

The Hart

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024 • ISSUE 5 • SUMMER TERM ONE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we reach the end of a busy and successful term, I would like to share some key updates with you.

Recruitment

This week has been extremely busy at The Hart School. We are recruiting staff for September before the final resignation date at half term. I am pleased to report that we have secured some excellent staff who will join us in September. It hasn't been easy as I'm sure you are aware that there is a national recruitment crisis with teaching and support staff, but we are nearly there, and I won't compromise on the quality of the staff that we employ on a permanent basis.

Assessments and Examinations

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have made a fantastic start to their exams. They have demonstrated maturity, commitment, and resilience, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts. Additionally, our Year 10 students have successfully completed many of their Level 2 vocational assessments which have been submitted

to the examination boards this week. This will place them in a stronger position in year 11 and we commend them for their hard work and dedication.

Sporting Achievements

This term has also been marked by excellent performances in regional sporting events. Our students have achieved great success in athletics, football, and netball, showcasing their talent and sportsmanship. Well done to all our athletes for their outstanding efforts!

Whole school Production Legally Blonde

A huge congratulations to our incredible staff and students for their endless rehearsals throughout the academic year in preparation for our whole school show. Their hard work and dedication is truly inspiring. Tickets will be available direct from the school, please book in advance to avoid disappointment. It promises to

be a fantastic performance! Dates of production: Wednesday 19 - Friday 21 June 2024.

Final Summer Term

As we look forward to the final summer term, we are excited to launch our new "Beyond the Curriculum" programme aimed at Key Stage 3 students. This initiative will provide enriching extracurricular opportunities that foster creativity and critical thinking that reach beyond the classroom.

Additionally, we are committed to supporting our Year 10 and Year 12 students as they prepare for their upcoming work experience, which will be invaluable for their personal and professional development.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming everyone back after a well-deserved break on Monday 3 June 2024 at normal time. In the meantime, have an enjoyable half term.



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OUR VERY OWN MARATHONER

Nikki Dewar completed the London Marathon to raise funds for the UK Sepsis Trust.

On Sunday 21 April, Nikki a member of our admin team took part in the London Marathon to raise funds for the UK Sepsis Trust – a charity close to her heart after losing both her Mum and Dad within 11 months of each other to this dreadful condition.

She has been running for 7 years now and has taken part in many 10k's and half marathons but never a full marathon, so this was completely out of her comfort zone!

She had already signed up for a charity place with UK Sepsis Trust to take part in the London Landmarks Half Marathon on 7 April, so when she found out she had got a ballot place for the London

Marathon, she decided to make it a double whammy and her #LetsdoLondonChallenge2024 was born.

The Marathon was amazing – almost 50,000 participants, each with their own reason for taking part in this iconic race and raising many thousands of pounds for charity. The crowd support was phenomenal and the sheer volume of noise from the crowds cheering as they ran over Tower Bridge will remain with her for a long time.

Nikki completed the marathon in 6:03:56. After always saying that she would never do the London Marathon, would she do it again? Absolutely! Well done Nikki!

[To find out more about the UK Sepsis Trust click here.](#)



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

COULD YOU BE ENTITLED?

If your circumstances have changed and you believe your child may be eligible for Free School Meals you can make a quick and easy application to Staffordshire County Council via our website: [click here for more details](#)



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Thank you to all our parents for their continued to support with promoting positive attendance to school.

Thank you to all our parents for their continued support with promoting positive attendance to school. It is lovely to see so many of our students through the school gates and our persistent absence levels dropping significantly.

At the moment, students are going head-to-head in a tutor competition, battling it out to be the 'best attended' tutor group. Each day they will face a new tutor group in the race for 1st

place. Tutors are split across five leagues competing against groups with a similar starting point. Well done to the following tutor groups who sit in first place for their league!

League A
7D with Mr Dangerfield

League B
7A with Ms Dawson

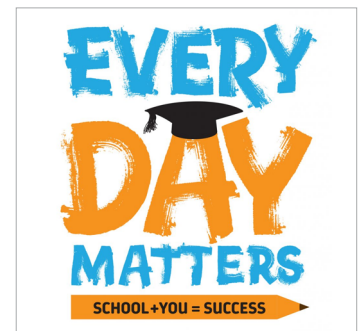
League C
7H with Ms Payton /
10H with Mr Humphries

League D
8A with Ms Humphries

League E
8D with Mr Smith

We would also like to take the opportunity to remind parents that attendance under 90.00% is categorised as persistent absence. As a school, we are required to follow local authority guidance and attendance in this category can lead to statutory action (fines). If you are concerned about your child's

attendance, we would encourage you to get in touch urgently at attendance@hartschool.org.uk **#attendancematters**



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CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF OUR NEW SEND COFFEE MORNINGS

We are delighted to share the success of our recently introduced SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Coffee Mornings.

These gatherings have quickly become a valuable resource for parents, carers, and staff, fostering a supportive community and enhancing our collaborative efforts.

Held termly, our SEND Coffee Mornings provide an informal and welcoming environment where parents and carers can connect, share experiences, and discuss their children's needs and progress. These sessions have also offered an opportunity for our dedicated staff to provide updates on support strategies, answer questions, and gather valuable feedback.

The positive impact of these meetings is already evident. Parents have expressed appreciation for the chance to engage with others facing similar challenges, and our staff have gained deeper insights into the unique needs of our students. This collaborative approach is helping us tailor our support services more effectively, ensuring that every child receives the best

possible education and care.

We are committed to continuing these Coffee Mornings and look forward to seeing even more families participate. Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive school community.



YEAR 11 UPDATE

Students have made a fantastic start to their final examinations and we are proud of how they have conducted themselves during this challenging time.

We want to remind students and parents/carers that, at this time, every minute of every lesson and revision/intervention opportunity counts and could give the students the vital information that they need to score those one or two extra marks in their exams which could move on to the next grade.

over, really looking forward to celebrating with students at their end of Year 11 prom on Tuesday 16 July. Please be reminded that this event is by invitation only and only those students who have met the requirements outlined in the student charter will be invited.



Your support in ensuring that your child is in school on time and make it to their lessons on time is much appreciated. Please encourage your child to attend our half term revision sessions.

We are still very focused on supporting students as much as possible during their exams and, once they are

Year 11 May Half Term Revision Timetable



Session	Monday 27 May	Tuesday 28 May	Wednesday 29 May	Thursday 30 May	Friday 31 May
AM (10am – 12pm)	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY	English Physics (Triple)	Geography	Chemistry (Triple) Science (Foundation)	Maths
PM (12:30pm – 2:30pm)				Science (Higher)	

Please note: Pet Xi Maths revision session is Friday 31 May 10am – 3pm.



Upcoming Event

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 19 June - Friday 21 June 2024

School Show Legally Blonde

Monday 15 July - Friday 19 July 2024

KS3 Beyond the Classroom Week

Year 10 Work Experience

HART SCHOOL SHINES AT FIRST UK ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Our students delivering an outstanding performance

We are thrilled to announce that our talented robotics team, Robotic Hart, delivered an outstanding performance at the First UK Robotics Competition held in Birmingham on the 24 April 2024. Competing against 14 formidable teams from across the West Midlands, our team not only advanced to the finals but also secured an impressive 2nd place, bringing home two prestigious awards: "The Alliance Finalist Award" and the coveted "Inspire Award."

An Inspiring Achievement

The Inspire Award, one of the highest honours of the tournament, is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship demonstrated by Robotic Hart. The judges' comments highlighted the team's embodiment of the

competition's core values, particularly their gracious professionalism. The team was commended for their politeness and the respect they showed towards both their opponents and alliance partners, showcasing true sportsmanship.

The judges were particularly impressed by the team's engineering portfolio, describing it as outstanding. Robotic Hart emerged as a strong contender across several judged categories, solidifying their reputation as an excellent ambassador for FIRST programs. Here are some of the judges' remarks:

"This team were the embodiment of what the competition is all about with their gracious professionalism."

"Their engineering portfolio blew the judges away and was outstanding."

Advancing to the Championship

With their stellar performance, Robotic Hart has earned a spot at the championship event to be held on the 21st of June, 2024, in Cambridge. The team is beyond excited about this opportunity and is already gearing up for the next stage of the competition.

Call for Mentors/Sponsors and New Members

As Robotic Hart prepares for the championship, we are seeking mentors and sponsorship to guide and support the team. If you, or anyone you know is interested in getting involved, please

let us know. Additionally, we welcome any pupils from Year 8 to 13 who are interested in joining the robotics club. Please contact Mrs. Swanston for more details.

We are incredibly proud of Robotic Hart's achievements and look forward to their continued success. Their hard work and dedication have made them a shining example of what can be achieved through teamwork, innovation, and perseverance.

Congratulations, Robotic Hart, and good luck at the championship!



SPARX READER

Igniting a passion for reading among our students

The Hart School's use of the Sparx Reader programme for Key Stage 3 English homework has proven to be a resounding success this academic year, igniting a passion for reading among our students and helping teachers and families to track students' reading more easily.

With an expectation that students spend around 30 minutes per week engaged in the Sparx Reader platform and achieve 300 Sparx Reader Points (SRP), students in Years 7, 8, and 9 have collectively dedicated over

5,500 hours to reading, reading more than 1000 books so far this year. This is an incredible achievement and we are so proud of our wonderful KS3 students!

The impact of this initiative extends far beyond mere numbers. Through Sparx Reader, we have fostered a culture of regular independent reading, making the act of reading visible to both students and parents alike. Real-time tracking allows teachers to monitor each student's progress, enabling them to hold them

accountable and have meaningful conversations about their reading choices and comprehension.

Moreover, Sparx Reader's personalised approach ensures that every student finds reading both accessible and engaging. Tailored book recommendations, personalised homework tasks, and interactive quizzes keep students actively involved in their reading journey. The platform's accessibility features further ensure that all students can fully participate and enjoy

Your students have read
1,098 books
this year in Sparx Reader. Well done!

the benefits of reading for pleasure.

Recognising the remarkable dedication of our students, we love to celebrate students' achievements weekly with the prestigious title of 'Sparx Reader of the Week,' accompanied by certificates and praise emails home. Keep your eyes on your inboxes!

A huge well done again to our students for their engagement in Sparx Reader. Keep up the incredible work!

REWARDS

Well done to all our young people that have received Praise Post Cards and Positive Phone Calls this academic year.

We are seeing more and more students receiving their bronze, silver and gold badges for their Hart Point totals. We are so proud of their achievements. Our top 20 students currently are:

C Coombes	1022
V Stammerska	959
E Horan	839
S Hicks	769
E Bateman	751
J Dixon	749
H Bateman	732
M Ryan	726
R Walker	711
H Matthews	661
L Cawser-Yanik	604
E Davies	600
P Fielding	597
L Taylor	597
H Cox	579
D Brockhurst	574
M Dunning	574
W Acton	573
H Sutton	571
C Kirby	569

We are edging closer and closer to our rewards trip and so many of our wonderful students will be looking to book their place by being in the top 200 students!




Keeping children safe online

A Parent's Guide to Fake News

IT'S ON



THE INTERNET



SO IT MUST



BE TRICK!





scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent's Guides on how to help keep your children safe online







Don't believe everything you see online!
Young people can very easily be dragged into things without parental guidance and support.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational! Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with






www.skipssafetynet.org

NATIONAL THANK A TEACHER DAY

Has someone at The Hart School made a difference to you and your family?

Wednesday 19 June 2024 is National Thank a Teacher Day. To mark this day you can send a personalised thank you card to the teacher, teaching assistant, student support officer or member of support staff that you would like to thank.

Simply fill in the on-line form, add a message to the member of staff, and we will present them with a lovely card.

The deadline to submit your message is Friday 14 June 2024.

[CLICK HERE TO WRITE YOUR THANK YOU MESSAGE](#)

It can be for anything – helping you through a difficult time, understanding something tricky or just being supportive, kind or funny! A thank you can be for any member of staff at The Hart School.



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AUTHOR VISIT

Celebrating Author Ben Davis's Visit to The Hart School

On Friday, 12th April, The Hart School welcomed a special guest to inspire our budding writers and ignite their creativity. Author Ben Davis, known for his humorous books geared towards older children and teenagers, including the popular Joe Cowley series, *My Embarrassing Dad's Gone Viral*, and *Make Me Awesome*, captivated our students with his wit and insight into the world of writing.

Throughout the day, Ben delivered engaging assemblies and interactive workshops, sharing his journey as an

author and shedding light on the processes that fuel his writing. Students were enthralled as he recounted his sources of inspiration and the joys and challenges of being a published author.

In the workshops, students were encouraged to unleash their own creativity by crafting funny characters and writing the beginnings of their own stories. With Ben's guidance, they each created unique and hilarious pieces of writing, similar to Ben's own stories.

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the PTFA

for their generous support in making this memorable event possible. Their commitment to fostering a love for reading at The Hart School is invaluable, and we are immensely grateful for their continued dedication.



YOUNG WRITERS

Showcasing the remarkable achievements of our talented students

On Thursday, 23 May, the English department proudly hosted our Young Writers celebration evening. This special event honoured the remarkable achievements of our talented students, 75 of whom were selected to be published as part of the Young Writers' "This is Me" competition earlier this year.

Families and carers gathered for an inspiring evening as our young poets took to the stage to read their works aloud. The poems presented showcased a rich tapestry of student experiences and identities, ranging from light-hearted and humorous pieces, to deeply moving reflections on personal struggles and triumphs. Each poem was a testament to the unique voice and creativity of its author, and the audience

was captivated by the authenticity and power of the performances.

We could not be prouder of every student poet. The evening not only highlighted the students' literary talents but also their courage in sharing their unique stories with others.

As we look to the future, we are excited to announce that we will continue to host similar competitions, providing more opportunities for our young writers to be published and celebrated. We eagerly anticipate many more evenings filled with inspiring poetry and storytelling.

A huge thank you to the English department for their support in getting our young writers published, and giving them the confidence to find their own voice.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

Teaching and learning in the classroom should always prioritise progress.

This means creating an environment where students are continuously challenged and supported to develop their skills and knowledge. Every lesson, of everyday, teachers at The Hart School are setting clear, achievable goals, using diverse instructional strategies to meet the needs of all learners, and regularly assess student understanding to guide instruction.

In addition to this we are celebrating small milestones and providing constructive feedback which is crucial in fostering a growth mindset and this happens daily through classroom monitoring, checking for understanding

and live marking. By focusing on progress, as a school, we can ensure that every student experiences meaningful growth and is prepared for future academic and personal success.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM WEEK

Giving our students a variety of learning experiences, the likes of which are not normally available during the school week.

The Hart School will be introducing a Beyond the Classroom week for students in Years 7 to 9 during the week beginning Monday 15 July. As part of this week we will be running enrichment activities over three days.

The thinking behind these activities is to engage our students away from the classroom by giving them a variety of learning experiences, the likes of which are not normally available during the school week.

Students will be able to choose from a range of activities from The Great Hart Bake Off, Marvellous Medicine, Mission to Mars and Shakespeare to Life to name a few. In total there are 17 programmes available each linked to a particular faculty. Students will then follow their selected programme for all three days.

This is a superb opportunity for our students and we look forward to sharing more about the programme in the next edition.

YOUNG CARER

Is your child a young carer?

A young carer is someone aged 25 and under who cares for a friend or family member who, due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction, cannot cope without their support. Older young carers are also known as young adult carers and they may have different support needs to younger carers.

A young carer may look after a parent or care for a brother or sister. They may do extra jobs in and around the home, such as cooking, cleaning or helping someone get dressed and move around.

A young carer may also give a lot of physical help to a

parent, brother or sister who's disabled or ill. Along with doing things to help siblings, they may be giving emotional support to family as well.

If you think your child is a young carer please email youngcarers@hartschool.org.uk and we can discuss what supportive options we can offer to your child.

Alternatively there is a young carers drop in session, break 1 every Thursday – encourage your child to attend this.



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