



I hope this newsletter finds you well – we are all brimming with excitement as we embrace the start of a new term!

I would like to extend my warmest welcome to each and every one of you. The energy and enthusiasm that our students have brought with them as they return to school is truly infectious. It's a joy to see them eagerly engaging in their learning once again.

This term has already been marked by some significant milestones. We recently held our first-ever lessons in automotive repairs, a fantastic addition to our curriculum. Our tutor lunches and parent coffee mornings have been wonderful opportunities for connection and conversation. Additionally, our school council had its first meeting of the year, with our students showcasing their determination to make a positive impact.

Your support and involvement in your child's education are invaluable to us. Together, we can nurture an environment where they can thrive and succeed. I am grateful for your partnership and dedication to THA. We would love your feedback on how we are doing, if you can find a few minutes to spare to complete our parent survey: [Here](#) it would be much appreciated (the survey will close on 29/9/23).

I encourage you to stay connected with our school community and to keep an eye out for our upcoming newsletters as the Year goes on, which will highlight the remarkable moments and achievements of our young people.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We are thrilled to have them back with us, and we are ready to make this Year a fantastic experience for everyone.

Mr S. Addison
Principal
The Hastings Academy



Introducing our new senior students team!

Last year students underwent a rigorous interview process to impress our senior staff, and a select group of 22 senior students were chosen to lead our cohort and represent their peers. Congratulations to everyone chosen and well done to everyone involved.



Bridie Dolby
Events Lead



Cody Nash
Anti-Bullying Support
LGBTQ



Suhana Awal
Extra Curricular and
Clubs



Ama Fitchett
Anti-Bullying



Sophie Gore
Teaching and Learning
Student Voice



Owen Hughes
Behavior Support



Glyn Evans
Fundraising
Anti-bullying



Aed Brereton
Events Support



Charlie Wright
Anti-bullying



David Sosoi
Head Student
Clubs



Tia Duggan
Y7 Anti Bullying



Amy Crabtree
Rewards



Arlan Hayes
Deputy Head
Y9 Fundraising



Milo Ward
Head Student
Events



Alyssa Alexander
Events



Jessica Wright
Y7 Support
Girls Football

Not Pictured:

Oscar Chamberlain
Fundraising and SEND

Michelle Cruttenden
Events Support

George Dawick
Anti-bullying

Mabel Eldridge
Deputy Head Student
Student Voice and Teaching and Learning



Peyton Y7 Emma Y8 Mirabel Y8



Amelia Y9 Jago Y10 Daisy Y10

Not Pictured:

Nathan Carrington Y8

Jack Hoare Y9

Harry Haynes Y7

School Council

The Student Leadership Structure Explained:

This year, each class will supply two class reps, who feed back to two year reps who will represent their year group at the student council. There are also the senior students from Y11 (see previous page) led by two deputy heads and the two head students. The deputy and head students also sit on the school council.

School Council First Meeting:

This Friday saw the first yearly meeting of the student council. Students representing their forms were able to meet to put forwards queries and issues to Mr Addison. Questions about subjects such as uniforms and timings were discussed alongside practical matters like student rep visibility, the parents committee and Y7 open evening help. It was great to hear the thoughts of the students being so eloquently put forwards this early in the year and this meeting suggests that the wider school is well represented by a group of confident and practical students.



Summer School



This August saw our new year 7s attend their summer school- a week of fun lessons and activities designed to ease them into school life and to give them an opportunity to get to know their peers, their teachers and the building before the beginning of the school year. Over the course of the week the children had the opportunity to create stars in the forest school, bake cookies and cheese scones in food tech, to learn all about eco systems in science, and to make some gorgeous pots and paintings in art.

The last day gave the Y7s a choice between sports and art. The weather blessed those of them who had chosen sports with perfect conditions for a game of sunny rounders while the budding artists decorated their pottery in the art labs.

It was a marvellous week and we were all really impressed with our new students, who showed enthusiasm for their subjects and started to forge great friendships which will last far beyond their school years. Thanks to everyone who came, students and staff alike.





The Library

It has been really lovely to see our new Y7s (along with the rest of the school) using the library during break and lunch times.

The library is open daily for students to come and play games- both on the PCs and using the various boards provided, to do drawing, colouring and creative activities, and even to simply borrow books! All students are welcome here, and all are able to borrow books, so please ask Miss Crane for recommendations!

If you haven't visited the library yet this term do pop by to see all of the activities which are available.

Later in the year the Library will also be hosting film nights, so watch out for these!



Snails in the science department

Here in the science department, you may well know we have pet Giant African Snails. Over the summer our two resident snails have clearly been busy as we now have 8 baby snails, with a possibility of more on the way!

For all you budding scientists out there, snails have a really curious way of reproducing. Snails are hermaphrodites which means they have both male and female reproductive organs; this means that they can actually self-reproduce as well as reproduce typically.

As a result of welcoming some new members to the family, we are looking for name suggestions for them. Mr. Beale will be leaving us this week so one will be named after him, this gives us 7 more snails and possibly more in the future that we need help naming! Be as creative as possible and we look forward to reading some of your suggestions.

Please email suggestions to Mr. Roberts - S.Roberts@thehastingsacademy.org.uk



Proud Mother/Father Snail

WWF Bakesale

This Friday we held a bakesale in aid of WWF, the World Wildlife Fund. WWF aims to "stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature." A very noble cause. The sale was a success and students raised more than £70 for WWF. Well done!

Rumblings in the DT department

Keep an eye out for our next newsletter to hear about the new toys lurking over in West hill...



Tutor Lunches

This term each class will have the opportunity to sit down for a free meal with their tutor and tutor group.

For the older years this is a great way to get to know their new classmates after our change from hill-based tutor groups to year based ones, while for our new Y7s this is a chance to spend some time getting to know their classmates and tutors for the first time.

So far the lunches have been a great success, with students getting to enjoy some specially cooked up food from the canteen, and tutors getting stuck in with serving out the portions and engaging the children in lively conversation.

See the remaining list of lunches below:

18th September – Year 8 LCO

19th September – Year 8 SSA

20th September – Year 8 SRE

21st September – Year 7 DBN

22nd September – Year 8 CDE

25th September – Year 9 KMU

26th September – Year 8 MGI

27th September – Year 9 SWA

28th September – Year 8 MCO

29th September – Year 9 HRO

2nd October – Year 9 RSM

3rd October – Year 9 RST

4th October – Year 9 VPE

6th October – Year 10 TSM

9th October – Year 10 IRI

10th October – Year 10 AEV

11th October – Year 10 LCH

12 October – Year 10 FMA

13th October – Year 10 JEL

16th October – Year 11 GMC

17th October – Year 11 SHA

HALF TERM

1st November – Year 11 JKE

2nd November – Year 11 GBL

3rd November – Year 11 KEA



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Elijah Bigg Triathlon 2nd place

This Sunday our very own Elijah Bigg not only took part in and completed the Brighton Triathlon, but took second place! Putting more than a massive 32 second gap into the third place competitor Elijah was especially fast in the water, exiting the first third of the race neck with the eventual winner.

Well done Elijah! We look forwards to seeing more podiums in the future.



Over the summer we celebrated GCSE results day with last year's departing Y11s. Everyone in this year group has worked tremendously hard and overcome many challenges over the past few years in order to tackle their exams head on, and their success speaks volumes. While the year group as a whole did incredibly well a few standout students gained especially impressive grades, so well done all. We wish the year 11s all the best for the future.



Clubs Timetable

		Monday	Wednesday	Thursday
Afterschool Clubs	Week 1	KS3 Homework Club <i>Mrs M Crane (Library)</i> Warhammer & Hobby Club <i>Mr J Kern (F17)</i> Yr7 & 8 Sports Club <i>Mr M Collett (Sports Centre)</i> Girls' Sports Club <i>Mrs Crease (Sports Centre)</i> Dance Club <i>Miss C Dengate (Dance Studio)</i>	KS4 Homework Club <i>Mrs M Crane (Library)</i> Dungeons & Dragons Club <i>Mr J Storey, Mr J Kern, Mr A Evans & Mr G Bloggs (Various)</i> Yr9 & 10 Boys Sports Club <i>Mr M Collett (Sports Centre)</i> Netball Club <i>Miss M Gibbons (Sports Centre)</i> "Globetrotters" <i>Mr S Regereau (S6a)</i>	Book Club <i>Mrs M Crane (Library)</i> Classics Club <i>Mr S Walsh & Mr G Bloggs (W8)</i> KS4 Maths Club <i>Mr J Holder (E12)</i> Duke of Edinburgh <i>Mr P Senior & Mrs E McCallum (TBC)</i> Art Club <i>Mrs L Collins (S10)</i>
	Week 2	KS3 Homework Club <i>Mrs M Crane (Library)</i> Female Leads Society <i>Mrs H Rome & Miss K Mulcair (W6)</i> Science Club <i>Ms R Pictan & Mrs J Beagley (F19)</i> Yr7 & 8 Boys Football Club <i>Mr M Collett (Sports Centre)</i> Girls Football Club <i>Mrs E Crease (Sports Centre)</i> Dance Club <i>Miss C Dengate (Dance Studio)</i>	KS4 Homework Club <i>Mrs M Crane (Library)</i> Dungeons & Dragons Club <i>Mr J Storey, Mr J Kern, Mr A Evans & Mr G Bloggs (Various)</i> Writing Club <i>Mrs V Alves (W5)</i> Yr9 & 10 Boys Football Club <i>Mr M Collett (Sports Centre)</i> Netball Club <i>Miss M Gibbons (Sports Centre)</i> Italian Club <i>Miss F Mancini (F13)</i>	Book Club <i>Mrs M Crane (Library)</i> Classics Club <i>Mr S Walsh & Mr G Bloggs (W8)</i> KS3 Maths Club <i>H Levett (E11)</i> Duke of Edinburgh <i>Mr P Senior & Mrs E McCallum (TBC)</i> Music Club <i>Miss S Boreham (S1)</i>
Afterschool GCSE Intervention	Week 1	Yr11 Geography (9th GCSE) <i>Ms I Richardson (F9)</i> Yr11 English Intervention <i>Mrs H Rome & Miss K Mulcair (Various)</i>	Yr11 GCSE Geography GCSE <i>Ms I Richardson (F9)</i> Yr11 Maths Intervention <i>Mrs S King, Mr D Blackwell, Mr A Tyson & Mr D Benson (Various)</i>	Yr11 Geography (9th GCSE) <i>Ms I Richardson (F9)</i> Yr11 Science Intervention <i>Mrs T Royce-Smith, Mr J Kern & Mr J Storey (Various)</i>
	Week 2	Yr11 Geography (9th GCSE) <i>Ms I Richardson (F9)</i> Yr11 History Intervention <i>Mr A Evans (F14)</i> Yr11 Music Intervention <i>Mrs K East (S1)</i> Yr11 Business & iMedia Intervention <i>Mr L Sadler & G Wall (E16)</i>	Yr11 Geography (9th GCSE) <i>Ms I Richardson (F9)</i> Yr11 French Intervention <i>Mrs C Pepper (S7)</i> Yr11 Art & Photography Intervention <i>Mr E Money & Mrs H Rose (S2)</i> Yr11 DT & Food Intervention <i>Mr R Smout (W2)</i>	Yr11 Geography (9th GCSE) <i>Ms I Richardson (F9)</i> Yr11 Dance Intervention <i>Miss C Dengate (Dance Studio)</i> Yr11 Spanish Intervention <i>Mrs S Travaglia-Sage (S11)</i> Yr11 Drama Intervention <i>Ms G MacDonald (HA)</i>

Polite Notices

Staff Interactions

When speaking to school staff please be mindful that we are all here to help you and your child. To promote a positive environment and set a good example for our students, please try to maintain a respectful tone when interacting with all staff members. Even when things become frustrating setting a constructive tone will help to resolve matters in a timely manner.

Meetings

Please be aware that Head of Years and other teaching staff usually have a busy schedule, between teaching, pastoral care and other duties it is often difficult for them to be available at short notice. If you would like to discuss a matter with a HOY or other member of staff the best way to do this is to organise a meeting in advance. Parents/Carers arriving at the school without having arranged a meeting may have to wait a long time to be seen, or may risk wasting a journey if the required staff member is not available.

Parking

Could parents picking up and dropping off children please refrain from parking on double yellow lines and in the disabled parking bay (unless holding a blue badge). Please also be aware of blocking the staff car-park and adhering to the one-way system. Please remember to be aware of pedestrians in and around the carpark, and if waiting for your child please be mindful of both the health of the pupils and the environment by switching off your engines.

Deals from the canteen

Morning Break

BACON BAGUETTE WHOLE	£2.32.
HALF BACON BAGUETTE	£1.30.
VEGGIE SAUSAGE BAP	£1.30.
HOT FILLED BAGEL (MEAT OR VEGGIE)	£1.93
TOASTED BAGEL WITH SPREAD	£1.20
PIZZA	£1.40
VEGGIE SAUSAGE ROLL	£1.66
CHEESE ON TOAST PER SLICE	£0.92
SAVOURY TURN OVER/SAUSAGE ROLL	£1.66
BACON AND EGG BREAKFAST MUFFIN	£1.93
VEGGIE SAUSAGE , CHEESE AND EGG MUFFIN	£1.93
TOAST WITH SPREAD PER SLICE	£0.25
CEREAL AND MILK	£0.93
MIXED FRUIT POT	£0.93
OVERNIGHT OATS	£1.30
MEAL DEAL	£3.00

Lunch Menu

Main Meal & Dessert OR DRINK	£3.00
Main Meal	£2.56
Main Dessert	£1.14
Meat Pizza	£1.56
Cheese OR Veggie Pizza	£1.40
Plain Jacket Potato	£1.29
Jacket with One Topping	£1.76
Jacket with Two toppings	£2.08
Plain Pasta	£1.56
Pasta & Sauce & Cheese	£2.69
Pasta & Cheese	£2.46
Portion of Cheese	£0.54
Meal Deal	£3.00
HotWrap	£2.06
Burger(veg, beef, chicken)	£2.06
½ Panini	£1.30
Full panini	£2.60
Veggie sausage roll	£1.66
Savoury side (chips, wedges)	£1.18

Drinks

Radnor Fizz	£1.25
Radnor Carton	£0.70
Water SportWater 500ml	£1.06£0.77
Juice Cartons	£0.70
Viva Milkshake	£0.70

Cold Snacks

Solo Sandwich	£ 1.67
Classic Sandwich	£ 2.00
½ Baguette	£1.30
Wraps	£2.07
Baguette	£ 2.07
Large salad with protein	£2.08
Crudities & Houmous	£1.13
Salad Pot Small	£.99
Cold Pasta Pot	£2.69
Mixed Fruit Pot	£0.93
Grape Pot	£0.93
Pineapple Pot	£0.93
Piece of Fruit	£0.63
MEAL DEAL	£3.00
Oreo	£1.00
Mini Biscuit Pack	£0.60
Homebakes	£1.06
Homebakes mini	£0.65

Meal deals

**Main with a drink and
homemade cake for
£3**

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be "pinged" with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat. Instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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