

The Hart

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2024 • ISSUE 6 • SUMMER TERM TWO

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This is our last newsletter of the year. Thank you for all your support in what has been a very good year for the school.

As we reach the end of another fantastic term at The Hart School, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our journey and achievements over the year.

It has been an absolute privilege to be the Principal at this wonderful school, and I am grateful for the continued support from our entire school community. Throughout this term, we have made numerous improvements and continued to go from strength to strength.

Our students have been nothing short of fabulous. Their hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication have made us incredibly proud. I would also like to extend my thanks to our staff for their dedication and hard work. Their commitment, especially in creating wider opportunities through extra-curricular activities, has enriched our students' experiences.

We have had an exciting week of activities as part of our 'Beyond the Classroom' offer. From our own Hart Bake Off to the thrilling Mission from Mars, and from Roller Coasters to the timeless works of Shakespeare, our students have had a chance to explore, learn, and have fun.

A special mention goes to our Year 10 and Year 12 students who have experienced the world of work this term. We eagerly look forward to hearing about your experiences when we return in September.

As ever, thank you for your continued support throughout

the year. I wish you all a lovely, safe, and enjoyable summer break. I look forward to welcoming all our students back in September, ready for another exciting and successful year ahead.

Rachael Sandham
Principal

#WeCanWeWillWeDo



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TRANSITION DAYS

It was a pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 students into school for their transition days

It was a pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 students into school for their transition days in September. There were a couple of mixed emotions at the gates upon arrival, but as the days concluded, we saw their initial apprehension turn into beaming smiles as they left.

We are eagerly anticipating their official start with us in September and are committed to ensuring a smooth and positive transition into secondary school life for all our new students. We look forward to welcoming students to school on Wednesday 4 September at 8.30am.



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](#)



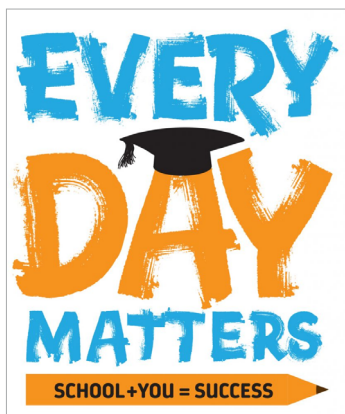
ATTENDANCE MATTERS

We have seen significant improvements in school attendance this year, and we want to thank you for your support in this crucial area.

Starting the year strongly is essential, as our lowest attendance was during the first term. Please avoid taking your child out of school at this time, as it impacts their learning and contributes to gaps in their curriculum understanding.

If you require any support in helping your child to attend school regularly then please do not hesitate contact our attendance team via e-mail attendance@hartschool.org.uk or

via telephone 01889 571685.



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LEGALLY BLONDE

Our recent school show was a phenomenal success, showcasing the talents of all involved.

Our talented pupils entertained family, friends and the wider community when they brought an iconic romantic comedy to life. Legally Blonde was The Hart School's annual production for 2024 and quickly became the hottest ticket in town, selling out every night for three nights.

This spectacular, funny and heart-warming show created a real buzz around the school and it was fantastic to see all of the hard work of the students paying off. This was truly a collaborative effort as students from all 7 year groups and staff worked on the production both on and off stage.

Last year's production of Grease was a tough act to follow but the Performing Arts Team, led incredibly by Miss Cowley, made sure that this year's effort was just as good (if not better!). Rehearsals began very soon after the production was announced, with songs being practised from September before the all-important casting process took place. Year 13 performing arts student Leyla Harputlu took the coveted part of Elle Woods following her incredible performance as Sandy last year. This was a bittersweet affair as this would be Leyla's last performance with us following completion of her courses.

"We wanted to do something really ambitious and modern. Something that all of the students, regardless of their part could sink their teeth into. This was perfect," said Miss Cowley, "There were more set changes in the first Act of Legally Blonde than in the whole of last year's Grease". And you could tell. From courtrooms to college parties, shower blocks to hair salons, the staging was a dramatic feast for the eyes worthy of any West End stage.

"We're so proud of the hard work and determination that went into this production. To see all of the efforts become something so spectacular was a joy to behold," said our principal, Ms Sandham.

With the set safely packed away, and the students enjoying a well earned rest (after a pretty incredible after-party) all are thoughts now are focussed on one question: what will be the production for 2025?

When the time comes, we hope even more students volunteer to come and take part. It really is something special.



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ARMITAGE CAMERA CLUB COMPETITION

Our students delivering outstanding photos

Earlier this year the Rugeley and Armitage Camera Club approached The Hart School to give our students the opportunity to enter a competition where their work would be put on exhibition. The three main categories were Nature, Rugeley & Surrounding Areas, plus Abstract and Mono. 1st 2nd and 3rd Prizes were awarded in each category. The competition was very popular with students to the point where we were over subscribed. The school had over 100 photos to look through, with entries from Year 7 up to Year 11.

The standard of work was impeccable. Work was then selected for printing and display within the exhibition which was held on Sunday 12 June. Student work was also digitally shown within the exhibition. All families and students were invited to attend and winners were announced on the day of exhibition.

The work entered was highly commended by all club members. They enjoyed looking through our pupils photographs and the lead judge Paddy Roscoe, a professional photographer himself said he really enjoyed

the privilege of looking through the students photos and judging them even though he found it extremely hard to pick between them. All pupils received some constructive feedback from the judges to help them in their future work. After the success of this collaboration we are glad to

say there will be more joint projects with the Rugeley and Armitage Camera Club in the future We are extremely proud of all the students who participated and look forward to seeing what they will produce next.



LIBRARY CLUB

Igniting a passion for reading among our students

Library club ventured into their first shadowing experience with the judging of the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing. The group chose one of the texts 'Door of No Return' by Kwame Alexander to read together with Mrs Laird whilst the other texts were explored by small groups or individually.

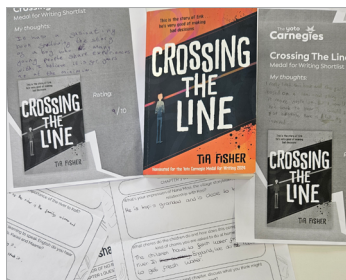
We had mixed feelings on our favourite book so were all rooting for different ones when it came to the final vote.

We were able to watch the results as a group as the students had spent so much time taking part in the activities and reading the books so it was fantastic to see the end event. We were all shocked and some were very pleased to see that 'Crossing the

Line' had won!

Overall, our first shadowing experience for the Yoto Carnegie medal has been very positive and we have already started reading for our next book awards, The Lollies, to review the funniest children's books.

Library Club is open on Wednesday Break 2 and we will be welcoming new members in Years 7, 8 and 9 in September.

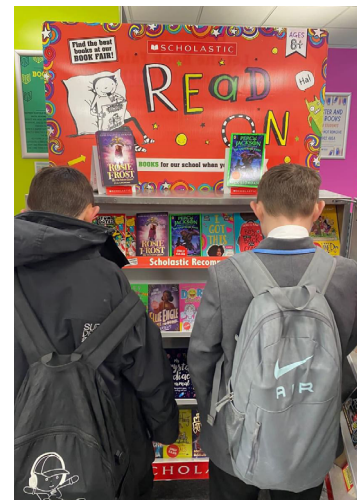


BOOK FAIR

Scholastic Book Fair

We hosted a successful Scholastic Book Fair in our school library, raising an impressive £?? to support literacy initiatives. It was great to see so many students actively engaged in selecting and reading books from our book fair.

Thank you to all our parents who support it in purchasing books, we will host a further fair in the new academic year.



BARCELONA

Unforgettable experiences and broadening students cultural horizons

We are thrilled to share the highlights of our recent trip to Barcelona, where our students had the unique opportunity to immerse themselves in Spanish culture and language. This journey was filled with unforgettable experiences that not only enriched their knowledge of Spanish but also broadened their cultural horizons.

Our first highlight in Barcelona started with a visit to the awe-inspiring Sagrada Familia. This architectural masterpiece by Antoni Gaudí left everyone in awe. The intricate designs, towering spires, and vibrant stained glass windows were a sight to behold. Students enjoyed self-guided tour enhancing their vocabulary and understanding of architectural terms.

Next, we ventured to Park Güell, another of Gaudí's creations. The colourful mosaics, whimsical

sculptures, and breathtaking views of the city provided a perfect backdrop for learning. Students used their Spanish skills to navigate and uncover the park's hidden gems.

For the sports enthusiasts, a visit to the RCDE Stadium, home of RCD Espanyol, was a dream come true. Students toured the stadium, explored the locker rooms, and even had a chance to practice their Spanish by pretending to interview footballers in the press room. The behind-the-scenes experience gave them a deeper appreciation for Spanish football culture and added a fun twist to their language learning.

Our final day was all about relaxation and fun at a local water park. Students enjoyed various water rides and pools. The laughter and joy of the day made for a perfect ending to an incredible trip.

Throughout the trip, students

were encouraged to speak Spanish as much as possible. Whether ordering food, asking for directions, or engaging in guided activities, every moment was a chance to refine their language skills. The immersive experience proved invaluable in boosting their confidence and

proficiency in Spanish.

We are proud of our students for their enthusiasm, participation, and willingness to embrace the Spanish culture and language. We look forward to more such enriching trips in the future.



YEAR 11 PROM

The class of 2024 were suited and booted in their finery to celebrate the end of Year 11 in style at Chase Golf club on Tuesday 16 July 2024.

The Class of 2024 partied the night away and enjoyed the song requests, professional photographs, novelty awards including Prom King and Queen 2024 and the 360-video booth to capture memories that we are sure will last a lifetime.

It was lovely to see both staff and students looking so glamorous and enjoying the night, a fantastic way to end their Year 11 journey and look

forward to results day and their next chapter!

A huge thank you to all staff that came along to support and Miss Crofts and Mrs Knight for their preparation for such a super night!



CET STEM VISIT

Students in Year 9 represented the Hart School at the annual CET STEM prize at the National Space Centre in Leicester.

Students in Year 9 represented the Hart School at the annual CET STEM prize at the National Space Centre in Leicester. A day of competition, putting Science and Maths skills to the test.

anticipated rocket challenge, where teams built a rock to 'fly to the moon' on a limited budget and resources. Our amazing team came second in this challenge, retaining our place top of the leader board.

conundrums. Here we were pipped to the post, pushing us into third place. The day was enjoyed by all and we are proud of our team's achievement.



A huge well done to our fantastic team – Rachael, Seb, Charlotte, Logan and Maisie – who came third, representing the school brilliantly. The day kicked off with the Science Quiz, team pitted against each other in a series of pioneering science questions. All before the much

After exploring the Space centre, teams had the opportunity to quiz interns and find out how they can progress into STEM subject careers in the future. The day finished with the maths relay challenge. Teams racing around the room to complete complex mathematical



ACHIEVEMENT UPDATE

Showcasing the remarkable achievements of our students

Year 11

On Thursday 20 June, Year 11 students were invited into school for their final leavers' assembly. Students and staff had a lovely afternoon signing shirts, taking photos and participating in the final assembly for students, led by Miss Cockbill. We were also able to announce the winners of our Points Mean Prizes rewards initiative which rewarded students throughout the year on their daily attendance, progress, attendance to intervention sessions and breakfast club.

Huge congratulations to the following students for being in the top 3 in our leader board: E Bannister, A Cavender and E Wallace.

Y10 PPE Results

On Thursday 11 July, Year 10 students received their PPE results in an assembly during period 5. There was a fantastic atmosphere as students received their envelopes and congregated

outside to open them; many students were delighted with their grades and proud, knowing that their hard work has paid off. Students have also been given topic breakdown sheets for each of their subjects, so that they know the areas they need to focus on for their revision, alongside revision guides for English, maths and science. Students have also been given summer work pack to complete, with revision activities in English, maths, science, history/geography. Students need to complete this work and hand to their teachers in the first week back in September for points as part of our Points Mean Prizes initiative.

Summer School

Thank you to all of those parents who expressed an interest in our summer school. Unfortunately, there were only a small number of families who signed up so this is unable to run.

Rewards Trip

On Friday 12 July, over 100 students attended a Year 10 Reward trip to Alton Towers. These students were invited due to their hard work in completing components for their vocational subjects. The behaviour of students on the trip was exemplary and staff and students had a great time!

Year 11 and 13 Results Days

We are excited to be able to welcome out Y11 and Y13

students into school on GCSE and A-Level results days this summer. Year 13 students can collect their results from the school library from 9-12 on Thursday 15 August. Year 11 students will be able to collect their results from 9-12 in the school library on Thursday 22 August.

We are really looking forward to seeing our students for one last time on these days, and celebrating their fantastic achievements.



WORK EXPERIENCE

Students gaining a taste of the world of work.

This week the school felt very empty as Year 10 students were out on work experience. It has been fantastic to hear about their experiences.

Some students reported that they have decided that they are not too keen to work now

as it is 'quite tiring and can be boring', whilst another said they were so tired after the first day that they fell asleep on the sofa! It seems like they have had an honest introduction to the world of work.



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.



INTERNATIONAL TOUR STOPS OFF IN RUGELEY

We were delighted to welcome 33 students from Baker College, Sydney, Australia

We were delighted to welcome 33 students from Baker College, Sydney, Australia during their visit to The Hart School last week as part of their international tour to London and Paris, with a stop in Staffordshire.

It was an enriching experience for our design students to engage with them in workshops focused on modelling and photography. This exchange of ideas and skills not only broadened their creative horizons but also fostered meaningful cultural connections. We look forward to future opportunities to collaborate and learn from our global visitors!



KICKBOXING

Kickboxing GB International Open

Well done Summer Harvey Year 11 winning the Junior Grand Champion to Kickboxing GB International Open.

This is one to keep an eye out in future Olympics, well done summer we're really proud of you!



STAYING SUMMER SAFE

During the summer holidays, without the distraction of school, internet usage for many young people can increase all the way up to September.

What you can do to help keep your child safe online:

Do not allow your child to sign up to any social media accounts for which they are underage. Your child will be much safer online and is much less likely to see any inappropriate content.

If your child has a social media account, if you follow them, you will be able to see the content they put out and engage with. You will also be better equipped in helping to guide them.

Discuss the positive and negative elements of social media and always remind them to think before they share.

Regularly discuss with your child the importance of letting you know who they are connecting with and not to purchase anything online without gaining your permission first.

Regularly remind your child they should only connect online with friends and family they know in the physical world and not to accept 'friend play request' from strangers.

Always let your child know that they should always say if they see or hear anything online that makes them feel scared or uncomfortable and to never arrange to meet someone who they have met online.

Let them know that they do not have to feel as though they have done something wrong, nobody is going to get cross, and it is not their fault.

If you are concerned with anything you or your child has seen or asked to do, please call Childline or tell your child's school.

Please [click here](#) for further information on keeping your child safe online over the summer holidays.

RESULTS DAYS 2024

Post 16 and GCSE Results Day

Post 16 results day is Thursday 15 August 2024

GCSE results day is Thursday 22 August 2024

Students can collect their results from the library which will be open from 9am until midday. Our dedicated team of teachers and staff members will be present throughout the mornings to provide guidance, support, and celebrate this significant milestone with the students.

Join our Sixth Form

For Year 11 students uncertain about their next steps, Mr. Brennan will be present at school on results day to provide valuable guidance and support regarding Sixth Form recruitment. Whether students are considering continuing their studies with us or exploring other pathways, Mr. Brennan will offer personalised assistance to help them make informed decisions about their future educational journey.

T20 BLAST CRICKET TRIP

Bears Vs Rapids

On Friday 12 July, we took a group of 13 students (Y7-Y10) to Edgbaston Cricket Ground to watch a Vitality T20 Cricket match between Birmingham Bears and Worcestershire Rapids.

The purpose of this sports trip was to allow students to experience a professional T20 cricket match and see how elite players perform at the highest level. The students

had a fantastic time despite the Rapids defeating the Bears by 55 runs.

Some students got autographs from a few of the players and K Harding got a picture with Bears and English international cricketer Moeen Ali.

A huge thank you to Mr Smith for supporting with the trip.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM WEEK

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

This week, our school's priority was for students engage on a journey of exploration and discovery. This was brought to life in a spectacular fashion with the launch of our first ever Beyond The Classroom week. Students were able to select from a catalogue of activities as diverse and engaging as the school itself allowing opportunities that could not happen within the typical school year.

Students ventured beyond the four walls of the classrooms and into the boundless realm of experiential learning, being able to understand

things connected to the world around them. The activities that unfolded were as diverse as they were educational, providing our students with a rich array of experiences. From the artistry of ancient civilizations to the modern-day science of baking, our students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in a broad spectrum of subjects. Projects on journalism, Shakespeare, statistics and engineering were realised in fantastic ways that engaged students from the first moment.

These experiences were not just about acquiring

knowledge; they were about igniting passions and discovering new talents. Students learned the value of teamwork, the thrill of competition, and the satisfaction of seeing a project come to fruition. We owe tremendous thanks to our dedicated staff, who went above and beyond to orchestrate this week of immersive learning. Their hard work and innovative spirit have not gone unnoticed, and we thank them for their constant commitment to our students' education.

As we reflect on this past week, we are reminded

that education is not just about what happens in the classroom; it's about engaging with the world around us. We look forward to continuing this tradition of experiences Beyond The Classroom, knowing that each experience helps shape the minds and hearts of our students. Thank you to all who contributed to making this week a memorable journey of learning and growth. Staff's minds are racing now, brimming with ideas of what next year might offer following the success of this one.



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SAVE THE DATE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term Dates 2024/25

Autumn Term Starts: Wednesday 4 September 2024

Half Term: Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November 2024

Autumn Term Ends: Friday 20 December 2024

Spring Term Starts: Tuesday 7 January 2025

Half Term: Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February 2025

Spring Term Ends: Friday 11 April 2025

Easter Holidays: Monday 14 April – Friday 25 April 2025

Summer Term Starts: Monday 28 April 2025

Bank Holiday: Monday 5 May 2025

Half Term: Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May 2025

Summer Term Ends: Friday 18 July 2025

INSET Dates (Closed to students)

Monday 2 September 2024

Tuesday 3 September 2024

Friday 25 October 2024

Monday 6 January 2025

Monday 21 July 2025 (Disaggregated Day)

Parents' Evenings

Year 7: Thursday 6 March 2025

Year 8: Thursday 1 May 2025

Year 9: Thursday 13 February 2025

Year 10: Thursday 13 March 2025

Year 11: Thursday 3 October 2024
and Thursday 10 April 2025

Sixth Form (Year 12 & 13): Tuesday 10 December 2024
and Tuesday 25 March 2025

REWARDS DAY 2024

Inflatables and ice-cream to celebrate the last day of term

This week where students celebrated their success for achieving the most positive points this academic year for their consistent effort, positive attitude to learning, demonstrating good attendance, excellent behaviour and punctuality.

Students had a fun day having ice cream from 'Joe's Ices' and enjoying the giant inflatables on our school field including a Rodeo Ride! Well done everyone and keep up the good work!

