

Hurstmere News

3rd March 2023

info@hurstmere.org.uk

www.hurstmere.org.uk



Our Core Values
Assembly Theme this
week is :
Self-Belief



“Always remember you
are braver than you
believe, stronger than
you seem, and smarter
than you think.”

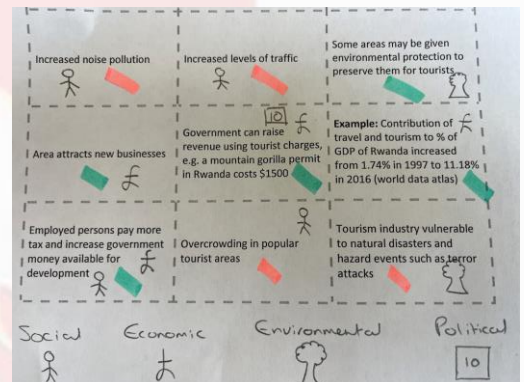
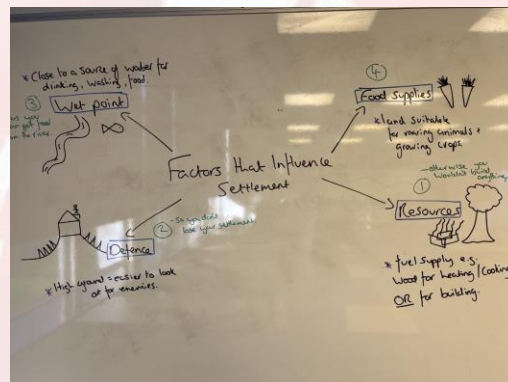
THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



Happy Friday to you all!

I am delighted to hear how much our pupils and staff enjoyed the ski trip in Vermont over the half-term break. There are some wonderful pictures on page 10 that have captured the camaraderie between our staff and pupils. Lifelong memories were certainly created in that trip! A huge thank you to our parents, staff and boys for making the trip a great success.

Our INSET day on Monday 20th February had a packed schedule of presentations, workshops and meetings. We continue to engage with current educational research to enable teachers to meet the needs of all pupils, especially those with SEND needs. Teachers focused on 'Dual Coding' which is the idea of using different types of stimuli to help learners encode information in their brains more effectively, thereby enabling it to be more easily retrieved later on. Here are some classroom examples of Dual Coding in action:



Additionally, each teacher was given a "visualiser" as a teaching tool to deliver modelling more effectively in the classroom. During the INSET day, good practice was shared on 'live' modelling and verbalising the thought processes to aid learning. With the visualiser, teachers are able to use the materials the pupils will be using to help reduce the cognitive load for pupils, as they make transferrable links between what they have seen to what they are using/doing themselves.

It was good to see our Year 11 parents last week for an in-person parents' evening with subject teachers to discuss the PPE exam results and to give feedback on the progress of their sons. I am grateful for the good relationships we have with parents because schools and families have essential roles to play in promoting our young people's positive development and academic performance. Thank you to all our parents and carers in working with us as partners and for your continued support.

Enjoy the newsletter and have a lovely weekend.

Lynn Bennett
Principal

Meet our Teachers



It comes with huge pride and excitement to join Hurstmere School as the Curriculum Leader for Business Studies. I have a background of running and managing businesses for over 20 years, providing me with a wealth of knowledge and experiences to enable me to impart the most intricate of knowledge. Having established, owned and worked in a myriad of companies both nationally and internationally (small and large) I am able to relate much of the content to experience and therefore teach using genuine examples from varied situations. Having held positions in my previous schools, including subject leader, second-in-charge and key stage co-ordinator, as well as recently completing further professional educational qualifications, I am most excited to bring this experience into the classroom at Hurstmere. Business Studies is a very popular option at Key Stage 4 and I look forward to seeing the department grow successfully. I am incredibly passionate and enthusiastic about the subject and hope to be able to pass this on to the pupils to help them reach their maximum potential.



My name is Mr Williams, and I am an English Teacher at Hurstmere School. Before Hurstmere, I trained at Cleeve Park School and The Orchards Academy. I have always loved English, and have always known I wanted to be a teacher. Although I maybe wasn't the best pupil, I looked up to my teachers with such admiration and wonder. They had such influence on my day and I wanted to have that sort of impact on people.

When I became a teacher, I made it my mission to try to positively impact every pupil I could, especially for those pupils who seem to be having a bit of a rough day. As a child, I know that one simple conversation with a teacher can massively improve a bad day. Throughout my time at Hurstmere so far, my favourite moments are when I see some of my pupils elated. I hope that I get to see many more of those days in the future.

And the Principal Reward goes to...

On Friday 24th February, the PE department nominated the Year 8 B Football Team for winning the Kent Cup before the February half term. The team displayed our school values of **Resilience** and **Teamwork** throughout a tough game.



A. Bentley
S. Devile
H. Penfold
M. Potter
O. Clarke
J. Crowe
A. Clarke
R. Hayes-Scott
A. Horlock
H. Gillet
A. Achampong
W. McAvoy
O. Stretch
R. Rawlings
L. Gledhill
G. Smith



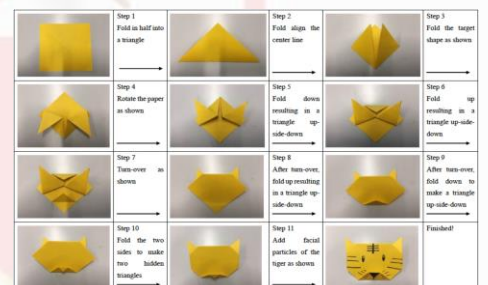
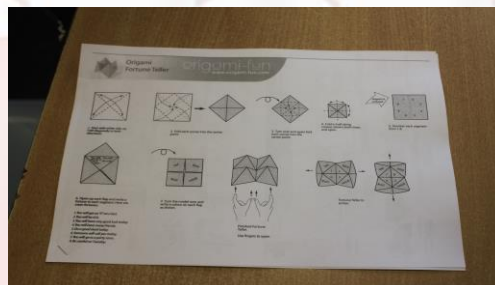
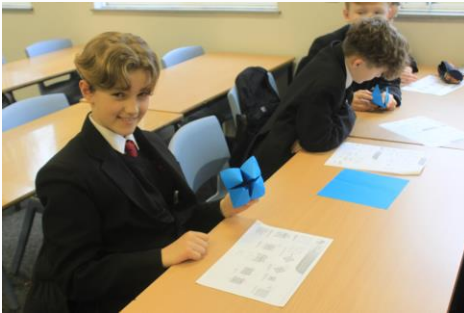
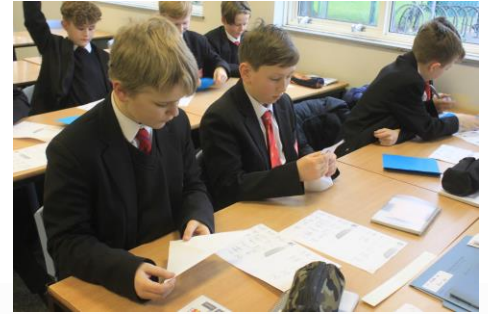
Today 3rd March 2023, the Principal Reward Vouchers go to...



S. Mitchell (Yr7) for demonstrating Respect
S. Penney (Yr7) for demonstrating Respect
T. Bacon (Yr7) for demonstrating Respect
H. Shute (Yr9) for demonstrating Leadership
J. Ayofe (Yr10) for demonstrating Ambition and Self-Belief
J. Chalkley (Yr10) for demonstrating Ambition and Self-Belief
G. Coles (Yr10) for demonstrating Ambition and Self-Belief
L. Compton (Yr10) for demonstrating Ambition and Self-Belief
L. Jeal (Yr11) for demonstrating Ambition and Self-Belief
T. Coveney (Yr11) for demonstrating Ambition and Self-Belief



Take a sneak peek into our classrooms...



The Year 7 Honours Programme restarted this term with a bang! The Maths Department led a geometry session using Origami.

Origami is the Japanese art of paper folding where the goal is to transform a flat square/rectangular sheet of paper into a finished sculpture using folding and sculpting techniques. The discipline of origami (or paper folding) has received a considerable amount of mathematical study, and the use of paper folds has been used to solve mathematical equations.

The Year 7s were given several origami challenges of varying difficulty to complete - including a crane, a 4-pointed star, and even a talking dog! There were great successes across the board - well done!



Year 10 Media - Pupils are learning about the music industry and in this lesson, they were allocating real world tasks into the three stages of pre-production, production and post-production. They also watched a real-life example of a music video set.

Take a sneak peek into our PE lessons...



Pupils enjoying table tennis, which increases concentration and alertness, stimulates brain function, helps with the development of tactical thinking skills, improves hand/eye coordination and provides aerobic exercise and social skills.



Playing basketball helps to improve motor coordination, flexibility and endurance. It also encourages speed, agility, and strength. These skills are shown to have a positive effect on promoting a healthy body weight and encouraging more physical activity, which can enhance cardiorespiratory fitness and self-esteem.



PE Theory Lessons – understanding how the body works while exercising



Take a sneak peek into our Design Technology Lessons ...



In this activity, pupils explored how trebuchets were used during the Middle Ages to launch projectiles over or through castle walls as well as how they are used today. Pupils worked as teams of engineers and researched how to design and build their own trebuchets from scratch, while following a select number of constraints. They will test their trebuchets, evaluate their results through several quantitative analyses, and present their results and design process to the class in forthcoming lessons.



Raising Aspirations Programme

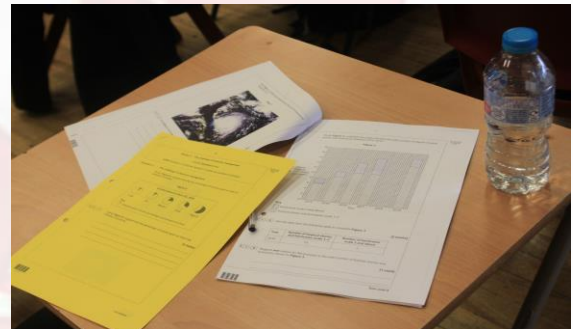


After school revision lessons for our Year 11 pupils – a great opportunity for some small group support, bearing in mind the GCSEs are fast approaching!



Maths Clinic is on every lunchtime for pupils wanting some support with their learning. Please see Miss Bernarte for further details

As part of our Raising Aspirations Programme, departments are using Wednesday P5 to offer targeted revision, including "Walking, talking Mocks". The idea behind "Walking, talking Mocks" is that pupils perform the entire exam experience, including sitting in the exam hall in rows. Instead of working silently through the paper, the teachers lead the class through it, thereby coaching them to improve their exam techniques. Last week, we delivered a "Walking, talking Mock" to our Geography pupils and this week, we delivered one to our Triple Science pupils. Pupils have spoken very positively about all the support on offer to help them achieve their maximum potential.



Year 11 Raising Aspirations Programme:

French – Tuesdays

History – Fridays

English – Tuesdays

Geography – Wednesdays

Computing – Thursdays

Media – Thursdays

Maths – Wednesdays

Art – Thursdays

DT – Thursdays

PE – Thursdays

Science – Mondays

Psychology – Thursdays and Fridays

Please encourage your son to engage in extra support.

Careers Information

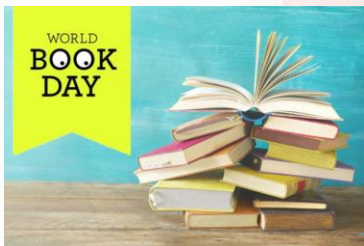
Unifrog Next Steps Fair - 8th March at 4:30pm.



Pupils are invited to join Sophie Pender, the keynote speaker from 'Forbes 30 under 30' and founder of the 93% Club on 8th March at 4.30pm via Unifrog. As well as hearing from her, pupils will have the chance to learn about leading employers and universities in live sessions and drop by their virtual booths to chat with them directly. Every Hurstmere pupil has a Unifrog account set up to enable them to take part in this event. Unifrog provides unbiased careers information and advice to young people to help them make informed decisions about what to do when they leave school.

Library News

Lunchtime Library Club is on everyday, all pupils are welcome!



We will be celebrating World Book Day in the library on Wednesday 8th March at lunchtime. A range of activities have been planned, including bookmark making and a scavenger hunt. We will also be hosting a book swap where pupils bring in a book from home and choose a different book from what has been brought in and enjoyed by other pupils.

The library hosts homework club each day and a boardgame club, including classics such as chess, Connect 4 and Draughts.



LGBT+ History Month

Ms Gallagher delivered a presentation to all pupils last week to mark LGBT+ History Month 2023. This is an annual celebration and remembrance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history. The aims of the month are to promote two things: equality and diversity, and to remember how changes have been made over the years about people's rights. It can also be a time to reflect on the future, thinking about what more can be done to promote inclusivity.

In 2023, the theme is 'Behind the Lens'. The theme for 2023 has been chosen to shine a light on all people who are instrumental in creating TV and film- highlighting the work of LGBTQ+ people in this field, both in the past and present. The theme is also linked to how LGBTQ+ lives are portrayed in the media versus the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ people. An important part of LGBT+ History Month is combatting prejudice and bullying towards the LGBTQ+ community.



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Leadership Opportunities

AGED 14-20? JOIN OUR FREE

YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAMME

LEARN LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR SOCIAL ACTION THIS SUMMER

SIGN UP BY FRIDAY 17TH MARCH

The All Stars London Young Leaders programme is **free**, and participants will have the opportunity to learn a range of key leadership skills, such as public speaking and team-building.

The programme will support young people to develop the confidence to perform at their best and lead positive change within their communities.

The Young Leaders enrolled on the programme will be supported to work effectively as a team to produce a community event in the summer.



Join on our website
www.allstarslondon.org/signup
or scan the QR Code!

For more information please get in touch by sending an email to coordinator@allstarslondon.org



Opportunities Beyond the Timetable

Our annual Ski Trip during the February half term was a great success - it was enjoyed by 44 Year 10 and 11 pupils who travelled to Vermont in America to hit the slopes. As always, the pupils were a credit to our school and a great time was had by all. A special thank you to all the staff involved in ensuring the boys had a fantastic time.



Archie says...What a brilliant experience! It was my first time to go skiing and I was scared at first, but I quickly got the hang of it! Really pleased I shared this experience with my friends as I've made lifetime memories.

Aaron says... It was my first time skiing and I really enjoyed it because everyone was friendly. The instructors were great and our teachers were good fun. My favourite part was skiing on the longer runs. Great memories!

Opportunities Beyond the Timetable



Hurstmere U16 Kent Invicta Cup winners! Our Year 11s won 5 - 2 on Friday 24th February 2023 at Ramsgate FC. Well done, boys – we are all very proud of you!

Hurstmere Year 8 B team deservedly became champions against a strong Beths team at Herne Bay FC. Hurstmere took the lead in the first half, but Beths fought back and equalised in the 2nd half. As the final whistle loomed, both teams pushed for the win, but neither managed to find the back of the net. At extra time, Hurstmere showed their resilience and teamwork, scoring two goals. Hurstmere won the game 3-1 and deservedly became Kent Champions. Well done to all the boys!

Wishing our Year 9 Football Team the very best of luck this Friday 3rd March. They will be playing in the Kent Cup against St Pauls in Maidstone – Go For It Boys!



Our Year 7 boys unfortunately lost 3-1 to Ravenswood, however they represented the school outstandingly displaying excellent behaviour and conduct. The referee even went out of his way to email the school the following day to compliment the boys – Well done to you all!

A group of our KS3 pupils participated in a 'Protect the Planet Challenge' which focuses on environmental issues in the local community and how young people can make a difference. After the activities and workshops, the boys were rewarded with tickets to watch a game at Charlton Athletics.



Visitors News

'Fitter Stronger' founder, Paula Kerr, visited Hurstmere recently to assist KS3 pupils in setting achievable goals and to offer coping strategies for stress, enabling them to become more effective in school and resilient against difficulty. The workshops breed confidence and an ability to look beyond current difficulty, to a healthy, positive future. On the right is what she posted on her social media page after her visit to Hurstmere.



Paula Kerr
9 m · 2



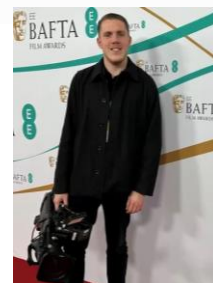
STUDENTS DON'T HOLD BACK. So when they say good things about my resilience courses, I know they mean it. At the end of my latest course with years 8 and 9 at Hurstmere School, the students gave me their thoughts. Their words included, 'you've helped me be more confident,' 'I'm happier,' 'I now know small steps lead to bigger steps,' and 'I've found out I can achieve more than I thought I could.' Watching their confidence grow is magical every time. #lovemyjob



Alumni News

From the Baftas Red Carpet to the Turkey Earthquake Zone in 24 hours – Rob Taylor (Class 2014) is a former Hurstmere pupil, now working for BBC News. Open the link below to read his article.....

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bbc.co.uk%2Fnews%2Fnewsbeat64731539&data=05%7C01%7CI.notton%40hurstmere.org.uk%7C81960dfdf1e140c461db08db156b3d38%7C36922ba9658f425a9799334c007b3172%7C1%7C0%7C638127322545432853%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoijMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQljoiv2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HTu4R9SogbjA2XGxdY0ySa7badAY7ak0C0keC7j%2FSog%3D&reserved=0>



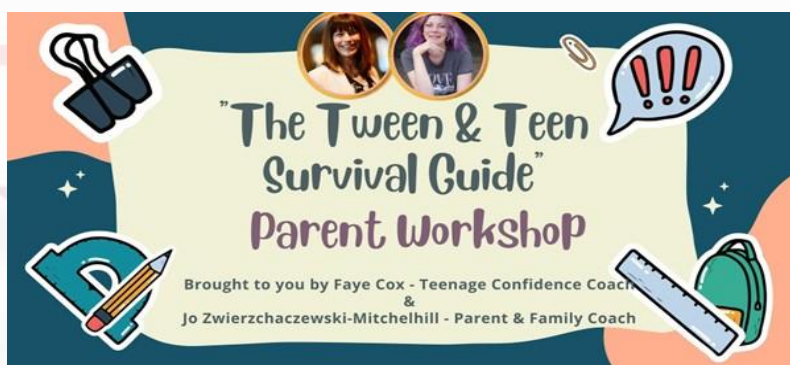
Information for Parents

Date: 4th March or 25th March

Time: 10am – 12pm

Venue: **Hurst Community Centre**, Hurst Place, Hurst Road, Bexley, DA5 3LH

Price: £25 per person



Link for tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-tween-teen-survival-guide-parent-workshop-tickets-529591942757>

This is an immersive 2 hour workshop for parents who may be fed up with their tween/teen pushing boundaries and may be feeling overwhelmed and frustrated with challenging behaviour or big emotions.

During the workshop, there will be discussions on:

- Teen Anxiety
- Challenging behaviours and what to do about them
- The teen brain
- How to support your teen/tween through challenges
- How to keep communication open through the teen years.
- Emotions and how to navigate through them

Parents will leave with strategies and tools that will help them navigate the often-turbulent times parenting teens and tweens so that they have a more harmonious, peaceful household, where everyone feels heard, valued and have stronger relationships.

Jo Mitchelhill is a Parent and Family Coach who has over 30 years' experience working with teens and tweens as a teacher, foster carer and parent. Her background is in therapeutic and positive parenting with a deep working knowledge of trauma and its impact on family life. She is a contributor to The Times, The Independent, The Metro, Netmums and is a guest speaker on many parenting podcasts.

Faye Cox is a Confidence Coach and NLP Practitioner, who has written an award-winning book – Making Sense of Me. She works with young people, helping them to make a better sense of who they are and the world around them.

Information for Parents

Diary Dates

Wednesday 1 st March 2023:	Year 9 Distribution of Options Booklets
Wednesday 8 th March 2023:	Year 7 World Book Day – Lunchtime Library Activities
Thursday 9 th March 2023:	Year 9 Option Evening 4 – 6pm
Tuesday 14 th March 2023:	Year 9 Subjects Parents Evening 4 – 7pm
Wednesday 22 nd March 2023:	Year 9 Academic Mentoring Day
Friday 24 th March 2023:	Options Deadline
Thursday 30 th March 2023:	Year 7 Subjects Parents Evening 4 – 7pm
Thursday 30 th March 2023:	Year 10 Work Experience Form Deadline
Thursday 20 th April 2023:	Year 10 SLT Invite Parents Evening
Thursday 27 th April 2023:	Year 8 Subjects Parents Evening 4 - 7pm
Thursday 6 th July 2023:	New Year 7 Parents Welcome Evening 5.30 – 7pm

Year 7 – Honours Graduation Evening Date to be confirmed – July 2023

Community Information

Let's Go Yellow for Marie Curie!

Whether you wear head-to-toe yellow, bake lemon drizzles, or crochet with yarn brighter than the sun – go yellow in March and help Marie Curie Nurses provide care and compassion to those who are battling with cancer.



Helpline
0800 090 2309



Recruiting now

St John's Church, Sidcup
Bellringers



All training is FREE

All are welcome

Contact Tower Captain Debbie for more details:
runtingda@live.com

Information for Parents

Pre-Loved Uniform

Please do remember that you can donate your unwanted/outgrown, good quality, clean school uniform (Ties, Blazers, Jumpers & PE Kit) - just bring the items in a bag and leave it at the school office.



A **BIG THANK YOU** to all those who have kindly donated already.

If you would like to know what we have in stock, please contact the school office.

Join our new '**Friends of Hurstmere**' group which has been established to raise money and actively promote the continual improvement of our school. Although its existence and mission will be very similar to that of a PTA, we are looking to welcome all friends of Hurstmere – parents, guardians, carers, siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents to our team. Our first two meetings have been a huge success- we are lucky to have such passionate members who are full of ideas.

If you feel you have the time to commit to attending meetings or even if you would be able to help out at upcoming events, please get in touch- any support would be appreciated.

Would you be able to come in to school to help out ?

We are looking for any keen gardeners that might like to help in school voluntarily with Gardening Club and volunteers to help with Reading in the library. Please contact the school office.

Please remember to top up your son's diner money online via WisePay as we are unable to take cash in school.

Term Dates



Last day of Spring Term is Friday 31st March 2023

Summer Term starts Monday 17th April 2023

Bank Holidays – 1st, 8th & 29th May 2023

Half Term – Our last day is Friday 26th May 2023

Back to school on Monday 5th June 2023

Last day of Summer is Friday 21st July 2023

Term Date for 2023 / 2024 are available on our school website

