



# 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."

As we reach the end of another week, I again thank you for your support of the children in the academy. Getting them into school on time, supporting with contact from our pastoral teams, and supporting at home to ensure homework is being done and, in the case of our Year 11 students, essential revision is being undertaken. All of these things add up to make our school community what it is, and I thank you for your ongoing efforts as we move through Term 5 at what feels like a rapid pace!

This week we inch ever closer to the start of Year 11 exams, with just under 2 weeks until formal examinations begin in earnest. Year 11 students have a wealth of support and opportunities to help with this last push, including revision and support sessions, as well as a range of materials from different subjects to support home study. I urge you to continue to help them remain calm and focused in the lead up to these exams, and to take advantage of the support on offer.

Shortly, Year 11 parents will receive the details of the revision and support programme in and around the exam period – please watch out for this information from Mr Sadler via email over this weekend. The countdown is on to the 17<sup>th</sup> May, when our exam season officially begins, starting with Science.

We would like to wish our students the best of luck during this time and hope that the following week serves as time for them to really solidify their knowledge of the topics they will be facing in their exams. We will be on hand to offer any support or last-minute pep talks – we have all been in their position once and wish them every success.

Assemblies this week were from Mr Sadler, focused on Local & Community History Month throughout May. We learnt about our community, 1066 Country and why festivals are important in our culture.

## Our Local Community

### 1066 Country of Origin



Not far from the capital, on England's south coast, is 1066 Country. From earliest times to today it has been a place of creativity and escape – alternative lives lived and timeless stories told. Original by nature, it has its own take on contemporary living and culture.

### Celebrating what is great about our local history community



### Our Local Community



Set between hills that reach to the sea, Hastings is an oyster that comes with its own grit, where the smooth bustle of modern life rubs along with the rough edges of tradition. Look up and you'll see the [ruins of the castle](#) watching over the town, as they have in one guise or another for nearly [1,000 years](#). The three-mile seafront stretches from the [fishing fleet](#) at the eastern end through the hustle and bustle of the arcades and funfair rides, to the [pier](#) and unique double-decker promenade [Bottle Alley](#), arriving finally at peaceful Grosvenor Gardens.

### Hastings Fat Tuesday



In New Orleans and Rio they call it Mardi Gras, in Venice it's known as Carnivale and in Hastings it's "Fat Tuesday".

Traditionally occurring on Shrove Tuesday which is the last day before Ash Wednesday, "Fat Tuesday" is a chance for people to let their hair down before (in theory) observing the restrictions of Lent, a flair for dressing up and partying. All things Hastings excels at!

### HASTINGS TRADITIONAL JACK IN THE GREEN



Hastings Traditional Jack in the Green is a British May Day celebration

Colourful procession through the streets of Hastings Old Town filled with unique characters, dancers, drummers, giants and more. The big finale on the West Hill is the slaying of the Jack to release the spirit of summer.



We welcomed back into the academy this week the roving wanderers who were out on their Duke of Edinburgh expedition last week to Wales, undertaking this with Mr Senior and Ms McCallum. Please read the full story of what they got up to during their week further down in the newsletter – it was a great opportunity for the students, and I thank the staff for giving up their time to make such an opportunity available to our students.

This Thursday also saw us run our Year 8 Options Evening, and we welcomed an encouragingly large crowd of parents and carers into the academy to experience a showcase of the arts and creative subjects the school offers. This was designed to help Year 8 in making informed choices in these subject areas into Year 9, before making their full options choices the following year. Parents will receive an email on Monday containing the link for them to complete their child's choices, so please do contact the academy if you have any further questions about the process. I again thank the staff in these subject areas who gave up their time on this evening to showcase the range of amazing work undertaken in their departments, to Mrs Macmillan for organising another key event in our school calendar and for the students too who engaged with this and performed for the assembled visitors. It was a really successful evening.

On Friday of this week we also had photographers in school, capturing images that will be used in our future prospectus and publicity materials. We look forward to seeing the outcomes of this in the near future!

This week is also very sad for us as we see the last few days with Miss Prust, our Communications Coordinator, who leaves us next week for pastures new. Miss Prust has been a hugely positive and supportive member of staff, coordinating masses of projects in her time here, not least the many elements that go into producing this newsletter each week, as well as so many other areas of communication with parents and carers and around the academy. Her final project has been the Year 11 leaver's hoodies which, as we know, are always a very popular purchase for our students. We wish her well for her future – which will know will be bright – and we will miss her.



## Fundraising for Ukraine

On Friday 13th, The Hastings Academy will be fundraising for Ukraine, who are still in the midst of an urgent humanitarian crisis. Whilst a few million have already left Ukraine, millions of others remain without a safe place to live. Numerous people are still without food, water, medical care, heat or electricity.

Students are invited to supplement their full school uniform on the day with some blue and yellow accessories such as socks, hair bands or even, for one day only, nail polish(!) and asked to donate £1 to the cause. Activities will be taking place during break times such as gaming events and cake sales to help raise further funds, so we would welcome students bringing in small amounts of money so they can get themselves involved!



## Be ahead of the Game!



## Join the MFL breakfast club

- **French:** everyday 8am
- **Spanish:** every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday



## Speaking practice over breakfast!

## In Silverhill

Miss Sage ([s.sage@thehastingsacademy.org.uk](mailto:s.sage@thehastingsacademy.org.uk))  
Mr Régereau ([s.Regereau@thehastingsacademy.org.uk](mailto:s.Regereau@thehastingsacademy.org.uk))

## Personal Development Updates

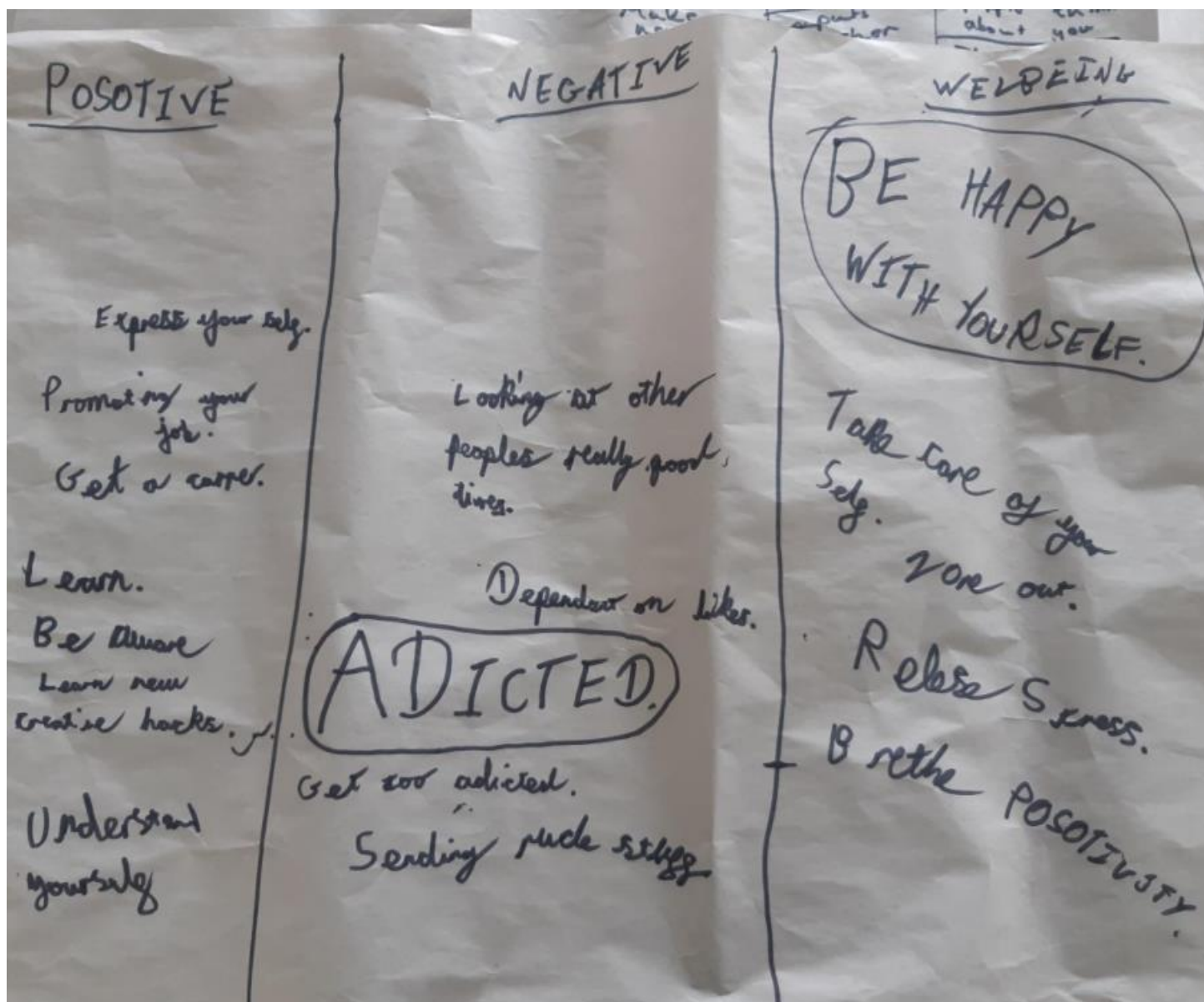
Online Safety is a very important subject that all our pupils need to understand. Year 7 learnt this week about how to maintain their mental and emotional wellbeing by looking after themselves when online.

Gender transition has been the topic of discussion for Year 8s, whilst our Year 9s have been learning about the importance of contraception and how they are to be used.

Likewise, Year 11s, as part of their term on families and parenthood, looked at pregnancy and fertility choices.

Year 10s learnt about how addiction to pornography can happen slowly over time and how to seek support if this happens.

So another week of gritty information on important issues that can affect our pupils' lives which are always aimed at equipping them for happy, healthy lives.





## Duke of Edinburgh Trip to Wales



Mr Senior, Mr Mellish and I took a lovely group of 20 Duke of Edinburgh students away to Wales for the week to stay at the LLain Activity Centre. We left school on Monday morning, travelling in a luxury coach and had an entirely trouble free journey with one stop at the services. We arrived mid-afternoon, settled into our tent accommodation – Mr Senior and Mr Mellish nabbing the tent furthest from the students in, what turned out to be, a crafty tactical move.

Students got stuck in to some orienteering and after dinner were kayaking and paddle boarding on the lake, taking care to avoid the incredibly aggressive resident goose.





Nights in the tents were lively – students were without their phones over-night and therefore took the opportunity to chat to each other – a lot.

Tuesday am we were up and doing team-building games after breakfast – Mr Senior is an old hand at these and students got stuck into it with enthusiasm and good humour. We then had the challenging mud-run, an army style assault course which included some very tricky obstacles and hats off to all who got round it. After showers and lunch we went for a stroll to the near-by woods where students had a session on Woodland bushcraft. Shelters were made, hammocks constructed and lazed in, fires built and lit with flint and steel, marshmallows toasted and cups of tea made – all in beautiful, peaceful woods with the sound of a cuckoo echoing through the trees.





Following dinner students had a go at the night line which involved them working cooperatively in pairs to negotiate a path through trees and undergrowth whilst blindfolded. This was trickier than it looked and led to several students colliding with each other and with trees, falling down banks and encountering stinging nettles...much to the amusement of all concerned and also Mr Senior! Students then had a go at the zip-wire which was very high and quite daunting but all students and Mr Mellish gave it a go.





After another chatty and quite chilly night in the tents, Wednesday morning we were lucky to have another bright and sunny day and the group had a go at the high ropes (really very, very high) and the climbing walls. Students showed very impressive courage and determination and were encouraging and supportive of each other- the vast majority made it to the top in both activities and those that didn't did their best. After lunch students had more team building activities – teams had definitely been built by this point and it did become very competitive....followed by archery and I am compelled to mention Archie Gould, who appears to be an Olympic archer posing as a teenage boy.







After dinner Mr Senior instigated a tug-of-war competition between our 20 students and what appeared to be an ever increasing hoard of Welsh Year 6 students. Unfortunately for us the year 6 were strong, large in number and, after Mr Senior fanned the flames of national pride, it was repeated and inevitable defeat after defeat for us.

On Thursday we went off site to New Quay, about 3 miles away, for a Dolphin watching boat trip, picnic lunch and walk back along the broad and sandy beach and up what Mr Senior likes to refer to as a "slight undulation" but which any right thinking person would describe as a very steep and seemingly never-ending hill. The boat trip was a complete success with Dolphins coming right up alongside the boat and bow surfing – this was apparently the closes encounter so far this season – absolutely magical! Students had requested another session on the lake and spent all evening paddle-boarding, kayaking, building rafts with paddle boards and tipping each other



and Mr Mellish into the lake.



Friday morning was spent packing up and tidying up and we boarded the luxury coach at mid-day for another trouble free drive home – the coach was considerably quieter and there was some snoozing going on....not least from Mr Mellish who had suffered some sleep deprivation due to being in a tent with the, now legendary, snoring of Mr Senior.

The instructors and the owner of the activity centre were all enormously complementary of the students who were brave, engaged, responsive and polite and we are definitely welcome to return – which we hope to. All in all a wonderful week with a brilliant group of young people who all worked together and pushed themselves to achieve everything that we asked of them.

*Ms McCallum*

### Site Safety

We would like to issue a polite reminder to parents, carers and visitors to our school that using the one-way system on our site and abiding by the road markings are compulsory.

There have been several instances where this has not happened and some near misses have occurred with pedestrians.



### Message from Mrs Reed, Head of East Hill

This week has been another busy week in East Hill. We have been discussing how we would like to raise money for Ukraine during the fundraiser the academy is holding next week. We have had lots of wonderful suggestions and hope to raise as much money as possible for this cause.

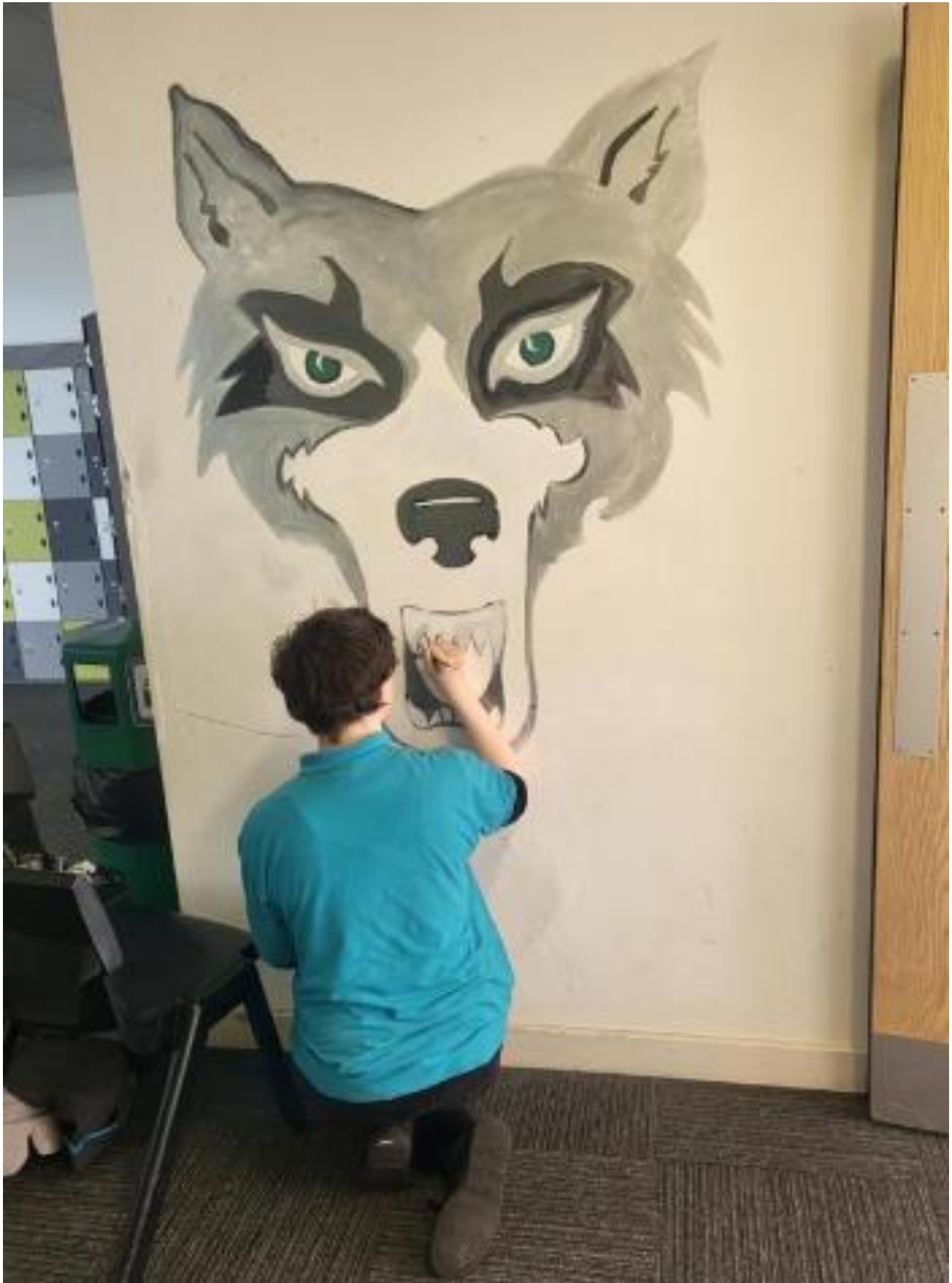
I also want to say to all of our students in East Hill how proud I am of them. This week I have personally issued so many positive behaviour points for students helping others and this has been so wonderful to see. There is a real community spirit which is kept alive by each and every one of you!

Keep doing what you're doing, making good choices, helping others, and being a positive role model.



## Artwork in Silverhill


Mrs Mann has been making the most of Kim, Year 10's, artistic flair! Below, you can see Kim refreshing the Silverhill mural (the one time we are happy to let students draw on our walls!) – which is a huge wolf in the honeycomb. Great work!



## Attendance

**Arrival after the close of registration is an unauthorised absence.** Regular attendance, which includes punctuality, is not only an important educational requirement but is also a **legal requirement**.

Our Academy day starts at 08:50, **where all pupils must register with their form tutor promptly at this time**. This register closes at 09:20, where pupils will then be classed as late after the close of register (unauthorised absence). Pupils who arrive late not only disrupt their education but also the education of others. Therefore, in bringing this to your attention we hope you will do everything possible to improve your child's punctuality and contact us if there are any issues you would wish to discuss.



**THE HASTINGS ACADEMY**

**Weekly 100% Attendance and Late Codes by House Team**  
Week commencing: 25.04.22

	Lates Before Close of Reg	Lates After Close of Reg	100% Attendance by House Team
House Team			
Silverhill	40	8	58.2%
West Hill	50	11	69.5%
East Hill	40	11	64.3%
Firehills	32	5	59.2%
Totals:	162	35	62.3%

## REPORT STUDENT ABSENCE (01424 711950 OPTION 2) OR VIA EMAIL BELOW

All absences should be reported by 8:45am on each day of the student'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.

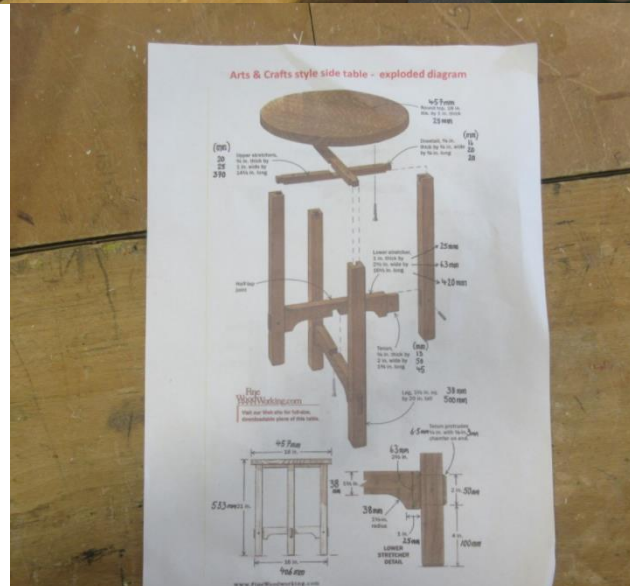


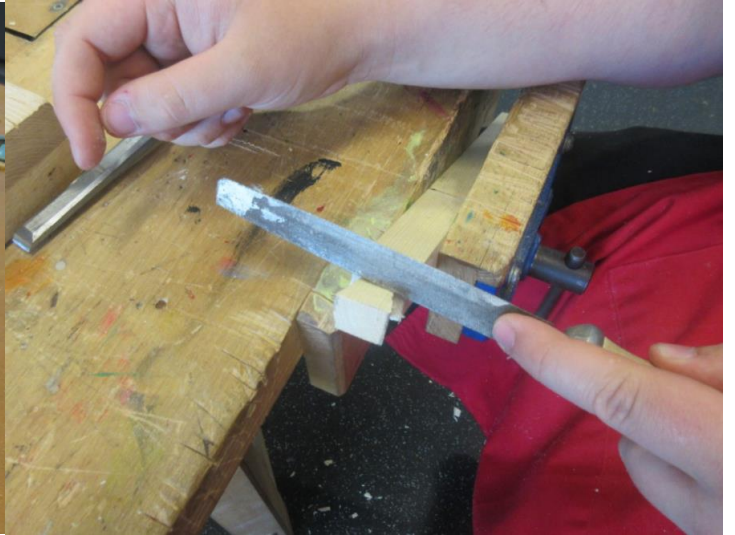
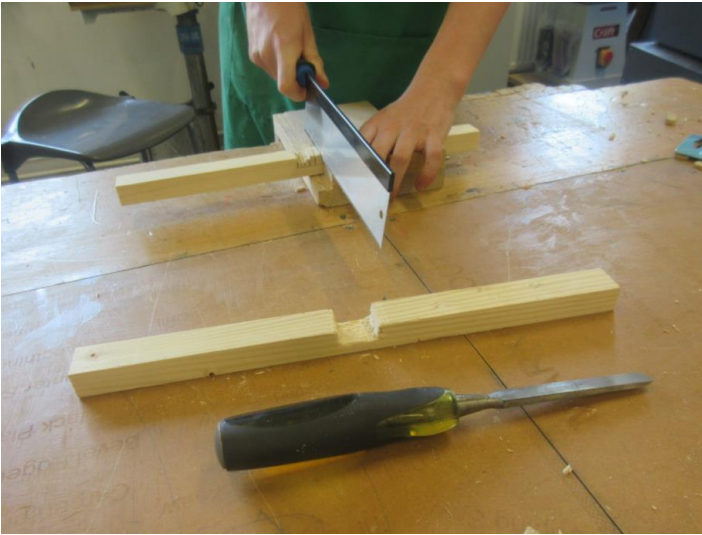
## Spotlight on...



This week, our Year 10 Design Technology students have started work on their Arts and Crafts style side table. They will construct this using traditional wood joints, using hand tools only.

So far, they have learned to mark out and cut cross-halving joints and dovetail joints.





We would like to invite any experienced professional from our community to talk to our students about their trade/craft and demonstrate their skills. If you would be interested in this opportunity, please contact Mr. Smout at the academy at [r.smout@thehastingsacademy.org.uk](mailto:r.smout@thehastingsacademy.org.uk)





# MANAGING ANXIETY

## A workshop for 11 to 16 year olds

If you're aged **11 to 16** and would like to learn more about anxiety then this workshop is for you!

The workshop will help you understand the thoughts that make you feel anxious and learn techniques to help you manage anxiety in your everyday life.

**Saturday 21 May, 10am-12pm**

**Hastings Library**



This is a **FREE** event  
Booking essential

Visit [new.eastsussex.gov.uk/libraries](http://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/libraries) to book  
or enquire at the desk



SHAPING  
TOMORROW  
Shaping tomorrow's people today

All that remains is for me to wish you a wonderful and restful weekend. The weather is looking very promising, so please do take advantage and get out to enjoy it, with all our best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marian Feeley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Marian Feeley  
Vice Principal