

Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends,

Welcome to our February newsletter which I hope provides you with a flavour of some of the fantastic learning opportunities that our schools provide and some of the many events and workshops which bring students from our schools together.



This month's school in focus is Hartlebury CE Primary who have been involved in a variety of exciting projects. I am delighted to see our senior students developing their leadership skills as highlighted with the music ambassadors visiting Hartlebury and Year 9 DT students from Stourport High teaching Year 6 students from Stourport Primary. Students from our seven schools also came together for a variety of workshops including critical thinking, charity, geometry, acting and an Arts Day at Wolverley Sebright Primary Academy. The Record of Achievement launch at Baxter College was a huge success whilst four enterprising students have each raised over £3,500 as they prepare to go on expedition to Peru in July. All of these opportunities are a part of our Pledge to all of our young people which serves to value not only academic success, but the wider development of our young people.

We hope you enjoy reading about some of the work and thank you for your continued support of our schools and students' successes.

Chris King

Chief Executive

School in Focus – Hartlebury CE VC Primary School



(See pages 2 & 3)

Critical Thinking workshop



(See page 6)

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School in Focus – Hartlebury CE Primary School

Wow what a busy February for Hartlebury! The students have enjoyed a jam-packed month with lots of different traditions, inspiring news and important lessons learned.

Sport Result

The Year 3 & 4 football team played against Offmore Primary School recently and after a close and competitive game, Offmore won 5-1. It was a great opportunity for all and a huge well done to Georgia – Player of the Match and Oliver – scoring a fantastic free kick! Go Team Hartlebury!



Hartlebury students inspired by Baxter College musicians



On Friday 8 February, talented Year 9 and 10 music students from Baxter College visited Hartlebury CE Primary and inspired everyone during an assembly followed by a question and answer session with Year 5 and 6.

As part of a week of well-being events, Baxter College students were invited to Hartlebury Primary to perform a number of songs. Students also talked to pupils about their musical influences and why music helps to motivate and relax them.

Well done to Early Years Foundation Stage teacher Miss Bagnall for organising a fantastic week of activities across the school and many thanks to Head of Creative Arts Mr Ravenhall and Baxter College students for providing an exciting assembly, showcasing their amazing musical ability.

Road Safety

On Wednesday 13 February, the whole school had a road safety talk. The students were taught how to cross the road safely whilst engaging in age-appropriate activities to help them feel safer when they are out and about. They engaged really well with the sessions, learning about the differences between Pelican and Zebra crossings and how to stay safe whilst using both.



Drumming Workshop – the beat goes on...

Recently students at Hartlebury have been involved in a drumming workshop. Students experienced a great hour of learning and excitement, learning the names of the Brazilian hand and stick drums. Also how to play different pieces through a repeat and return process and taught the many hand gestures used in Brazilian drumming bands across the world. As well as this, many learnt the first three numbers in Brazilian Portuguese. Students were also told facts, one being that there are more Brazilian Portuguese than Portuguese from Portugal.



Chinese New Year!

On Tuesday 5 February, Hartlebury CE students celebrated the Year of the Pig as part of Chinese New Year. Their story of the week was Dragons in the City and they have found out so much about the special festival. Throughout the week, the students have been:

- Writing their names in Chinese
- making dragon masks
- using phonics skills to write all of the animals from the Chinese New Year story
- making Chinese lanterns
- developing skills using chopsticks and pouring rice
- building our own Chinese temples in the Construction Area
- using adjectives to describe Chinese dragons
- watching clips about how people celebrate Chinese New Year
- putting gold coins in red envelopes to wish each other good fortune
- writing wishes for the Chinese wishing tree
- building a paper chain dragon



Pictured above are Hartlebury CE VC students participating in Chinese New Year celebrations. This includes lanterns, using chopsticks and creating a beautiful dragon!





Baxter College's Record of Achievement Launch

On 30 January, Baxter College launched their Year 7 Record of Achievement, with a large careers event, involving people from a range of careers and businesses. Organisations including Nationwide, DWP, Involve, HS2, University of Birmingham, Vax, MUUF, NTT Data, Wardell Armstrong, West Mercia Police, Worcester University and Birmingham Children's Hospital, were all represented at the event. Each visitor met with every tutor group where they explained a little about their job, and what they did, then students had the opportunity to ask visitors further questions about their career. The year 7s demonstrated some excellent listening and questioning skills.

Their support meant that all year 7 students had a meaningful encounter with an employer. Research from the Education and Employers Taskforce shows that a young person who has four or more meaningful encounters with an employer is 86% less likely to be unemployed or not in education or training and can earn up to 22% more during their career. This event will also act as evidence for the pupil's Record of Achievement which will be used to collate all the experiences and opportunities the year 7 get to participate in at Baxter College.

St Bartholomew's visit Cadbury World

Year 4 visited Cadbury World recently and when they arrived they were greeted with the delicious smell that was, of course, chocolate. It was just delightful.

In the factory, there are robots working instead of people, because people are full of germs and cannot work 24 hours straight like the machines do. Did you know 1.3 million Cadbury's crème eggs are made every day? Cadbury's chocolate is made from cocoa powder, cocoa butter, dairy milk and sugar beet. The students saw how John Cadbury and his family built up their factory and looked after their workers. They even got to try some liquid chocolate – yummy! They finished their day in the 4D cinema, which was amazing and were all given chocolate to take home.

Pictured here is Ryley – Year 4.



SAET BASKETBALL ACADEMY



SPARTANS BASKETBALL

For talented basketball players who are currently in Year 11 from September 2019

Train, play & study at Baxter College & The Stourport High School VIth Form College

Quality academic & sporting provision

High level coaching & training

Basketball qualifications

BASKETBALL TRIAL & INFORMATION

STOURPORT HIGH SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY 13/02/19

5:00 PM Basketball Trial: Arrive ready to play in the state-of-the-art sports hall

6:00 PM Information Briefing: For students & parents / academic and sporting offer

Wednesday afternoon elite basketball league



THE STOURPORT HIGH SCHOOL & VIth FORM COLLEGE

SAET Basketball Academy

Prospective students and their parents attended an exciting new basketball collaboration led jointly by Baxter College and Stourport High School, working closely with Spartans Basketball Club. It is hoped that a new SAET Basketball Academy will be up and running for current Year 11 students as they enter the sixth form. It is not too late to apply – contact Ian James on ijames@saet.co.uk for further information and an application form.

Stemnet Speakers at Baxter College

Recently, Stemnet and a biomedical engineer came into Baxter College to deliver a talk on careers in Stem. Their audience was year 8 girls, in order to help break stereotypes of careers in Stem. The session was called 'people like me' it aimed to increase students' awareness of the possible Stem-based careers that they might not have previously known about. The group also heard first-hand about careers in the biomedical industry. They demonstrated excellent listening skills and we hope the session is useful to them when selecting their options.



Critical Thinking for Greater Depth Learning

Year 5 and 6 students from across the Trust were involved in a critical thinking workshop on Wednesday 13 February, ably supported by Year 12 student ambassadors from Stourport High VIth Form College. During the morning, students had to work closely with others from all five of our Trust primaries to discuss, agree and explain their understanding on a wide range of topics. In addition to transferring and applying their learning in different contexts and subject areas, all students were challenged to think differently and use their ideas to make connections with other areas of learning. Students had to solve a dilemma regarding The Stone of Scone; apply a deeper understanding of different words relating to a range of different smells through metaphor, similes and synonyms; and apply higher order thinking skills to survive on the moon.

Well done to everyone involved who demonstrated their ability to apply skills and knowledge independently, confidently and fluently.



Acting Workshop at Baxter College

Some students at Baxter have had an amazing opportunity to work with two professional actors, who are part of an improvisation group called 'The Imploectuals'. This group performed a range of improvised scenes to live audiences who decided on the content of their performances.

Skills required for this style of performance work is mainly based on the ability to think on the spot and having the confidence to try ideas. During the workshops, students were able to take part in activities which developed a number of skills, such as, confidence, pushing literacy skills, supporting others, developing creativity and memory skills. Students were really engaged and supportive throughout the workshop and both actors said that the students were a pleasure to work with. Well done to all those who took part.



Young Lions inspired to make a difference



Year 6 pupils from St Bartholomew's CE Primary, Hartlebury CE Primary and Stourport Primary Academy have been busy working with Lions International, the world's largest service club organisation, to engage with their wider community and volunteer their services to improve the quality of life for many people.

The students worked together to decide which organisations to support and how they plan to do this. Having shared lots of ideas, which they had to present to Ron Cross from Kidderminster & District Lions Club, the group will now work towards planning a large scale activity afternoon in the summer term involving all Year 6 pupils within our Trust. Their chosen charities are to be decided but will certainly support others both locally, nationally and internationally.

Mr James, Director of Performance & Partnerships, from our Trust said,
"We are extremely grateful to Ron and Linda Cross from the Kidderminster & District Lions Club for their support with our young people in our multi-academy trust, helping them to gain a greater appreciation of the excellent work carried out by Lions International. Our pupils now have a much deeper understanding of humanitarian causes both locally and further afield and are completely enthused to make life better for others whilst also enriching their own life in the process."



SHS Students Preparing for a Trip of a Lifetime...



Four students from Stourport High School will be heading to Peru this summer on a once-in-a-lifetime expedition with Camps International. Year 12 student Mathew Davies along with Year 10 students Sophie Gallagher, Katie Potter and Alfie Myers, will be part of a larger group involving students from North Bromsgrove High School and Barr Beacon School, Walsall. Together, the group will spend four weeks in Peru flying out from Heathrow on Wednesday 10 July. This amazing opportunity will involve two weeks working with the local people on different community and environmental projects plus spending a week at Lake Titicaca. The final week will involve the ultimate challenge of trekking the spectacular Salkantay Trail to the sacred ancient ruins of Macchu Picchu, through the world-famous Andes mountain range.

Aside from having the opportunity to visit a truly inspiring country, students have had to develop their entrepreneurial skills plus budgeting, time-keeping and prioritising their workload in order to raise their fundraising target of £4,350. Each student has individually raised over £3,500 and have a few months left to reach their goal. Students have worked tirelessly to gain support from local businesses, friends and family through sponsorship and donations whilst committing a substantial amount of time and energy to raise money through raffles, car boot sales, cake sales and paid work. If you would like to support the students in the last phase of their fundraising campaign please contact Mr James, Severn Academies Educational Trust on either ijames@saet.co.uk or 01299 872950. Any support you can provide to the students will most certainly be truly appreciated.

Geometry at St Bartholomew's and Stourport Primary

On Tuesday 12 February, as part of a pilot project, Year 4 students were involved in a new 'Harmony' curriculum with a strong emphasis on developing geometry skills. Whilst clearly enjoying the lesson, students had to really concentrate and demonstrated tremendous perseverance to develop new skills. The Harmony Curriculum is an initiative supported by the Prince's School of Traditional Arts and is focused around value-based learning and enquiry-centred learning. Different 'Harmony' principles underpin a multi-disciplined approach to the curriculum and provide an opportunity to develop important values and an understanding of the world linked directly to well-being, diversity, nature and geometry.



Wolverley Sebright Arts Day

On Wednesday 23 January, Year 4 pupils at Wolverley Sebright enjoyed an amazing arts day at Wolverley CE Secondary School. This was part of an action packed curriculum arts day which included; drama, music, dance and art.



Year 9 DT students rise to mentoring challenge at SHS

Year 9 Design Technology students at Stourport High School were tasked with supporting Year 6 students from Stourport Primary Academy and did a fantastic job.

The Year 9 students had to plan a one-hour lesson and, in the process, demonstrate their knowledge and understanding as the Year 6 boys made key rings from pewter.



Alternative Curriculum at SHS



A group of students from Stourport High School were involved in a Crime Investigation workshop recently, as part of a series of alternative curriculum activities, in association with our Trust and Explore Learning.

Students developed their spoken language and writing skills through different tasks based around solving and dealing with a crime scene. Students needed to ask relevant questions to extend their understanding before writing and presenting their findings through role play.

The group will be visiting Explore Learning in Stourbridge soon to improve their letter writing skills specifically in relation to writing effectively for the purpose of an audience. They will have to select and organise key facts and apply their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar.

In addition, the group are in the process of setting up their own small business within school with the aim of selling Easter products. They are working as a team to develop their enterprise skills and their understanding of market research, marketing and profit and loss. Watch this space for further details!

Army Cadets at Baxter College

An Army Cadet Forces unit will be set up at Baxter College to provide young people with the chance to develop self-discipline and improve their teamwork and leadership skills. Baxter has been given Ministry of Defence and Department for Education approval to run a unit to offer a range of activities for personal development.

Delighted Principal Mr Carpenter said the ethos of such units had been shown to make "significant contributions to changing many young people's lives for the better". He added: "They are known, not only to bring benefits to the cadets themselves, but also to the wider ethos and performance of the schools in which they parade." The unit will initially be open to Baxter College's Year 8 pupils, aged 12 and 13, from September this year.





Screen Time for Children and Young People



The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has published a commentary from the UK Chief Medical Officers' on screen-based activities and the impact on children and young people's mental health and psychosocial wellbeing. In 2018, the UK Chief Medical Officers commissioned independent researchers at University College London to map published research on screen time, social media, and children and young people's mental health. Based on this review of the available research, this commentary includes advice for parents and carers, as well as recommendations for a range of stakeholders. The main points from the guidance are summarised below:

- Parents and carers are encouraged to agree boundaries, outside of school and educational use, with children and young people around online behaviours and time spent using screens. Studies have reported that children and young people are worried about their parent's screen use and want them to engage with them, and so adults can lead by example through not using screens excessively in front of children and behaving online as they would in person.
- UK Chief Medical Officers' advice for parents and carers on Children and Young People's screen and social media use:
 - *Sleep matters* - Getting enough, good quality sleep is very important. Leave phones outside the bedroom when it is bedtime.
 - *Education matters* - Make sure you and your children are aware of, and abide by, their school's policy on screen time.
 - *Safety when out and about* - Advise children to put their screens away while crossing the road or doing an activity that needs their full attention.
 - *Family time together* - Screen-free meal times are a good idea – you can enjoy face-to-face conversation, with adults giving their full attention to children.
 - *Sharing sensibly* - Talk about sharing photos and information online and how photos and words are sometimes manipulated. Parents and carers should never assume that children are happy for their photos to be shared. For everyone – when in doubt, don't upload!
 - *Keep moving!* - Everyone should take a break after a couple of hours sitting or lying down using a screen. It's good to get up and move about a bit. #sitlessmovemore
 - *Talking helps* - Talk with children about using screens and what they are watching. A change in behaviour can be a sign they are distressed – make sure they know they can always speak to you or another responsible adult if they feel uncomfortable with screen or social media use.
 - *Use helpful phone features* - Some devices and platforms have special features – try using these features to keep track of how much time you (and with their permission, your children) spend looking at screens or on social media.

Further information can be found: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-cmo-commentary-on-screen-time-and-social-media-map-of-reviews>





Find out what both science and religion have to say about the big questions - about God, science and our unique place and purpose in the universe.

Come and spend an hour with Lizzie Henderson and Steph Bryant – Natural Scientists from the University of Cambridge!

Refreshments
Question & Answer
Presentations

Contact Ian James, Severn Academies Educational Trust, to book a seat on either 01299 872950 or ijames@saet.co.uk

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