

# The Hart

## NEWSLETTER

14 FEBRUARY 2023 • ISSUE 4 • SPRING TERM

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I hope this update finds you, and those closest to you, in good health. I have a number of updates for you including some key information for Year 11 students.

### Year 11 PPEs (Mock) Examinations

A reminder that the Year 11 PPE Examinations begin after the half term break. They have been working hard both in lessons and after school during the interventions and are putting themselves in a good place to secure a really pleasing set of results this summer.

There are actually only seven full teaching weeks left until the summer exam series fully commences with two weeks of mocks and bank holidays in the mix, leaving only 35 teaching days. The clock is certainly ticking.

With this in mind, we are offering some February holiday revision sessions. The schedule for half term revision will be shared with students and sent directly to parents and carers. If you are unsure about which sessions are taking place or need help or advice about the PPEs, please contact the Year 11 team for assistance.

We ask parents and carers to strongly encourage your

child to access this support. The hard work now will pay dividends in the future and students in Year 11 will be rewarded with a well-earned, prolonged summer break.

### Parent Survey

Our Parent survey was sent out a couple of weeks ago via SMS message in order to gauge parent feedback over a number of areas. I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to complete the survey. Your input was valuable and will be shared with our wider Leadership Team to help shape our thinking and planning moving forwards. As a school we would also like to capture the views of staff and students as their opinions are equally as important. We will therefore write to you in due course with outcomes of the survey and actions we propose to put in place where necessary.

### Industrial Action

Thank you for your understanding with the disruption caused by the

industrial action that meant the school was closed for most students on Wednesday 1 February. Further industrial action is planned for March, on the 1st, 15th and 16th as things stand. We will keep you informed via updates and emails about our plans closer to the time as there will always be a degree of uncertainty about which staff, and how many staff, are available on any given day.

### Drop in with the Principal / Senior Leadership Team

As a senior leadership team, we will continue to offer our 'SLT Drop-Ins' throughout this academic year. This is an

opportunity for all parents and carers to come into the school to speak to any member of the senior team concerning any issues which parents and carers may wish to discuss.

Drop-in sessions are on a Tuesday morning at 8.30am to 9.30am and Thursday 15.00pm to 16.00pm after school.

I would like to thank all our parents and carers for their continued support this term and wish you a restful half term when it arrives.

Miss Sandham



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# INTRODUCING OUR NEW ADDITION TO THE HART SCHOOL FAMILY... RUFUS

**The latest member of staff to join The Hart School has a very strange list of demands.**

He insists on being taken out of the office for regular toilet breaks and needs brushing everyday. That's because Rufus is our very own therapy dog 'in-training'.

Therapy dogs have very special places in the schools that take the time to invest in training one. The role of a therapy dog is to react and respond to people and their environment, under the guidance and direction of their handler. For example, an individual might be encouraged to gently pat or talk to a dog to teach sensitive touch and help them be calm. Having a dog in school has the potential to help young children to develop in a range of academic, personal and social areas. When Rufus has completed his training with

Miss Kinnstein, he will be able to teach empathy and appropriate interpersonal skills, help individuals develop social skills, be soothing and help to improve an individual's skills to pick up social cues imperative to human relationships.

Rufus is a 4 month old cavapoo and this breed was specifically picked due to the hypo allergenic nature of a poodle, as well as the intelligence/calmness that comes from that particular breed. He is in school to get used to his surroundings and spends every day with Miss Kinnstein (and anyone else that is lucky enough to get a bit of time with him). Very soon, he will be a full time member of staff, with students being able to access

the benefits of Rufus all day, every day. From students reading to him, to being a 'pull' that can help with attendance - Rufus has so much to offer!

We've been amazed at by how the student and staff have been affected already. "He always gets a reaction when he goes into a class, and just a couple of minutes with

Rufus can leave you feeling more relaxed."

It will take another 12 months for Rufus to become a qualified therapy dog and is currently having regular external training. Eventually he will be able to 'work' for three hours every day with the students that will need Rufus' help the most.



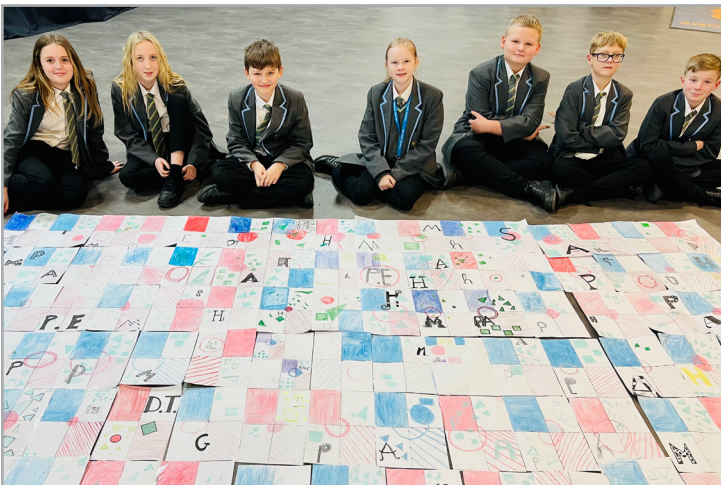


# KNOWLEDGE CONNECTED DAYS OF PATTERN

Earlier this term our Year 7 and Year 8 students received specialised lessons dedicated to the CET Knowledge Connected programme.

Creative Education Trust schools use imaginative methods for linking knowledge across subject boundaries, fostering personal development and resilience and developing practical skills that prepare students for their transition to adult life and employment. The academic arts and the sciences, practical subjects and life skills all need this creativity, and creativity is valued highly by employers. Creative Education Trust defines creativity as the ability to find connections between the things we know and turn these connections into new ideas and action. Our key concepts consist of: Structure, Pattern, Human interaction, Meaning, Practise and Performance. This time, students investigated how Pattern is present within the world around us, and in of our subjects we study. On Tuesday 17th January, year 8 had subject specific lessons and studied how

pattern presents itself in each subject, from motif development in dance to the Fibonacci sequence in Maths. Students could see how pattern can be important in all of their subjects. On Friday 20th January, year 7 looked at different types of patterns and how they are created, whether this is man-made or seen within nature. They looked at the rules that have to exist when creating a pattern, and also investigated what happens if these rules are altered or broken. The day ended with the whole of year 7 creating a visual representation of themselves following set rules. When bringing this all together, students observed pattern on a larger scale, looking at how even their year group can be presented as a pattern. A great two days of creative, hands on learning that has started to create pathways and connections for linking their knowledge all together.



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# REHEARSAL WITH PRO-EXCEL

**On Monday 16th January 60 students from years 7-13 had the opportunity to work alongside two professional choreographers from Pro-Excel; a dance company who create large scale dance pieces for sporting events.**

Students worked tirelessly for eight hours on a routine that will be performed in the seats of the South Stand alongside 1000 other students from schools around the country.

time. This is the first time a dance of this nature has been performed within the United Kingdom, with the likelihood of our students ending up on the television.

throughout the rehearsals by the choreographers. As a school, we were first the choreographers had visited in this project, meaning some changes and tweaks had to be made. This was handled with complete professionalism and patience from our students who were a credit to the school.

Another all-day rehearsal is planned later this week with the choreographers before the big day, which will be another amazing experience for our students.

The routine will be performed at the start of the rugby match between the Saracens Vs Harlequins, during half

The students worked exceptionally hard throughout the day. Their engagement and focus were commended



# ENERGY ARTS PROJECT DISPLAY

**Are you going to be able to spot the towers around the town?**

Sixth form students Emily and Sophie were tasked with designing and painting three towers which have been 3D printed out of palm leaves.

their spare lessons the girls set about developing their painting skills linked to local themes.

These towers, along with others that have been designed by local primary school children and painted by an artist, will eventually have trees planted between two halves, they will be placed around Rugeley in memory of the cooling towers that used to be a local landmark.

Emily chose to portray a deer on the Chase with the town gates in the background and the Cenitaf with the cooling towers, Sophie chose William Palmer the poisoner who spent all his inheritance money on horse racing.

Both students have done a fantastic job of these towers and their painting skills have improved too.



# HUMANUTOPIA

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

Humanutopia 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.

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



# TUTOR READING PROGRAMME

**Reading is an essential part of being a well-rounded learner.**

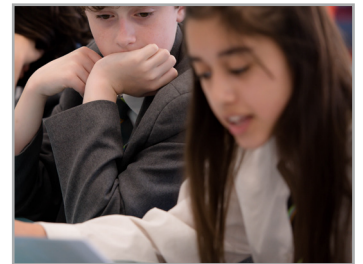
Reading is an essential part of being a well-rounded learner. At The Hart School, we understand the importance of reading and have implemented a Tutor Reading Programme to help our students flourish as lifelong readers. The Tutor Reading Programme is designed to be engaging with a huge variety of books on offer, so that as students progress through school, they can develop a love for reading.

The Key Stage 3 Tutor Reading Programme consists of daily tutor-time reading sessions where students can read a book alongside their tutor and discuss it with their peers. Each day, tutors will read their form's chosen book to the students,

highlighting language choices made by the author, discussing character motives and developing students' inference skills.

Please ask your child about the book that they are reading. You could ask them questions about the main character, setting or even if they would recommend the book to you!

Happy reading!



## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We are pleased to share that the Staffordshire County Council is continuing its free school meal vouchers for the February half term break. This means they will be issuing a £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 15 February 2023 please contact the [yourfamilyhub@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:yourfamilyhub@staffordshire.gov.uk)

## YEAR 11 RISING STARS BREAKFAST CLUB

**Every morning from 7.45am students can receive specialised guidance as well as a free breakfast and hot drink.**

To support our year 11 students in the lead up to their exams this summer, we have a daily breakfast club supported by specialist staff in a range of subjects including English, Maths, Science, IT, History, Geography, Spanish, Business and Design Materials.

The club is open to all students in year 11 from 7:45 am onwards. At the breakfast club not only do students receive specialised guidance they are also able to grab free breakfast and a hot drink. If your child is in year 11 please encourage to go along.





# CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week 2023 took place from 6-12 February 2023.

The theme of Children's Mental Health Week 2023 was Let's Connect, encouraging people to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways.

Let's Connect is about making meaningful connections. People thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing.

A lack of meaningful connection is a key driver in loneliness and anxiety, so it is important that young people establish friendships which can allow them to support one another.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Please can we urge all parents who have an issue or concern about school to contact us directly to discuss. If you have any concerns, please email us on: [enquiries@hartschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hartschool.org.uk)

## NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

The theme this year was 'Skills for Life'.

National Apprenticeship Week is an annual, week-long celebration of apprenticeships and everyone involved with them. The theme this year was 'Skills for Life'.

In tutor time, students had access to a variety of information and activities. In lessons, teachers discussed apprenticeships linked to their subject to help students understand what apprenticeships are and the range of sectors apprenticeships are available in.

One of the biggest barriers to students taking up an apprenticeship is the

application process. Unlike college or sixth form, there is not a set date to apply by or a set date to start. It is more like applying for a job.

The link below will support you and your young person in finding out more and applying for an apprenticeship.

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/guide-to-applying-for-an-apprenticeship/>




**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" 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)*

## VACANCIES

At this time of year, we begin planning for the next academic year and will begin recruiting for both teaching and support roles. We are pleased to share that we have been successful in the appointments of three new English teachers and a Mathematician who will join the team after Easter.

In addition to this, we have also appointed an additional member of staff as a Cover Manager which will in turn reduce external supply in the unfortunate event of a staff absence.