



HOSPITAL EDUCATION SERVICE AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

ISSUE 15

KEY DATES

**SAVE
THE DATE**

Start of Term

Monday 8th January

Art Competition Launch

Monday 15th January

Teacher Training day

Wednesday 17th January

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 6th February

Holocaust Museum Trip

Wednesday 7th February

Half Term Week starts

Monday 12th February

Work Experience Week

Monday 11th – 15th March

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

I want to congratulate our staff and pupils for making it to the end of arguably the longest Winter term in school history! The last 16 weeks have been long, but incredibly productive and enjoyable for all of us at the Hospital Education Service. Now however, the whole school community is looking forward to a well-earned rest and spending time with our family and friends.

When the holiday comes, why don't you put your feet up with your child and enjoy reading through some of the amazing events and activities they have been able to participate in this term? It has certainly been one of our busiest! We have welcomed visitors from Coventry College, the Apprenticeships Team and the West Midlands Police. Pupils have also enjoyed a theatre trip to see 'Oliver Twist' as well as outings to Bletchley Park, Coventry's religious sites and the Canal Basin for canoeing.

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.

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

Mrs Cutler

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

You will have read in the news that school absence is at a record high following the pandemic.

At the Hospital Education Service, we recognise more than most, the impact that poor health can have on attendance.

I want to thank all of our parents and carers for your support in working with us to improve your child's attendance by reducing barriers and sharing the positive messaging around the importance of regular attendance on achieving positive outcomes.

Our percentage of persistent absence has reduced from 69% last year to 39% this term alone as a result of your support.

Please remember to contact hesadmin@coventry.gov.uk or phone us on 0247 337734, to report your child's absence.



PUPILS BUY INTO ENTERPRISE WEEK

We have all heard of the Dragons' Den and The Apprenticeship but there is no greater challenge (In our opinion!) than the one we have set our pupils for Enterprise week this year.

Enterprise week is an opportunity for pupils to come together and really polish their entrepreneurial prowess by creating products they can sell. This year, pupils decided they would like to create a variety of items that would sell well at the school Christmas Fair. The most popular designs include tote bags, festive stockings and handmade Christmas figures. With our new sublimation printer and heat press, pupils have been getting to grips with making high-quality handcrafted products.

It has been hard work behind the scenes providing a helpful insight into what it takes to succeed in the world of business. From designing to production, everyone has had an active role and we look forward to displaying our merchandise at the school Christmas Fair.

There will be other opportunities throughout the academic year for pupils to develop their enterprise skills- Watch this space(or should we say watch this marketplace)!



RELIGIOUS SITES VISIT ENLIGHTENS PUPILS

With Coventry known as the city of Peace and Reconciliation, pupils from Whitmore Park Annexe were invited to a multiple site visit taking in the rich religious landscape right here on our doorstep in Coventry. Pupils visited a Mosque, Gurdwara, Hindu Temple and Coventry Cathedral and were given a personal tour of the facilities with valuable insights into how different faiths are practised. Pupils really enjoyed seeing the beautiful architecture of different places of worship and recognising the sacred symbols they had learnt about in school. We received a very warm welcome from all the places we visited and relished having quiet time to reflect during the day.

When asked about the day, one of our pupils shared, "We visited a Mosque, a Hindu temple, a Gurdwara and the city's Cathedral. I enjoyed exploring different places and learning about different religious practices. Everyone we met was very kind and informative. I learned a lot of facts about religious groups in Coventry, including Hindus, Sikhs, and Muslims. It was also interesting to compare how unique each building was, both visually and in how they operate. There were similarities between the sites, like having to take your shoes off and how people are encouraged to worship together as a group."

Thank you to Ms Dhillon for arranging the visit.



RIAN'S TOAST CHALLENGE SPREADS JOY!

Coventry has its fair share of legends from Philip Larkin to James Starley. There have been some wonderful homegrown talents that have had an impact on the city we all love. Our latest homegrown talent goes by the name of Rian Dodd. In March of Year 6, Rian was diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma. Since then, he has undergone two amputations and nine rounds of chemotherapy. Despite this, Rian has been a real ray of sunshine and our teachers at the Hospital Education Service have been mightily impressed by his energy and determination to succeed.

Since starting with HES, Rian has not only taken the school by storm, but the city too. His very own 'Toast Challenge' has gone viral with the BBC Presenter Phil Upton and even players from Coventry City Football Club spreading the word! Phil Upton was over the moon with his new t-shirt that Rian designed and made with the help of the service's new heat press.

Rian has been raising funds for his dream to visit the Super Nintendo World in America and has already smashed his fundraising target. We don't expect anything less from our very own celebrity! We will be asking Rian to join us soon for an assembly to tell us all about his inspirational journey! Keep an eye out for further information!



NEW PUPIL POSTCARDS ARE SORTED FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR

Every year we ask pupils to design a Positive Postcard that teachers and staff across the service can use to send to pupils' parents in recognition of their child's hard work or achievement. Previous years' entries have been wonderful, and this year did not disappoint. The postcard competition was open to all pupils and we received exceptional designs from some of our very own talented artists. Here are just a few of the designs from this year's submissions. Have you received one yet?



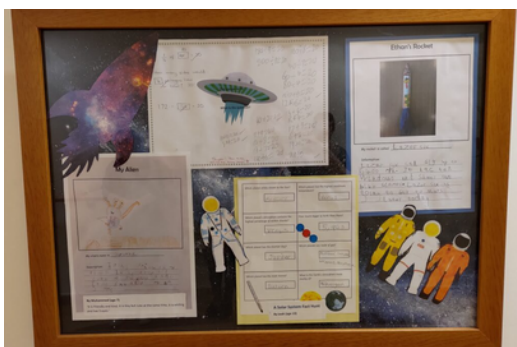
HOSPITAL SCHOOL LAUNCHES DISPLAY FOR WORLD SPACE WEEK

From the 4th - 10th October, pupils across the country celebrated World Space Week (WSW). WSW is an international celebration of science and technology, in recognition of our contribution to the betterment of the human condition. Did you know that WSW was introduced by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999 and has gone from strength to strength. In the famous words of Neil Armstrong the celebration has certainly felt like 'one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind'

Pupils on the wards at UHCW went above and beyond with their astronomical work which is now on display outside the paediatric wards. From spaceships to rockets, it was clear the amount of thought and effort put into their masterpieces which were simply out of this world.



Right, - World Space Week display at the Hospital School



BLETCHLEY PARK VISIT OFFERS PUPILS A CRACKING INSIGHT

On Thursday 30th November, 11 students visited Bletchley Park, home to the codebreakers of World War II. Our day started with a workshop on modern-day cyber security, exploring six top tips for personal cyber security. This included how to create a strong passphrase, exploring the technology behind biometrics and considering what information to share in our social media feeds.

After lunch we had time to explore the site, starting with the mansion, one of the coding huts and museum exhibitions sharing further information about the Enigma machine and the Bombe machine. We also watched a short film that explained how the work completed by the employees of Bletchley Park contributed to the D-Day mission. Our visit ended with a guided tour, where we learned more about the journey of a message from the receiving stations on the coast, transported by motorcycle to Bletchley Park, decoded by the people working in the huts and pieced together for the commander to act upon. Our tour's final stops included the office where Alan Turing worked and a memorial with the phrase 'We Also Served', recognising the contribution that the employees of Bletchley Park could not share for many years after the war due to the level of secrecy to which they were held; (remarkably, the actions carried on site were classed as above 'Top Secret' and were categorised 'Ultra Secret'!)

This is our service's third trip to Bletchley Park and we had another wonderful day out. We look forward to visiting again and continuing our exploration of the site as yet again we ran out of time to see everything.

Mrs Dye - Lead Teacher for Mathematics



CAN YOU CRACK THE CODE?

Every year the GCHQ (UK's intelligence, security and cyber agency) releases a Christmas Challenge which includes a series of tricky puzzles set by some of the country's brightest minds. And this year it is the trickiest Challenge yet! The challenge is presented in the form of a Christmas card, sent by GCHQ Director, Anne Keast-Butler.

The card is available to download via the GCHQ website and contains a series of brainteasers designed by GCHQ's own puzzle volunteers, specifically for 11 to 18-year-olds.

Have you got what it takes to crack the code and uncover the hidden final message? Why not give it a go? It could be the first step in your very own journey to a career in espionage. Once you have cracked the code, let your teachers know as this is one secret not worth hiding!



HES WELCOMES NEW MATHS TEACHER AND LITERACY LEAD

In January 2024, our service will welcome two new staff members who will be joining the Maths and English Department. Both Mrs Quinney and Mr Griffiths. bring with them a wealth of experience of working with young people and are excited to start their new roles with us.

Mr Griffiths will be joining the Maths team and comes to us with a background of teaching Maths in schools and colleges. He has a keen interest in rugby, so it won't just be Pythagoras that pupils will be tackling!

We caught up with Mrs Quinney who shared the following with us, "Hello, I'm Mrs Quinney and I am a specialist teacher. I have been teaching for 14 years and for the past 9 years I have been working in a speech and language unit. I have a particular interest in reading and writing skills and I am incredibly fortunate to be the new literacy lead. I am looking forward to inspiring a love of reading as well as implementing different strategies to help pupils succeed. Looking forward to seeing you all in January."



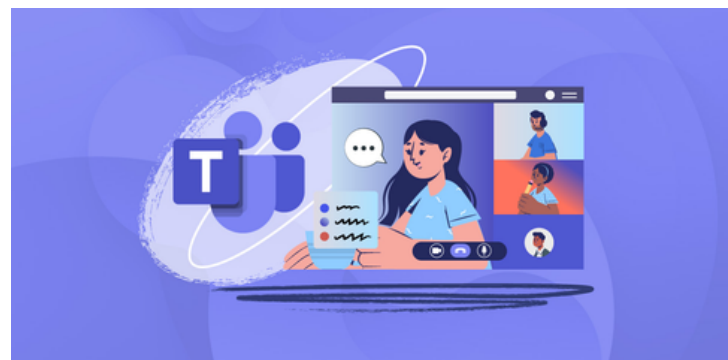
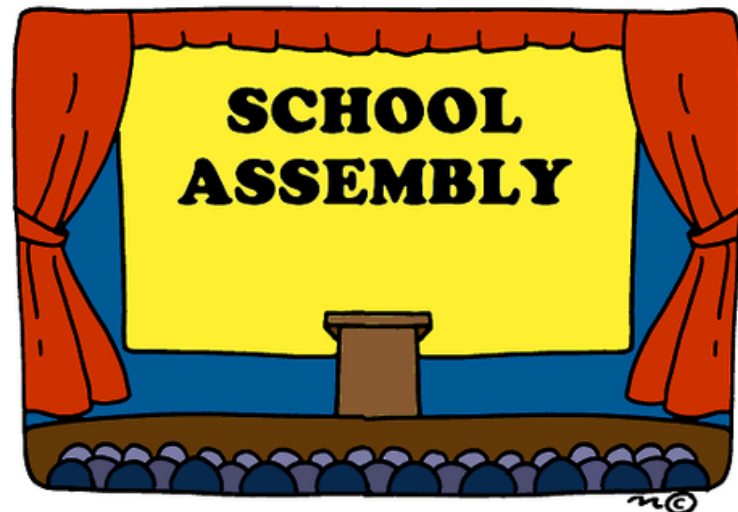
ASSEMBLIES DELIVER IMPORTANT MESSAGES FOR PUPILS

The introduction of assemblies this year has been a great timetable addition for all pupils to join in on and keep up to date with messages and information from the school. The weekly sessions cover important topics for all pupils ranging from Keeping Safe Online to Supporting Wellbeing. In addition to sessions from external speakers, our pupil ambassador, Somer, also delivered an assembly for Anti-Bullying Week.

Themes for assemblies are aligned with the school's personal development programme and aim to ensure that our pupils have the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding of keeping safe and healthy inside and outside of school.

The weekly Thursday sessions start at 2:15pm and are broadcast on Microsoft Teams for pupils to join in from home.

We have plans to widen the range of speakers in the new year with lots of information to be released about our school events and competitions. If you require further information or would like to know more, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Takolia.





CHRISTMAS FAIR BRINGS FESTIVE FUN TO SCHOOL

On Wednesday 20th December, we welcomed our school community to the Annual HES Christmas Fair. Due to COVID, we had to put the fair on hold for a few years, but this year, it's back and what an amazing event it was. With items made from Enterprise week and fun and games hosted by Mrs Dye, the event was a huge success with the added bonus of money being raised for this term's charity: the RSPCA.

There was a phenomenal effort from all involved and a particular thank you to all staff and pupils who made it into such a huge success. We have added a selection of photos from the event below.



WHITMORE PARK ANNEXE SAYS GOODBYE TO ALISHAH

Sadly we say goodbye to Alishah as she moves onto new adventures. Alishah joined the Hospital Education Service in September 2022 working as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant. She quickly moved into the classroom setting immediately creating a rapport with our pupils. With a keen interest in Art, Alishah has worked alongside pupils to help them develop their art pieces ready for their GCSE's. Her calm and kind demeanour has been an asset to our team. She will be missed by everyone: pupils and staff alike.

We wish Alishah the best for the future and we look forward to hearing how she has got on in her new endeavours.

HISTORY PUPILS TO VISIT NATIONAL HOLOCAUST CENTRE AND MUSEUM

On Tuesday 7th February 2024, there will be a History trip to the National Holocaust Centre and Museum in Nottinghamshire. We last visited two years ago in 2022 and students fed-back how interesting and powerful they found the day. By popular demand, Mrs Sykes will be taking her History pupils to visit this incredibly poignant museum. The centre was set up to provide education around the horrors of the Holocaust and to remind us all of the sufferings of the communities affect by the atrocities.

At the museum students will have the opportunity to consider the choices made by ordinary people and the extent to which they contributed to the Holocaust. The visit aims to develop students' knowledge of the events of the Holocaust and raise their awareness of the causes and complexities. During the programme students will visit the Holocaust exhibition and the memorial gardens.

A letter to parents/carers with all the details will be sent out on our return to school in the new year. We hope lots of students will be able to make it.

Mrs Sykes- History Lead



PUPIL AMBASSADORS TAKE ON A LEADING ROLE

At the start of the academic year, we advertised for a team of Pupil Ambassadors at Whitmore Park Annexe and were overwhelmed with the response. The school now has six pupils taking on a variety of roles in helping to shape how we develop as a service. From reading to wellbeing, pupil ambassadors support school staff by ensuring the voice of pupils are heard on key decisions. The Macmillan Coffee morning, hosted by the team, was a real success, with a grand total of £117.73 being raised for the charity. Pupils have also been instrumental in supporting the school with teacher interviews. The Pupil Panel is now more affectionately known as the 'Bear Pit' by our newly appointed staff! As we approach the end of term, pupils have been busy organising the school Christmas fair and will be looking to host many more events in the new year.



PARENT WORKSHOPS FROM COMPASS

Compass UK are a charity that provides health and wellbeing services for children, young people and their families.

They are running a number of workshops for parents on important topics at various family hubs. You can either contact Compass to book a place, or alternatively you can complete the registration form via the QR code found on the workshop flyer. Booking is essential as some venues only have limited amount of space.

If you require any support to book the workshops, please contact Mr Takolia.

Are you a parent or carer, who would like support with your child?

Maybe we can help.... we are offering the following workshops.

IT'S MY TIME TO Shine
Compass

For further information or to book your place please contact Compass Shine on T: 02475 186206 or E: compass.cype@nhs.net

Wednesday 24th Jan.
Woodside Hub 10.30am-11.30am
Supporting Low Mood

Wednesday 31st Jan.
Pathways Hub 10.30am -11.30am
Managing Anger

Wednesday 21st Feb.
Aspire Family Hub 10.30am-11.30am
Understanding Anxiety

Wednesday 6th Mar.
Harmony Hub 10.30am-11.30am
Understanding Challenging Behaviour

Wednesday 20th Mar.
Mosaic Hub 10.30am-11.30am
Understanding anxiety and Neurodiversity

Booking essential, use QR code

Parent Workshop Attendance Form (Spring Workshops)

Web: <https://www.compass-uk.org/services/compass-coventry-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-service/>

HAF WINTER PROGRAMME IS FILLED WITH FESTIVE FUN

The Coventry HAF programme is open for bookings and is filled with Festive Fun for the Winter Holidays. Information is available on: www.coventry.gov.uk/haf

Winter Fun

**Saturday 23 December 2023 to
Sunday 7 January 2024**



COVENTRY HAF
Holiday Activities & Food

