

CONNECT WITH THE HART

18 October 2019



Dear Parent/Carer

Connect with The Hart is published every two weeks providing news, information and updates about the school so that you are up to date with everything that is happening. We also share with you dates for the diary as well as top tips and reminders about teaching and learning, our expectations and achievement. We do hope you find it useful.

Achievement matters

At the Hart School we promote a positive learning culture for all students where they are able to make progress. Regular attendance at school is vital to help students achieve and get the best possible start in life. Students who frequently miss school often fall behind. There is a strong link between good school attendance and achieving good results.

Good attendance and punctuality at school also shows potential employers that a young person is reliable. We believe that if students attend school every day and approach their learning in a positive manner then there will be direct benefits to their attainment grades.

Why Attendance at School is so Important

If a child of compulsory school age is registered at a school it is essential that they attend their school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career.

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential.

Below are just some of the key reasons why it is so important children attend school:

- To learn. To have fun.
- To make new friends.
- To experience new things in life.
- To develop awareness of other cultures, religion, ethnicity and gender differences.
- To achieve. To gain qualifications.
- To develop new skills. To build confidence and self-esteem.
- To have the best possible start in life

Young people who regularly miss school without good reason are more likely to become isolated from their friends, to underachieve in examinations and/or become involved in antisocial behaviour.

How Parents Can Help

- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.
- Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours when possible.
- Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness – this should be followed up with a written note when your child returns to school.
- Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending school as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk – Who are they with? What are they doing?
- Take family holidays outside term time.
- Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homework).
- Attend parent evenings and school events.

- Praise and reward your child's effort and achievements at school.
- Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.
- Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school – staff are there to help and will be supportive.

Do not be afraid to ask for help if a problem arises.

If you are in doubt as to whether to send your child to school, please either phone the school to check or follow this link for NHS guidelines

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Attendance Line – 01889 571685

When contacting the school, please provide the following information:-

1. Your name
2. Your child's name
3. The reason for absence, including the nature of the illness

If we have not received a message from you and your child fails to attend you will receive a text message asking you to contact the school. Please do not be embarrassed if we do call and ask about your child, this is a necessary part of our safeguarding procedures.

Effective learning

In order to support your son/daughter with completing homework or for additional guidance from staff, please be aware that there are many opportunities to attend Homework Clubs. Many of them will take place in a computer room to give students the opportunity to use a computer who may not have access at home.

Languages and Humanities - every Monday during Break 1 and Break 2 - D14

Maths - every Tuesday during Break 2 - B29

Science - every Thursday during Break 2 - B13

Year 7 - every Monday after school until 4.00 pm - The Hub (Miss Harrington-Jones)

Year 8 - every Thursday after school until 4.00 pm - B29 (Mrs Jobling)

Year 9 – every Wednesday after school until 4.00 pm - A10 (Miss Dalby and Mr Mills)

Year 10 – every Tuesday after school until 4.00 pm – B29 – Miss Youngs

Year 11 – intervention sessions during Break 1, Break 2 and after school are provided; students are individually invited to sessions and parents/carers will be notified if their son/daughter is recommended to attend.

Promoting high expectations

We have continued to have a very positive start to the year. All parents/carers will have an access code for Class Charts to check positive Class Charts points alongside monitoring behaviour and detentions. If you would like any more information on this then please contact your child's form tutor.

As we are approaching the winter months, I would like to remind you that hoodies are not to be worn underneath blazers under any circumstances. Ideally, students should wear an appropriate coat over their blazer instead, which can be easily removed once inside the school building.

Can we also remind you that mobile phone use is not permitted on site. Furthermore, students are not permitted to use earphones or earbuds on site even if they are plugged into a different device such as an Mp3 player.

Thank you for your continued support to ensure all our students meet our expectations so they can focus on high challenge lessons.

In addition, students are working very hard to earn 'Hart Card' points to celebrate their contribution to the school community. This is creating a positive atmosphere during the school day and is recognising students for their achievements.

Events

Date	Event
Monday 21 October to Friday 25 October	Sixth Form Geography fieldwork residential, Blencathra Lake District
Tuesday 22 October	Year 11 Parents' Evening, 4.30-7.30pm Ski Trip 2020 dry ski slope lessons, Swadlincote 4.00-7.00pm
Thursday 24 October	Year 10 Creative Education Trust Shakespeare Project Design Workshop PTFA Years 7-8 Halloween disco, school hall 6.00-8.00pm
Friday 25 October	Years 8-11 individual school photographs Students finish at 3.10 pm for Half Term
Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November	Half Term Year 11 Intervention Sessions
Monday 4 November	Students return to school at 8.30am
Tuesday 5 November	Year 10 Creative Education Trust Shakespeare Project Design Workshop Ski Trip 2020 dry ski slope lessons, Swadlincote 4.00-7.00pm
Wednesday 6 November	Years 10-11 Success Evening, school hall 5.30-6.30pm Year 12 Engineering/Design visit to Staffordshire University
Saturday 9 November	PTFA Table Top Sale, school gym 1.30-3.30pm

We hold a weekly drop in session with senior leaders every Thursday from 8.30 am to 9.00 am, where we welcome the opportunity to meet parents and carers on a one-to-one basis to address any queries that you may have.

Also, did you know you can find the email addresses for Senior Leadership Team; Directors of Faculty, Heads of Year and Student Support Officers on the Parents dropdown on the website under 'Key Contacts'?

As always, if any parents/carers would like a telephone conversation with any of their child's teachers, or should you have any concerns that you wish to speak to our pastoral team about, contact us on 01889 802440 or email enquiries@hartschool.org.uk

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,



Chris Keen
Principal