

Winter Term Highlights

Hospital Education Service - Building Bridges to Brighter Futures



School Newsletter

Edition 7
December 2020

Message from the Head Teacher

It has been wonderful to return to some semblance of normality and welcome pupils back to school this term. Despite the challenges that Covid brings, we are very proud of how quickly pupils have adapted to the 'new normal', remaining calm and considerate of others at all times.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support through these challenging times. You have shown great patience, understanding and flexibility in response to requests to self-isolate or to access learning remotely if a member of staff has had to self-isolate. This term really has been about teamwork and if there is one positive to draw from this experience, it is that we are stronger together.

As the festive holiday approaches, I would like to wish you all a safe and healthy break with your family and hope that you will find a way to celebrate your time with loved ones even though we are restricted by Covid Regulations.

I look forward to seeing you all again next year. Let's hope that 2021 is a brighter year for us all.

Mrs Cutler

Refurbishments continue to Enhance Learning Experience at WPA

The Hospital Education Service underwent some significant refurbishments at its site at Whitmore Park Annexe over the summer holidays.

Staff and pupils returned to a new-look building with a new roof, new lighting, new kitchen facilities and new bathroom cubicles. A mobile classroom was also delivered to the school site which has allowed our Home Tuition service to continue in a new form during the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead of being taught in their homes, pupils are now visiting the mobile classroom for one-to-one lessons in a Covid-secure environment. Needless to say, staff and pupils are delighted with these changes and would like to thank Garry Hoare and his Building team from the local authority for their hard work over the summer.



Staff and pupils are delighted with the 'new-look' Whitmore Park Annexe

Important Dates & Holidays

New Term Begins	Tues 5th Jan 2021
Teacher Training Day (School Closed)	Wednesday 3rd February 2021
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 9th February 2021
Half Term	Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February 2021
National Careers Week	Monday 1st - Saturday 6th March 2021
Mock Exam Fortnight	Monday 8th - 19th March 2021
Last day of Spring Term	Thursday 1st April 2021
Easter Holidays	Friday 2nd April—16th April 2021

Hospital Staff Keep Calm and Carry On Despite Covid Challenges

Teaching staff may be looking a little more like medical staff than usual and their smiles may be hidden by masks, but Covid-19 isn't stopping learning and fun activities at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire. Whether it be lightbulb moments of how to solve long multiplication, making a 3D volcano to understand its parts or learning to write instructions whilst making a 'cup and ball' toy, it's business as usual. Now we have reached December, Christmas activities are underway: Christmas Maths mysteries; discovering the history of the festive season's traditions; reflecting on the first Christmas; writing letters to Santa (who even writes back!) and lots of exciting art activities.



HES team donates Gifts to Vulnerable Families in Coventry

Our Hospital School Teaching Assistant, Vicky O'Neil has done a magnificent job in raising £85 from school staff to buy Christmas presents for vulnerable families in Coventry. The gifts for children ranging from 'Shaking Surgeon' to 'Musical Camera' will go a long way for kids that will be looking to tear off the wrapping paper on Xmas day to . The gifts will be donated to Salvation Army in Coventry for distribution over the holidays. Thank you to everyone that donated and a huge thank you to Vicky for co-ordinating this amazing deed.



New Careers Advisor for HES

As of September 2020 the HES now has a new Careers Advisor on board to provide pupils with high quality careers advice to make informed decisions about their future. Hashim Bhayat, from Prospects, will meet pupils across HES and offer insights and opportunities for post 16. Hashim comes to us with a wealth of information and background in specialist education and training establishments that pupils may decide to look towards as they leave Year 11. Hashim will also be working with all secondary aged year groups and will also offer remote sessions. Mr T will be contacting parents/carers in the New Year with Careers opportunities to those learning at home. If you would like more information or would like to arrange an appointment with Hashim about careers please contact Mr T!

More information on Prospects can be found at: <https://www.prospects.co.uk/>



CWLEP recognises HES commitment to Careers Education

The Coventry and Warwickshire Careers Hub has recognised the Hospital Education Service for supporting pupils to make decisions about their future career. The service has committed to creating powerful relationships between education and employers to support some of the most vulnerable young people in the city to make positive career choices and secure post-16 destinations. Steph Parker (CWLEP Advisor) has worked alongside Mr T to liaise with Employers, Further Education and Higher Education allowing HES to offer opportunities for Pupils.



Coventry & Warwickshire
Local Enterprise Partnership

Pupils take part in event with F1 Engineer Al Peasland



Pupils from GCSE Computer Science were in for a treat as they got the chance to take part in an event with Al Peasland from the F1 Williams Motor Racing Team. Al is currently the Head of Technical and Innovation Partnerships and takes time in his very busy schedule to share his journey with pupils. The event gave pupils an insight into his experience from dreaming of a career in engineering at the age of 16 to becoming a senior leader at a world leading motorsport team.

In addition to having an opportunity for Q and A with Al, pupils had the chance to win a really special set of prizes including a mentoring session with Al and an opportunity to speak to academic and admissions specialists at Coventry University to help plan their own success journey into the brilliant world of engineering. Pupils found the talk inspirational and are now looking to start their own journey to go into engineering. Well done to all pupils who took part and keep a lookout for more opportunities in the future.

National Careers Week to go ahead in March 2021

Following on from the success of National Careers Week back in March 2020 we are looking forward to another fun-filled week full of activities and lessons around Careers. NCW will be hosted across the HES from the 1st - 6th March 2021. The theme for this year will be 'I did it my way'. The week is a celebration of careers guidance and exploration of routes for the future. The aim is to provide a focus for careers guidance activity at an important stage in the academic calendar to help support young people making decisions on the route they wish to take.



Pupils discover Science of Rollercoasters with STEM grant

Mrs Glenn, Lead for Science across the HES, has developed a 3 stage project to examine the science behind rollercoasters. A successful grant application from the Millennium Point Charitable Trust will give pupils the opportunity to explore and investigate; consider measurement, methodology in the Autumn term. Pupils will then move onto adapting rollercoasters in the Spring Term and the presentation of findings in the Summer Term. Pupils will also get the chance to visit a Theme Park towards the end of the Academic Year. The project aims to promote the uptake of Science at Post-16! Well done Mrs Glenn!



Pupil produces Museum Quality Paintings



Former GCSE pupil of HES, produced a stunning portfolio of evidence for her GCSE Art course which is now being displayed across the school site for everyone to enjoy. Particularly impressive was the work this young person produced which captured the haunting beauty of Coventry Cathedral, old and new. The artwork was created entirely at Whitmore Park Annexe as part of her Art Course. We were particularly proud to see her achieve a Grade 6 GCSE in Art! We look forward to seeing masterpieces she produces in the future.

HES makes its mark on Music

Pupils from HES have been praised for their musical talents inspired by Kevin Stannard every Monday afternoon at Whitmore Park Annexe. The school has been recognised for its commitment to providing a high quality Music Education and its young people by Musicmark.org. Well done to all for hitting the right note.



Exciting Curriculum Opportunities at Whitmore Park Annexe

Our team at the Hospital Education Service always looks to adapt its curriculum to meet the needs of its pupils. Due to their success last year, Coventry Music and the Outdoor Education Team are continuing to work with our pupils this year giving them opportunities to experience the joy that music brings to their lives and to explore their relationship with the environment (both local and global).

This year we are delighted to be able to maximise the expertise within our team. Mrs Glenn continues to offer an Introduction to Health and Social Care and Mrs Stringer is now offering an afternoon of Psychology each week. Variety is the spice of life as they say!



Former HES Pupil hits the heights at Birmingham Ormiston Academy

Mr T caught up with Katie of Class 2020 to discuss her move to Birmingham Ormiston Academy. The college specialises in Creative, Digital and Performing Arts.

What has your experience of BOA (Birmingham Ormiston Academy) been like so far?

I absolutely love it! I am so happy to be studying a subject I love. I have made so many friends! Everyone has the same interests as you at BOA and that's what makes it so special. The teachers are so supportive and inspiring. The talent at BOA is insane...

What course are you currently studying and how many days do you attend?

At BOA I am working towards the BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Musical Theatre. I am there on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

What are the lessons like at BOA?

The lessons are so fun and engaging! It is so interesting to learn about Musical Theatre. The main focus in Musical Theatre is acting, singing and dance. In acting we explore scripts and monologues, in dance we work on technique and performance, in singing we learn about the voice. I am also attending private singing lessons at BOA which really helps! Since being at BOA, I have improved so much in all three disciplines and have gained so much confidence.

What surprised you about life at college?

It is so busy! There are so many people at BOA that are all very very talented. Before attending BOA I was really nervous that I wouldn't fit in but everyone is so friendly. I like the fact that people accept you for who you are at BOA and that means a lot to me.

What did you worry about that you shouldn't have been worried about?

Before attending BOA I was so worried about meeting new people but everyone is so lovely and fun to be around. There is never a dull moment at BOA! Everyone has so much energy and such passion for their chosen course.

What was the biggest change for you?

Definitely the work load! As well as all the practical work in Musical Theatre, there is a lot of written work too. The written work however is quite interesting as we get to research about different shows and performers!

What's the best bit about studying at college?

I feel so safe studying at BOA and know that if I have any problems, there are teachers I could go to for help. The facilities are amazing! They also own a theatre in Birmingham that we have the chance to perform in. One of the best things about BOA is the uniform as it's so comfy! Travelling to Birmingham everyday in joggers and hoodie is so cool.

What are you most looking forward to?

I am most looking forward to going to New York with BOA to see some shows! I am also looking forward to progressing in acting, signing, dancing and achieve the skills I need to succeed in the performing arts industry.

How did coming to the Hospital Education Service make a difference in your life?

Before attending the annexe I was lost. I had no friends and no support whatsoever. As soon as I went to visit the annexe for the first time I felt at home. All the teachers couldn't do enough for me! I wouldn't have gotten through my last years at school without their support. I have made life long friends that are so understanding and relatable. Looking back, the time I spent at the annexe were the happiest years of my whole school life! I am forever grateful for their support.

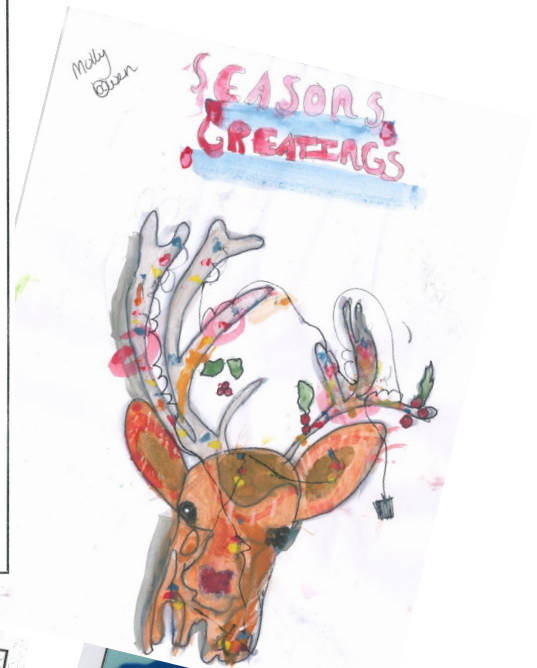
What Mum thinks of Katie's transition to BOA:

I was very apprehensive when Katie wanted to audition for BOA. My main concern was the travelling and work load. But Katie has coped so well with the transition and all the changes. She enjoys the train journey and sometimes works on her laptop. Katie is now thriving and has grown in confidence. I want to add that HES supported Katie with transition by helping her with the paperwork, listening to her worries and encouraging her to chase her dream. We are very proud.



Winter Card Competition

During their hospital stay, pupils of all ages have been given the opportunity to design a 'Winter Greetings' card for use by the Hospital Education Service this Christmas. The winners will be announced on Wednesday 16th December and will be notified by post. All winners will receive ten blank professionally printed copies of their design to send to family and friends. They will also receive a 'Love to Shop' voucher for £5 in recognition of their creative talents. Thank you to everyone who took part and congratulations to our winners. Merry Christmas!



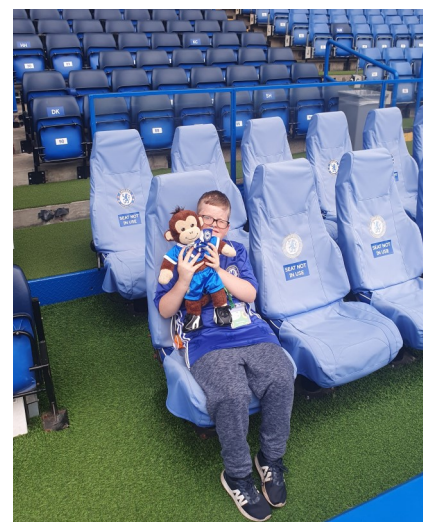
Chelsea F.C makes Home Tuition Pupil dream come true

One very special young man in year 7 was the recipient of a letter from Chelsea F.C. congratulating him on his effort in lessons and even got the amazing accolade of 'Super Fan'. Elijah in year 7 has been working with Mrs Palmer and his determination and attitude in lessons have given him the best present for Christmas with the letter from his favourite football club.

Elijah's mum Mrs Leese has thanked Mrs Palmer for her support with Elijah adding "I want to say how absolutely amazing Mrs Palmer is. I can't put in words the care and attention she has given to Elijah each week. We have never seen him so engaged with his learning ever!!! She has him each week wanting to be taught and he really enjoys his lessons and I think he is actually learning. I mean talk about above and beyond she actually got a letter from Chelsea!!!! She needs a gold star for sure. "Elijah gave Mrs Palmer a thumbs up "I like Mrs Palmer she makes me like my lessons". (Mum has shared picture of Elijah on a visit to Stamford Bridge).

Head of Innovation and Education, Sam Gaskin-Kamp added words of inspiration for Elijah 'Remember to believe in yourself, always do your best and when things get tough use the Chelsea players to help inspire you especially the club captain Cesar Azpilicueta and our manager 'the legend Frank Lampard' as you described him in your own words.'

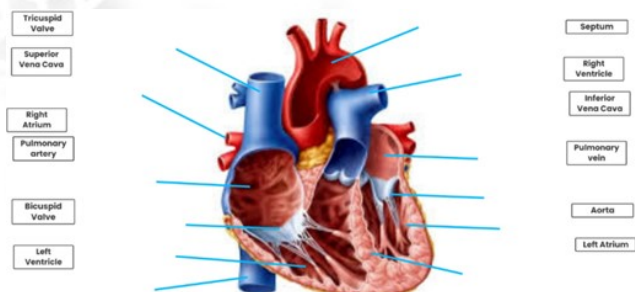
Well done to Elijah on this amazing achievement and thank you to Mrs Palmer for making a dream come true.



Seesaw App sees Student engagement go up

At HES we want to make sure that all pupils have the chance to access learning, whatever and wherever their situation.

Seesaw is a free app that can be downloaded to your phone, computer or tablet and is a way for teachers and pupils to communicate and share learning activities. At HES we have been trialling it with some of our pupils with great success. It is very visual and can be forwarded securely to a pupil's next school as a record of their learning. Pupils can continue their learning at home and upload their activities for the teacher to mark or comment on. Pupils can also choose to voice record their answers rather than writing them. It can be used with pupils from early years right the way up to year 11. If you have used this app previously make sure you let your teacher know!



Mrs Conway Welcomes Her New Bundle of Joy!

Mrs Conway, our English Teacher, announced the safe arrival of a beautiful baby girl on Wednesday 7th October. Mrs Conway's two daughters are delighted to welcome baby Orla as their new little sister and are helping their mummy to look after her.

All staff and pupils at HES send their congratulations to Mrs Conway and her family on their wonderful news. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Conway back to school next summer.



Face Masks FTW (For the Win)

Our very own wonderful 'Mary Poppins' Mrs Dye created magic with pupils at Whitmore Park Annexe creating amazing face masks for pupils to use and gift to family. With the rise in use of face masks due to coronavirus the session allowed pupils to have a go on sewing machines and find their inner seamstress abilities. Below are a selection of photos from the event. Well done to all pupils that took part and thank you to Mrs Poppins I mean Mrs Dye for arranging this for our wonderful pupils.



ACT advice helps pupils on finding their 'DNA'

ACT (Acceptance and Commitment Therapy) is supporting students to write their own handbook for life and improve psychological flexibility by identifying their basic building blocks of "Discoverer", "Noticer" and "Advisor", which equip them to do what they care about even when having difficult thoughts and feelings. Pupils this term have been learning all about their own "DNA", but not in the traditional scientific sense but the essential skills that will help them to thrive. Mrs Stringer has been working alongside Mrs Griffin to deliver workshops and mentoring sessions to pupils and will be looking to build on the successes in the coming academic year. Watch this head space!



Half-term Highlights shares events and activities that pupils at the Hospital Education Service have been involved in. If there is something that needs correcting or you would like to make a suggestions about what you would like to see in our newsletter please contact Mr Takolia.