

Hurstmere News

17th March 2023

4th Edition

info@hurstmere.org.uk

www.hurstmere.org.uk



The school has been a hive of activity this week and I am very proud to walk the corridors and visit the classrooms to see our boys engaging positively in their learning. Educationalists say a good lesson "hits you between the eyes" and there have certainly been plenty of these across the school that I have experienced this week!

Mrs Davis, our Senior Vice Principal, delivered a special assembly today to Year 8s called, "We Rise by Lifting Others", highlighting our global citizenship and social responsibility to support charitable appeals. Today, she launched a fundraising campaign for the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal and challenged the Year 8s to lead on this. The week-long appeal will take place just before the Easter Holidays and I encourage our whole school community to be involved in this worthwhile cause.

"My religion is very simple... my religion is kindness" (Dalai Lama) is a quote that was used in today's assembly. The global pandemic lockdowns showed us that people are hardwired to be kind to one another. You need not look further than the monumental effort Captain Tom Moore, who raised over £30 million for the NHS at 100 years old, or the schools across the country (including ours) making and donating protective equipment for medical and care staff, to see kindness shining through. As Principal, it is important for me, not only to see our young people achieve their academic potential, but for them to leave Hurstmere School being kind-hearted individuals. This is because it is kindness that holds societies and communities together by creating and strengthening relationships among people.

This fundraising appeal is likely to result in a huge effort from everyone and will demonstrate the unquestionable compassion we have for those that are suffering the unimaginable horrors of this disaster.

I thank you in advance for any support you can give, as it will make a huge difference to those that have had their lives changed beyond measure.

Have a lovely weekend with your loved ones.

Lynn Bennett
Principal

Our Core Values Assembly

Theme this week is :

Integrity

"Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching."

C.S. Lewis



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



Meet our staff



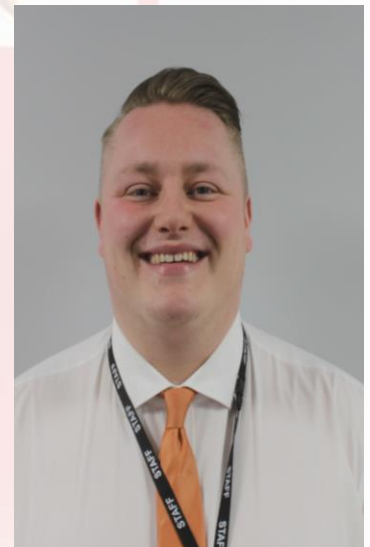
Miss Whiteland - It is a pleasure to join Hurstmere School as a Teacher of Art and Form Tutor to 7 Sidney Y. I completed my teacher training at Hurstmere School and I am proud to be part of such a special place. I have always had a passion for Art and Photography, which sparked my ambition to be an Art teacher. I am enjoying getting to know the boys and taking them on their creative journeys!



Mr Harris - Since joining Hurstmere in September 2022, I am pleased to have settled in such a strong department. As a Teacher of History and Form Tutor of 10 Cobham X, my short time at Hurstmere has been extremely rewarding. I have endeavoured to build strong relationships with all staff and pupils.

I studied History at the University of Sheffield where I studied a range of periods and events in History which I now enjoy teaching. My favourite topics in History include: the US involvement in Vietnam and the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland. One thing I enjoy about being a History teacher is allowing the pupils to make connections between topics and modern-day events and understanding the concepts of 'cause and consequence'. I believe this allows the boys to become well-rounded individuals with a great sense of perspective and empathy.

Before teaching, I worked as a barrister's clerk in Temple, attended Law School and have dabbled as a freelance sportswriter for several online publications. When I am not in Room 37, I can be found either watching Football or Cricket, playing 7-a-side football or studying for my FA Football Coaching badges. I am very proud to be at Hurstmere, and I am fortunate for the people I have met so far!



Mrs Cloke - I am the new Attendance Officer here at Hurstmere School, taking over from Miss Ritchie who has been with the school for over 17 years. I have worked within the educational sector for approximately the same amount of time as her, covering both primary and secondary phases. Having worked for an all-boys secondary school previously, I feel that I will fit in well with the pupils and staff.

[Attendance Line](#)

Tel : 0208 300 5665

Email : Attendance@hurstmere.org.uk

And the Principal Reward goes to...

Rewards for Week Ending 10th March:

Year 11 Football team are U16 Kent Invicta Cup Winners 2023 – Hoorayyyyyyyyyy!

Five years of **Self-Belief, Ambition** and **Teamwork** from these boys, who in their final football game at Hurstmere, won 5-2. What an amazing achievement!

F. Jolly - **Captain**

I. Greenaway

C. Stoneham

J. Beaumont

W. Boyton

F. Boggans

C. Illing

L. Sanford

A. Dzontoh

C. Hewett

S. Doyle

R. Boyle

L. Jordan

J. Allen

L. Hazell

C. Carr-Dunn



G. Bishop and M. Bridge were rewarded for their **Ambition** and **Self-Belief** with key piece in Science, based on a difficult topic and obtaining excellent results.

Rewards for Week Ending 17th March 2023

Year 7

P. Bailey - for Leadership in the TV & Film Club

H. Fonseka - for Resilience in his History lessons

C. Alford - for Integrity and being a good support for another pupil.



Year 8

H. Bunce and S. Wellington were rewarded for Self - Belief and creativity in making 3D models in Geography.

L. Maxted and M. Azah were rewarded for their Respect and Ambition in their 'Show Racism the Red Card' artwork.



Year 9

C. Fulks

A. Munday

J. Phillips

K. Kirisanthan

J. Kearney

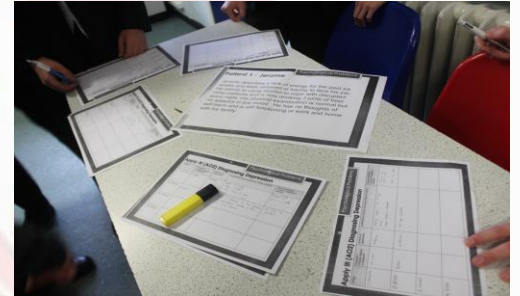
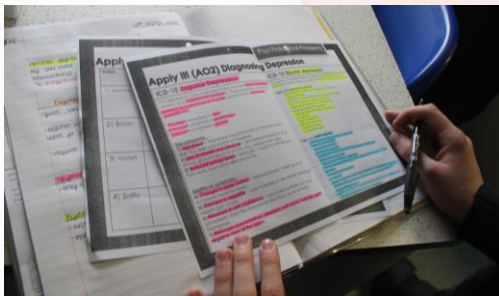
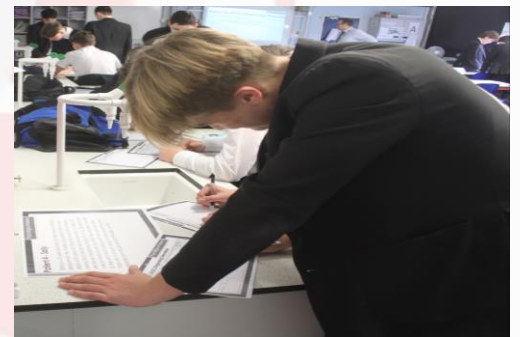
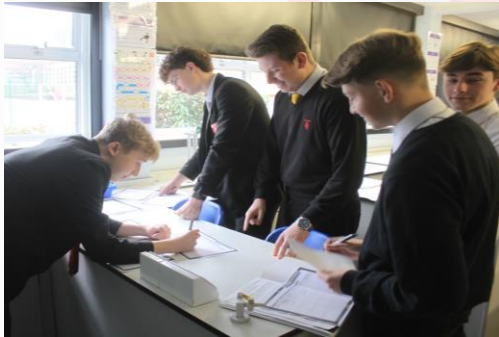
Were rewarded for their Respect and Ambition in their 'Show Racism the Red Card' artwork.



Take a sneak peek into our classrooms...

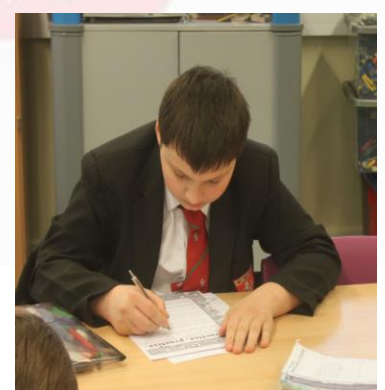
Year 11 Psychology

Pupils are currently studying for their final Psychology unit, 'Psychological Problems'. Within this unit they will learn about mental health problems, including different types of mental health, and their causes and treatments (biological and psychological reasons). This lesson focused on the two types of depression, unipolar and bipolar and how they are diagnosed by medical professionals using the International Classification of Disease version 10 (a diagnostic manual used across Europe to diagnose all types of mental illnesses). The pupils were then asked to take on the role of medical professionals and diagnose four patients who have reported signs of mental health symptoms. Based on the scenarios they were given, they had to decide which type of depression the patient has and its severity, based on the ICD-10 criteria. These scenario-type questions are used frequently throughout the Psychology exam papers because applying knowledge is a key skill of the course.



AEN Department

The department runs a number of intervention groups to support our pupils' academic, social and emotional development. This week, our Year 8 pupils have been working hard in our literacy and handwriting groups. In Literacy, pupils have been developing their range of vocabulary as well as expanding their retrieval and inference skills through exploring different non-fiction texts. These skills support the pupils to access a wide variety of texts across their different subjects. In Handwriting, pupils have been using a range of different strategies such as creating origami and cross stitch patterns to develop their dexterity and fine motor skills. This supports visual perception and cognition processing, which can help improve spelling and word recall.

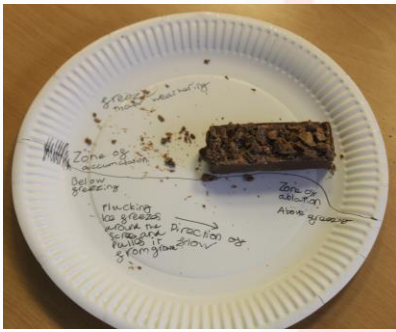


Take a sneak peek into our classrooms...

Year 7 Honours Programme - pupils learnt about the different types of ice and how glaciers move down through the landscape. Pupils then demonstrated their newly acquired understanding of glaciers using Mars bars!

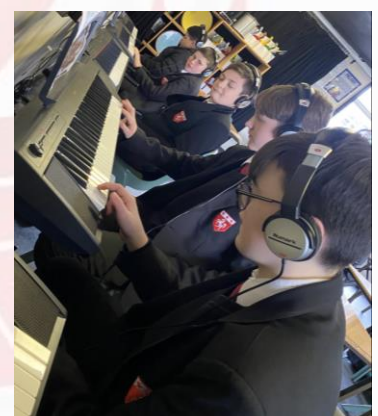


I especially enjoyed being allowed to eat the Mars bar at the end!



I learnt that abrasion and plucking are the two main ways in which glaciers erode.

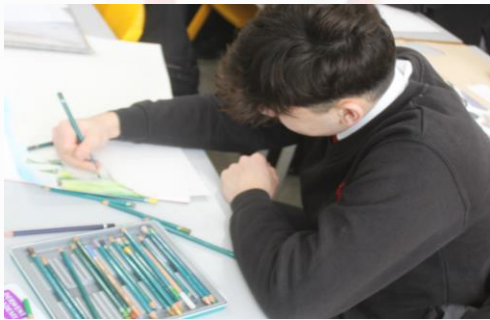
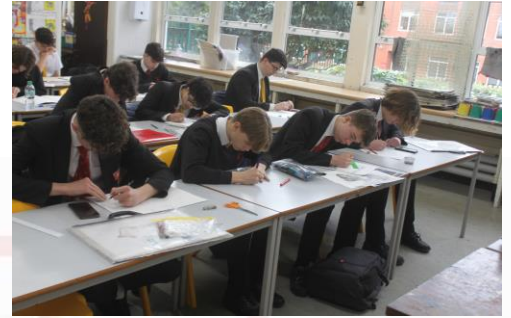
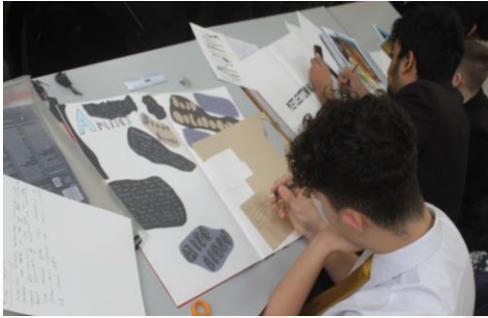
Year 8 Music - pupils are learning how to play the ukulele in their Music lessons. This term, they have been developing their knowledge of basic chord shapes by playing along to over 30 different songs in class, building up their *hand-eye coordination* and *muscle memory* to switch between chords fluently.



Year 7 Music - pupils have been composing short pieces that convey the emotion and story within a famous work of art. In this lesson, pupils chose a painting and then began crafting melodies and chord patterns before considering how they could use the various *elements of music* to help convey their chosen artwork.

Take a sneak peek into our classrooms...

Year 11 Art - GCSE pupils working on their Unit 2 sketchbooks in preparation for their forthcoming ten-hour practical exam.



Year 9 Art - pupils got the opportunity to work with professional artists in 'Emotional Expression through Art' workshops. In the Summer term, Centerpieces returned to Hurstmere and worked with a smaller group of twenty Year 9 pupils to create 5 large-scale canvases as a memorial for Tom Bold, to promote creativity and wellbeing. These canvases are now displayed between our canteen and Room 23. It was fantastic that Julie McDermott (Tom's mum) was able to visit the workshop on the final day to see the outcomes.

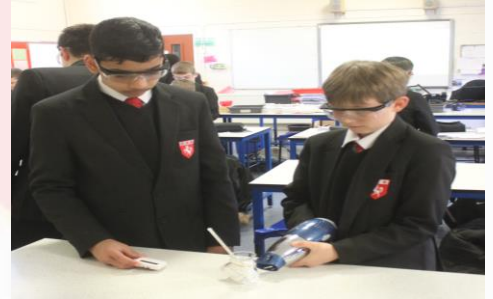


'Centerpieces' is a Bexley-based charity that promotes public awareness using Art to support mental health and provides support to people in mental health recovery through Art. 'Centerpieces' has been running for 18 years, becoming an independent charity in 2015.

These workshops have been made possible by a generous donation to Hurstmere School by Mrs Michelle Edwards. Mrs Edwards is a former Hurstmere parent, and the donation is made in memory of Tom Bold, who tragically and unexpectedly passed away two years ago, aged 35. Tom was a former pupil and practising artist/illustrator; he was also the best friend of Mrs Edwards' son.

Welcome to Science Week

Pupils in KS3 are celebrating British Science Week. The theme for this year is 'Connections' and links with multiple areas across Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The boys have been exploring the ideas around NASA sending humans to Mars. During the week, the boys have been conducting some experiments on the possibility of surviving the mission to Mars. For example, the Year 7s have been looking at the effects of temperature on the space capsule and designing ways to protect astronauts against the extreme heat. They also researched the impact of gravity on Mars.



The lunch task explored the ideas of mass, gravity, aerodynamic and their impact. The pupils calculated how gravity on Mars will impact a possible spacecraft/NASA mission and they will use this information, together with their research and investigations, to design a spacecraft to launch .



Year 11s Testing for Gases



Raising Aspirations

Year 11 Raising Aspirations Programme (Intervention Lessons)

Please encourage your son to engage in extra support.

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

Maths Clinic is on every lunchtime for pupils wanting some support with their learning.

Last week, we delivered another "Walking, talking Mock" to our GCSE French pupils. Pupils have again spoken very positively about all the support on offer to help them achieve their maximum potential.



Some wonderful models made by our Year 8 Geographers in Investigating Squatter Settlements



Year 9 Options Evening and Subjects Parents Evening

It was wonderful to see so many of our Year 9 parents to the return of the in-person **Year 9 Options Presentations Evening**. Making curriculum choices in Year 9 is an important milestone in transitioning from KS3 study to obtaining KS4 qualifications.

The presentations delivered by Curriculum Leaders and subject specialists included course details, pathways of study and employment opportunities in that subject. The presentations are all available on our school website.



Year 9 Subjects Parents Evening was held on Thursday 16th March, again it was a great turn out and a pleasure to see so many of you. Parents evenings are a great opportunity to continue to build our partnership of support and challenge, which will ultimately benefit the boys.



Opportunities Beyond the Timetable



Hurstmere Top 5%

We are very honoured that Hurstmere has been placed in the Top 5% of sports schools in the country. Hurstmere were awarded 143rd best sports school out of over 5,000 schools. This is based on the extracurricular provisions offered and the successes we have had in multiple competitions.

Mr Eiffert would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU & CONGRATULATIONS** to the PE staff and pupils on our success!



Football and Rugby News

Our Year 11s were crowned winners of the U16 Kent Invicta Cup on the 24th February 2023, against Simon Langford school (Final score 5-2). Lots of memories made at this match and what a superb achievement, boys – well done!



Well done to our **Year 10 A team** footballers who went to Devonport School in Plymouth and won 4-0. They now have a home tie against Bonus Pastor in the National Cup Semi Final. The boys were a credit throughout and did us proud. The final will be held here on home turf and everyone is welcome to come and cheer on the lads.

HOORAY!



Football and Rugby News Continued

On Friday 3rd March, the Year 9 football team played St Paul's Academy at the Gallagher Stadium under floodlights in the **Kent Cup final**. The boys took the lead with a spectacular free kick from E. Carey and this was followed with 2 more goals from H. Puttock and C. Potter to **win 3-2** and become **Kent Champions**. Thanks to all the staff and pupils who gave up their time on Friday evening to support the boys in this great achievement. Outstanding commitment from all involved.



Parent Email...
Mr Davis,
Just wanted to thank you for all that you do for the boys and a huge congratulations for the win last night. It is a great memory they made last night. Thanks again for all your guidance and support.

Year 8 B Team beat Bexley Grammar on the 6th March 2023, securing their place in the North Kent Cup Final... date to be arranged soon. Good luck, boys !



Year 7 beat Bexley Grammar in the **North Kent Cup** 4-1 on Tuesday 7th March 2023, securing their place in the final... date to be arranged soon !



GO TEAM!



Football and Rugby News Continued



Our Year 8 Rugby Team played on 3rd March 2023, beating both Bullers Wood & Darrick Wood Schools.



Year 9 competed in the 'Kent 7s Festival' against very tough competition, losing 2 games and drawing 1. The boys had a great day and progressed as the festival went on. #weneverlosewelearn

Bexley School Games

School Games Cross Country Competition

Hurstmere hosted the KS2 School Games Cross-Country competition on 1st March. The event was attended by 88 children aged 7 to 11 from 10 different Primary Schools from across Bexley. Our wonderful team of Sports Leaders helped to run the event, acting as course marshals and 3 of Hurstmere's best cross-country runners acted as hares for the children to follow! Typically, it was a cold afternoon but thanks to our Sports Leaders, the children were encouraged to keep running and complete the course, ensuring everyone had fun in taking part.



Careers Information

On Tuesday 7th March, pupils from Years 10 and 11 were invited to attend the Blackfen Careers Forum. This provided our pupils and their parents with an excellent opportunity to find out more about a wide range of careers and the choices available for both Further and Higher Education. The evening was well attended and gave our pupils useful information in assisting them with future career plans and choices. During the event, our pupils were able to speak to the representatives of the organizations and establishments such as Goldsmiths University of London, University of Greenwich, University of Kent, University of Sussex, University of Essex, Kingston University, Canterbury Christchurch University, University of East London, Northeastern University, Dartford FC Academy, Hadlow College, London South East Colleges, North Kent College, British Academy of Jewellery, RAF, British Army, Royal Navy & Marines, London Fire Brigade, Metropolitan Police, Oxleas NHS, London Ambulance Service and many more!



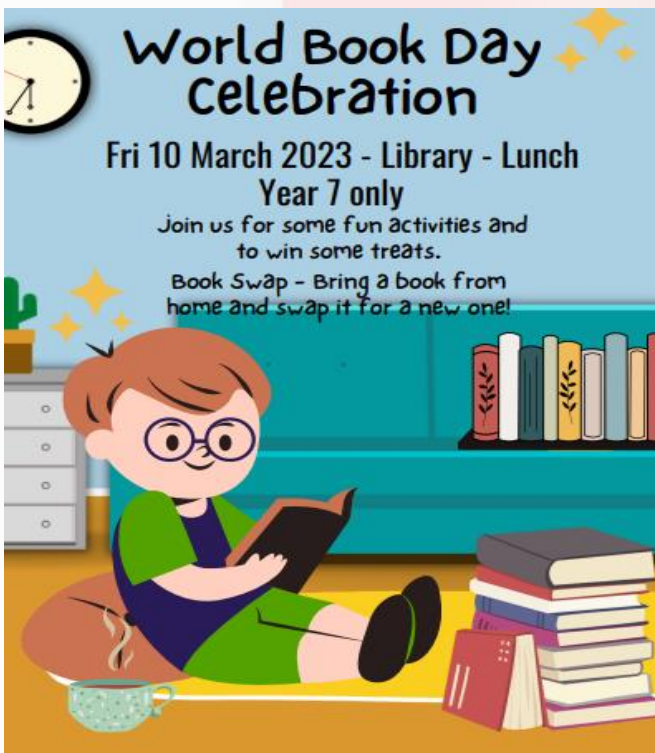
Work Experience Request

Can You Help ?

Are you able to support our Year 10 pupils in providing career insight by offering a work experience placement at your workplace? If your business or place of work is able to provide work experience opportunities, we would love to hear from you! We are currently looking for employers to offer a two-week placement w/c 10th July 2023. If you can help, please contact Mrs Watson in the school office.



Library News



World Book Day took place on 10th March 2023. Our Year 7 pupils were able to have fun joining in activities such as: fun word searches, designing and making a bookmark, and a scavengers' hunt! We also hosted a book swop which proved very popular. The boys were awarded prizes for their participation and achievements during World Book Day.



School Trips

Year 11 Geographers travelled to Stratford for their Human Geography fieldwork recently. Pupils investigated the quality of life at two contrasting locations, including the Olympic park. A range of different surveys were undertaken as part of their investigation.



Year 10 Introduction to Oxbridge

On Tuesday 14th March 2023, 12 of our Year 10 pupils were taken to an Introduction to Oxbridge (Oxford & Cambridge Universities) hosted at Langley Park School for Boys. This event was open to high-achieving Year 10 pupils attending Bexley and Bromley state secondary schools. The trip was very exciting and enjoyed by all. As always, the boys behaved impeccably well and were a credit to Hurstmere. This trip has certainly fuelled their ambition.

Bexley Dojo Judo Trip

Some pupils from Years 7 and 8 attended a Judo taster session today at United Judo Club, Bexley. The club provides an opportunity for the pupils to experience a new sporting activity which they have not experienced before in the local area. Judo is a sport which encourages discipline and respect, whilst also promoting positive physical and mental health. This is also part of the School Games, a national programme which puts physical and competitive sport at the heart of schools, therefore providing young people with more opportunities to enjoy competing and achieving their personal best.



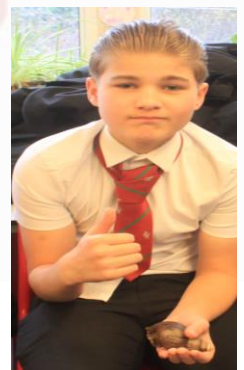
Visitors News



On Wednesday 8th March 2023, Year 7 pupils had a fun talk delivered to them about the ecology and conservation of birds of prey by Alan Ames, the founder of Eagle Heights in Eynsford, Kent. They were shown different birds and listened enthusiastically to the fun facts about them, including their interesting habitats. Mr. Ames highlighted the need for conservation and explained the relationship between predators, ecology and adaptation. It was also fascinating to hear about the introduction of buzzards to Darenth Valley and the scheme to provide nesting boxes for barn owls. Pupils also had the opportunity to have their photograph taken holding one of the birds of prey. They could choose either Alaska (the Bald Eagle), Psycho Sybil (the Harris Hawk) or Sparky (the Barn Owl). The pupils thoroughly enjoyed this experience.



As part of Science Week, Year 8 pupils were visited by Zoolab. This was a cross-curricular workshop in partnership with the Geography department. The theme was 'Predators, Prey and Food Chains'. This workshop was both fun and educational for pupils. Whilst some animals were kept in their tanks for pupils to safely observe, there was also the opportunity to touch and hold some of the creatures such as 'Echo' the gecko and also the snake. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed this experience.



Information for Parents



VISIONARY Teen Enterprise Programme with FREE HAF spaces this April in Bexley

Bexley Council is offering the VISIONARY Enterprise Project for 11 – 16 year olds in the Bexley area. The project will take place from the 11th – 14th April at Cleeve Park School and will be free to attend for any young person in receipt of a free school meal (thanks to council HAF funding). It will also be open to paid bookings for the price of £28 per day.

VISIONARY is a project aimed to inspire young people across the UK to set their sights high and increase their potential when they leave education.

There is an abundance of opportunities out there! We want young people to open their minds to these possibilities; we want them to feel inspired, empowered and capable of anything whether that be starting a business or learning about the many opportunities that exist.

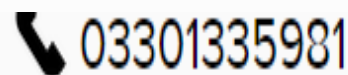
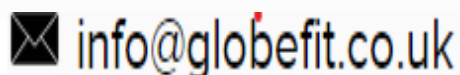
We are so excited to be hosting our 4-day workshop this April in Bexley.

This is an opportunity for young people to make new friends, as well as network with industry professionals who will be on hand to deliver talks and answer questions relating to their careers and life paths.

There will also be the chance to learn vital life skills such as budgeting, shopping for groceries, cooking, fitness, mindfulness, safe use of social media and graphic design.

There will be food (cooked by the pupils!) and plenty of opportunities to socialise, attend talks from various professionals, careers workshops on a variety of things (including CV writing), several entrepreneurial challenges and more!

Bookings can be made via our website www.globefit.co.uk/visionary.



Information for Parents

Diary Dates

Tuesday 21st March 2023:	Spring Concert 6pm - 8pm – Tickets via Wisepay
Wednesday 22 nd March 2023:	Year 9 Academic Mentoring Day – (Year 9 pupils on home learning)
Friday 24 th March 2023:	Options Deadline
Thursday 30 th March 2023:	Iceland Year 11 School Trip
New Date To Be Confirmed:	Year 7 Subjects Parents Evening 4 – 7pm (was originally scheduled for 30.03.23)
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	
Friday 21st July 2023:	Last day of term
Monday 4th September 2023:	Back to School



Use the Right Service

	Minor cuts and grazes Bruises and minor sprains Coughs and colds	Self Care Stock your medicine cabinet Visit www.NHS.uk
	Minor illnesses Headache Stomach upsets Bites and stings	Pharmacy
	Feeling unwell? Unsure? Anxious? Need help?	NHS 111
	Persistent symptoms Chronic pain Long term conditions	GP Advice Out of Hours call 111
	Choking Chest pain Blacking out Serious blood loss	A&E or 999 Emergencies only

**DID SOMEBODY SAY...
DOUGHNUT FRIDAY?**



**OUR NEW “FRIENDS OF
HURSTMERE” ARE SELLING
DOUGHNUTS IN THE CANTEEN
AREA AFTER SCHOOL TODAY.
ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO
TOWARDS SCHOOL PROJECTS
AROUND THE SCHOOL.
£1.00 PER DOUGHNUT**

Information for Parents

Join our new **'Friends of Hurstmere'** group which has been established to raise money for, 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 members who consider themselves to be our 'friends' whether that is as parents, guardians, carers, siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents. 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 are able to help out at upcoming events, please get in touch- any support would be appreciated.



TURKEY & SYRIA EARTHQUAKE Emergency Appeal

Watch this space for our charity appeal taking place week commencing 27th March 2023!

Please remember to top up your son's lunch money online as we are unable to take cash in school (www.wisepay.co.uk)

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

