children with their revision at home. This is an invaluable opportunity to be able to support your child throughout the rest of their time as they study for their exams in the summer. To ensure that you receive the invite to the parent event, please make sure that we have your correct email address; if we don't, please email janet.redford@hartschool.org.uk to change it.

We will be sending further information to you about this event and also a link to enable you to join the online session. We look forward to seeing you there!



World Space Week is an international celebration of science and technology and its contribution to the betterment of the human condition.

This year's theme is all about inspiring the next generation and celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of women to the space sector.

There are a number of events throughout this week that you can participate in. We will also be celebrating this week in school through assemblies and science lessons.

Things to observe:

Download a star gazing app and try to identify constellations near you, e.g. Skyview which is free to download.

Use the website below to track the International Space Station and see if you can observe it in the sky <https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/>

Things to Watch:

Brian Cox looks at our attempts to answer one of the most profound questions we can ask – [Are we alone in the universe?](#)

[The Mars Generation](#) follows a group of teenagers at Space camp who are chasing their dream of becoming astronauts and travelling to Mars.

The incredible [untold story of 3 brilliant African-American women working at NASA](#), who served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit. This amazing achievement galvanised the world and inspired generations to dream big.

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FREE GARDENING EQUIPMENT FOR OUR SCHOOL

For every £10 you spend (in store or online) at Morrisons, you'll get a Grow Token to help us get everything we need to get growing.

Download the MyMorrisons app today to start collecting Grow Tokens and choose The Hart School as the school you would like to donate to.

We will then be able to exchange the Grow Tokens for FREE gardening equipment which our gardening club will be able to use to support our local care homes with planters and baskets.

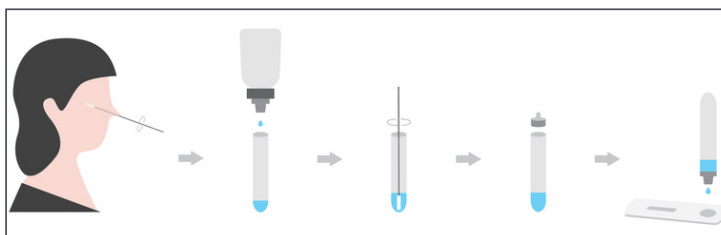
[Click here to find out more details.](#)

COVID 19 UPDATE

We have been informed of increasing rates of Covid19 in the local area across all primary and secondary schools.

As a school we have been working with the Local Authority and Public Health team to help manage the situation in school. Like many schools, we have reintroduced face-coverings in school, social time in year zones and an increased cleaning regime . We are looking to reduce disruption to learning as much as possible and trying to avoid bubble closures, - thank you for your help with this. We know that Lateral Flow tests are not always picking up symptomatic cases. If your child shows any symptoms please do not send them into school, arrange for a PCR test and send them in once you have the outcome.

Please use the CoVid email address to let us know, **covid@hartschool.org.uk**. Together, we can help to reduce the spread and disruption.



HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD PROGRAMME FEEDBACK

Following the Summer Holiday Activities and Food Programme, Staffordshire County Council are asking for feedback from parents and carers of children who took part. The aim is to find out what went well and what, if any, improvements could be made to future programmes.

If your child attended an event in the Summer Holiday Activities and Food Programme, we would appreciate you completing the following questionnaire: <https://consultation.staffordshire.gov.uk/childrens-and-families/hafparentsurvey/>

The deadline for completion is Thursday 14 October.



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.

"Sixth Form students are taught very well" – Ofsted



OPENING EVENING TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2021

For more information visit www.hartschool.org.uk/sixth-form or email Head of Sixth Form ben.brennan@hartschool.org.uk