

The

NEWSLETTER



1 March 2021 • ISSUE 3 • SPRING TERM

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back

Dear Parents and Carers, I hope that the half term break brought you all some rest and you have enjoyed the better weather we've been experiencing. There is a real sense of optimism as we approach Spring.

Please may I ask you to read the letter that has been emailed to parents and carers on Friday 26 March which outlines plans for students return to school. You can also read this letter here. There is also an audio version of the letter on our website.

Staff and I are really looking forward to welcoming back our students, although I appreciate that some of you may be anxious about a return to school.

I want to assure you that, as ever, the safety and wellbeing of your child/ren and our staff remains our priority.

Please rest assured, we are doing everything we can to provide a safe and well-planned return to school for your child. You will find details in our thorough risk assessment published on our website.



Remote Learning

Congratulations to all of our students (and to you, their parents) on a successful 'remote learning' half-term and first week back.

We are very proud and impressed by the attendance, engagement and commitment of our students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting your children to access remote learning and encouraging them to follow their daily lesson timetable.

I appreciate that this has not always been easy as you may be working from home or travelling to your place of work as a keyworker.

SIXTH FORM APPLICATIONS AT ALL TIME HIGH

This year, we have received more applications to the Sixth Form from Year 11 students than in any previous years. Interviews are still taking place and we are looking to have one of our highest intakes. Students seem to be keen on the independence that Sixth Form brings whilst being on a familiar site.

The excellent results, exclusive Sixth Form areas and smaller class sizes make a winning combination when they are considering their future. We are celebrating year-on-year improvements in results with students last year gaining the average of a B at A Level and Distinction in vocational subjects.

Our pathways programmes and pastoral support has seen more students than ever being offered places to study at university – 91% of the year group – with every student applying being made an offer.



There is still time to apply.

[Click here for application form](#) or contact Mr Brennan ben.brennan@hartschool.org.uk

[Click here to view our Sixth Form prospectus for 2021.](#)

WE CAN • WE WILL • WE DO

RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT DURING LOCKDOWN

In the current climate, it is more important than ever that students are recognised for their achievements and that this is celebrated.

Half Term Update

Due to the fantastic engagement that all students have shown throughout the year and particularly through lockdown, we have 110 students who achieved their Bronze Learner Badges - with many well on their way to achieving their Silver Badge.

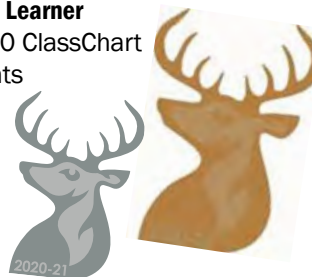
824 Students were recognised by their teachers for going 'Above and Beyond' in their subjects.

All points will go towards their Hart Badge. The following tariff will apply:

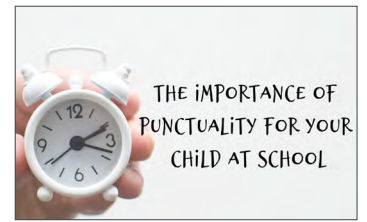
Bronze Learner
500 ClassChart Points

Silver Learner
750 ClassChart Points

Gold Learner
1000 ClassChart Points



PUNCTUALITY



As we return to school we will need to help our students to get back into good routines, getting up in plenty of time, setting off for school on time and arriving at school on time. This is a habit that is easily lost, but is essential as a life skill.

We remind all students that they will need to attend every day, on time and arrive able to join their year group on the zone. We will be issuing consequences for students who are struggling to adhere to this expectation, so please do support us in training our youngsters in skills for life.

WELLBEING TIPS

There is a lot of discussion in all aspects of the media and social media about our mental health and one area that increases your overall health and sense of well-being and puts more pep in your step is exercise.

Exercise has some direct stress-busting benefits, for example it pumps up your endorphins. Physical activity increases the production of your brain's feel good neurotransmitters, called endorphins and this in turn will help reduce negative effects of stress.

Apologies to the PE staff but many people do not enjoy exercise or have just not found a physical activity that they really enjoy, even with online celebrity workouts or Joe Wicks PE workouts. Walking is one form of exercise that is simple, free and one of the easiest ways to get more active, lose weight and become healthier. Walking briskly can you help you build stamina, burn excess calories and make your heart healthier. Just one brisk 10

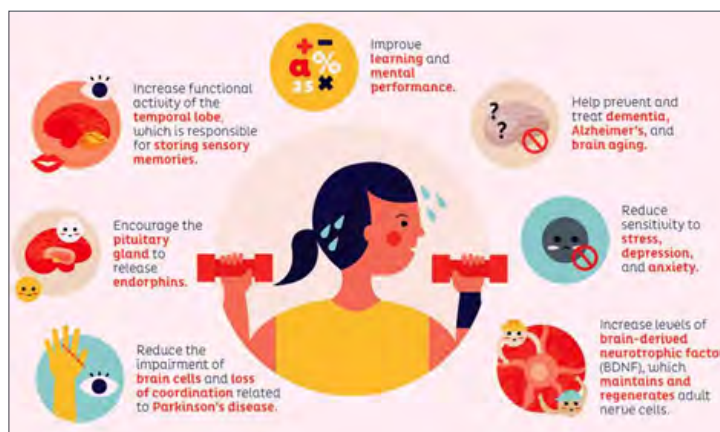
minute daily walk has lots of health benefits and counts towards your recommended 150 minutes of exercise a week.

Try a daily 10 minute family walk for a week and use it as a break from work, studying and a chance to get fresh air. You could then build to a longer and further walk. You could incorporate a steps challenge.

It is also a good way to give yourself some space away from the family where you can listen to music or a podcast – or just have some peace and quiet.

The NHS website is a good place to start:

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/jun/05/best-foot-forward-why-walking-good-for-you>



FREE SCHOOL MEALS



Our free school meal vouchers and meal boxes will continue to support our parents and students in the run up to our return to school. A huge thank you to staff who have delivered boxes and ensured that vouchers reach you in time.

Please do contact us if you require any assistance, we are happy to help and support all during these difficult times.

enquiries@hartschool.org.uk

ATTENDANCE

We are looking forward to welcoming back all our students on 11 March, whilst we do understand this may be an anxious time for all, it is essential that all students do return.

We will have their safety at the heart of all we do in order to ensure that students can return and concentrate on learning.

If any student requires additional support to help with the return to school site, please do contact us. Attendance will be mandatory for all students and we want to work with all our students and parents to ensure that all can return confidently to join us at The Hart School.



KS3 LEARNING GAP CHECKS

After welcoming back students to school, we will be carrying out learning gap checks with Year 7 and Year 8 students during lesson time.

These checks will help support students over the coming weeks to inform teacher planning and the school will then be in a position to provide targeted intervention where gaps have been identified.

Learning checks will take 45 minutes and will form part of the students' lessons. Your child's teacher will be delivering revision lessons and techniques during next week's live lessons.

Essential Study Tips

We all know we have to study hard and revise to get good grades, but what is the best way to study? Here are our top three tips for successful studying:

1. Create effective study notes. They should be simple and concise
2. Add context to what you have learnt by some extra

reading or using an additional resource

3. Ask critical questions (when, where, why and how something happened)

Creating effective notes

A key part of studying and revising is being able to take effective notes. Here's what we suggest students need to do:

1. Set a regular time where you create revision notes by picking out key information from your lesson notes
2. Key information can include keywords, dates or names that you need to know
3. Use bullet points, as these are easier to read and to remember
4. Write on flashcards
5. Use different colours/symbols to separate different sections
6. Use a highlighter to highlight keywords and information

Understanding the wider context

One trick to help you remember information is to understand the events around what you need to know. This is called context. A little extra reading or watching can go a long way.

Ask yourself:

1. Can you watch a dramatised version of a book you are studying?
2. Are there any relevant BBC Bitesize guides you can look at?
3. Are there any relevant podcasts you can listen to?

Asking critical questions

Critical questions are the how, why, where, when questions. They can help you take a step back and give you a deeper insight and understanding into the topic you are learning. For example:

Why did Van Gogh paint sunflowers? What were his influences?

Why did Lady Macbeth behave as she did? What were her motivations?

WELLNESS WALK SUPPORTS THE KATHERINE ALLPORT FOUNDATION

The Student Leadership Team raise £224 following the success of The Wellness Walk during Childrens Mental Health Week.

The charity The Wellness Walk has supported is The Katherine Allport Foundation. They create free, personalised hampers for those starting chemotherapy who live or are receiving treatment in Staffordshire.

Our donation will provide care hampers to three people starting their Cancer Journey in Staffordshire.

Thank you to everyone that supported and donated to this event.

The charity are having a month long marathon walk in March. Please support by signing up and carry on keeping active whilst raising money for a good cause. More information can be found on their website

www.TheKatherineAllport.Foundation



WE CAN • WE WILL • WE DO

National Careers Week

NCW

National Careers Week promotes careers guidance across the UK. This year's event is taking place 1-6 March 2021.

National Careers Week is a fantastic celebration of all things careers guidance, which aims to support young people leaving education and moving on to employment. During tutor sessions this week we will be carrying out careers based activities in order for students to start thinking about different careers and pathways available to them.

Throughout the week there will be a Virtual Careers Fair where students have access to 5 virtual floors with up to 60 global employers across key sectors providing an insight into life within their organisations as well as an overview of careers opportunities. The organisations will vary each day. Please visit www.ncw2021.co.uk to find out more

Click here to access the guide to see how you can support your child make the right choices to create successful futures after GCSE and Sixth Form.

WORLD BOOK DAY 2021

Thursday 4 March 2021

World Book Day is an exciting opportunity to read a new book! This year, the £1 Book Token is still available as a digital token. Please follow the link to access yours: £1 book token

In exchange for the £1 Book Token, you can choose from four titles: Skysteppers, Katherine Rundell; The River Whale, Sita Brahmachain; Skulduggery Pleasant, Derek Landy and Kill Joy, Holly Jackson. This can be redeemed at your local supermarket. Reading is a powerful

tool to support the wellbeing of our students. We are passionate about finding different ways to encourage reading. In addition to World Book Day, there are other ways to access FREE books. Check out our website for more information on these links: The Open Library, stories.audible, Borrow Box.

These will give you access to more books, audio books and e-books. Here you will also see recommendations for websites such as



The Reading Agency and Reading Well which give Parents and Students tips to support and encourage reading at home.



ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Over the next couple of weeks we hope to be able to once again offer our students exciting enrichment opportunities that reach beyond the classroom.

These will include: science, technology, English and maths (STEAM), performing arts and sport.

We will write to all parents and carers shortly to share the schedule of activities.

Please do encourage your child to attend.



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

WE CAN • WE WILL • WE DO