



**THE  
HASTINGS  
ACADEMY**

Rye Road, Hastings,  
East Sussex, TN35 5DN

[www.thehastingsacademy.org.uk](http://www.thehastingsacademy.org.uk)  
[office@thehastingsacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@thehastingsacademy.org.uk)  
01424 711950

Principal: Hilary Morawska

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the final letter of one of the most unique of academic years that we have all ever experienced in our personal and professional lives. At all times, throughout this most challenging and changing of times, I know that our staff, Local Board, Executive Team and all our colleagues who work for our children within our Trust have done all we can to support, nurture and encourage our children to attend, focus, believe in their ability and in our desire to help them achieve their future goals.

Life, as we know, is full of emotions and our world is impacted by the trials and triumphs that surround us, no less than the disappointment felt as the country stopped and held its breath, as we watched our English football team strive to achieve their dream; in doing so we saw the country come together and behind them, as we know we have a young team, who will grow and thrive from this defeat, so all was definitely not lost. In stark contrast, we watched the British Grand Prix, with its equally emotionally-driven (no pun intended) twists and turns, keeping us away from our seats as we found ourselves again shouting into the screen for the final lap to be a British one. The challenge faced by Lewis Hamilton as he served his penalty and through a combination of training, encouragement and self-belief achieve a glorious win. These events watched by so many reflect the adversities faced by us all, if not so publicly, but none would be achieved without the love and dedication of multitudes of people supporting, nagging, cajoling and praising, alongside each and every opportunity grasped. Therefore, whatever has come to pass these last 16 months, know that our dedicated staff will be both behind and alongside your children to assure their safety, happiness and success.

This week has been held within a blaze of glory, not just from the sun, but through the attitude of our students. More will be written about these below –but the transition from years to houses presented the need and desire for all to be part of a community and the commentary made within the houses first assembly focused on team spirit and of friendly rivalry. This was no more apparent than in the well-planned and executed Sports Day. How lucky were we to have glorious weather and many brave and some exceptionally fit souls racing their very best to gain that extra point for their house. Again the community spirit was very evident from the start with Silverhill leading the charge with drums and whistles to Firehills lifting the roof with their passionate chants. I'll leave Mr Collett to announce the triumphant team, below.



You would have been made aware that the academy is seeking to recruit our Head, Deputy and Senior Students, from our current Year 10 students. To test their metal, presentations to our Year 7s and staff formed the next task in this application process. Again, I will leave Mr Wall to give further detail and announce the senior leadership team, but I can only advise that the quality of the presentations was outstanding and made all staff and students stop and listen. Well done to each and every candidate, all worthy winners.

On Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, we were very pleased to finally be able to provide our outgoing Year 11s (who had already cut the academy ties on June 25<sup>th</sup>) to their Year 11 PROM. This was no mean feat, when the organisation of it was held either in abeyance or balance due to the much hoped for lifting of covid restrictions. You would have seen how supported we were by our local community who provided dresses and suits for our students and our students did everyone proud. The queue to pass AZUR was a very slow one due to all the vehicles passing by slowing to admire the stunning dresses and very smart suits worn by our children. The evening could not have been more of a success. A fabulous venue and we thank AZUR for managing to fit us in. The weather could not have been better, with a stunning sunset and equally inspiring full moon. The Year 11s danced the night away and all left leaving behind wonderful memories and with great thanks to the staff who had organised the event and to the staff, in general, for their care and support over the last five years. As always, we wish our Year 11s all the very best of health, happiness and good fortune as they finally leave our shores, for their summer of rest or as many told me, summer jobs that they have procured.

#### **Food vouchers outside of school term time**

Schools will arrange food vouchers during the summer holiday for pupils who have been verified to receive benefits related free school meals before 7 July. This applies to our current Year 7-10 students, as well as the Year 11 students who left us this year. Information will be sent out shortly. Please contact [office@thehastingsacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@thehastingsacademy.org.uk) if you have any questions.

#### **Applying for Free School Meals**

Do you qualify to receive Free School Meals (FSM) for your child or children? For more information and to apply follow the links below.

If you have any questions or need further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Further information on FSM

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/school-life/meals/free/>

Follow the link to register and apply for FSM

<https://eyeeonline.eastsussex.gov.uk/Synergy/Parents/default.aspx>

#### **Year 7 Careers Workshop with Ashdown Hurrey Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers**

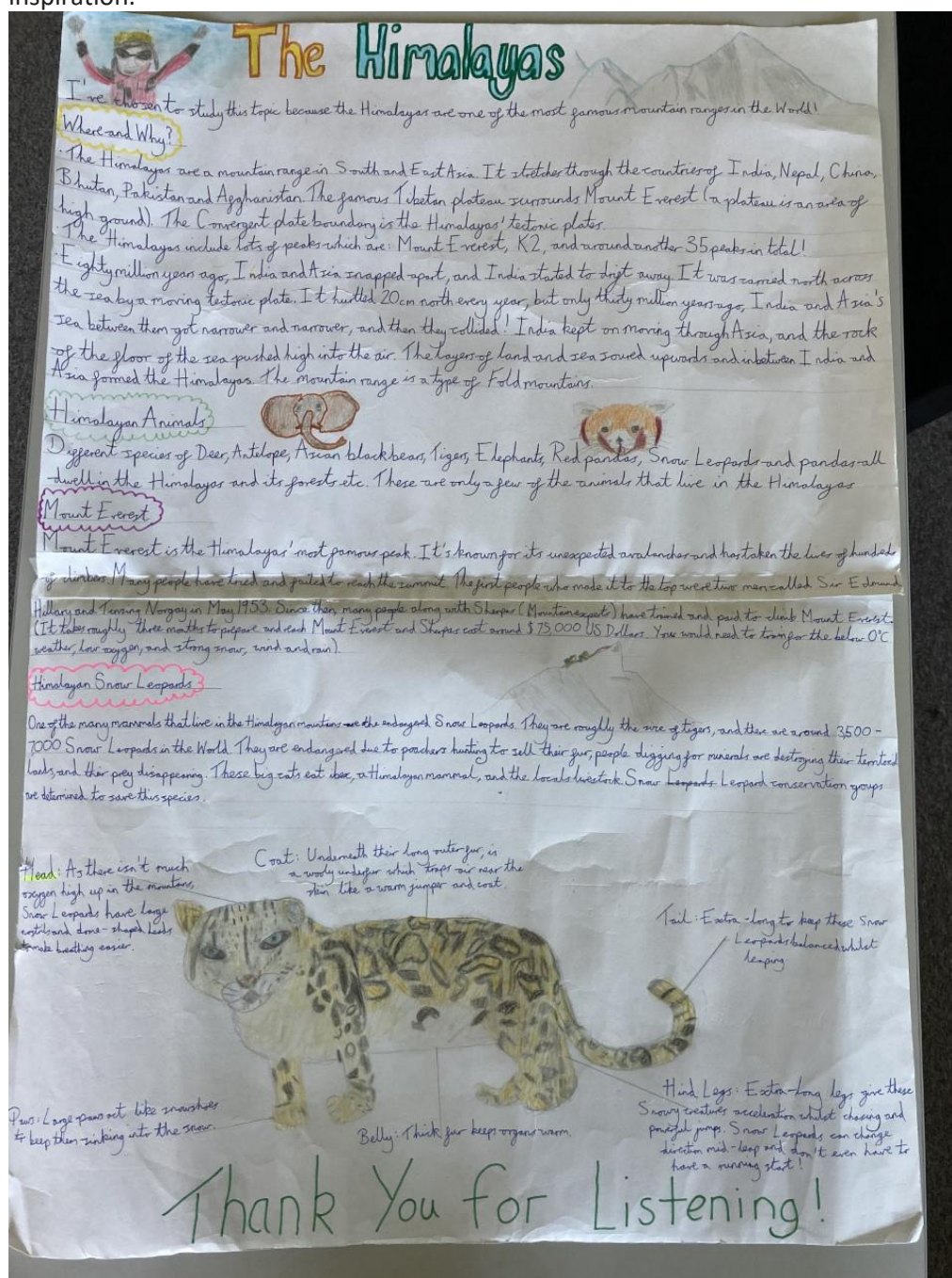
A group of Year 7s were lucky enough to have a conference call with Ashdown Hurrey Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers and a local solicitor. Our students were able to receive firsthand information about working in these sectors and great ideas and guidance on how to be even more successful. Our students thoroughly engaged with this careers workshop and our local employers were blown away once again by our amazing students.

#### **Excellent Homework**

Below, a piece of Geography work from Freya Finn. Mrs Fraser, Freya's Geography teacher had this to say:



"I just wanted to share this beautifully crafted piece of homework from one of our Year 7 students. Freya has consistently produced outstanding homework (and class work) throughout this year. She is an inspiration."



## Year 7 intake – September 2021

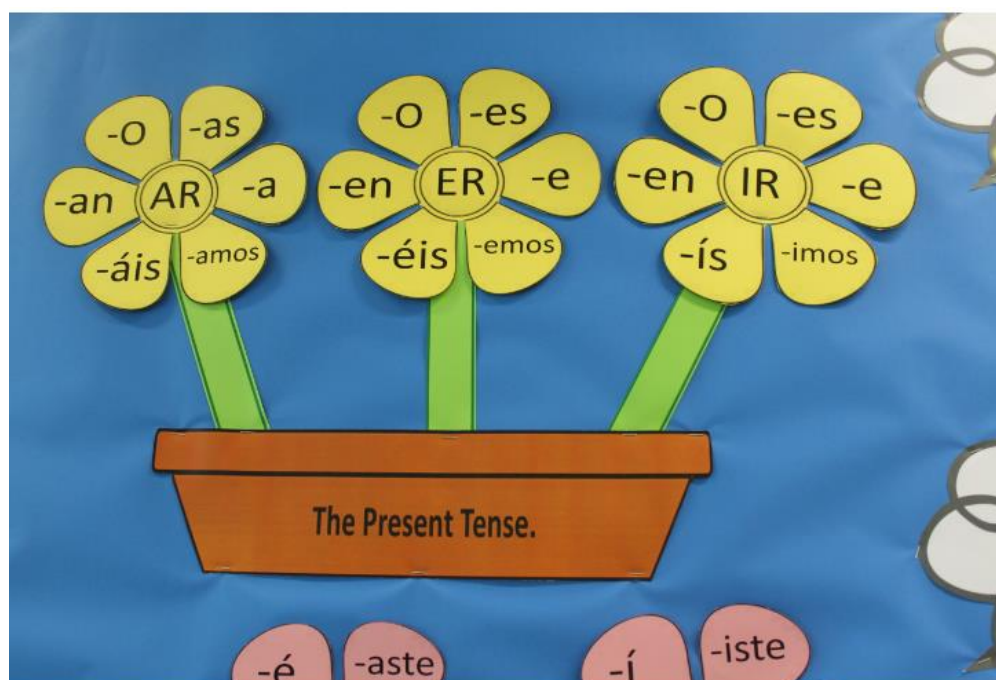
The Hastings Academy is really excited to welcome our new cohort of students in September. We are pleased to again be an oversubscribed academy within the community and we are thankful for your commitment to us. To assist with the transition to secondary we have been collecting information and, where possible, visiting primary academies to introduce some of the pastoral team. We are also looking forward to seeing a large number of prospective students at our summer school from the 23rd to 27th



August where they will be involved in activities including sport, forest school, cooking, creative arts and performance with Eggtooth, a local organisation which support our students. To assist the new students transition we are also sending out transition packs to be completed at home to give opportunity to consider the change and the positives that will come with it.

### Return to specialised subject areas

We had a creative inset day where all staff were able to spend time creating fabulous teaching resources in preparation for next term. Fantastic interactive classrooms were created and it is lovely to see oracy is at the heart of all this.



## Senior Students

Following the conclusion of an extremely demanding interview process, we are delighted to introduce our new team of Senior Students for 2021/22. Three Head Students and three Deputy Head Students will oversee an exceptionally strong team of Senior Students, all of whom are passionate about contributing to the continual development of the academy. We are very excited at the prospect of student leadership becoming more prominent as we know our students have so much to offer.



Hi. I'm Buster I will be Head Student next year and I am very excited to work with the other representatives of our school, to make it the best it can be. I'm very proud to be given this role and I'm hoping next year to support students to have more of voice within school, in addition to helping students put their opinions across.



Hello, I'm Rosie Howes. I am one of the three Head Students at The Hastings Academy. I hope to bring to the school my team building skills, to keep our community relations strong and to encourage student voice. I'm very thankful for the opportunity and I'm excited for the future.



Hello, I'm Alex Lee. As newly appointed Head Student, I would like to express my gratitude and excitement to be honoured enough to acquire such a role. This is an amazing opportunity to guide a fantastic, diverse set of Senior Students. I will do everything within my power to create an even more positive environment for our academy to continue to thrive.



Hello. My name is Aimee Wareham and I am one of The Hastings Academy's Deputy Head Students. I chose to go for this role to improve our community where possible, to take on student's opinions and because I feel every student deserves a voice, no matter if they are in a Senior Student role or not. I look forward to strengthening our community.



Hello, I'm Callum and I'm honoured to be one of the new Deputy Head Students in the Hastings Academy Senior Student Team. This is an important role - a position of responsibility and respectability, and I hope to fulfill this role in my final year at The Hastings Academy. I plan to work alongside the Senior Student Team to involve students' ideas and opinions as much as possible - make them feel comfortable and welcome at this school, provide the best learning conditions for them, and overall create a positive impact on The Hastings Academy.



Hi, I'm Megan - one of your new Deputy Head Students. I am honoured to have this role and to be working alongside such an amazing team. I hope to make a difference in our school and do anything I can to help our students feel happy and comfortable in our academy and help them achieve their greatest possible outcome.

#### **Our Senior Students are:**

Pearl Gerber  
Ty Howell  
Leon O'Brien  
Madelyn Frear  
Danielle Hardcastle

Ned Eldridge  
Bethany Winslet  
Hanna Cox  
Ellie Spooner  
Holly Pugh

Charlie Johnson  
Faith Langford  
Haley-Jade Martin





## Pastoral Structure

The students' resilience over this year to the changes that we have had to make at the academy has been truly outstanding. As you will be aware, we have now moved back to a house pastoral structure at the Academy. It has been fantastic to see the students interact with other year groups again as part of their house community.

The pastoral structure for 2021-22 is shown below.

East Hill		
Head of House – M. O'Callaghan Student Support Manager – K. Browning		
Form	Tutor	Room
EH1 Y11	S. King	E7
EH2 Y11	T. Follington	E17
EH3 Y10	C. Dengate	E14
EH4 Y10	D. Blackwell	E18
EH5 Y9	G. Matthews	E16
EH6 Y9	A. Tyson	E11
EH7 Y7-8	J. Morris	E12
EH8 Y7-8	D. Benson	E15
EH9 Y7-8	C. Burke	E11a

Silverhill		
Head of House – J. Mann Student Support Manager – K. Muggridge		
Form	Tutor	Room
SH1 Y11	E. Money	S3
SH2 Y11	K. East	S1
SH3 Y10	S. Regereau	S6a
SH4 Y10	C. Williams	S2
SH5 Y9	L. Collins	S10
SH6 Y9	E. McCallum	S2a
SH7 Y7-8	M. Collett	S12
SH8 Y7-8	C. Pepper	S7
SH9 Y7-8	M. Gibbons	S6

Firehills		
Head of House – E. Wright Student Support Manager – M. Lansdell		
Form	Tutor	Room
FH1 Y11	L. Chamberlain	F14a
FH2 Y11	A. Evans	F14
FH3 Y10	J. Storey	F17
FH4 Y10	E. Rose	F1
FH5 Y9	H. Puttick	F10
FH6 Y9	R. Picton	F19
FH7 Y7-8	S. Hardy	F18
FH8 Y7-8	C. Kenward	F22
FH9 Y7-8	T. Smith	F20

West Hill		
Head of House – J. Wickens Student Support Manager – J. Oliver-Murphy		
Form	Tutor	Room
WH1 Y11	H. Rome	W3
WH2 Y11	S. Walsh	W8
WH3 Y10	K. Mulcair	W6
WH4 Y10	V. Corr	W9
WH5 Y9	R. Smout	W2
WH6 Y9	G. McDonald	W13
WH7 Y7-8	S. Bond	W5
WH8 Y7-8	D. Cheetham	W9a
WH9 Y7-8	S. Murdoch	W4

## Sports Day 2021 - Tuesday 20th July

The annual sports day was held this week and was one of the best the school had ever seen. All the students involved gave their all and the four houses embraced the first opportunity to celebrate being back together in – Silverhill, Firehills, Westhill and Easthill. The weather for the day was outstanding and 2021 sports day will be long remembered as one of the most successful for all the student's enthusiasm and effort.

The morning timetable was based around the field events and involved the javelin, shot and long jump competitions. After the field events, the long-distance runners had their chance to shine in the summer conditions. Phoebe Barham and Otis King were fastest runners in the 800m races and set some very fast times.

Each age group had some very close distances and Silverhill held a close lead in the points going into the afternoon.

The afternoon session began with the amazing sounds of the music department's drums leading the lap of honour. The group included Jasper Williams Young, Ty Howell, Holly Pugh, Ned Eldridge, James Knapper, Callum Foreman, Mr Follington, Gabriel Pearson and Alfie Cornelius.

When all the houses were in position to cheer their runners, the 100m races began with some incredibly close finishes. Once the sprint events were complete, the full lap races followed and again the students showed great form in completing the distance with style.

The highlight of the afternoon session was the relays and the excitement of the baton changeovers. At this stage of the day, the points between the top three were extremely close and every race counted.

The staff relay was the final event and the scores were collated to produce a very close house cup winner.

Congratulations to West Hill for winning and they will keep the sports day cup in their area until 2022.











### ParentPay set up reminder

From September on we will be using ParentPay also as a form of communication in case of emergencies when our Student data server is unavailable. This happened not too long ago when we had to close our school due to a cut power cable.

In order to make sure that all parents/ carers receive the information it is necessary that all details are saved on ParentPay (mobile number and/ or email address). The ParentPay account can solely be used for receiving messages, but it is also necessary when you would like your child to take part on a trip as our school is "cashless" and all trip registrations and payments are going through ParentPay only.

To receive all school communications, please adjust your account's alert settings under "Communication" accordingly. You will be able to set alerts for low balance, new items (e. g. trips) or text and email alerts.

Please email [tha.parentpay@thehastingsacademy.co.uk](mailto:tha.parentpay@thehastingsacademy.co.uk) to request your login details or if you have any questions.

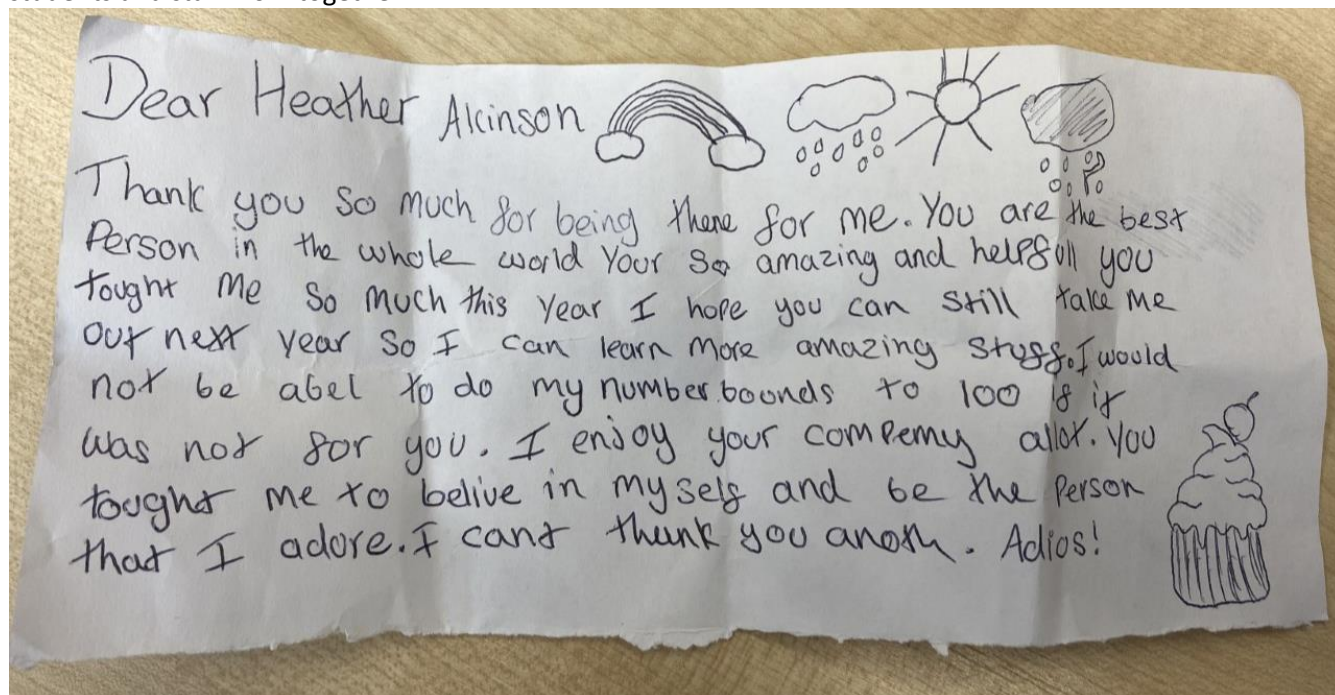
### Message from a student

Miss Atkinson, our Learning Support Manager, received this heartwarming message from one of her Year 7 students. It is always a pleasure to read messages like this as we know how closely our



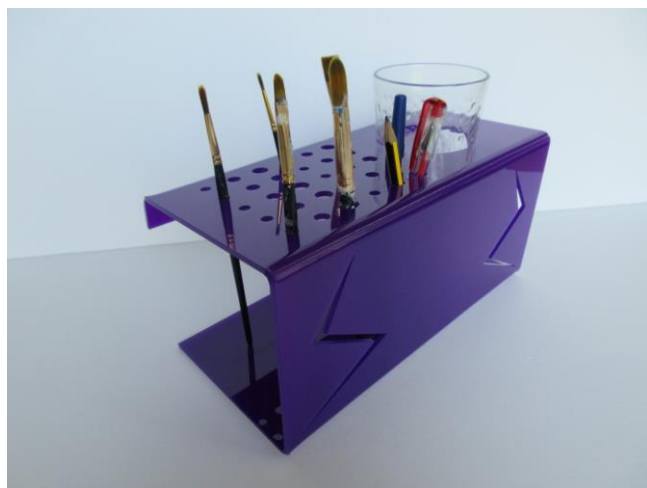


students and staff work together.



#### Student Work - DT

Here are some photos of an amazing piece of work produced by Faith Langford, DT, yr10. Faith worked very hard on this project and came up with a design that truly reflected the project brief and produced a product that she will use at home. Faith designed, made models, drew on the computer and laser cut her model, then bent the acrylic using the line bender. This accessory, for her love of art and painting, will be used by her at home to hold her paint brushes and water pot.



In Food Tech this week, Year 10 made shortbread biscuits. They measured the ingredients, mixed, rolled out, cut, and baked them. They had fun, the room smelt delicious and they all tasted great.



### **Year 10 Summer Workpacks**

Y10 will be sent home with workpacks from most subject areas, to complete over the summer. This is to support their learning and enable them to work independently at home. These packs relate to their GCSE's and we kindly ask you to support us in supporting your child to complete these, so as they are fully prepared for Y11 and their forthcoming exams.

As we all reflect upon this exceptionally difficult year, I would like to remind you to all be good to be good to yourselves for it is always easy upon reflection to consider what we could have done better and how we would have changed the way we responded to the challenges of the day. I would rather and wish for you all that you look in on yourselves and genuinely say 'well done' for achieving what you did, for as a community, whether part of the extended academy community, our parents and carers, staff and students, you have all done exceptionally well to flex and change so swiftly, without discourse and adapt and learn a new way of working and learning in a very new world. Never before would we have believed our daily lives would present, as they have, but each and every day has been grasped by our community, to ensure we made the best of every opportunity, for our students. We are exceptionally proud of our cohesion and care for each other.

### **Future proofing our future with our own**

Hi, my name is Lily Bowers and I am a former student of the Hastings Academy. Since thinking about my career in school, a part of me always wanted to be a teacher. I loved helping students in my class, helping them learn, and I wanted to carry that on whenever I thought about my career. I also had such a passion for English and English Literature that I wanted other people, and future students, to love it as much as I do. English Literature was always my favourite subject in school and my passion only grew when I had a fantastic teacher in college. I wanted to be that teacher in college, inspiring students to study further in their favourite subject. I am currently studying English Literature at the University of Brighton, and I can honestly say it is the best thing I have ever done.

About two years ago, using my passion for English Literature, I put my plan of goal – for becoming a teacher – in action. I started volunteering for Action Tutoring, having work experience in local schools as well as tutoring students online. This has been so rewarding, particularly in the climate of the pandemic and has only encouraged me to pursue the career path of a teacher even more. I have always wanted to



particularly help close the attainment gap and help every student to reach their goals, no matter their background.

With this in mind, I planned to join the Teach First programme. I always knew of Teach First and the impact that they had in seaside towns and schools, particularly at The Hastings Academy. After my application and an online day at the Development Centre, where I talked about my experiences, passion for English and my drive to help other people, I am now planning to teach in the Southeast coast from September 2022! With hard work and determination I have got there and I cannot wait to start.



### **Farewells**

As we end our year, we say a very sad farewell to a few very much loved and respected members of staff. Some who are moving to new opportunities as they further pursue their careers and others whom I referenced at the beginning of term will be leaving our academy family, for the final time as they retire and will be returning their academy badges as they ready themselves for a new life, where the stresses and strains will become a distant memory and their long and loyal working life will be the memories they hold dear, alongside the joys, triumphs, bonds and friendships made that will forever remain seared in their hearts.

**Martina Pieterse** - It is with a heavy heart that the science and humanities departments say an extremely fond farewell to Miss Martina Pieterse. Coming to the end of her second teaching experience at The Hastings academy, she has been a tireless servant of the local community and has dedicated the last few years of her life to improving the opportunities and prospects of our students. Having completed a law degree, she will take her egalitarian drive into the legal sector, where she is currently pursuing opportunities with law firms and the police. We wish her the best of luck with this, and with all her future endeavors.

**Abigail Jewiss** – Abbie has worked within the English department and in the academy, for the last five years,





using the academy as her starting point for her professional teaching career. It has been a delight to have worked with Abbie and to have seen her confidence and practice develop to an excellent level. She has led on our reading strategy and as our Second lead for English, she developed and honed her leadership skills, which she will now continue as a second in department in her new school. We wish Abbie every good fortune and success in her future career.

**Helen Brett** –Helen has worked at our academy as a librarian for the last 8 years. She has been integral in promoting the whole school love of reading and with the English department secured Accelerated Reader, which is a fabulous secondary reading scheme. Helen has always been there as an informed colleague in the library and a wonderful resource herself. We wish Helen every happiness as she continues her librarian skills, shortly, in a new school.

**Jacqui Skelton** - Jacqui has worked in the kitchen on the academy site for the last 31 years. She has seen Hilcrest school knocked down and the opening of The Hastings Academy. Jacqui has been employed by many different catering contractors during this time but has always remained loyal and dedicated to the students and staff who have passed through the academy. Jacqui will be fondly remembered for her delicious food, include her famous chocolate crunch pudding and pink custard! We all wish Jacqui a long, happy and healthy retirement.

**Diane Ballard** - Diane originally joined Hillcrest School in September 2006 as a Cover Supervisor and has worked with us for the last 15 Years. Diane is a well-liked and valued member of our academy team. She has covered lessons in every subject and still does so with enthusiasm, even after all this time. She has helped so many staff and students in one way or another. She has arranged and participated in many extra-curricular activities over the years; sewing club, homework club and even made Easter eggs with the students. Most recently she has been making alterations to prom dresses. She is kind and caring and has her own unique style. We will miss her colourful tights! Diane has decided that after 15 years, it is time to retire. We wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement and hope that she will enjoy spending more time with her family and enjoy lots of lovely days out.

**Lynn Brown**- Lynn has worked, as our day-time cleaner, at our academy for 18 years and throughout that time, Lynn has become the most loved and respected member of our academy team. Lynn has ensured that every day our academy has remained safe and clean, enabling everyone to continue their work and learning in a spotlessly clean environment. Lynn's warmth of character endeared her to all our community. Her endless good humour, winning smile and positive outlook on life, ensured that all who worked with her were grateful to have her in their world. During the pandemic, when the cleanliness of our academy was to the fore of everyone's daily experience, Lynn's calm and pragmatic approach to her task, ensured our wholesale safety. On a persona note, whenever I saw Lynn in the academy, her supportive and reassurance that she could see the good that was taking place within the academy walls, was always the most heartening time of my day. Lynn is looking forward to just being 'Lynn,' for a while and having time to 'stop and smell the coffee' and enjoy the sound of a peaceful life. We all love Lynn and this outpouring of sadness as she leaves our academy, for the final time is well-deserved and we hope, will remain with her forever.

**Paul Degg**- Paul has worked for our Trust and academy in a few guises, for quite a while and many of our parents and carers will know and remember Paul as their teacher, before he became the teacher of their children and we would all agree that Paul is an institution in his own suit. During my time as Principal, I have found Paul to be one of the most measured, informed and trusted members of our academy. His vast knowledge of our community and the academy wholly informed any questions raised and helped to answer



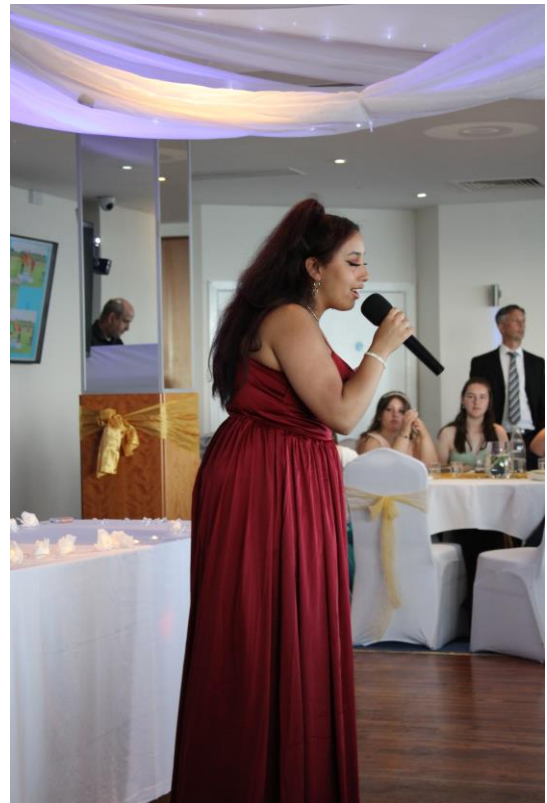
its many needs. Not only has Paul ably taught and ensured the academic success of decades of students, he has also assured the professional success of staff, alike, as he mentored and secured their place in the world of education. For many years Paul has led the procurement of new recruits from within and beyond our community who wish to train as teachers and each and every one has succeeded purely due to Paul's steadfast support of their needs. It is due to Paul that countless aspiring individuals have come to train, as teachers within our academy and either continue their career with us or swiftly find employment, elsewhere, when the academy is unable to provide a post. The fact that to a member of staff none of them wish to leave our academy is testament to the dedication that Paul has tirelessly provided, during their time with us. On a personal note, I cannot thank Paul enough for his utmost discretion and reassurance when I needed him most. Paul deserves every good fortune as he embarks on a new future and words alone will not reflect the legacy and love he leaves behind.

From the bottom of our hearts and with immense gratitude and debt, we wish our retiring staff a very happy and healthy retirement.

### **Prom**

Another farewell goes to our Year 11 students, who last night danced the night away at their Prom. It was so lovely to see them all together for one last celebration. Below, just a small selection of some of the photos taken throughout the night:









Lastly, as I leave you with my final words, for this week, term and academic year, I would like to thank you for your endless support of our academy, staff and as always, our students, your children. Throughout this year your honest and informed commentary and feedback has enabled us to reflect upon, amend and inform our practice. I have recently been made aware of a lovely thought, which I believe embodied you, our parents and carers and our academy staff and students. I credit our PiXL Partners for this profound commentary, below, which I feel is worthy of your attention and presented with the best of intent: 'You may not have heard of the Goldsaddle Goatfish: it is a golden fish, although it has the amazing ability to change its colour between yellow and blue and at night, turns a pink colour. These fish are found in the Red Sea. They are not big fish, nothing remarkable in size or stature, they are a similar size to a red mullet, but these fish know how to punch above their weight.'



The Goldsaddle Goatfish has various predators which threaten its existence; a small lone fish is often vulnerable to bigger, more threatening prey and this is a challenge they have to deal with daily. Yet these fish have found a clever way round the problem, with some divers starting to report some very interesting behaviour when these fish are under threat.

When the fish see a predator or sense they are under attack, they all group together and swim in close formation so that they have the appearance of one large fish. They form a perfect fish pattern and to the outside world, they appear to be one large and powerful unit, ready to tackle any predator coming at them. They perform complimentary actions as a team to bring down their prey or fend off attack. They work incredibly as a team: when one of them senses a prey fish, other fish join in the hunt and block the escape path for the prey fish, giving their fish partner in crime the best chance of winning.

These fish are alert, they work hard and they work together to fight the threat that is in their midst. They change up their strategy depending on what the occasion demands and they work as a team, and as individual fish, so they can win. When they are together forming a 'big fish' they feel brave, they feel fearless and they face up to any threat.

BUT...

When the threat is over, the large fish shape dismantles and every little fish falls out of formation and swims their own way, spending their day exploring the seabed and finding food. Our academy, parents and carers have had nearly two years of swimming as a big fish. As individuals we have come together, swimming as closely as possible to manage the threat we faced. Being together helped us feel brave and to feel fearless when we felt anything but at times. The threats have been real,



the demands have been tough, the changing climate a real challenge.



But...now our summer holiday begins.

Whilst we will have to come back to make ourselves 'big fish' again, as we re-join as one, in September, now is not that time. Now is the time to fall out of 'big fish' formation, to swim free, to ponder, to wander, to rest and reflect – to recover. To live our lives away from the fear of what might be coming to find us or what we have to overcome.

Fall out of formation, our wonderful parents, carers, students and staff. Now is the time to swim free.' Keep very, very well and exceptionally safe, enjoy your well-deserved break and I look forward to welcoming you all again, to our gates, in September

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hilary Morawska". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hilary Morawska