

# Winter Term Highlights

Hospital Education Service - Building Bridges to Brighter Futures



School Newsletter

Edition 12  
December 2022

## Message from the Head Teacher

We have come to the end of a long term and the whole school community is looking forward to a well-earned rest. The prospect of Christmas cheers us and lifts our spirits away from the cold, dark and depressing weather of the season.

Our spirits have not been dampened at the Hospital Education Service however. This term has seemed busier than ever. We have welcomed visitors from Coventry College, the Apprenticeships Team and the Police Cadets. Pupils have also enjoyed theatre trips to see 'An Inspector Calls' and 'A Christmas Carol' as well as outings to Bletchley Park and Brandon Marsh.

As the term draws to a close, I would like to thank all of the staff and governors at the Hospital Education Service for their continued tremendous hard work and commitment to our pupils. Likewise, we the staff and governors would like to thank all parents, carers and pupils for all your support. Without you, there is no us.

I wish everyone a safe and peaceful festive season. See you next year!

*Mrs Cutler*

## Important Dates

Teacher Training Day	Tuesday 3rd January
Coventry University Discovery Day	Friday 20th January
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 7th February
Half Term	Mon 20th Feb—Fri 24th Feb
World Book Day	Thursday 2nd March
Last day of Spring Term	Friday 31st March 2023
<i>Further events will be notified to Parents via our HES Admin Email.</i>	

## Building works off the ground for Whitmore Park Annexe

Visitors to Whitmore Park Annexe will have noticed a few changes around the site from the start of term back in September. We are currently having an upgrade to the bathroom areas which will include new toilets and a locker area for pupils to store their belongings when they come to school. As of December the external walls have been built and the next stage will include fitting windows and completing internal works. We are hoping by the next newsletter we will have a fully completed extension to our building.

Over the summer, a new path has been laid that circles the entire Whitmore Park Annexe building. The path will make it easier for pupils to access classrooms without having to go through the main foyer which can get busy at times. It will also support pupils to evacuate the building easily without the need to walk over uneven ground and grassy areas.

We are in the process of creating new spaces inside the building, including a new wellbeing room, that will be designed by pupils to support them for meetings and as a breakout area. The old ICT cupboard which has been used as a store will also be developed into a new one to one working space.

Keep an eye out and we always welcome feedback about improvements.



## Bletchley Park Visit is a Cracking Visit for Pupils from HES.

On Tuesday 1st November, pupils from across Hospital Education Service visited Bletchley Park, the once top-secret home of the World War II codebreakers. We began our day with a tour of the site, discovering how messages were received at the coast before being transported by motorbike, through dark country roads, to the codebreaking teams in the huts at Bletchley Park. We were able to see the Bombe machine, the electro-mechanical device designed by Alan Turing, to accelerate the deciphering of messages sent through the enigma machines. We then participated in a codebreaking workshop where we were taught how to use morse code, an enigma machine and how both were utilised as part of Operation Neptune, most commonly known as the D-Day landings.

After lunch, we enjoyed some free time to explore the site; the Bletchley Mansion was a popular choice and we all enjoyed seeing the inside of the magnificent building. We also took some time to visit the huts, where teams of codebreakers would have been working shifts covering 24 hours of the day, and enjoyed some time being outside in the beautiful grounds.

For further information on Bletchley Park and its historical significance, visit: <https://bletchleypark.org.uk/>

Mrs Dye, Subject Leader for Maths.



## Police Cadets Workshop Captures Pupils' Imagination



Pupils from Whitmore Park Annexe were invited to take part in a workshop to understand the work of the Police Cadets - a lesser known part of the amazing work the police do. The Police Cadets is a volunteering opportunity for young people to develop life skills and in turn support their local community.

Chloe Parkes from Police Cadets took pupils through the role of a police cadets and the exciting work that they do. This includes training young people to take on activities that support the work of the police. Chloe spoke about how opportunities were offered for young people to support the Police at the BBC Big Weekend, Godiva Festival and other major events. Cadets also trained on supporting officers with speed monitoring, locating illegal items using metal detectors and much more.

The workshop also gave pupils an experience of teambuilding activities that Police Cadets would partake in. The 'Move the Blanket' activity was great as it brought pupils and staff together to understand the meaning of working collaboratively and how this is crucial to the work of police. The 'Speed Gun' activity really captured pupils' attention. One pupil managed to register a speed of a whopping 16mph on the speed gun. There's no stopping you Maison!

The session was enjoyed by all and we will definitely be looking to put on more activities of this kind in the new year.



## Brandon Marsh Visits

During the first half term, the students worked really hard at tending our gardens and making bird feeders to attract a greater variety of birds to our outdoor learning space. We have noticed more butterflies and moths in our garden due to the wildlife meadow we have been cultivating.

The six tree saplings we planted are surviving, but had a difficult start because of the summer drought. We are hoping they will continue to live and start flourishing.

In November and December, we have been visiting Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve on Wednesday afternoons, which has proved a real tonic for the students' mental and physical well-being (also for the accompanying staff). The programme has been tailored to the students' interests and we have walked around large areas of the site wildlife spotting. We've built dens and thought about survival in a wilderness, we've strung up hammocks and relaxed amongst the trees and we've taken lots of photographs of the winter woodlands. A really enjoyable afternoon for everyone. And many thanks to the team from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust for hosting us.

## Dog Treats have Teachers Growling for More

In the lead up to the Christmas Holidays, Mrs Edgar and Lacey have been busy putting treats together for our staff's furry friends at home. At this time of year, we often forget our dogs like gifts too and the dog biscuits will be a welcomed treat for our loyal friends at home.

The mixture included flour, oats, and peanut butter which Lacey mixed to form the dough. After rolling out the dough, she used a star cutter to make her biscuits shapes. Once cooked, the biscuits were bagged up and handed to staff and pupils at HES who were thoroughly impressed at the gift bags. Well done to Lacey on this wonderful gesture.



## Our Values Rebranded Across Hospital Education Service

Mrs Sykes, our school co-ordinator for British Values, has been working hard behind the scenes on rebranding our schools British Values strategy. The rebranding has included a new logo created by our school community and is now even more reflective of values we espouse in our society.

The rebrand has been put in place to make it easier for pupils and our school community to understand British Values and what they mean to us. Mrs Sykes has plans to dedicate a section of our school website to these values and continue to embed them across all aspects of our school life.



## Tie Dye T-Shirts Brought to Life by Art Pupils



Pupils were asked to showcase their Art skills and marry them with fashion to create their own t-shirts. Pupils used tie dye to create t-shirt designs that have been popular this year.

Our year 10 and 11 pupils were impressed with the final products and many were excited at the chance to wear a product they made themselves.

Ms Griffin commented on how they great they looked and I'm sure they will look great in the summer! However such stylish designs should be worn all year round!

# Updates from the Hospital School

At the start of the autumn term, we welcomed our new Secondary teaching assistant, Mrs Read to the UHCW school team. She has been a wonderful addition, providing continuity and support for young people on the wards and aiding the smooth running of our service.

The addition of Mrs Read enabled our long-serving, much-loved teaching assistant, Mrs McDonald to focus entirely on Primary. This has been invaluable as numbers of primary aged pupils have been consistently very high throughout the term. Indeed, numbers were so high that an additional ward was opened for several weeks to accommodate the patients. We have had several regular and long-stay pupils in, all of whom have worked hard in their learning, keeping pace with their peers in school. The classroom has seen a wide variety of learning taking place, from Science experiments involving solubility and electrical circuits, to projects about Andy Warhol, newspaper reports and a wealth of art activities.

We have enjoyed many themed days and weeks, with fewer infection control restrictions allowing a full return to pirate garb for Pirate Week and spots and ears for Children in Need.

Following the success of the Primary book trolley, we introduced a Secondary book trolley onto the wards. This has enabled pupils to read for pleasure at the start of each afternoon, choosing from a wide selection of books and magazines. To date, the most popular books are 'The Guinness World Records 2022', 'Match – Football Skills', the Tom Gates series and 'Toilets of the World'!

Our liaison with staff from the hospital, local schools, Warwick University, supportive organisations and charities continues to benefit inpatients. Having implemented many ideas gained from hospital teachers' previous visits to Sherbourne Fields, I will be returning to the school again in the new year to observe a variety of ways of working with pupils with SEND. I am grateful to the charities 'Read for Good' and 'Listening Books' for their provision of books and tablets for children to use. National Geographic have been generous in their provision of several monthly subscriptions to their magazine and Warwick University has provided us with some Christmas resources for upper primary.

The success of our hospital school is the result of teamwork. Thank you to everyone for their unwavering dedication and I wish you all a wonderful Christmas!





## Reviews from Theatre Trips this Term

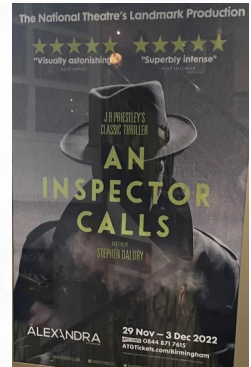
Here at the Hospital Education Service, we are keen to link learning with Educational Visits. We have caught up with pupils and teachers to get their reviews on productions they have seen this term. All productions are rated out of 5 stars.

### ***An Inspector Calls - Pupils are Wowed by the Experience***



A small group of WPA students attended a performance of J.B. Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls' on Thursday 1st December at The Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham. The unique take on the play was great to watch and really helped students' understanding of characters, themes and stage-craft.

One student commented 'I really understand the play now' and another 'loved the way Inspector Goole was Scottish as it added to his character.' There were several gasps from the audience at the dramatic moments. Students were an absolute credit to our school during the performance and coped remarkably well with the long journey to Birmingham. Well done!



Mrs Conway

### ***Ghostbusters: Afterlife - 'A real back to life performance'***



As part of the Into Film Festival 2022, pupils across the country were invited to watch screenings of popular new releases at the cinema. Here at HES pupils opted to see 'Ghostbusters: Afterlife' and were quaking in their boots in anticipation. The screening at the Odeon in Coventry offered pupils a great opportunity to enjoy the amazing cinematography that can only be experienced in a movie theatre.

The movie is brought to life through the grandchildren of the original ghostbusters who discover the secret legacy they left behind and suddenly find themselves in need of a bit of ghoul busting themselves.

Pupil came back raving about the movie and rated it highly. Thank you to Mrs Dye and Jon for supporting our pupils.

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## HES delivers Sweet Donations to City Residents and Macmillan

This term HES pupils and staff have been busy supporting three charities in the lead up to Christmas.

In September, we started with Macmillan Coffee Morning and supporting the wonderful work this charity does in supporting people and their families who are living with cancer. Pupil Ambassadors hosted a coffee morning for staff and raised £65.26 for their efforts. Well done to our pupils for this great achievement.

In the run up to Christmas we have been busy collecting for Coventry Cyrenians and the Coventry Foodbank. Both charities work with vulnerable people in Coventry and have seen a huge demand following the cost of living crisis that is affecting many families. We raised two boxes full and sent them across in time for Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our appeals this term and we look forward to continuing our support of local charities in 2023!



# Festive T-Shirt Competition

Over the last few weeks, the Hospital Education Service has run its annual Festive T-Shirt competition inviting pupils to design a t-shirt. The lucky winners have had their very own artwork turned into a piece of fashionwear. The competition was open to pupils from Primary all the way up to Secondary. We had lots of entries and have been impressed with the level of artwork designs submitted. Below are a selection of winning entries who will have their t-shirts in time for the festive period.



Merry  
Christmas! friends and family.





# Seasonal Self-Care

There is a lot of joy and happiness associated with the festive season, but for some it may not always be a positive time. The shorter days, colder temperatures and the pressures associated with this time of year can impact many people, adults and young people alike.

Here are some of our top tips for taking care of your wellbeing this festive period.

## 1. Spend time alone

Sometimes it can feel like there is a lot of pressure during the holidays to entertain your loved ones and participate in games and discussions. Don't forget that it is always okay to take some time, relax, and do something just for you.

## 2. Spend time with supportive people

Whether it's a loved one or a volunteer, we all need someone to support us when we are low. Follow your instincts; if you can relax and be yourself with them, chances are they are supportive.

## 3. Sleep

Sleep is often one of the first things to slip when we are busy, stressed, or anxious. If you can, think of the holidays as a chance to recharge your batteries and get your energy back up for the new year. You deserve a lie-in!

## 4. Sharing our feelings

We understand that, for lots and lots of people, the holidays are a really difficult time. The 'merry' Christmas we all wish for each other isn't always a reality, so, if you feel like crying, that is totally fine. Sometimes this feels much better than hiding how you really feel.

## 5. Self-talk

Positive self-talk can help us feel more confident and challenge the negative thoughts that harm us. For example, if you feel self-critical, think about how you would reassure a friend in a similar situation, then apply that to yourself.

## 6. Seeking help

Remember, if you need help then you deserve to get it. Asking for help when you need it is a really brave step and an important part of self-care.

## 7. Being Mindful

It can be difficult at times to read emotions of other people. We all portray in different ways and it is important we understand that we may need time outs and other people may need space. Be alert to picking up signs and 'Be Mindful'.

# Support you can contact

	116123	Free 24 Hours Confidential Helpline
	0800 1111	Free helpline 9am- midnight for children & young people in danger and access to the website 24 hours a day
	<u>Text:</u> Coventry 07507 331949 Warwickshire 07507 331525	for 11-19 year olds (Monday- Friday 9am-5pm including school holidays)
	Text YM to 85258 for support	24/7 support
	Call 0808 808 4994	4pm-11pm 7 days a week. Or TEXT The Mix to 85258 24 hours 7 days a week.
<p>In case of an out-of-hours emergency, contact an out-of-hours GP on 111 or visit a local Accident &amp; Emergency Department.</p>		

## Further Education Open Days

As we approach the new year, here at Hospital Education Service we will be looking to support pupils with visits to Colleges. Colleges /Further Education settings hold open days throughout the year which provide a fantastic opportunity to see the facilities available for pupils as potential post 16 destinations. You can find further information on the organisations' websites.



Warwickshire College Group

- Leamington Spa College - Tues 31 January, 5.30-8pm
- Warwick Trident College - Thurs 2 February, 5.30-7.30pm
- Moreton Morrell College - Sat 4 February, 10-1pm
- Rugby College - Tues 7 February, 5.30-8pm
- Evesham College - Thurs 9 February, 5.30-7.30pm
- Pershore College - Sat 11 February, 10-1pm



Wed January 25, 2023 5:00 - 7:00pm



Nuneaton Campus, Harrowbrook Campus & MIRA Technology Institute

Thurs 9th February 5:00 - 8:00pm

*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.*