

# Spring Term Highlights

Hospital Education Service - Building Bridges to Brighter Futures



School Newsletter

Edition 13  
March 2023

## 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. And what better time of year to have some time to reflect on our successes, recharge our batteries and prepare for the term ahead?

Together with lighter mornings and evenings and blossoming flowers around the school and hospital sites, there has been so much to be cheerful about across the Hospital Education Service. Students have enjoyed visits to the Sealife Centre, The Police Museum, Leamington College, Moreton Morrell and have been treated to a performance of 'Romeo and Juliet'.

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 dedication and commitment to all of our learners. Likewise we, the staff and governors, would like to thank our parents, carers and pupils for your hard work, patience and support.

Enjoy time with your family and friends and we look forward to welcoming you back when we re-open on Tuesday 18th April.

*Mrs Cutler*

## Fond Farewell to Mrs Conway

We will sadly be saying goodbye to Mrs Conway, our Lead Teacher for English, at the end of this term. Mrs Conway joined us from Corley Centre and transformed the English Curriculum for our pupils across the Hospital Education Service.

Mrs Conway started with us back in 2019 and launched the creative curriculum in the Inspire Classroom. The curriculum was based on engaging learners using creative activities and to fill gaps in pupils' learning following disruption to their education.

A fond champion of performing arts, Mrs Conway regularly arranged for visits to the theatre and pupils had the opportunity to bring their cultural experiences into their classroom studies. Over the years pupils have benefitted from performances of 'Blood Brothers', 'Macbeth', 'An Inspector Calls' and festive productions including 'A Christmas Carol'.

Mrs Conway will not be leaving the Coventry Council family as she takes on her new role as an Assistant Headteacher for the Coventry Extended Learning Centre in the Summer Term.

Holding back the tears Mrs Conway spoke about her time with us. "I have really loved my time at the Hospital Education Service; it is the most wonderful place to work. I will miss pupils and staff and wish everyone the best for the future." We will sorely miss you too and wish you continued success in your new role.



## Important Dates

Teacher Training Day	Monday 17th April
Parent Consultation Afternoon	Wednesday 26th April
May Day Holiday	Monday 1st May
Kings Coronation Bank Holiday	Monday 8th May
Half term	Monday 29th May— Fri 2nd June
Summer Holidays Start	Monday 24th July
Further events will be notified to Parents via our HES Admin Email.	





# WEEK 2023

In March, secondary students across all three strands of the Hospital Education Service took part in the first ever NAHE (National Association for Hospital Education) Maths week, open to students accessing hospital schools across the country.

Activities covered numeracy, geometry, logic, probability and codebreaking. Activities were designed and shared by maths teachers in the NAHE network and collated by teachers at Great Ormond Street Hospital. We are such a unique service and it is wonderful to be able to make that connection and know that there are other schools like ours.

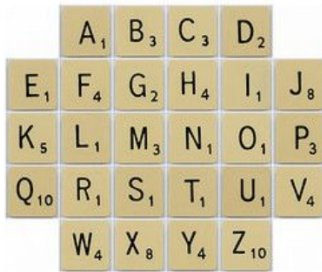
Pupils used their skills from the Autumn Term when they visited Bletchley Park to crack the maths puzzles designed by Maths Teachers from across the country. We were super proud of our pupils and the way they used their analytical skills to decipher very challenging activities.

Pupils can still access puzzles via: <https://sites.google.com/gosh.camden.sch.uk/maths-week-test/home>

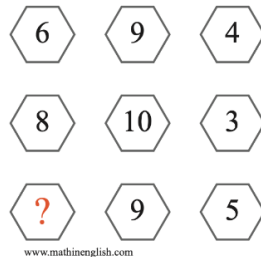
If you do access the site, let your Maths teacher know how you have got on and Good Luck!

## Scrabble Maths!

What is the highest scoring maths word you can create?



Which number completes the pattern ?



**Mrs Dye, Lead Teacher for Mathematics**

x					
	A	10		20	
	15	B	40		
	18		C	60	
		20		D	24
			56		E

## CW Mind - Family Fun Day



On Saturday 27th May CW Mind will be hosting a Family Fun Day at the Coventry Rugby Club.

The Fun Day will have a range of activities available including bouncy castles, outdoor games, disco, crafts and so much more.

Tickets are priced at £8 Adults and £7 for Children. All tickets include a free packed lunch.

Tickets can be purchased online or via the QR Code:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/family-fun-day-tickets-567904105467>





## British Science Week sees a Wave of Activity for Pupils

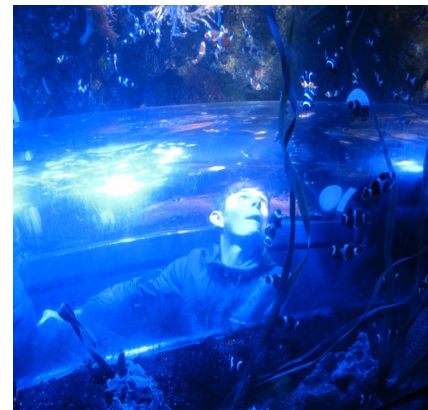
To celebrate British Science Week, pupils from HES visited the National Sea Life Centre - Birmingham. This was the perfect opportunity to enrich our learning of Biology. We were able to explore habitats, food chains, adaptation, communities, competition, biodiversity and conservation all whilst observing the animals.

When we arrived at the Sea Life Centre we were invited to touch a living starfish. Some of our pupils were brave enough to feel the rough, hard starfish and one pupil described this a highlight of the trip.

We walked through the UK's only 360° tunnel where we marvelled at sharks, giant turtles and rays. We watched the UK's first sea otters – Ozzy and Ola at feeding time and observed penguins in their icy habitat. It was fascinating to see these creatures close up and we could observe and describe how these animals having adapted to survive in their environment.

A fantastic time was had by all and pupils described it as a really positive experience despite having to do a little bit of work! According to our pupils the highlights of the day were: the sharks, nemo, starfish, jelly fish and a special meet and greet from Peppa pig.

*Mrs Glenn, Lead Science Teacher*



## Internet Safety Day celebrated at Hospital Education Service

As a service, we highlight the importance of Online Safety throughout the academic year and shine a spotlight on Internet Safety Day to raise awareness of staying safe online. We had a range of activities going on across the week that included an online quiz, a new online safety website and the tutorial programme which was devoted to this important topic.

This year we launched our Online Safety Pupil Site which has tailored information for our pupils to access on how to stay safe online. Research from the UK Safer Internet Centre reports that 69% of 8 to 17 years olds think online safety lessons help them know who to talk to at school with online issues and questions. We want to make sure all pupils have access to support when they need it and verified information and guidance to support their understanding of the online world.

Pupils can check out our NEW online safety site via our CELCHES portal. Parent/Carers will have access to online safety information via the Parent Zone on the school website.



Find out more and get involved

**Safer Internet Day –  
7th February 2023**

# Updates from the Hospital School

Children and young people at UHCW have celebrated and marked a wealth of different celebrations and special days this term. The Chinese New Year, Martin Luther King Day, World Book Day and National Careers Week are just a few of these. Science and Maths Weeks were well received, with Secondary students engaging in themed starters during the relevant weeks.

I was delighted to visit Sherbourne Fields School again in February, working with children in a variety of classes and speaking with staff. I am thankful to everyone for making me feel so welcome and for allowing me to learn from their expertise. I gained ideas for the continuing development of our provision at UHCW for pupils who attend special provision. Subsequently, I created a sensory story with a spring theme to use with pupils with profound & multiple learning disabilities.



One of our regular pupils designing and making a Mothers' Day card.



Chinese New Year fan

***Mrs Morshead - Lead Teacher Hospital School***

## Hospital School Website better reflects the Education Offer available.

Over the Spring Term Mrs Morshead and Mr Takolia have been working hard behind the scenes making improvements to the Hospital School pages on our website. The Hospital School based at UHCW is a valuable statutory element of our service and plays a vital role in minimising the disruption to learning experienced by children who are unwell and require hospital treatment.

The updated pages give a broad overview of the offer available to pupils who are admitted to Wards 14, 15 and 16 at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire.

The webpage includes staff information and a picture of our permanent Hospital School team including Mrs Morshead, Mrs Clews and our teaching assistants Mrs Macdonald and Mrs Read. Should your child ever need to be admitted to the Children's Ward a UHCW, these are some of the friendly faces they will encounter during their stay.

You can find further information via:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/hospital-education-service/hospital-education-service-1>

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## Hospital School Staff Team

Our Staff team for the Hospital School based at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire:

### Primary Team

- **Lead Teacher/Primary:** Mrs Morshead
- **Teaching Assistant:** Mrs McDonald
- **Primary Teacher -** Mrs Clews





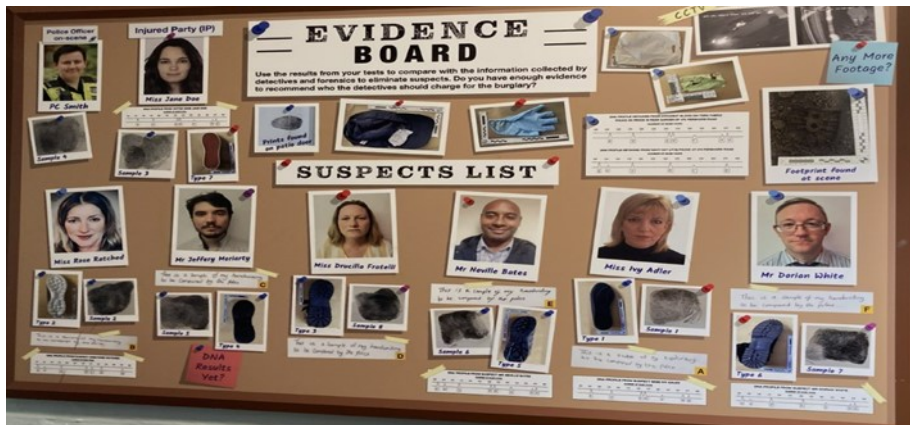
## Police Museum Visit is a Blueprint for Success

On the 31<sup>st</sup> January a group of Year 9 and 10 Inspire History students visited the Birmingham Police Museum with Mrs Sykes and Mr Green. The Museum is located in central Birmingham right next to the Children's Hospital. The Museum was built in the 1891 in the Victorian Period and was in fact an actual working prison which housed inmates right up until 2016!

During the visit we were able to see and handle real policing artefacts from policing in WW2 including helmets, rationing books, original police orders and gas masks.



We took part in a criminal investigation task where we had to examine clues including finger prints, handwriting, shoe markings and DNA. We then had to decide who we thought the perpetrator of the crime was based on the evidence we collected.



We had a tour of the museum, where we got to sit in both Victorian cells and modern day cells. At one point the lights were turned off and we sat in the pitch black so that we could experience the darkness of a real Victorian cell!

They also had 'smell' boxes where you could smell what it would have been like in a cell- this really wasn't very pleasant!

We looked at some of the old punishment methods such as 'birching' and also saw original mugshot documentation of Victorian Prisoners!

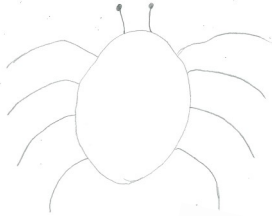


Overall it was a really interesting experience and a lot of the content matched to our History topic on 'Crime and Punishment' which we were studying in class. Overall, a fantastic day was had by all.

**Mrs Sykes - Lead Teacher for History**

# Pet Portraits

Pupils across the Hospital Education Service were invited to use their artistic skills to create a Pet Portrait. Pupils had the option to draw, collage, paint or use digital media to create a portrait of their own pet or one they wish they could have. We were very impressed with the range of pets and the variety of methods used to present their furry, hairy and scaly heroes! Well done to everyone who took part and we will be showcasing all pieces in our Pet Gallery at WPA in the Summer Term!





# Spotlight on Wellbeing



As many students are preparing for tests and exams in the summer term, media reports focus on the stress and anxiety that some students can feel at this time. For some, the effects of stress can be minor or even positive but research suggests that one in seven students can feel highly anxious about tests. Here at Whitmore Park Annexe we have been working hard to tackle the concerns and worries our students will be experiencing in the run up to their GCSEs.

Tackling this common issue forms a critical element of our wellbeing curriculum, particularly as many of our students have a shared tendency towards heightened anxiety at key assessment points. This term, students have been invited to take part in a series of sessions to help them understand some important facts about exam stress and anxiety, whilst sharing some simple ways that it can be effectively managed.

The STEPS programme (Strategies to Tackle Exam Pressure and Stress) has been developed by Professor David Putwain at Liverpool John Moore's University and successfully delivered in a variety of mainstream and alternative education settings, such as ours. This term, students in our Aspire classroom have discussed what it feels like to experience exam anxiety and how we can recognise the signs. We have also delved into the ways we can challenge negative thinking by using positive self-talk whilst exploring some useful strategies to help us feel calmer in particularly stressful situations.

The strategies covered so far seem to have had a positive impact during the most recent 'exam practice' fortnight. Students were able to recognise those familiar negative thoughts and have been really stepping up (no pun intended!) to the challenge with some fabulous successes! There has been a wonderfully supportive atmosphere amongst those students who are able to attend our weekly sessions – I want to congratulate them being open to try things outside of their comfort zone.

When we return after the Easter break, supporting students during revision season will be one of our key priorities. During our remaining STEPS sessions, we will be investigating some of the best ways to plan and approach revision, talking about how to get motivated and the benefits of visualisation, with the hope they will understand what strategies work best for them.

Working towards exams can create lots of feelings of worry and being under pressure, however we hope with these sessions, pupils will feel they are more prepared to successfully tackle their summer exams.

*Mrs Stringer*

**Mental Health & Wellbeing Lead**

## New English Teacher Mrs Saffrey joins Hospital Education Service

From the Summer Term we will be welcoming Mrs Saffrey to our school as Lead Teacher for English. Mrs Saffrey comes to us with a wealth of experience teaching English and Drama.

We are sure she is excited to join us, and is looking forward to meeting all her new pupils soon. Watch out for the next Newsletter as we will report how she has got on in her first full term with us.



## Coventry HAF Programme now open for Bookings



Bookings are now open for 80 amazing free activities this Easter school holiday (between 31 March and 16 April) – all with free food provided.

Bookings must be completed via the Coventry Council Website using your unique code. If you require any support with this please contact the school office.

# 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
	Kooth.com	Free, anonymous, online counselling, advice and support for 11-25 year olds
	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</p> <p>or visit a local Accident &amp; Emergency Department.</p>		