

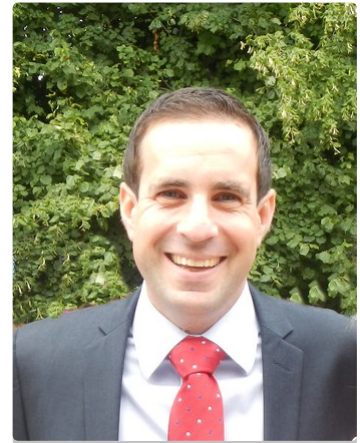
# Headteacher's Newsletter

*February 2019*

## Welcome back

I'd like to welcome you back to the new half term and hope you all had a lovely break. The weather certainly improved and I'm sure you all made the most of the sun.

This half term really is the beginning of the end for our Year 11 and 13 students and marks the final countdown to their exams. Indeed both Year groups have their Pre Public Exams this half term with Year 11 starting this week, and the real summer exams are fast approaching. I've given some information below for parents, that may help you to help your children with their preparations. I also think it is important to note that this is a very stressful time for our students and we must support them mentally, as well as ensuring they are prepared for their exams. Starting early and spreading their revision out will certainly aid this.



Finally I'd like to personally thank all the staff for the additional work they will be doing over the next term in supporting the students with extra marking of exams and holding revision and intervention sessions.

I hope you find the newsletter useful and I would like to thank all of those who have sent me information about their children's achievements; I really enjoy being able to celebrate our students successes with you all.

## West Hatch Love Lounge

Students across all year groups took part in a "Love Lounge" event on Tuesday 12th February. Musical items included soloists, duets and band numbers, and were interspersed with dances and poems written and read by the students themselves.

This was such an enjoyable evening and another opportunity for our students to showcase how talented they are.

Special praise should be given to those students who had never performed in front of an audience before. I would also like to thank Ms Lord and the Performing Arts Team for all their work and the English Department for supporting our poets.



## Building Update

I'm very sorry that I have not been able to give you a detailed update of the building work until now. As you know we should have received the rooms attached to the current building in September and the new buildings should have been completed by May. I'm afraid that this has not been the case and there have been some significant issues with the expansion project, none of which have been caused by the school.

At the start of January the contract between Essex County Council who are running the project and Lakehouse, the original building contractor, was ended by mutual agreement and Lakehouse have now vacated the school site. As a result Essex have progressed the refurbishment works through their own contractors and this week we have received back our extended music block and dining room. Our new Science labs are now the priority and we hope to receive these back soon so that we are able to move languages out of their temporary accommodation.

A tender process is now in place for the new buildings, including the sports hall and I will update you all once this has been completed and as soon as I know the timeline for the work; needless to say however this will not now be completed until the next academic year.

I would like to thank you all for your patience regarding the building work and express how delighted I am with the way our students have dealt with the disruption caused by the expansion. I continue to work closely with Essex County Council to ensure we get the best possible provisions for our students with the least possible disruption.

# Helping your children prepare for PPEs / Results

## *Did you know?*

Teachers do not expect their students to do as well in their Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs/mocks) as they should do in their final examinations. After all, it is likely that not all of the course has been covered at this point. The mock exams are in place as a tool for students to demonstrate what they know, and also what needs to be done to fill the gaps in both knowledge and understanding as they approach the external exams.

## *What can I do?*

It is helpful for you to see the process of PPEs and the thinking behind them:

### **BEFORE THE PPEs**

- There will probably be time given for revisiting in lessons and for homework.
- Students will have the dates of their PPEs well in advance so that they are able to plan their revision effectively. It is important that they work out what they need to revise and plan it out.
- Many students spend the most time on subjects they are already very good at. The best revisiting plans out how to learn things they don't already know.

### **DURING THE PPEs**

- The conditions of the final exams will be replicated as closely as possible.
- The questions on the exam papers will normally be from past exam papers or written in the style of past exam papers.
- The exams will be marked as if they are an external assessment.

### **AFTER THE PPEs**

- The exam papers/grades will be returned to the students in a timely fashion.
- Subject teachers will ensure that each student knows how they can improve.
- Any gaps in knowledge/understanding will be addressed either in classwork or homework – students should be working on their gaps all the time.

The PPEs are part of a process, and being aware of it will mean that you do not necessarily need to over-worry if things do not go as well as expected. The key thing is to communicate with the school if there is anything that you are concerned about.

## What is revisiting?

### *Did you know?*

Research shows that, within one hour, students will have forgotten an average of 50% of new information in a lesson. Within 24 hours, they have forgotten 70%, so it is especially important for our students that we help them to retain what they have learnt by re-visiting – a strategy for revision - and allowing them to think hard. **'Learning happens when people have to think hard'** – Prof. Robert Coe, Durham University.

### *What can I do?*

The aim is to ensure that the students are **actively learning** and not being passive learners. In their exams, the students will need to recall a huge number of facts and knowledge quickly, so we need to make sure they can do this effectively.

**We have two sets of resources that may help your child:**

**PiXL Independence Booklets:** Work that will stretch and challenge the student and can be done at home. Using these booklets will help to develop independence and resilience. There are also activities that can push the student beyond the restrictions of the examination specification, something that can be particularly useful to mention when applying to university.

**PiXL Knowledge:** A stepped approach that consolidates students' knowledge and understanding. They are able to identify what they **don't** know, **what** they are going to do about it and then **demonstrate** that they have now learnt it.

Some students still think that 'revision' is something that happens at the end of a course before external exams. The reality is that they should be revisiting content taught in lessons all the time. For example, in just week three of the term, they should be revisiting what they were taught in weeks one and two. Revisiting is an ongoing process and knowledge is simply forgotten unless it is re-visited regularly.

Quizzing is a really good way of learning knowledge. Free websites like Quizlet mean that students can make their own flashcards. Seneca is also free and is an online platform with information and questions to answer. Suggest that your child has a look at each of them to help them reinforce what they are doing in lessons.

You can also help by ensuring that your son or daughter has somewhere quiet to work. Encourage them to have social media 'unplugged' when they are working. Sometimes simple things will make a difference, even just helping with old-fashioned quizzing!

## Basketball Superstars

A huge congratulations to our Year 7 Basketball squad who have kept up the long tradition of success in this sport by winning the Epping and Harlow District Championships. Thank you to Mr Calver and Mr Hoy for all their hard work with the boys and well done to you all.



## Other Sporting Results

Sport is integral to West Hatch and our staff and students put a tremendous amount of work and time into practising before and after school and at lunchtime. Below are the results for last term and I'd like to say well done to all our students who have been involved in our sports teams and thank the staff involved too.

### **Netball**

Yr.7 lost in the Quarter Final Essex Cup vs New Hall

Yr.7 beat Ongar 27-1 in the West Essex & Harlow League to remain unbeaten

U.16 beat Ongar 31-10 in the West Essex & Harlow League

### **Football**

U15 lost to Shenfield, on penalties 5-4 in the Essex Cup Quarter Finals

## English Trip to Stratford upon Avon

On Tuesday 5th February, a group of our English A Level students attended the 'Sixth Form Othello Conference' at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford upon Avon. The group enjoyed lectures and seminars run by resident lecturers Dr. Anjna Chouhan and Dr. Nick Walton on all aspects of the text, from contextual and critical engagement to close, textual analysis.

They were also able to experience first hand how different dramatic interpretations of the text can alter our perceptions of the characters, and the narrative, in a workshop which saw the text brought to life by actors. The group also had the opportunity to visit Shakespeare's birthplace and to learn about his beginnings, even seeing the actual spot where he was born!

It was a very enjoyable and informative trip, one which the English Department hopes to make an annual event. Thank you to the staff who organised and attended the day.



## Parent Meetings

As I mentioned in previous newsletters I will be holding Year Group specific parent meetings throughout the year to provide parents with the opportunity to discuss issues that are pertinent to them and their children. Parents are selected randomly and should you receive an invitation please don't read anything into it. So far I have held Year 11 and Year 9 meetings, both of which have proved very useful in improving aspects of the school. Please do take the time to come and meet with me if you are able to as your feedback really helps me to improve the school for your children.

## Debating Team

Our debating Team, ably led by the wonderful Mrs Hull have been going from strength to strength and recently competed against one another in an Inter House competition during assemblies. We were all so impressed with how the students performed, in front of their peers, and the work they put into preparing their arguments. The Team will soon be competing in National competitions and I very much look forward to seeing their progress over the next few years.



## Target Team

The Target Team were recently invited to the Essex Boccia Championship Finals in Basildon. We competed against nine different schools and managed to achieve 2nd place taking home the silver medal.

The aim of Boccia is to get the coloured ball closest to the white ball which is called the jack. In our Target Team lessons they have been practising their Boccia technique and really looking at ways to throw the ball and how to work as a team.

Teddy Reid (Yr.8) commented "I think the competition was fun and it was really good to participate in something new."

Aamna Fraz (Yr.8) said "It made me feel really proud of myself and made me feel confident."

Mohammed Fraz (Yr.8) said "It was a really good experience and I found it enjoyable."

Tamika Rose (Yr.9) who was part of the team that got us a place in the finals said it was such a good day because she got to meet the Paralympic Boccia Gold & Bronze medallist Dan Bentley.

Well done to all the students involved and particularly Daniel Petrie (Yr.8), Mohammed Fraz (Yr.8) and Kody Clamp (Yr.9) who were the Team who won the Silver Medal.



## Prakita Rahman (Yr. 12) Residential Economics Programme

Congratulations to Prakita who was successful in applying to be part of the prestigious Villier Park Residential Programme in January 2019. Pratika has written a lovely piece for us, attached below which I urge you to read. She had seminars led by Cambridge University lecturers, where they discussed a range of Economic topics as well as many other activities. I know this was an inspirational event for her and I'm sure it will stand her in good stead for the future.



Villiers Park Experience.docx

[Download](#)  
14.4 KB

## Sixth Form Defence Classes

Our Year 12 students have been busy with a variety of enrichment activities that supports their 'Hatch Extra' enrichment programme. Last term they welcomed the Head Coordinator of the UFC and martial arts guru, Ricky Manetta and his team from Synergy Fitness, Hainault, to deliver introduction sessions tailored towards self defence. The students, both boys and girls, were put through their paces for the hour, learning different techniques in defending themselves and stopping an attack from occurring. Ricky's mantra states, 'Knowing that you can deal with any situation gives you the strength and inner peace to be able to avoid the confrontations that life throws at you, for your ego will no longer be in charge'.

The Sixth Form team wanted an active and intriguing workshop that would teach pupils new skills and increase confidence in such situations. Enrichment Coordinator Mr D'Silva said, 'It was great to see the Sixth Formers learning new skills and you could see them growing in confidence throughout the hour. I have no doubt, this workshop will provide the pupils with a greater belief in themselves, if they are ever in a situations that call for them to defend themselves'.

For more information about Ricky's work and the opportunities to join please see Synergy Fitness, where Ricky and his team run a variety of Martial Arts and self defence classes for all abilities.

<http://synergy-fitness.net/>



## Important dates for your diary

### March

Thursday 14th March - Yr.8/9 Options Evening

Tuesday 19th March - Thursday 21st March - Dance Show

Friday 22nd March - Yr.11 Transition Day

### April

Thursday 4th April - Yr.7 Parents Evening (4-7pm)

Friday 5th April break up for Easter at 1.25pm.

### May

Thursday 2nd May – Yr.12 Parents Evening

Thursday 9th May – Yr.11 Awards Evening – (timings to be confirmed)

Thursday 16th May - Yr.13 Awards Evening – (timings to be confirmed)

Half Term - Monday 27th May -31st May

## Our students other achievements

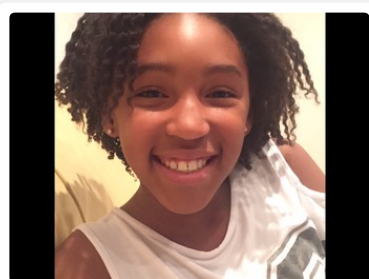


Not to be outdone by his now short haired friend Sam McCarthy, Frankie Sarna in Year 12 has taken the plunge and donated his long locks to the Princess Trust Charity. This really is a wonderful charity and a fantastic thing that Sam, Tom and now Frankie have done; it will really make a difference to the lives of other young people. Well done Frankie.



### Rishen Patel (Yr 7)

Rishen has recently completed a LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts) Grade 3 Public Speaking Exam, for which he was awarded a strong merit. A great start to acquiring a new skill. Well done Rishen, this really is impressive and a very important skill for the future. I hope to see you in our Debating Team soon.



### Ella Daley (Yr.7)

Ella was recently awarded her Acoustic Guitar Grade 6 by the University of West London. Impressively Ella achieved a Merit. This is a great achievement as Ella has only been playing for two years and she is now preparing for her Grade 7 exam which will take place later this year. Ella is a talented young lady who is also part of the successful school netball team.



### Adam Clinci (Yr.7)

Well done to Adam who recently won the Gold medal at a Judo Competition in January at the University of East London Docklands Campus. I very much look forward to seeing your progress in this sport.

## What its like to be a teenager today...

In my last newsletter I celebrated the success of Roma Bright (Yr. 11) who spoke at the Fostering Excellence Awards in December 2018. Following on from this Roma has been published in Hello Magazine online as part of the #hellotokindness campaign. This fantastic piece describes what it's like to be a teenager today and explains how she deals with the negative side of social media. This is a

great piece of work by Roma and I have added the link to the article below. Well done again Roma, you are clearly carving out a wonderful future.



[Lydia Bright's sister ...](#)

[www.hellomagazine.com](http://www.hellomagazine.com)

What is it really like to be a teenager growing up in a social media heavy world? Lydia Bright's little sister, Roma, reveals exclusively to HELLO!

## Future Football Star?

I'm delighted to highlight Enrique Kalsi (Yr.9) for his achievements in football to date. In 2018, following a successful trial period Enrique was promoted to train with Tottenham Hotspurs as a goalkeeper, following in the footsteps of ex student Charlie Freeman who signed a professional contract as goalkeeper at Spurs.

Martin Brennan, Enrique's current coach has highlighted his attitude and ability levels and believes he has a good future with the Tottenham Hotspur Elite Academy. Enrique's aim is to become one of the best goalkeepers in the world and he knows he has to work very hard to achieve his aims. We wish you all the best Enrique and are very proud of what you have achieved so far.



## And finally

Once again thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for all those who have contributed to it. I am constantly amazed at how talented our students are and I really enjoy being able to share this with you. The very best of luck to our Year 11 and 13 students in their PPE Examinations; remember this is a check point in your preparation for the final and will help you understand the areas you need to prepare more thoroughly. As C.S. Lewis once said, "you can't go back and change the beginning but you can start where you are and change the ending."

Daniel Leonard  
Headteacher

