



Weekly Newsletter

Reminder: Our final day of term, Friday 17th December is a half-day. Students will finish at 12pm. Food will be available in the canteen during first break.

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our weekly newsletter

Another busy week has flown by. We survived Storm Barra, albeit I was very concerned to still see students coming to school without a rain coat or protective outer wear. As the rain poured down, children were kept safe and dry in the academy during the school day, but would have returned soaking wet, possibly rendering them unable to wear a full uniform the following day, if not carefully dried. We do have coats and jackets in our lost property, so do check your child's wardrobe and if a coat is missing, do ask them to leaf through the lost property next week, for we do very much want to reunite the property with the child.

As we hear more about restrictions and protective measures relating to the latest Covid variant, as much as I dislike having to include this in the newsletter, I must again bring to your attention that on a daily basis the academy is handing out hundreds of face coverings and as flimsy as they are, they do not last long when removed and replaced. The academy, in spite of ordering further face coverings, ran out and therefore, were unable to provide them to the students. There is a pandemic, there is Covid in the local community, therefore, I do appeal to you to purchase numerous face coverings and ensure your child brings more than one into the academy and enters the academy wearing them. We are all at risk and face coverings are part of our protective measures to help protect each other. I do hope that I see far more students wearing face coverings. If your child is exempt, please contact your pastoral team, to make them aware and an exempt pass will be needed to be shown when staff enquire about the lack of face coverings. Thank you

Albeit we are lurching towards the Christmas period, which is very much in evidence in our pastoral houses, where the pastoral team have worked hard to bring festive cheer to their areas, to ensure a sparkly start to every day is experienced by all and by our Christmas Jumper Charitable Day, our Year 11s were busy with their GCSE examinations.

Our Year 11 Musicians were doing their level best to gain their highest of grades in the performance discipline of their exam. We are very proud of our musicians who are the best of ambassadors for our academy and whom, I know, will go from strength to strength as they continue to develop further skills and knowledge in this subject.

In addition, Miss East, our Head of Performing Arts and music teacher has been working with her Year 11s to record a Christmas video, which we hope to share with you, but will definitely be shared with the students. We thank Miss East and Mr Follington and our year 11 students for their fabulous support of our academy.

Whilst the musicians were leading the charge for all things musical, Mr Regereau, our Head of Modern Foreign Languages was ensuring that our Year 11 linguists had their best of opportunities to rehearse for their speaking examination. What a skill to hold, that of being able to speak and understand another language and our Year 11s are proving they can do, just that! Thanks go to our MFL team, Ms Pepper, Ms Sage and Ms Macmillan, who have, throughout the last 5 years, worked hard to secure confident young linguists who can talk eloquently about a subject in their chosen language. The benefits this will bring them, in their future careers and lives will be endless and will last a lifetime!

Our assembly, this week, was led by Mr Sadler who presented to the students the history and reasons behind the Declaration of Human Rights, of which we should all hold dear. In our culture, we take our ability to live freely as a given, but to understand what each right truly means and how even today, we know there are so many who suffer, dreadfully, under the hands and leadership of others. The children learnt that freedom is a gift and we can support it by being good to each other. An important message at this time of year.

Government guidelines on the return to school and Lateral Flow Testing - January 2022. This affects all year groups – please read carefully.

Recent Government guidance has stated that, on return to school in January, all students should complete one lateral flow tests on site, with the negative results from this allowing us to confidently let students mix in school without risk of transmission. All students should follow up the first test with another test at home (within 3-4 days). We will be using our planned Inset day Tuesday 4th January 2022 to complete the student Lateral Flow Tests in the Academy. We will publish full detail next week.

Please complete the ONLINE CONSENT FORM by following the link:
<https://forms.office.com/r/meRX7r29fp>

Please note: any testing consent given previously is now invalid, therefore parents and carers are asked to complete the above consent form. Without your consent, we cannot allow your child/ren to test at school.

Students will be supported by staff to administer the lateral flow test and then, upon completion of the test, will return home. Once results have been processed parents/carers will be notified via email.

Thank you for your co-operation and that of your child, as we endeavour to continue to support the government's drive to mitigate the impact of the virus.

Mr Cocks - Year 9 Football Team Success

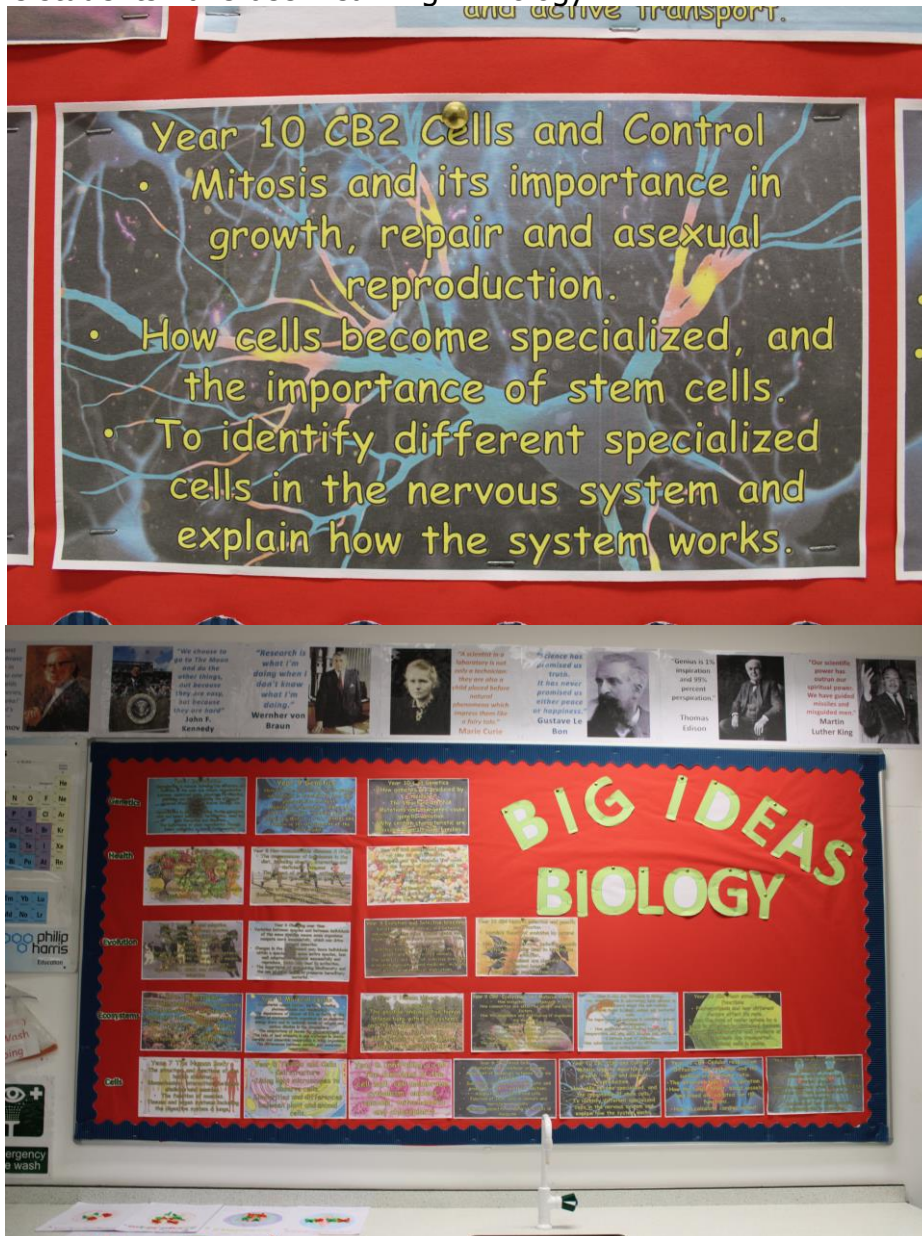
My Year 9 football team have done really well this term! Managing to beat Rye college 4-3 and our Year 10s 5-2.

They have really started to work as a team now, helping each other in training sessions - which has started being proven in our results.

My Player of the term is John Darvill. This is because he has improved the most out of any player and consistently works hard in both training, and our games.

Science Work

Ms Smith has been getting creative with the noticeboards in Science lab, F20! The display reflects what the students have been learning in Biology.



Below, some examples of Year 10 work.



Reporting student absence (01424 711950 option 2) or via email below

All absences should be reported by 8:45am on each day of your child's absence.

Attendance mailbox: tha.attendance@thehastingsacademy.org.uk - please leave your child's name, House Team, Year Group and reason for absence.

Medical evidence must be handed in on return to the academy to your child's Tutor, Student Support Manager or sent to the attendance mailbox as above, stating medical evidence and name of child.

The Brass Christmas Gig 16th Dec - Postponed

It is with regret that we are having to postpone this year's Christmas Gig at The Brass. This is not an easy decision to make and for the Music Department it is a huge loss as this event is the highlight of our year. Due to rising cases of Covid in the local area it would not be in the best interests of our local community to host such an event at this time. We are so impressed with the students' dedication to their rehearsals, these will not be in vain, and as soon as it is safe to do so we will ensure that it is rescheduled. It is exciting to see the new acts emerging throughout all year groups and we can't wait showcase all their amazing work in the New Year.

Here is a photo of the Year 11 students and Miss East during their recording of Christmas Wrapping yesterday, which they filmed after a long day of GCSE exams!



Lost Property

It is of concern to the academy that coats, academy blazers, jumpers and tee-shirts alongside other non-school items have been retrieved from around the academy throughout this term. All misplaced items which are labelled with a student's name have been reunited with the owner, however, there are many items which are not labelled still within the academy lost property box. Can I ask that you kindly check your child's stock of academy uniform or indeed coats and if short, there could be a good chance it is your child's. We will be placing them, next week, in the atrium for your child to check to see if any items are theirs and hopefully, we can re-join said item of clothing with child.

Christmas Jumper Day

Today, we participated in Christmas Jumper Day, to raise money for Save the Children. Our staff and students looked incredible and the academy was filled with sequin jumpers and sparkly hats. We are now all well and truly in the Christmas spirit!

We set up an online fundraiser this year, which you still have time to donate to, if you wish to do so. We've already beaten our target but every little helps for this great cause. The fundraiser can be found here: <https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/cjd210033015>

Below, Silverhill students with Mrs Mann and Mrs Muggridge:



Below, our wonderful Teaching Assistants:

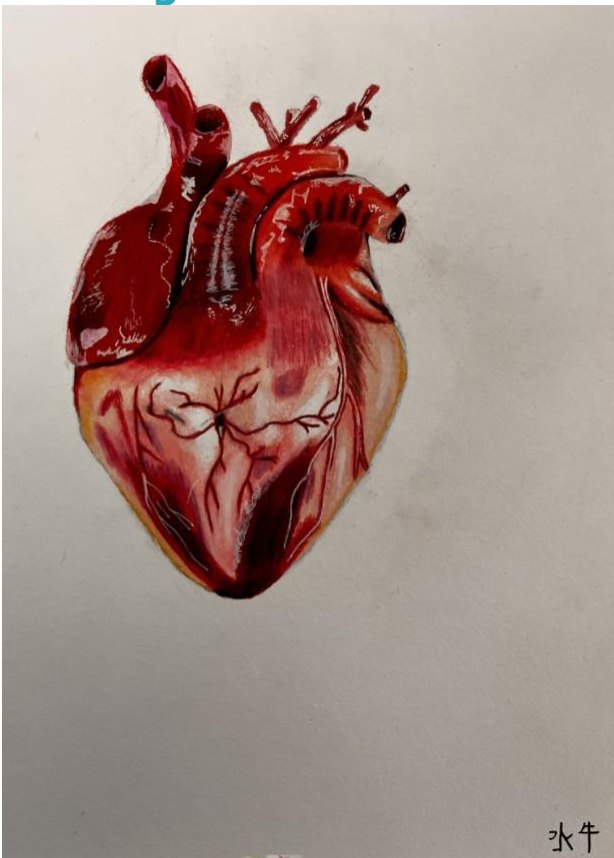


Forest School

The drop in temperature hasn't stopped our Forest School students from enjoying being outdoors! Mr Avery and Mrs Willcocks have been supporting the students while they found out how to light fire with flint and steel, decorated wooden discs for Christmas decorations, decorating our academy Christmas tree (which is proudly on display in Reception) and much, much more. They certainly have been busy!



Budding Artist



Some more amazing artwork from the very talented Alby in SH8.

Alby has been learning Chinese in his spare time and is a keen artist.

He has even signed his work with his Chinese name - keep an eye out for that signature... it may be worth a lot of money some day!

Year 11 Mock Exam

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: [Exams](#)

Spotlight on...

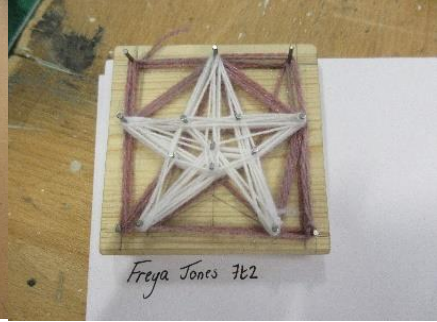
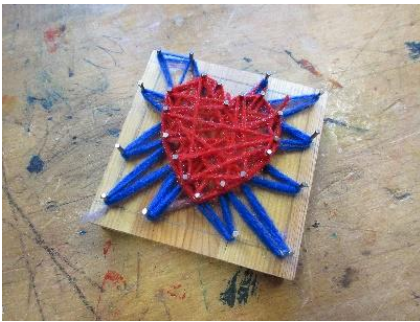


In Design & Technology students have been busy with a variety of activities. They have researched, designed and made. In year 7 & 8, students do topics in rotation, this means that your child may not be doing the same work as another child in the same year group. We are very proud of all our students for their interest, safe working and creativity.

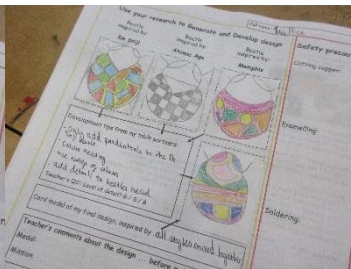
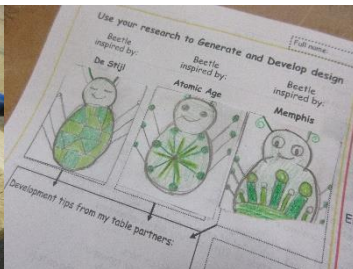
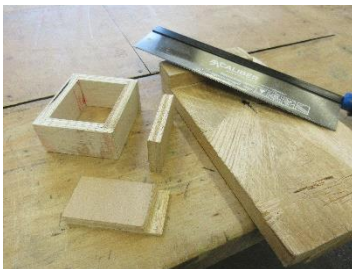
In year 7, students have sawn and drilled timber to create a clacker



Others have hammered in panel pins to create a nail and string artefact.



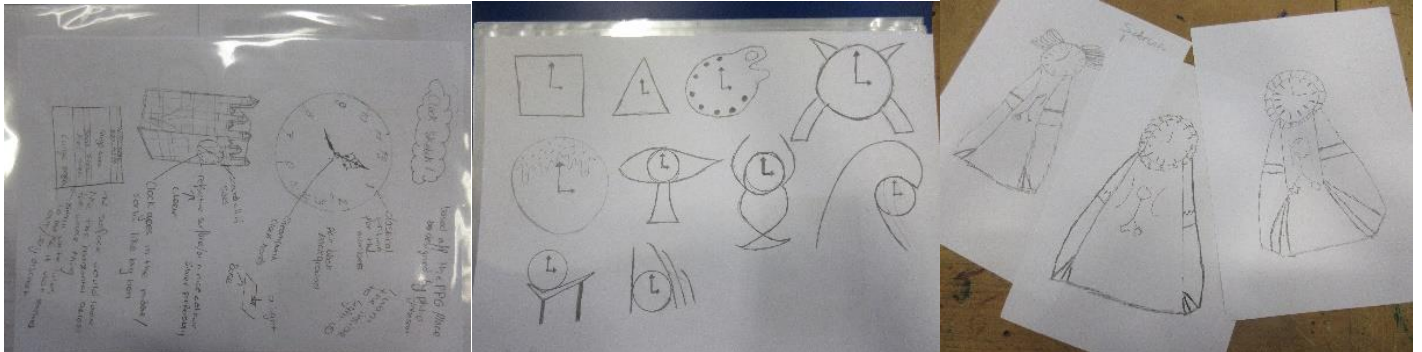
In year 8, students have been cutting lap joints and they have designed beetles that they will create with enamel and copper plate.



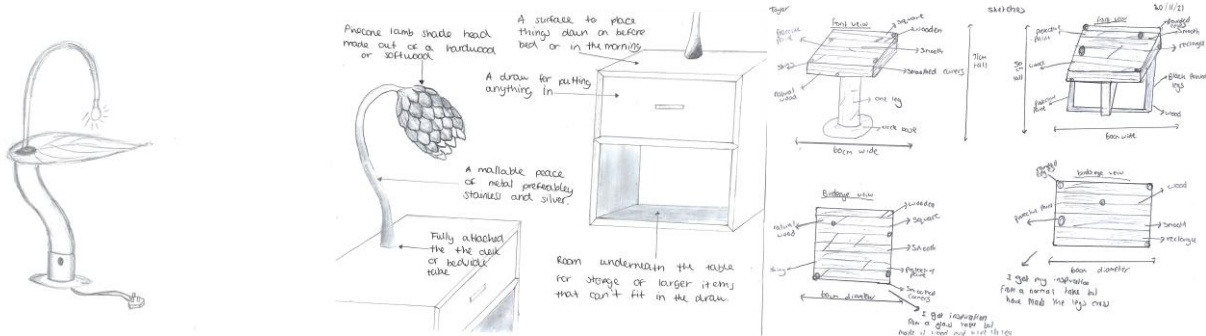
In year 9, students have been soldering a light dependent circuit that will light up a product that they will make using acrylic plastic that they will bend.



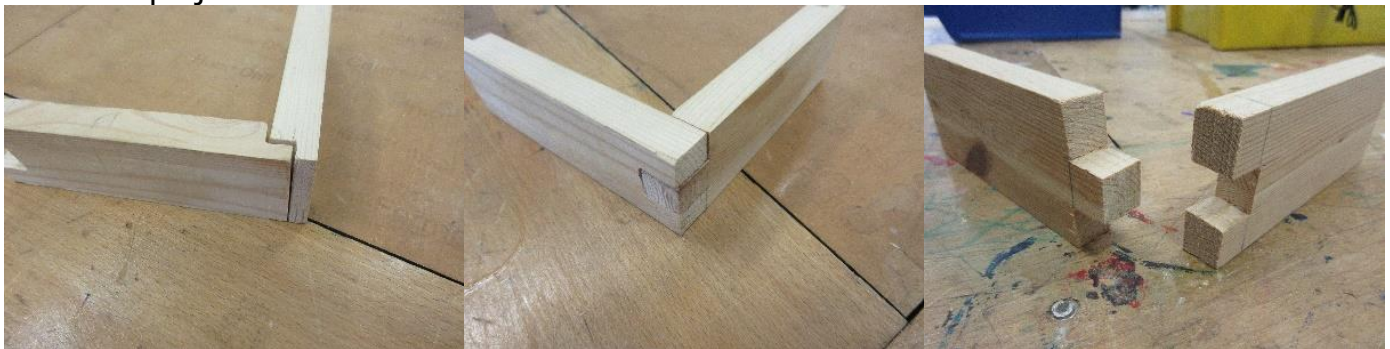
In year 10, students have been designing clocks that they will make inspired by modern architecture that they have researched.



In year 11 GCSE DT, students have been sketching ideas for their major coursework project to meet their client's needs.



Whilst in GCSE 3 Dimensional Design, students have been practicing making wood joints for their side table project.



ClassCharts

We recently sent you a reminder about <https://www.classcharts.com> Please ensure that this is checked every night to get updates on homework, rewards and detentions. Please also ensure that your child brings to school, as a minimum: a pen, pencil and a ruler so that they are fully prepared for their day.

Assembly Focus this week - Human Rights

This week assemblies across the Academy have been led by Mr Sadler - the focus has been on Human Rights. We have identified Human Rights and how they originated and have progressed and developed over the past 70 years. We have also discussed with our students the need to empathise with people across the world and how different countries and cultures are impacted by Human Rights.



International Bill of Human Rights setting out the civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights that are the birth right of all human beings.

FREEDOM, underpins the International Bill of Human Rights – **freedom from fear**, **freedom of speech**, **freedom of worship** and **freedom from want**.



HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE UK

Magna Carta 1215
Habeas Corpus Act 1679
English Bill of Rights 1689
Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948
The European Convention on Human Rights 1950
Race Relations Act 1965
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 1965
UK signs up to the European Court of Human Rights 1966
Sex Discrimination Act 1975
Race Relations Act 1976
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) 1976
UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1984
UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
Disability Discrimination Act 1995
Human Rights Act 1998
Universal Periodic Review 2006
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) 2008
The Equality Act 2010



Human Rights Day is recognised by the international community every year on 10th December. It allows us to remember the day in 1948 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 1.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Human Rights Day - 10 December



**OUR RIGHTS
OUR FREEDOMS
ALWAYS**

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
HUMAN RIGHTS COVENANTS

Staff Vacancies

We are currently hiring to fill the following positions:

- Subject Mentors
- Teaching Assistant
- Teacher of English
- Cover Supervisor
- External Visits, Careers and Training Coordinator
- Student Welfare Officer
- Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Behaviour Support Assistant
- Cleaner
- Professional Tutor
- Teacher of Maths
- Administration and Safeguarding Assistant

Please follow this link to visit the University of Brighton Academies Trust website for job descriptions and details on how to apply: <https://careers.brightonacademiestrust.org.uk/vacancies.aspx>

Personal Development

This is a reminder of what has been taught and learnt within our PSHE programme, this term. As always, relevant and interesting aspects of human life and personal development have been studied. Thanks go to Mrs Williams for her leadership of this area.

In PD this week, our Year 7s have been learning about the benefits of teamwork through taking part in various activities and assessing how they performed in teams. It was very lively and illuminating! Year 8 were exploring what equality means and how it applies to equal opportunities at work. They were asked to imagine they were a barrister prosecuting an employer who had unfairly dismissed a woman on maternity leave. Our Year 9s were encouraged to think about future career choices and look at case studies of various young people who have become successful, looking at what were the keys to their success stories. We want our students to aim high. Financial literacy is still the subject for Year 10, who this week were looking at credit, alternatives to borrowing money and when to start a pension. Our Year 11s have completed their college applications and are now looking at how education and jobs can affect finances.

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

GCSE Music performance exam

We are very proud of all our GCSE musicians who recorded their performances this week. As always the students have worked hard towards this element of the exam and did not disappoint. Each student was well rehearsed and prepared to perform an impressive repertoire of music.



I can imagine that you are all to have a very busy weekend, therefore, I wish you an enjoyable one and at some point well deserved rest

Keep safe and well

Kindest regards

Hilary Morawska

Hilary Morawska