



Weekly Newsletter

Welcome to our newsletter.

As always, we hope you had a very productive week and that your child has responded well to their learning and homework.

Our week began with our Year 11 students being presented with an assembly by our colleagues from 'My Future Starts Here'. This is a service the academy purchases on behalf of our students, to support them during their time at the academy, by providing independent advice and guidance about their future prospects.

It was very good to have the opportunity to bring together the information that we have heard from our partner college and sixth form, along with this broader information about careers advice, which is so valuable for our students; no more so when in Year 11 and whilst at the point of making such life-informing decisions.

This week more of our Year 11s met with our career advisors for their 1:1 meeting and it was so good to welcome parents who joined them in this important time of their life. Thanks to Miss Macmillan for organising the interviews and assemblies and for her continued work to promote effective careers advice for our students.

On Tuesday we welcomed our local NHS Immunisation Team who know the academy and our students well. This visit was for the Covid vaccinations to be administered to the eligible students, who had consented for this to take place. We had around 300 students engaging with this and the immunisation team praised the students for their mature approach to this intervention, which we all know, as adults, can be quite daunting. Thanks to Mr Sadler, Ms Bigg and Miss Prust for ensuring the smooth organisation of this event.

We have also had PC Eastes, our local Police Community Service Officer with us, this week. The students thoroughly enjoy PC Eastes coming into the academy and we appreciate him helping to inform our personal, social and health education curriculum. PC Eastes has such a positive relationship with our students and his support for our academy is very much appreciated.

On Thursday, we welcomed in a drama group, who presented a very thought provoking and real-time production about County Lines and the impact of any engagement with this system. Our Year 8 and Year 9s experienced the reality of the effect of this beyond concerning issue and everyone responded, again, with maturity and I know learnt a great deal. Praise of our two-year groups were lavished upon them, by the drama group, regarding their attention and behaviour during the productions. Thanks to Mr Wall for organising this most important of personal development experiences.

Also on Thursday, Mr Sadler, presented a whole school assembly for the academy community to be reminded of the importance of Armistice Day and why we should all remember those that have given their lives for us to continue to live as free citizens. We learnt, too, that there is a War Horse Memorial where tributes can be laid in honour of the animals who were integral in the numerous campaigns during both World Wars and a purple poppy is worn to commemorate the important part they played to support mankind in the conflicts.

Later in the morning, the whole school gathered outside and stood still and silent whilst Mr Sadler read **The Exhortation:**

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them."*

At this point, Miss East played The Last Post, which must be one of the most evocative pieces of music written and one which reaches into the very soul of each and every person who hears it. The two-minute silence that followed was exactly that, silence, bar the wind and where the cries of the seagulls added to the poignance of the loss felt across the world as war and harm continues. We ended the ceremony with Mr Sadler reading the **Kohima Epitaph**

*'When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say,
For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today.'*

It was with great pride that we listened to Mr Sadler and Miss East and also that we stood, together, in remembrance. Heartfelt thanks to the students of The Hastings Academy for doing so very well.



Awards Evening – Leavers of 2021

We can't wait to welcome back our 2021 Leavers for their Awards Evening!

You are cordially invited to the

Class of 2021 Awards Evening



Thursday 25th November 2021 • 6pm - 7pm

The Hastings Academy

The event will include a buffet, guest speakers and the distribution of GCSE/BTEC certificates

Please RSVP with the past student's name to office@thehastingsacademy.org.uk by Friday 19th November 2021



Sharing Images and Videos

Young people often share images or 'selfies' and there is potential for some of those to be nude or nearly nude images. Young people share 'nudes' for a number of different reasons, and some situations are more risky than others.

For information about the contexts in which images are shared and how best to respond, take a look at [nude selfies: a parents guide](#).

Year 11 Parent Consultations – Subject Teacher

Thursday 18th November 2021 - 4-7pm at The Hastings Academy

We are pleased to inform you of the arrangements for Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening with your child's subject teachers. Appointments take place on Thursday 18th November between 4-7pm at the Academy.

Parent consultations are an important event in our Academy calendar. Appointments will last for 5 minutes and will focus on your child's performance and progress, as well as their attitude to learning. It will also give an opportunity to discuss any support that needs to be put in place to help with their future progress. To give you an even clearer picture of your child's progress, Year 11 progress reports will also be made available on the evening. We have recently introduced an easy to use online appointment booking system - SchoolBooking. Emails have been sent to all year 11 parents with information about the event and how to access SchoolBooking. Please follow this link for the letter: [Year 11 Parent Consultations Letter](#)

Mental Health First Aid

This week, three members of The Hastings Academy staff gained their Mental Health First Aider qualification.

Mrs Pepper, Miss Atkinson and Miss Prust completed the four-week course, which deep-delves into causes and symptoms, and looked at ways in which young people can be helped if they are experiencing a mental health crisis. Anxiety, depression, self-harm and eating disorders are just a few of the areas they covered.

These skills are becoming increasingly valuable when working with young people, so it is an extra credit to have Mental Health First Aiders in our team.



A reminder about the importance of reporting test results

Thank you for continuing to encourage your child to test twice-weekly for COVID-19 at home. Reporting your tests, whether positive, negative or void, is as important as taking the test itself, as reporting results helps the DFE/PHE/County understand the spread of the virus in local areas.

Lateral flow device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect asymptomatic COVID-19 cases. The accuracy of LFD tests was more than 80% effective at detecting any level of COVID-19 infection and likely to be more than 90% effective at detecting the most infectious people at the point of testing.

Recognition Points

There are two areas that students can be recognised for:

1. Academic and attendance recognition
2. Resilience and improved engagement recognition



RECOGNISING THE GREAT THINGS THAT YOU DO!



Have you gone 'above and beyond'?

If so, your teacher could be awarding you **RECOGNITION** points and letting your parents/ carers know.

The **RECOGNITION** points will go towards your graduation at the end of the year.

Message from Lily Williams, Firehills

On Thursday we had our Remembrance Day assembly. We had 2 minutes silence at 11am.

Remembrance Day is the Memorial Day observed by commonwealth member states and other countries to recall the end of the First World War hostilities on "the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" of 1918.

Also known as Armistice Day, it was a tradition started by King George V in 1919. It is to honour all armed service members who have died in the line of duty. Remembrance Sunday is held this Sunday, the second Sunday of the month which is the closest to Armistice Day.

Poppies are the symbol of remembrance because these are the flowers which grew on the battlefields after the First World War. There are also purple poppies that symbolise the animals' lives that have been lost at war.

DO YOU HAVE CONCERNS?

TALK TO US

TALKTOUS@THEHASTINGSACADEMY.ORG.UK

WWW.THEHASTINGSACADEMY.ORG.UK/GET-CONNECTED/TALK-TO-US

TUTOR

STUDENT SUPPORT MANAGER

HEAD OF HOUSE

TEACHER

ANY ADULT



Personal Development

This week our Year 8s and Year 9s watched a professional theatre company put on a short play and give a talk about the manipulation of young people into drug trafficking: 'County Lines'. The acting was superb, the content very relevant and the pupils looked fascinated. Drug trafficking is an issue in our area so now our pupils have been given important advice on how to protect themselves from this form of criminal activity. All year groups received a lesson on sexual harassment and many classes were visited by PC Eastes who had interesting and informative discussions with at least 10 classes.

What is sexual harassment?

Can you see any examples here?



They finally get to their favourite shop and have a look around. Whilst Izzy is looking at T-shirts a man walks past and taps her on the bottom. She quickly turns around but he has already walked away with his girlfriend. Izzy asks her friends if they mind if she goes home.

Izzy should feel flattered. She is getting lots of nice attention.

True

False

False, these are all examples of harassment, unwanted behaviour that makes her feel humiliated.

Different contexts

At school

Someone strokes your knee under the desk in a Science class.

At work

Someone has a calendar by their desk in the office displaying naked images.

Online

Someone sends you naked photographs that you did not ask for.

Extra-curricular clubs

Someone offers you extra private tuition whilst stroking your hand.

Local community

Someone wolf-whistles whilst you walk down the street.

At an event

Someone approaches you asks you to go upstairs 'to somewhere quiet' in your ear.

Reflection

Sexual harassment is unwanted conduct of a sexual nature which has the purpose or effect of violating someone's dignity, humiliating or offensive environment for them.

Sexual harassment can take place in many different contexts including online, at school or in a workplace.

News from East Hill

This week we have decided on our house values, East Is the Beast!

Belief

Empathy

Attitude

Strength

Trust

East is the BEAST

We are always mindful of our students' thoughts and wellbeing and encourage them to speak out, feel supported and to support others. With that in mind, we have created a new display board in our pastoral office solely for them. This display board is now filled with inspirational quotes and things to encourage them to be kind to themselves, to aspire and to strive. It is essentially our "take what you need board" and we have asked for students to leave a little note or picture etc in return to brighten up someone else's day.



We have also been discussing how we can raise money for Children In Need. We are pleased to announce, East Hill will be hosting a "Pay to Play for Children In Need" event on Friday the 19th of November. Mrs Reed and Mrs Browning will be meeting with our senior students and house/vice captains to confirm our plans later today!

Watch This Space!

East Hill! We want to raise the most money we possibly can for this wonderful cause, so would like you all to dig deep and attend you all to attend and take part! There will also be a cake sale for this event, we all love a cake! So bakers...make yourselves known! WE NEED YOU! Please let myself or Mrs Browning know if you can provide cakes.

East Hill have returned to Term 2 and have been busy bee's, they have hit the ground running! Keep up the good work we are always proud of you all!

Below, East Hill's Senior Students, Tutor Reps and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.



Spotlight on... Drama



Year 7 have been introduced to drama in term one, looking at how to work in an open space and developing group skills. The main focus has been telling stories through freeze frames with the story ideas of bullying. They have been using their own ideas to create still images as well as poetry. There are some budding actors in this year and lots of fantastic group work.

This term students are turning their hand to pantomime with the run up to Christmas!



Year 8 have been busy in term one studying Gothic Horror and the elements that make up this genre. Students have looked at creating tension with scenes from Frankenstein and Dracula. The main project this term has been for students to create, write and shoot their own Gothic Horror film trailers. The students came up with some fantastic work and really did themselves proud.

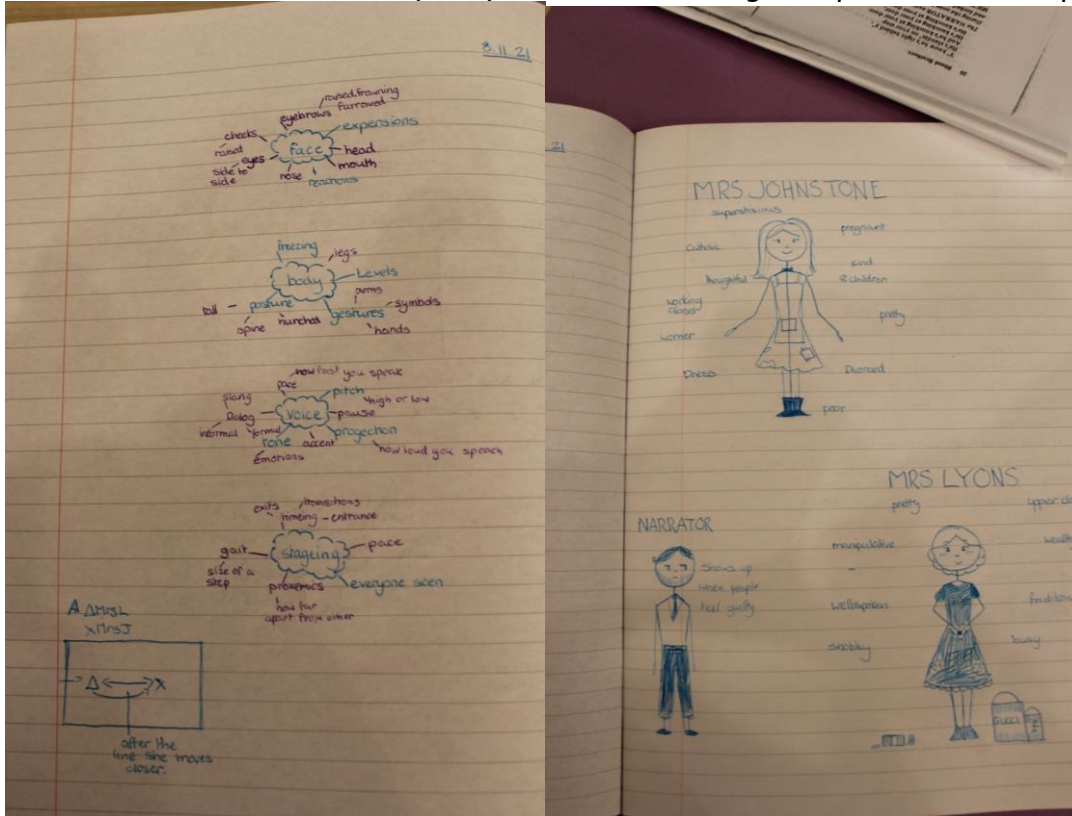
This term students will be studying A Christmas Carol with the run up to Christmas.



Year 9 are working on creating physical theatre and mask work. We are creating stylised and symbolic representations of a range of caricatures. We are looking at how archetypes, physical theatre, mime and silent film techniques combine to create stylised mask work. This builds on the work we did last term in drama and is a contrast to the naturalistic use of script and duologue.



Year 10 have been working on a mini devised performance based from a stimulus. This performance is a practise project before they being to create one of their exam performances. The performances allowed students to work creatively and also tackle tricky topics such as morals, politics and news reports. Year 10 got a chance to perform these to an audience and receive feedback which will inform their next piece. Currently we are studying our set text of *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell and starting to explore the written paper for the GCSE.



Year 11 have been working on their drama exam pieces. They are creating a range of different pieces. One group are doing *The Long Road*-a powerful piece by Shelagh Stevenson that explores the theme of forgiveness following the death of a young boy who is fatally stabbed in front of his brother. It is based on a true story, and a result of research with prisoners and Synergy Theatre.



Another group are doing a version of *Frankenstein*-originally a National Theatre Production with Benedict Cumberbatch. This is a highly physical and challenging piece that looks at how "the creature" sets out to discover the world and the meaning of his life.



Bloom Britannia

Students from Year 10 were given the opportunity to take part in an exciting production by Barefoot Opera. 'Bloom Britannia' is a new 'people's opera', involves professional and community singers and a collaboration with artists across musical genres with performances that took place in October 2021. Bloom Britannia has been four years in the making - inspired by life in a coastal town in modern Britain, involving people from the communities of Hastings, St. Leonards-on-sea and Bexhill singing alongside professional musicians. Composed by international writer/composer team Stephen Plaice and Orlando Gough, this tells the story of a post Brexit British seaside town in the final for 'squillions of dosh' to regenerate the town -and this is the day the winning town is to be decided. Everything goes wrong -hen parties, dodgy dealings on the seafront, scandalous secret affairs, magic mushrooms in the lemon squash – and we ask ourselves exactly what 'being British' means. The hilarious and bitingly witty story is scored with Gough's rich blend of jazz/pop/Stravinsky, and will be performed with an international cast and band. Whilst 15 students took part in various in school workshops, the following pupils performed at St Mary's in the castle:

Alfie Rouse
Charlie Gordon
Zack Bryan
Hania Downes
Poppy Chapman
Mati Dawick

Well done!



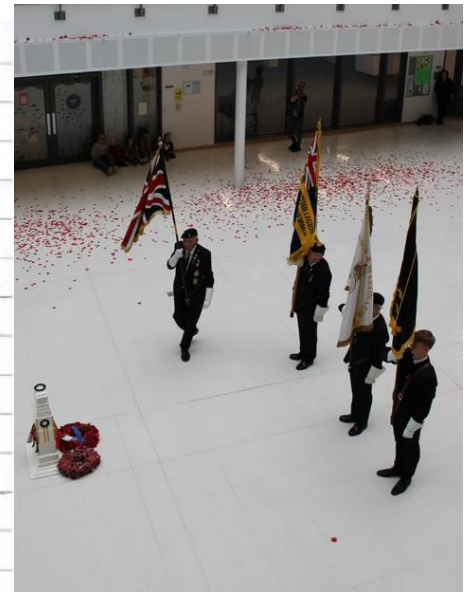
Associate Schools project with The Royal Shakespeare Company

The Hastings Academy delighted to be a part of the Associate schools project run by the Royal Shakespeare company which is a two year project developing the love of Shakespeare, language and performance. We will be with closely with the RSC and local schools such as Ark Alexandra. Year 8 students have been specially invited to take part in an exciting performance project that will take place over the year. There will be opportunities for these students to experiences Shakespeare as well as workshops from practitioners.

The week ended with our senior students, along with Miss East being invited to East Sussex College, Hastings, to support with their remembrance service. Ms Willcocks drove us in the minibus and remained to observe the ceremony. The senior students along with the students who are following a services course, gently dropped poppies onto the vast atrium floor, whilst Miss East played The Last Post, as the college stopped to pay their respects. We thank Ms Conroy, the Executive Principal, for inviting our students and also again to Miss East for playing such a challenging tune so perfectly. Our senior students responded impeccably to their role, where, as the poppies fell during the two-minute silence each poppy dropped represented a life lost. I thank our senior students, Miss East and Mrs Willcocks for their time and commitment to ensuring we worked in harmony with the college to present a beautiful ceremony.

Thank you to East Sussex college Hastings for inviting us to attend their wonderful remembrance service. We felt welcomed by all including the travel and tourism students, the veterans, the public service students and the hospitality and catering students. We felt privileged to take part in the service by dropping poppy petals from the balcony. The service was very moving and well done to Miss East for an exceptional last post. It was a lovely experience to be reunited with some ex-students. Thank you Mrs Willcocks and Mrs Morawska and Miss Prust and all for making it happen.

Senior Students



If you are to attend a ceremony on Sunday, the academy sends you its best wishes for a calm and peaceful day and a restful weekend.

Kindest regards

Hilary Morawska

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