



# HASTINGS HIGH SCHOOL

*Care and Excellence for All*

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's the end of the first half term already! It's gone really well with pupils working consistently hard across the school and achieving well in their subjects. But education is about much more than academic success. We have also had our first personal development day of the year with a whole school focus on developing pupils' leadership skills and resilience. These are the kind of skills we think will be crucial for our pupils' ongoing success in adulthood.

We also had our year 6 parents evening which was a great success. We welcomed over 1000 people to visit us and the feedback was very positive, particularly about our pupil helpers who represented our school with great maturity and confidence. We see ourselves very much as a learning community and this was very evident on the evening.

### Hastings Alumni

Hastings High School is launching an alumni association this year and is actively seeking ex-students to sign up and receive updates on their old school. If you know any ex-students or are an ex-student we would be grateful if you could pass on your details or subscribe to our "LinkedIn" account to receive updates. Alternately please email your details to [Hastings@hastings.leics.sch.uk](mailto:Hastings@hastings.leics.sch.uk) and we will get in touch.

### World War One Centenary

To commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One, the History department are creating an art project and memorial book to honour those who served during World War One and the conflicts since, or who are currently serving.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to nominate someone to be part of the memorial, please complete one of the nomination cards which have been sent home. More are available from school as necessary.

We would like the memorial to reflect the past and present of Hastings and the local area, so please also include people who served outside the British Armed Forces or who served in a non-combatant role, such as nurses, chefs or engineers.

### Catch it, Bin it, Kill it

After half-term, we will be launching a 'Catch it. Bin it. Kill it.' campaign within school, in line with the Department of Health's campaign, to encourage our students to adopt good respiratory and hand hygiene practices to help stem flu infections.

We will be encouraging staff and students to carry tissues and use them to catch coughs or sneezes, then to bin the tissues and to kill the germs by washing their hands.

Once flu is spreading widely, apart from vaccination, hygiene is the only method that can help prevent it spread further.

Studies have shown that respiratory infections are reduced in groups who practice good hand and respiratory hygiene measures and in this way, we are hopeful of reducing the amount of illness in school during the winter months.

In addition to this, the majority of our staff have recently received the flu vaccination in school as part of our campaign to reduce the flu infection.

## **Solo Music Night**

On Monday 29th October we will be holding our annual music solo night at 7pm. Tickets are available from Mr Jordan or on the night for £2.

## **European Day of Languages**

On the week commencing 24th September Hastings was celebrating the European Day of Languages. Morning registers were done in at least 18 different European languages across the school and the MFL Department held three competitions for students to enter.

The poetry competition, where students had to write a poem about the importance of learning a foreign language, was won by Laura Gent in Y8, and the art competition in was won by Ebony Dorman in Y9.

The most hotly contested competition, The Great European Bake Off, was won by Chloe Palmer in Y9 with an incredible French themed cake complete with baguette and cheese. All entries were then sold at break, raising a fantastic £150 for Macmillan's Biggest Coffee Morning.

A massive "**merci beaucoup**" to all staff and students who participated or helped out!

## **Oracy**

Oracy is a major Teaching and Learning focus this year and it has been launched in assembly to all pupils. The theme of the assembly was, 'Find your voice in a whisper', encouraging even the quietest of pupils to find their voice and speak up, not only in lessons, but as part of the wider curriculum.

We are really looking forward to hearing what pupils have to say and building on this strong start!

## **Careers Fair**

All Year 11 students attended a careers fair during their recent Personal Development day to help them in their Post 16 destination choices. About 15 local 6th Forms, employers and higher education providers attended and many parents took the opportunity to discuss courses with providers after school.

## **Uniform for Years 8 to 11**

Just a reminder that pupils in years 8 to 11 can wear any combination of the new and old uniform this year but we expect everyone to be in the new uniform for the start of the next academic year. We have put in this transition period based on parental feedback to minimise any extra costs.

## **Nut Allergies**

I would ask that parents exercise care and consideration towards pupils in school with a nut allergy when planning the contents of lunch boxes. We have a number of students who have severe nut allergies and can be seriously affected by someone else who is eating – or may have recently eaten – nuts. We would kindly ask for your support on this important medical issue.

Please note that although we are striving to be a nut-free school, it is impossible to provide an absolute guarantee that no nuts will be brought onto the premises.

## **Next Half Term**

Pupils return to school on Monday 22 October and break up for Christmas on Friday 21 December at 2pm.

## **Thank you**

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and have a great half term.

Nick Goforth, Head of Hastings