



# THE HASTINGS ACADEMY

## Weekly Newsletter

### Our Vision

"Nurturing within our community; aspiration, self-worth, courage, a respect for learning, the drive for a successful personal and collective future and the desire for all to achieve and prosper."

Welcome back to you, our parents, carers and community of learners.

We wish you all a very Happy New Year and do hope that your Christmas break was an enjoyable time for you and your family. We all lament at the speed with which it passes!

However, with a new year comes heart-felt resolutions and the desire to improve from the past and move forward to achieve what may have been previously unattainable. We, at the academy, are all back on track to achieve our goals and targets for this academic year, in spite of the constant presence of the pandemic and negative news about current living.

We are all in this moment, together and together we will stronger and work to overcome obstacles and maintain a healthy status quo, for all.

Before we had even started the new term, Mr Sadler and his beyond fabulous team of staffing volunteers (we thank them profusely) had arranged for a smooth lateral flow testing day, for all our students from whom consent had been gained, on Tuesday, 4th January. This took our staff away from their training and preparation for their start of the term, for they know that supporting a safe environment for our students and staff and engaging with the DFE recommendations, ensures a better chance of a healthier start to the new academic term for all who work in the academy.

The Omicron and Delta variants are still within our community and we know that they spread within schools, therefore, we are working within government guidelines and are reinforcing with our parents, carers and students that unless medically exempt, face coverings form part of the uniform expectations throughout the school day (bar when outside) until further advised. The DFE have stated they will make us aware regarding a change in this requirement at the end of January, therefore, we can only and repeatedly urge you to ensure you provide your child with sufficient face covering to last a day and beyond.



The academy is running out on a daily basis as we provide numerous face coverings throughout the day to those who do not enter the academy wearing one or whose covering gets lost or damaged.

As you can imagine, it is incredibly wearing for our staff to have to spend time reminding students to wear the covering over their nose and mouth and not under their chin, or in their pocket. This government directive is to protect the community and I do ask that you support the academy to keep everyone safe by ensuring your child brings in and wears a face covering whilst in the building.

Whilst we maintain as best we can our safe working practices, we focus, too, on our students' learning and no more so than our Year 11s who started their GCSE Mock Examinations, this week. Thanks go to Mr Wilson who leads our examination invigilators and ensure, as he does each year, that all exams are sat with an eye for detail and fully in line with JCQ inspectorate guidelines.

This is such a key time for our Year 11s and their staff and even if the results are not as some students may have wished for, there is still time yet, to improve through a last push with hard work, dedication and also a great deal of support from home. This is a very challenging time for our eldest students as they realise that the countdown to their last year is now ticking, but before that comes the public examinations and the culmination of many years of hard work. If you have any concerns about the progress of your Year 11 child, do contact their subject teacher and of course, their form tutor and pastoral team will support with any welfare concerns, but most importantly of all, keep the lines of communication open with the academy. Email addresses for staff can be found here: [Meet Our Team](#)

We wish our Year 11s the best of luck and thank them for their mature approach to this important time of their last year. As soon as the results are published, Mr Sadler, who leads our Key Stage 4 students, will make you aware.

## **Personal Development Update**

In our first week back, Year 7s have begun looking at different forms of relationships, first of all friendships: what are the signs of a positive friendship and how to overcome difficulties that may occur.

Year 8 have begun their term looking at all forms of discrimination by examining what we mean by discrimination and stereotyping people.

Respectful relationships are also the theme of this term for Year 9 who have had their first lesson on family life.

Post 16 options and career choices will be looked at by Year 10 as they look at the large range of choices they have to continue their education after their GCSEs.

Year 11 will be developing their communication skills, firstly with learning how to be assertive rather than passive without being aggressive. This is a key skill that they can continue to develop into adulthood.



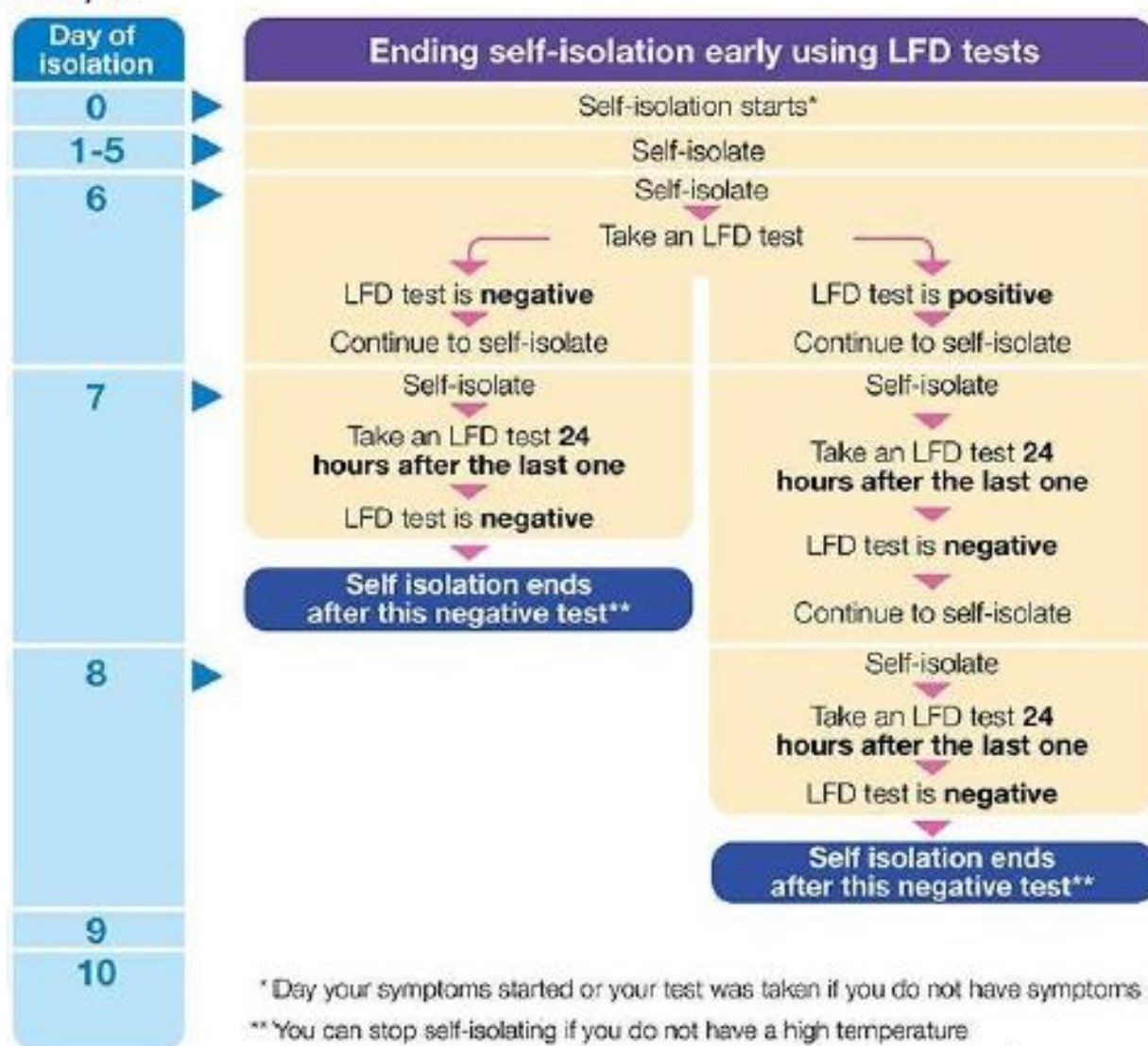
## Self-Isolation Guidance

Following amendments to the self-isolation rules, we would like to share the information we have received from the Department for Education with you.

### The guidance now states that:

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart.

If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting on day 7.



## 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.



## Race for Life



This term, during PE, all students will be completing a training programme to help complete The Hastings Academy Race for Life. Each class will take part in the Charity run during their second lesson, week commencing 17th January.

The table below shows when your child will complete theirs. We will go through this during their lesson beforehand but please do remind them also.

	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
Period 1		Year 9H	Year 9A
Period 2		Year 7X	Year 10H
Period 3	Year 8Y	Year 8X	
Period 4		Year 10A	Year 7Y
Period 5			



All students that raise/donate any amount of money will receive an official Race for Life medal.

We look forward to seeing how much money we can raise as a school community, for such a great cause. Good Luck to all the students and enjoy!

### How to pay:

**Step 1:** Visit <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/the-hastings-academy>

**Step 2:** When you click the link, you will be taken to this page

A screenshot of the Race for Life fundraising page for The Hastings Academy. The page shows the school's name, the organizer Hilary Morawska, and a progress bar indicating that £5.00 has been raised, which is 1% of the £500.00 target. There are buttons for 'Donate' and 'Share page'. The page also includes a 'Log in' button in the top right corner and a 'July 2021' date selector. A sidebar on the right contains information about the Race for Life Schools campaign and a section titled 'All Cancer Types'.



**Step 3:** Fill out your details and the amount you would like to donate to Cancer Research. Make sure at this stage, you enter your child's name.

#### Donation amount

Choose an amount or enter your own

[How much of your donation comes to Cancer Research UK?](#)

#### Your Details

Title (Optional)

First name

Last name

Email address

Phone number (Optional)

[Why are we asking for this?](#)

Country

Home address

Start typing your address or postcode

[Why are we asking for this?](#)

Address line 2 (Optional)

Address line 3 (Optional)

City

Postcode

#### Leave a message with your donation

Name you would like to appear on the Giving Page (Optional)

If you change this or leave it blank, only the person you are donating to will see your name

Your message (Optional)

**Step 4:** You will then be able to see your successful donation when you scroll down on the first page

**£** Miss Gibbons  
7 minutes ago  
**£5.00**  
[Share](#)

Total raised	£5.00
Online	£5.00
Offline	£0.00

With Cancer Research UK Giving Pages more of the money raised goes towards beating cancer sooner. Aside from the credit and debit card fees, every penny donated goes to Cancer Research UK.

All donations made to this page will automatically be transferred to Cancer Research UK.

## HPV Vaccinations

The Sussex Immunisation Service will be at The Hastings Academy on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February to provide the HPV vaccination to our students. Year 8 will receive their first dose and Year 9 will receive their second.

If your Year 9 child missed their first dose, they will be able to receive it on this date. The team will also be offering Year 10 and 11 students a catch-up dose if they have previously missed one.

If you wish for your child to receive the vaccine and would like further details, as well as a link to the online consent form, please email [office@thehastingsacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@thehastingsacademy.org.uk)



## Food Tech

We are incredibly lucky to have such talented young cooks in our academy. This week, our Food Tech students whipped up some delicious chocolatey cream cakes, supported by Mr Benton, who is an amazing pastry chef!

We were even given a selection to try and can confirm that they were delicious.



## Job Vacancies

We are currently seeking the fill the following job vacancies:

*Please note, some of these vacancies close today.*

- Teacher of English
- Teacher of Maths
- Cleaner
- Teaching Assistant
- Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Student Welfare Officer
- Subject Mentors

For further details and instructions on how to apply, please follow this link:

<https://careers.brightonacademiestrust.org.uk/vacancies.aspx>



## **Year 10 Parent Consultations**

### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – 4-7pm, online**

Our teachers are looking forward to speaking with their Year 10 parents during Parent Consultations next week.

Appointments take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January between 4-7pm via Video Call. We have successfully completed video call consultations previously and due to the current climate with the COVID Pandemic this is an effective strategy in keeping our community safe.

We have recently introduced an easy to use online appointment booking system – SchoolBooking - allowing you to book in your own teacher appointment times. Full information and how to access SchoolBooking has been sent via an invitation email to your account on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. We have sent letters home with students and will resend invitation emails.

For the full parent help guide – which includes instructions on video calls, please follow the link [Parent Help Guide - SchoolBooking](#)

The online meeting will be held on the SchoolBooking platform, so please ensure you are logged on ahead of your first appointment time.

If you do not have access to the internet, do not receive the invitation email or there is an issue logging in, then please contact the Academy office who will be happy to help or add appointments on your behalf – [office@thehastingsacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@thehastingsacademy.org.uk) – 01424 711950.

## **Year 11 Pre Public Exams (Mock Exams)**

We are pleased to report on the positive approach that Year 11 students have shown to the start of their Mock Exam period. They have met the expectations set and we wish them every success over the coming days. Our guidance to our Year 11 students focuses on them understanding the links between;

- Belief
- Preparation
- Hard work
- Support

We wish all our Year 11 students every success over the next couple of weeks.

The full Year 11 - Pre Public Exams (Mock Exams) timetable can be found here: [Exams](#)

## **Rapid Lateral Flow Testing**

Thank you to all students and parents for supporting the onsite COVID testing at the start of this term. The second test should have been completed today at home. We have provided home testing kits and will continue to make testing kits available. Students can collect them from Head of House Office. Parents are able to collect testing kits from Reception.

Thank you to our Academy staff for conducting the tests and running the testing centre, the time and commitment in 'getting it right' is very much appreciated by all involved.



## PE Kit

The following items are compulsory:

- **The Hastings Academy PE Sweatshirt:** Crewneck sweatshirt with the Academy logo, or, until 1/9/22: **The Hastings Academy PE Hoodie** or a **plain black PE Sweatshirt**
- **The Hastings Academy PE T-shirt:** Academy logo t-shirt
- **PE Shorts:** Plain black shorts
- **PE bottoms or leggings:** Plain black leggings / jogging bottoms
- **PE Socks:** Plain black PE socks
- **PE bag:** A PE bag in which students can carry their PE kit.
- **Sports trainers:** no flat-soled shoes, e.g. Converse style or plimsolls



SNR - Hastings Academy PE T-Shirt

£10.99 inc VAT

The Macron NEW Rigel shirt is a great entry level playing shirt, however it does make an incredibly good training shirt. The Rigel shirt comes in a slim fit. This is made from 100% aerowave polyester. logo on the left breast.

Academy T-shirt is a compulsory branded item for September 2021



Hastings Academy PE Hoodie

£14.99 - £17.99 inc VAT

This blended fleece is a smart choice for its softness, strength and pill resistance. The metal zipper stands up to less-than-gentle treatment and the hood adds an extra measure of warmth during chilly PE lessons.

Fabric  
50% Cotton, 50% Polyester

New branded sweatshirt to replace the hoodie by 2022.



Hastings Academy Games Sweatshirt

£10.99 - £13.99 inc VAT

An optional item of PE Kit for students. Students can wear the PE polo shirt without this sweatshirt should they wish. However, should they wish to wear a sweatshirt for extra warmth then this is the only sweatshirt permitted. Our crew-neck, unisex sweatshirts come in a soft and durable low pill fabric which helps keep colours looking newer and brighter for longer. It comes in a regular Unisex fit with strengthened seams to help withstand the rough and tumble of PE lessons.



SNR - Hastings Academy PE Shorts

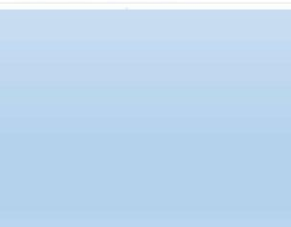
£7.99 inc VAT

Sizes Choose an option

1 Add to Basket

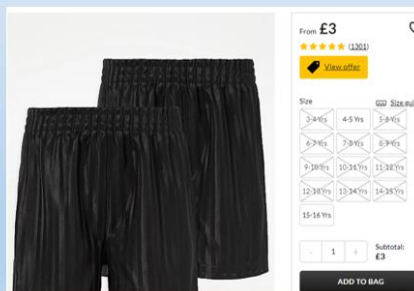
SKU: N/A Category: The Hastings Academy

Black shorts are compulsory, but the branded version is optional. Students can purchase from ASDA etc.



£7.99 inc VAT

Students are required to have a pair of black shorts for PE, they can be unbranded, do not display the college logo and can be purchased from any outlet - We recommend the Macron Mesa Short, however, it is not a specification of the college that students wear this short.





## January PE Lessons

As you may be aware, Year 11 are currently sitting their mock exams. The exams are taking place in the Sports Hall, meaning that PE lessons will be taking place outside until 19<sup>th</sup> January.

During this time, please ensure your child brings extra layers to wear for their PE lessons.

## Hastings Half Marathon

Mrs Mann and Miss Macmillan are putting together a staff team who will be running the Hastings Half Marathon, on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March. The team will be raising funds to purchase a defibrillator for our academy. This would be an amazing addition to our academy and could potentially save a life one day.

Further details to follow.



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

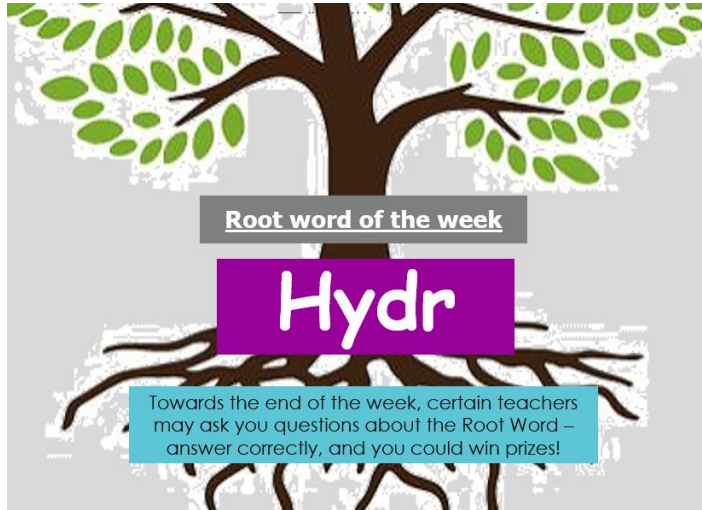
All absences should be reported by 8:45am on each day of your child's absence.

Attendance mailbox: [tha.attendance@thehastingsacademy.org.uk](mailto: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.



## Root Word of the Week – hydr



### Word Roots:

The 'root' is the basic part of a word that has meaning and can have a 'prefix' or 'suffix' added to it.

prefix	root	suffix
Dis	appear	ance

Research shows that 70% of multi-syllabic words in the English language come from Greek and Latin roots.



If you know the meaning of the Latin and Greek root words then you will be able to understand more words 😊

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

'Hydr' =  
Water

Q. Do you know any words which use the root word 'Hydr'?

## Definitions.

**Dehydrate** =

(Verb) – To lose a large amount of water.

*"If you don't drink a certain amount of water a day, you will dehydrate yourself."*

**Hydrant** =

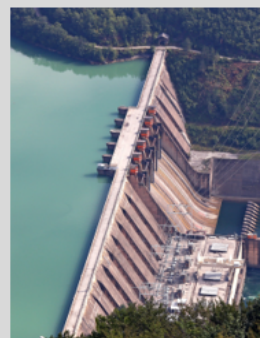
(Noun) A fitting, usually on the street, that attaches to a water supply.

*"Many cities have fire hydrants to help firemen in their work."*

**Hydropower** =

(Noun) – Using water to power machines or electricity

*"Hydropower is one of the oldest renewable sources of energy"*





## Parent Forum

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January, we will be holding our bi-monthly Parent Forum meeting. The online meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams, 5-6pm and is open to parents and carers of students in all year groups.

These meetings are a great opportunity for parents to find out what has been going on in the academy as well as discuss other topics such as homework, curriculum and exams.

If you wish to join Parent Forum, please email [office@thehastingsacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@thehastingsacademy.org.uk) to receive a link to the meeting.

I do hope you have all managed to settle into the new academic term and when the mornings and evenings still appear very dark, now as each day dawns the days are getting longer and daylight is creeping more into our worlds, in addition to noticing the subtle signs of spring arriving, around us.

Mr Senior is already receiving information about the Big Schools and Garden Birdwatch later this month - by all accounts only 20 days to go where we will need to sit at our windows and count the birds that choose to visit our gardens and areas. Mr Senior and his Forest School and Conservation students and staff will be busy ensuring that an informed log of our wild birds are sent into the RSPB. We are looking forward to finding out how many species want to live within our academy grounds (seagulls notwithstanding...)

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-teachers/schools-birdwatch/>



Mr Avery and Mrs Willcocks are also busy preparing for our academy's participation in The Superbloom Schools Project

This is where we will be participating in helping to sow our own seeds, provided by this project, to grow at the same time as the 20 million seeds that will blossom into the most amazing Spring garden in The Tower of London Moat.



We are very excited about this as our Forest School and Conservation Studies students help to design and create a new biodiverse habitat that will attract wildlife and be a space to celebrate the value of nature for our wellbeing.

It is a great way to be outdoors, learning and working together to create something special for our academy community to enjoy.

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/schools/superbloom-schools/#gs.livjsz>



On this very positive note, I wish you all a very good weekend.

Keep well and continue to take great care.

Kindest

Hilary Morawska