

PENKRIDGE BANK ROAD
RUGELEY
STAFFORDSHIRE
WS15 2UE

PRINCIPAL: RACHAEL SANDHAM
T +44 (0)1889 802440
E enquiries@hartschool.org.uk
www.hartschool.org.uk



**THE HART
SCHOOL**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

RSA/SHN

8 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a real pleasure to welcome back our students and staff at the start of a new school year. We hope all our families enjoyed a wonderful summer and that students have returned recharged and ready for learning.

There was a real buzz around school last week as students came back - with just a few understandable nerves for our new starters. Walking through lessons, I was impressed by the enthusiasm and focus already on display, which sets us up for a fantastic term ahead.

A very warm welcome to our new Year 7 and Year 12 students and their families. We are delighted you have joined The Hart School community and look forward to working in partnership with you.

Celebrating Record GCSE Results

This year we are delighted to be celebrating our best ever set of results across all subjects. In particular across our EBacc subjects; English, Maths, Science, Languages and History.

As well as continued excellence in our creative and vocational areas such as Engineering, Photography, Art and Design, Performing Arts, Health and Social Care, Sport, Business and iMedia, to name just a few!

We are confident these results place us above national averages in a number of areas. A huge congratulations goes to all our students, including those in Sixth Form who have secured excellent apprenticeships and university places. Many thanks to our teachers and families for their tremendous support. We wish all our students every success in the next phase of their educational journey.

Looking Ahead

My first letter of the year is always a busy one, but I would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to read through the updates and note the key dates for your diaries.

School Photos – All Year Groups

The school photographer will be in on Friday 12 September to take individual photographs of all year groups. Details on how to order copies will follow.

Nut-Free School

We are a nut-free school. Please do not send your child into school with snacks or food items that may contain nuts. We have both staff and students with severe nut allergies, and your support helps us to keep everyone safe.



Uniform

A big thank you to parents and carers for supporting our uniform standards. They have been excellent. It is clear our students are taking pride in looking smart. Just a gentle reminder that the following are not permitted to be worn in school:

- false eyelashes
- fake nails
- bracelets
- necklaces
- more than one ring
- hoop earrings
- ankle bracelets
- smart watches

The only exception is one pair of small stud earrings in the lower lobe. Items not in line with our policy will be confiscated or stored in Yondr pouches.

Communication

If you need to contact school, please follow the guidance below:

Pastoral Matters

Contact your child's tutor in the first instance. Please bear in mind that teachers and directors of learning have busy teaching timetables and are unavailable to take phone calls during the school day or access their emails.

We aim to reply within 48 hours. If necessary, after this please contact your child's Head of Year:

Year Group	Head of Year	Student Support Officer
7	Ms Stockton kate.stockton@hartschool.org.uk	Mrs Merrien & Mrs Bugler joanne.merrien@hartschool.org.uk nicola.bugler@hartschool.org.uk
8	Mrs Knight emily.knight@hartschool.org.uk	Mrs Palmer joannah.palmer@hartschool.org.uk
9	Mr Ryan danny.ryan@hartschool.org.uk	Mrs Kirby bex.kirby@hartschool.org.uk
10	Mrs Hibbard marisa.hibberd@hartschool.org.uk	Mrs Godridge vicki.godridge@hartschool.org.uk
11	Mrs Ryan katie.ryan@hartschool.org.uk	Mrs Burns sally.burns@hartschool.org.uk
Sixth Form	Mr Brennan (Head of Sixth Form) ben.brennan@hartschool.org.uk or Mr Dangerfield (Deputy Head of Sixth Form) neil.dangerfield@hartschool.org.uk .	



Subject Related Queries

Contact your child's subject teacher in the first instance; if necessary, after this, please contact the relevant Head of Department. A list of key contact details is available on the [website](#).

Safeguarding Matters

Email directly to: safeguarding@hartschool.org.uk.

Attendance

If your child is absent at any time, it is imperative that a reason for absence is provided before 8.20am on each day of absence. This can be done via 01889 571685, or by email attendance@hartschool.org.uk. Please also inform us of any planned absence as soon as possible.

We also ask that all other communications be directed to the relevant year team through the above email addresses to help improve a prompt and effective assistance.

Reception

Reception is open 8am – 4pm Monday to Thursday, and 8am – 3.30pm on Friday. Please use direct dial numbers wherever possible, as this speeds up contact and reduces pressure on Reception. We would kindly ask that phone calls to Reception on 01889 802440 are made to report urgent issues or emergencies and for general enquiries and non-urgent issues, email enquiries@hartschool.org.uk.

No Access to School Site During the School Day

As a reminder, to support the safety and wellbeing of our students, staff, and visitors, parents and carers are **not permitted** to enter the school grounds without a prearranged meeting. This policy supports our safeguarding procedures and helps us maintain a secure environment for everyone. Additionally, please refrain from attempting to enter the school grounds by car. Due to limited parking facilities and restricted space for turning on the drive into the school, vehicle access is not permitted, unless this is supporting a disability. This measure is in place to prevent congestion and reduce potential risks on the site.

Should you need to make an enquiry, please contact us via The Hart School's main email enquiries@hartschool.org.uk address or by calling 01889 802440.

Parking Outside the School

Please avoid parking on double yellow lines, outside the main gates, or on Chase Side Drive. This creates hazards for students and local residents. If you collect your child by car, please arrange a safe meeting point away from these areas.

Prepared to Learn

It's been great to see students arriving with bags, books and equipment. With phones away during the school day, it's important students carry a copy of their timetable and the resources they need. Please continue to encourage this positive habit.



Safety Drills

On Monday 15 September, we will hold a scheduled fire drill, and on Friday 19 September, our first invacuation drill. These statutory routines ensure students know exactly what to do in the event of an emergency so that procedures can be followed calmly and safely.

Student Leadership Opportunities

This term we are offering over 400 leadership opportunities. Applications have been shared through tutors and are due back by Friday 12 September. Taking part in leadership roles helps students grow in confidence, take responsibility and develop teamwork skills - qualities that will serve them well both in and out of school. Please do encourage your child to get involved.

Yondr Pouches

Today marked our first full day for Years 7–11, and we have been so impressed with the maturity our students have shown. I am especially proud of how positively they have embraced the introduction of Yondr. Year 7 trialled the system last week and gave encouraging feedback.

This has strengthened our belief that Yondr will have a real impact on learning and student wellbeing. Although the vast majority of students have been exceptional today, there are a small number who have attempted to open their pouches. This has not only caused damage to the pouch but, in one case, it has also shattered the phone screen.

As outlined in previous communication, damaged pouches and the use of phones on the school site will be dealt with in line with our Behaviour for Learning policy.

Please note that the school takes no responsibility for any damage that occurs as a result of attempts to tamper with the pouch.

Dates for the Diary – This Term

- W/C Monday 8 September – Year 7–11 Baseline Assessments
- Wednesday 10 September – Year 11 Parental Information Evening (6–7pm)
- Friday 12 September – School Photos (all year groups)
- Monday 15 September – Scheduled Fire Drill
- Thursday 18 September – Year 7 Settling-in Evening
- Friday 19 September – Scheduled Invacuation Drill
- Monday 29 September – Friday 10 October – Open Week Tours for Year 6 (9.15–10.15am)
- Thursday 2 October – Open Evening (Year 5 & 6 prospective parents)
- Thursday 9 October – Year 11 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 16 October – Sixth Form Open Evening
- Wednesday 22 October – Careers Fair
- Thursday 23 October – School closes for half term
- Friday 24 October – INSET Day (school closed to students).



Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter. We are looking forward to a fantastic term full of opportunities for your children. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss R Sandham
Principal