

# The Hart

## NEWSLETTER

3 APRIL 2023 • ISSUE 5 • SPRING TERM

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we enter the Easter holidays, we wanted to take this opportunity to update you on some of the fantastic events, experiences and opportunities students have been involved in at The Hart School during the Spring term.

It is unbelievable to think that we are already two-thirds of the way through this academic year.

You will see in our newsletter just how much has gone on this term. It has been wonderful to see school really return to its busy vibrant self, with afterschool activities and school visits taking place throughout the term. It is a reminder to all of us at school, just how important the whole school experience is to our children.

Please take time to read the end of term letter and this terms newsletter so that students are fully prepared for the summer term.

### Return to school

The summer term will commence at 08:40am Monday 17 April 2023 for all students.

We expect all students to arrive fully prepared to learn with their school bag and equipment and in full uniform. As a reminder, tight fitted trousers, leggings, fake tan, false eyelashes, false nails, facial piecing's and non-polishable shoes are not

allowed.

Students will be removed from circulation on return where uniform is incorrect or cannot be resolved. Please support the school and your child by resolving any uniform concerns before we return back to school so that it doesn't cause unnecessary disruption.

### Attendance

As always, we will continue to strive for excellent attendance across the school and we ask that you support us in ensuring that your child is in school every day. Every day a student is off school, they fall further behind in their learning.

If you need support with getting your child into school, please contact your child's Head of Year or Student Support Officer (SSO) for support.

### Mobile Phones

A gentle reminder that mobile phones are not permitted to be used in school and if your child has their phone out, it will be confiscated, this also include Air Pods/earphones. For persistent breaches,

parents will be expected to come into school collect.

We understand the reasons why a student may need a phone on them to and from school. However, it is not necessary nor permitted to be used on school premises.

"If we see it, hear it, we will take it".

### Student Illness During the School Day

We have had an increasing number of students contacting their parent/carer to be collected from school due to feeling unwell. Please can we remind you, and may we ask you to remind your children, of the guidance for if your child becomes unexpectedly ill during the

day:

- Students are not permitted to report their own illness to a parent/carer using a mobile phone; they should present themselves to a member of staff or go to their pastoral teams during social time.

In the event of your child needing to go home, you will be informed by a member of staff.

Whatever your plans for the Easter period, on behalf of the whole school, we do wish you an enjoyable and restful time and hope you can get some time together as families.

My best wishes to you all.

Miss Sandham



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## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We are pleased to share that the Staffordshire County Council is providing free school meal vouchers for the Easter Holiday. This means they will be issuing one £20 voucher to the parents and carers of all students in receipt of free school meals.

The voucher will be issued directly by Staffordshire County Council. If you have not received your voucher/s by 5.00pm on the 30 March 2023 please contact the [yourfamilyhub@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:yourfamilyhub@staffordshire.gov.uk)



# WORLD BOOK DAY 2023

**On Thursday 2 March, The Hart School transformed into a place of magic and wonder as staff dressed up to celebrate World Book Day 2023!**

World Book Day is an event celebrated each year in schools across the country to highlight the importance of reading and how much joy it can bring! Staff took on the challenge of dressing up as their favourite literary character as part of our celebrations and, as you can

see, looked wonderful! Students also took part in the celebration by taking part in a live event with two authors about their book 'Being an Ally'. Students then received a World Book Day token enabling them to buy a free World Book Day book, including the 'Being an Ally'

book.

We are so proud of our staff for joining in with the celebrations because reading is fundamental to all of us; it brings us joy, peace and opens up a world of imagination.



**The Hart School Invites you to attend:**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023  
7:00pm – The Hart School  
Penkridge Bank Road, WS15 2UE.

**GREASE**

\*Grease\* is presented through special arrangement with, and all authorised performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW) - [www.theatricalrights.co.uk](http://www.theatricalrights.co.uk)

## PROJECT PROM

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As a school, we understand there are currently a lot of financial pressure on families.

We would like to support our Year 11 students and their families with the costs associated with attending prom and enable our students to celebrate their successful years and many achievements at The Hart School.

Our aim is to collect as many pre-loved prom dresses, suits, shirts, ties, shoes and any other accessories as we can.

We are asking for your help to make this happen! If you would like to make a donation or have any enquiries please contact Mrs Godridge

[vicki.godridge@hartschool.org.uk](mailto:vicki.godridge@hartschool.org.uk)

# REMEMBERING FLIGHT SERGEANT PETER BROWN

Flight Sergeant Brown, volunteered to come from Jamaica aged 17 in 1943 and flew five operations in Lancaster bombers during WWII.

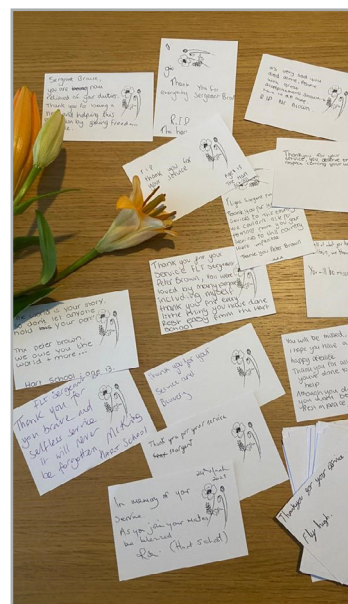
He was one of 6,000 volunteers from the Caribbean. He also served in Palestine, Tripoli, Egypt and Malta until 1950 before working for the Ministry of Defence and the former London County Council.

Sadly, died alone in December aged 96 in London without any known family at the end of last year. His story has been brought to the public's attention as officials try to locate family, of which there have been none found so far. You can imagine that this wonderful Isle has rallied

together and the service to be held on Wednesday looks set to be packed out.

Our students have taken the opportunity to come together to mark this occasion and show their appreciation for this man by sending memorial cards.

*"We owe him – and the many others like him – a huge debt of gratitude. His obvious modesty meant that we did not know of his actions until after his passing".*



## GOTTA SING

On Wednesday 1 March, The Hart School choir had the pleasure of singing at 'Gotta Sing 2023' at Stafford Gatehouse Theatre.

As always, the students represented the school impeccably, presenting three songs with enthusiasm, poise, and flair. Ever the professionals, students took to the stage with ease and really impressed their audience. The feedback we received from the public was extremely complimentary, with people going out their way to provide wonderful comments to the students.

Our pieces included 'All the Earth is Sacred', a Native American chant song which included some wonderful live cajon playing from our very own Mr Partridge. This piece

looks at the importance of our planet and working together to respect it. We then moved to one of the choir's personal favourites 'You'll be Back' from the Musical 'Hamilton', a Musical that follows the life of founding father Alexander Hamilton, an immigrant who went on to achieve big things despite barriers. This song is comedic in nature, looking at the dissatisfaction of our very own King George III when America won their independence.

The Hart choir finished with a bang, presenting 'We Go Together' from Grease with full gusto. This number is, of

course, very special to us due to it being a firm favourite from our wildly anticipated school show 'Grease'. It finished the set off nicely, promoting the message of friendship and togetherness. It was also wonderful to watch other school choirs

from around the local area sing their hearts out; a true celebration of choral singing and music. A massive congratulations to all students involved and a big thank you to Mr Partridge for all his hard work leading the project.



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# GOTTA DANCE

**On Tuesday 7 March, the Hart school junior and senior Dance troupes made their way to Cannock Prince of Wales Theatre to showcase their talents in 'Gotta Dance 2023'**

It was a fantastic evening of dance, and it was a pleasure to be a part of. The students involved represented the school with true professionalism and should be commended for their hard work in preparing and rehearsing for the event. The senior dance group presented a fusion of musical theatre

dance pieces, showcasing styles from different eras from Mary Poppins to Hamilton.

Meanwhile, Key Stage 3 cohort took a trip down the rabbit hole, performing a commercial performance piece based on the weird and wacky world of Alice and Wonderland. The audience

were taken on a magical journey through illusion and fantasy whilst meeting some well-known characters along the way. Both pieces were exciting, dynamic and professional. But most importantly, the students' enjoyment on stage was clear to see. It was a pleasure to watch the other pieces on

show from Primary schools and Dance schools across the local area.

We are already looking forward to 'Gotta Dance 2024'. Congratulations to all students involved and a big thank you to Mrs Johnson-Wain and Miss Davis for all their hard work preparing the pieces.



# RUGELEYS BIG CLEAN

**The Great British Spring Clean 2023**

Friday 17 March marked the start of The Great British Spring Clean. The Hart School places a great deal on the importance of community and the contribution we all make to strengthening and developing this.

As part of this work, we supported the council with Rugeley's Big Clean. Our staff and students took part in the community litter pick on Saturday 18 March clearing The Heritage trail and surrounding area.



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## BIKEABILITY

On Friday 24 March, 20 Year 7 students completed their level 3 Bikeability and Bike Fix course.

The level 3 Bikeability course is a national scheme funded by the Department for Transport and provided through Staffordshire County Council and Cyclist Training Ltd. The students gained a comprehensive knowledge of positioning, signalling, negotiating a variety of junctions and general road safety awareness whilst they were out on the local roads around Rugeley.

The Bikeability Fix course is a bicycle maintenance session taught by professional, qualified and competent mechanics. The students were able to work on their own bikes so as to become more self-reliant and have a greater sense of independence and freedom as well as a greater understanding of the mechanics of their bikes and how to maintain their bikes to ensure they are roadworthy.



# YEAR 7 KNOWLEDGE CONNECTED DAY

On Wednesday 22 March our Year 7 students looked at the concept of 'meaning'

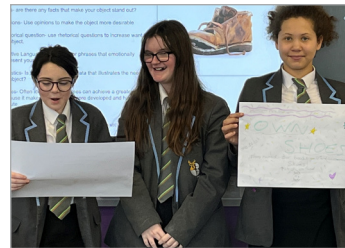
Knowledge Connected is the name given to Creative Education Trust's programme of creative education in primary and secondary schools. Its three objectives are to encourage adaptive thinking across traditional subject domains; to embed practical problem-solving skills; and to develop key attributes for employability.

Through lots of creative tasks, Students learnt that Meaning is not only expressed in words, but also in things, places, images and gestures. Many were able to give examples from the worlds of fiction or art and describe how they have expressed a message without using words.



Some activities included changing the meaning of objects and images, creating their own museum of exciting objects by changing their meaning, and creating a sales pitch to promote their new product. This sales pitch for an apparently useless object, helped them to understand how meaning is associated with commercial value.

Students clearly had a really enjoyable day and enjoyed doing something different. Our next and final Knowledge Connected Day of the year will be for year 8 who will look at Human Interaction, and how this is a concept present in most aspects of our lives.



## CAREERS Technical and Vocational Survey Parents and Carers

In conjunction with Amazing Apprenticeships, Stoke-On-Trent & Staffordshire Careers Hub we are asking you to complete a short survey on technical and vocational pathways.

The results will provide us with a valuable insight into your level of understanding, knowledge and confidence to support your child/children to interpret and access the various technical and vocational options available to them. This will allow us to put further support in place so that you can all make informed decisions regarding post 16 and post 18 pathways.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/the-hart-school-parents>

# YEAR 10 STUDENTS EXPERIENCE THE WORLD OF HOSPITALITY

## Weston Park showcase careers in hospitality

On Tuesday 7 March Year 10 hospitality students visited Weston Park to gain an insight into careers within the hospitality sector.

Students gained an understanding of the history of the park, how is it funded and talked through some events that take place in the park, before embarking on their challenges for the day. The first challenge was to work in groups to recreate a table setting. Students were judged by the butler on their performance. Their next challenge was to observe as many details as possible within

a made up hotel room, and then go into another room where it hadn't been set up correctly. It was hard to spot the differences!

Students were then shown around some of the gardens and taken to the walled garden. This is where vegetables are grown for use in the kitchens. The final challenge of the day was to brainstorm food provision for one of the events that are held annually at Weston Park. Students were shown videos of past events and talked briefly through the planning stages in order to organise one of these events.

Students had to decide on the most suitable foods for their chosen event, consider health and safety, costings and hygiene. Students were also shown how the marketing of Weston Park happens and positives and negatives of different social media platforms.

Students were astonished at the level of detail needed to prepare a table setting. They were amazed by the amount of antiques, paintings and ceramics that were on show within the hotel and reception rooms and keen to ask questions about the paintings and books which were on show.



# HOT CHOCOLATE WITH THE PRINCIPAL

**Kevin Acheampong and Sophie Faulkner**

Kevin has been signed to Shrewsbury Town Football Trialist Academy. He trains regularly at the Academy around his school work.

Sophie Faulkner is a dedicated Ice Skater, who recently took part in Opens in London. She trains before school several days a week. This means getting up very early and travelling to Solihull for training time on the ice before returning to school to continue with her studies.

Both dedicated to their sport, congratulations.



# SIXTH FORM INFORMATION EVENING 2023

**The Hart School Sixth Form Information Evening took place on Thursday 30 March.**

This annual event was a bit different to the Open Evening as it provided parents and students with necessary information about life in our sixth form, the opportunities available and the pathways that students can take.

We know that navigating education after Year 11 can be incredibly complicated and the night allowed students to be sure and secure of what their future holds.

Attendance was not necessary in order to be considered

for the sixth form but the presentation helped students to be sure of their Post 16 choice and allowed them to ask questions about our wonderful sixth form.



# REWARDS EVENINGS

**Our Spring Rewards evening saw so many students receiving recognition of their hard work.**

On Tuesday, students from years 7, 8 and 9 were invited, having been nominated for attainment and progress awards in their subjects. Director of Faculties gave awards to a student in the year group who has shown particular aptitude for passion for the subject.

Thursday, was the time for year 10 and 11, who again were rewarded for their accomplishments in their subjects. Also given out on the evening were the HART awards.

Students were nominated by members of staff for showing particular attributes under different categories and

were based on them showing attributes of our HART values (Happy, Ambition, Resilience and Tolerance). All students received a certificate for the recognition of their efforts, whilst the HART award winners and nominees received a trophy.

The winners were:  
**Eliot Tams – Happy award**  
**Sean Wheeler – Ambition award**  
**Caitlin Smialowski – Resilience award**  
**Jess McElroy – Tolerant award**

Also given out on this evening, were two other special awards. Ava Lockyer received the Community Honours award. This honour is given to a student who embraces and is proud of their school and wider community.

They show this consistently throughout the term and has been recognised by staff and students.

Tia Douton was awarded with the Principal's award. This is given to a student who epitomises the type of student we strive for at The Hart School. Well done to all students involved.



# EASTER RAFFLE WINNERS

The PTFA would like to thank everyone who purchased a ticket for our Easter Raffle.

We raised a total of £618 which will go towards supporting extracurricular activities for our students. Furthermore, we would like to express our gratitude to "Insight Process Engineering" for its generous donation of £250 for the first prize. The PTFA team wishes everyone a happy Easter.



# 'PEP THE POET'

On Thursday 30 March, Year 7 had a special visit from 'Pep the Poet' to celebrate National Poetry Day 2023.

Building on our poetry learning from last half term, we looked at a variety of poem types and even got the chance to perform some poetry. It was a fantastically fun end to our term.



# BIRMINGHAM REP PROJECT

Over the last two weeks, 30 students from year 7 - year 9 have been involved in a very exciting project with the prestigious Birmingham Rep Theatre.

Students have had lots of fun learning about the history of our town, and developing story-telling techniques through drama to relive Rugeley's rich history. Students have explored key events such as exploring the first school in slitting mill, the history of the RAF base and the development of our market town.

Their work will now be helping to develop content for a new exhibition in Rugeley as part of



the Cannock chase heritage trail. As soon as we have updates on the projects development, we will be able to share more information on the completed project, which should be a lovely day out for the whole family in our very own Cannock Chase.

Massive thanks to Robert Beck for two engaging sessions and to Cannock chase heritage trail for the fantastic opportunity to be involved.



# EXAMINATIONS (Y11 and Y13)

With just 30 school days now remaining until the first examinations begin, please encourage your child to engage in the wide range of support available to them.

This includes Saturday Tutoring, Easter Holiday Revision, After School Revision, and of course, any home learning activities that they are provided with.

All staff recognise that the final lead-up to exams can be stressful and we will make every effort to support students at this important time. Can I take this opportunity to remind parents/carers of the Easter revision sessions that are taking place in some subjects. Please see school website for Easter intervention timetable.

Where you have any concerns or feel that your child may require additional support either academically or emotionally, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Cockbill in the first instance at ([lisa.cockbill@hartschool.org.uk](mailto:lisa.cockbill@hartschool.org.uk)) who will work with you to ensure that an appropriate support programme is put in place.

# EASTER CELEBRATIONS

## What an Egg-cellent end to the term!

After a fantastic term, students had an opportunity to celebrate their hard work on the final day term. The celebrations started with Easter Eggs for all students who attended school every day for the final two weeks of term. The smile on their faces made the distribution worth it!

It then continued into the celebration assemblies where students were awarded with bronze badges, tutor league titles, Head of Year awards and many more.

We are very proud of our students and many of which were celebrated at our rewards evenings for both academic and Hart Values awards. Well done to all!



## WORK EXPERIENCE, WE NEED YOU

Year 10 and 12 are in the process of finding their work experience placements for the week 17 to 21 July 2023. Easter is an ideal time for students to approach employers with a view to finding their ideal placement. We hope that students will be resilient and continue until their placement has been sourced. To that end, if any member of our community is willing and able to support students with a work experience placement, please contact Miss Dosanjh at the school ([sandip.dosanjh@hartschool.org.uk](mailto:sandip.dosanjh@hartschool.org.uk)).

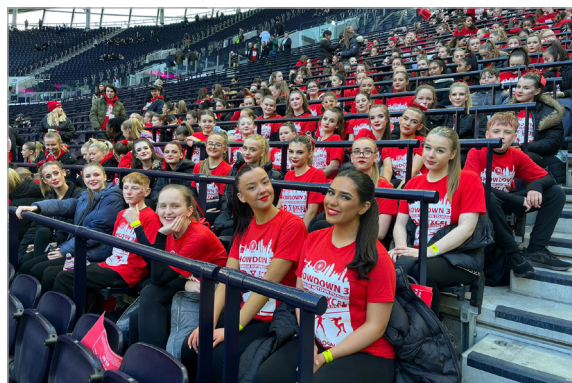
# PRO-EXCEL MASS MOVEMENT

On Saturday 25 March, 60 Hart School students were up at the crack of dawn to take part in the much anticipated 'pro excel dance project' at Tottenham Stadium.

Students had received workshops from a professional choreographer to learn the routines, which were to be performed before the Ruby showdown as well as during half time. To support the Saracens v Harlequins match, students danced in mass movement, with around 1,000 students from up and down the country performing in total.

The students from years 7-13 were extremely professional and very well-rehearsed, representing the school with true heart and passion. You may have even spotted them briefly on the TV coverage (we were the sea of red shirts behind the posts). They had a brilliant day, getting to dance in not only a state-of-the-art stadium, but having the true professional experience of a commercial dancer. Students have picked up skills in discipline, resilience, and employability by taking part in this project, and we are sure will have made memories for life.

A big thank you to all students involved, and to Mrs Johnson-Wain and all staff who supported the event.



# YEAR 11 MASTERCHEFS

Year 11 Hospitality students took part in their practical assessments for their course by putting their culinary skills and knowledge to the test as they prepared their various dishes.

The time flew by as they prepared, mixed, cooked and presented meals fit for a high standard restaurant! The exquisite smells matched the visuals of the food before them and all involved left feeling happy at the thought of a well cooked meal that tasted amazing...

...after photographic evidence was taken first!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday 1 May 2023**

Bank holiday (closed to students)

**Tuesday 2 May 2023**

Year 11 & 13 exam session starts

**Thursday 4 May 2023**

Year 8 Parents' Evening

**Monday 8 May 2023**

King's Coronation bank holiday (closed to students)

**Monday 29 May 2023**

Bank holiday (closed to students)

Check out our extra-curricular offer for next term in our Beyond the Classroom programme. [click here to see more](#)



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