



**THE
HASTINGS
ACADEMY**

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Principal: Hilary Morawska

Friday 16th July 2021

Dear Parents and carers

I do hope, as always, that this finds you all very well and that you have had a very productive and successful week. As I write our staff are very busy restoring the academy to its former pastoral glory, where, on Monday, our pastoral team will be greeting their tutees who will once more belong to a community, that of East Hill, West Hill, Silverhill and Firehills. We are so excited about this and cannot wait to return to a normal that we have all missed. Our students were presented with an assembly by Mr Snelling, this week and they know what entrance to take and will learn their new classrooms to move to. Next week is the start of our new beginning and we are so pleased to be able to make this a reality, for our students.

Albeit we are returning to our pastoral houses, we are still very mindful of the fact that the covid virus is within our local community. In collaboration with the University of Brighton Academies Trust, the academy has carefully considered the changes in government guidance, as below.

Monday 19th July

Government guidance for schools states that whilst restrictions may be lifted from Monday, 19 July 2021, we remain cautious in our approach to ensure as many students remain able to enjoy their education safely whilst trying to reduce the risk of unnecessary isolation during their last week of term and into the start of the summer holidays.

As a result, please see our key headlines for the remainder of this term (subject to no further changes to government guidance for schools).

The headlines arrangements until the end of term are:

- Drop off and pick-up arrangements remain the same.
- In line with government policy, the academy will no longer strongly encourage all parents/carers to wear face coverings when dropping off and collecting your child. It remains, however, a personal choice for all adults on site to wear or not to wear a mask and we will not be removing our face-covering signs.
- Classroom layouts has greater flexibility.

What has been explained to the students?

- The students have been informed that they are to continue to keep themselves and others safe,



whilst continuing to enjoy their learning.

- The students, as advised, have been told that there may be changes to their classrooms and pastoral communities

Will the academy be involved in contact tracing?

- The academy may still be contacted by health protection teams to "help with identifying close contacts" if there is an 'outbreak' of covid-19 in the setting. Therefore, children may still be required to self-isolate for up to 10 days. Remote learning will remain available.
- It is only from 16 August 2021 that the government states children under 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive covid-19 case. Instead, they will be advised to take a PCR test.

Will the classroom layouts be any different from Monday, 19 July 2021?

- From Monday, 19 July 2021, there is no longer a requirement for students to sit in rows facing forward.
- The sharing of more equipment is permitted

Will the academy continue to support the children in understanding hygiene measures to keep themselves and others as safe as possible during the school day?

- Building on current measures in place within the academy, **hand washing will remain a vital and a regular part of your child's school day.** Students will still be expected to clean their hands on entry, before and after break, before lunch and after lunch. This is a minimum expectation.
- Staff will continue to teach and regularly remind their students about handwashing
- **Catch it, Bin it, Kill it** will be reinforced throughout the school day. Each classroom will continue to have a lidded bin to support this.
- A comprehensive cleaning schedule remains in place.

What are the arrangements from September 2021?

Testing of students in the autumn term at The Hastings Academy

- Following the announcements on Step 4, we will be testing all students, who complete/have completed the consent form, at our on-site asymptomatic test site (ATS), at the academy, on return following the summer holidays. This approach is based on the latest public health advice and will help us break chains of transmission in our setting after the summer holidays when our students may have been mixing with lots of people. We have been asked that these tests are carried out on site as testing participation rates amongst students via ATS are much higher than when testing at home.
- We will be reviewing the number of consent forms completed by our parents and carers, on Monday, which will enable us to create an informed testing schedule and expected staggered start for each year group, at the start of the term
- A separate parent/carers guidance detailing this information will be sent out before the end of term outlining key information about the start of the September term

We are also asking that you encourage and ensure your children are continuing to twice-weekly test at home for the rest of this term and in the autumn, following the two initial on-site tests. All our education workforce will also continue to test – twice-weekly at home – on return in the autumn term. We will review the continued need for testing, based on public health advice at the end of September, as advised by the DFE.



The measures we will have after summer, including testing, strike the right balance as we learn to live with the virus so our children can continue in face-to-face education and we will advise of the expectations and timetable for our safe and timely re-entry into the academy, for both testing and beginning the next phase of our children's education.

Sports Clubs 2021-22

Please see below the schedule for Sports Clubs during the next school year

Sports Clubs - 2021/2022			
<u>Monday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<u>Year 7&8</u> Netball (MGI) Football (MCO & GMA) Volleyball (ECR)	<u>Year 11</u> Football (GMA) Badminton (MCO & MGI) Volleyball <u>All Years</u> Boxing and Fitness (PSE)	<u>Year 9&10</u> Netball (MGI) Football (MCO & GMA) Volleyball (ECR)	<u>All Years</u> Basketball (MCO & MGI)
<u>Year 9&10</u> Dance (CDE)	<u>Year 11</u> Dance (CDE)	<u>Year 7&8</u> Dance (CDE & SBO)	

New household account feature for parents reporting test results -Information from the DFE

NHS Test and Trace are continuing to develop and improve the process for self-test reporting. Currently, as a parent or carer if you are submitting results through your account on behalf of your child, you have to enter the child's details every time you report a result.

As a result of feedback from parents and carers, NHS Test and Trace have introduced household accounts. This allows parents and carers to save your children's details to your own user accounts so you can report results for multiple members in your household more quickly and easily.

When reporting self-test results parents and carers will now be offered the opportunity to create a household account, which should take no more than 2 minutes. Parents and carers can then add all household members to your account, enabling you to save time when reporting all future self-test results.

Even though I have to reference again the protective measures that we continue to adhere to, I feel this is a necessary evil as we all continue to care for each other with safe and respectful practices. Once again, I praise our students who have engaged with us and worn their face coverings, throughout this challenging time.



Bloom Britannia

A group of year 9 students got the pleasure of taking part in an exciting workshop lead by local theatre company, Barefoot Opera. These students have been picked to take part in a performance of 'Bloom Britannia', an opera which tells the story of what it is like to live in a town on the South Coast today. This was the first of many rehearsals leading up to the final performance at St Mary in the Castle on October 22nd, 23rd and 24th.



Curriculum Journey

Following feedback from our recent Parent Forum, we will now be writing to you termly to keep you up to date as to the content being studied in each of your child's subjects as they move through the year. This will help give you the information you need in supporting your child at home, an awareness of the key events for each subject, as well as a chance to discuss their learning with them. It is also helpful in seeing how our curriculum is shaped and connected as they progress through the academic year. The first of these letters came out to you at the beginning of this week, and these will continue each term. Please do continue to feedback to us about any additional information you would find useful.

Sports Day 2021- Tuesday 20th July



The annual sports day will be the first opportunity to celebrate bringing the students back into their houses – **Silverhill, Firehills, Westhill and Easthill**. Only students competing should wear PE kit to school, and will be invited onto the field when it's time for their event.

Morning Session – Only Competitors

9.00 - 9.55 – Normal lesson (with sporting theme if possible)

- Year 7 & 8 Javelin & Shot

- Year 9 & 10 Long jump

9.55 -10.50 – Normal lesson (with sporting theme if possible)

- Year 7 & 8 Long Jump

- Year 9 & 10 Javelin & Shot

10.50-11.15– Break One

11.15–12.10– Normal lessons

- 800m all age groups

12.10 – 1.05– Early Break Two

Afternoon Session - All Students and competitors on the field

1:05 – 1.20 - Register in forms and head to the field

1.20 – 1.35 - Lap of honour

1.35 – 1.50 - 100m

1.50 - 2.10 - 200m (1 lap sprint)

2.10 – 2.30 - Student relay 4 x 50m

2.30 – 2.50 - Staff relay 4 x 50m

2.50 – Finishing remarks and home time

Remember to Bring...

All competitors to come to school in their PE kits.

Remember to bring water, sun cream and hats – you never know what will happen with the British weather!!!



New PE Sweatshirt

Following our communication with you in the newsletter last term, we are pleased to inform you that our new PE Sweatshirt is now available to buy from Super

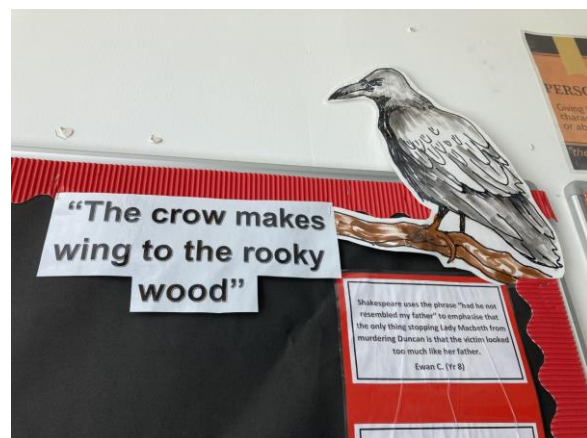
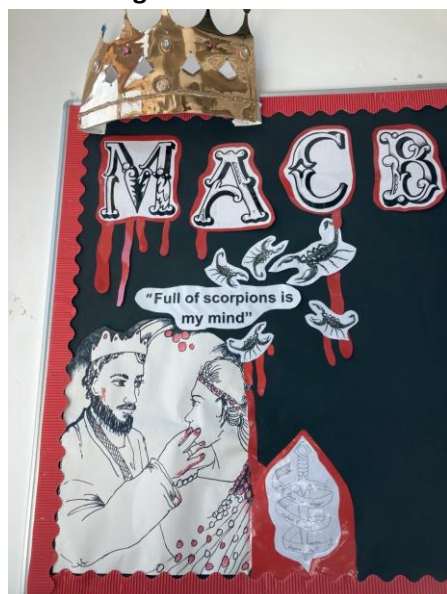
Stitch <https://www.superstitch86.co.uk/product/hastings-academy-games-sweatshirt/>. All of our uniform expectations can be seen here: <https://www.thehastingsacademy.org.uk/school-life/uniform>

Return to specialised teaching areas

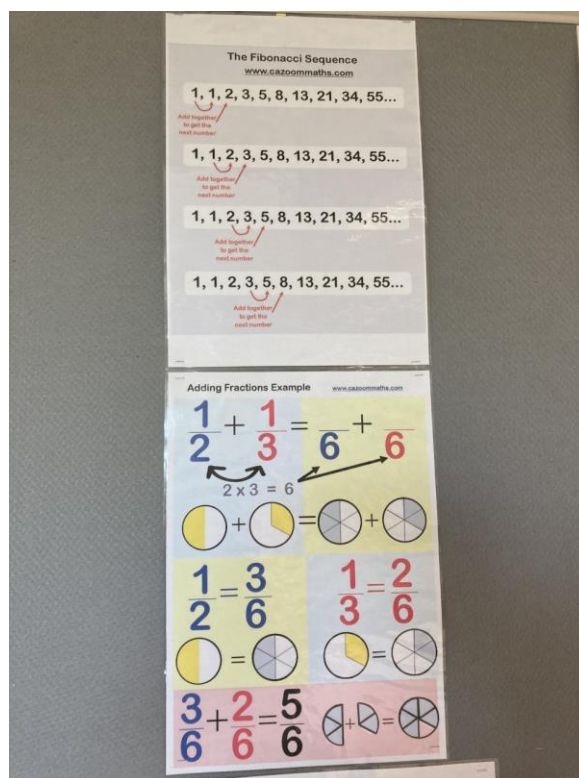
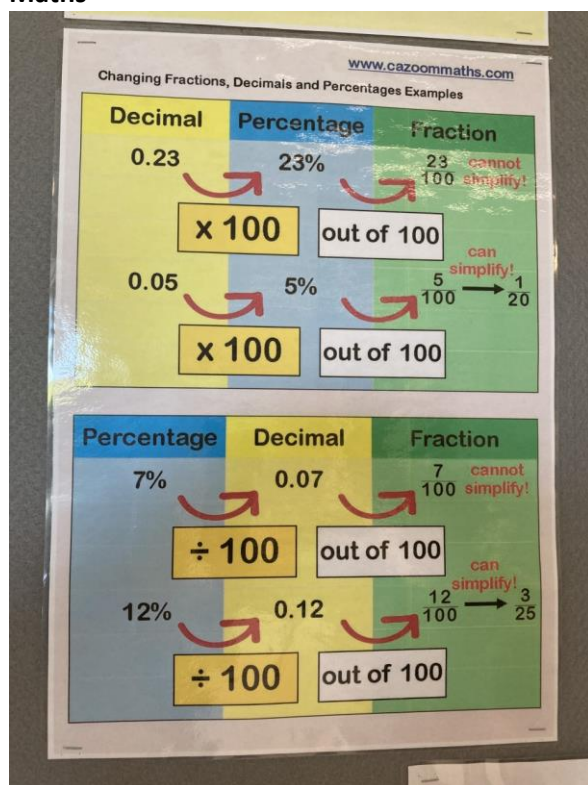
Our INSET day was spent preparing the academy building for the return to specialised teaching areas. Below, you can see a sneak-peek of how our classrooms and teaching areas are now looking:



English



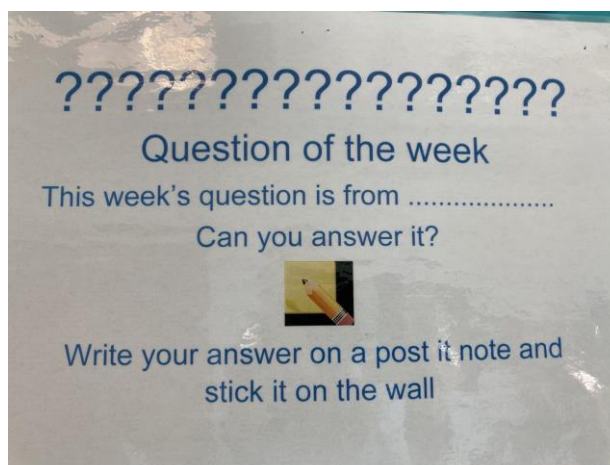
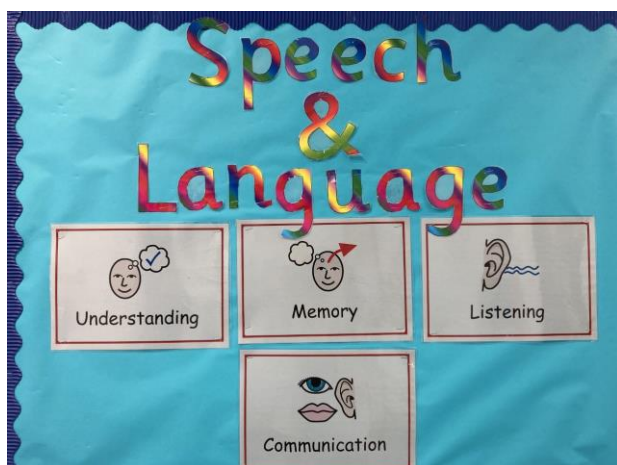
Maths



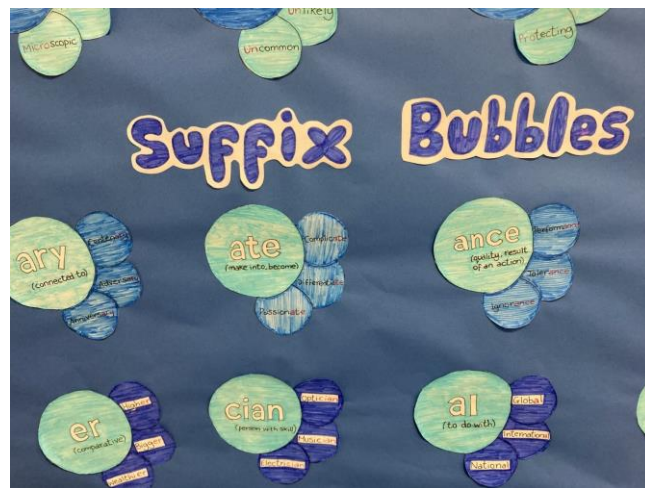
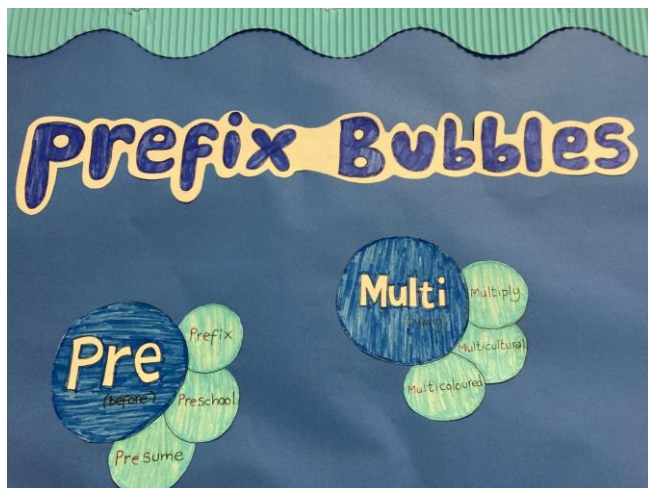
MFL



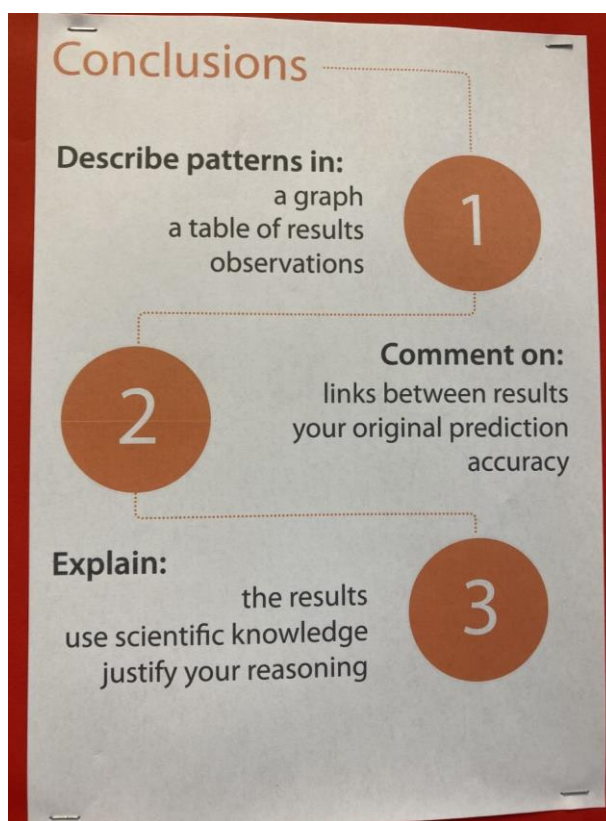
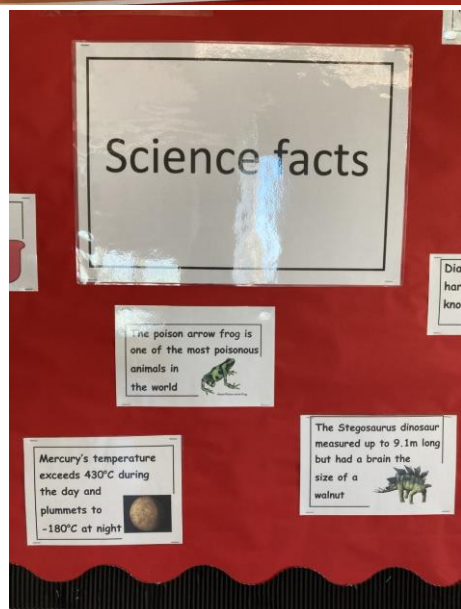
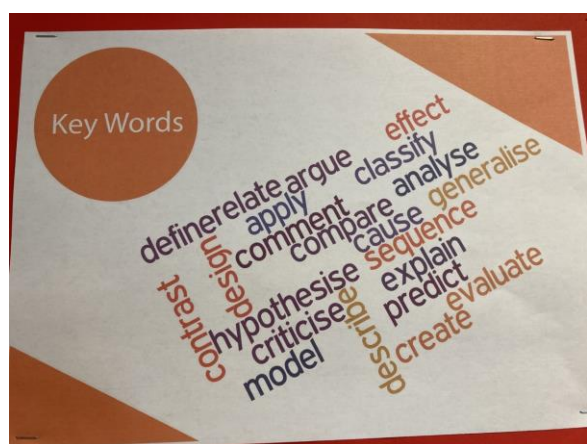
Speech & Language



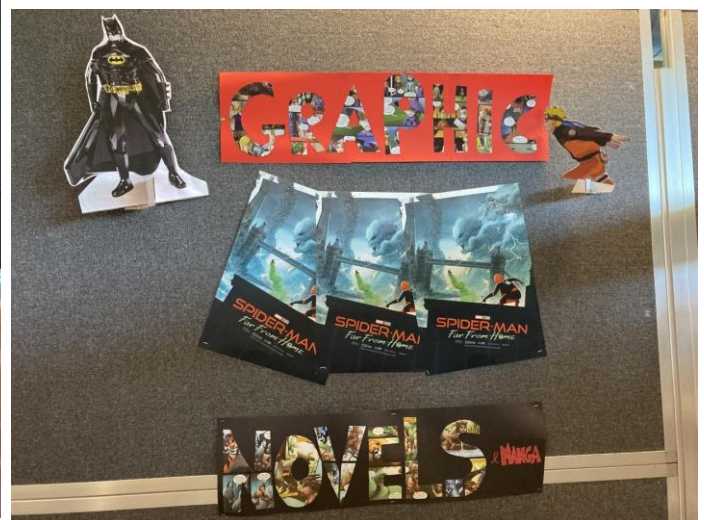
Learning Support



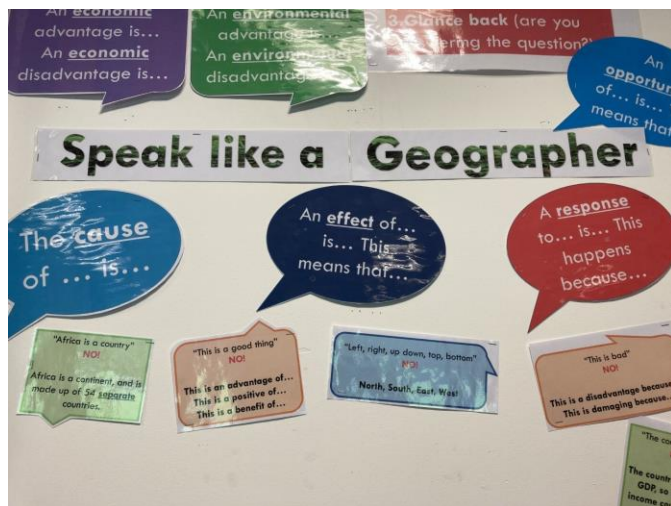
Science

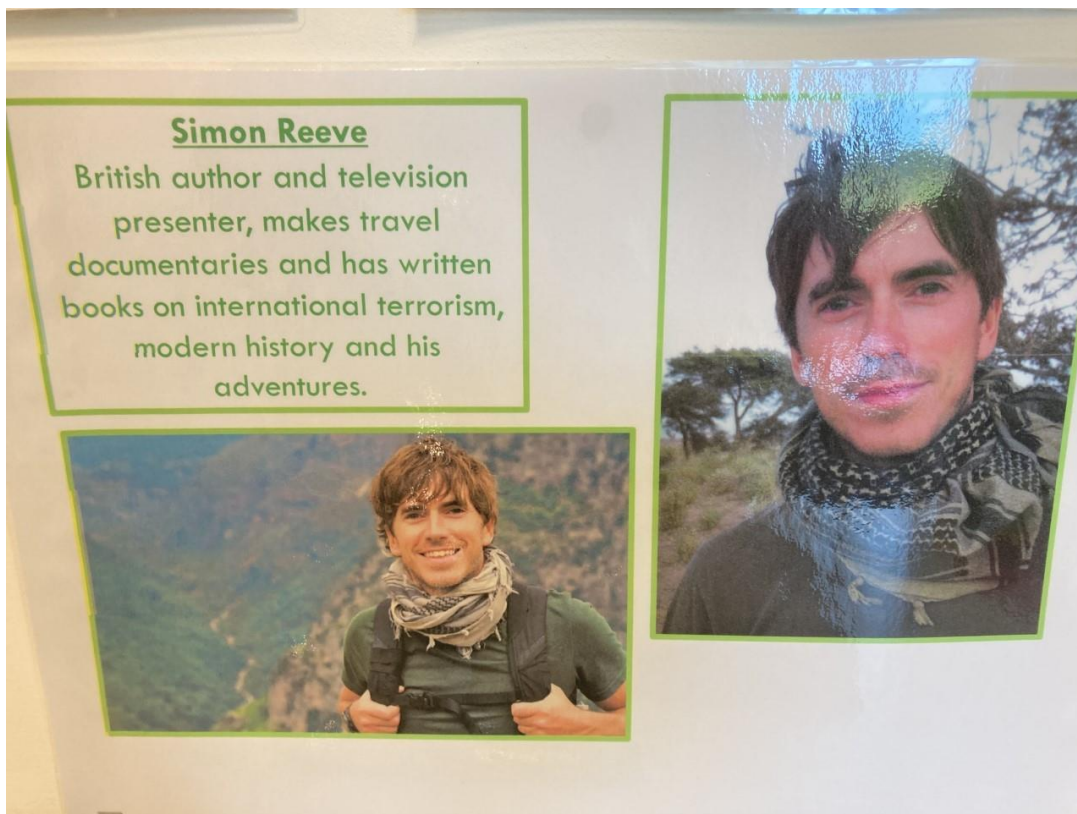


Library

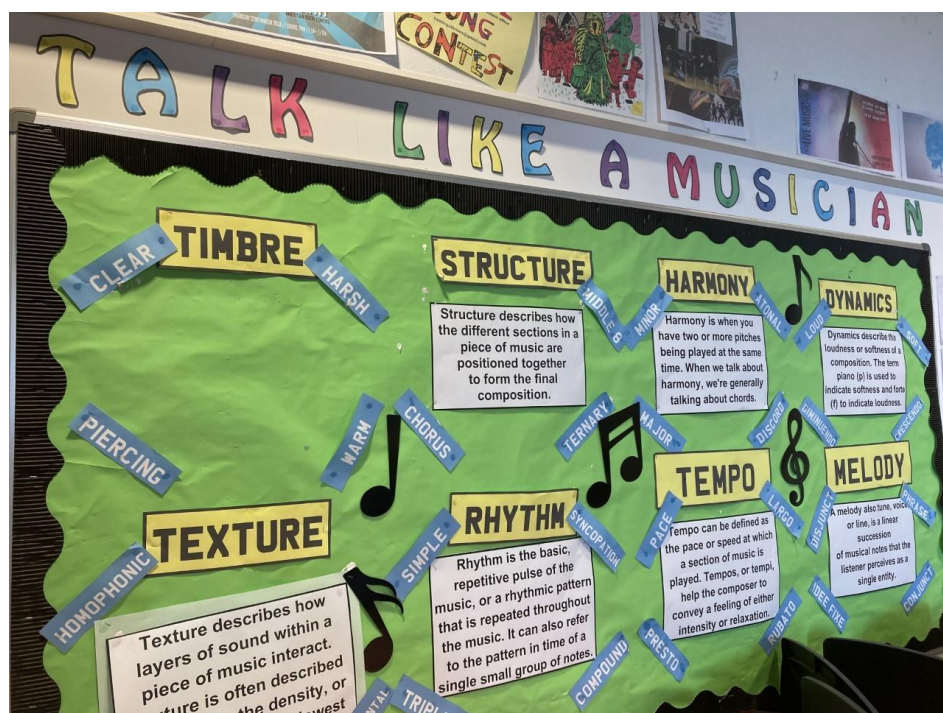


Geography





Music



Head Student and Senior Student applications

The process for recruiting our new Senior Student team for 2021/22 is well underway and we have had a fantastic response from our year 10 cohort. Applicants were required to submit a formal letter of application to Ms Morawska, and the general standard was extremely high. These applications have been submitted and reviewed, leading to shortlisting for the prestigious roles of Head Student and Deputy Head Student, with two positions for each role available.

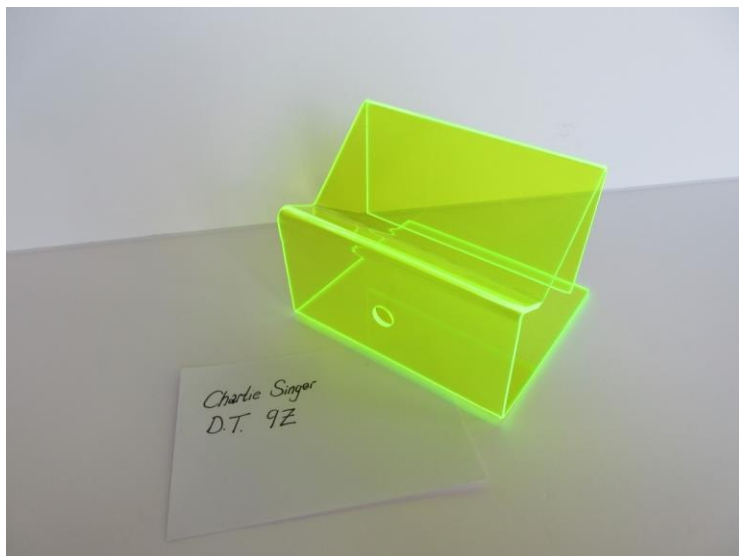
On Monday, those students in the running for the Head Student positions will be required to make a speech to our year 7 cohort, explaining why they would be the right choice for the role. The best performing students will then go through to a final interview on Wednesday where they will also have to make a presentation. These students will be role models and often the face of The Hastings Academy, so they need to uphold the highest standards, hence the demanding application process. The successful students will have the pleasure of knowing they will have really earned their position and those just missing out will still be invited to be part of the Senior Student team.

Having the Senior Student team in place for the new academic year means they will really be able to hit the ground running. As well as the regular tasks and responsibilities they will be expected to perform, they will form the basis of our Student Council and ensure that the thoughts and opinions of the student body are passed on, listened to, and where possible, acted upon.

Various other student leadership roles will be made available in the new academic year so keep an eye out for further opportunities.

Year 9 DT

Year 9's have been working on designing and making acrylic products involved in cutting the acrylic and line bending the acrylic to form their designs.



Year 10 Food Tech

Our Year 10's have been showing off their culinary skills in the form of vegetable risotto



A big thank to you to Mr Roberts, DT/FT technician extraordinaire for his work this year. James has prepared resources, set up lessons, maintained, and ordered tools and equipment with great efficiency and showing initiative. He has helped Mr Smout and the transient staff in Food Tech teachers with a variety of jobs that wouldn't be automatically expected. Mr Roberts' relationship with students is fantastic and his calm manner has helped students settle and achieve.

Progress Reports

We can confirm that progress reports for Year 9 and 10 have been published and are with the postal service. You will receive a progress report providing information on current working levels and attitude to learning, also included is a guide to assessment at Key Stage 3. Further information on Assessment at Key Stage 3 can be found on the Academy website under Teaching and Learning and follow the link from Assessments.

Level 2 ICT

A huge 'congratulations' goes to our Year 9 students who have been successful in gaining their Level 2 ICT Skills certificate.



Hastings Thrives Song Contest

A huge thank you to everyone who voted for our Hastings Thrives Song Contest entry, 'Living in a Dream' came joint first in the public vote. Well done to all the students who took part, we can't wait to record it with you in September.

Here are some lovely comments from one of the judges, Andy Fyfe:

"Like so many plans of the past year, Living In A Dream could have been so much more if only Covid hadn't prevented its recording being completed on time. The sheer joy the song expresses of just being in the moment is a beam of musical sunshine. Promise you'll go back and finish recording all this tune yourselves when you get the chance."



Below, a message from Make (Good) Trouble:

We need you! We are looking for young people to interview for our BBC Radio series, Raising Teens. Raising Teens is a warm-hearted and honest series about the issues that affect young people's lives today. Our young reporter, Lola Ray, is looking to interview people on stories including safety in the city, drugs and alcohol, county lines, loneliness as a result of the pandemic, and young people who run away from home. Lola is looking for stories that will help parents and professionals to better understand young people, to dispel myths around teen mental health and offer practical help and tips.

When you participate, you will receive a Cities of Learning Digital Badge for your CV. These digital badges give people a verifiable record of achievement and give employers a new way to connect with talent in cities. Make (Good) Trouble is a community interest company. Find out more about us here: www.makegoodtrouble.co.uk

No names or identifying locations will be broadcast in these interviews and consent forms must be signed before taking part.



Sheku Mason

A group of year 7s were treated to an intimate performance from international classical music stars Sheku Kanneh-Mason and his sister Isata Kanneh - Mason.

After performing two pieces Sheku answered questions from the audience and gave our students an insight into his musical life growing up.

Our students were a great audience, they listened beautifully and asked some really great questions, some students even got to appear on BBC Southeast, they all did a fabulous job representing the academy.



Equipment

Please note that students need to bring a pen with them to school. Should a student not have a pen in school, when checked during morning tutor time, they will be issued with a pen and a detention.



Mobile phone ban

We have been really pleased with the maturity the students have shown to the mobile phone ban. The teacher feedback on the impact on the students learning has been really positive:

'The phone ban has helped students concentrate in class'

'The introduction of phone pouches has improved the engagement of the students'

'Students are more focused in lessons'

'The classroom environment is much improved because the issue with the mobile phones has been addressed.'

'The removal of phones has been so positive and made such a difference already. The pouches are a revelation!'

Years to Houses

As you will be aware we will be moving back to a pastoral house structure from next week. For next week only, students will need to enter the school through their house entrance.

Hill	Entrance to the school location
East Hill	Through the Learning to Achieve gates
Firehills	Through the service drive
Silverhill	Through the PE gates near the Sports Centre
West Hill	Through the service drive

We will confirm the pastoral staffing structure in next weeks newsletter.

Farewell

This week we say goodbye to Mr Jeffrey, who has been our most loyal and long-serving Premises and Facilities Manager. Mr Jeffrey has been an absolute asset to our academy and has, at the call on a radio, assisted in the retrieving of a lost football, a stuck dog in the fence in the field, hanging balloons to celebrate student success, to wiping down chairs and up righting tables to ensure the children can sit during their break times. He has battled the winds high up on our roof, when our heating system failed and spread salt before dawn to ensure we were all safe in the cold, frosty, winter months. His steadfast approach secured the safety and cleanliness of this academy during this very testing time and the thanks of our academy community go with him as we wish him a very happy and successful time in his new role and a much-deserved rest.

We are still as busy as bees in our academy, with more to come next week. Have a very good weekend, continue to keep very safe and we look forward to seeing our students on Monday.

Kindest regards



Hilary Morawska

