

# The Hart

## NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023 • ISSUE 1 • AUTUMN TERM ONE

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## Welcome back. We hope you had a restful half-term break

As we return to the hustle and bustle of school life, we would like to share with you some of the successes of the previous term, along with some key reminders as we look forward to another successful term ahead.

We hope you enjoy reading about some of the great opportunities and learning experiences on offer at The Hart School last term.

### Gentle reminders for the term ahead

#### Equipped and Ready to Learn

As we dive into the term, it's essential that all students are equipped and ready to learn, every lesson, every day. Please make sure your child has the necessary stationery they need for their lessons, this includes coming to school each day with a school bag. When students are well-prepared for their lessons, they are confident and excel.

#### Uniform Expectations

As we move towards Autumn 2, we kindly remind parents,

carers and students of the importance of wearing the school uniform correctly. Their uniform reflects our school identity but also instils a sense of pride and responsibility in our students. Please ensure that your child arrives at school in the appropriate uniform as required.

As a reminder, the grey Hart School jumper is an additional option to give an extra layer of warmth as we enter the colder months. Students are welcome to wear this jumper under their blazer if they wish. Hoodies are not permitted nor appropriate to wear as an alternative under a blazer. If students come to school in a hoodie this item of clothing will be confiscated. Please ensure your child has an appropriate warm coat as the weather turns colder.

To ensure our high expectations are upheld, uniform checks will take place upon our students' return. We have stock of uniform that can be loaned, should you require

any support, then please do contact your child's Head of Year.

#### Mobile Phones and Air Pods:

We would like to reiterate our school policy that no mobile phones should be seen or heard on the school premises during school hours. It is essential that students keep their mobile phones securely stowed away during class time. This policy is in place to minimise distractions, safeguard our students and ensure that learning remains the primary focus.

We kindly request your support in enforcing this policy with your child – as a reminder if a student is seen using their mobile phone or air pods they will be confiscated and stored safely. These can then be collected at the end of the school day, where there are repeat offenders, items will be kept until parents/carers collect directly from the school.

Once again, thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another successful term together.



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# WHITEMOOR LAKES

## Our Year 7 students started the term with a fantastic residential.

This October saw our first Year 7 Residential to Whitemoor Lakes in Alrewas, near Lichfield. It involved a two nights stay during which students had the opportunity to work as a team and make new friends as they undertook a range of activities from scrambling and swinging across an assault course to archery and rock climbing.

It was wonderful seeing students supporting each other as they tackled feats they thought they couldn't do when initially faced with the challenge. In the evening students were able to unwind by singing songs around the campfire and enjoying the amazing food on offer. A few comments from some of our students include 'I loved the

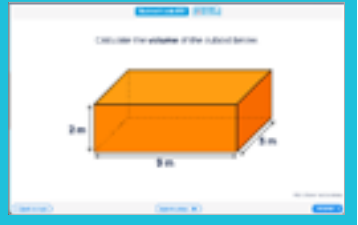
archery', 'I cannot believe I climbed to the top of the wall, my mum won't believe me when I tell her!', 'this has been the best trip ever' and 'I wish I could we could come here every year'.



# SPARX MATHS

Just a reminder that all students in Years 7 to 11 have a weekly Sparx Maths homework, which is set every Wednesday to Wednesday. Sparx Maths is a great platform for practicing key maths skills and supports your child's progress in Maths. If your child is struggling with their homework there are short videos on Sparxmaths they can watch to help which are attached to each question to make it easy to access.

There are even additional activities and tasks they can do independently if they want do more! They log in with their usual school Microsoft account.



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

## A positive start to the academic year is crucial in setting out 'the stall' for the months ahead.

Every day missed is five hours of learning and clawing this time back can be incredibly difficult.

We are working hard with our students to promote the importance of school attendance as this not only prepares for them for school but for later life.

Our staff will always support students in the event of absence,

with resources that allow them to catch up with their curriculum. However, this is never the same as a live lesson with your classroom teacher! Every lesson is a building block that solidifies the knowledge for our young people; therefore, when multiple lessons are missed, it easy for the blocks to fall down.

To encourage this positive view

of attendance, we are continually rewarding students for their efforts when coming into school. We have launched our monthly competitions, 'Freddo Friday', Attend2Spend and Harts Points; all strategies to promote regular attendance. In addition, students regularly plot their attendance during tutor time so they are able to see the progress they are making.



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# THINKING LIKE 'GEOGRAPHERS'

Last half term has seen potentially the most important element of our Geography discipline – field work.

Our Year 11 cohort had the opportunity to investigate enquiries for their Physical and Human elements of the course.

For half of the school day, we visited Sherbrook at Milford and investigated if the river fit the Bradshaw model – it was a great chance for some students to literally get stuck in! The second half of the day was to investigate land use in their local town - Rugeley which involved a wide range of skills. The students were able to consider in context

their local area and issues that may arise over time which are amazing skills for any potential avenue of career moving forward.

Thankfully, the weather took a positive turn which ensured we were able to enjoy the day and maximise the time we had. Our students were a credit to the school showing a keen interest in fieldwork, making the most of opportunities that were given to them and were a credit to The Hart School!



## SPARX READER

KS3 students are thriving with the Sparx Reader initiative. Every Wednesday, Sparx reader is due. Students are expected to dedicate about 30 minutes to thoughtful reading per week, achieving a minimum of 300 SRP. With an eclectic range of books at their fingertips to choose from, students can pick books that really interest them. Through answering questions, they can brilliantly showcase their comprehension skills and enhance their vocabulary via engaging games. The leaderboard's tight race is testament to the enthusiasm and commitment already shown by students. English teachers are so impressed by the unwavering dedication demonstrated already this term. Keep up the fantastic work!

## REWARDS UPDATE

A fantastic start to the year for our students

What a fantastic start to the academic year it has been for our students, it is lovely to see so many students going above and beyond to receive their Praise Post Cards and Positive Phone Calls home. 4000 Post Cards and 200 Positive Phone Calls have already been issued in a just a few weeks!

We have also seen a fantastic rise in the number of students completing their Hart Card's. This is an initiative that allows students to be celebrated for their community spirit. We recognise that their polite and kind manner is essential for their development.

Finally, please tune into our social media channels! Our students of the week are celebrated with their certificate and the 'I heard a Wispa..' that you've been amazing, strategy. It is so lovely to see so many happy faces on return to school this autumn.

### A NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER

PRIZES UP FOR  
GRABS:

- 1) SHOPPING VOUCHERS
- 2) FAMILY MEAL OUT
- 3) CINEMA TICKETS
- 4) GAMES VOUCHERS
- 5) SPORTS EQUIPMENT

PRIZE DRAW  
COMPETITION

**BE IN  
TO  
WIN!**



**100%**  
ATTEND EVERY DAY  
07<sup>TH</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

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# YEAR 11 UPDATE

**Year 11 have begun their most important school year brilliantly.**

We have been so impressed with their work ethic and motivation. Interventions are well underway and it's great to see so many students staying behind after school for targeted support in their subjects. It was also lovely to see so many parents and carers at both our Welcome to Year 11 Evening and our Y11 parents' evening where subject-specific feedback was given to help parents

support their child through their pre-public exams which commence on 20th November.

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers into school again on Wednesday 8 November where you will be able to participate in workshops with your child to help prepare them for their PPEs.

# LITERACY EVENING

**On 17 September, we hosted a Literacy Intervention Evening focused on students slated for additional literacy support.**

Families joined us to delve into the assessment process, gaining insights into the array of interventions that will be employed at school to support students in their reading. During the evening, we shared practical strategies parents can utilise at home to develop their child's reading capabilities.

The event was an immense success, and we are eagerly

looking forward to our next event - the Library Workshop (Monday 27th November), which will equip parents with tactics to aid their students in reading.

A heartfelt thanks to all who attended; the commitment our families show towards reading is truly commendable and we can't wait to see our students make progress in their reading.

# ADVENTUROUS ACTIVITIES

**Outdoor adventurous activities @The Hart**

Our Year 8 students thoroughly enjoyed their Outdoor Adventure enrichment days on the 9 and 10 October, at Standon Bowers Outdoor Education Centre.

By challenging our students the activities helped them to build confidence, develop communication skills and

learn skills for life whilst also inspiring them to respect nature and conserve the natural world.

They had the opportunity to take part in rock climbing, caving, the blind fold challenge, high ropes course and archery which fully developed their interpersonal skills. Whilst also promoting

collaboration, cooperation, decision making problem solving, perseverance and resilience.

It was an absolute delight to take such a fantastic group of students who were highly commended for their respect and resilience during the day.

Well done team Hart!!



## WELLBEING

We understand that getting back into a routine can be difficult – getting enough sleep is the key to our bodies and brains working at their best.

Here are some tips to help students get back into a sleep routine:

- Try to maintain a regular sleep pattern – similar time to bed and a similar time to wake up.
- Keep bedrooms calm and quiet spaces in the evenings – they shouldn't be too hot or too cold.
- Talk about sleep as a priority for the whole family – have clear limits and expectations for what time lights should be out.
- Turn down the back light on screens in the evening and put devices away at least an hour before bed.
- Do not charge phones in bedrooms overnight – leave them in another room to keep temptation at bay.

# LIFE AND SOUL DAY

**Thursday 26 October marked the first Life and Soul Day for this academic year.**

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 explored the theme of structure which will form our CET knowledge connected day. Students identified the parts and whole of a structure, and how they fit together; whether physical (e.g. a building) or intellectual (e.g. a story).

Our Year 8 students carried out a series of team building activities to recognise the importance of effective communication and the importance of inclusivity as well as recognising the value of creative thinking to overcome obstacles.

Year 9 students had the opportunity to visit the thinktank which is an award-winning science museum in Birmingham. The aim of the

visit is for students to enrich their learning, and this will also link to their science scheme of learning.

Year 10 students were introduced to work experience, which is calendared for the week

Year 11 met an English Literature senior examiner who lead targeted sessions on An Inspector Calls and unseen poetry.

Our Y12 students will be visited DE Montfort University 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. Whilst Year 13 got to grips with study skills with workshops from Higher Horizons.

All students also had the opportunity to visit the in-school careers fair where we had a variety of post 16 providers, universities, apprenticeship providers as well as employers.



# YEAR 13 UPDATE

## It's all systems go for our Year 13 students

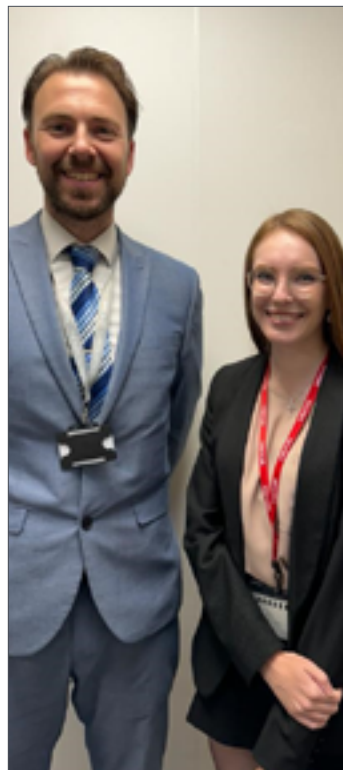
It's all systems go for our Year 13 students. Last month will see our first batch of students complete their UCAS applications for specific courses that require early applications but also for any student keen to get the offers from university as soon as possible. We encourage all students to make a university application as it can help to motivate students knowing that they have a destination in place ready for next September.

They are also working hard preparing for the important PPEs that will be taking place in November. These are a fantastic indicator of where students are at in their studies and allow us to focus on the area of support that

they will need prior to their final exams in June.

During Life and Soul Day we had a specific focus on Next Steps – planning for their futures after sixth form and study skills that will help to maximise students potential in upcoming examinations.

All sixth form students were treated to an assembly held by our former student and member of our Alumni, Anya Tregay. Anya is in her final year at Oxford University studying Law. She wanted to talk to students about the benefits of Higher Education and the opportunities she has had as a result, but also give advice on how to approach their current studies.



## ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are delighted to announce that a broad programme of clubs and enrichment opportunities will be available this upcoming term.

We would encourage students to try as many of these exciting opportunities as possible. Our extra-curricular offer changes each half term to allow for more opportunities.

After school clubs will finish at approximately 4.15pm. It is the students' responsibility to communicate with parents/carers and organise transport home.



# REGISTER AND READ

## Our Year 7 - 10 students have been immersed in our Register and Read programme during tutor time.

Students have ventured into the enchanting world of "Narnia," felt the mystery in "The Haunting of Aveline Jones," reflected on "The Diary of Anne Frank," and explored the poignant narrative of "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas" among other splendid reads.

Our students have showcased exceptional dedication to these sessions by accurately reading texts,

answering questions, making predictions, and diligently using bookmarks to track their reading. The Register and Read sessions not only offer a calming start to the day, but also broaden our students' horizons by immersing them in new worlds.

A huge well done to students for their excellent focus and wonderful engagement.

# YEAR 11 RESIDENTIAL

## On Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 October, 38 Year 11 students went on an overnight residential to Whitemoor Lakes

Students participated in a Gladiator Course (which was as challenging and frightening as it sounds!), abseiling and canoeing. Interspersed with the activities were targeted English and maths sessions to support students in their next set of PPEs. The students were beautifully behaved and did the school proud.

We are looking forward to further residential for our Y11 students and will be

letting students and their families know about these in due course.



# A SPOOKTACULAR EVENT

Over the Halloween weekend, Staff and students from the Hart school had a spooky old time entertaining over 200 guests at the Deer Park 'enchanted forest.'

The evil enchantress had put a curse on the wood in which the audience walked around, interacting with its inhabitants by knocking on the doors planted around the forest. The evil enchantress had stolen life from the forest for everlasting life and beauty.

This immersive performance saw our audience meet a wide range of 'naughty and nice' characters, where they had to collect objects to break the curse and restore nature forever more.

Linked to the Deer Park's national forest project, the piece aimed to not only provide a bit of Halloween fun for the children, but educate

them on the importance of preserving nature and protecting our trees and forests.

This was yet again a wonderful experience for our students, who got to enhance their acting skills and work professionally with a company responding to a brief.

We can't wait to work with the Deer Park again next year. A big shout out to all 50 students and staff who were involved and represented the school in such a professional and wonderful manner.

You are all a credit to The Hart!



THE HART SCHOOL  
**CHRISTMAS FAYRE**  
 WEDNESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER  
 5:00 - 7:30pm In the Hall  
 THIS YEAR WE WELCOME BACK ONE OF THE BIGGEST LOCAL FESTIVE EVENTS!  
 Get involved with your local HIGH SCHOOL & BUSINESSES  
 A range of stalls accepting card/cash payments  
 HOT BEVERAGES, MINCE PIES APLENTY!  
 FREE ENTRY  
**ALL WELCOME**  
 FOR MORE INFO OR TO HOST A STALL (E12)  
 PLEASE EMAIL - [pfifa@hartschool.org.uk](mailto:pfifa@hartschool.org.uk)

**CALLING ALL FORMER STUDENTS**  
 DID YOU ATTEND FAIR OAK, HAGLEY PARK, RUGELEY ACADEMIES OR THE HART SCHOOL  
**WE NEED YOU**  
 JOIN THE ALUMNI AND CREATE A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK  
**JOIN THE ALUMNI HERE**  
 for more information email: [alumni@hartschool.org.uk](mailto:alumni@hartschool.org.uk)

**HART SCHOOL**  
 Library Workshop  
 4:30-5:30  
 27TH NOVEMBER  
 Join us for a special workshop about strategies to support your child with reading  
 Book now via the link

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