



HEDNESFORD VALLEY HIGH NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE TO ALL

Dear Parents/Carers,

With the Easter Holiday finally here, this newsletter is a little reminder of all that has gone on over the last term. You will see that there has been lots of activities and learning, not just in the classroom, but also in our surrounding areas. I have enjoyed teaching map skills to year eleven students, both in the classroom and over Cannock Chase. This also provided us the opportunity to research and visit the Commonwealth and German War Cemeteries, which the students and staff found fascinating.

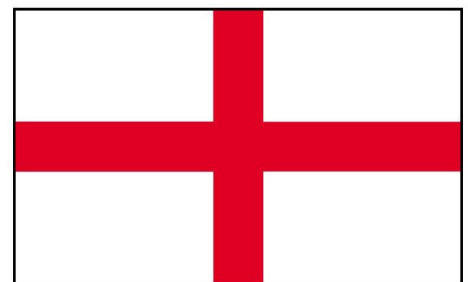
A reminder to parents and carers that the next Half term is only four weeks long and has some breaks within it. We come back to school on Monday 28th April and on Friday 2nd May we have our INSET Day, and the school is closed to students. Monday 5th May is a Bank Holiday, and the school will be closed to students and staff.

I would like to finish by thanking our wonderful staff for all they do for the school and our students. Also, a fond farewell to Mr Holmes, who will be joining his new school after Easter. Mr Holmes has been with us for nearly two years and has been a positive part of the school's Sixth Form Staff.

Finally, a thank you to yourselves for your continued support. Take the time over the Easter break to relax, enjoy the festivities and don't forget to celebrate St George's Day on Wednesday 23rd April.

Kind regards

Mr S Stokes



ATTENDANCE

Mrs Harris on behalf of all at HVH would like to thank all students this term for their excellent Attendance!

The start of the Summer Term marks the start of our Attendance Raffle! We have 4x £20 Amazon Voucher and An Amazon Fire HD10 Tablet to WIN!

1 Week of Full Attendance = 1 Raffle Ticket!

A REMINDER: Please call on every day of absence.

Class Attendance Spring Term 2025

7RSt – 96.4%, 7KTu – 91.9%, 8ABi – 92.2%,
 8SWi – 93%, 9JOv – 88.3%, 10JSm – 81.6%,
 10APa – 82.8%, 11JCo – 90.7%, 11PWi –
 93.1%, CSa – 91.8%, NWo – 93.5%, RHu –
 90.4%, ISt – 94.6%, 6LNi – 95.3%, 6EXp –
 88.3%, 6AHI – 97.2% and 6ADa – 88.3%

HEDNESFORD VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Ready to Learn - Ready for Life

EACH WEEK YOUR CHILD HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN A RAFFLE TICKET (1 WEEK 100% ATTENDANCE = 1 RAFFLE TICKET)

PRIZE DRAW
 WEDNESDAY 16TH
 JULY 2025

ATTENDANCE RAFFLE

TRANSFER TO ARBOR

During the Summer Term, we will be transitioning from our current Management Information System (SIMS) to a new system called Arbor. This change is being made in line with our commitment to comply with GDPR regulations, ensuring that we continue to manage your child's data responsibly and securely.

The Arbor system comes with several exciting features designed to benefit both you and your child. As part of the system's capabilities, parents and carers will have access to a parent app where you can:

- Monitor your child's attendance
- Book their school lunches
- Manage lunch and trip payments directly within the app.

This means that we will no longer be using ParentPay for lunch or trip payments. We believe that Arbor will provide a more seamless and user-friendly experience for you, helping you stay more connected with your child's school life.

We understand that you may have questions or concerns, and we are happy to support you through this transition. If you need any further information or assistance, please feel free to contact the school office.

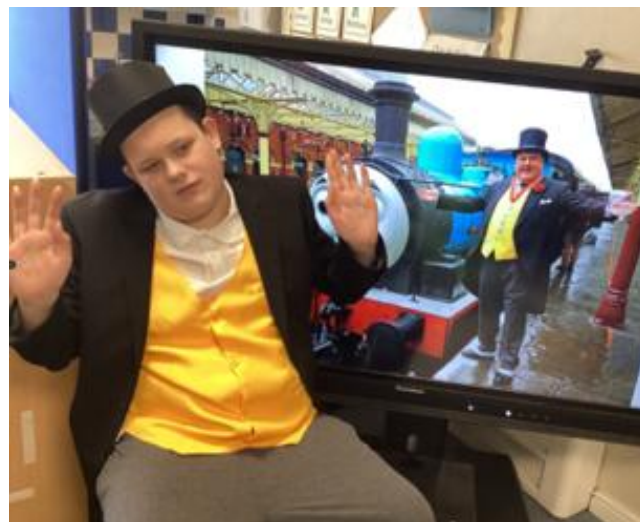


WORLD BOOK DAY 2025

The whole school celebrated World Book Day by coming to school dressed as their favourite book character. Encouraging students to "Read Your Way" was at the forefront of what every class did. Our research shows that children feel reading is something they must do, rather than something they choose to do. Read Your Way encourages everyone to let go of reading pressures and expectations and empowers children and young people to have fun discovering reading on their own terms. We had a fun-filled day of reading and book-related activities, to celebrate this special day.

Thanks to all parents/carers who supported us, by allowing their children to dress up and participate. We hope you all enjoy reading your new books, purchased with your World Book Day token.

Well-done to all our fancy-dress winners and a big thank you to all from Miss Tuft and Mrs Stephenson, Team Year 7!



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

After school clubs for the summer term will resume on Tuesday 6th May and will run until Thursday 10th July. A letter will be sent home on Monday 28th April regarding the clubs that we have available. The number of places available in each club are limited so please return the consent form to the school office as soon as possible.

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT/ UNIFORM

It is important for students to be fully prepared for their lessons to enable their learning time to begin promptly. The following items should be brought into school daily and taken to all lessons:

- Pencil case
- Handwriting pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Maths equipment
- Colouring pencils/pens

In addition, as we look towards the start of the new school year, we would like to remind all students of the uniform policy and ask parents/carers to ensure that students attend school in the following uniform:

- Navy blue blazer with school logo (optional)
- White shirt/blouse
- School tie (optional)
- 'V' neck navy blue sweatshirt
- Grey/ black trousers / skirt
- Sensible black shoes
- PE Kit: Navy blue t-shirt, black/ navy blue shorts, white socks and plain black trainers



MAKATON SIGN OF THE WEEK

Makaton Sign of the Week is shared with our students and signs are displayed in classrooms each week.

Incorporating the Makaton Sign of the Week into daily activities helps students become more confident in using sign language, improves their overall communication and social skills.

SPECIAL NEEDS ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

This term Mrs Sargent's Class have been visiting SNAP Playground each week. The students have really engaged with this activity!



SIXTH FORM

A Magical Evening at the Prince of Wales Theatre

Our 6th Form students lit up the stage with their dazzling performance of *Aladdin* at the Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock. From the opening scene to the final curtain, the energy, confidence, and creativity of our students wowed the audience and made us all incredibly proud.

The experience of performing in a professional theatre setting was a brilliant opportunity — from exploring backstage, to stepping out under the spotlights in front of a live audience. For many, it was their first time on such a stage, and they absolutely rose to the occasion.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Doug and the Cannock Lions, whose amazing generosity helped fund our stunning costumes. Their support allowed our students to fully embrace their roles and helped bring the magical world of Agrabah to life. From glittering genie robes to royal palace outfits, the costumes added a real touch of theatre magic.

We'd also like to thank the staff who helped make the show possible, as well as the families and friends who came out to support the cast. It was truly a night to remember — full of laughter, music, and well-earned applause.



Creative Sparks Fly in African Mask Workshop

We were delighted to welcome local sculptor Gwenda Jones into school for an inspiring workshop on African mask-making. Gwenda, whose work is exhibited in several local galleries, led a hands-on session that was both educational and hugely enjoyable. Her passion and talent truly captivated our students, and the results were nothing short of amazing.

Each student had the chance to design and sculpt their own African-inspired mask, learning about traditional techniques and cultural meanings. It was a fantastic opportunity to blend creativity with cultural exploration, and we are so grateful to Gwenda for sharing her time and expertise.

Explorers REWARD DAY

On Tuesday, Explorers had their reward trip to Burntwood Llama Farm. They had the opportunity to pet a llama, shire horse, a lamb called Pingu, and feed the greedy goats. They had a close-up experience learning about their reptiles. The children burnt lots of energy with their friends on the outdoor play and bouncy pillows. If they needed quiet time, they had the opportunity to have a quiet walk around the farm. I'm sure the children were very tired after a fun filled day at the farm!



SPRING REWARD DAY

On Thursday 10th April, students with enough behaviour points enjoyed a Reward Day to celebrate their hard work and achievements during the Spring Term. Students in 8SWi walked to Hednesford Park and Subway for lunch. Students in 11JCo opted to stay in school and cook lunch for themselves.

It was a day full of fun and memorable experiences for all!

KS4 GEOGRAPHY

KS4 Geography students have been studying maps and map reading during this term. Students have learnt what map symbols mean, how to work out distances and how to follow a route.

As part of these studies students went on two field trips to the German Military Cemetery. During the first visit we looked at the Commonwealth Grave site and looked around the German Cemetery. A drone flying exercise was taking place at the time and some students had an opportunity to talk to a few Military personnel about what they were doing.

Reuben said, " I really enjoyed looking around the cemetery and I was surprised at how young some of the soldiers were when they died."

On the second trip students used a map to complete a circular walk from the German Cemetery. They were shown by Mr Stokes how to orientate maps and look for landmarks so they could see that they were on the right path. Whilst walking we picked up litter, and by the time we got back we had two bags full of rubbish.

Lily said, " It was great to explore the cemetery, but even better was walking around the Chase on a beautiful sunny day and helping the wildlife by picking litter up."

Mr Stokes was very proud of the students, all showing excellent TRICK values whilst out of school. Hopefully we will be able to get out again next term!

EASTER EGG DONATIONS

We would like to express a huge thank you to all parents, carers and grandparents that donated Easter Eggs and chocolate, including local businesses, Wedgies Hairdressers Hednesford, Techheds Hednesford and ABC Teachers.

As a result of your support, we can now ensure that all our students will receive an Easter Egg or piece of chocolate.



Celebrating Success: Leavers & Employers Ceremony

Last Night (Thursday 10th April), we proudly hosted our annual Leavers and Employers Ceremony – a heartfelt celebration of achievement, progress, and partnership. We recognised our incredible 6th Form leavers for all they have achieved during their time with us, as they now look ahead to the exciting paths beyond school.

We also took time to shine a spotlight on the many local employers who have generously offered work experience placements to our students. These partnerships provide vital real-world learning and build skills, confidence, and aspiration. These employers are true heroes in our community – playing a crucial role in shaping futures and supporting our young people. We're proud to count them as part of our school family and look forward to many more years of working together.



GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Students that participated in our Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award have been invited to Buckingham Palace to celebrate achieving their Gold Award.

They are invited to take part in the garden party and will meet a host of celebrities.

It is hoped that the Duke of Edinburgh will also be at the event.

Miss Bird and Mr Willett are proud to be accompanying the students to share their success.

SPORTING TOURNAMENTS

Hednesford Valley High School U14 Basketball Team February 2025



Noah, Micheal, Jonny, Corey, Tyler, Kayden

2nd place in the WMSSSA Basketball tournament hosted by Queenscroft School, Lichfield

Hednesford Valley	8	Vs	2	Two Rivers	Won
Hednesford Valley	0	Vs	4	Southall	Lost
Hednesford Valley	2	Vs	2	Queenscroft	Drew
Hednesford Valley	4	Vs	0	Westcroft A	Won
Hednesford Valley	2	Vs	0	Westcroft	Won

Final

Hednesford Valley 0 Vs 4 Southall

A huge well done also, to our Under 16 Basketball team who came 3rd place in the WMSSSA Basketball tournament, and our Athletics team who took part in the WMSSSA Indoor Athletic Tournament, hosted by Westcroft School, that took place in March, we came 5th overall.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May 2025

- 2nd - INSET DAY
- 5th - May Day Bank Holiday
- 16th - E-Safety Coffee Morning
- 23rd - Break up for May Half Term

June 2025

- 2nd - Students return to School
- 16th & 17th - Sixth Form Residential
- 26th & 27th - Yr6/Yr7 - Transition Days

July 2025

- 2nd - Careers Fayre
- 3rd - New Year 7 Parents/Carers Evening
- 4th - Summer Fayre
- 9th - Summer Disco
- 10th - Parents/Carers Evening
- 11th - New Parents/Carers Coffee Morning
- 17th - Summer Rewards Day
- 18th - Sports Day, School to Finish at 12pm for Six Weeks Holiday

TERM DATES & INSET DAYS

2024 - 2025

Mon 14th Apr - Fri 25th Apr - Easter Holiday

Mon 28th Apr - Students return to school

Fri 2nd May - Staff Inset Day - closed to students

Mon 5th May - May Bank Holiday - closed

Mon 26th May - Fri 30th May - May Half - Term

Mon 21st July - Fri 29th Aug - Summer Holiday

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