



Weekly Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you all very well and that you continue to maintain your good health, no more so when we are hearing of the higher covid case levels in our local community and of course of some restrictions in travel and within our own community. Earlier we sent out a letter from our County partners, which advised our community about the need for additional care regarding any symptoms, the need to re-introduce face coverings and to ensure that every positive LFD is followed up by a free PCR test. If you require more testing kits, please do contact the academy. Should you find the PCR test to be positive, please do follow this up by engaging with the contacting tracing process. We all wish to continue working as we are and to not have to implement further restrictions, which impact on everyone's daily lives, therefore, I thank you for working with us and ask that you purchase a good stock of face coverings for your child, who will need to be wearing them upon entry, on Monday, 29th November.

Our assembly, this week, was led by Mr Walsh, who presented a charming assembly on the importance of reading. As always, there were many links to other curriculum areas and Mr Walsh reminded all the students that William the Conqueror could neither read nor write, therefore, Mr Walsh advised, all the students were already streets ahead of this very successful individual by all being literate. The benefits of reading, were shared with the students, such as reading improves your mental health, enables you to empty your mind of the daily stresses and strains and supports sleep, alongside as we all know, that it takes you into other worlds, places and thought processes. The power of reading can not be understated. Mr Walsh shared some quotes about reading and my personal favourite was from Groucho Marx, we all enjoy to sit and watch the television, but definitely learn and develop further with a good read, instead!

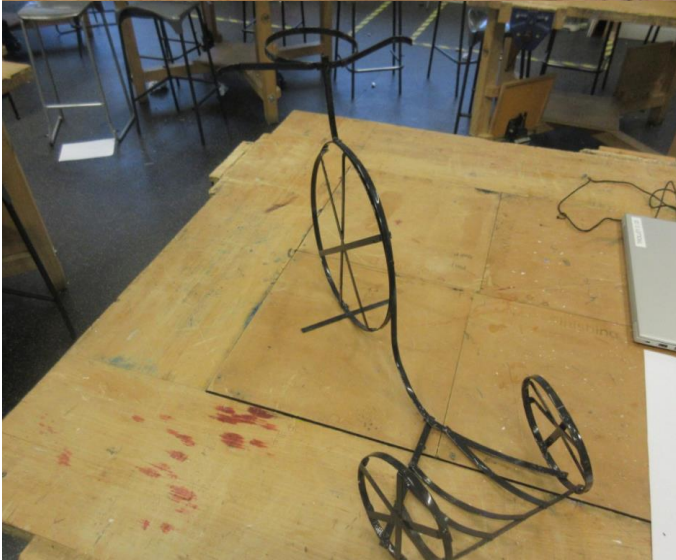
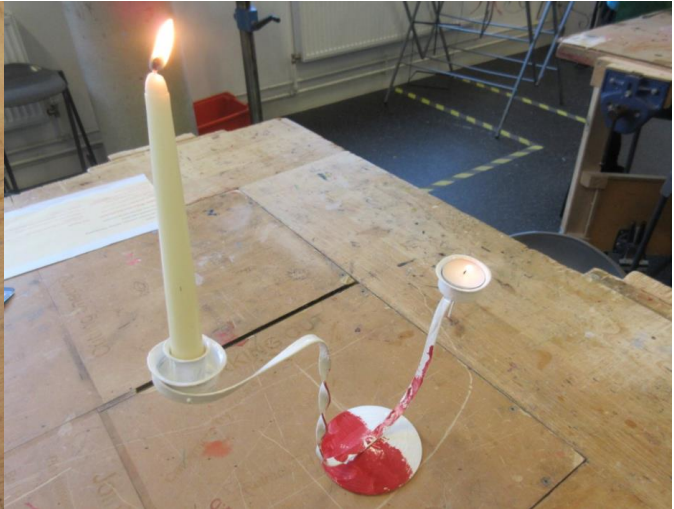
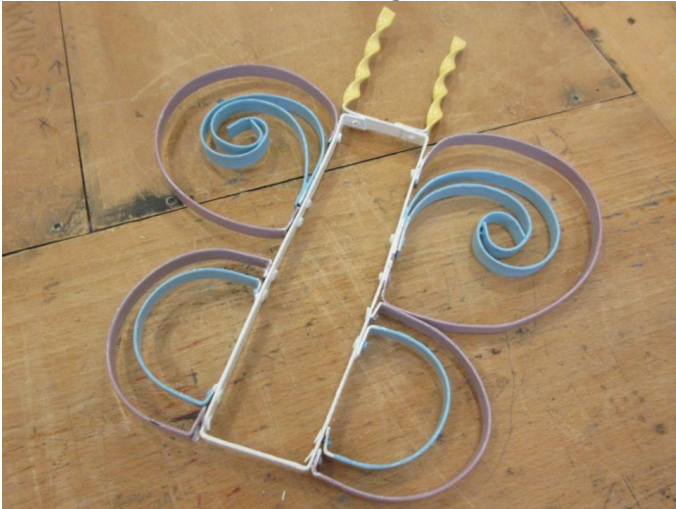
Mr Walsh challenged the students to read two good books a month, for by all accounts, all self-made millionaires stated that this is what they did and still do! I am sure there is a lot more hard work linked to making millions, but regularly reading good books has got to be a great start. Mr Walsh challenged the students and staff to do exactly that! Here's to everyone's first million... We would all like to thank Mr Walsh for his very engaging and informative assembly.

Mrs Macmillan invited our University of Brighton colleagues into the academy, again, this week, where our Year 7 and Year 8 students enjoyed a day of imagining themselves in the future by working through a board game of careers and future pathways. Mrs Macmillan provides a very extensive menu of careers advice and guidance, with our My Future Starts Here colleague meeting with our Year 11 students to discuss their next and imminent steps.

This week, Mr Money and Mrs D'Warte accompanied our Year 11 students on their Art trip up to London's South Bank and The Tate Modern. As always, our students behaved impeccably on the train and worked hard gathering photographs and making sketches, which will be invaluable for their independent coursework.

DT Work

Year 10 have been working with metal, using tools and equipment that allow them to bend/twist/cut and rivet pieces of metal bar. They have been busy designing and making some of their ideas which include candle holders and garden ornaments.



Covid Update

Levels of COVID-19 infections in school aged children are currently high in East Sussex. The academy continues to work to mitigate infections within the academy and maintaining the focus on learning. We really do appreciate the support of our parents and carers who are keeping their children as safe, as anyone can, in this challenging situation.

As with previous phases of the pandemic, there are some key actions that the academy is taking to reduce the impact of COVID on our lives and help us prepare safely for Christmas and the winter months ahead. In particular ensuring the following take place:

- the reintroduction of face coverings within communal areas of our academy, our children have been told and we would appreciate that parents and carers purchase stocks of face coverings and ensure your child comes to school with plenty in their bag. The children will be expected to wear a face covering as they enter the building and whilst in all communal areas: entrance and exit, corridors, canteen (unless eating) and their honeycombs
- promoting the continued testing for COVID-19 using PCRs and LFDs
- promoting the contact tracing process for children who test positive

You would have already received the letter, from county, for parents and carers about the changes, which we were asked to share, which details the following:

Face Coverings

As COVID rates are now highest amongst children and young people, we feel the time is right to endorse the reintroduction of face coverings our communal areas. This is in line with the latest government guidance for schools, and we very much welcome your support in helping us implement this additional preventative measure until the end of term. We are implementing this from Monday 29 November, and we will review the situation at Christmas in line with the latest data.

Testing for Covid-19

Secondary school pupils should continue to test twice weekly at home, with lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, 3 to 4 days apart. It is important that pupils with a positive LFD test result self-isolate in line with the stay-at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection. We are often having reports of LFD test positives, but these aren't always being followed up with a confirmatory PCR test. All pupils with a positive LFD test result need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school if the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Anyone can order a PCR test with COVID-19 symptoms, which include:

- a high temperature,
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste

Contact tracing process

Schools no longer have an active role in contact tracing, and this is now undertaken by NHS Test and Trace. Current tracing arrangements for those aged under 18 requires parents and guardians to complete the process for their children. Completing contact tracing helps break chains of COVID-19 transmission, reduces disruption to work and education, illness and saves lives. It also helps those who are vulnerable to get the help that they need.

Holiday Activity and Food

We are sharing the HAF poster with you, on behalf of the East Sussex County Council Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme, where eligible families can participate

We have a vital role in the successful delivery of the HAF programme, as we can signpost our vulnerable families to local holiday activity provision. The programme initially targets those in receipt of benefit-related free school meals (FSM), but we have recently been advised by the DfE that providers can now offer remaining places to other eligible young people who fit into one (or more) of the priority groups listed below:

Priority groups
Referred to Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services
Disabled – Have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Have special educational needs or disability (SEND) or are on the disability register
Young Carers (look after someone at home)
Have a disabled sibling
Referred to the School Mental Health Teams
Electively home educated
Gypsy, Roma & Traveller
Supported by "Family Focus"/"Troubled Families" services provided by the council
Children in Need (CiN), Children on a Child Protection Plan (CP) and Looked After Children (LAC)
Live in areas of high deprivation

The information directs you to the ESCC HAF website where they can see what's on offer in their local area and contact providers directly to book places. If you have any questions or would like to know more please contact the HAF team directly – HAF@eastsussex.gov.uk

A celebratory [video](#) was created to showcase the summer programme, highlighting the positive impact on the children who took part - the HAF programme has already been hugely beneficial for thousands of children in East Sussex, especially for those who need it the most.



Holiday food and fun!

FREE for families receiving benefits-related free school meals.

Think there's no such thing as a free lunch? **WRONG!!**

There are exciting **holiday activities**, including a **free lunch**, for children in receipt of benefit-related free school meals taking place over the school holidays.

From circus skills to animation workshops, from drama to team sports, from arts and crafts to forest schools, there is something for everyone.

Scan the QR code or visit the "**Holiday Food and Fun in East Sussex**" [website](#) for details of activities in your area and to book a place.

During school holidays at Easter, summer and Christmas, our Holiday Food and Fun clubs will be serving up a menu of activities and food for children and young people aged 5-16. Activities will vary and not all activities will be available to all ages.

Department for Education

East Sussex County Council

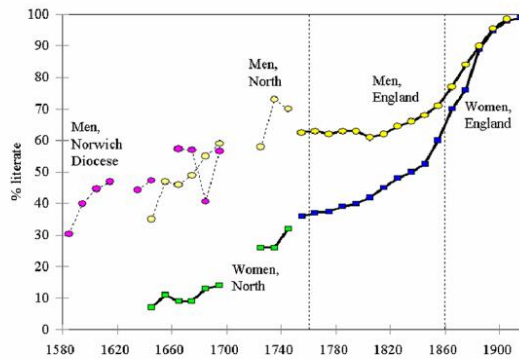
The Power of Reading

This week, the students learned about "The Power of Reading" in an assembly with Mr Walsh. It was incredible to see, based on surveys at the start of the sessions, how many students were reading for their own entertainment. The different Hills also learned some interesting facts and statistics on how simply doing a bit more reading can help a student in their school and personal life. The assembly was rounded out by a reminder to all students that the Hastings Academy Library is now open in the mornings, as well as both breaks - we're hoping as many students as possible will take advantage of the amazing facilities we have here and go into the weekend with a good book.

Did you know...

Up until 200 years ago, less than 30% of the population of England knew how to read and write.

Nowadays, Britain boasts a literacy rate of 99% - one of the highest in the entire world!



And that isn't all! Studies show that reading...

- Improves brain connectivity.
- Increases your vocabulary and comprehension.
- Empowers you to empathize with other people.
- Aids in sleep readiness.
- Reduces stress.
- Lowers blood pressure and heart rate.
- Fights depression symptoms.



Visit Our Wonderful Library!

The Library is now open...

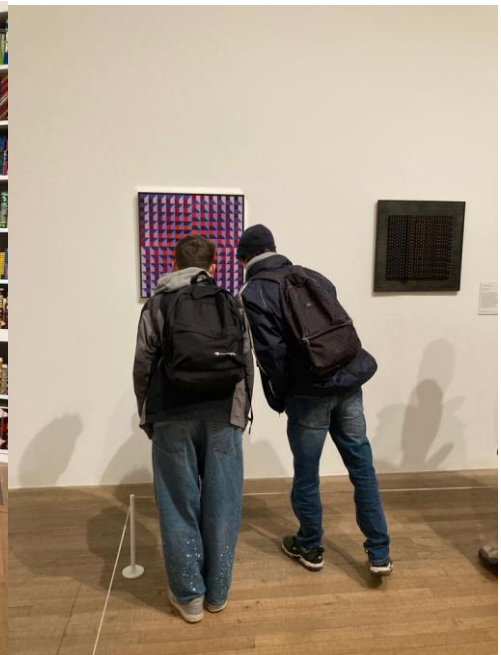
Before School
Tutor Time
First Break
Second Break

Our fantastic librarians will be more than happy to help you pick out an amazing book!



Year 11 Art Trip to the Tate Modern and the London South Bank

On Wednesday the 24th, Year 11 Art students attended a trip to the Tate Modern and the London South Bank. Students took photos throughout the day to use for their Messages and Details coursework projects. We arrived at Charring Cross and started the day walking along the riverfront and Southbank including the sculpture installations outside the Hayward gallery. At the Tate, the students visited the Media Connections and Materials and objects exhibitions, taking photos and drawing the artworks.





TRAIN TO TEACH SECONDARY

**LOOKING FOR AN INTERESTING AND REWARDING CAREER?
TRAIN TO TEACH WITH US.**

Our teacher training programme 'Secondary School Direct' provides classroom experience based at one of our secondary academies in Sussex, alongside study at the University of Brighton. With personalised support from highly experienced teachers and tutors you can qualify with a Postgraduate Certificate in Education within a year and go on to make a real difference to a child's future as a qualified teacher!

- Train to teach at one of our secondary academies in Burgess Hill, Hastings or St Leonards
- Attend training sessions at the University of Brighton, rated by Ofsted as an outstanding provider of initial teacher training
- Graduate with a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) from the University of Brighton and Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) within 1 year
- Personalised support from highly experienced teachers and tutors.
- Generous tax-free bursaries and scholarships up to £26,000 are available for certain subjects

Train to Teach: Art & design | Biology | Chemistry | Dance | English | Geography | Mathematics | Modern Languages | Physics

brightonacademiestrust.org.uk/traintoteach



FIND OUT MORE



University of Brighton

Academies Trust

Year 9 Parent Consultations

Thursday 2nd December 2021 – 4-7pm at The Hastings Academy

We are pleased to inform you of the arrangements for Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening with your child's subject teachers. Appointments take place on Thursday 2nd December between 4-7pm at the Academy.

Invitation letters will be available from Monday with full details on how to access SchoolBooking - our online booking system. Full information and how to access SchoolBooking was sent via an invitation email to your account on Monday 22nd November.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

28 students in Year 9 have signed up for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2021-2022 - this is joining the other 20 students in Years 10 and 11 that started the award already.

It has been a challenging period for the D of E and young people undertaking it but some students have already demonstrated the resilience and determination to achieve the award by completing several sections.

We are now going to have two separate days in December for our D of E'ers over in Eastbourne on the South Downs to get out in the fresh air, do some basic navigation awareness and teambuilding activities.

A 30 place outdoor and adventurous residential is planned for April 2022 where students will get the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities from climbing to paddleboarding at Llain Activity Centre in mid-West Wales.

Ms McCallum is supporting the award here at THA, and doing a great job organising the activities planned with Mr Senior.



Year 11 Mock Exams

The timetable for the Year 11 mock exams has now been published. The exams are taking place in December and January.

Please follow this link to view the schedule on our website:

<https://www.thehastingsacademy.org.uk/teaching-and-learning/exams-clone>

Spotlight on... Photography



This term in Photography, Year 9 students have been completing their 'Everyday' projects in which they use their everyday experiences to inform their Photographic practice. They are currently looking at portrait Photographer Bill Brandt, Landscape Photographer Jack Ambridge and the multiple image Photography of Dan Mountford. At the end of last term, the students attended a trip to Brighton to take photos for this project. They are currently using these photos to make manual and digital edits inspired by the Photographers they have studied.



Year 10 Photography students have continued to work on their 'Fantastic and Strange' Photography project (all about surrealist Photography). They are now focusing on distorted Landscapes. . Students have been learning about Photographers such as Andreas Gursky, Randy Scott Slavin and Doug Aitkin before replicating their style and process to create their own surreal landscapes. Students have been using the photos that they took on the trip to the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill as source material for this project.



Year 11 Photography students have been completing their personal projects, choosing from themes including 'Texture' and 'Paper'. Students have been making their own response to the Photographers studied using their photographs from the London Photography trip on November 17th to create manual and digital edits. They are gradually moving towards a final piece for this project which will be completed by Christmas.



News from East Hill and West Hill

So last Friday was Children in Need day and West & East hills joined forces – and WOW!! AMAZING!! What a force we were!!! The students always amaze us with the lengths to which they will go to support others less fortunate.

We had students baking cakes in the DT Food rooms which were then sold, along with cakes and biscuits that had been donated, during break 2, we had a raffle, we had a sweet sale, we had a guess the baby and we had the Switch set up. All the students gave so generously and we raised £190.

Special thanks goes to the Student Support Managers *Mrs Browning & Mrs Oliver-Murphy*, without them our fund raiser would not have taken place.

Ms Wickens, Head of West Hill

Youth Cabinet Elections – the Hastings Academy achieves representation!

Our successful new Youth Cabinet representative Lily Williams, of whom we are very proud, will be joining other new Youth Cabinet members, the non-successful Youth Cabinet candidates and all of their parents and carers to an online Welcome evening on the 7th of December from 6-8pm.

This event will be the opportunity to:

- Look back: Thank the outgoing Youth Cabinet and look back on their highlights and achievements
- Look ahead: Youth Cabinet work for the year ahead
- Explain the representative role of the Youth Cabinet
- Share other youth voice opportunities within NHS, Voluntary sector and other partners for those who didn't get elected into Youth Cabinet positions
- Give clarity about the support available and expectations of the Youth Cabinet role
- Congratulate all new Youth Cabinet members

This event will be attended by:

- Young people interested in youth voice opportunities
- Current and new Youth Cabinet members
- Becky Shaw, Chief Executive of East Sussex County Council
- Alison Jeffery, Director of Children Services
- Louise Carter, Assistant Director of Children's Services
- Cllr Bob Bowdler, Lead Member for Children and Families
- Cllr Bob Standley, Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- The Equality, Participation and Strategic Partnerships team who will be supporting the Youth Cabinet.
- Members of the previous Youth Cabinet will also be there to welcome in the new elected members.

Other Youth Voice organisations will be present to introduce their work and opportunities to get involved.

This event will be a great opportunity to meet other Youth Cabinet members and be introduced to their role and responsibilities.

We certainly look forward to hearing more from Lily as she embarks on this really exciting year and well done for already being such a positive and proactive ambassador for our academy!

Word of the Week – 'Phon'

Root word of the week

Phon

Towards the end of the week, certain teachers may ask you questions about the Root Word – answer correctly, and you could win prizes!

Word
of the
Week

This week we will be focusing on words which use the word 'Phon' which means 'Voice/Sound'.

'Phon' =
Voice/Sound



Q. Do you know any words which use the root word 'Voice/Sound'?

Etymology
(where a word comes from)

'Phon' comes from the Greek word 'Phone', which means 'Sound'. The Greeks themselves used a variety of instruments to create sound, including an Aulos, which was two flutes joined together! 'Phon', like most Greek words, entered English after the Norman invasion.

Definitions.

Phonetic =

(Adjective) – Relating to the sound of speech
"Quite a few languages are phonetic – English is not."

Headphone =

(Noun) Used to transmit sounds or voice into our ears.
"Nowadays, most headphones don't even use wires."

Telephone =

(Noun) – An invention used to transmit voice across distances.
"Until recently, you would only find a telephone in a house, or on the street."

News from Firehills

This week in Firehills, we have been raising money for Children in Need.

We did this by having a cake sale and a raffle, where students could come and buy cakes and raffle tickets for a chance to win chocolate! We also had a band playing music while we raised money, it turned out to be a successful event of fundraising!

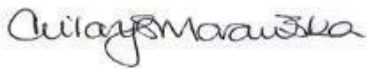
Children in Need is a very important cause and the charity itself raise money for disadvantaged children and young people in the UK.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the event and bought raffle tickets or cakes! We hope you enjoyed this event as much as we did. We managed to raise £195!!

Lily Williams, Firehills student

As always, keep very safe and very well and wrap up as that north wind and Storm Arwen joins us for the weekend

Kindest



Hilary Morawska