

The Hart

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023 • ISSUE 2 • AUTUMN TERM TWO

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year

It seems incredible that we are at the end of 2023! As this first term draws to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all staff and parents / carers for their incredible hard work this term in ensuring that our students are thriving, we've achieved a great deal, and your efforts have made this term a resounding success.

In the New Year we will continue to build our partnerships with the local community. We will be also looking to develop our curriculum, our pedagogy and ensure the very best outcomes for our students across all Key Stages.

In the next half-term we are looking forward to:
Year 11 and 12 Parents' Evening - where we will delve into the progress data provided by the mock data with parents and carers.

Sixth Form Open Evening - on Thursday 25 January where year 11 students will get to see of offer for level 3 qualifications on offer at our expanding sixth form.

Year 9 Options Process - when our Year 9 students will get a first glimpse of their choices that are available to them in Year 10 and 11. We will be working together with students and their parents/carers to make an informed decision on GCSE options.

Key Stage 3 Assessments - students will be preparing and commencing for their subject assessments.

A few more thoughts
The autumn term is always the longest and hardest for students. The dark and cold evenings really test our resilience. It is important that students rest, relax and enjoy the opportunity to unwind, so that they come back feeling refreshed and ready to learn. Attendance at school is vital, and I look forward to seeing our students again by 8:30am

promptly on Tuesday 9 January 2024.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

Miss Sandham



WE CAN • WE WILL • WE DO

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

It was fantastic to see so many students enjoying all the books.

Thank you to all who attended our Scholastic Book Fair during the last week of November. It was amazing to see so many students and their families enjoying all of the books on offer. We sold an amazing £656.51 worth of books, which has earned our school £262.60 worth of commission to spend on books.

We look forward to working together with our student librarians in the New Year to decide how to spend this money.

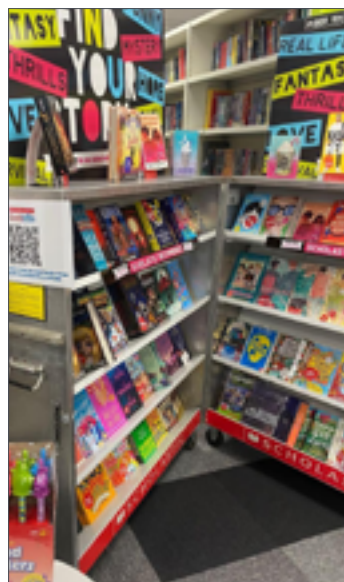
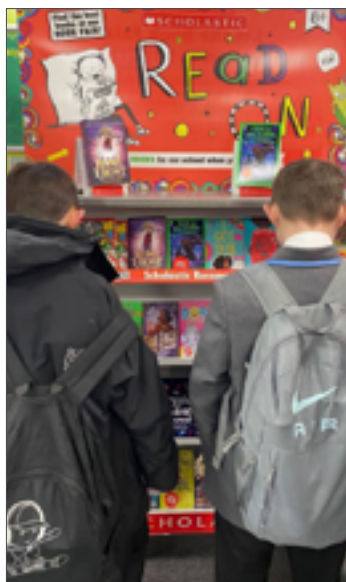
During the run up to the Book Fair, we held a Spooky short story writing competition in the library with 5 lucky winners who each won vouchers to spend at the Book Fair.

A huge well done to Robyn F 10E, Jessica A 7F, Kyle S

8A, Liarna F 7A, Mathew D 10D - we hope you enjoy your purchases!

November in the Library also saw our event for World Kindness Day. We invited the students to nominate another student to win a £15.00 book voucher. The students could

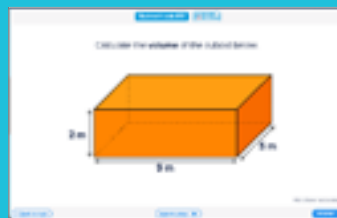
write their kindness messages onto bunting which was then displayed around the Library. A winner was selected at random - Gabby W - 9D She was nominated by Libby W 9F because 'they're an amazing friend who loves reading books!' Well done, Gabby.



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 to do more! They log in with their usual school Microsoft account.



REWARDS UPDATE

Students are thriving on the culture of high expectations

Wow! What a term. So many of our students have been recognised for their achievements in Autumn 2023 and walking out of our school gates with their heads held high. We listened to our student voice back in the summer of 2023 to ensure students felt valued with our rewards scheme.

As a result, we launched a competitive programme of Praise Post Cards and Positive Phone

Calls Home, with all of our staff only having a limited number to issue each week. Students are thriving on the culture of high expectations as students know they have to go above and beyond to get this reward.

In addition, we have recently conducted two successful evenings celebrating rewards for achievement in subject areas and for students consistently demonstrating our Hart School

values. So many of our students have been nominated by their subject teachers for being fantastic ambassadors for their subject. We can, we will, we do!



WE CAN • WE WILL • WE DO

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Thank you to all of our parents and carers for their ongoing commitment to ensure positive attendance to school.

Following student voice, our students thrive on a culture of positive praise therefore we are doing all we can to celebrate positive attendance and reward children for their hard work.

We have seen our attendance rise during half term 2 in comparison to half term 1 and that is down to you and our wonderful students recognizing the importance of their education.

This term students are being celebrated through the 12 days of Christmas programme

and the Principal even set her own attendance challenge on the last week of term! All students had to do was attend school and they would be rewarded for their continued hard work right up until the last day of term!

Moving forwards into the spring term, we ask for your support to continue driving positive attendance as this has a significant impact on your child's outcomes. We are reinforcing this here in school and driving forward the initiative of **#attendancematters**

Ms Sandham's 5 Day Challenge is a brand new mountain bike courtesy of [Rugeley Bicycle Repairs](#). We want to thank them for their kind donation.



LITERACY WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

This half term, we have had the pleasure of hosting our very first library workshop for parents.

The workshop was designed to support parents in how to ask their children open-ended questions that promote critical thinking and a deeper understanding of what they have read.

The workshop included interactive activities that helped parents practice their questioning skills with their children, whilst also allowing our students to show off some of their Hart Habits, using mini whiteboards to answer questions. By the end of the workshop, the students and parents spent some quality time together engaging in meaningful conversation about reading

and the library. We know that the parents involved left the workshop feeling empowered and confident in their ability to help their children delve deeper into the world of reading.

Every child had their own goody bag to take home with a book and reading related goodies to continue their learning at home. All in all, it was a wonderful evening had by all involved.



HE'S BEHIND YOU

This term the school were lucky to be provided with a fantastic opportunity for a number of students to visit the theatre.

Students were selected at random to ensure a fair process and a selection of Year 7 and 8 students watched the pantomime at the Rugeley Rose.

It was great for students to see such a fantastic production in our local community.



THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

We were delighted to take part in this year's annual Shakespeare Festival this term

The event took place at one of our sister academies, Abbeyfield School in Northampton which was staged over two days in November.

Students at The Hart School co-created with HMDT Music in 2014 and the Creative Education Trust engaging with the language of the Bard.

Students performed in a 30-minute production directed by our school staff and designed by the cast. It was a fantastic opportunity to be involved with almost 300 pupils participating in the project, with 170 of those taking to the stage across two days.



OH CHRISTMAS TREE

The Hart School joined in the festive fun at St Michael's Church Christmas Tree Festival. The theme of our tree was 'Nutcracker'.

This was one of many wonderful trees on display. Please do go and see all of the festive trees at the church.



THE ROBOTIC HART

This is a new Robotics club with students working in partnership with First Tech Challenge UK programme.

This term, our team began designing and building an epic robot to compete in the regional and national championships.

Participating in FIRST Tech Challenge won't just teach students how to build and code a robot, it will teach students valuable team building, problem solving, project management and communication skills. It will also provide students with opportunities to learn about careers, earn awards and travel to new places.

On the 6th December 2023, the Team got the opportunity to do just that when they attended the first scrimmage event on the calendar, held at

Aston University Engineering Academy in Birmingham.

This event provided pupils with the opportunity to meet other teams taking part in the competition, test robots on the circuit and start building their robots. Team Robotic Hart decided to use this event

to make a start on building their robot. All students were eager to get started and worked very well together on different tasks. This was overseen by their Project manager Cameron Milligan, who assigned roles to each team member.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

We are so excited to tell you about the fantastic success of the Hart School Christmas Fayre this year!

It was absolutely one for the books and we eagerly anticipate another incredible celebration of Christmas next year, so mark your calendars folks!

The Fayre was held in the Hart School Hall and was fantastically filled with numerous local vendors that spread the Christmas cheer. It was a truly magical event, filled with twinkling lights, festive decorations and the sweet smell of hot chocolate and mince pies filling the air!

One of the highlights of the Fayre was the PTA run food and refreshment stall that stocked luxury hot chocolates, mince pies and a wide array of other tid bits accompanied by the warm welcoming environment that we strived to

provide for our community. But it was not just about the food and drink. The Fayre also featured a variety of fun activities and entertainment for all ages. There was face painting for the youngsters, a live performance from our very own school choir and some amazing DIY decoration and food making stalls provided by the PTA! But we would like to give special mention to the amazing, local small businesses and vendors that came and filled our hall with some festive cheer with the items that they displayed for selling.

The best part about it all was seeing family, friends and the Rugeley community come together to enjoy the wonderful festivities and the

warm, joyful atmosphere that emanated from the school. The success of the Hart School Christmas Fayre would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication that the organisers, volunteers and everyone involved. Their commitment to creating a memorable and enjoyable

experience for everyone truly paid off.

Thank you to all that came and supported, we hope to see you next year for another marvellous, merry Christmas Fayre!

Written by Wren Crozier - Head of School and the Sixth-form School Council.



ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS

Recently, students at The Hart School have been obtaining even more badges towards the recognition of The Diana Award

Freya Smales, Amelie Howell, and Charleigh-Grace Hill have been delivering assemblies to all year groups about the importance for being kind!

In Summer 2023, we acquired our Anti-Bullying Badge and within six months we have obtained our well-being badge! The Well-being Badge represents the importance of looking after our own mental health. Students have the chance on Fridays to drop in and declare any concerns

or feelings that are affecting them and their school life. As we know Research has proven time and time again that the links between social and mental well-being and academic outcomes. Doesn't this truly demonstrate the compassion our students have towards making a difference?

Furthermore, we have been improving the wider picture of Anti-Bullying across the entire school; Staff members have

demonstrated their colourful socks as a symbol of calling it out. We have also had several students provide their voice on what needs to change via our 'booth' in the library.



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.



WE CAN • WE WILL • WE DO

CAREERS AT THE HART

At the Hart School we implement many different opportunities for students to explore careers and future opportunities.

This is through the PSHE programme, Life and Soul days, assemblies and during tutor time.

This term, students have been exploring different careers once a week in tutor time by looking at a 'Career of the Week'. Examples include: Chocolatier; Translator; Painter and Decorator; Divers; Sports Referee. Within the Career of the week students learn about what these job roles do, what qualifications are needed, what this career entails day to day, and what the annual salary is.

During the last two weeks of this term, students in year 7 have been partaking in the Future Skills Questionnaire. This will ask students to reflect on their careers knowledge and skills, and will help the Careers and Enterprise Company to compare responses across the country. This will help to inform careers provision for young people across the country. This will also help to shape our careers provision here at the Hart school. Next half term, this will be rolled out to other year groups to

allow those students to have their input and say into the careers programme.

Labour Market Information (LMI) gives us information on the jobs and skills employers are seeking, what vacancies there are available, what education and training you need for specific jobs, and which job areas are growing in the future. This information can be used to make decisions on which career pathways you choose and how to enter them.

You can find lots of LMI

information for our area here: <https://stokestaffscareers.wixsite.com/stokestaffslmi>

You can also use the Careerometer to compare different jobs in terms of salary, working hours, etc. You can access this here: <https://careerpilot.org.uk/information/careerometer>

If you have any queries regarding careers, or would like to get involved, please contact our careers leader at kyra.caulfield@hartschool.org.uk

STEP INTO CHRISTMAS

A spectacular Christmas light switch-on that transformed the town into a winter wonderland.

One of the highlights of the evening was the enchanting touch of fake snow that gently blanketed the crowd, creating a whimsical atmosphere reminiscent of a classic Christmas scene. Laughter and joy filled the air as children and adults alike revelled in the magical moment, catching snowflakes on their hands and sharing the simple pleasures of the season.

The Christmas light switch-on in Rugeley, featuring the magical performances by the Hart School Choir, proved to be more than just an event; it was a communal celebration that brought people together

to share in the joy and magic of the holidays. As the lights illuminated the town square, and the choir's melodies echoed through the air, Rugeley became a beacon of festive spirit, creating cherished memories for all who attended.



Earn £900

Paid Teaching Internships

at Creative Education Trust

- Have you ever thought about a career teaching Maths, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science or Languages?
- Are you currently studying for an under-grad degree in one of these subjects?
- Would you like to earn £300 a week on a 3-week paid teaching internship?

We offer 3-week paid teaching internships, 24 June - 12 July 2024, in Great Yarmouth, Rugeley, Stoke-on-Trent, Milton Keynes, Nottingham, Coventry, and Wellingborough.

Find out more and apply:
www.creativeeducationtrust.org.uk/internship

WELLBEING & DEVICES

Christmas and the break from school gives children time to relax and spend time with family and friends. They can also test out the new technology that they have received.

Each Christmas there is a huge increase of sales of all types of electronic devices, especially smart phones, and it is important to ensure that you, and your child, are safe when playing with the new pieces of kit. To help keep children safe please see the tips below:

Learn your way around: Most devices have controls to ensure that children cannot access content that you do not want them to. Switch off

'in app' purchases to avoid any additional bills that this may cause.

Tablets: Tablets are really popular. As you begin to use a tablet, start slowly and only download games and apps you have checked out carefully (sites such as www.net-aware.org.uk, or www.common sense media.org provide useful advice!) and steer them towards age targeted content such as www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/cbeebies/features/

iplayer-kids or YouTube Kids.

Mobile Devices: Think about setting clear boundaries and ground rules, for example agree a time limit or specific amount of games that can be played beforehand. This will hopefully avoid disagreements. Keep devices out of bedrooms to avoid night time interruptions and encourage sleep. Ask them to share access to their phone for you to monitor. You can set parenting controls on your

wifi to block certain content or limit the time they spend online or gaming.

Gaming: There are so many gaming consoles around it is likely that your child has access to one and whatever the console, there is something for everyone and every age. Consider whether your child is mature enough to join an online gaming community and whether the games they are playing are age appropriate.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Supporting Rugeley food bank.

We would like to thank all students, parents and carers that supported Christmas Jumper Day and made a donation to the Rugeley Foodbank.

Your generous donations will make a big difference to our local community.

Everyone who goes to the foodbank for emergency food needs to have a valid foodbank voucher or referral code from one of the partner organisations. Contact the foodbank for more details.



The 12 Online Safety Tips of Christmas FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

Christmas is almost upon us once again, and even some lucky children will be excitedly tearing the wrapping off a new mobile phone, tablet or games console. For some of them, it will be the first time they've owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore - and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of. We've put together our top tips so that you can guide your young ones in enjoying their new digital gifts safely and responsibly throughout the year to come. Merry Christmas!

- 1. ALWAYS SET A PASSWORD**
If your child has a new device, make sure they have a strong password. It should be something that's easy for them to remember but hard for others to guess. (It should not be their name, a date of birth, or a common word.)
- 2. SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'**
This really is an essential when your child gets a new device, as it helps you control what they can do on the device. Most devices have parental controls built in, so you can set up a PIN or password that only you know. You can also set up filters to block out inappropriate content.
- 3. PAY ATTENTION TO AGE RATINGS**
One of the first things children need to do with a new device is to check the age rating. This tells you what kind of games and apps are suitable for your child's age. It's important to check the age rating before you download anything, as some games and apps are not suitable for younger children.
- 4. KEEP NUMBERS AND DEVICES PRIVATE**
Make sure your child understands that their phone number and device ID are private information. They should never share this information with anyone, especially if they are asked to do so by someone they don't know.
- 5. HAVE THE MONEY CONVERSATION**
Before your child starts using their new device, have a conversation about money. Explain that they should never give out their card details or make purchases without your permission.
- 6. DISCOURAGE DEPENDENCY**
Encourage children to have fun with their new device, but also remind them that it's not a toy. It's a tool that can be used to learn, create, and connect with others. Encourage them to take breaks and spend time doing other activities.
- 7. EXPLAIN SECURE WIFI NETWORKS**
Your home Wi-Fi is protected by a password that only you and your family know. Explain to your child that they should never connect to a public Wi-Fi network, especially if they are asked to do so by someone they don't know.
- 8. LIMIT SCREEN TIME**
Using a device for too long, especially just before bed, can interfere with your child's sleep. Set a limit on how long they can use their device each day.
- 9. ONLY PAIR WITH KNOWN BLUETOOTH DEVICES**
Your child may want to connect to another device, such as a smartwatch or a pair of wireless headphones. Explain that they should only connect to devices they know and trust.
- 10. TURN LOCATION SETTINGS OFF**
It's better to disable the device's location services. If it's a public device, or your child doesn't have a good understanding of what location services do, it's best to turn them off.
- 11. STAY AWARE OF THE SURROUNDINGS**
It's quite common to see adults not looking where they're going while they're on their phone. Children can be even more easily distracted. In some cases, children can be seen by others when they're using a device in public places.
- 12. BE THERE IF THEY NEED TO TALK**
Even when you're not a parent, it's important to be there for your child. Encourage them to talk to you if they have any concerns or questions about their device.

NOS National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety

OVER 70s FESTIVE CELEBRATION

Festive Fun for the Community

On Wednesday 13 December, The Hart School invited anyone 70 or over to come and join us for a Christmas celebration. Invites were sent out through the community and the response was wonderful.

The three-hour event saw our guests treated to a wide range of entertainment all provided by our wonderful students. There were yuletide poems read by students from Key Stage 3 that covered topics ranging from the World War 1 truce to more light-hearted poetry about being a Christmas turkey. We also had singers from the school choir serenade our seniors with renditions of traditional festive songs and carols.

This was followed by a Christmas lunch where sixth form students and others waited tables to make our visitors feel extra special. To finish the session, there was a festive treat of Bauble Bingo where the numbers had been written on actual Christmas baubles (though the bingo calling was questionable).

At the end of it all, all of our guests received a Christmas gift on behalf of the school. It was truly a magical celebration. Ms Sandham said “we are proud to be at the heart of our community and it was great to be able to give back to them in this way. The response was so great that we can’t wait to run more events like this in the new year!”



WREATH MAKING

A tremendously successful event

On December 7th, the PTFA held a tremendously successful Christmas wreath-making event and hosted by Mrs Perry and Miss Crofts.

With the event being sold out, it not only raised an impressive £175 but also fostered a warm sense of community among staff, students, and parents who collaborated to create 16 breath-taking wreaths. The festive atmosphere was further heightened by cheerful holiday music, a delightful array of cakes, and unlimited luxurious hot beverages. The funds generated will play

a pivotal role in supporting various extracurricular activities within the school, including an upcoming author visit and an exciting trip for the robotics club. Beyond bringing joy and creativity to the holiday season, this event underscores the school's commitment to enhancing educational experiences.



CHOIR AT LANRICK HOUSE

Christmas carols at Lanrick House.

The choir got residents at Lanrick House in the festive spirit with their Carol singing and taking time to chat with the residents.

with all spreading the joy of Christmas.

We look forward to sharing more events with Lanrick House in the new year.

Residents and students alike had a fabulous afternoon



PUBLIC SPEAKING

Sixth Form students make an impression at St Mary's Guildhall.

On Thursday 7th December, The Hart School Sixth form once again took part in the CET Public Speaking and Essay Writing Competition held at St Mary's Guildhall in Coventry. Students were welcome to submit essays on a topic of their choice while the public speaking entrants had to craft and perform a ten minute piece of oration on the subject "Power to the People".

Year 12 students Brooke Stuart and Alana Inns were both shortlisted for the essay writing prize. Brooke's piece was an argument for the reclassification of

Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet, whilst Alana gave a thoughtful investigation into mental health.

Year 13s, Grace Illingworth and Wren Crozier did an amazing job in the Public Speaking competition with deep and erudite explorations of the nature of power within society. Although we didn't win, Wren was singled out for a commendation for her work.

In the coming months we will be able to share the work that was produced by these incredible students.



ST AUGUSTINES CHRISTMAS CONCERT

An evening of traditional Christmas carols, mince pies and festive spirit.

On the evening of December 21 St Augustine's Church in Rugeley became the stage for a mesmerizing Christmas concert, featuring the talented Hart School Choir, soulful soloists, heartwarming congregation carols, and the festive delight of mince pies.

The atmospheric venue resonated with the harmonious voices of the Hart School Choir, captivating the audience with their renditions of classic and contemporary Christmas tunes.

Soloists took centre stage, adding a personal touch to the evening. Their emotive performances stirred the hearts of the gathered

audience, enhancing the festive spirit within the sacred walls of St Augustine's Church.

A true community celebration, the congregation joined in for traditional carols, creating a united chorus that echoed through the historic space.

The Hart School Christmas concert at St Augustine's Church was a memorable fusion of musical talent, communal spirit, and seasonal indulgence—an evening that left hearts brimming with the magic of Christmas.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 9 January

Return to School
Year 9 Assessments begin

Monday 15 January

Year 8 Assessments begin

Tuesday 16 January

Year 11 Parents Evening

Monday 22 January

Year 7 Assessments begin

Thursday 25 January

Sixth Form Open Evening

Tuesday 30 January

Year 12 Parents Evening