



The Hundred of Hoo Academy Secondary Newsletter

Issue 2

Term Two



Message from the Principal December 2021

Congratulations to all our pupils for their commitment to learning and getting involved in all the opportunities that were on offer at The Hundred of Hoo Academy over the Autumn Term. It has also been fantastic seeing pupils competing in our Inter-College Competitions.

It is important to remember that, in times of uncertainty and difficulty, normality and appreciation is critical to good mental health, and it was extremely pleasing to see the support from all staff and pupils for World Mental Health Day. Over the last eighteen months pupils and families have had to make huge adjustments to their lives in order to get through the term.

Our staff have gone above and beyond in adapting the curriculum to reflect the interruptions to teaching and supporting pupils to get back into working hard. Large numbers of pupils enjoyed their co-curricular sessions, plus our school Christmas Concert, and the Nursery and Primary School shows were fantastic. On Friday 10th December, the festive season was in full swing with the annual Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day.

As we head off for the holiday I would like to thank you for all your support and feedback and the incredible donations to our local food bank. I am delighted that we have had a large increase in parents applying for a place, for their child, in September for Year 7 and it is wonderful to see the growing interest in the Academy and its popularity.

The plans for the January start have been emailed home and are on the website and we will write to you to reflect any government announcements that may be released over the break. Please continue to support us in reducing infection rates by sending students in with masks and testing bi-weekly over the break too.

My best wishes to you all for 2022 and keep safe and well.

Yours faithfully,

Principal

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Theme of the Fortnight Term 2

Term 2 started with our pupils focusing on the characteristics of being caring and reflective through a joint theme, marking both Remembrance and Anti-Bullying Week. In the first week, pupils reflected on the sacrifice that many have made for others throughout armed conflicts both historically and in the present day. Assemblies were led by form tutors around this theme and, in tutor time, pupils had the opportunity to engage with what careers are on offer within the armed forces, as well as reflecting upon the life of Sidney Frank Godley, our person of the fortnight.

The 11th of November was also marked with two minutes of silence to mark Armistice Day. Throughout the second week of this theme our focus changed to anti-bullying week, in line with the national anti-bullying alliance theme of 'One Kind Word'. Pupils were encouraged to identify how they can be kind and caring towards others, reflecting on their own behaviours and how they can support those around them. All pupils focused on three key items around bullying; what this means, who they should report bullying to and what to do in next steps if bullying continues, equipping them with the knowledge to make safe choices to stop bullying. Many pupils also took the opportunity to take part in the Safer Medway bullying survey, informing local councils on the most pressing issues to them surrounding bullying, enabling professionals to make judgements and support measures around this. Pupils also took part in National Odd Sock's day, an annual tradition which sees pupils wear odd socks to celebrate diversity amongst us and show support of the victims of bullying, raising money for the anti-bullying alliance.

Theme 2 focused on 'The Law, Consequences and Vindication'. This linked well to our previous theme through assemblies led by our community police officer- PC Brett- delivering information regarding the laws associated with bullying and harassment. With the IB learner traits of being a 'thinker' and 'principled', pupils reflected upon how their actions have influence on others. Our careers focus investigated what it is like to be a lawyer, whilst activities during form time enabled pupils to identify the 6 aims of punishment, how laws are created and what is meant by restorative justice.

Our final theme of the fortnight opened pupil's minds to inquire what it is like to complete mindfulness exercises, through the theme of 'Mindfulness and Spirituality'. A special thanks must go to our school governor, Alan Le Grys, for his input and assembly on the theme, introducing the topic to the academy. Pupils were also able to engage in a series of mindfulness activities; including silent reflection, creation of Mandalas and breathing exercises - all to enable pupils to consider how to take notice and be mindful of what is happening in the moment. Students had the opportunity to express their interpretations of 'Mindfulness and Spirituality' in an art form and submit their work in the Inter-College Art Competition.





Introducing our Inter-College Competitions Team

Students may have noticed some interesting posters appearing around the Academy and on our Official Social Media accounts, these are courtesy of our newly formed 'Inter-College Competitions Team'.

The team is comprised of Mr M Mundie, Miss F Mackenzie and Mrs A Smith, and every term you can expect a Sporting Tournament, Academic Contest and Charity Fundraiser to really get our pupils excited about their College by completing fun activities to really promote their sense of community.

In Term 2 we had a dodgeball tournament, and an Art contest. We also held a Form Time Christmas Quiz on the last day of term with a very special Guest Quiz Master!

There are lots of exciting competitions planned for the whole Academic year, use the link below to see what we have coming up!

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Inter-College Art Competition

Congratulations Viktoria Year 9 Forseti and Isabella Year 8 Neptune!

Their art entries received the most praise from our Senior Leadership team, and have been crowned the winners! Their task was to create an art form that represents 'Mindfulness and Spirituality'.

Thank you to everyone that participated and made the competition a success! Stay tuned for our termly competitions!



Viktoria Year 9



Isabella Year 8



Sixth Form Social and Study Area

Our Sixth Form social and study area has been completely refurbished. Ms Solly is extremely happy with the renovations and can't wait for it to be filled with our sixth formers.



Anime Club

Our Anime Club have been hard at work this term, learning all about common dishes presented within anime. On Tuesday 7 December they cooked ramen, it is a part of the traditional Japanese cuisine. If you are interested in attending Anime Club it is Tuesday after school with Miss Peneva, in Humanities.



International Schools

Italian Project

Year 10 and 11 GCSE Spanish pupils have been working with Miss Hill on a penpal project with a school called Liceo linguistico "E. Setti Carraro" in Milan, Italy.

Pupils have sent their first letters to their pen pals introducing themselves in English and this week they received their first responses asking more about them.

Over the Christmas break pupils will be preparing a response to their penpals in Spanish answering these questions and talking more about their hobbies and interests.



South Korean Project

A group of year 10 pupils continued their Zoom meetings with Sejong High School, our South Korean buddy school this term, and received a cultural box to help them learn about South Korean culture. The picture below shows some of the interesting gifts we were sent including; face masks, Korean toys, sweets, cakes, stationery and a variety of noodle dishes for pupils to try.

As schools in South Korea finish in December for an extended break, this project will continue when they return to school in March when we will teach them about the items we sent in our cultural box.



Les correspondants français

Pupils in Year 8 French have received introductory letters from their new French pen pals who all attend the Collège Georges Clémenceau in Montpellier. Our pupils promptly replied writing letters in French to tell their new friends all about themselves and their interests, we also sent Christmas cards as a surprise. We are looking forward to developing these friendships in the new year when the Year 8 pupils will be sending and receiving more letters. In the future, we hope that we will be able to meet each other in France and the UK.



German Project

Year 9 German students have just started their pen pal project with Hildegardis-Schule Hagen, a school in Hagen, Germany. We have posted Christmas cards and have prepared our introductory letters. When we return in January, pupils will start planning items to send in their cultural box, which is a fantastic opportunity to teach their buddies more about British culture, and we will receive a German box in return. Once we have received our responses from their penpals, pupils will then be supported to write responses in German, answering questions and talking more about their hobbies. Pupils are really looking forward to getting to know their penpals better in the new year!

Bookworm of the Term

All Year 7 and 8 students have the chance of entering the Library's Accelerated Reading Quiz Master Competition. If they score above 80% on a Star Reader test, their book counts! Students must read as many books as they can and quiz on Accelerated Reading.

The Library Accelerated Reading Quiz Master Competition is calculated 3 times a year and each time they have the chance to win an £10 Amazon Gift Card. The student with the most books quizzed on Accelerated Reading, with scores over 80% have the chance of winning.

Congratulations to Hannah and Calum, who are our first winners!



Woman in Black Trip

This term, pupils of Performing Arts took a trip to London's Theatreland in Covent Garden, to see the thrilling horror play 'The Woman in Black.' This trip is the first outing that the Performing Arts cohort have been able to attend and will be used throughout their work this year, as an example of professional theatre.

This play, although terrifying, is a great example of audience engagement and the way in which acting skills and techniques can be used alongside technical theatre to create/break tension.

Our students were able to experience the highs and lows of live theatre, with extra screams thrown in for good measure. Pupils were fascinated by the use of lights and sound to trick them into using their imagination and suspending their disbelief. It was an incredible experience and the Performing Arts Department can't wait to do it again!



Horrible Histories Trip

Our Key Stage 3 students had a brilliant opportunity to go to the Orchard Theatre in Dartford on the 11 November to see a live performance of Horrible Histories. Our students in every year group loved the show and it was a fantastic opportunity to see them performing it live, through acting and songs, with so many key elements of British History covered. From grave diggers to a Victorian Queen, students explored hundreds of years of history. At half time (after lots of ice cream) students were given 3D glasses which made the second half even more exciting as you jumped out of the way of flying objects! We had a lovely afternoon at the theatre and can't wait to see another production there!



Sport Celebrations

In total over 500 Students have participated in our wide range of sports clubs and competitive events. It is with great pleasure to be able to share the great news that, as a result of the time and dedication of the PE Department, the students and other staff that have supported our events and clubs, that we are currently sitting 1st (boys) and 2nd (girls) in the Medway Secondary School Games. This is such an achievement and the highest we have been placed at this point in the year.

Congratulations to everyone for the hard work and effort by all involved and fingers crossed we can continue this into the next school year.

Rowing

The first Medway Secondary School Games event of the year saw the Indoor Rowing take place virtually. Students from all year groups entered teams that will compete with other schools across Medway, with some particularly impressive times being recorded in all age groups. The deadline for the event is the end of December, but comparing this year's times with last year, it's looking very promising for the Hoo team this year!



Cross Country

On a very windy course at Capstone Park, Hoo fielded very strong teams in all age groups and competed incredibly well against the other Medway schools - the determination and resilience shown by the red faces as students crossed the finish line!

The Boys squad came 1st overall out of 13 schools.
The Girls squad came 3rd overall out of 14 schools.

Notable successes included: Roxy, Angel and Louis Y7, Logan, Sam, Tommy, Bruno and Abbie Y8&9, Tim, Macey and Millie Y10&11, who were all invited to take part in the Kent Qualifiers for securing finishing positions within the top 20 of each race of over 100 competitors.

Massive congratulations goes to Macey placing 3rd overall!!!



Futsal

In what was typically a very competitive festival again this year, and with a lot of talent on display from the 15 schools across Medway, all 4 Hoo teams performed incredibly in the SSG Futsal Festival.

Y7&8 Boys finished 1st Y7&8 Girls finished 2nd Y9&10 Girls finished 3rd Y9&10 Boys finished 4th

These are the best placings the Academy has achieved in the event and was fully deserved given the effort and preparation the students have put in during the lead up to the competition. Congratulations to everyone involved!



Rugby

The rugby season is now underway with a very good turnout for all age groups, and although the season has only just begun, the early signs are looking promising for both the Year 7 and Year 8 teams, both winning their opening matches 12-0 and 8-7 respectively. We look forward to the rest of the season next term.



Badminton

The Hundred of Hoo Academy represented themselves exceptionally well at this year's SSG Badminton festival, coming 6th overall out of 12 schools in both the boys and the girls squads! Well done everyone!



Handball

It was back to Medway Park for the 4th SSG event of the year, this time the relatively new sport of Handball. With Hoo students only having a few weeks to prepare for the event, it was incredible to see how well they stepped up to the challenge and perform incredibly well against a number of more experienced schools.

The U13 Boys finished 3rd

The U15 Boys finished 3rd

The U13 Girls finished 6th

The U15 Girls finished 3rd

Congratulations to everyone involved in securing the Academy's best results at the competition! Well done everyone!



Year 7 & Year 8 Basketball Team

Following such a long break because of Covid, basketball has really taken off this year, with a lot of competition amongst players competing to make the U13 and U15 teams this season. This shows real promise for the development of basketball over the next few years as the sport continues to grow. The U15s have performed well in their opening games against strong opposition with narrow losses, but some fantastic team and individual performances. It was also incredibly pleasing to receive such positive feedback from one of the opposition coaches, who wrote "I just wanted to get in touch to say thanks for sending your boys down. Both teams really enjoyed playing and your boys were very respectful and polite. They were a credit to your school."



Anxiety Workshop

Our first Anxiety workshop, delivered by Paula Johnson (our school Counsellor), took place this term. The session aims to highlight potential triggers for anxiety in young people and appropriate supportive measures that can be put in place by yourselves, that will encourage and develop resilience with regard to school attendance. Paula also covered how to support our students with the changes that occur naturally within the school environment, such as routines and teacher changes.

We were extremely impressed by the turnout and hope that everyone found it worthwhile.

Paula will be holding a self-harm workshop on Friday 28th January 2022.



Shoebox for a Stranger

This has been a very challenging couple of years for everyone in our local communities and, indeed, across the country. We have worked tirelessly to ensure that we continue to support those in our homes, within the Academy and across Medway. It is important to remember that, despite our own struggles, there are always those that are in need of basics that we often don't even give a second thought.

We are proud of the support we have given to the Medway Foodbank and would like to support others in need in Medway by promoting the Shoebox for a Stranger.



Christmas Kindness

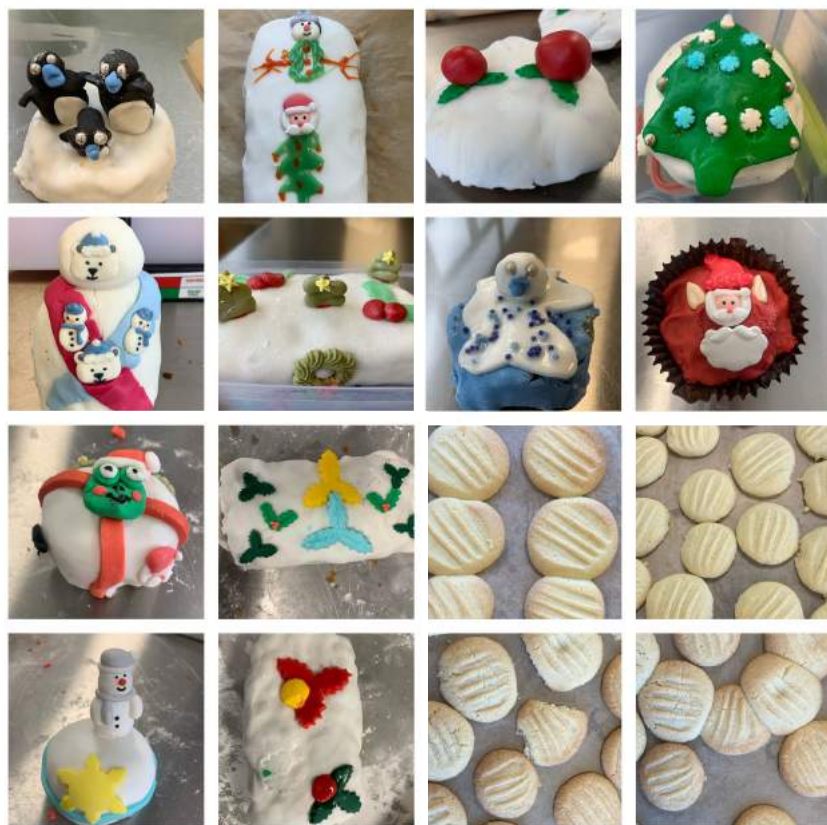
A huge thank you to one of our foster carers that has kindly put together a huge amount of food/gift bags for our less fortunate families.

Please remember that Christmas can be a hard time of year and if you have any worries regarding feeding yourself or your children then do not hesitate to contact us and we will do our utmost to support you during these difficult times.



Christmas Cooking

Our Year 7 and Year 10 students have been working hard in their Food Technology lessons, creating Christmas themed cakes and shortbread biscuits.



Christmas Quiz



On Friday 17 December all forms competed in the Inter-College Christmas Quiz, during form time, arranged by the Inter-College Competitions Team. We had a very special Guest Host to present our Quiz.

The Inter-College Competitions Team hope you have a great Christmas and look forward to seeing you next term. If you have any ideas for activities you would like to see in the New Year please email: collegecomps@hundredofhooacademy.org.uk

Congratulations to Miss Vickery's form
- Athena -
the winners of the Christmas Quiz.



Christmas Carol Concert

On Tuesday 7 December, the Hundred of Hoo Academy and our local community braved the bitter weather to come together to celebrate the festive season at our annual Christmas Carol Concert. Our talented students shared their incredible talents in a variety of performances that included the Primary Choir, Hoo Harmonics, The Rubber Ducks, Dance club and a plethora of solo singers, musicians and readers. We were also treated to a welcome and blessing by our local pastor from Hoo Village, Revered Mark Borley. It was wonderful to see so many happy faces to spread joy and wonder this holiday season. Thank you to everyone who has supported our students in this performance.



Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day

On Friday 10 December it was National Christmas Jumper Day. Thank you to everyone who contributed. We are extremely pleased to announce that we raised £522 for the Save the Children charity. Well done to all our students for their hard work this term!



A Warm Welcome

To those staff that are joining us, Mr Guerin-Hassett formally welcomes you on behalf of all members of the Hundred of Hoo community. With standards continuing to rise, we are delighted to be extending the Hoo staff body; welcoming new like-minded colleagues to our community, who believe in the potential of all our young people supporting them to Aspire, Achieve and Excel at The Hundred of Hoo Academy.

The Academy would like to welcome:

- Lesley Partridge - IT
- Pat D'Mello - Maths Tutor
- Chris Arnold - English Teacher
- Rhyanne Gott - Teaching Assistant

A Fond Farewell

To the staff that are leaving this year, we would like to express our sincere thank you for your hard work and dedication throughout your time with us. We pay tribute to you and commend your professionalism. We wish you every success as you embark on the next chapters of your life and we know you will take with you fond memories from working at the Academy.

Sadly, the Academy will be saying goodbye to:

- Carla Smith- Mathematics Teacher
- Nina Young- Science Teacher
- Aine O'Reilly - English Teacher
- Maria Cywinska - Teaching Assistant

From all of us at The Hundred of Hoo Academy, we wish you all the best in your new roles.



Dates for your Diary

Exams

Start Date: 4th January- Year 13 PPE and External Exam

Start Date: 10th January- Year 11 PPE and External Exam

Parents Evening

6th January- Year 8 Parents Evening 15:30-19:00

10th February- Sixth Form Parents Evening 16:30-19:00

Inter-College Competitions

3rd February- Valentine's Cooking Challenge

4th February- Blue Monday Charity Bake Sale for Mental Health

7th-10th February- College Basketball Competition

Term 3 Start Dates- Red Week

4th January- Year 10, 11, 12 & 13

5th January- Year 7, 8 & 9

End of Term

10th February

The quickest and most efficient way to contact the Academy is via email. Each college has its own dedicated mailbox which is monitored from 8am-4pm. Any emails coming into the Academy are sent to the relevant member of staff as soon as possible.

