



Hartshill Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

www.hartshillacademy.org.uk

MAR 2025



HART TO HART | Academy News



Celebrating success: Pupils display their certificate and badges after presenting their sustainability project at the University of Oxford

SUSTAINABILITY SUCCESS

Four brilliant pupils in Year 7 and 8, under the guidance of Miss Wheeldon, launched a fantastic **social action project focused on sustainability**. They organised a 'Swap Shop' for our wider school community, encouraging pupils, staff and parents to swap items they no longer needed instead of throwing them away. The event was a huge success, promoting re-use and reducing waste.

As part of the project, our pupils were invited to represent **Hartshill Academy**, alongside other United Learning schools, at the prestigious **St Anne's College, University of Oxford**. There, they had the opportunity to present their findings from their social action project. They were also able to experience a taster lecture, and take part in a campus tour.

We are incredibly proud of Kai, Liam, Bella and Faith and grateful to Miss Wheeldon for her leadership in making this project happen. A big thank you also to Mr Tierney, who kindly transported and accompanied the group on this memorable trip.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Thu 10 April** | Easter Showcase
- **Fri 11 April** | Year 10 Geography trip / Last day of term
- **Mon 28 April** | School closed - Teacher Training
- **Tues 29 April** | Return to school
- **Thu 1 May** | Year 7 Progress Evening
- **Mon 5 May** | School closed - May Bank Holiday

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



En route to Wembley: our young people were very excited to watch England play.



A quick photo in front of the iconic Wembley arches before the game kicked off.

The Spring Term has been a great opportunity for our young people to build upon the good attendance from earlier in the academic year.

We have seen improvements in attendance, as more young people and their families engage with the various activities and events to support and reward good attendance.



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



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.



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.

OUT & ABOUT: DofE Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) is open to any young person aged 14-24. Each young person builds their own DofE programmes – picking their own activities and choosing which cause to volunteer for – in order to achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold DofE Award.



Our Duke of Edinburgh participants recently completed their third walk, navigating the beautiful trails of Hartshill Hayes Country Park and Galley Common countryside.

This time, pupils took on the challenge of navigating in small groups, carrying their full kit for the first time, testing both their physical stamina and their teamwork skills.

The walk provided a great opportunity for students to develop their navigational abilities, enhance their problem-solving skills, and work collaboratively to overcome challenges in the great outdoors.

The students showed fantastic determination and progress, especially as they balanced map reading with carrying their essential equipment.



Looking ahead, our next adventure will be on **Saturday 5th April**, at RSPB Middleton Lakes, where the students will continue to build on their skills as part of their Duke of Edinburgh journey.

We are proud of their efforts and look forward to seeing their continued growth!



YEAR 7 ROMEO & JULIET TRIP



Year 7 Trip to the Belgrade Theatre


Earlier this month our Year 7 pupils visited the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry to watch a modernised version of Romeo and Juliet. The performance was unmistakably Shakespeare's love story, unaltered in its original text, however there was an important plus one: rap.

The trip was a great way for our pupils to experience a brilliant production which really enhanced their understanding of certain aspects of stage craft and plot subtleties. All of the pupils on the trip behaved extremely well and displayed great levels of **respect** and **tenacity** to ensure that members of the public also had an amazing experience.

A massive shout out to all of the staff and pupils who were involved in this trip as it really was one to remember.

"Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight!
For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night."

- Romeo -



Year 7 pupils excited for the performance to begin.



SHAKESPEARE AND RAP.
A LOVE STORY.



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
ROMEO + JULIET
THE ORIGINAL PLAY, ORIGINALLY SCORED - WITH RAP AND R&B



Who did it? Pupils try to work out the plot's mysteries.

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP



House Events Round-Up

This term has been packed with excitement as our Houses—Barber Bears, Drayton Deers, Evans Eagles, and Newton Nighthawks, went head-to-head in a variety of fun-filled competitions. The Heads of House have been delighted to see so many pupils, staff, and even families getting involved. Here's a look back at what's been happening.

Table Tennis: The activity studio was buzzing with energy as pupils competed in our week-long lunchtime House Table Tennis Tournament. Each match saw impressive rallies, quick reflexes, and plenty of House spirit as players battled it out for points. Congratulations to everyone who participated!

Bake Off: The competition heated up in the kitchen as families joined forces after school for our House Bake Off: Cheesecake Edition. Teams whisked, mixed, and decorated their way to some truly spectacular creations, showcasing their creativity and teamwork. A huge thank you to everyone who took part.

Taskmaster Challenge: This event saw pupils and staff take on a series of wacky and unpredictable challenges. From problem-solving puzzles to hilarious physical tasks, competitors had to think outside the box while entertaining the crowd. A special shoutout to our staff members who fully embraced the chaos.

1% Club: A whopping 100 pupils tested their logic and problem-solving skills in our very own House 1% Club Challenge. The questions got trickier as the game went on, challenging even the sharpest minds. As the numbers dwindled, tension built, who would make it to the prestigious 1% Club? Congratulations to our top problem-solvers who kept their cool under pressure and proved their thinking skills were truly elite!

Over the next couple of weeks, the House team will be hosting:

Masked Singer – Who's behind the mask? This much-anticipated event will see staff dress up in disguise and perform their favourite songs, while pupils try to guess their identity. Expect dazzling costumes, incredible (or questionable!) singing, and plenty of surprises along the way. Will you be able to unmask your teachers?

RAG Week – Raising Money for House Charities – Led by our House Captains, RAG (Raising and Giving) Week is set to be an action-packed time full of fundraising activities. We'll be working together to raise as much money as possible for our House charities.

A huge thank you to everyone who has taken part so far, it's been fantastic to see the enthusiasm and House pride on full display. We look forward to seeing even more pupils, staff, and families getting involved in the exciting events ahead!



Who will win
the 2024-2025
House
Championship?



Barber
Bears

2635



Drayton
Deers

2975



Evans
Eagles

2845



Newton
Nighthawks

2905

CAMPS INTERNATIONAL

A friendly reminder for all pupils taking part in Camps International 2026:

Pupils taking part in Camps International are invited to meet with Mrs. Wicker-Rawlings and the Camps International team **every Monday lunchtime** in **Room 212** to discuss fundraising opportunities.

The Camps International team have some great things planned for the summer term, so watch this space!



Borneo – Habitat conservation

Batu Puteh is an incredible haven for a large majority of Borneo's wildlife including orangutans, elephants and proboscis monkeys, and is one of the world's most important natural habitats. However, it's also one of the most threatened. You'll get involved in activities to help safeguard this wildlife paradise for future generations by helping to tackle deforestation.

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The Camps International expedition is designed to ensure that a number of the United Nations sustainable goals can be achieved.



Camp Borneo: An adventure of a lifetime

On this once-in-a-lifetime adventure, our young people will get the opportunity to explore the unique jungle ecosystem and unexplored tropical wilderness on an adventurous 5 day trek.

They will play an active part in helping to protect this important environment through long-term conservation projects.

There will be plenty of time to immerse themselves in the traditional culture too, as they live in the heart of a rural village and work alongside local people to support community development.



Borneo – Community centre construction

Community centres ('Balai raya' in Malay) are commonplace in Sabah and form an integral part of village life. A well-used and maintained community hall is often a good indicator of the health of the community itself. You'll be getting involved in a long-term project to construct a community centre for the local community, who currently do not have one.

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Borneo – Village enhancement projects

You'll get involved in a number of projects to improve facilities for the rapidly growing population of Bongliud. Projects may include constructing a youth centre, improving the drainage system to ensure cleaner and healthier living and establishing a community farming programme to improve food security and encourage self-sufficiency within the village, without needing to transport supplies from larger towns.

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



UKMT MATHS CHALLENGE



UK Maths Trust

Earlier this month, four Hartshill Academy mathematicians took part in the **UKMT Maths Challenge** which was hosted at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys. The pupils worked brilliantly as a team and did not give up on solving difficult maths problems.

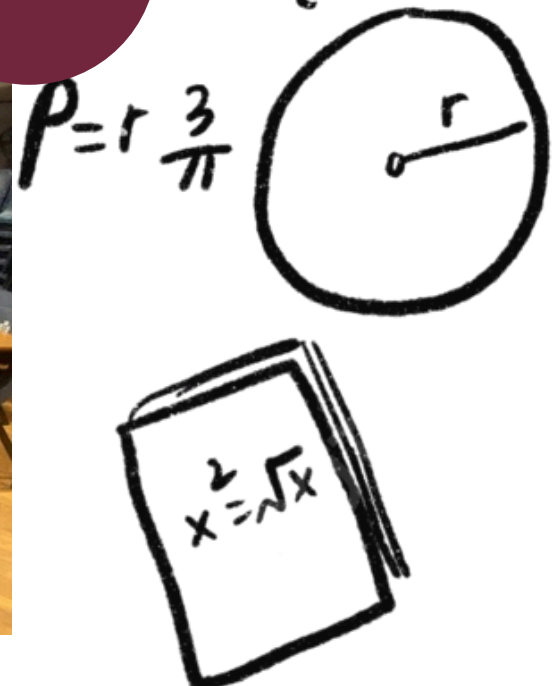
Our young people represented Hartshill Academy with distinction as they competed against 19 different schools.

In the final results of the competition, Hartshill Academy came 8th place, just shy of the top five schools in the UKMT Maths Challenge. Our four mathematicians performed exceptionally well and represented the school with pride. A huge shout out to our four mathematicians: **David (Year 7)**, **Rosa (Year 8)**, **Alfred (Year 8)**, and **Zac (Year 9)**. Well done for your great efforts.

The UK Maths Trust is the leading charity that advances the education of young people in maths. For over 20 years the trust has been inspiring a love of problem solving through **maths challenges** and **enrichment activities**, delivered by hundreds of **volunteers**.



Pupils proudly presenting their certificates for participating in the UKMT Maths Challenge.



SHOW STOPPERS

A Magical Trip to the Birmingham Hippodrome

On Wednesday 5th March the Performing Arts department took a group of pupils on a trip to the Birmingham Hippodrome. Students had the incredible opportunity to see the spectacular production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, a performance filled with music, adventure, and the magic of the iconic flying car.

This trip was even more special as we took our own cast for 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' to see the show! It was a wonderful chance for them to experience a professional production of the musical they are working so hard on, providing inspiration and excitement for their own performance.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed the live theatre experience, immersing themselves in the wonderful world of musical storytelling. The dazzling performances, stunning set design, and captivating music left everyone in awe.

A huge thank you to all the staff and students who participated, making this trip a truly memorable one. We look forward to more trips like this in the future.



Well done to Year 11 pupils, **Abi Topp** and **Grace Mcloughlin**, for getting into **BOA** and **Studio '79**! The Performing Arts department could not be prouder and we cannot wait to see you shine there!



International Women's Day 2025

As a way to celebrate International Women's Day, Hartshill Academy participated in a competition developed by the Paul Canoville Foundation. This competition allowed pupils the opportunity to potentially be a part of a celebration showcasing their creativity through art, digital media, and performances.

At Hartshill Academy, we had a variety of entries. However, the performing arts department are proud to announce that, after much deliberation, a selection of our dancers have been chosen to represent Hartshill Academy. The pupils are: Ava Davies, Daisy McKenna-Bass, Lola-Rose Sheridan, Rebecca Smith, Isla Morewood, Caitlyn Pilley, Katie North, Hannah Brazier and Morghana Render.

A huge congratulations to our talented pupils and a special thanks to Mrs Foggin for choreographing the routine.



Rehearsals for Chitty Chitty Bang Bang are in full swing with Act 1 almost completed! Our talented cast are working hard to bring this magical production to life!

Rehearsal Schedule:

Days: Every Wednesday and Thursday

Time: Lunchtime and After school (3:30-4:30)

Location: G09

We are also looking for volunteers to join our backstage crew. Anybody interested should speak to Mrs Roche.

The countdown is on for opening night on **Monday 7th July 2025!**



WORKING ON WELLBEING



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



Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term we will be holding a parent consultation morning with Natalie Wilkes, our school nurse. Natalie will be able to offer advice and signposting for a range of concerns including; fussy eating, body image, sleep and managing long-term health conditions. Further details on how to book an appointment will be coming out next week.

You may have seen the 'Tips for Wellness' flyer that came out on Wednesday from the Mental Health in Schools Team (MHST). We have been sharing these with pupils in school this year, each week focusing on a different theme. The MHST have now developed the programme further to offer parent/carer guidance as well, which we hope you will find useful.

This half term's service to highlight is Warwickshire Young Carers, who are working to help improve the lives of Young Carers across Warwickshire, by offering free and confidential support.

The service works with young carers from the age of 6 upwards, and aims to help make a difference to their lives by encouraging them to take time out to relax, take a break and to realise their own dreams.

Young Carers do not have to be carrying out physical caring duties in order to receive support. Young people who are directly affected by the physical or emotional demands of a family member's caring needs can be referred to the service for support. Please see the link below or further details and get in touch if you need further advice:

www.warwickshireyoungcarers.org.uk

Yours Sincerely

Miss Wallbank
Senior Mental Health Lead

EASTER SHOWCASE

Join us for an exciting evening, a perfect event to showcase our amazing pupils' talent.

THURSDAY 10TH APRIL | 6:30 PM

LOCATION: THEATRE

**TICKETS: £3.00
AVAILABLE ON ARBOR OR CASH ON THE DOOR**

