



Hartshill Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning



DEC 2024



HART TO HART | Academy News

CHRISTMAS AT HARTSHILL

We are fast approaching the end of the first full Autumn Term in our new home.

It has been a very busy term and the events and activities have not slowed down with: the Space Centre Trip, History special guest speaker, Science Christmas Lectures at Birmingham University, the Warwickshire and Solihull Blood Bike Practical Presents Festive Drive, Christmas Dinners and the end of term Christmas Show.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for everything you do to support Hartshill Academy.

We wish you all a very peaceful and enjoyable Christmas Holiday and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- WED 08 JAN | RETURN TO SCHOOL
- W/C 13 JAN | YEAR 7 - 10 MID YEAR ASSESSMENTS
- THU 16 JAN | YEAR 11 PROGRESS EVENING
- W/C 20 JAN | YEAR 7 - 10 MID YEAR ASSESSMENTS
- FRI 24 JAN | SCHOOL CLOSED - TEACHER TRAINING
- THU 06 FEB | PARENT VOICE

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Dane was presented with own choice of trainers for his excellent attendance



Pupils got to pick a partner to partake in the prestigious pizza party

We are thrilled to celebrate our amazing pupils for their outstanding attendance!

As a reward for their commitment and hard work, we've had some incredible prizes on offer.

Recently, a lucky group of pupils had the exciting opportunity to watch the England Lionesses in action, soaking up the atmosphere of world-class football! And that's not all – 50 pupils and a chosen friend also enjoyed a fun-filled pizza party, complete with delicious Dominos and plenty of laughter.

These rewards are just a small way to show our appreciation for the fantastic efforts of our pupils. Keep up the great work, and who knows what exciting rewards are coming next!



Pupils got to enjoy live sports watching the Lionesses play football in Sheffield



We will continue to recognise and reward children who attend school regularly and make a conscious effort to be punctual, as this will reflect the positive impact that the skills of regular attendance and punctual will have on the rest of life.

A QUESTION OF SPORT

Celebrating Our Pupils' Badminton Achievements

Our pupils have displayed exceptional skill, determination, and sportsmanship while competing in various badminton matches this term, making the school immensely proud. Their performances, both individually and as a team, have brought recognition and accolades at multiple levels. Several students stood out with their strategic gameplay and perseverance, often beating the number 1 and 2 seed.

Notably, our doubles teams showcased remarkable coordination, winning the majority of the games. Their hard work in training and ability to adapt during matches have been commendable.

U16 Boys Team



U14 Boys Team



We celebrate the successes of all our players and thank the parents, and school community for their support.

With plans to expand training opportunities and encourage greater participation, we look forward to many more victories and memorable moments on the badminton court.

Congratulations to all for their outstanding efforts!



Mr Mansfield

CAN'T BEAT THE BOOK BUZZ



Book Award Ceremony

On Wednesday 11th December, we invited our book club pupils and the top Sparx Readers from Years 7-9 to watch the Teen Book Award Ceremony as hosted by Warwickshire Schools Library Service. Over the last 10 weeks, pupils have been reading and reviewing a selection of books, all from different genres and from a variety of authors. Pupils across the school had the opportunity to vote in both HART time and in Book Club on which book they would most like to see take home the Teen Book Award for 2024.

This was a lovely moment to share with our pupils who have been committed to their reading and love of literature throughout the year. Although our choice of 'We Don't Swim Here' didn't bag the 1st place prize, it was great to see the impact our voices had made during the Q&A session with the authors – two of whom joined from America!

Pupils had the chance to hear from the authors of the book via live stream and offer up any questions they had about the books, with questions ranging from 'Can we expect a sequel?' to 'Who would you want to play your character in a film?'

Following the ceremony, pupils were able to have a sneak peek at the next round of books up for a Secondary Book Award. We spent our time reading, discussing and sharing our opinions of the books available and thinking of our next steps for this second round of reviewing. For some pupils it was too hard to even choose which one to start first!

Book Club is open to all, every Wednesday at lunchtime with Miss Coles in 122. The next award ceremony will take place in the new year and we would love to have more book worms join us! WSLs also run competitions for book art, alternative endings and book blogging – there is truly something for everyone to take part in.



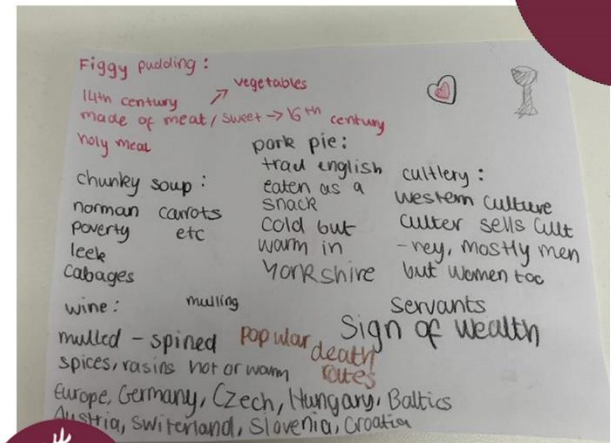
A BLAST FROM THE PAST

History Club with Miss Godard

Miss Godard's History Club has been having a wonderful and educational experience exploring the traditions and history of Christmas! Researching Christmas recipes from the past, especially from the 14th century, has taken the group on a fascinating journey.

The club have learned about some of the ingredients commonly used at the time, like spices (cinnamon, cloves), dried fruits, and nuts, as well as how these foods symbolized things like wealth, health, and good fortune.

By recreating some of these historical recipes (albeit in paper form), they've gained a deeper understanding of how the foods and customs of the past influenced modern holiday traditions. It's great that they also explored the symbolism behind certain foods—such as roasted meats representing abundance or fruitcakes symbolizing wishes for prosperity in the new year. The focus on 14th century decorations, gifts, and music also adds a wonderful layer to their learning, showing how many traditions we still cherish today.



The History department hosted **Frontline Living History** for an interactive session. Historians in Years 10 and 11 were transported to the front lines on the Western Front and given the opportunity to handle artifacts recovered from France and Belgium. David Allton delivered a highly informative session and truly brought the past to life. Our pupils now have a greater understanding of the weaponry used, injuries inflicted, and the various treatments developed during this turbulent period of the past.



SUPER SCIENCE



The Science department is starting to feel quite Christmassy – the chemis-tree is up in Mr Spiers' lab and the science prep room has had a visit from the Christmas elf!

As pupils begin to get excited for the Christmas break; the science department would like to remind them that their mid-year assessments begin the second week back. Teachers are telling pupil which topics to focus on and will be there for support where needed.



Science club

Kai was given the opportunity to lead Science Club yesterday and taught everyone how to make origami frogs! In true Science Club style, this ended with a race to see who had made the best (and most stream-lined) frog.



Lego Engineering

Pupils in Lego Engineering Club have also been getting into the festive spirit – making lego Christmas trees that even have a Christmas star on the top of them! Others made up their own game with lego spinners that they had made themselves!



BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY VISIT



Pupils had an awesome lecture about 'when can we move to the moon?' from an engineer who has previously worked for NASA on some of the shuttles they have sent to Saturn. They then went on a tour of the campus.

Our campus guide told us that our pupils were the best group she has taken around and she was really impressed with the pupils attitude and their questions.



CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING



We were delighted to have several families join us at school to create Christmas wreaths and precious memories. It was a lovely way to bring in the festive season.



HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP



1220 points



1435 points



765 points



1220 points

The Chase

The House Team hosted an electrifying event in the theatre with their very own version of The Chase, captivating audiences and contestants alike. With Mr. Dawes taking on the formidable role of "The Destroyer," his sharp wit and quick thinking kept participants on their toes throughout the challenge. The competition was fierce as students from all houses tested their knowledge, racing against the clock to outsmart the Chaser. A special shoutout goes to the Deers, who stood out as the only house to successfully beat "The Destroyer," earning cheers and bragging rights. The event was a fantastic showcase of teamwork, strategy, and school spirit!

Mario Kart

The House Team hosted a thrilling Mario Kart event that brought pupils together from all year groups. The event saw students facing off in exciting races, with the competitive spirit filling the room as everyone cheered for their favorite players. The team created a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere, ensuring that all participants felt welcome and engaged, regardless of their gaming experience.

I'm a Teacher Get Me Out of Here

The theatre came alive with laughter and excitement during the I'm a Teacher, Get Me Out of Here! Where staff courageously took the stage for a festive challenge. Teachers faced tricky questions about the history of Christmas. However, the real test came when they had to taste an array of unusual foods from Christmases past, ranging from curious delicacies to downright questionable treats. Pupils watched in delight as their teachers grimaced, laughed, and persevered through the culinary challenges. The event was a fantastic combination of fun, learning, and festive cheer, leaving everyone with unforgettable memories of a truly unique celebration.

Christmas Wreath Making

The wonderful Heads of House hosted a heartwarming evening of wreath-making, bringing together pupils, parents, and carers for a creative and festive experience. The event was filled with laughter and joy as attendees showcased their artistic flair, crafting beautiful wreaths to take home and cherish. With guidance and encouragement from the Heads of House, the evening became a delightful mix of creativity, community, and holiday spirit. It was a fantastic opportunity for families to connect, unwind, and celebrate the season together, all while enjoying the welcoming and inclusive atmosphere fostered by the Heads of House.

Badminton

Badminton encouraged widespread participation, with students of all skill levels stepping onto the court to represent their houses. Each match was filled with friendly competition, teamwork, and determination as players rallied to earn valuable participation points for their house.

PICTURE PERFECT



Throughout the month of December, our school has been bursting with holiday spirit! Check out the photos of our Christmas Jumper Day, where pupils and staff alike donned their silliest, sparkliest, and most festive knitwear to spread joy across the halls (above). Meanwhile, the Warwickshire & Solihull Blood Bikes completed their 'Practical Presents Festive Drive' and were welcomed by our senior pupil leadership team (bottom right). With gifts pouring in and smiles all around, it was a true celebration of the season of giving. And don't miss the star of the show - this year's Official School Christmas Card. Designed by our very own Tiana, it's a masterpiece of creativity and festive fun (right).



Exciting News: Hartshill Pupils to Compete in Rotary Club Youth Speaks Competition!

We're thrilled to announce that next year, Hartshill will be putting forward three teams to take part in the prestigious Rotary Club Youth Speaks competition! This is an incredible opportunity for our pupils to collaborate with the Rotary Club and local community leaders, showcasing the talent, enthusiasm, and potential of Hartshill's young voices.

The competition will not only help students develop their public speaking skills but also strengthen their connections within the community and local schools. Mr Smith and the debate team are eager to continue their success story and see Hartshill Academy lift another trophy!



Merry Christmas

and a happy new year!



HEART | AMBITION | RESPECT | TENACITY