



Hartshill Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

www.hartshillacademy.org.uk

FEB 2025



HART TO HART | Academy News



Fresh & clean: The new school website can still be found at www.hartshillacademy.org.uk

SPRING BACK INTO ACTION

We are delighted to announce the launch of our **brand-new school website**, designed to improve communication between home and school. The website will provide up-to-date news, key information, and resources to support pupils and families. We encourage all parents and carers to visit the site regularly to stay informed about school events, important dates, and pupil achievements.

Our Year 11 pupils are currently sitting their **mock exams**, an important step in their preparation for the summer GCSEs. These exams help pupils assess their progress and identify areas for improvement. We appreciate your support in ensuring they maintain a strong revision routine and look after their well-being during this period.

Year 9 pupils will soon begin selecting their pathway choices for GCSE. This is an exciting and important milestone in their education. We have **Year 9 Pathways Evening** this week to help pupils and their families make informed decisions about their next steps.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Tues 4 March** | Year 7 Theatre trip
- **Thu 6 March** | Year 9 Pathways Evening
- **Fri 21 March** | School closed - Teacher Training
- **Thu 27 March** | Parent Voice
- **Thu 3 April** | Year 8 Progress Evening
- **Fri 4 April** | Year 10 Geography trip
- **Thu 10 April** | Easter Showcase
- **Fri 11 April** | Year 10 Geography trip / Last day of term

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



The attendance pizza party was well-received by winning pupils and their buddies!



Alfie was the winner of a new pair of trainers in our attendance prize draw!

The winner of the Attendance Squid Game was Darcey, 7N2!



Investing into better lives

As you can see, we are investing a great deal in promoting good attendance in our school. This is because we know that good attendance leads to good outcomes and good outcomes lead to a better life.

We want children to be here and to be on time and we wish to thank everybody who shares this commitment.

There remains a small minority of children who are still absent from school too often and this risks damaging their future. We will do everything possible to support those children to ensure they have the best possible chance of success.



- **Friday 31st January:** Inaugural Rewards competition for 100% attendance in January
- **Tuesday 11th February:** Pizza Party for 100% attenders!
- **Wednesday 26th February:** Wembley Trip to watch England vs. Spain
- **Spring Term:** Rewards Trips for our two Attendance League winners from the Autumn Term!

We will continue to recognise and reward children who attend school regularly and make a conscious effort to be punctual, as this will reflect the positive impact that the skills of regular attendance and punctuality will have on the rest of life.

A QUESTION OF SPORT

Rowing Success: Teams Qualify for United Learning National Finals



We are thrilled to announce that our school's rowing teams have achieved outstanding success, securing their places in the United Learning Rowing National Finals! After weeks of dedication, perseverance, and teamwork, the following teams have qualified:

- Year 8 Boys
- Year 8 Girls
- Year 9 Boys
- Year 9 Girls
- Year 10 Open Team

This is a fantastic achievement for our rowers, who have demonstrated incredible skill and determination throughout the competition. Their hard work in PE lessons and commitment to excellence have truly paid off. As they prepare for the national finals, we wish them the best of luck and encourage our school community to cheer them on.

Go team!



Hartshill pupils were delighted to compete in the Virtual Rowing qualifier hosted by **Dan Hetherington** from **British Rowing**.



Year 8s

Hartshill Boys 1 - 1968m
Hartshill Boys 2 - 1897m
George Eliot Boys 2 - 1785m
George Eliot Boys 1 - 1756m

Hartshill Girls 1 - 1754m
Hartshill Girls 2 - 1677m
George Eliot Girls 1 - 1638m
George Eliot Girls 2 - 1566m

Year 9s

Hartshill Boys - 2000m
George Eliot Boys - 1576m

Hartshill Girls - 1831m
George Eliot Girls - 1685m

Year 10s

Hartshill Boys - 1986m

Hartshill pupils took part in a regional heat with other local United Learning schools. Our young people showcased incredible skill and strength from the moment they set foot on the machines. With determination and focus, each participant demonstrated exceptional technique, pushing their limits with every stroke. The scores from the heat are detailed above.

Year 7 Indoor Sports Hall Athletics – School games

This term for the School Games competitions we entered a Year 7 Boys and Girls team into the area Sports Hall Athletics event. This was the first time competing in this competition and all students showed some fantastic determination to compete to the best of their abilities against some strong individuals.

Across all events we had some brilliant team and individual performances, with plenty of top three finishes. Overall, combining the boys and girls scores Hartshill Academy finished 5th within the area out of 10 schools - narrowly missing out on the top 3 spot.

We have several Year 7/8 and 9/10 girls football fixtures next term for the School Games. Well done to both teams!



Benefits of School Games for young people

Through taking part in the School Games, our young people will:

- Have fun and enjoy themselves
- Develop friendships and meet new people
- Become more determined and demonstrate resilience
- Understand and demonstrate the importance of respect for others
- Learn to develop self control and manage emotions
- Experience being part of a team and understand their contribution to it
- Win with pride and lose with grace
- Learn the importance of practice and preparation
- Learn how to set realistic goals and work towards achieving them
- Consider the impact participating in the School Games has on their surroundings, including wider environmental issues
- Aspire to improve and challenge themselves.



HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

House Basketball Tournament: A Slam Dunk Success

This term's House Basketball tournament brought excitement, teamwork, and fierce competition to our lunchtime sports program. Pupils from Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 battled it out on the court, showcasing incredible skill, determination, and house pride.

After several thrilling matches, Evans Eagles soared to victory, claiming the top spot with outstanding performances across all year groups. Their teamwork, sharp shooting, and defensive strength proved too much for the competition.

A huge well done to all pupils who took part – your enthusiasm and dedication made this tournament a huge success! We look forward to more lunchtime competitions in the future – who will take the title next time? Keep practising, and we'll see you on the court!



House Competition Fun with Blankety Blank!

This half term's lunchtime House Competition brought plenty of laughs and excitement to the theatre as students took on the classic game show Blankety Blank! With quick thinking, clever answers, and a lot of house spirit, it was a fantastic event enjoyed by all.

After a series of hilarious rounds, Newton Nighthawks claimed first place, showing impressive teamwork and creativity to secure the top spot. Barber Bears followed closely in second, proving they had what it takes to think on their feet. Drayton Deers finished in third place, putting up a great fight with some brilliant responses, while Evans Eagles landed in fourth, bringing enthusiasm and energy throughout the competition. A huge thank you to all the pupils and staff who took part and represented their houses so brilliantly. Your enthusiasm made the event a great success!

ART ATTACK



Fun Fact:

John Lewis commissioned Barbara Hepworth to create a sculpture for their Oxford Circus store in 1963 and it's still on display today!



Year 8

Year 8 have been completing their project looking at the artist and sculptor Barbara Hepworth. Pupils have studied her sculptures and created their own versions of her famous collection, 'Family of Man'.

They designed their own nets based on the different shapes they wanted to use for their sculptures and created the patterns with paint to give a textured feel. Pupils used these designs to construct their very own sculptures (left).

Year 9

Year 9 have been enjoying their "Pop Art" project. Pupils have designed their own boxes based on Andy Warhol's iconic 1964 Brillo Boxes.

Pupils created their own nets, before painting their creations and constructing the finished products (left).



Fun Fact:

The last original Brillo Box to be sold was for \$3,050,500 at Christie's in New York on 10 November 2010.



SHOW STOPPERS

Back to the Future: The Musical – Dance Workshop

On Wednesday 5th February, the Year 10 BTEC Dance Class at Hartshill Academy took part in an exciting **Back to the Future: The Musical** dance workshop with Emily Woodford. Pupils had the opportunity to learn choreography from the show, bringing the energy and storytelling of the hit musical to life. The workshop focused on key routines from iconic songs such as "It's Only a Matter of Time" and "Back in Time." The session helped pupils develop their performance skills, enhance their technique, and experience the dynamic movement style of the production.

Following the dance session, pupils took part in a Q&A, where they had the chance to ask questions about the creative process of a musical, the audition process, and the overall experience of working in the industry. This insightful discussion provided valuable knowledge for their upcoming PSAs and offered inspiration for those aspiring to work in the performing arts. It was a fantastic opportunity to step back in time, learn from industry professionals, and gain a deeper understanding of the world of musical theatre!



We are thrilled to announce the incredible cast of our upcoming school production of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*! This beloved classic promises to bring magic, music, and a flying car to life on our stage.

Each member of the cast has shown immense dedication and enthusiasm during auditions, and we couldn't be more excited to see them shine in their roles. From the eccentric inventor Caractacus Potts to the adventurous Truly Scrumptious, and even the villainous Baron Bomburst, every role is set to make this production an unforgettable experience for all.

Mark your calendars for **7th, 8th and 9th July** and join us for this enchanting journey into the world of imagination, family, and fun. Stay tuned for more updates as rehearsals progress!

Let's give a big round of applause to the cast of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*!



Our Year 9 and 10 performing arts pupils had an unforgettable trip to London, including a dance and drama workshop! The highlight of the day was watching the critically acclaimed West End production of **Back to the Future: The Musical**. The pupils were in awe as they experienced the thrilling time-traveling tale come to life on stage. From the dazzling special effects to the toe-tapping songs, the performance was an inspiring showcase of talent and storytelling.

Before heading to the theatre, the group participated in an engaging dance and drama workshop led by professionals from the performing arts industry. Pupils had the opportunity to engage with professional rep, explore key drama techniques, and even perform scenes from the musical. The workshop provided a platform for our pupils to gain confidence, develop their creative skills, and get a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the world of theatre. Pupils also met and took a photo with **Debbie Moore (left)**, the owner of Pineapple Dance Studios.

Many pupils described the trip as "Amazing! The technical elements of the show were great. I have never seen anything like that before!" Another pupil said, "I loved going to London and seeing a show with such impressive stylistic features, which will help me with my Component 1 coursework". A huge thank you to all our pupils, who represented Hartshill Academy incredibly well, demonstrating our HART values at every opportunity.



WORKING ON WELLBEING



A message from Miss Wallbank,
Senior Mental Health Lead at
Hartshill Academy



Dear Parents and Carers,

Since starting as the Academy's Senior Mental Health Lead in September, I have been working hard on our Mental Health and Wellbeing support offer in school and wanted to fill you in on some updates.

In January, 16 members of staff successfully completed their Mental Health First Aider training and are now fully equipped to confidently support pupils who may be in crisis or struggling with their mental health. We have highlighted to pupils in school who these adults are if they need them and will be sharing this information with you on our website if you ever need to get in touch.

Since the opening of our Attendance and Safeguarding Hub (ASH) in November we have been able to support around 100 pupils a week, by having an adult on hand to support if they are struggling, and through offering Lego Therapy, Emotional Regulation, Anger Management and Drawing and Talking sessions. Alongside this, the Hub also acts as a safe space for pupils during social times and supports pupils who have not been able to attend school for some time with reintegrating back to lessons.

I will be sharing information about a local service in each newsletter - this month we have the Children's Autism Support Service (CASS). They are a brilliant service that offer support to both Parents/Carers and young people who have or are awaiting an autism diagnosis. On the next page is their newest offer of social groups for young people, along with their website information.

Lastly, we held a Wellbeing Parent Consultation morning, with school's Senior Education Mental Health Practitioner Fallon Holden, to allow parents to discuss any concerns they had around their child's wellbeing and offered advice on services that could support. We will be holding these consultation morning's each half term. Our next one will be with the School Nursing team, and will be ideal for discussing anything from sleep to fussy eating - keep a look out for further information on bookings after half term.

Yours Sincerely

Miss Wallbank



NEW referral route for our children and young people's social groups

Groups are safe spaces for 7–18 year olds to connect with others, talk about different topics, and take part in activities without the need to mask.



Scan the QR for more details and to refer.

(024) 7601 2333
casspartnership.org.uk
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