



REDHILL
ACADEMY TRUST

Hall Park Academy

newsletter

April 2022

As we draw to a close on another term, there is plenty to celebrate and review from the last few months at Hall Park Academy.

There has been a rich schedule of Inter-House events such as netball, logic puzzles and poetry reading. These events are key parts of the school calendar that allow the students to take part in activities outside of the normal curriculum.



Our students have displayed their generous nature once again by raising funds for charity throughout the term. Our art students sold their very own mother's day card creations, whilst the ever popular "Red Nose Day" and accompanying bake sale raised £749.41.

Within this newsletter you will read highlights of exciting trips and events that have taken place this half term, as well as celebrating outstanding work created by Hall Park students.

I would like to wish our school community a happy Easter and I look forward to welcoming students back for the summer term.

Mr Crossley - Headteacher



Mandy Straw 30 Years Service

Those who call into our school reception will know Mandy as the face, and voice, of Hall Park. Mandy has achieved the remarkable landmark of 30 years service at the school, serving multiple roles such as front of house receptionist and attendance administrator .

We would like to offer our sincere gratitude and thanks to Mandy for all that she does to support the students, parents and staff of Hall Park Academy on a daily basis.

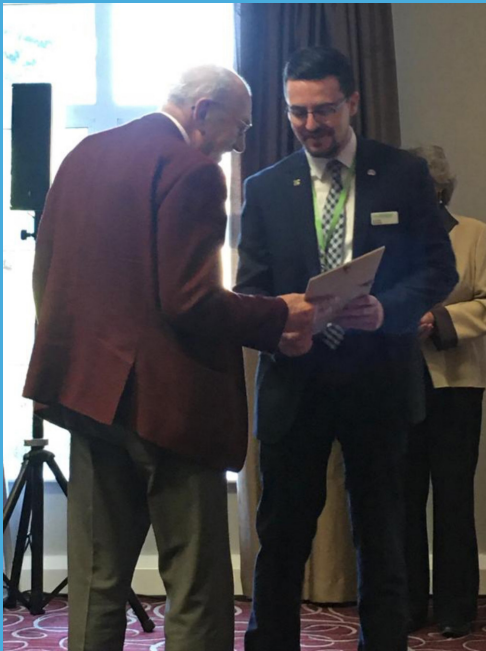
Congratulations on your achievement Mandy, and here's to another 30 years!



Award for Outstanding Achievement – David Hill 50 Years a Governor!

The Notts Association of Governors Annual Conference took place on Saturday 26th March where David was presented with Certificate by the Chair of the Nottinghamshire Children, Young People and Schools Committee for Outstanding Contribution to Governance in Nottinghamshire to mark 50 years as a Governor in Eastwood.

In recognition of this achievement, The Award for Outstanding Achievement was added to this year's Annual Presentation evening to honour David, who is probably the longest serving Governor of any school in Nottinghamshire.



As well as his governor duties, David has been a local councillor and has actively supported a number of local charities. And, as well as working full time he also found time to run the first London Marathon and until a few years ago was a regular biker – motor, not pedal. He was also the guiding hand behind the establishment of Greasley Sports Centre.

David has been a role model for hundreds of governors over the years, showing what is possible if you put your mind to it. His qualities are those all students should aspire to.

Thank you for your service David from all of the staff at Hall Park Academy!

Year 9 alumnus session with Kia Beeby-Parnham

A group of Year 9 students recently took part in a Q&A session with former Hall Park student, Kia Beeby-Parnham. Kia currently works as a midwife at Queen's Medical Centre.



"I studied Biology, English and Geography in the then newly-opened sixth form. I knew I wanted a job that combined science with the social side of life. I didn't want to do something where I would hate every minute of it! As a midwife no two days are ever the same." Kia explained the stiff competition for places on midwifery courses; around 500 people apply for 30-40 places per course. "In 2016, I applied to five universities but unfortunately I was unsuccessful.

It was really upsetting watching my friends go off to uni. I was told many times that I wasn't smart enough to be a midwife, but I didn't accept that. Sometimes you have to believe in yourself before other people will believe in you."

"I spent the year studying a BTEC and then reapplied in 2017, this time gaining a place on all five courses I applied to. I chose to accept an unconditional offer from the University of Northampton. Once on the course I became head of the Midwifery Society and was shortlisted for RCM's Student Midwife of the Year Award. It may have taken me an extra year, I may have worked harder but I managed to graduate top of my class with a 1st-class honours in midwifery and get my dream job."

Year 9 alumnus session with Kia Beeby-Parnham

Kia reassured students that don't yet have a clear plan of what career they would like to pursue. "You get the degree and then you realise the possibilities open to you. The important thing is to not limit yourself with an unwillingness to learn."



The students were keen to find out more about life as a midwife.

Q.What does a typical day look like for you?

A. Delivering babies is 1% of what I do. I feel passionately about choice and advocating for others. This means I educate people on the options available to them during pregnancy and support them in making their own informed choices about their body. On average, I work three, 13-hour shifts each week – days, nights, and weekends.

Q.What do you need to do to graduate as a midwife?

A. You need to complete 2,800 practice hours and deliver 40 babies to qualify as a midwife. You will look after around 100 women over a range of placements. Oh, and don't forget the essays and exams, too!

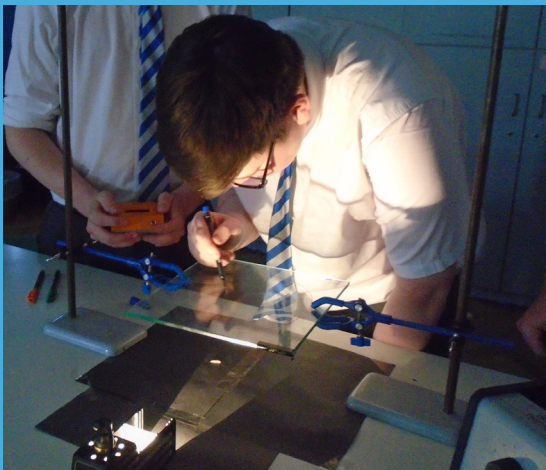
Q.Where's the craziest place you have ever delivered a baby?

A. I was once called up to the helipad on top of QMC to deliver a baby in the air ambulance! I've also delivered babies on a boat, in a prison and an army barracks!

STEM Club

Year 10 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) are currently taking part in extended science projects. Most recently in STEM, we've been testing blow fly larvae's response to light. Hannah Armstrong: 'We found that in white light, blow fly larvae had a higher speed in moving away from the indication zone, compared to any other colour light. When we repeated this experiment with a purple light, we found that the blow fly larvae were around 2x slower with purple light than the control lighting (white light).'

The photograph shows the larvae moving away from the white light while our club members mark in pen where the larvae is every 3 seconds. From our results we can calculate the different responses each larvae had to the different coloured stimuli from their distance and angle away from the centre of the indicated zone. Our results show that white blow fly larvae respond well to white light at an average speed of 0.511 cm/s. Another experiment we did showed how they responded to red light.



They often went towards this light, with an average speed of 0.831 cm/s. In order to prevent excess amounts of heat energy interfering with the data we used a heat shield in front of the bulb. We also found out that the angle of movement is more variable when the larvae are further away from the light, with the mean average angle being 68.20 from the centre of the indication zone.

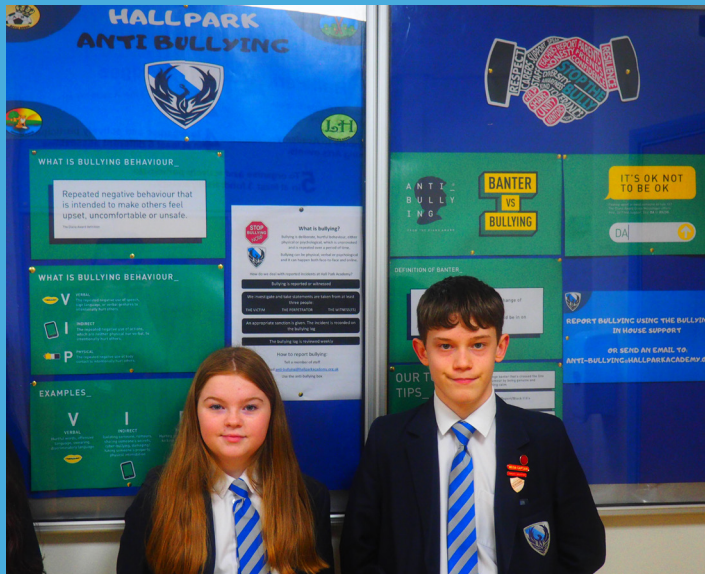
STEM team: Hannah A, Frances K, Jake N, Matthew D, Matthew C, Josh S, Josh E, Gracie C, Lily D, and Chloe P.

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have visited the form groups to discuss the difference between banter and bullying. We are hopeful the message will be understood that sometimes students do not find certain names amusing and can get upset. The team feel very strongly about ensuring every student understands that Hall Park does not accept bullying.

Remember if you are a victim or witness of bullying or any unkind behaviour please report it in confidence to the anti-bullying box in house support or to our confidential email:

anti-bullying@hallparkacademy.org.uk

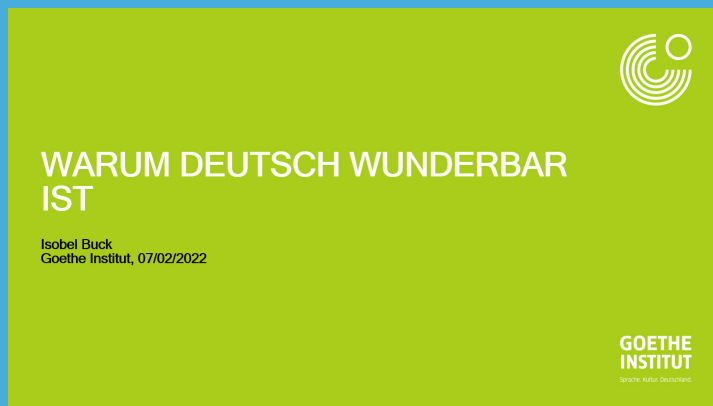


Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have signed up to support our anti-bullying campaign as they want to be part of removing all types of bullying from our school. They believe that they can lead on anti-bullying campaigns, promote a culture which celebrates difference and keeps peers safe.

If you would like to become an anti-bullying ambassador, please speak to Mr Dolman or Mrs Lomax-Taylor. Remember everyone should be able to say it is good to be in a bullying free area.

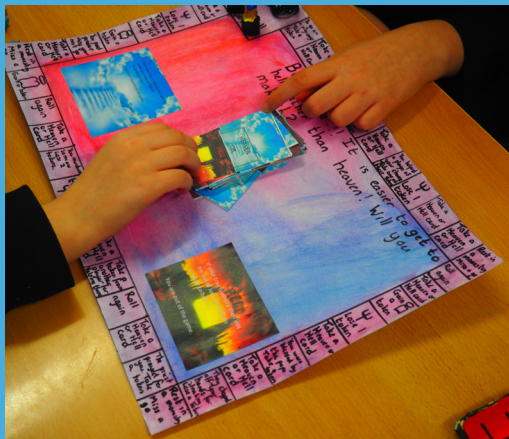
Team Deutsch

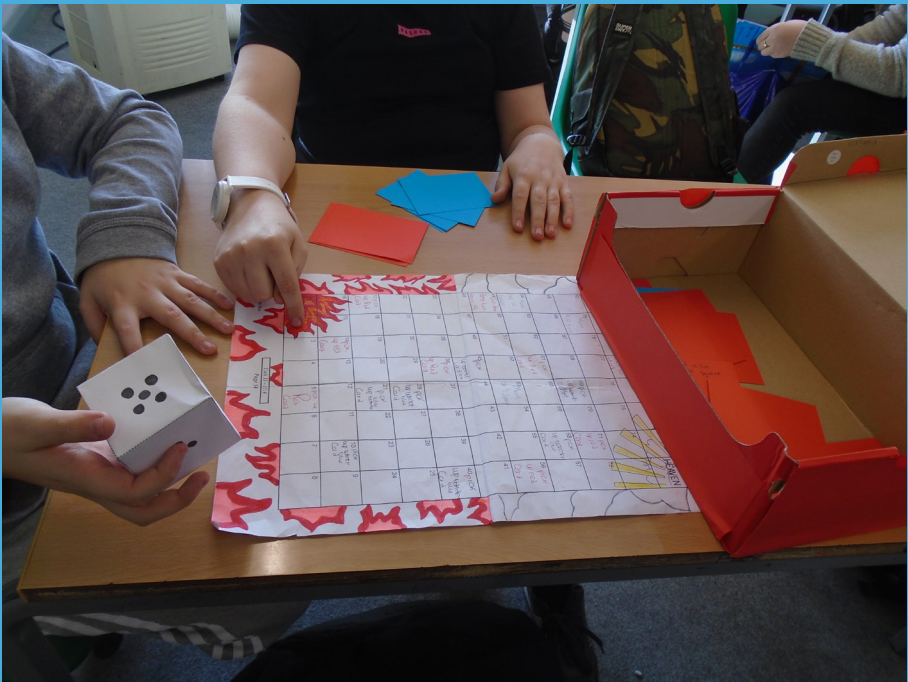
At the beginning of February, Team Deutsch were lucky enough to have a session from the Goethe Institut's Young Ambassador, Isobel Buck. The event was well-attended and looked at how and why German is useful beyond the classroom. The students took part in a quiz at the end to test their German knowledge and Aarani I and Zara B came joint 1st, winning some Goethe Institut badges and other goodies. Gut gemacht!



History Board Games

Year 7 History students have produced some fantastic work! Their homework was to produce a board game showing how people in Medieval times believed you got to heaven, or ended up in hell. We also had a great time playing them!





Mother's Day Card Designs

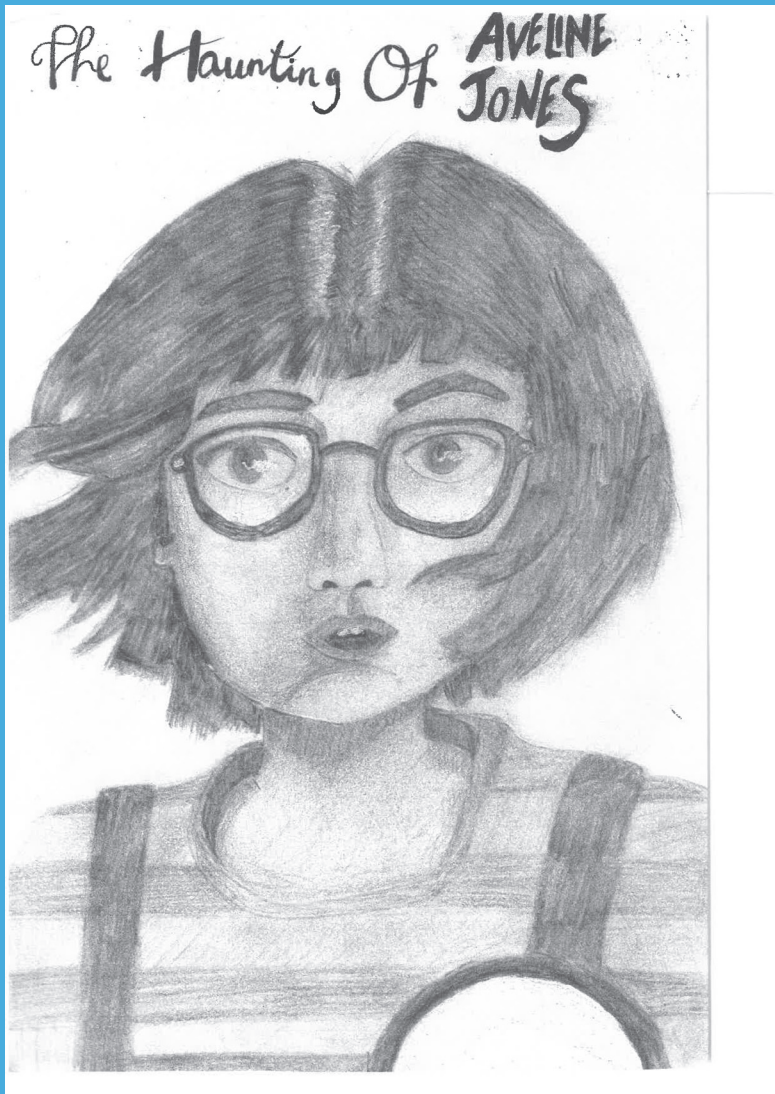
Art students have created some fantastic Mother's Day cards to sell at the HPA Art pop up shop!

These designs were created by Aarani I and Emily S, well done girls on your creations!



Redhill Book Awards

A group of KS3 students attended the Redhill Book Awards that was held at Carlton Academy. These students have been reading a variety of young adult fiction from a variety of authors and then voting for their favourite in different categories. A number of the authors filmed personal responses thanking the students for their award, Hall Park Academy also received a prize because of a wonderful drawing done by Isobel Speight. You can see the amazing drawing below:



Drama Club

This half term in drama club the students have reading and auditioning for a new school play. **TEN** tells the story of Jamie a 14-year-old having to attend a new school. The story explores the many emotions that a teenager can feel, and how those feelings attach themselves to people. Jamie struggles to manage old friends, new friends, family and the world around them. **Ten** explores the process of listening to yourself and truly accepting who you are. The performance is scheduled to take place on the 22nd and 23rd of June. With tickets priced at £3 adult and £2 concession. All money raised in this performance will go towards a theatre trip for the students who have put everything they have into this performance.

**DREM IT MAKE IT THEATRE
COMPANY PRESENT
A FIRST TIME PRODUCTION OF...**

TEN

**WEDNESDAY 22ND
THURSDAY 23RD
JUNE**

7PM START

HALL PARK THEATRE

**TICKETS THROUGH PARENT PAY
ADULTS £3
CONCESSIONS £2**

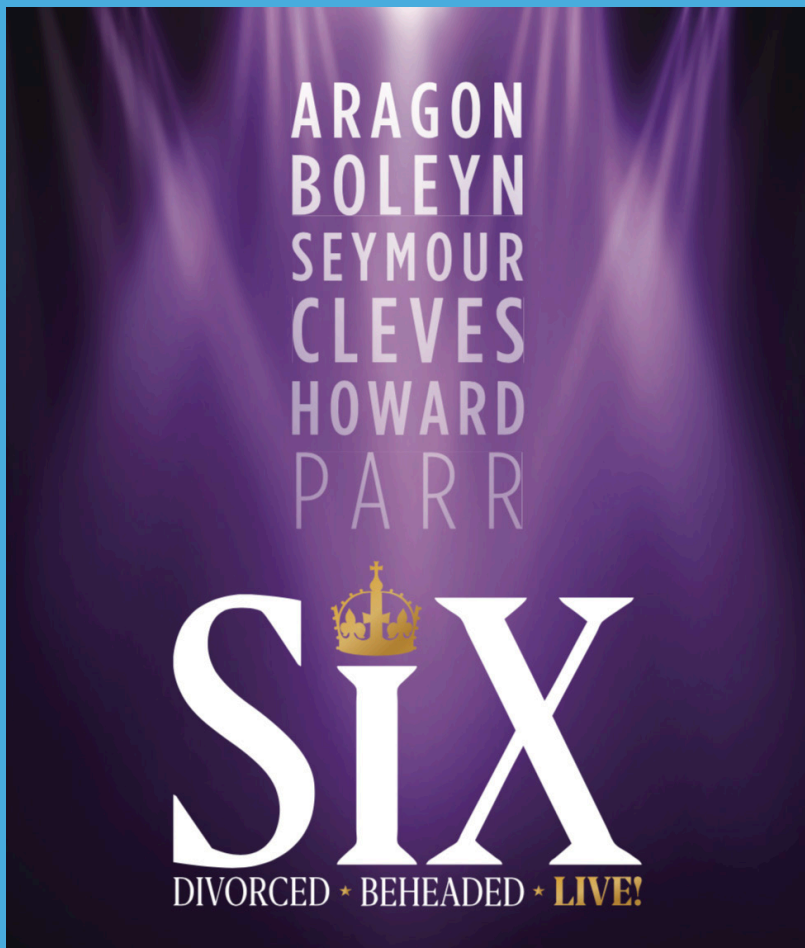
**ALL MONEY RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS A
THEATRE TRIP FOR THE STUDENTS.**

Written by Mrs L Wilde

Glee Club

This term we have had a new introduction to the extra-curricular programme, GLEE CLUB! We have had a great turn out of students. The students are starting an amazing set list of performances, from musicals to the Back street boys. During this half term, the students have worked really hard to complete a full performance of Six from Six the musical including both song and dance.

Keep your eyes peeled for a bunch more from Hall Park Glee Club!



Drama

A Level Drama:

The A Level Year 13 drama students performed their exam performance of “The Curious Incident of the Dog in The Night Time” to a small audience and an examiner.

The play follows the struggles of Christopher a boy with autism. The students; Liam H, Chloe P, Mel J-W and Adriana B gave a sensitive and emotional performance that was well received. I hope the examiner agrees!

GCSE Drama:

Year 11 students performed their examination performances of monologues and duologues, both classical and non-classical for the camera. Well done to all of the students, there was some exceptional talent!



Interhouse Netball

A huge well done to everyone who took part in Interhouse Netball last week. Astle stormed the tournament with the most number of participants and as a result won all their games.



A big shout out to Hannah B for getting such a big team together for Astle House.

Thank you to Hannah, Ruby and Betty for umpiring each game, we couldn't have held the event without your help!

Active In Mind

Active In Mind has been running on a Wednesday lunchtime. Students took part in an introductory afternoon in February and since then, 16 students between Years 7 and 10 have been working with sixth form mentors on positive mindset, wellbeing and the powerfulness of physical activity to improve wellbeing and mindset. The session takes place every Wednesday lunchtime and will continue to run until after the Easter holiday.



Year 7 Netball

The Year 7 girls saw their first ever Netball match played on Wednesday 9th March at Fernwood School. The girls were really excited but also very nervous. As the evening progressed, it was clear which positions suited each of the girls and it was very clear how good Hall Park Year 7 girls are at Netball!

We came away with a draw. Morgan Johnson was unbelievable in defence and made so many interceptions. Paige Manton was excellent in Centre and was able to move the ball down the court successfully. Olivia Hallam was a great asset before suffering an injury. She was able to feed accurate passes into our shooting circle. All of the team were fantastic and I look forward to writing about your skills in the next Newsletter!

Year 8 Netball

Our Year 8 team began their Netball fixtures in February this year. It was a very cold evening which resulted in some freezing hands and legs! Despite the challenging conditions, the Hall Park Team played really well. The improvement over the course of the evening was fantastic. The teachers from the other schools commented on how much the team developed during the event.

It was fantastic to see such teamwork and encouragement from all the girls. Ella Gladwin was excellent in defence alongside Katherine Carter. Essie Mulholland had the most powerful pass of the night! Holly Morton had fingers that seemed to have glue on! She caught every ball passed to her and took some great shots on goal. All the other girls made some amazing passes and interceptions. I look forward to writing about these girls after the next match!

Good luck in your next fixture girls.

A special mention for Izzy Plant in Year 9. Izzy volunteered to umpire and coach both the Year 7 and 8 teams and proved to be an excellent help at all the Netball fixtures. Well done and thank you Izzy!

Year 8 Faith Tour

Year 8 students went to Derby on 24 March with Mr Fenby to visit 3 places of worship. First to a Hindu temple to see the morning arti worship taking place and to meet the temple priest. They had a tour of the Mandir and received Prashad, a type of sweet gift.

They then went to the Mosque to see how Muslims worship. We saw the wudu ritual cleansing room and sat in the mosque prayer hall to listen to a talk about Islam before doing a quiz about what we had learnt so far.

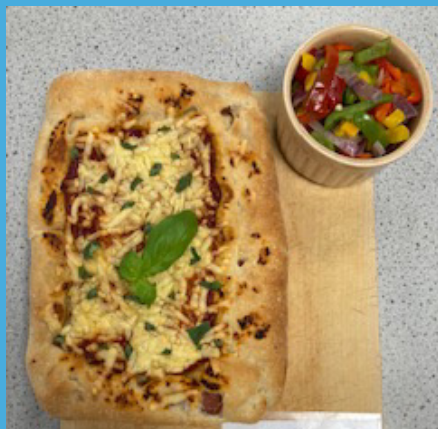


Finally, they went to the Sikh Temple where the scriptures were being sung. They ate with the community in the Langar hall and then had a talk by a Sikh scholar about the 5 K's and what it is like to be a Sikh in Britain today.

It was a good opportunity for our students to get out of school and to learn first-hand by seeing how religious groups worship. We were also able to meet different community groups, and see sacred buildings that we do not have in Eastwood. Students were praised by the community leaders for being respectful and asking good questions throughout the day.

Year 11 GCSE Food Exam

The Year 11s recently completed their GCSE Food Exam. Pictured below are some of the amazing products they created!



House Update



The spring term has seen some fantastic achievements for Erewash house. For example, leading in the attendance and house point league as well as students engaging and representing the house in the inter-house events. EAT currently have an attendance of over 96% which is amazing, so well done to all students who are in EAT and keep it up. Our highest house point earners this half term are Charlotte F (EJM) with 143 house points and Max J (EJD) and Zainab K (EJM) jointly with 116 house points.

Erewash students have proven to be very logical and quizzical with a win at Inter-House Logic Puzzles earlier this month. Students have shown to be resilient and part of a team when representing our house in these events, so a big well done!

Outside of school this half term, Ryan Bennett in EAT has climbed Mount Snowdon, raising a total of £ 1600 for Brinsley Rescue, so a massive well done to Ryan. I would be really keen to hear about any other achievements of our students outside of school so we can continue to encourage and support.

I wish all of the Erewash Year 11 students luck for their forthcoming GCSE exams and hope that everyone has an enjoyable Easter. See you in the Summer Term!

Mr Simpson - Head of Erewash House

House Update



It has been another great term for students in Astle House, with students actively getting involved in inter-house events, trips and interventions. This really reflects the hard work and dedication of the students in our house. We are currently second in the house point league, only 20 points behind the leaders.

Students have received these house points for being hardworking, acting as leaders, engaging as learners and for participating both in and out of lessons. 6 students have achieved more than 100 house points, with the top 3 students being; Ethan C (AKW), Leila C (ALH) and Paige M (AKW). Almost 90 students in Astle have achieved 100% attendance this half term, with ALH having the best attendance, which is a massive improvement, so well done to all. I am pleased to say that Astle dominated the Inter-House Netball event, seeing them taking the trophy! A huge thank you to Hannah B (ADT) for encouraging so many to get involved and for umpiring throughout the matches.

With the days getting longer and lighter, we are looking forward to what the summer term has in store for us all. There will be plenty more inter-house events for students to participate in, as well as more parents evenings and trips. The next term is the most important for our Year 11 students and we wish them all the best in their revision, determination and resilience for their GCSE's.

I hope you all have a restful Easter break.

Mrs Paget - Head of Astle House



The second term of the year is complete which means that we are already 2/3 of the way through this academic year. This half term has been a busy one with two interhouse events; Logic Puzzles and Netball, Year 8 receiving their latest reports and Years 8 and 9 having their parents evening.

Well done and thank you to everyone for their Collier contribution this half term. Whether you contributed to our attendance figure, to the House Point leaderboard or to interhouse events, your contribution is appreciated.

A special mention to CKM tutor group who storm ahead with overall attendance winning the attendance for consecutive weeks. Students with the top House Point this half term are Anya (CPF), Lily C (CKM) and Charlie-May (CPF) and the students with the most House Points for the term are Skylar (CKE), Charlie and Miley W (CJY). Well done to everyone.

I look forward to working with you all in the summer term.!

Miss Lockwood - Head of Collier House



I always feel like this term is the busiest, so many fixtures, inter-house events and period 6s for the year 11s as the exam season draws closer. The lighter mornings, and brighter days make such a difference and attitude around school is really positive. The effort from students in and out of the classroom continues to impress in.

We have had two successful face to face Parent Evenings this half term, a first trip into school for many of you due to COVID! It has been lovely to meet so many of you face to face and discuss all the great things that are happening in lessons.

Six students have broken the 100 house point mark for this academic year. Jessica M, Emily C and Zara B are in the top 3 spots, with less than 7 points between them. Attendance for Lawrence house is also at an all time high for this academic year. We have got a big push on 100% attendance, so keep it up!

Outside of school, lots of great sporting activity has been taking place. Heidi Cowlard (Year 7) competed in a Young Stars Ice Skating Competition, coming 2nd in her category. Heidi scored enough points to move up a category without taking a test. Earlier this month, Matthew Cowlard (Year 10) participated in the National Lifesaving Championship, an excellent accomplishment. Jessica Jones (Year 10) is taking part in the World Taekwondo Championships later this month. Hopefully for the next newsletter there will be a great update to share about Jess' performance.

Please contact us with any achievements for our students outside of school, it is so lovely to hear about their accomplishments. There is so much talent and dedication amongst our students, I want to make sure we are celebrating it.

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter, and the weather stays this lovely for the break!

Miss Dickman - Head of Lawrence House

Easter Egg Morrisons Donation



Our local Morrisons have kindly donated easter eggs as rewards for students who complete their "Easter Attendance Challenge".

We would like to thank Morrisons for their generous donation and a huge well done to those students who have completed the challenge!

Ryan Bennett - Snowdon Charity Hike

Year 7 Erewash student Ryan Bennett, along with his family, completed a charity hike of Mount Snowdon recently. They powered through the burning hot sun and climbed over 1,000 metres to reach the summit. An incredible total of £1,680 was raised for Brinsley Animal Rescue. A huge well done to Ryan and his family, you should really be proud of yourselves!



Post 16

Oxbridge preparation

Our Year 12 HE+ students are currently taking part in a virtual Oxford and Cambridge student conference. Normally this is a one-day event, but this year it is running virtually and students can sign up for the sessions that they are most interested in so they can focus on particular subjects. Students have also been engaging with the series of Cambridge academic lectures and other opportunities such as Isaac Physics masterclasses. The HE+ programme continues with online lectures and activities, following the visit to Peterhouse College, Cambridge in February.



Post 16

Post-16 applications

This year we have so far received over 80 applications for the Sixth Form and all students have now had their interview. At the end of the last half term we sent a 'love your sixth form' card to all applicants with positive messages from current students about what they like best about sixth form. Any Year 11 students still undecided about their plans for next year should get in touch with Mr Leach or Mrs Jane to discuss their options. We are looking forward to inviting applicants into the Sixth Form next term for breakfast to chat with our current students. In the summer term we will be holding out induction day.

University news

Most of our university applicants have now heard back from their chosen courses and they are in the process of deciding on their firm and insurance choices. A small number of universities have not yet released their decisions so the waiting, for some, continues. The Student Finance scheme has now opened so Year 13 students are in the process of completing their finance applications and also booking their university accommodation. We invited the student outreach team at Nottingham Trent University to run a session for our Y13 applicants on student finance. Our students are now better prepared to understand how their university courses will be funded and how they can manage their living costs. All being well students will be able to visit universities in person soon!

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day was back with a bang this year. As well as the lower school bake sale and non-uniform day, the Sixth Form organised events including a soak the teacher sponge throwing event. HPA managed to raise a whopping £749.41! Students should feel very proud of themselves for raising money for such a worthy cause!



Royal Courts of Justice visit to London

4 Year 12 students from Hall Park took part in a Trust visit to the Royal Courts of Justice to take part in a mock trial. A very informative and rewarding experience, the trial gave an insight into courtroom proceedings and also allowed students to see inside the Royal Courts of Justice.

University Outreach

A sizeable number of Year 12 students have applied to the Sutton Trust Summer school this year. A very competitive programme, the Sutton Trust Summer School gives state school Sixth Form students the opportunity to experience university life for a week, all fully paid for. We hope that with the easing of coronavirus restrictions, that this will not be virtual like last year but will take place in person.



This month lower school and sixth form have managed to do an amazing job to raise money for Comic relief and we would like to say a great thanks to everyone who contributed. We had great support from teachers and students, especially during the 'throw a sponge at the teacher', which raised lots of money! Exams are close however there are many things to look forward to such as prom as we finish exams and take time to enjoy the break before the new school year:) - Head Boy & Girl