

The Hart

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024 • ISSUE 4 • SPRING TERM TWO

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Wow, this term has flown!

As we approach Easter, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the past 5 weeks and share some highlights with you. It's been a packed half term filled with a wide range of trips, visits, and extra-curricular activities across all year groups, world book day, science and national careers week and many more events as outlined in our newsletter.

In addition, the classroom climate has been focused and purposeful, with students demonstrating a commitment to their studies. I am also pleased to report that Key Stage 4 and 5 students have worked exceptionally hard during the assessment windows, laying a solid foundation for success in the upcoming summer examinations.

Trust Visits

Furthermore, our school has welcomed a number of Trust visits this term focused on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and

teaching and learning. These visits have been positive and insightful, reaffirming our commitment to inclusive education and continuous improvement.

I am incredibly proud of our students' conduct and their commitment to achieving their best in their lessons. Their attitude to learning (ATL) in lessons has been excellent, reflecting our core values ambition and resilience.

Attendance Matters

In addition to this we have seen a good increase in pupil attendance to school. We recognise this is as a result of the strong collaboration between parents and the school in supporting children to attend school on a regular basis. I am delighted to share that there has been a notable positive increase across all year groups and we thank parents and carers for their continued support in this area.

On Return

Looking forward to the remainder of the academic year, I want to thank our parents and carers, for their continued support and partnership in your child's education.

As a reminder our students break up for the Easter holiday at normal time on Friday 22 March 2024 and return to school on Monday 8 April 2024. Wishing you a blessed and joyous Easter holiday.



WE CAN • WE WILL • WE DO

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Key Stage 3 celebrate the week with the theme of Time

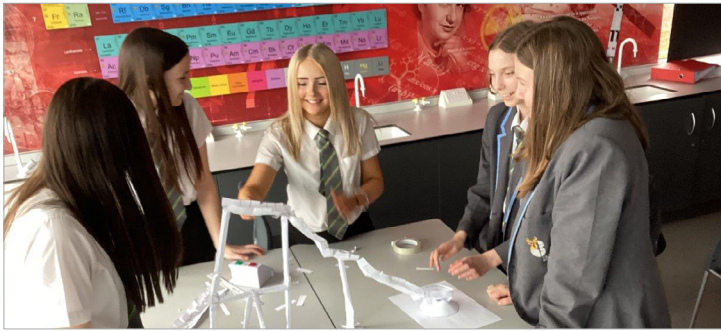
To celebrate British Science Week, Key Stage 3 had a variety of events with the theme of Time, as it was the 30th anniversary of the British Science Week programme.

There were four specially planned lessons, encouraging the pupils to think how well they use their time. Lessons included practical work, figuring out how to measure ten seconds using either sand, water or marbles.

There was a national poster competition, where five pupils will have their work sent to the British Science Week team, hopefully gaining some recognition for some really excellent work. There were so many incredibly creative posters, it was difficult to choose just five! Science club had a 'marble run' type challenge, where the year 7 team kept the marble running for nearly 6 seconds, with only an hour of

preparation, narrowly beating the year 8 team.

There were also special assemblies to understand how important time is for all of us, which were received well, shown by the excitement and enthusiasm of pupils when they were in the hall. We cannot wait for next year! Well done Hart Pupils!



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

COULD YOU BE ENTITLED?

If your circumstances have changed and you believe your child may be eligible for Free School Meals you can make a quick and easy application to Staffordshire County Council via our website: [click here for more details](#)



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

What a term it has been for positive attendance at school.

We have been so impressed with the determination of our students to be successful. Our 2024 school attendance is at least 2.00% higher than 2023. This is down to your support as parents and carers.

If you follow us on our social media (Facebook) page, you will have noticed that we regularly post our winners of our monthly competitions each month. If you don't follow our Facebook page, be sure to head over and follow, as your child could be the winner next month!

As we are now in the last week of term, we will celebrate The Principals Challenge for the Easter term and another golden opportunity to celebrate positive attendance at school. Be in, to win! **#attendancematters**



WE CAN • WE WILL • WE DO

REWARDS

Congratulations to all our wonderful students who received an award at our rewards evening.

We would like to congratulate once again all our wonderful students who received an award at our termly rewards evenings event. Students are recognised for their attainment, progress and acknowledgement by their Director of Faculty. In addition, we have another opportunity to distribute rewards for our Hart school values.

Both evenings were incredibly busy, and we would like to thank all our parents and carers for their support. Each evening was so busy that we had to find additional seats!

Our students are now back to work to earn a place at our summer event. Please see highlights of our spring event.



YEAR 11 UPDATE

We want to take this opportunity to congratulate students for their conduct during the recent PPE period.

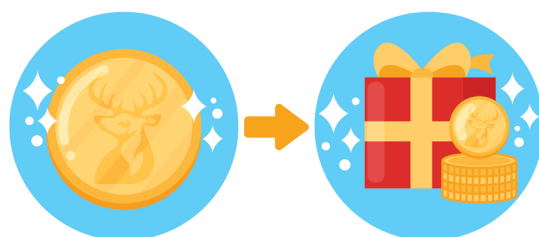
We want to take this opportunity to congratulate students for their conduct during the recent PPE period which is their final round of pre-public examinations before the final exams take place in the summer. After the Easter break, there are just four and a half weeks until the first whole cohort GCSE examination which is Biology Paper 1 on Friday 10th May.

Students and parents should by now have received the schedule for Easter intervention. It is important that students attend the relevant interventions and are also revising at home. Students should have revision timetables in place and be revising for these important examinations.

Finally, it has been fantastic to see how students are engaging with our Points Mean Prizes rewards initiative! We are seeing students in school as early as 7.50am to study at Breakfast Club and we are seeing an average of 80 students in period 6 each week. To date, over 75% of

the year group have received some form of voucher for their attendance and engagement in interventions. We are excited to reveal further winners after the Easter break once we've added in points for all of the students who have demonstrated fantastic progress in their recent PPEs.

POINTS MEAN PRIZES



SEND COFFEE MORNINGS

Our recent SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) coffee morning provided a dedicated space where parents, caregivers, and educators gathered to share experiences, exchange knowledge, and offer support to one another here at The Hart School. It was a warm and inclusive environment where everyone was welcomed with open arms by our SENDCo Mrs Taylor.

Join us at our next SEND coffee morning and become part of our supportive network!

KS4 and KS5 Inclusion Coffee morning on Friday 26 April at 9:30am-10:30am.

GOTTA SING AND GOTTA DANCE

Our students showcasing their exceptional talents.

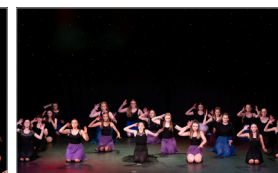
On Wednesday 28 February, our Hart School choir dazzled audiences at the annual Gotta Sing event, performed at Stafford Gatehouse Theatre. Closing the show, the Hart choir sang 'Oh My God you Guys' from Legally Blonde, leading on to 'Lean on Me,' 'What's This' and finishing with Stephen Sondheim's 'Sunday'. They made a fantastic sound, receiving many compliments from the audience. A big thank you to Mr Partridge for leading the project and accompanying the students.

On Monday 4 March, our KS3 and KS4/KS5 dance troupes represented the Hart school at the annual Gotta Dance event, Prince of Wales Cannock. A plethora of secondary schools and dance schools from across Staffordshire came together to present some extremely impressive pieces. The Hart school KS3 Dance club worked really hard in after school sessions to perform a dance to 'Wish you the Best' by Lewis Capaldi. This drew inspiration from the contemporary style, aiming to

convey emotions beautifully through gentle and fluid movements.

The KS4 and KS5 troupe presented a unique jazz piece inspired by the Peaky Blinders. A really impressive routine that incorporated influences from practitioners such as Bob Fosse and Jack Cole, including aspects of the Charleston and Commercial Dance.

A huge thank you to all students involved and Miss Thomas and Miss Davis for all their hard work on this project.



YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING

It was fantastic to see so many parents, carers and students attend our Year 9 Options Evening on Tuesday 19 March. Following the evening, students have had an assembly on how to choose their History/ Geography option and have been given their log in details to enable them to make their choices.

The deadline for options choices is Wednesday 10 April. Please make sure that choices are in on time so that we can allocate subjects to students. Students and parents will have confirmation of their subjects in May.



Upcoming Event

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 2 May 2024

Year 8 Parents Evening

Thursday 9 May 2024

Year 7 Parents Evening

Wednesday 19 June - Friday 21 June 2024

School Show Legally Blonde

Monday 15 July - Friday 19 July 2024

Year 10 Work Experience

BIKEABILITY



On Thursday 14 March, 17 Year 7 students completed the 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.

bikes so as to become more self-reliant and have a greater sense of independence and freedom. It gave them a greater understanding of the mechanics of their bikes and how to maintain their bikes to ensure they are roadworthy.

All students involved were a credit to the school and should be rightfully proud of their achievement.

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



NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

The 4 - 8 March was National Careers Week

The aim of National Careers Week is for students to understand, realise and fulfil their career goals. This is a national celebration of careers and helps to bring careers to the forefront of our minds.

participating in some hands-on engineering activities. We also saw some of our students learning how to use handcuffs with PCSO Chad who also came in to deliver a session about careers in the Police.

As part of National Careers Week, KS3 students had assemblies about careers and careers provision within school. Year 9 students also took part in a Careers Carousel, which was an exciting opportunity for them to meet and discuss different careers with external companies. Part of this involved a session with Ultra Maritime, where students thoroughly enjoyed

In addition, year 10 and 12 students have been on visits to universities which allowed them to consider academic routes for their future careers. For year 10 students, this was supported by an assembly from Miss Rowley, our careers advisor, who spoke to them about work experience.



LEGALLY BLONDE

Students are currently working extremely hard as an amazing team towards our annual school production 'Legally Blonde'.

This project is one of the highlights of our school calendar, and showcases just how dedicated, resilient and hard working our students are. Act 1 is completely blocked, with Act 2 our main focus after half term. Tickets will soon be on sale for the event of the year, available on parent

pay and via our reception. The show is Wednesday 19, Thursday 20 and Friday 21 June. You don't want to miss out! Big shout out to all students and staff involved for the big commitment they are making towards the school show.



LIFE AND SOUL DAY

Excellent opportunities for all students to extend their learning beyond the curriculum

Our Life and Soul Days 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.

Our Year 7 students visited Twycross Zoo. The aim of the visit is for students to enrich their learning, and this will also link to their science scheme of learning.

Our Year 8 students explored the religions and cultures of the world.

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 students to choose their options.

Year 10 students visited Staffordshire University to give students an introduction to higher education as well as it being an opportunity for students to experience campus life and an academic subject session.

Year 11 students worked with the external company

Humanutopia around motivation and confidence.

Our Year 12 students visited The University of Derby for a taste of student life.

Participating in a seminar, gain a tour of the campus and accommodation as well as being able to talk to the student reps.



ALUMNI PROJECT

I'm Cayla Sharratt a Hart School alumni and I had the pleasure of coming back to work with some of the performing arts students.

I came in every Friday after school time for 5 weeks to teach the students my own choreography ready for show day. Each rehearsal the students worked so hard to bring my creative vision to life. On Friday 1 March the students paid Liverpool Hope University a visit where they took part in workshops, university talks and experienced what it would be like to run a showcase of their own. The student's attitude throughout the day was exceptional, they dance with passion and showed support to all other participants. They represented the school to the highest standard.

On Friday 1 March, a selection of Hart students had a really exciting opportunity to perform in a university showcase.

The performance was part of Liverpool Hope university's third year dance students community showcase- 'Together We Dance'. Our Performing Arts student, Cayla Sharrett worked wonders with them, teaching her choreography every Friday after school. During the visit to Liverpool Hope university, students also took part in workshops, university talks & experienced what it would be like to run a showcase of their own.

The performance had energy, fun and vibrance, and they really represented the school beautifully. A big thank you to Cayla for providing our students with this fantastic opportunity. We wish her well in her next adventure, she will make a fantastic teacher.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

We have recently introduced sensory baskets into our classrooms

Sensory baskets offer a valuable tool for enriching the classroom environment and supporting the diverse sensory needs of students. By incorporating these baskets into classroom routines, the teachers can further develop inclusive learning environments where all students can thrive and succeed. Some of the benefits are as follows:

- Promoting calmness and regulation: sensory baskets provide students with a safe outlet for sensory exploration, helping them to regulate their emotions and reduce anxiety or stress levels.
- Supports attention and focus: By offering a variety

of sensory stimuli, these baskets can capture students' interest and maintain their engagement during lessons.

- Address diverse learning needs: sensory baskets cater to the diverse sensory preferences of students, accommodating individuals with sensory processing differences or sensory-seeking behaviours.
- Fostering inclusive learning environments: By acknowledging and accommodating sensory needs, classrooms become more inclusive spaces where all students feel valued and supported in their learning journey.

YOUNG CARER

Is your child a young carer?

A young carer is someone aged 25 and under who cares for a friend or family member who, due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction, cannot cope without their support. Older young carers are also known as young adult carers and they may have different support needs to younger carers.

A young carer may look after a parent or care for a brother or sister. They may do extra jobs in and around the home, such as cooking, cleaning or helping someone get dressed and move around.

A young carer may also give a lot of physical help to a

parent, brother or sister who's disabled or ill. Along with doing things to help siblings, they may be giving emotional support, to family as well.

If you think your child is a young carer please email youngcarers@hartschool.org.uk and we can discuss what supportive options we can offer to your child.

Alternatively there is a young carers drop in session, break 1 every Thursday – encourage your child to attend this.



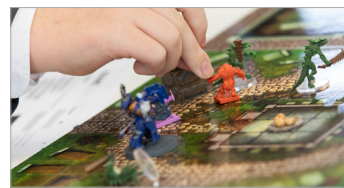
BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Embrace Extracurricular Activities at The Hart School

Participating in extracurricular activities goes beyond the classroom, offering our students wider opportunities to develop skills and to make new friends.

We are delighted to share that many of our extra curricular activities are free of charge. We believe that financial considerations should not be a barrier to engagement, and we are here to support families in any way we can. If your child has a particular interest but financial constraints pose a challenge, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's Head of Year. We are committed to assisting families by providing the necessary equipment and resources to ensure that every student can participate fully in their chosen activities.

Please do encourage your child to take advantage of the diverse extracurricular activities we offer. Whether it's sports, arts, STEM-related endeavors, or other areas of interest, there is something for everyone. We believe that these experiences will not only enhance their time at The Hart School but will also contribute to their personal and academic development.



Click here for the latest extra-curricular activities for next term

WORLD BOOK DAY

On March 7, the Hart School celebrated World Book Day with an array of exciting events and celebrations.

The whole school buzzed with excitement as staff embraced their favourite characters by dressing up, transforming the school into a wonderful display of many different books.

The SLT team donned iconic red-and-white stripes, channelling the elusive Where's Wally? Meanwhile, the Maths team transported themselves to the magical world of Harry Potter, wands at the ready, while the design team roared to life as Jurassic Park explorers.

The performing arts team embodied the whimsy of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, even committing to orange face paint as oompa loompas! Meanwhile, the Science team re-enacted Red Riding Hood, blending scientific curiosity with fairy tale intrigue. Also, the amazing Humanities staff wandered like characters from Alice in Wonderland, their steps echoing through Wonderland's

rabbit holes.

But that wasn't all! The SEND team assembled as The Avengers, each member a superhero championing inclusivity and support. And the English department? They chose a darker path, masquerading as literary villains. Lady Macbeth's ambition simmered, Captain Hook's hook gleamed, Cruella de Vil's fur coat swirled, and wicked witches cackled in the shadows.

Throughout the day, students

embarked on a thrilling World Book Day treasure hunt, following clues that led them to discover more about books and staffs' reading preferences. Furthermore, each period, students were read a tantalising slice of a mystery story, written exclusively by the talented Mrs. Humphries. The enigma of "Who Stole Rufus?" unfolded, and our student detectives put their sleuthing skills to the test. Fear not, though—no dogs were harmed in the making of the mystery story!

In their library lessons, students embarked on an adventure of a different kind: a book tasting activity. They sampled genres—mysteries, fantasies, romances, and more—savouring the flavours of different and new books. Some discovered new favourites, while others reaffirmed their love for old classics.

A huge thank you again to all of the staff and students for making World Book day 2024 a massive success! Until next year!



WELLBEING

As the seasons begins to change, the clocks go forward and we welcome spring, we want to focus on the importance of having time outside to improve our wellbeing.

Being physically active or having time outside with friends will boost our vitamin D levels which are important to keep bones, teeth and muscles healthy. We also know that Vitamin D can boost our mood by helping the brain to release serotonin and dopamine which are key to happiness, calmness and

focus, motivation and rewards.

Whilst our children are beginning to investigate the outside world, here are some tips to share with them to keep them safe:

- stay alert, and keep electronic devices turned down or off, so they can hear what's going on around them.

- stick to busy, well-lit roads, and avoid short cuts through alleyways.
- if your child thinks someone is following them, they should cross the road or go to a place with lots of people around, like a bus stop or shop.
- your child could carry a whistle or shrill alarm around their neck or on a key chain to warn off suspicious strangers.
- when travelling by bus, your child should try to use bus stops on busy roads.
- if someone tries to take something from your child,

tell them never to fight.

- tell them to keep mobile phones and other valuables out of sight, and to turn off their mobile phone ringer to avoid attracting attention.
- encourage your child to speak up if they are being bullied or feel they might be in danger.

