

The Hart

NEWSLETTER

25 JULY 2023 • ISSUE 7 • SUMMER TERM

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

End of term reflection and celebrations

As we approach the end of another successful term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible achievements and experiences we have shared as a school community. It has been a term packed with activities, growth, and accomplishments, and I am immensely proud of the progress our students have made.

Our students have achieved remarkable successes throughout the year, both within and beyond the classroom. They have exemplified our school's vision, "**We can, we will, we do,**" and their achievements have been a testament to their hard work and dedication.

In the sporting arena, our students have excelled, securing victories and bringing home district cups and personal bests. Their commitment to teamwork, discipline,

and sportsmanship has been commendable. Our recent Grease production showcased their talent, creativity, and passion for the arts. Additionally, our participation in Trust-wide competitions, such as Debate Mate, Days of Shakespeare, Days of Song, and Young Photographer, has provided our students with valuable opportunities for growth and self-expression.

Furthermore, our scholars' events and successful primary transition days have fostered a sense of unity and support within our school community, ensuring a smooth transition for our younger students who will be joining us in September.

We are incredibly proud of all these achievements and the dedication shown by our students. Their accomplishments are a testament to their hard work, resilience, and

determination, and we applaud them for their outstanding efforts.

In addition, I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff, parents, and guardians for their unwavering support throughout the year. Your partnership and involvement in your child's education have been invaluable, and we look forward to continuing this

journey together.

On behalf of the entire school community, I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable summer break. May it be filled with joy, relaxation, and cherished moments. We eagerly await the return of our students for another exciting year ahead.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Miss Sandham



WE CAN • WE WILL • WE DO

GREASE WAS THE WORD

The school production of Grease would not have been out of place in The West End.

After 6 months of relentless hard work and commendable dedication, Hart School students finally got their chance to shine on stage in this year's school production of 'Grease'.

The school show is always a treasured and anticipated event in our whole school calendar, and 'Grease' certainly was 'the word' over the last few weeks. Each and every single student involved were an absolute credit to the school and the Performing Arts department are so grateful for all of their efforts. Whether backstage,

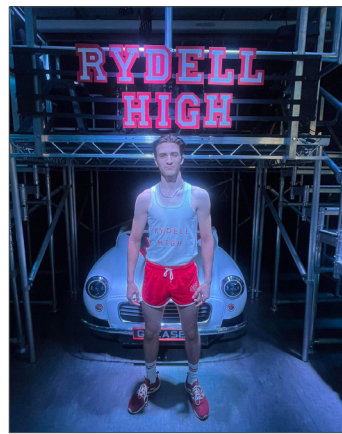
taking a leading role or playing a vital part in the ensemble, students really did excel themselves in their talents. What really stood out though, was the camaraderie and togetherness developed by the group, who have made lifelong memories and cherished friends.

The whole school production plays an integral role in wider learning, supporting our ambition curriculum to ensure all students are provided opportunities and experiences to last them a lifetime. A real 'buzz' was created around school, with the production

welcoming various audiences such as our new year 6 cohort, the whole of year 7 and the show was even OFSTED approved!

Special thanks and congratulations to the Performing Arts department for their passion and dedication over the last six months. A special mention to all students involved for being super stars, and a big thank you to staff, parents and our wonderful community for all your continued support.

Now the big question...what will be our school show in 2024?



REGISTER AND READ, TUTOR TIME PROGRAMME

Our new Register & Read program has been implemented during tutor time, allowing students to start their day immersed in the magic of books with their form tutors. Every morning, they engage with captivating stories such as "Alice in Wonderland," "Refugee Boy," and "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe." This dedicated time has fostered a real love for reading this term, and has provided an opportunity for students to develop their reading skills. We are looking forward to seeing our pupils enjoy this again on their return to school in September.



LIBRARY UPDATE

Our school library has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent months, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Mrs. Laird, our new librarian. She has tirelessly re-organised the library and introduced a diverse range of books to captivate our students' imaginations. From graphic novels to sports books and easy readers, our library now boasts an impressive collection, and our library is now a calm and welcoming space for all students.

During lunchtimes, the library now offers exciting activities, such as mindfulness colouring, creating an inviting space for students. We also host various after-school events, including the immensely popular Dungeons and Dragons sessions every Thursday. As a result, we have witnessed a significant increase in students visiting the library and borrowing books, which is a delight to see.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD EXPEDITIONS

Congratulations to the 30 students who passed their expedition weekend last term and are on their way to achieving their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and to the first team of Silver expedition participants the school has had for many years.

Students had to undertake an independent, unaided expedition in teams in the Peak District before staying overnight on a campsite.

They had to navigate themselves across the challenging terrain, carrying all the equipment they needed, including tents, gas stoves and their all-important food. At the campsite teams were quick to setup and start cooking their evening meals. Sunday saw the teams embark on their return journey, across the Peaks again.

Everyone who took part made an amazing effort and they should be really proud of their achievement.

The Duke of Edinburgh awards is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop skills, take part in physical activities, volunteer within the community as well as the overnight expedition challenge. This is a very fulfilling experience giving lots of opportunities outside the main school curriculum and is a valuable asset on leaving school, moving in further education and starting careers. By being out and about, participants also raise awareness of the positive impact of the school and nurture valuable links with the community.

This year we have a fantastic number of participants in year 9. Students are very

enthusiastic about the award and the opportunities it will bring. Many of the students are well underway in completing the other aspects of the award, volunteering, physical and skills, in their own time, outside of school, as well as regularly attending training sessions after

school on a Wednesday in preparation for the expedition.

Students currently in Year 8 have until the end of term to sign up and become a Bronze DofE participant from September. So sign up fast!



T20 BLAST CRICKET TRIP

Bears Vs Rapids

On Friday 23rd June, we took a group of 14 students (Y7-Y10) to Edgbaston Cricket Ground to watch a Vitality T20 Cricket match between Birmingham Bears and Worcestershire Rapids.

The purpose of this sports trip was to allow students to experience a professional T20 cricket match and see how elite players perform at the highest level. The students

had a fantastic time watching the Bears make it 5 wins in a row with a dominant 53-run victory over the Rapids.



KS3 PE REWARD TRIP

Recognition to commitment to sport and PE

A number of students attended the Key Stage 3 PE Reward trip last term in recognition of their commitment to sport and PE at the Hart School. The students had attended a number of extra-curricular sessions in PE throughout the year and have strived to attend as many different sessions as possible, with many representing our school Teams. The reward trip was

held at Ten Pin Bowling in Stafford where they each had a number of very competitive games enjoying drinks and snacks along the way.



BOOK FAIR SUCCESS

During Monday 26 to Friday 30 June, the Hart School hosted a highly successful scholastic book fair that captivated students, staff, and the wider community.

The event proved to be a resounding triumph. The final total collected amounted to an impressive £713.29, which will enable the school to obtain £356.65 worth of free books for the library.

The book fair provided an excellent opportunity to encourage students to engage with books and foster a love for reading. The fair attracted students from all year groups who eagerly explored the wide selection of books available. By making the fair accessible during break, lunch, and English lessons, the school ensured that every student had the chance to participate and explore the diverse range of literary options.

Thanks to the generous support of students, staff, and the community, the book fair surpassed all expectations. The funds raised will be used to purchase a variety of books for the school library, catering to different reading levels

and diverse interests. Among the books purchased are a range of easy readers, perfect for those just beginning their reading journey, as well as diverse reads that celebrate the richness of our wider community.

First and foremost, a special thank you goes out to all the students who participated in the book fair with great enthusiasm. Their curiosity and love for reading set the tone for the event's success.

Secondly, a huge thank you to Mrs Laird, our superb librarian, who staffed the book fair and helped our students and staff to select titles that they would enjoy. Her expert knowledge of books and our students' individual reading preferences meant that everyone came away with a book that they will love.

The support of all staff was also hugely appreciated. Our staff's dedication

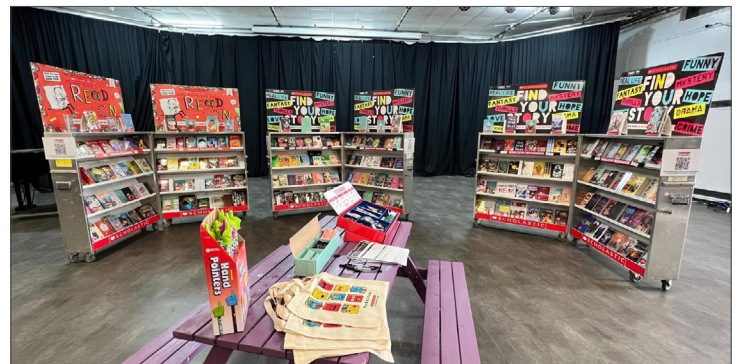
and commitment to fostering literacy in our school community is truly commendable and we are immensely grateful for their valuable support.

The PTFA also played a pivotal role in the book fair's success. Their generous donation of £100 towards new library books demonstrated their

unwavering support for promoting literacy at The Hart School.

Building on the success of this book fair, we are thrilled to announce that the next fair will take place in November, coinciding with the PTFA Christmas fair. Watch this space for more details!

Happy reading!



EXPANDING OUR HORIZONS

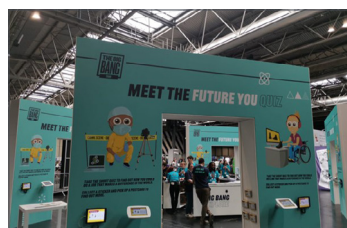
The science faculty recently took a group of students to the Big Bang Fair at the NEC

The annual event at the NEC in Birmingham is an exciting celebration of STEM subjects. During the day year 7 students had the opportunity to watch live shows from the 'Ministry of Science' and spent time visiting the exhibits. The activities on offer included flying drones, testing their electronic and coding skills to move robots and hands on experience of medical testing.

Students also took a career quiz and spoke to different companies

about potential future careers pathways.

It was an inspiring day which gave students an insight into the opportunities STEM subjects can provide.

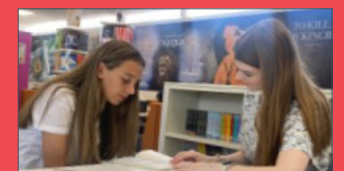


COMMUNITY READING VOLUNTEERS AND SIXTH FORM READING BUDDIES

We are incredibly fortunate to now have the support of many dedicated volunteers, including sixth form students and members of our local community, who generously give their time to read with our students in the library during the mornings.

It has been truly remarkable to witness the genuine connections and engagement between the pupils and volunteers. The impact on students' confidence in reading has been remarkable. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our wonderful volunteers for their invaluable contribution to our school community, and look forward to restarting the

programme in September. If you would be interested in volunteering with us, please get in contact with Mrs Elliott at caitlin.elliott@hartschool.org.uk



WORLD RELIGIONS

This week some RE students spent their last RE lesson of the year looking at World Religions.

Students were given a world map and lots of information about religious, events, people and places across the globe. Once they have expertly located all the spots they wrote about what they could learn about religious people and important practices.

even deigned awareness posters showing how we can all work together as one world to showcase their learning.



They found that there was the same message for all people 'treat people as you want to be treated'. Some students

ALUMNI BACK AT SCHOOL

We have been delighted to have some of our Alumni come into school this term and work with our Y9 and Y10 students.

Last week Hannah Jevons, Paige Totis, Craig Corrigan and Greg Spence part of our Alumni came back to school to share their experiences and wisdom with our students.

their school work to life outside due to the shared knowledge of the area and school.

Our alumni are able to improve students' motivation, confidence and life chances. 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>

It was a rewarding experience for both students and alumni alike, with one of our alumni coming back having left 43 years ago. Our alumni are great role models for our current students and our students are more able to relate



ICE CREAM FOR ALL

Rewarding our amazing staff and students

Earlier in the term and due to hot weather and following a recent Ofsted inspection, we thought we would reward our amazing staff and students in the best way possible...with an ice-cream.



MOUNTAIN BIKING COURSE

This term saw the mountain biking course that took place at Birches Valley on the Chase sadly come to an end, with students successfully completing the course. The students have gained so much knowledge on mountain bike maintenance as well as utilising the specialised coaching from Matt Blythe from British Cycling. We have seen so many skills gained over the last six weeks with students showing such resilience and teamwork.

Some students then went on to take full advantage of experienced British Cycling Coach Matt Blythe when taking on the challenging trails used at the Commonwealth Games in 2022@ Birches Valley on Wednesday 19 July. On the 'Butterfly trail' students started to experience rollers and Berms, each taking these challenges into their stride. The more experienced riders where challenged with the table tops managing to execute whips whilst carrying this out before moving onto the 'notorious follow the dog' trail. Cannock Chase Forest is already well known as a centre for mountain biking with two established waymarked trails called `Follow the Dog` and the `Monkey Trail`. Here, all students were offered direct pathways into British cycling competitions and events, and links to mountain biking clubs in the area. The vision here is to tap into funding from British Cycling in the next academic year in order to create further opportunities for our students.



WORK EXPERIENCE

Last week saw year 10 and year 12 students partake in work experience, with students being provided with an 'experience of work' rather than specific job training.

Undertaking the week of work placement can be a very valuable experience for students. It deepens their understanding about what a career in the placement area involves, helps them to understand their own strengths and areas to develop in relation to employability skills and can also give them first-hand experience on which to draw in future applications and/or interviews.

Thank you to all that supported with making the placements possible. We received so much outstanding feedback regarding our students' commitment to their work experience. Students were commended for showing resilience, initiative and hard work during their placements. Well done and thank you to everyone involved!



ALTON TOWERS REWARD TRIP

The return of the annual rewards trip

Last Wednesday saw the return of our much anticipated annual rewards trip to Alton Towers, where students from year 7 to 10 attended.

in the classroom, getting praise postcards and positive phone calls home from staff as well as completing HART cards.

Students who have been awarded the most positive points in school throughout the year, were invited to attend the event. Students accrue points by exceptional work

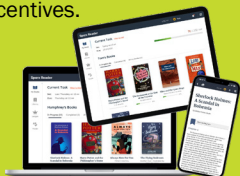
A great day was had by all, even though there were some enormous queues during the day!



SPARX READER

Sparx Reader, introduced in May as a weekly homework assignment for all students, has proven to be an exceptional tool for engaging our students with reading.

Tailored to their individual reading levels, this innovative program combines contemporary technology with captivating texts and quizzes. Staff have been delighted to witness the enthusiasm with which students have embraced Sparx Reader. Their competitive spirit has been remarkable, with the weekly leaderboard sparking intense competition. Students are expected to dedicate 20 minutes per week (equivalent to 200 Sparx Reader Points) to reading, and their engagement is rewarded with certificates and other incentives.



YEAR 11 PROM 2023

On Tuesday 11th July, we held the annual Year 11 Leavers' Prom at The Chase Golf Club, and what an evening it was!

It was fantastic to see many of our Year 11 students there and be able to celebrate the end of their examinations with them. As always, there were some fabulous outfits on display and some rather original modes of transport to the event....stretch limos, a bin lorry and even an ice cream van!

thanks also to everyone who supported us with donations for the prom including a number of beautiful dresses which were kindly donated from the local community.

And our final thank you needs to go to the Year 11 students themselves...they've been a fantastic year group who conducted themselves brilliantly throughout the difficult exam season. It was great celebrating with them all at the prom and we look forward to seeing them all again for results day in August.

We would like to thank all of our staff who attended the event but especially Miss Jackson and Miss Crofts for making the venue look so fantastic. Miss Cockbill and Miss Godridge for all of their hard work with Year 11 throughout the year. Special



UCAS DISCOVERY DAY

Y12 students attended the UCAS Discovery Day at the NEC in Birmingham to help shortlist their post-18 options.

They were able to access over 100 universities, colleges and apprenticeship employers face-to-face, all under one roof. Each university had several ambassadors sharing their experiences, answering questions and providing information on different pathways and options.

Our students are now excited about where their futures may lie, making plans to book uni open days over the summer so they are ready to shortlist their UCAS applications in September.



YEAR 5 SCHOLARS DAY

On Thursday 29 June we welcomed six local primary schools who each brought with them year 5 students to take part in an Academic and Sports Scholar day.

This was a wonderful opportunity to unite students from the community and immerse them in either sporting fun or subjects with academic interest.

The sports groups had the most wonderful day which included creating a dance alongside our two 6th Form stars who recently performed in our school show, Grease. They also loved playing dodgeball in 'the dome' and had so much fun on our school field playing rounders and cricket.

The academic groups bubbled with enthusiasm and excitement whilst operating machinery in the design classroom especially when

'melting' plastic to create a bookmark. Their creativity shone when asked to write their own story using Roald Dahl as inspiration. The Science lab was a hive of forensic activity from the off-set when, on entry, it was clear that there had been a 'body' in the room, the area taped off for investigations. The history session focussed on historical enquiry and our Y5 students were marvellously curious about the past!

The day ended with a celebration and a sharing of highlights and Y5 students left The Hart School fully armed with stories of their day and fabulous experiences and items to share. Year 9

ambassadors, once again, were so helpful in escorting primary students around the school site.



TIA BRINGS HOME BRONZE

World Cup debut for our Year 9 student

Earlier this month our Year 9 student Tia Douton visited Portugal to participate in the World Cup. She was exceptional coming home with a bronze medal having been placed third in the world for their Lyrical

dance at the World Cup.

We are so proud and will keep you updated on her journey.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We are pleased to share that the Staffordshire County Council is providing free school meal vouchers for the Summer holiday. This means they will be issuing one £40 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 21 September 2023 please contact the yourfamilyhub@staffordshire.gov.uk

Details on eligibility criteria can be found on the school website: <https://www.hartschool.org.uk/main/hart-school/free-school-meals> along with a direct link to the application page for Staffordshire County Council.

RUGELEY AND ARMITAGE CAMERA CLUB EXHIBITION

Our warmest congratulations to all the students who participated in our local Rugeley and Armitage Camera Club photography competition this term.

Your participation and dedication to showcasing your creative talents deserve recognition and applause.

Our students demonstrated courage, creativity, and a passion for photography through their entries. The competition provided an opportunity for student to express themselves, experiment with different perspectives, and capture moments that evoke emotions and tell stories. We were truly impressed by the range of subjects, styles, and techniques displayed in your photographs.

A special mention goes to our prize winners Hilary Knight, Kyle Hodson and Lea Foster.



SUMMER SAFETY



Now that summer has arrived your child will have more time on their hands than they are used to.

Here are 5 Tips to keep your child/teenager safe this summer.

1. Remind your child not to talk to people that they do not know – either in person or online.
2. Children need to be aware of water safety. Remind them to only swim at a lifeguarded swimming site and that water at an open site is much colder than they will be used to swimming in. If they get into difficulty they must get help by ringing 999 and asking for the fire and rescue service or at the beach the coast guard.
3. Monitor your child's internet use. Ask them which sites they use and familiarise yourself with the age requirements and privacy settings of them.
4. Safety in numbers. Advise your child to stay with their friendship group when they are out and about.
5. Tell them to stay connected with family members, keep their phone charged and always trust their instincts.

Please see our Safeguarding Newsletter for more information

REWARDS EVENING

Recognising the achievements of our students this year.

Students are recognised for attainment and progress in subjects across the curriculum.

They are also recognised for an award by Directors of Faculty for each subject.

As well as these awards we also recognise students who epitomise our HART school values (Happy, Ambition, Resilient and Tolerant). This terms winners were:

- Happy Award**
Lacey M | Year 7
- Ambition Award**
Daisy I | Year 10
- Resilient Award**
Ethan S | Year 8
- Tolerant Award**
Chloe P | Year 9

Further awards for community honours and a Principal's award are also given out for students who have gone above and beyond this year. As well as our special Nic Willing Award. The winners this term were:

- Community Honours**
Jacob D | Year 11
- Nicola Willing Award**
Leighton B | Year 11
- Principal's Award**
Alfie C | Year 9

We look forward to the next academic year and celebrating our students as they progress through their school journey.

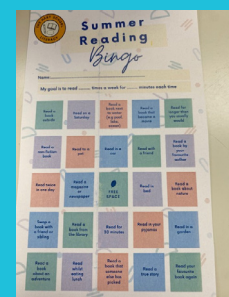


HART SUMMER READING BINGO CHALLENGE

We are thrilled to introduce the Hart Summer Reading Bingo Challenge.

We are challenging all students, including our new Year 6 pupils, to read in various interesting places and explore new books. Students can bring their completed cards to the library and receive recognition for their achievements in September.

Why not give it a try



YEAR 8 SCHOLARS

During the final summer term, Year 8 scholars have been enhancing and developing their knowledge and understanding of the importance of protecting and increasing biodiversity.

Students started off the programme by assessing the levels of biodiversity around the school site. This enabled them to compare the levels of high and low biodiversity. From their findings, students were able to consider ways to address these areas. As a consequence, they designed and created their very own bug hotels. The purpose of the bug hotels is to provide safe havens for various insects and small creatures which are fundamental for our survival. Over a series of two weeks, with special thanks to Mrs Dimmock and Mr Butterworth, students built their very own bug hotels to ensure we are having a significant impact on local ecosystems, whilst fostering a deeper connection with nature.

Alongside this, students explored the natural beauty and biodiversity Trentham Garden has to offer. As we explored the enchanting landscapes, stunning flora and diverse fauna of the Italian Gardens, students were able to create detailed field sketches. It made it the perfect place for the students to immerse themselves in the wonders of biodiversity. Thank you to Mr Windows who provided extensive knowledge on his passion of trees.

Finally, students had the opportunity to talk to a local environmental agency officer, Demi, regarding the UK's biodiversity. Demi's passion for nature and the environment was evident throughout, which provoked

critical questioning from the scholars. The talk shed light on the critical importance of biodiversity in our ecosystem and how it directly impacts our lives. Students learnt about the various plant and animal species that are unique to

the UK and understanding their role in maintaining the balance of our ecosystem. This was a fascinating and inspiring talk and thank you to Miss Holloway for arranging the talk.



SLOW COOKER

If you are in receipt of Free School Meals, it is not too late to collect a free slow cooker, courtesy of Staffordshire County Council Slow Cooker project.

The project is aimed at supporting families in receipt of Free School Meals, as part of a Department of Work and Pension's Energy Efficiency campaign and The Hart School are proud to have acted as a distribution hub for the 222 slow cookers provided to families with a child in receipt of free school meals.



OPEN EVENTS 2023

Tuesday 10 October
Thursday 12 October
5.00pm - 7.30pm

We look forward to seeing you at our *oversubscribed school* and showing you why *The Hart School* is the *number one choice* for parents.

www.hartschool.org.uk
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