

Head's Newsletter

6 January 2023

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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2023 - I hope you had a lovely Christmas break and wish you a happy new year.

Christmas Concert 2022

Our first term of the academic year ended with an action-packed week that included a wonderful Christmas concert. It was a pleasure to attend and listen to with some fantastic music and camaraderie – it was lovely to see some of the students performing alongside staff. A big thank you to Mrs Leggett and her team for putting on the event, and to the student performers. Our production of Matilda is coming soon in February!



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Fundraising and Charity Update

Thanks again for all the kind donations towards the Chet Valley Larder. We were able to deliver a large quantity of items in the last week of term that helped those in need over the Christmas period. Four of our student leaders visited the hall being used to store and sort donated items, and were described as "stars" by a member of the team that took time to email her feedback and thanks.



Our Christmas jumper/non-uniform day raised £343.65 for Save the Children. Thank you for your contributions.

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Student Participation in Performing Arts

It has been fantastic to hear about the involvement of several students in performing arts performances during the Christmas period. Not only is it brilliant that these young people have the talent and confidence to perform in front of audiences, it also highlights superb dedication in preparing and rehearsing!

- 🎭 Hiraani Wagner (Year 8) performed in Jack and the Beanstalk at the Marina Theatre in Lowestoft.
- 🎭 Bronte Beevor (Year 7) performed Jack and the Beanstalk, Bungay Fisher Theatre.
- 🎭 Skye Craig (Year 7) performed in the Nutcracker Ballet at the Theatre Royal, Norwich (Northern Ballet) and in the weeks ahead will be taking part with Young Voices at the O2.
- 🎭 Darci-Rose Sayer (Year 8) performed in Peter Pan at St George's Theatre, Great Yarmouth.
- 🎭 Tallulah Godfrey (Year 7 – see picture) performed in Jack and the Beanstalk at the Theatre Royal, Norwich.

Congratulations to all the students above – we are very proud of you and looking forward to hearing about your future involvement in the arts!



Forthcoming Flu Immunisation Catch-up

Flu immunisation catch-ups for Years 7, 8 and 9 will take place on 18 January. These will be in the form of a nasal spray – further details to follow in due course.

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Subject Stars of the Week

IT and Computing

KS3 – Year 9 – Fin Backhouse

Fin has performed extremely well over the last few months. He consistently makes a contribution to lessons and his responses help make the time more engaging and interesting. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic in all areas of the subject, and he is committed to meeting his deadlines. Fin has produced an excellent range of work in recent months, which is reflected in his overall progress in this subject.

Well done. Fin!

KS3 – IT and Computing – Year 9 – Millie-Anne Stevens

Millie-Anne has been chosen for her creative design skills with her pixel art entry, which was well received by those who voted in our annual Christmas pixel art competition. Millie-Anne has an excellent work ethic - she applies maximum effort and continues to make the most of the curriculum time she has in this subject area. It is a real privilege to observe her progress, and the commitment she has in producing excellent work on a consistent basis.

Well done Millie-Anne!



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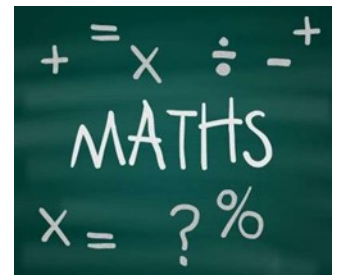
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Maths

Jack Baldry, Year 9 - Last half term Jack demonstrated a very high level of understanding, achieving a near perfect score in his autumn term assessment. Well done Jack!

Keely Robinson, Year 10 - Over the last half term Keely made great progress, her perseverance and hard work in lessons resulted in a very pleasing end of year assessment. Well done Keely.



Library updates- January 2023

Bookbuzz

Before Christmas, all Year 7 students were given their free Bookbuzz book to take home and read. Alongside this, they were all given a Reading Challenge sheet to complete once they had finished their book. If students complete a number of tasks and provide evidence then they can earn themselves some positive points - a great way to start the New Year! We will be accepting completed challenge sheets until the end of this Spring term. Please bring them to the Librarian in the Library or email me: vgoodisongates@hobart.org.uk



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Excelsior Awards

The Excelsior Award is the only fully independent, nationwide book award for graphic novels and manga - where kids aged 9-18 decide the winner (via four age-appropriate categories) by rating each book as they read it! This year we are taking part in this brilliant opportunity. We are looking for new and regular readers of Graphic Novels and Manga to help read and rate this year's shortlisted titles. Please see the Librarian for more information - books are coming soon!

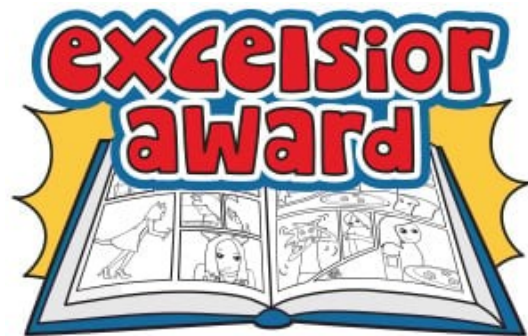
Words with Art project

Students have been taking part in our **Words with Art project**, bringing together creative writing and art to produce new and original work. Following a day of poetry workshops with Lewis Buxton, the students assembled to create artwork and poems. There is a display in our Library so please encourage your child to pop to the library and check it out!



Book Club

This term's books for Book Club will be by Marcus Sedgwick who sadly passed away in 2022. Marcus's books are award winning and reach across genres and ages. He writes about friendship, kindness, humanity, the natural world to name a few, but his work is a thing of grace and clarity and his writing opens new ways of seeing the world.



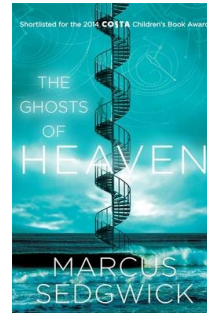
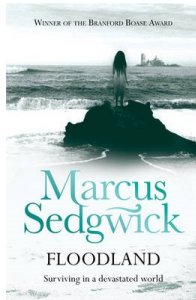
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Book for Year 7 and 8 - ***Floodland***

Book for Year 9 – ***The Ghosts of Heaven***



Read the book and share your thoughts at our meeting at the end of the term (tbc).

Library Club Updates

Here is the updated timetable for clubs in the Library:

	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays
Lunchtimes	Games & puzzles		Warhammer Club	Games & puzzles
After School	Anime Club Homework Club	Homework Club	Warhammer Club Homework Club	D & D Homework Club

Mrs Goodison-Gates - Librarian

Uniform Update

Many thanks for your support with uniform for the start of the new term. A reminder of the key information included in the last newsletter before we broke up for Christmas:

Jewellery

The only jewellery permitted is one stud in each ear and one ring (not one per hand). If other jewellery is worn, it will be confiscated. This includes nose piercings and any other facial piercings.

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Skirts and Shoes

Skirts must be worn in a length close to the knee, and should not be made of 'stretchy' material. Students must wear shoes – trainers are not permitted. Our uniform policy provides more detail, which can be read [here](#).

Students not in correct school uniform are likely to be asked to change into correct uniform we lend them. Failure to act on instructions will be addressed in line with our behaviour policy.

Kind regards and have a good weekend.

Ross Li-Rocchi

Head of School