

# Head's Newsletter

1 April 2022

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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the last newsletter prior to the Easter Break. Thank you for all your support in what has been a very busy half term!

## More Fantastic Martial Arts Success!

It has been another week in which I have learnt of amazing achievements for our students who participate in martial arts. Several of our youngsters train with Sensei Lee at an academy in Norwich, and he wrote to inform us that two of individuals passed their Junior Black Belt examination last Saturday! Following five years of training, they completed six weeks of intense prep classes before their final examinations. Madeleine Lee (Year 7) is pictured below following her success. Congratulations to both students!

The second success story is that of Billy Baker (Year 9) who represented Kenshin Karate Organisation (KKO Great Britain) and Phoenix Karate Club on Sunday.

Billy competed in an individual event for boys aged 13-14years and navigated four rounds to secure his place in the finals. During all his bouts, Billy delivered exceptional technique and went on to secure the Gold medal in the final of his individual category, a superb achievement! Billy then competed in a team and secured another Gold medal! He will be going on to represent GB in the European Championships later in the year.

The youngsters have shown tremendous dedication and commitment to achieve so brilliantly in their chosen disciplines.



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## **Comic Relief/Red Nose Day - Update**

I am thrilled to provide an update on the amount we raised through the non-uniform day and other activities for Comic Relief. When I included the total in last week's newsletter, little did I know that that count was still in progress! The total collection was actually £855.96 – a fantastic amount! Thank you for all the contributions and the support from home.



## **Readathon Success**

As part of our World Book Day activities, Mrs Briggs-Mee organised and promoted a readathon. Through sponsorship, youngsters raised funds to support young people in hospital. I am delighted to announce that a total of £425 has been raised. Thanks to the efforts of the children and leadership of Mrs Briggs-Mee. Some individuals read a phenomenal number of texts in a short time span – and we are very proud of their efforts!

The brilliant contributing individuals involved were:

Katie Page, Isabella Johnson, Jess Norton, Emily Crossland, Harriet Atkinson, Joe Catton, PJ Blyth, George Innes, Millie-Ann Stephens, Seren Howell and any others who contributed.

## **Uniform Survey – Summary of Feedback Received**

We are now in a position to share the headlines from our uniform survey. Thank you to all those who took the time to participate. We had over 300 responses, which is terrific. We are currently consulting with students through their form and year meetings and expect their feedback straight after the holiday. The majority of parent/carers supported:

- The option of tailored school shorts to be worn by any gender during a set time May – October (half terms).
- Not having the school logo on skirts/trousers.
- Having recommended items of uniform (trousers, skirts, shirts) available from a High Street supplier as well as Screens.
- The option of having an online way to sell or swap pre loved uniform items.

The next steps will be:

- To review results of student and staff feedback.
- A small working group of parents/carers will meet to explore some aspects in more detail and if possible review samples.

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Final details will be shared over the next term. Our uniform policy will be updated to reflect the above and will go to governors later in the academic year.

On a related theme, I would like to thank you for your support in ensuring your child's uniform is smartly worn. We recently returned to a 'no coats and hoodies in lessons' due to the higher temperatures. Previously, these were allowed to be worn so students were comfortable in the cold when windows being open for ventilation. We have been very pleased with the manner in which the vast majority have worn their uniform. The cold temperatures of the last two days have seen the return of coats though!

## **Year 6 Forensic Science Days**

The Science department welcomed Year 6 students from local primary schools to a Forensic Science Day at Hobart on the 28 and 29 March. More than 170 pupils from 11 schools had the chance to do some hands-on Science and gain an insight into life at their local high school. They spent the day as forensic scientists, tasked with solving a fictional murder. They carried out a series of experiments on evidence collected from the crime scene and eliminated suspects to reveal the identity of the murderer. The Year 9 helpers did a fantastic job supporting the Year 6 pupils and making them feel at home at Hobart. Thanks are due to all those that helped make the event such a success and to Mr de Best for his hard work in organising and leading the two days.



## **Student Voice**

I had the pleasure of meeting the student voice leadership team this week. Students from a variety of year groups eloquently and enthusiastically shared the views of students within the school regarding improvements and developments. There was a lot to cover, and we will aim to meet again early in the summer term to explore the remaining points on their list. So far, we have discussed themes such as; improvements to the school toilets, how we best distribute sanitary products and which charities we should fundraise for in the future.



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## Year 11 Exam Information Evening and Easter Revision Programme

Thank you to all those who attended our calendared Year 11 exam information evening this week. The PowerPoint that featured key information shared has been emailed out for those that could not make it. Thank you to Miss Field, Mrs Wilkinson and Mrs Beaumont for presenting at the event. I would like to wish our Year 11 students all the best with their revision over Easter – the last long break before written GCSE exams begin on 16 May.

There are Easter revision/study sessions in a variety of subjects over the Easter break and the programme is attached separately.

## Return Date after the Easter Break

A reminder that the return date after the Easter break is Thursday 21 April due to the platinum jubilee, which means one less school day this academic year.

## Buses 9 and 10 – Update

We have received news that buses 9 and 10 will return to single decker vehicles after Easter.

## MFL Stars of the Week

This week's stars of the week are:

Harry Waters (Year 7)  
Rebecca Jay (Year 9)



Well done for your excellent effort and progress.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing Services Update

Kooth is a mental health and wellbeing service for young people that we have publicised and used for some time at Hobart. There is now a similar service available to adults called Qwell. We all may need support at time regardless of our age. The links for both services are <http://www.kooth.com> and [www.qwell.io](http://www.qwell.io)

Best wishes and have a great Easter break.

**Ross Li-Rocchi**  
Head of School