

CONNECT WITH THE HART

14 February 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

Connect with The Hart is published regularly 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 – 5 techniques to help with exam revision

1. Get them to start early

The earlier they start, the more prepared students will be. Starting early allows time to really learn the material and understand it - and means they can cope with any factors that disrupt revision unexpectedly. “Cramming” is not effective for everyone and often creates more stress. They should spend a couple of hours figuring out the material they need to know for each exam and create a revision timetable that takes into account when their exams are.

2. Establish what type of learner they are

Everyone learns in different ways. Some like colour-coded spider diagrams; others will be able to learn simply by reading and copying. Some people like to learn through listening to others speak. Revision can be a highly personal process and it is worth testing out a few different methods before finding an approach that suits your child. This will make sure that you are working smarter, not harder.

3. Create the optimum learning environment

There will be people who advise revising in a library is more productive than being at home. Others argue that being locked in their room is the only way to revise. This will vary based on how your child learns best and, it is worth experimenting to find what works for them and you.

4. Encourage discipline

No matter how you dress it up, revision is not the most enjoyable of pastimes and we are sure there are many things they would rather be doing. However, they have to be strict with themselves. Help them to eliminate all distractions and keep to their revision timetable as best they can. Keep their phone away from them, switch off the Wi-Fi on the laptop if they don't need the internet and make sure they have everything they need before they begin.

5. Promote the idea of ‘practise, practise, practise’

It is important to ensure that the revision doesn't go to waste and that they are able to apply the knowledge in an exam situation. Past papers are a revising student's best friend. The more papers they can complete, the easier it is to work out what the exam board is looking for and how they should adapt their revision accordingly.

Effective learning

Teachers have been busy working on asking students lots of rich questions. We are looking closely at targeting students when asking questions and asking a wide variety of questions in class.

Each teacher recently asked two students to keep a log of questions they asked in class so they could see which type were most commonly asked. Following our recent training we will repeat this exercise in the next few weeks to see how questioning has improved.

Promoting high expectations

We would like to thank you all for supporting your child in what has been a very positive start to the new year. It was clear to see that students were adhering to our high expectations and thriving in their learning environment.

As we approach the February half term, it is an appropriate time to remind you that students will need to be fully equipped and in the correct uniform at all times. Pencil cases are still available to purchase via ParentPay for £1.00 if you would like to take up this offer. We want to ensure that students are prepared for learning so they can continue their positive start.

A huge thank you for your support with attendance and punctuality last term, the students have shown great commitment, attending even when not at their best. The extended Christmas break gave them the opportunity to recharge their batteries ready for the new year.

Establishing good habits for both punctuality and attendance prepares students for their future and gives them the best opportunities for success in their examinations.

Events

Date	Event
Monday 17 – Friday 21 February	Half Term holiday
Monday 24 February	School re-opens to staff and students at 8.30 am
Monday 24 – Friday 28 February	Year 13 PPEs
Wednesday 26 February	Year 8 and 9 immunisations (for students who have missed previous immunisations only)
Thursday 27 February	Creative Education Trust Instrumental Day of Play - Weavers Academy, Wellingborough
	PTFA Meeting – 5.00pm-6.00pm
	Evening of Excellence – 6.00pm-7.00pm
Monday 2 – Friday 6 March	Year 11 PPEs
Monday 2 – Tuesday 3 March	Year 13 PPEs
Thursday 5 March	PTFA Movie Night – 6.30pm-8.30pm

Important update: ParentPay

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you all about the system in place to ensure that all students are able to access food at lunchtime.

Occasionally a student has a problem with their account that prevents them from paying for their food. If a student has not managed to get food for whatever reason, they should speak to Student Reception explaining the reason; no pupil will go without lunch. If there is a nil balance on the account, your child will be given lunch for the first day only by collecting a slip from Student Reception.

Parents will be informed by text message and asked to top up their account. If the account remains in a negative balance, a follow up phone call will be made the next morning prior to first break to discuss the account. Please ensure that your account is monitored to avoid difficulties at the point of sale and help us to provide a swift and efficient service at lunchtime.

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.

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

Kind regards,



Chris Keen
Principal