

The Hort

NEWSLETTER



Season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year

As we come to the end of an action-packed half term, I want to congratulate our students and staff who have truly been amazing.

They have stepped up in every way, and there is so much to celebrate – from improved attendance and fantastic engagement in extra-curricular activities to the exciting start of rehearsals for our summer show.

We've also enjoyed a range of wonderful community events, each one showcasing the spirit and enthusiasm of core values our school - **Happy, Ambitious, Resilient, and Tolerant.**

I am especially proud of how well students have embraced our phone-free approach; many have even commented themselves on the positive difference it has made to their learning.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish you and your families a wonderful, restful Christmas.

Ms Sandham



Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day

We are incredibly proud of our students who represented The Hart School during this year's Remembrance Sunday commemorations. Our student leaders took on the important role of reading the names of those who had fallen, participating with maturity, respect, and a deep sense of responsibility as they observed the parade and the moment of remembrance.

We are also proud of the many members of our school community who came to school in their uniforms to mark Armistice Day, including students from St John Ambulance, Sea Cadets, Air Cadets, and Army Cadets. Their participation reflects the values of service, respect, and remembrance that are so important at this time of year.

Together, our students demonstrated the true spirit of remembrance, honouring the sacrifices made by others and showing great pride in representing our school.



Hart school Netball trip 2025 (England Vitality Roses V New Zealand Silver Ferns)

Hart school Students travelled to the AO Arena Manchester on Wednesday evening accompanied by teachers Mrs Dix and Mrs Willett. To watch the England Vitality Roses take on The New Zealand Silver Ferns live in the International series.

The Roses beat New Zealand in a thrilling encounter on Sunday to level the series after the Silver Ferns had won the opening match on Saturday. However unfortunately England fell to a 55-49 defeat in the deciding game of their three-Test Vitality International series against New Zealand in Manchester.

This was a fantastic opportunity for our students from our Thursday night Netball club to develop their team spirit, whilst watching netball at the very highest level.



Thank You - Foodbank Donation

Thank you so much to all staff, parents, carers, and students who donated to our Christmas foodbank collection.

Your kindness is truly appreciated and will make a real difference to families in our community.

We're so proud of how everyone comes together to support others - every item helps.

Thank you for your generosity!



Join Our Sixth Form

We are excited to announce that interviews for The Hart School Sixth Form will begin before Christmas, with offers being made in the coming month.

Our Sixth Form offers a wide range of Level 3 courses – from subjects you already love at GCSE to exciting new options like Sociology, Law, and Media Studies.

With dedicated Sixth Form facilities, bespoke advice and guidance to help you secure your dream university place (even Oxford!) or a Higher Apprenticeship, now is the perfect time to apply.

More students than ever are joining us from other schools – don't miss your chance to be part of our growing community.

Visit our website or ask in school for an application form from Mr Brennan or Mr Dangerfield.



Visit to Oxford University

This term, some of our Year 11 and Year 12 students had the incredible opportunity to visit University College, Oxford. Led by Savannah, the Outreach Officer, the trip was a huge success.

Students engaged enthusiastically with the experience, and for a few, it sparked the ambition to prepare for applications to Oxford or Cambridge. This prestigious university already has a member of The Hart School alumni studying there, Anya Tregay, and we hope to add more to their ranks of graduates.

This visit highlights the bespoke support and guidance we offer at The Hart School Sixth Form. With a wide range of Level 3 courses, we help students achieve their goals, whether that's a place at a top university or a competitive Higher Apprenticeship.



Well done everyone!



A Global Stage for Our Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form students had the incredible opportunity to connect live with Terri Ayanna Wright, streamed all the way from New York City!

Terri is a multidisciplinary artist whose career spans filmmaking, architectural design, and live performing arts. She has performed on stages across the world — from touring with Ailey II to starring as a dancer and actor with HopeBoykinDance.

For six years, Terri taught Horton Technique at The Ailey Extension, inspiring and shaping countless students. Her philosophy is simple yet powerful: dance should be accessible to everyone. She is passionate about helping each student discover their own unique connection to movement.

In her sessions, our students found a supportive, challenging, and motivating environment. Terri's hope — and ours — is that every dancer leaves with a deeper appreciation for the art form and a renewed joy in the learning process.

What a privilege to welcome such international talent into our classrooms, reminding us that creativity knows no borders.

And a huge thank you to Miss Davis for organising such an incredible experience!

Visit to V&A Museum



Our Year 12 A-Level Drama students had the exciting opportunity to visit the V&A museum archives in London.

Here, they were able to view an archived recording of a performance of Jerusalem by Jez Butterworth, one of their A-Level set texts.

This has provided them a strong understanding of how the play was performed and staged in preparation for their exam. They were even able to fit in a quick visit to Covent Garden to see the Christmas lights.

Year 7 Orchestra Workshop



Our Year 7's experienced a very exciting concert by Staffordshire Sounds. They were hands on, playing trombones to ukuleles and warming up their vocal cords!

Students learnt the importance of music in an interactive way. Instrumental lessons are available for students to have in school by our visiting teachers at Entrust.

To register your child's interest, please get in touch with Ms Stewart or Ms Cowley from the performing arts department.

Scholastic Book Fair - Huge Success

We are delighted to share that our recent Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success! It was wonderful to see so many students and staff coming together to celebrate the joy of reading.

The fair was buzzing with excitement as students explored new titles, discovered new authors and picked out books to enjoy at home.

Thanks to your incredible support, we have raised funds that will go directly towards enriching our school library. This means more fresh, engaging books for everyone to enjoy - helping us keep reading fun.

We hope you're loving your new books. Keep an eye out for more exciting events and opportunities to celebrate books throughout the year.



Principal's Commendation Book

We are proud to celebrate students who go above and beyond in their learning through our Principal's Commendation Book. Each term, Faculty Directors nominate students who have produced exceptional work, made impressive progress, or shown outstanding effort.

These students are invited to a special celebration with Ms Sandham, where they enjoy hot chocolate and talk about their achievements. Each student receives a certificate, a letter home, and their name added to the Commendation Book.

This tradition is a wonderful way to recognise the hard work and dedication of our students, and we look forward to celebrating even more success throughout the year.



Well done everyone!



Auditions Well Underway – “The Addams Family”

Our school show rehearsals are well under way for this year’s whole school production of ‘The Addams family.’ Students have been learning the choreography for their opening number, and it is already looking ghoulishly spectacular!

The Performing Arts department saw over 40 auditions from a range of year groups and were blown away by the talent, giving them a very difficult choice to make in casting the roles. Our performing arts students always show ambition and resilience, preparing fantastic auditions and showing their dedication to the school community. It isn’t too late for students to join the production in the wonderful chorus.

Rehearsals are Wednesday after school till 4.30pm, gradually expanding to Thursdays after school in the hall. Watch this space for ticket information.

The show will take place on **Wednesday 8 to Friday 10 July 2026.**

Apply for Free School Meals

If your child is in Reception or above and your household meets the income criteria, you may be eligible for free school meals. Even if you don't wish to take up the meals, registering helps your child's school receive additional funding.

How to Apply:

Visit the Staffordshire County Council portal to [apply online](#).
For help or more information, contact the Free School Meals team. Email: freeschoolmeals@staffordshire.gov.uk.

Phone: 0300 111 8007, then select option 3 followed by option 2.

**Free
School
Meals** 
Are you entitled?



Sixth Form students Swanning Around

Our Sixth Form students had the wonderful opportunity to 'swan around' with international professional dancer George-Murray Nightingale. George has recently been touring with Matthew Bourne's New Adventures in the exceptional production of Swan Lake.

Our students are currently researching this repertoire for their Unit 1 exam and were able to gain inside knowledge from renowned performer George!

George has travelled the globe, dancing on some of the world's most famous stages, including Sydney Opera House in Australia and London Royals Opera House. George has trained with the English National Ballet School, the National Ballet of Romania, the Royal Ballet of Flanders in Belgium and more recently The Australian Ballet.

What a wonderful opportunity for our students!

Community Heroes

Well done to Cem and Hayden in Year 11, who spent some time with the Principal this week in recognition of their incredible good deed in our community.

When they came across an unconscious man, they immediately called for paramedic assistance and ran to get the nearest defibrillator.

And no matter how grown-up they are, they still enjoyed a hot chocolate (or two!) with the Principal.

Well done, boys — we are so proud of you.



Well done both!



Character Development Day

Our Autumn Character Development Day sets a positive and purposeful tone for the year. Focusing on identity, respect, and belonging, students explore who they are and how they contribute to our school community.

Respect and kindness are central themes, with interactive sessions helping students understand that positive relationships are built on empathy and mutual understanding.

Through team-building activities, reflective workshops, and values-based tasks, students learn that character is shown through actions - especially in how we treat one another. They work together to build trust, cooperation, and a sense of shared responsibility.

The day reinforces that every student plays an important role in shaping our school culture, helping ensure that respect and belonging are not just ideas but everyday experiences.



Well done everyone!

Sporting Highlights



Successes at The Hart School!

It's been a fantastic term for sport, with our teams showing great determination, teamwork and the true #wecanwewillwedo spirit across district competitions.

Year 11 Football have had an excellent start, reaching the County Cup Quarter Finals after strong wins over The Excel Academy and Thomas Alleyne's. They remain unbeaten in the league and continue to impress.

Year 9 Boys put in a determined County Cup performance, narrowly losing 2–0, while Year 8 Boys continue to grow in confidence and teamwork. Our Year 7 Boys have made a brilliant start, showing enthusiasm and strong team spirit.

Our girls' football teams have also shone this term:

- Year 7 Girls made a spirited County Cup debut.
- Year 8 Girls are unbeaten and through to the Quarter Finals.
- Year 9 Girls remain 100% unbeaten and continue to set a fantastic standard.
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In netball, our Year 7 team played their first competitive match, showing excellent dedication and teamwork. Congratulations to Josie G, Player of the Match.

Mrs Dix, Director of Sport & Health, praised all teams for their hard work and passion. Well done to all players and staff for a brilliant Autumn term!



What's Been Happening in Extra-Curricular This Term...

This term has been busy and exciting, with students from all year groups getting involved in a wide range of clubs and activities, making the most of every opportunity.

Our sports clubs have seen fantastic participation, with students attending football and netball training, taking part in league and County Cup matches, and showing dedication on and off the field. The new KS4 Fitness Club has also grown quickly, with students keen to stay active and develop healthy habits.

Creativity has flourished too. Students in Art Club have experimented with mixed media, while Dance and Drama Clubs have been rehearsing for upcoming performances. Our Music groups, from choir to Rock Band, have been preparing for shows, building confidence and teamwork. Crochet and Cooking Clubs have provided fun, hands-on ways for students to learn new skills, work together, and take pride in what they create.

Students in Dungeons & Dragons Club have enjoyed collaborative adventures, building problem-solving and communication skills, while Darts Club, in partnership with Rugeley Youth Darts Academy, has encouraged focus, friendly competition, and skill development.

STEM activities have been equally engaging, with students in Robotics Club designing and programming new creations, and Science Club exploring exciting experiments beyond the classroom.

It's been a brilliant term, with student involvement at the heart of everything. Next term's extra-curricular programme will bring even more opportunities for students to try something new, develop skills, and have fun.



A Record-Breaking Christmas Fayre!



Fantastic turnout at our annual Christmas Fayre – it truly gets bigger and better each year.

A huge well done to all students, staff, and especially our PFTA, who raised an impressive record total of £1,438.63

From our wonderful choir and delicious crêpe-making to bowling, a huge range of stalls, the Christmas raffle, and of course the chance to meet the big man in the red suit, it was a magical event from start to finish.



Well done everyone!

Public Speaking Y11 & Y13

We're thrilled to announce that six of our most talented students will represent The Hart School in the Creative Education Trust Public Speaking Competition. After an impressive preliminary round, Tia R, Dylan E, Lizzie G, Konain K, Georgia S, and Tia D have been selected to compete in the grand final.

The event takes place on 9th December at the prestigious Guildhall in Leicester, where our students will deliver powerful presentations on the theme "A Letter to Tomorrow."

This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase their confidence, creativity, and communication skills against other schools in the Trust.

We're incredibly proud of their hard work and can't wait to see them shine on this national stage. Good luck to all our speakers you have already made us proud!



12 Days of Christmas



Well done to our winners this year in the 12 Days of Christmas 100% Attendance Draw!

Christmas Jumper Day

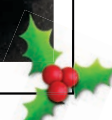


Thank you and well done to everyone who took part and donated.

PTFA Wreath-Making Workshop

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual Christmas wreath-making evening. It was another truly lovely event, filled with creativity, laughter, and the joy of spending time with loved ones and our wider community.

Your support helps make this tradition so special each year.





Coming Up In 2026....

Monday 5 January - INSET Day - Closed to students

Tuesday 6 January - School opens to all students

Thursday 8 January - Y10 Parents' Evening

Monday 12 January - Y11 & Y13 PPEs Begin

Friday 29 January - Scheduled Fire Drill

Friday 30 January - Scheduled Invacuation Drill

Friday 6 February - Vaccinations - Year 9 - MenAcwy/TdIPV Boosters

Monday 9 February - Y8 Study Skills Week

Thursday 12 February - Y11 Mock PPE Results Day

Thursday 12 February - Y12 and 13 Parents' Evening

Friday 13 February - Last day of term

Monday 16 - 20 - February Half Term

Thursday 26 February - Year 11 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 4 March - Character Development Day

Thursday 5 March - Y9 Options Evening

Monday 9 March - Y7 Assessment Week

Thursday 12 March - Year 8 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 24 March - KS3 Rewards Evening

Thursday 26 March - KS4 Rewards Evening

Friday 27 March - Last day of term

Monday 30 March - 10 April - Easter Holiday