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RSA/SHA

16 July 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

End of Summer Term Letter - July 2025

As we come to the end of another successful school year, thank you for your continued support. It's been a real pleasure to see our students grow, learn, and play such a positive role in school life. Apologies for the length of this letter, there are a number of important updates about the end of term and the start of the new academic year. I would be very grateful if you could take a few moments to read it through.

Set Changes

As students move into their new year groups, some will notice changes to their teaching groups, tutor groups, or year halves. These decisions are made carefully and thoughtfully to best support all students academically and pastorally. Changes often provide positive opportunities for students to develop new friendships and learning experiences. We appreciate your understanding and support with these transitions.

Last Day of Term - Friday 18 July 2025

All students are expected to attend this day as part of our statutory requirements. Please support the school by ensuring your child is present.

- Students will finish at 12:40 p.m.
- All students will take part in celebration assemblies to recognise their hard work and achievements.
- Students may wear their full Hart School PE kit on the last day.
- There will be fun inflatable obstacle activities for tutor groups to enjoy as a reward.
- Lunch will be available during Break 1. Free school meal allowances will also be available at this time.
- The school bus will not operate at the earlier finish time. If needed, students can remain in school until the usual end of day.

Uniform Donations - Supporting Our Community

If your child has outgrown any school uniform, we would really appreciate any donations to help other families in our school community. You can drop items off at the school gate on the morning of the last day. Thanks so much in advance for your kindness.

Uniform Policy Reminder

As we prepare for the new year, please remember the importance of wearing correct uniform, which promotes pride, responsibility, and professionalism. Clear guidance is available on our



website and in the recent <u>letter</u> from Mr Lewis. If you need any support, please contact Mr Lewis at Nathan.Lewis@hartschool.org.uk or call the school office on 01889 802440.

Staffing Updates

We say a fond farewell and extend our thanks to the following colleagues who are leaving us this summer: **Lisa Cockbill** (Head of Year / Teacher of English), **Stephanie Harrison** (Y8 Student Support Officer), **Nadia Matthews** (Teacher of English), **Ruth Perry** (Lead Practitioner – Geography), **Holly Goss-Pucci** (Teacher of Humanities), **Patrick North** (Teaching Assistant). We wish them all the very best for the future.

We are also delighted to welcome the following new staff to our team in September: Nuria Ferrer Vilella (Teacher of MFL), Ian Eden (Teacher of IT), Ellen Stewart (Subject Lead for Music), Laura Gilmore (Careers Advisor), Lilian Larbi Siaw (Numeracy Intervention Lead), Kate Stockton (Head of Year 7 / Teacher of Geography), Jamie Hireson (Cover Supervisor), Cayla Sharratt (Cover Supervisor), Emma Hunt (Attendance & Admin Assistant), Josh Ball (Teacher of Maths), Mathilda Warder (Teacher of English), Joannah Palmer (Year 8 Student Support Officer), Oliver Hyden (Behaviour Support Officer).

We are proud to share that from September, we will be fully staffed with subject specialists across all areas. In addition, we have secured a strong team of our own high-quality cover supervisors, significantly reducing the need for external cover.

We would like to sincerely thank parents and carers for their patience and understanding this year as we worked through the national challenges around recruitment.

Site Improvements and Summer Projects

We continue to improve our school environment to give students the best possible experience. Here's a quick look at what's been happening and what's still to come:

- A new covered canteen area will give students more indoor space to use during bad weather.
- We are expanding our Sensory Room to create a larger, more supportive space for students in our SEND provision.
- Our landscaping project has made a real difference this term and over the summer we will be adding more seating to create extra social spaces for students.
- Our new Dance Studios are set to open in September.
- We are also adding another Computer Suite to help increase access to IT during lessons and homework sessions.



Yondr Pouches

Starting in September, our school will be phone-free. Students will put their smart devices into a Yondr pouch, which they will get in the second week of term. The Yondr pouch system launches on Monday 8 September 2025. Before then, we will help students get used to this change.

If you want to know more, check out the <u>FAQs</u> on our website. We are looking forward to working with you to support everyone's wellbeing at school.

Water Access and Social Time Improvements

After hearing feedback from students and parents, we are adding two more water fountains in the canteen to make it easier for students to access water. They'll be available before and after school, and during lesson changes.

Break and Lunch Arrangements

Our new break and lunch arrangements have been a success this term after a pilot. This has allowed students to mix across year groups and enjoy outdoor spaces including football and table tennis.

We are also introducing:

- A dedicated lunchbox area at the rear of the school
- More serving points in our two main restaurants to reduce queuing and increase social time
- More lunchtime activities / clubs for your child to attend if they wish.

Start of Autumn Term - Key Dates

- Monday 1 & Tuesday 2 September INSET Days (School closed to students)
- Wednesday 3 September School reopens for Years 7, 11, and 12 (Arrive by 8:30 a.m.)
- Thursday 4 September All year groups return.

Safeguarding Over the Summer

We know that summer can be a difficult time for some students. Please remember that our <u>Health & Wellbeing menu</u> is available on our website with advice, support, and useful contact numbers.

You can also contact our safeguarding team during the summer at: safeguarding@hartschool.org.uk

Other key contacts:

- Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support (SCAS): 0300 111 8007 (Mon–Thu: 8:30–5:00, Fri: 8:30–4:30)
- Out of hours (EDS): 0345 604 2886 or email eds.team.manager@staffordshire.gov.uk
- Non-emergency Police: Call 101



Thank you once again for your continued support this year. We are incredibly proud of what our students have achieved, and we look forward to building on this success in the year ahead.

Wishing you and your families a safe, happy, and restful summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Miss R Sandham

Principal