

# CONNECT WITH THE HART

6 December 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

This academic year we will be changing how we assess the progress of your child and the way that we report to parents and carers.

The design of your child's report has changed, along with the terminology used to describe your child's current achievement.

We will collect data 3 times a year; this is to assess your child's current performance in each subject area and to identify any gaps in their learning at the end of a topic/unit of work.

In Years 7, 8 and 9 it is vitally important that students build blocks of knowledge and skills in all subjects they study during Key Stage 3 to be successful at Key Stage 4. Therefore, we will not be grading students by numbers; however, we will look to measure students against their specific subject knowledge and skills.

In Years 10 and 11, assessment grades will be in line with the new reformed 9-1 GCSEs or vocational grades.

## Effective learning – reading for enjoyment

*“The Twits – the first book I read and the Dahl classic which was to cement my love of reading. We should all fondly remember reading our first book and the sense of triumph knowing you were able to escape for a few short, sweet hours.”* Mrs Brunt, Associate Assistant Principal, (Teaching & Learning) and Teacher of English.

A love of reading is all about reading a book you enjoy, a book which grips you from the first page and has you entangled within its adventure. It's about escapism, relaxation, an opportunity to learn about history, cultures and traditions; and in some cases, a made-up fantasy world which sparks our imaginations and allows us to wonder – *what if?*

A good story teaches us morals and an understanding of the world – something we should all benefit from. Every time we read a new book, we learn something new and you can't put a price on the extensive knowledge this provides.

Striving to become a good reader is synonymous with striving to become a good student. Reading is enormously important. A good reader will become a proficient writer, have a secure understanding of the writer's intent and success in exams. This is something we all want for our students and our children.

Soon, we will be launching in tutor time Reading for Enjoyment and want our students to welcome this opportunity. Reading should be something students embrace and enjoy and if they don't, we would argue – it's not reading they don't enjoy – they just haven't found the right books yet... they are out there waiting to be explored, enjoyed, laughed over, cried over and talked about.

A good book is something that stays with us forever and will spark memories of precious moments in our lives – surely, we all want a part in that?

## Promoting high expectations

It is important to remind students that when walking to and from school in the winter nights, they will need to take extra care. Students should walk with friends where possible and go straight home after school.

Students should arrive to school with the correct uniform but will need to wear coats when outside of the school as we do recognise that the temperature has dropped significantly. Hoodies are not permitted under any circumstances.

Our students do represent the school when making their way to and from; therefore, it is important that we continue to make sure that they are upholding our expectations and high standards.

As we move towards the end of term, all students are understandably tired after their hard work. It is at this time that colds and coughs creep in; despite this, we do need to ensure that they attend school, to ensure that good habits are maintained and that work is not missed. If you have any queries as to when it is or isn't appropriate for a student to attend school, please contact your Head of Year or Student Support Officer who will be able to advise.

In light of the excellent attendance that most of our students have at The Hart School, we want to reward and celebrate their commitment. Over the next two weeks, students will have the opportunity to gain raffle tickets for days in school; the better the attendance, the more raffle tickets they will accumulate, increasing their chances of a win. The raffle for various vouchers will be drawn on the final day of the term. Students will need to be 'In to Win' in our 12 Days of Christmas Raffle.

## Events

Date	Event
Monday 9 – Friday 13 December	Sixth Form R.A.G. Week – fundraising activities in aid of Acorns Children's Hospice
Tuesday 10 December	Primary schools' Christmas Quiz, school hall, 4.15-6.00pm
Wednesday 11 December	Parents' Forum, school hall, 5.30-6.30pm
Thursday 12 December	General Election Polling Station, The Hub, 7am-10pm (School is open to students as normal)
Friday 13 December	Christmas Jumper Day - £1 donation to Save the Children Year 12 Dance research visit to Birmingham University
Tuesday 17 December	Year 11 Parents' Evening, 4.30-7.30pm
Friday 20 December	School closes to students at 12.30pm
Monday 23 December 2019 – Friday 3 January 2020	<b>Christmas Holiday</b>
Monday 6 January 2020	<b>INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL STUDENTS</b>
Tuesday 7 January 2020	School opens to all students at 8.30 am

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](mailto:enquiries@hartschool.org.uk)

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,



**Chris Keen**  
Principal