



**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.”

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our weekly newsletter and what a busy week it has been!

Monday saw our fabulous Year 11's return to their second week of mock GCSE examinations. Mr Wilson and the invigilating team have voiced how impressed they are with our students, for their mature approach to these exams. The Sports Hall turns into a very different space and the atmosphere with it, once the desks are placed in their formal rows. This is immediately reflected in the response evidenced by the students, as they enter the room and listen carefully to the instructions.

Today, Friday, due to a false fire alarm, the Year 11s again showed how well they can respond in challenging circumstances as they filed out sensibly to the safe area. Mr Wilson advised that their return and resumption of their exam was again met with the required gravity and the additional time afforded for completion. Well done to our Year 11s. We have some more next week and then, I am sure, a much-relieved year group can reflect on their practice and begin again, in earnest, their daily studies.

Some of our Year 10 students were also sitting their public examination for Sports Science.

On Wednesday, we held our virtual Parents Forum, where Mr Sadler shared information about our methods of communication, our use of the online Parent Booking platform and also virtual parents' consultation meetings. The use of online platform stemmed from our parent voice and it was good to receive feedback about virtual evenings versus face-to-face meetings. Good arguments for having both! As always, our parent forum meetings are a platform to hear an informed voice and to learn from the experiences of those who are part of our community. We are both challenged and championed and we appreciate the time taken out of busy days, to work with us.

This week, Mrs Bowers, who leads on the quality of teaching and learning, within the academy, presented an engaging assembly on this most important of areas, to the students. It was such an interesting delivery, which focused on the God of January Janus, who looks both back to the last year and forward to the new. Mrs Bowers related this to the last few years and how our students must

make the most of the present, in their learning, to make the best of their future. Did you know that there is a million words in the English language, but on average we only use 30,000... however, if your child does not read, the reality is that their vocabulary will be half that, leading them to being unable to function well in society, gain their qualifications and good jobs. This could lead to poor health and life chances. Therefore, please ensure that your child has access to appropriate reading material and encourage 10-30mins a day of reading time. What bliss that would be for most adults, I am sure!



You will already know that our PE department are working with the children to get them race fit for their charity run/walk. I am already blown away by the generosity of our parents and carers, who are sponsoring their children and donating for Race for Life, on behalf of Cancer Research UK.

In addition to this, Mr Collett, Mrs Mann, Mr Snelling, Miss Macmillan, Mr Regereau, Mrs Willcocks and Ms Bigg have all agreed to dust off their running shoes and train for The Hastings Half Marathon. There has been a great deal of discussion around the charity for which the staff will champion in this event and it was agreed that funds would be raised to enable the academy to have a defibrillator, on its premises. We know that child heart failure, is a reality and therefore, this would be of great support for the academy community, especially as our sports premises are used during the weekend and evenings for sporting activities.

Ms Bigg is racing for the A-T Society - which supports children and young people with Ataxia-Telanglectasia (A-T) and funds for research to find a cure. They offer families an essential lifeline of advice and support. Life expectancy is currently only 26 years of age.

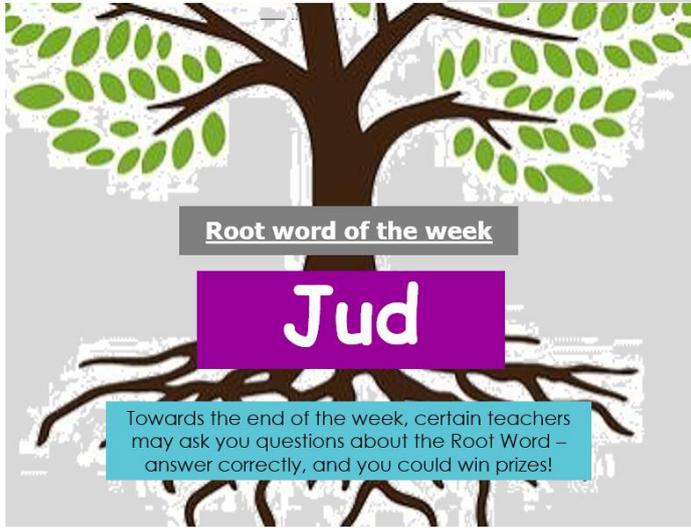
Mr Wall has been meeting with Paul Wilson, Director of Play Sport, who oversees the out of hours lettings of our sporting facilities and he is very generously going to match fund or make up the difference, to ensure we gain this vital piece of life saving equipment. We are delighted to work with such a generous benefactor and thank Paul for his support. The Hastings Academy Team will all be wearing team tee-shirts and staff are already planning where they will stand to cheer them on! Mr Collett has started a training regime, for them.

More updates about the Covid isolation are shared with you, below, for from Monday, the isolation period is now 5 days. In addition, we have been given a provisional date for the second Covid vaccination, shared below.

Root Word of the Week – 'Jud'

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

		
prefix	<u>root</u>	suffix
Dis	appear	ance



Root word of the week

Jud

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

This week we will be focusing on words which use the word 'Jud' which means 'Judge'.

'Jud' =
Judge

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

Definitions.

Prejudice =

(Noun) – A preconceived opinion not based on experience or reason

"Racism and sexism are two particularly horrible forms of prejudice."



Misjudge =

(Verb) To form an incorrect opinion about someone or something.

"It seems I misjudged this person."

Judgmental =

(Adjective) – having an overly critical point of view.

"I don't wish to sound judgemental, but that's a horrible idea"



Etymology

(where a word comes from)

'Jud' has links in the Latin word 'Jus', which simply means 'Law'. You may have seen this word used in 'Justice'.

Justice was, and is, personified as a blindfolded woman, holding a sword and scales.

Why do you think the idea of Justice is shown in this way?

Subject Link – Politics and Law

In Britain, the 'Judiciary' is seen as a separate branch of government.

This means that judges can act independently, without the government telling them not to do something, meaning nobody is above the law.

Why do you think this is done?

Canteen Options

Does your child regularly have school meals? If not, they may wish to do so after seeing some photos of what our fantastic canteen team have been cooking up.

The canteen is open during first and second break and there is so much to choose from. From sandwiches and baguettes to wraps, and from curries to roast dinners, they have it all. And, of course, there's always something sweet to finish with, whether that's some fresh pineapple or a delicious flapjack.

THE HASTINGS ACADEMY MENU	
MONDAY WEEK 2	
TOPPED MAC N CHEESE WITH CORN	£1.90
BBQ CHICKEN OR CRISPY CAULIFLOWER	
MEXICAN CHICKEN WITH RICE AND CORN	£1.90
CHICKEN STRIPS	£1
PASTA AND SAUCE	£1.70
PANINI	£1.90
JACKET POTATO 1 FILLING	£1.25
JACKET 2 FILLINGS	£1.50
PIZZA	£1
SALAD POT LARGE	£1.50
SMALL	75P



Message from Mrs Reed, Head of East Hill

Our East Hill students have returned to school for Term 3 and hit the ground running. We are particularly proud of our Year 11 students, who have started this term sitting their Mock Exams! We wish you all the best with these and know you will achieve great things.

East Hill, keep up the great work! Each day is a new opportunity to achieve goals - which you are all so good at doing!

I will be meeting with our Senior Students, House Captain and Vice House Captain next week to speak about what we would like to achieve for this term as a House.

Hastings Half Marathon

A number of our staff will be running (or walking) the Hastings Half Marathon this year! The team will be coached by our Head of PE, Mr Collett and will be raising funds to purchase a defibrillator for our academy. A defibrillator would be an incredible addition to our academy and could potentially save a life one day. Every donation will be greatly appreciated, so please consider sharing our fundraiser with your friends and family to help us reach our target. It would also be great if you could come along on Sunday 20th March and cheer us on from the side-line!

If you would like to donate, you can do so by following this link:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/tha?utm_term=vYKDVkYeD

The poster features a light blue background with white birds. At the top, there are logos for Hastings DIRECT, Bartletts, INTERSPORT WIDENS, easyet@sale, and BEAUFORT Holiday Park. A green arrow-shaped box on the left contains the text 'Sunday 20th March 2022'. The main title '38th Hastings Half Marathon' is written in large, blue, cursive font. At the bottom, a black archway is decorated with various sponsor logos including Bartletts, Titanium security solutions, TRADE PAINTS, AFTERSHOKZ, Kings Stationers, More RADIO, PREMIER, DYNAMICS, INTERSPORT WIDENS, and Hastings DIRECT. A green arrow-shaped box at the bottom left contains the text 'Start 10.30am'.

Forest School and Conservation

Our Forest School and Conservation students have had a busy start to the term! They have been moving topsoil and woodchip into the woods and raking the woodchip onto the pathways. This is wonderful for the insects, birds, animals and fungus which grow in the woods.

The students are also building a camp and working on bark rubbings to learn what type of tree it is, whilst collecting pine cones, needles and sticks to make pictures with.

We have been watching woodland mice and birds feeding off the peanuts and seeds we have thrown down for them. We were even lucky enough to have a red admiral flying around in the warm sunshine. Spring is on the way!



Year 11 Mock Exams

Our Year 11 students have continued to sit their pre-public (mock) exams this week. These will continue for part of next week, and end on Tuesday. Please ensure your child is familiar with the timetable, which can be found here: [Exams](#)

Well done to Year 11 for meeting the expectations of the exams – even during the false fire alarm!

If your child has been unwell and has therefore missed a mock exam, there will be a chance for them to catch up. We are currently in the process of organising this and will communicate with the relevant students.

Year 10 Parent Consultations

On Thursday, we held our Year 10 Parent Consultation event. Due to Covid, we made the decision to move this event online, rather than in-person, to keep our school community safe.

The event ran smoothly and was a great opportunity for our parents, teachers and students to have an open dialogue, discuss progress, any concerns and what the next steps are.

Thank you to all of the parents and students who attended, and to our staff for their efforts in making sure our parents are well informed on how their children are performing.

As always, if you do ever wish to speak with any of your child's teachers, please do not hesitate to do so. Their email addresses can be found on this page of our website: [Meet Our Team](#)

Self-isolation for those with COVID-19 can end after 5 full days following 2 negative LFD tests

- People self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative on both day 5 and day 6 and do not have a temperature, from Monday, 17 January
- Individuals who are still positive on their rapid lateral flow tests must stay in isolation until they have had 2 consecutive negative tests taken on separate days
- This will support essential public services and keep supply chains running over the winter

From Monday 17 January, people with COVID-19 in England can end their self-isolation after 5 full days, as long as they test negative on day 5 and day 6.

The decision has been made after careful consideration of modelling from the UK Health Security Agency and to support essential public services and workforces over the winter.

It is crucial that people isolating with COVID-19 wait until they have received 2 negative rapid lateral flow tests on 2 consecutive days to reduce the chance of still being infectious.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. If an individual is positive on day 5, then a negative test is required on day 6 and day 7 to release from isolation.

It is essential that 2 negative rapid lateral flow tests are taken on consecutive days and reported before individuals return to their job or education, if leaving self-isolation earlier than the full 10-day period.

For instance, if an individual is positive on day 5, then a negative test is required on both day 6 and day 7 to release from self-isolation, or positive on day 6, then a negative test is required on days 7 and 8, and so on until the end of day 10.

Those who leave self-isolation on or after day 6 are strongly advised to wear face coverings and limit close contact with other people in crowded or poorly ventilated spaces, work from home if they can do so and minimise contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19.

The default self-isolation period continues to be 10 days, and you may only leave self-isolation early if you have taken 2 rapid lateral flow tests and do not have a temperature in line with guidance.

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

The screenshot shows a fundraising page for 'The Hastings Academy' on the Race for Life website. The page is for a fundraiser named Hilary Morawska. It displays a total raised of £5.00, plus £0.00 in Gift Aid, which is 1% of a £500.00 target. There are 'Donate' and 'Share page' buttons. The page also includes a 'Log in' button in the top right corner, a calendar icon showing 'July 2021', and a message: 'We're taking part in Race for Life Schools to raise money to beat cancer sooner'. Below this, there is text about cancer survival rates and a 'CAUSE All Cancer Types' section.

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

The screenshot shows a donation confirmation card for Miss Gibbons, dated 7 minutes ago, for a donation of £5.00. Below the card, a summary shows a total raised of £5.00, with £5.00 raised online and £0.00 offline. A message states that all donations go to Cancer Research UK, and a link is provided for further details.

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 9th 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

Covid Vaccinations for 12 to 15 year olds

Thank you for all your support in the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination programme for 12 to 15 year olds. As advised by the DFE, round half of 12 to 15 year olds have now received at least one dose.

Young people aged 12 to 15 in England are now being offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

Parents can book vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the [NHS booking system](#).

We have, now, been offered a provisional date of Thursday 3rd February 2022 for on-site vaccination of our students. Once this is confirmed, we will communicate the relevant information with our parents and carers.

Please see the guidance below for further information:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1042559/UKHSA-12222-COVID-19-parent-leaflet-v3.pdf

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.

Job Vacancies

We are currently seeking the fill the following job vacancies:

- Teacher of English (Maternity Cover)
- Teach of English
- External Visits, Careers and Training Coordinator
- Teacher of Maths
- Cleaner
- Teaching Assistant
- Subject Mentors
- Second in Charge of English – TLR2b

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

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

LFD testing

We would like to reiterate the importance of regular lateral flow testing at home, as well as in cases where there has been close contact with someone who is Covid positive. To support this, we have provided each Hill with sufficient test kits for students to collect and take home. We can also provide parents with kits via Reception.

Teaching and Learning Assembly

Below are some slides from the assembly Mrs Bowers led this week. The students listened attentively as they were told how many words the average adult native English speaker has (between 20,000 and 30,000!) and learned about Roman God, Janus, who was the God of Beginnings.

They even discovered what the top 10 New Year's Resolutions are for 2022 – the list includes taking care of mental health, travelling more, being more environmentally friendly and taking up a new hobby or sport.



“EDUCATION
IS THE MOST POWERFUL
WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO
CHANGE THE WORLD.”

**NELSON
MANDELA**

- I will keep my room clean.
- I will work hard in my lessons.
- I will drink less energy drinks.
- I will have more fruit.
- I will spend less time on my phone.
- I will spend more time with the people I love.
- I will go to bed at a decent hour.
- I will exercise for at least a half hour each day.

My New Year's Resolution is.....
Because.....



January is all about new beginnings.
The Roman God of beginnings is called Janus.

He is depicted with two faces, one looking into the past,
the other with the ability to see into the future.

Why do you think this is the case?

I think he is depicted with a face to look to the past
because.....

I think he is depicted with a face to look to the future
because.....

Children from disadvantaged families lack the literacy skills they need to succeed in life.

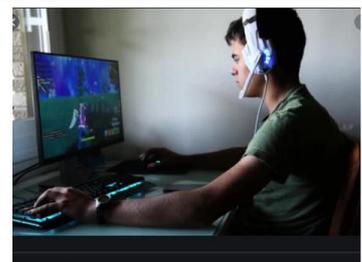
Children need language and confidence to engage with the world they live in.

Children at age 5 with language difficulties are 4 times as likely to have reading difficulties in adulthood, 3 times as likely to have mental health problems and twice as likely to be unemployed.

Words - so innocent and powerless as they are, as standing in a dictionary, **how potent for good and evil they become** in the hands of one who knows how to combine them.

– Nathaniel Hawthorne

We have had so much disruption in our education. We are all working hard to get you the education you deserve.



What has your educational experience been like in the last few years? Due to covid and national lockdowns?

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we'll receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at The Hastings Academy.

What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

For every child registered, The Hastings Academy gets £955 this year. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer all our students at the Academy.

For example, we've previously used pupil premium funding for:

- Ensuring students have access to a rich and varied curriculum i.e. Food Technology, Design Technology, Music, Art, Photography Forest School
- Academic support through intervention groups
- Access to extra-curricular activities
- Attendance support
- Hardship funding
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions

How does it work? What do I need to do?

1. First, check if you qualify – it is not just if you are unemployed, so please look at the list below.
2. Registering is really quick and easy – apply online at <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/school-life/meals/free/> and get an immediate answer.
3. If you have more than one child, you will need to register online for EACH child

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

Does my child have to eat the free school meals?

No. students who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but

you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because The Academy will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

How do I register?

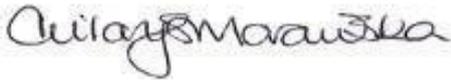
To register, please use the link below, if you are unable to access the link please call the school office for assistance.

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

You will have read the letter, on Tuesday, from Dr John regarding my retirement from teaching after the summer term. I am very touched by the warm and heartfelt good wishes, tinged with sadness from staff, students and our parent and carer community upon reading this news. As stated, our journey continues, the hard work continues and we will be relentless in pursuit of doing what is right and just, on behalf of and for your children.

Meanwhile, it is the weekend and a rest is needed for all. I wish you a very pleasant few days.

Kindest



Hilary Morawska