

The Hart

NEWSLETTER

21 MARCH 2022 • ISSUE 7 • SPRING TERM

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Within the top 5!

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our students and staff for the part they play in building and sustaining a strong and improving reputation for our School. You may recall that, back in October 2021, I shared with parents and carers how thrilled we were with the overwhelming numbers of families placing an interest at our open evening events for a place for their child at The Hart School.

Many of you will recognise that 01 March 2022 was the day for secondary school place allocation, not just across Staffordshire but across England, where families for current Year 6 pupils will have been awaiting the outcome for their onward school choice come September. Indeed, many of our current families have been in that exact position!

We have received our pupil notifications for transition to Year 7 in September 2022 – and as in previous years,

our School has continued to grow as a popular choice with families in our town. I am heartened and humbled by this, mostly because it speaks to a confidence and trust held in our educational offer.

Oversubscribed

We are delighted to share that once again we are oversubscribed for September 2022. At The Hart School, our current pupil admission number is 220. This year we have seen a record number of applications being made – 341 applications in total!

Our first choice preference applications made this year was 278 which is up by 59 more applications when compared to 2021 for first choice.

You may have also noted from local press coverage that The Hart School is within the top 5 as ‘the most popular secondary schools in Staffordshire!’ published by Staffordshire-live.co.uk.

We are also the second most popular school for ‘first choice preference’ within a ten-mile radius making us once again oversubscribed with waiting lists across year groups. We have agreed to increase our offer to 250 places this year to accommodate a further 30 students to support our local community with school places.

I am sure you are just as proud as we are of our growing successes over the past few years. I can certainly say that The Hart School is a school of choice for families within and outside of Rugeley along with a popular and very successful sixth form!

Thank you for your continued partnership.



Staffordshire County Council manage our applications process and also our appeals. Any appeal made, would have to be made to Staffordshire County Council. The school does not have any influence on admissions into The Hart School.

WE CAN • WE WILL • WE DO

YEAR 11

Year 11 students have now finished their final round of pre-public examinations, with just six school weeks to go before their final exams commence in May.

The next six weeks are critical if students are to build on the progress that they have made so far and achieve the best grades possible in their exams in the summer. It's imperative that students are in school every single day and arrive at their lessons on time and prepared to learn.

We will also be offering Easter and May half term revision sessions. We ask that all students attend the revision and intervention sessions that they are invited to as they are tailored individually to what the students need.

It's the final countdown, Year 11! Make every lesson, every day, count.

GOTTA SING

On Wednesday 2nd March, 16 students represented the Hart school brilliantly in Stafford's 'Gotta Sing' event at the Gatehouse Theatre. We had many soloists performing brilliantly and students were in excellent voice and did the school proud. They performed an A Cappella version of 'Vuelie', that song from Frozen that no-one remembers the name too. Alongside a joyous rendition of 'the Oliver medley.' The school and CET got a fantastic mention, and the compare was very impressed with the core values of CET, putting creativity at our heart! The evening was a great success!

LIFE AND SOUL DAY

Friday 18 March was an exciting day of learning for our students.

At The Hart School we provide all pupils with the chance to learn beyond the curriculum, something which we are extremely proud of. As well as offering a strong curriculum, we are continuing to develop our Life and Soul Days. These are excellent opportunities for all students to extend their learning beyond the curriculum and work with peers in a group environment. During the Life and Soul days students develop highly important transferable skills for the future.

On our latest Life and Soul Day, our Year 7 students explored the religions and cultures of the world with the Open Centre delivering workshops. Bringing this to life was the head coach of a bhangra group who delivered a workshop discussing India and its rich farming culture as well as teaching the students aspects of Bhangra dancing.

Our Year 8 students worked remotely looking at health relationships and respect.



Year 9 students had the opportunity to hear from employers from different sectors as well as having the opportunity to gain a taster in some KS4 option subjects in readiness for choosing their GCSE options.

With Year 10 we launched work experience, which is calendared for the week Monday 11 July 2022. Students had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the online portal as well as understanding the importance of the WEX week. Students also watched the production 'Calling It Out' from Loudmouth which is a brand-new theatre in education programme on harmful sexual behaviours and sexual assault for young people aged 13 upwards. This was followed with small workshops throughout the day. Students also had PSHE themed talks on knife crime and county lines with Activating Creative Talent.

Year 11 students had a series of PSHE themed talks on knife



crime, CSE and gangs and county lines with Activating Creative Talent. They also had a session on Sexual Health delivered by an NHS nurse with an opportunity to sign up for a C-Card which enables access to free condoms discreetly and confidentially from some local pharmacies.

Our Sixth Form students experienced a range of sessions including the session on sexual health. They also had workshops on road traffic safety, student finance and learnt more about the UCAS process.

This day saw the creativity, ambition and potential of our students coming to life through our extended curriculum.



OUR YEAR 8 RISING STARS

We are super proud of Tia's achievements outside of school.

Tia has been dancing with Ellise Locke Dance Company since January 2019.

Tia and her team were shortlisted from 3000 entries across England to participate in a Dance World Qualifier and we are thrilled to share that she will be representing Team

England at the Dance World Cup in June 2022.

Last year, Tia achieved 11 medals consisting of Gold, Silver and Bronze across many national competitions. Well done Tia – we are super proud of your achievements.



Sophie Faulkner took part in the Young Stars Ice Skating Competition in Sheffield as a level 2 skater.

Due to Covid and lockdowns, this was her first time competing in 2 ½ years. But even through the lockdowns, she worked through online training and focussed on keeping her physical fitness and stamina up.

Over the last few months she has worked hard to catch up on missed practice time and has been able to secure a new personal best!

Well done Sophie! What an achievement!! Resilience and talent in abundance.



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.



MEET OUR NEW LIBRARIAN & LITERACY COORDINATOR

This term, Mrs Brett has joined the school as our Librarian and Literacy Co-Ordinator.

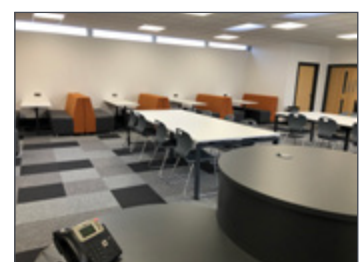
Mrs Brett is an extremely experienced Librarian with over eight years' experience in school libraries. She has an enthusiasm for books, a love of reading and a breadth of knowledge on children and teen titles. She is passionate about the value and benefit that the library can bring to the school.

The library is open at break and lunch time each day to all our students, books can be borrowed and returned at this time too.

Extra-curricular activities

offered in the library are; shadowing The Yoto Carnegie Medal Award, participating in the Staffordshire Young Teen Fiction Award and a sixth form book club. Mrs Brett is recruiting student librarians to support the library.

If any of these opportunities interest you please pop in to the library for further details.



YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENT

We are delighted to welcome families into The Hart School on Thursday 24 March.

In a recent letter home, we outlined the options process for 2022.

We are delighted to now be able to welcome families into The Hart School to meet with our staff and students to help students choose their options for Key Stage 4. This will take place on Thursday 24 March. Sessions are booking up fast! There will be a presentation to support the process and families will

have the opportunity to have conversations with subject leaders to learn about each exciting new qualification giving an insight into the content and assessment. You will be able to discuss the skills and knowledge for each course and what it could lead to in the future.

Digital information will also be available to assist students when making their choice, this can be found on the school

website, under curriculum information.

Year 9 parents evening:

It is a very busy month for Year 9 students, alongside the options evening we will also be holding a virtual parents evening event for Year 9 families on 31 March 2022.

This will be another opportunity to discuss your child's progress and effort so far in the academic year with

the chance to discuss option opportunities and suggested courses.

Many families will have used the SchoolCloud platform and we will continue to use this for Year 9. Further details regarding on how to book an appointment can be found in the Year 9 Parents evening information letter.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We are over half-way through March and the evenings are getting lighter.

One of the best ways to boost our wellbeing is by walking and this is a good time to get outside in the fresh air and enjoy the early evening. Sleep awareness day was 18th March and the slogan for this year was, 'Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World'.

Sleep is a foundational pillar of health, and the quality of your sleep can impact not just your physical energy in the morning but your mental and emotional health too. This is a great link for information about sleep and it's importance: <https://www.sleephealthfoundation.org.au/facts-about-sleep-for-parents-and-school-staff.html>



OUTSTANDING LEARNERS

At The Hart, we are continuing to develop our teachers so that they can improve the way that they teach and in turn, our children learn more.

Teaching and learning is a two way process, if our students are to get the most out of lessons, they need to play their part. So what does this look like? What do outstanding learners do?

They:

- Arrive to lessons on time, dressed correctly, with all of their basic equipment
- They enter quietly, get their equipment out, put down the date and begin the activate activity.
- During the lesson they actively listen when the teacher introduces content and models how to do things
- They ask questions when they don't understand and answer questions with their best effort
- Learning new things is hard, outstanding learners work through the learning struggle and ask for help
- Outstanding learners will go home and look over what they have learned in the day, particularly those things that were difficult.

We have 6 ½ hours together, let's make the most of it.

FOOD VOUCHERS AND HOLIDAY PACKS

We are pleased to share that Staffordshire County Council is continuing its free school meal vouchers for the Easter break.

This means that we will be able to provide a voucher to the parents and carers of all students in receipt of free school meals. These will be distributed in the same way as in previous holidays.

In addition the Holiday Activities Food Programme have arranged for activity boxes for all students in receipt of FSM vouchers. The

pack will contain a wide range of items including tennis balls, a frisbee, saucer cones, large ball and skipping rope so that your child can use them to create games, improve agility skills and enjoy exercise. If you have any questions then please contact enquiries@hartschool.org.uk



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Last week was British Science Week and to celebrate staff from The Hart School paid a very special visit to John Bamford Primary School to show student's a heart dissection and to show them what they have to look forward to in year 10!

Our "Growth" poster competition was also launched this week to all students in all year groups. Posters will be judged on creativity, level of scientific accuracy and how it has incorporated the theme of Growth. We have had some excellent entries so far. The deadline for all entries is Friday 25th March. Hand yours into the Science team to be in with a chance of winning a prize!

Elsewhere, Year 8 scholars have been making huge progress towards their Eco School's project. They have completed the environmental review of the school and have decided on our school's 3 target areas for improvement. The three areas of focus are:

- Increasing biodiversity
- Reducing litter
- Conserving energy

Moving forwards there will be two opportunities for pupils across all years to get involved. The first one will commence next half term and pupils can enter a design of an insect and bee hotel. The top designs will be constructed using recycled and donated materials to increase the biodiversity around the school site. The second opportunity will involve selecting an area of the school to develop a wilding area and support the planting and maintenance of this area.

Within the summer term pupils in year 9 will be working towards completing a project to create sustainable packaging for food. They will be conducting investigations within Science to identify materials capacity to keep food hot/cold and fresh. This will support them in designing a brand and prototype of the food packaging in Art and Design and with the use of Maths they will need to consider the cost and dimensions of the packaging and the consideration of the sustainable nature of their products source.



Your Emotional Support Service

Emotional Wellbeing Support Sessions

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.

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

For more information you can call YESS on: 07794 4734 42.
If the phone line is engaged, please leave a voicemail or text with your contact details on it and we will call you back!

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Locations: Burton, Lichfield, Cannock, Uttoxeter, Tamworth, Rugeley.

Social media icons: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube.

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ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Once again, I would like to thank you for your support in promoting positive attendance and punctuality with your child.

The school is determined to ensure your child is making the most of their time in school to make accelerated progress. To ensure this happens, students cannot afford to miss a single day!

All of our students should be arriving through the gate before 08:30am ready for an 08:40am start and this will ensure they prepared for the day via their tutor session.

We understand that there maybe extenuating circumstances that result in your child not being able to attend, for example – a medical appointment. Where possible, appointments should be booked after school but if unavoidable, please notify us through the Class Charts app with proof of appointment.

0 days off school in a year 0 lessons missed	100%	Perfect attendance
2 days off school in a year 10 lessons missed	99%	Excellent attendance
5 days off school in a year 25 lessons missed	97%	Good attendance
10 days off school in a year 50 lessons missed	95%	Slightly below average attendance
14 days off school in a year 70 lessons missed	93%	Poor attendance
20 days off school in a year 100 lessons missed	90%	Very poor attendance

UKRAINE APPEAL

Thank you to all those who have donated to the Ukraine appeal.

The response was overwhelming and we forwarded all collected items to Lea Hall on Friday.

At times like this, it is important for us all to reflect on how lucky we are in comparison to parts of the world where there is high levels of conflict. It is also vital to instil in our young people the need for us all to play our roles in spreading a little joy and compassion in the world.

In the words of Oscar Wilde, "The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Students have been invited to enter a competition organised by the Rugeley and Armitage camera club

The competition is free to enter for students, and judging will be organised by Rugeley & Armitage Camera Club.

On Sunday 12th June students will be invited to come and view their work in an exhibition alongside the work of Photography club member's work. This event will be held at Lea Hall. There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize in different ages groups and there are 3 different themed categories. To find out more about entries please email sarah.dawson@hartschool.org.uk.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 3rd March was World Book Day and students (and staff!) had a great time celebrating their love of reading and books.

Students enjoyed taking part in a Masked Reader competition, in which they had to guess the member of staff reading behind the mask! During English lessons, Year 7 have engaged with digital events watching World Book Day Live with Matilda and Friends. Year 8 have also engaged with World Book Day Live watching the World Book Day Reality Check.

All students across years 7-11 had an assembly with Mrs Brunt where they received their £1 World Book Day tokens – we do hope that students have been able to use these to buy themselves a new book to read and immerse themselves in. Reading a good book is one of life's greatest pleasures; it is also one of the best things that students can do to increase their chances of success in school. It was wonderful being able to celebrate World Book Day, and promote a love of reading, with our students.



WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION OLIVER! 5 - 8 JULY 2022, 7PM

'Consider yourself' ready to be entertained by our amazingly talented students (and staff) preparing for our School Production of Lionel Bart's classic, Oliver!

Please have the dates in your diary for what is going to be an unmissable production of Singing, Acting and Dancing. It is safe to say that the Arts have suffered over the last couple of years due to our current climate, so why not support our school and the local arts by grabbing yourselves a ticket and enjoying a definitive piece of Musical Theatre. Based on Charles Dickens' novel, 'Oliver Twist' the Tony and Olivier Award-winning show is one of few musicals to win an Academy Award for Best Picture.

It tells the story of the innocent young orphan boy who dared to "want some more" and through fate fell in with the wrong crowd on the rough streets of London. Featuring much loved songs such as "Consider Yourself", "Oom-pah-pah" and the iconic "Food Glorious Food" this energetic, dark, funny and tragic tale is sure to delight audiences young and old.

Our cast of dedicated and talented Hart students from all year groups are rehearsing none stop to ensure this is the School Show to remember, with numbers already looking and sounding impressive. We are so lucky at this school to be



able to offer our students such exciting extra-curricular events and experiences, and we invite you to share in their journey and contribute to the Performing Arts Department. We promise you won't be disappointed. You may even spot some very familiar faces in the production, ranging from a multi-talented head of sixth form, a couple of sensational SSOs and one of our wonderful Science teachers.



Tickets will be available to purchase on parent pay very soon.

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

This year we are seeing more sixth form students than ever before holding on to university offers for September 2022.

Over 90% of Year 13 will be able to proceed to Higher Education following their results in August.

Through the advice and guidance provided at every step, we know that they will be successful following the courses they have dreamed of taking. From Veterinary science to graphic design, we are setting up another group of students for a bright future.

Following that, we have also had more sixth form applications from Year 11 than ever before,

with more external students wanting to come to us from other schools in the area. We know that we offer a broad range of subjects, but our personalised approach to the study programme means that students are given help through their entire sixth form journey. We are still accepting applications for any students that may think it is too late.

Students who have been interviewed will receive their acceptance letters very soon.



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