

The Hart

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024 • ISSUE 3 • SPRING TERM ONE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Enhancements to Our School Website Based on Parental Feedback

We are delighted to share an exciting development that has been made based on your valuable feedback – our new and improved school website!

Your input and suggestions that we have received has been really useful in the construction of our new site. Over the past few months, our dedicated IT team has been hard at work streamlining information and enhancing the overall user experience.

The upcoming changes focus on providing a more user-friendly platform, with streamlined information that will significantly improve the navigation of the website to key information. We've carefully considered the feedback received from parents, ensuring that the new website reflects your needs and expectations. This update aims to make finding essential information quicker.

Our goal is to create a website that not only meets your expectations but also serves

as a comprehensive resource for all your enquiries.

I am delighted to share that our new and improved website is set to go live after the February half-term. While this is an exciting development, we kindly ask for your understanding that existing links in previous communications may expire. However, please rest assured that all key information can be easily accessed on our new website.

We are confident that these enhancements will contribute to a more efficient and informative online experience for everyone. Your ongoing support and collaboration are invaluable, and we look forward to providing you with an enriched digital platform that reflects the excellence of our school.

Once again thank you for your valuable feedback in helping us to improve our communication to parents.

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



WE CAN • WE WILL • WE DO

A DAY OF ALL THINGS PATTERN

Dedicated day for the CET Knowledge Connected Programme

This week our Year 7 and Year 8 students received specialised lessons dedicated to the CET Knowledge Connected programme. This time, students investigated how pattern is present within the world around us, and in our subjects we study.

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.

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. A great two days of creative, hands on learning that has started to create pathways and connections for linking their knowledge all together.



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

Attendance, looking forward to February, we have not one, but two exciting challenges for our students!

First up is the "Principal's Valentine's Challenge" from 1st to 9th February. This will coincide with our monthly attendance challenge called "Fabulous February".

We want to continue to work with families to encourage students to maintain and build upon the positive attendance trends we've seen as well as increasing their chances to win some fabulous prizes, including an iPad, Bike, high street vouchers and even

cinema tickets for themselves and friends.

Remember, students need to be in to win, so let's continue to work together to support all children attending school on a regular basis, thanks to parents and carers in advance and if you would like any support from the school then please don't hesitate to contact our attendance team via attendance@hartschool.org.uk.



REWARDS

A positive start to the Spring term

We have had a fantastic start to the term with 10,000 positive points being issued every week! Students can be celebrated each week with each staff member having five praise post cards and two positive phone calls up for grabs.

The students with the most positive incidents this term are recognised below, well done!



Top students per Year Group

Year 7

Viktoria S
Charlie C
Esme H
Rhys W
Ethan B

Year 8

Scarlett H
Eleanor B
Riley B
Jack R
Bailey C

Year 9

Jacob D
Hannah S

Isabella W
Harley P
Leah S

Year 10

Alfie C
William A
Nifemi I
Iona-Rae B
Bailey G

Year 11

Cally J
William B
Tawanashe G
Jada S
Lilly H

POINTS MEAN PRIZES

We are delighted to share that our new rewards programme "Points Mean Prizes" in Year 11 is having a positive impact on the students.

This is recognising and celebrating pupils efforts and commitments to their studies. Their commitment to period zero and six is commendable, and it seems like students are actively participating in the programme.

As a reminder, there are additional incentives, such as gaining two points each day plus a free breakfast by joining us in the canteen from 8 am.

We will be continuing to communicate weekly to students the benefits and success stories of this programme during assemblies. On return to school after the February half term, Year 11 will begin their

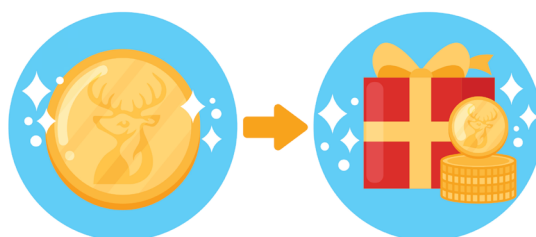
final set of PPEs. We would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support in encouraging your child to attend our period 6 sessions as we are seeing over 70% of students attending the core sessions

every week.

Let's continue to maintain a supportive and encouraging atmosphere to keep the momentum going.

#welldoneyear11

POINTS MEAN PRIZES



YEAR 9 OPTIONS PROCESS

The spring term in year 9 is the time to start thinking about your child's GCSE and vocational choices at Key Stage 4. To support you and your child in making your decisions, we will be holding our Year 9 Options Evening on Tuesday 19 March 2024. Further information, including timings, will be sent out in due course.

Over the next few weeks, we will be providing students and parents with lots of information and support on the GCSE options process to enable you to support your child with these important decisions.

We look forward to welcoming parents and students at this important event to support your child's educational journey.

COMMUNITY DANCE PROJECT & AFTERNOON TEA

Thank you to members of our community for supporting our students.

We were delighted to host over 20 members of our community last week, extending a warm welcome as they joined us for an afternoon tea. The highlight of the event was witnessing our Key Stage 5 students showcasing their exceptional talent through the Community Dance Project, a significant component of their BTEC coursework unit.

The project, centered around the theme of Rugeley eras spanning from WW2 to the

miners and present day, not only showcased the creativity and dedication of our students but also provided a unique perspective on our local history. We look forward to more opportunities to bring our community together through such enriching experiences.

We are thrilled to have received positive feedback from our community members which will support our students in the write up of this project – thanks for joining us!



LILY IS THE BEST IN THE DISTRICT

Year 7 student Lily C has come second in the Staffordshire schools county cross country championships last Saturday representing The Hart School and Cannock District brilliantly.

Lily was the highest placed girl for Cannock District in her race. Well done!



YEAR 11 UPDATE

A reminder that our final Year 11 PPE Examinations begin after the half term break.

Students 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.

AM: 9:00 – 11:30am PM: 12:30 – 3:00pm

Day	Subject	Foci	Teacher	Room
Monday 12 February	AM English	Walking Talking Mock	Impress the Examiner	TBC
	PM English	Walking Talking Mock	Impress the Examiner	TBC
Tuesday 13 February	AM Maths	Walking Talking Mock (Target 4+)	Impress the Examiner	TBC
	PM Maths	Walking Talking Mock (Target 5+)	Impress the Examiner	TBC
Wednesday 14 February	AM Geography	Walking Talking Mock (Target 3/4)	Impress the Examiner	TBC
	PM Geography	Walking Talking Mock (Target 3+)	Impress the Examiner	TBC
	GCSE Photography	Coursework completion	Mrs Dawson	F21
Thursday 15 February	Science	Foundation – A02 Skills	Miss Crofts	C26
	Science - Triple	Revision	Mr Underwood Jones	C21
	GCSE Photography	Coursework completion – Growth, decay, and texture	Mrs Cooper	F02
	History	Crime and Punishment Anglo Saxons and Normans	Mrs Jenkins and Miss Oldham	D27 and D29
	Design	NEA Practical Work	Mrs Dimmock	F03 / F04 / F05
	Science	Higher – A02 and A03 Skills	Miss Crofts	C26
	PM Design	NEA Practical Work	Mrs Dimmock	F03 / F04 / F05

CHILDRENS MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week 2024 will take place from 5-11 February 2024.

This year's theme is 'My Voice Matters'. During Children's Mental Health week, we want all children to believe 'My Voice Matters'.

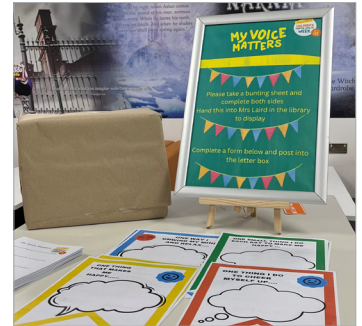
'My Voice Matters' is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. When children feel empowered it has a positive impact on their wellbeing. Children and young people who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community

and self-esteem. We want all our students to be empowered to create a positive change for their mental health and wellbeing. 'My Voice Matters' also highlights the need for us to use our voices to create the changes we want to see in society. We can use our voice to make a big difference in the world we live, but equally we can all make a difference in small, everyday ways.

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, the theme of being a 'bystander' will be

explored and how we, as a community, can use our voice to represent those who may have previously been marginalised or silenced.

We have several activities occurring in school to celebrate Children's Mental Health week and to encourage and help children understand how to use their voice to express themselves. These include an assembly, activities in the library, focussed register and read sessions and student voice surveys.



NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

Monday 5 February marked the start of National Apprenticeship Week.

National Apprenticeship Week is an annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships, and anyone involved with them. It runs from Monday 5 February to Sunday 11 February 2024. There have been a wide range of activities to partake in to show how positive and exciting apprenticeships are as an option, and to showcase the wide range of employers, apprenticeships, and their success stories.

Students were delivered an assembly by Careers Lead, Kyra Caulfield, and Pippa Weavell from South Staffordshire College, to explain what apprenticeships are and what South

Staffordshire College have to offer. There have also been lots of exciting things for you to access through our Facebook page.

But – what are Apprenticeships?

As an apprentice, young people will be working and learning at the same time. Meaning, they are getting paid, and receive paid time to learn too. Apprenticeships typically involve working for at least 30 hours a week, but some apprenticeships are full time, working 37-40 hours a week.

The learning element of an apprenticeship is really important, apprentices get

an equivalent of six hours of learning time per week, but this can be in various forms; a day a week, a few days a month, altogether at the beginning of the first year, online, in person, in the workplace, or with an external training provider.

Apprentices have contracts with their employer, they will be entitled to holiday pay and potentially any other benefits the company offers too. An apprenticeship is a real job. But apprentices have no fees to pay. Instead, apprentices are paid to learn.

The range of apprenticeships available is incredible, there are now around 700

apprenticeships available, ranging from accountant to zookeeper.

The levels of apprenticeships go all the way from level 2 which is the intermediate apprenticeship level, all the way through to level 7, which is equivalent to a master's level. Apprenticeships are advertised in various places, a great place to start is Find an Apprenticeship, a government website with more than 20,000 live jobs with employers across the country.

If you have any questions about apprenticeships, make sure to speak to someone on the careers team in school.

SKI TRIP

Embarking on an Alpine Adventure!

As we plan for The Hart School Ski Trip to Artesina, Italy, which is set to take place this February, our dedicated students and staff have been preparing for this Alpine escapade by regularly hitting the ski slopes at the Snow Dome in Tamworth, honing their skiing skills in anticipation of the upcoming trip. Their commitment is commendable, showcasing a passion for learning and a determination to make the most of this unique experience.

We are proud to support and facilitate such enriching experiences and we are confident that the skills honed at the Snow Dome will translate into a memorable and successful adventure in Artesina.

Stay tuned for updates, pictures, and stories from the trip live on our Facebook page in February as we share the joy and excitement. Here's to a fantastic ski trip!



EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE

An Exciting Theatre Experience for Year 10 and 12 Performing Arts Students!

In late January, our Year 10 and 12 Performing Arts students had the incredible opportunity to attend the musical "Everybody's Talking About Jamie" at The Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton.

the creativity, talent, and production elements that make musical theatre such a captivating art form.



This outing served a dual purpose – not only will it be a delightful and immersive experience for our students to enjoy a fascinating musical production, but it will also contribute and inspire our students as they progress in their BTEC Tech course.

Experiencing live theatre is a valuable component of our Performing Arts curriculum, providing students with first hand exposure to

SOMETHING ABOUT MARCUS

This term we welcomed into school external providers called 'Loud Mouth' to deliver workshops on child exploitation to Year 8 students.

Our students were exceptional and mature in their engagement and this is a testament to their willingness to understand and address these critical topics.

about our students and did acknowledge their maturity and engagement in each session. Not only is this a positive reflection on them, but also reinforces the importance of including such topics in the school curriculum, so well-done year 8.

Trained actors used workshops to raise awareness of child exploitation, including issues like Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Criminal Exploitation such as County Lines. The workshops helped students to understand the realities and consequences of these issues by providing useful insights into real experiences of those affected by child exploitation. In addition, it also aided students to gain a better understanding of the signs of grooming.

Our visitors were very positive



SCHOOL SHOW

Excitement is in the air as we eagerly announce our much-anticipated Summer School Production - "Legally Blonde"!

Auditions are well underway, and the energy within our talented cast is nothing short of electric. The rehearsals are progressing seamlessly, and we can't wait to unveil the exceptional standard that our dedicated staff and students are tirelessly working towards.

We are confident that this year's production will not only entertain but also showcase the incredible artistic capabilities of our students.

So, watch this space! We will keep you updated on the progress, sneak peeks, and behind-the-scenes glimpses as we count down to the grand performance that is scheduled to take place in June, so don't forget to save the date!



SAFER INTERNET DAY

As we embrace the digital age, it is essential to prioritise the safety and well-being of everyone navigating the vast landscape of the internet.

This year's theme resonates deeply with the evolving nature of online spaces: "Inspiring Change? Making a Difference, Managing Influence, and Navigating Change Online."

Our lives now revolve on the internet, which provides countless chances for self-expression, learning, and connection. But these advantages often come with difficulties, so Safer Internet Day invited us to consider how we may effectively traverse the ever-changing online landscape, manage influence, and bring about constructive change.

Making the internet a safer and more welcoming place is something that parents, teachers, and students can all help with. It begins with small

steps, such as encouraging compassion and kindness in online exchanges and denouncing and reporting instances of cyberbullying. Little deeds can go a long way towards creating a supportive and respectful atmosphere.

The digital world is always changing, and so it is important to remain aware and watchful when it comes to social media platforms and emerging technologies. Being aware of how our online behaviour affects us as well as other people is another aspect of embracing change. Understanding the effects of our online presence and making constructive contributions to online communities are key components of responsible digital citizenship.

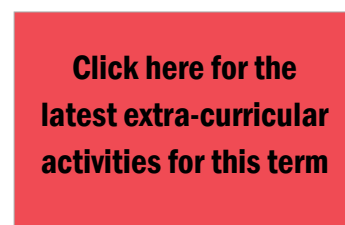
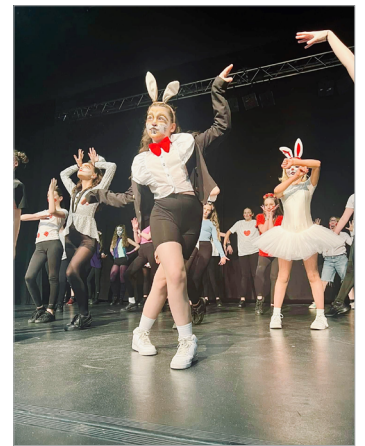
BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

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.



CELEBRATING QUALITY FIRST TEACHING

Empowering Your Child's Learning Journey

During this academic year, we have made a huge commitment to ensuring that we have Quality First Teaching in every lesson of every day. We are excited to share with you the positive impact of Quality First Teaching in our classrooms. This approach has been instrumental in shaping a dynamic and effective learning environment for your children.

Quality First Teaching is more than just a methodology; it is a commitment to providing the best possible education for every student. At The Hart School we prioritise this approach to ensure that each child receives a high-quality and inclusive learning experience.

Our teachers employ diverse teaching strategies to meet the individual needs of all

students, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment. They recognise that every student is unique, teachers tailor their instruction to address various learning styles and abilities, promoting a personalised learning experience. Teachers' regularly assess student progress and use data to inform their instructional practices. This ensures that lessons are continually adapted to meet the evolving needs of our students. Quality First Teaching emphasises collaboration among all stakeholders in our school. Teachers and TA's work together to share best practices, discuss student progress, and refine their instructional techniques.

So, how does Quality First Teaching benefit your child?

Quality First Teaching creates a positive and engaging atmosphere in the classroom, fostering a love for learning and encouraging active student participation. By identifying and addressing challenges early on, we ensure that your child receives the necessary support to excel academically. This approach promotes equity, ensuring that every student, regardless of their background, receives an equal opportunity to succeed.

At The Hart School we believe in the power of a collaborative partnership between school and home. As parents, your involvement is invaluable.

Here's how you can support Quality First Teaching:

1. Stay connected with your child's teachers. Share insights about your child's strengths

and areas for growth, helping us tailor instruction to their needs.

2. Encourage a Love for Learning: Foster a positive attitude towards education at home. Encourage curiosity, critical thinking, a passion for exploration and most important encourage your child to read.

3. Celebrate Progress: Acknowledge and celebrate your child's achievements, no matter how big or small. Positive reinforcement at home complements the positive reinforcement they receive in the classroom.

Together, we are shaping a learning environment where each child can thrive and reach their full potential.

METAMORPHIS

A visit to the theatre for Year 12 students

On Thursday 25th January, our A-Level Drama students had the exciting opportunity to see the work of one of our studied Theatre practitioners, Frantic Assembly. For their A-level course, students have to study live pieces of theatre for their component one exam. Frantic Assembly's newest piece of work has adapted a classic Kafka novel turned Berkoff play into a new adaptation using physical theatre. The production was very visually exciting, providing the students with lots of things to talk about in their year 13 exam. The piece was very thought-provoking, watching the protagonist (who once was the sole provider for his family) slowly turn into an

insect. He is then no longer use to them, becoming a nuisance. 'It depicts the idea of the human struggling within a system that is designed to crush them under it's heel.'



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.

