

CONNECT WITH THE HART

6 March 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 – the importance of attending parents’ evenings

Attending parents' evenings has a significant impact on your child's progress. This gives a clear overview and an opportunity to discuss their achievement in school. You may also want to take time to talk about any individual concerns you may have with their teachers or our pastoral support team.

Taking your child to parents' evening can be an important way to encourage them to be more involved in their own learning. The relationship with school involves child, teacher and parent/carer, so it is important that the lines of communication are kept open between all three. This allows for discussion to directly take place about their achievements and targets.

The remaining Parents' Evenings for this academic year are:-

- Years 12 and 13 - Wednesday 11 March
- Year 11 - Thursday 2 April
- Year 7 - Thursday 23 April

Effective learning – Knowledge Organisers

Throughout this year we have been using Knowledge Organisers to support students' learning. By now, students should be used to using them in lessons to recall important information from previous learning; whether this is key vocabulary in MFL or the names of body parts in science. We have seen students really embrace this and as a result have seen students make excellent progress and create outstanding answers to difficult questions.

Moving forward we all need to work together to make sure this continues. Not just in the lesson but outside of the lesson. Recently, we have sorted every student with a black plastic folder. This is where all Knowledge Organisers will be kept. It is the responsibility of each student to keep this folder safe and bring it in for every lesson. This ensures they can continue to be used in lessons and also at home to support homework or independent learning.

Promoting high expectations

We would like to thank you for your continued support to ensure students are arriving to school in the correct uniform and fully equipped. As a reminder, pencil cases are available to purchase via ParentPay for £1.00 if they would like to restock their equipment.

As we approach Spring, could we please remind you that hoodies are not allowed under any circumstances and a coat should be worn instead. We are conscious that students will opt for something lighter than a winter coat as the weather improves but they should seek appropriate clothing such as a waterproof coat.

As technology continues to evolve, air pods are becoming increasingly popular amongst students. Can we take this opportunity to state that mobile phones and headphones of any kind are not permitted on school site. If mobile phones are brought to school then they should be switched off and placed in their school bag for use when they leave the school site.

Once again, we are celebrating students' excellent and improved attendance. Our students have shown great resilience through a time when the rain felt like it would never end. Thank you for your support in keeping up the high standards in attendance and punctuality.

A reminder that as always all students need to be in school and on their year group zone ready for 8.40 am. This prompt start not only ensures that they are accessing all the support and guidance needed but also builds good habits for their working life in years to come. Life skills such as good attendance and punctuality are still highly sought by all employers. An attendance of 96% and above is considered excellent by colleges and employers when we are writing references; many of our students have 100% attendance which is a remarkable achievement.

If for any reason you are unsure as to whether your child should be attending school, please refer to the guidance on our website, with the link to the NHS latest guidance. Be aware that we will phone parents or carers and/or send a truancy call notice when a student has not arrived in school. Please don't be offended if we do contact you, it is simply to ascertain if we can support students when situations require.

Events

Date	Event
Monday 9 – Friday 13 March	Year 11 PPEs
Monday 9 March	Year 9 DTP & Meningitis vaccinations
Wednesday 11 March	Years 12 and 13 Parents' Evening – 4.30-7.30pm
Friday 13 March	Year 10 Football Education Programme, Stoke City FC
Monday 16 – Thursday 19 March	Year 11 PPEs
Monday 16 March	Years 9 & 10 Musical Theatre trip, Alexandra Theatre 'Gotta Dance', Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock
	Year 10 Health & Social Care visit, Walsall Campus
Thursday 19 March	PTFA Meeting, 5.00-6.00pm in School Hall
Friday 20 March	INSET DAY – school closed to students

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 or to provide a packed lunch until such time as sufficient funds are credited to pay for food. If the account remains in a negative balance overnight, 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 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