

# Hurstmere News

12<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
Edition 7

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[www.hurstmere.org.uk](http://www.hurstmere.org.uk)



Our Core Values Assembly  
Theme this week is:  
**Integrity**

## Integrity

is choosing your thoughts and actions based on values rather than personal gain.

I will achieve great things through small steps.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“

FILLBROTHERS.COM

A flower does not think of competing to the flower next to it. It just blooms.

ZEN SHIN

”

The coronation last weekend was an occasion that few have ever experienced. Up and down the country, there were events to mark the coronation of King Charles III, including parties, pageants, meals, and fireworks.



For many, it will be a once-in-a-lifetime event. Although he is not the first King Charles, his life has involved many firsts- just like our pupils here at Hurstmere School. As I reflect on this year alone, there have been many positive ‘firsts’ for all our pupils, some of which have been captured in our newsletters. The greatest pleasures of staff at Hurstmere is experiencing such ‘firsts’ with our pupils. As educators, it is important for our school to boost our boys’ confidence to interact socially with others, extend their social networks and to provide them with new skills and abilities. I am pleased to showcase some of these opportunities and the excellent work around the school, with a spotlight on Year 9s in this newsletter edition.

We remind our pupils to be fearless in trying new things, whether they are physical, mental or emotional; we teach them that going outside of their comfort zone can lead them to go to the next level, where there is growth. This is what it means to ‘believe and achieve’.

A favourite quote of mine is: “Don’t fear failure so much that you refuse to try new things. The saddest summary of a life contains three descriptions: could have, might have, and should have.”  
(Louis E. Boone)

I hope this weekend is an opportunity for your sons to continue to try new things.

**Lynn Bennett**  
Principal

## Meet the Year 9 Pastoral Team



### **Mr Davis, Year 9 RSL**

My journey into teaching started back in 2005 when I attended my teacher training placement at Hurstmere from September until Christmas. I completed my second placement at Bexleyheath Academy before applying for a PE teacher vacancy at Hurstmere to start in 2006. I have had the pleasure of being a Form tutor to two groups of pupils and been the Head of Year/Raising Standards Leader for three year groups going through the school, with some of my ex-pupils now working as colleagues alongside me now.

During my time at Hurstmere, I have always engaged with the schools' activities week programme and have had some memorable trips with the pupils around the UK and abroad. Since becoming a Head of Year and having a change of job title to Raising Standards Leader, I now arrange year group trips and these have been some of my favourite times at the school, visiting places such as Mersea Island, Paris and skiing in USA/Canada.

As many of you will know, I am heavily invested in football and have had the opportunity to manage some successful pupils and teams during my time at Hurstmere. I have supported Leeds United all my life and return to my Yorkshire roots regularly to watch Leeds at Elland Road. I have seen the highs and lows of my club, following them in Europe in the Champions League, all the way to our demise of playing League 1 Football and back to the Premier League. Sadly, I feel that our time in the Premier League will come to an end this season and there will be some pupils who will relish the games against us in the Championship!

I moved away from my hometown of Whitby in North Yorkshire many years ago, but my family continue to be a major part of my life. I still enjoy my trips back home to see family and friends as often as possible. While I'm in town, I always make sure that I visit my favourite Fish and Chip shop, 'Hadley's' for the best fish, chips and mushy peas I've ever had!

Over the next few years, I will see my current year group go through their GCSE studies and wish them every success in their exams at the end of year 11. Remember that the hard work you put in now will impact on your future success at the school and beyond. Knuckle down over the next 2 years to open as many doors for you as possible at the end of your time at Hurstmere.

### **Mr Eiffert, Form Tutor for 9Si/y**

Hello, my name is Mr Eiffert and it my pleasure to be the Curriculum Leader for PE at Hurstmere School. I have been teaching here at Hurstmere for 8 years and prior to that I attended the school as a pupil, leaving in 2009.

My love for Sports started from a young age and progressed here at Hurstmere. My passion was fuelled by many of the teachers in the department who are still here today!

When I am not teaching, I can normally be found being a spectator across all different types of Sports. I am extremely proud to be a member of the Hurstmere community and what we continue to do for our pupils.

### **Mrs Maslen, Form Tutor for 9Co/x**

I've been teaching science for nearly 17 years. Prior to teaching, I was at home with my 3 children and during that time, I completed an Open University degree in Biological Sciences. I taught at a mixed school in Bexley for 13 years prior to starting at Hurstmere, so teaching all boys was a bit of an adjustment but I am generally enjoying being here. My favourite part of teaching is having a form group and I have been lucky to have had two great groups of boys so far.

When I'm not at school I enjoy binge watching series on Netflix, playing live video combat games, inline skating and longboarding (the last two hobbies are two things I learnt during lockdown, which I am now passionate about).

I am looking forward to seeing my form through their next two years at Hurstmere.



## Meet the Year 9 Pastoral Team



### **Ms Lambert, Form Tutor for 9Co/y**

Hello, my name is Ms Lambert. I am a French and Spanish teacher and I am also the form tutor for 9 Co/y.

I have always wanted to be a teacher and love teaching! I started my career as a Primary Montessori teacher, working for many years in a wonderful school in Clapham, up until I had my own children. Once my children became more independent, I decided to finally put my Modern Languages skills into good use and retrain as a Secondary School teacher. I am passionate about languages and can speak fluent Spanish, having lived in Madrid for many years with my family.

I love working at Hurstmere- the pupils and staff are great, and I am very proud to be a part of the whole team.

Outside of school, I am an avid reader fiction books. I keep fit by trying to cycle everywhere. I love gardening, cooking, travelling and going to the ballet. Most of all, I love spending time socialising with my family and good friends.



### **Mrs Ogueh-Etan, Form Tutor for 9Si/x**

Hello, I am Mrs Ogueh-Etan, a teacher of Design and Technology and a form tutor of 9 Sidney X. I joined Hurstmere in September 2019. For me, the rewards and challenges of teaching offer a sense of satisfaction that is enhanced by the knowledge that I have had some impact on the academic and personal development of the pupils I teach. I believe in developing a supportive classroom environment, which has a basis in quickly developing rapport with the pupils and using positive reinforcement strategies.



### **Mr Jones, Form Tutor for 9Ch/x.**

It doesn't seem like two minutes ago since I joined Hurstmere in 1988 as a 22 year old newly qualified teacher!

As you can imagine, I have seen many changes over the subsequent 35 years and I am immensely proud of my personal and the school's achievements. Seeing the pupils you teach leave Hurstmere with the skills required to become successful is why I became a teacher.

I am a firm believer that learning does not just happen in the classroom and so throughout my career, I have been heavily involved in extra-curriculum activities.

I have also led and been part of trips to Zambia, USA, France, Spain, Mersea Island and Belgium... the list goes on !

Outside of Hurstmere I keep myself fit by doing many miles of road cycling. I am also a dedicated fan of Barnsley F.C. and have had a season ticket at Oakwell since 1997.

I also play guitar (badly!) and have recently qualified as a football referee.



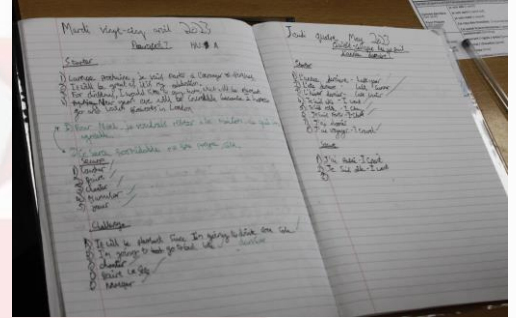
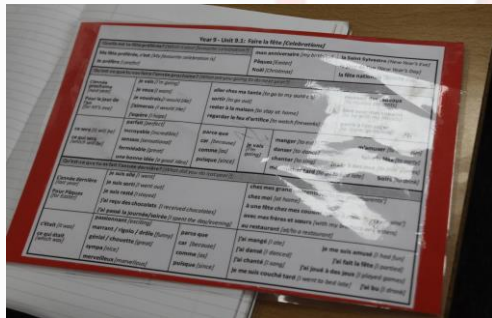
### **Mrs Owusu-Taylor, Form Tutor for 9Ch/y**

It's a great pleasure to join Hurstmere School as the Curriculum Leader for Design and Technology. With a prior career in furniture and graphic design, a career spanning 19 years as Head of Design and Technology, working as a Subject Consultant and Examiner, this has enabled me an extensive hands-on experience and expertise in the subject. I am a great believer in a personal quote of mine 'never underestimate a young person's ability to be creative and innovative', because we are already seeing the amazing talent of our boys with the current projects they are working on.

I am passionate about setting up a clear strategic vision, direction for Design and Technology, and to develop the boys at Hurstmere into thriving individuals.

## Take a sneak peek into our Year 9 classrooms...

In **Geography**, Year 9s have been completing a unit of work called 'Africa is not a country!' This unit focuses on the misconceptions people and the media have about Africa as a continent, including colonialism, trade, demographics, aid, wealth, access to resources and neo-colonialism. At the end of the unit, pupils should have a much greater understanding of Africa and its countries, as well as being able to challenge other people's misconceptions.



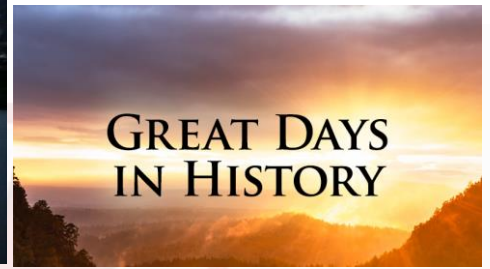
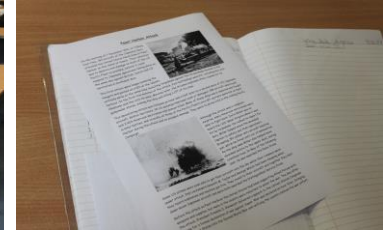
**Year 9 French** - We are currently learning all about 'celebrations'. This topic includes Christmas, Easter, New Year's Eve, Bastille Day and birthdays. Year 9 pupils enjoy this topic and get involved in researching the differences in how the French celebrate. The pupils are taught to express how they celebrated (past tense) and how they will celebrate (future tense) these occasions.



In **English**, Year 9s are studying the topic of creative writing: dystopian fiction. In this lesson, they were looking at an extract from a classic dystopian text: *Fahrenheit 451*. Pupils read an extract of the text, looking for engaging language devices and identifying their effects. The purpose of this is to get inspiration from top writers on how to make their creative writing engaging and sophisticated.

## Take a sneak peek into our Year 9 classrooms...

**History : Year 9**, are studying the Second World War currently in history. Today's lesson was on Pearl Harbor and why it was a significant event in the Second World War and the impact that America had when they joined the war.

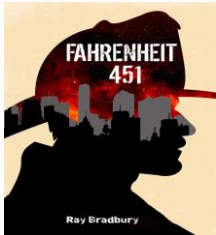


Mr Long's Year 9 **History** class are currently working through our World War II scheme of work and focusing on the major events of the conflict. In this particular lesson, pupils were looking into the significance of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour.

The History Department has many resources that can be used to give the boys a look back in time at historical events, and in this lesson, a series called 'World War Two in Colour' was used which depicts real footage of what happened during the war. This gives our boys the chance to empathise with the people during the war, enabling them to secure a deeper understanding. Our boys were using a system called 'Cornell Notes' which gives them many methods to highlight and show off what they have taken from the video.



Year 9 pupils in **Maths** are currently studying the topic "similarity and enlargement of shapes" which follows on from their recent topics of Pythagoras' theorem and ratio. As we are soon approaching the end of Year 9 and the Key Stage 3 curriculum, pupils are able to understand and apply the cross-curricular links between their knowledge in Maths successfully; this will enable them to answer more challenging problem-solving questions. A great start before embarking their journey into Key Stage 4 and starting the GCSE curriculum.

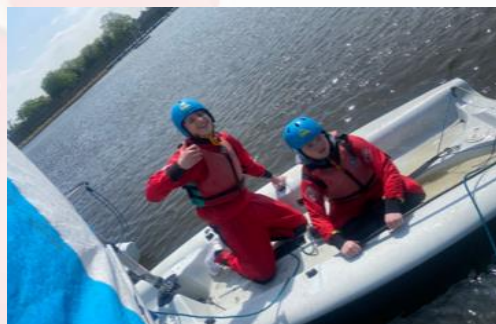


Year 9, **English** with Mr Mackenzie-Ingle:  
Following lessons on the ACOMPASS descriptive devices, use of powerful adjectives and adverbs, Aristotle's Narrative Arc and dystopian fiction, 9a/En3 analysed the opening of Ray Bradbury's classic 'Fahrenheit 451' in terms of language and structure.



## Year 9 Trip to Danson Water Sports

Year 9 Water Sports Rewards Trip: Pupils took part in sailing & kayaking at Danson Lake – a great day was had by all. Well done for all your hard work in school!



**Get in touch and book your adventure today**

Tel: 020 8303 2828

Email: [watersports@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:watersports@bexley.gov.uk)



And the Principal Reward goes to...

**Year 8**

Harvey K  
Alex C  
Micah A



A Principal Reward Voucher entitles the bearer to one main meal and a dessert, compliments of the school. This reward is in recognition of our pupils demonstrating one of our school values,  
R-Trails (Respect, Teamwork, Resilience, Ambition, Integrity, Leadership and Self Belief).

**Year 11**

Lucas C  
Oliver L  
Oliver H  
Oscar O  
Shaye B  
Samuel M  
Charlie S  
Taine T  
Joshua F  
Fred J  
Freddy P



# Hurstmere's bees are back...



It's no secret that we love our Hurstmere bees, but did you know how vital they are to our ecosystem? Honeybees pollinate one third of the global food supply, without them, many plants—including food crops—would die. In fact, there's no other insect humans rely on more than bees. As shown in the photos, Hurstmere pupils have been actively learning more about honeybees, and they were amazed by nature's smartest, smallest, hardest working civilizations.





## Sporting News

We hosted a cricket leaders course this week for Year 9 pupils from Bexley Grammar, Beths Grammar and Hurstmere. The leaders were being trained so they can plan and officiate the Bexley School Games Dynamos Cricket Competitions, run by our School Games Organiser, Miss Allsop, in May and June. Nineteen cricket leaders attended the course and during the afternoon, they worked with Richard O'Sullivan to develop basic coaching skills, looking at how to officiate the game and score. There were some excellent leadership skills on display and Miss Allsop has every confidence that they are going to do an amazing job of running the Primary School competitions. Well done, boys!



Year 9s played their first cricket game of the new season vs Chislehurst & Sidcup at our grounds. Unfortunately, we didn't secure the win, losing by 17 runs in the 20-20 North Kent District Cup! However, excellent effort from the team.



Year 11s 7-1 victory means our boys completed the double! They won both the U16 North Kent Cup & the Kent Cup!



Great result for Year 9 Hurstmere vs Wilmington Grammar in the North Kent Cup! Hurstmere won by 11 wickets!



Year 7 A Team played in the North Kent Cup Final at Wilmington Grammar School with a score of 6-2. Unfortunately, we did not secure the win this time, but the boys displayed great teamwork!



Year 9 A Team played Stone Lodge at Ebbsfleet resulting in defeat for Hurstmere, losing in the final minute of extra time 2-1. Unlucky to lose after a very close game with the majority of possession! Boys, you played brilliantly and should be proud of yourselves!



Congratulations to our Year 8A team for Winning the North Kent Cup following a 3 - 1 victory!

**Congratulations to our Year 8B team for winning the North Kent Cup! An excellent performance making it a North Kent and Kent double for the boys! Well done on a great season!** 🏆



# Sporting News / Athletics Team

Mr Davies took our Hurstmere Year 9 Athletic's Team to compete at Erith Leisure Centre, in the Bexley Championship's!

Some great performances and a wonderful day representing Hurstmere!



Close Score Settings

curr over	20.0	p'ship	6	rpo	5.85	req. rpo	to win
prediction	117	for	7				

Nearly all areas marked in light grey are clickable to view details.

GRAVESEND GS	HURSTMERE
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End Of Match

Gravesend GS won by 21 runs

W	O	+	Δ	1-6	●	▲
wicket	no ball	wide	bye	run	dot ball	penalty



## Forthcoming Year 9 Trips

### Year 9 Paris Activities week 2023

During the last week of Year 9, Mr Davis will be running the activities week trip to Paris, taking 96 pupils to France. They will attend the Vimy Ridge War Memorial on their journey through France to Paris. On the first day in the City, they will visit the Eiffel Tower, embark on a river cruise down the Siene, walk along the river to the Notre Damme Cathedral and the Louvre. They will then head down the Champs Elysees toward the Arc de Triomphe where pupils will climb the stairs to the top and see Paris from the amazing views on top of the monument. The next day in the city includes a visit to Disneyland Paris where the boys will be able to enjoy the rides of both of the theme parks, along with the spectacular fireworks display at the Magic Kingdom castle. On the last day, the boys will visit the Stade de France for a tour of the French National stadium before the journey back to the UK. Parents will be informed of the date for the Parent Information Evening which will take place next half term.



**Combat Laser Years 8 and 9 on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**Comic-Com Year 8 on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**Geography Field Trip, Herne Bay Year 10 on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**Mersea Island Residential Trip Year 7 on 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**Paris/Euro Disney Year 9 on 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

### Year 9 Ski Trip 2024

February half term 2024 will see the year group visit Killington Mountain resort for the annual ski trip which is being organised by Mr Davis and Mr Jones. This is a fantastic trip that Hurstmere has to offer and will see the boys take part in ski lessons in the Killington resort for 5 days, with the group visiting Woodbury Common outlet mall before seeing the sites of New York (including Empire State Building, Central Park and Times Square). There are still a small number of spaces available for any pupils in Year 9 who would like to take part in this amazing trip of a lifetime, a memory that pupils never forget.

If you would like to take part in the trip please contact Mr Davis via e-mail: [a.davis@hurstmere.org.uk](mailto:a.davis@hurstmere.org.uk)



# Music News



## Amazing News !



Alex and Micah from Year 8 have made it through to this year's **Music For Youth National Finals** in Birmingham on Saturday July 8<sup>th</sup> !

This is the youngest group we have ever had make it through to the finals- what an impressive achievement! There were nearly 50,000 pupils taking part nationally in this year's under-21 category. Alex and Micah will now be competing against the best in the country and may then progress onto the Royal Albert Hall School Prom in November.



# Local Activities



# Information for Parents

## Diary Dates

16th May – 21st June 2023:	Year 11 GCSEs
29th June 2023 :	Year 11 Leavers Day Celebration
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2023:	New Year 7 Parents Welcome Evening 5.30 – 7pm
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2023:	Year 7 Parents Evening 4 – 7pm
Friday 21st July 2023:	Last Day (Early Closure)
24th August 2023:	GCSE Results Day (10 – 12am)

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

## Term Dates

Bank Holiday – 29th May 2023

Half Term – Last day is Friday 26th May 2023

Back to school - Monday 5th June 2023

Last day of Summer Term is Friday 21st July 2023 (Early Closure)

Autumn Term starts Tuesday 5th September 2023

INSET Days– 4th Sept, 20th Oct, 30th Oct, 1st Dec 2023, 19th Feb 2024

Half Term – Our last day is Thursday 19th October 2023

Back to school on Tuesday 31st October 2023

Last day of Autumn Term is Thursday 21st December 2023 (Early Closure)

Spring Term starts Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Half Term – Last Day is 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Back to school – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Last day of Spring Term is Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Term Date for Summer Term 2024 are available on our school website

