

Fortnightly

Edition 8

March 22, 2024

SPRING HALF-TERM ROUND UP

We are nearing the end of this bustling half-term and we're thrilled to share a glimpse of the wonderful activities and events that have filled our school days with excitement and learning.

Our Science Week was truly explosive, igniting curiosity and fascination among our students. From thrilling experiments to insightful discussions, it was a week to remember. Pi Day brought joy and mathematical marvels as our students celebrated with fun-filled activities around everyone's favourite irrational number. World Book Day was another highlight, transporting us into the enchanting worlds of literature. The students felt heartwarming to see their teachers embracing the magic of storytelling through their costumes.

With upcoming GCSE exams fast approaching, our Year 11 students are fully immersed in exam mode. They have been using every opportunity for revision, including utilising the library during break and lunch hours. Additionally, some students have been invited to after-school interventions to help them prepare for their exams.

As we approach the Easter break, we want to remind you of the planned revision sessions to support our students further. The timetable for these sessions will be posted on the website next week.

Please note that school will finish on Thursday, 28th March, marking the start of the Easter break. The students will be dismissed from 12:30pm on Thursday, 28th March and they will return to school at 8:30am on Tuesday, 16th April 2024.

We wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable break with your families.



*Keep up-to-date with
upcoming events at HHA*



Upcoming Events

25th - 29th March: Rewards Assemblies & Breakfast

1st - 15th April: EASTER BREAK

Tuesday, 16th April: The first day of Summer Term 2024

Thursday, 26th April: Year 7 Parents' Evening

Friday, 3rd May: PTA Coffee Morning

Thursday, 9th May: GCSE Exams commence

27th - 31st May: HALF TERM

7th June; PTA Meeting

Friday, 28th June: Year 11 Prom

Friday, 4th July : Cultural Evening

Tuesday, 9th July: Sports Day

Friday, 19th July: Trip Day

Thursday, 25th July: Last day of the term.

**SAVE
the DATE**

- **Year 7 Parents' Evening**
Thursday, 26th April,
- **PTA Coffee Morning-**
Friday, 3rd May
- **Cultural Evening -**
Thursday 4th July

NOTICE REGARDING UNIFORM POLICY

Our commitment at Heron Hall Academy is to maintain a conducive learning environment and we wish to remind you of our school's uniform policy regarding skirt length.



There has been a concerning trend of students rolling up their skirts to a length significantly shorter than what is stipulated in our uniform policy. Please be reminded that school skirts should be knee-length, as per our guidelines.

We are asking for your cooperation in ensuring that your child adheres to this policy. If you find that your child's skirt no longer meets the required length, we are here to offer assistance. Please feel free to contact the school office if you require support in purchasing a new skirt for your child.

We also want to emphasise that persistent violations of the uniform policy will not be taken lightly. Appropriate sanctions will be implemented for students who continue to disregard these guidelines.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your ongoing support in upholding the standards of our school community.

EXPLORING GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP: HERON HALL ACADEMY SIXTH FORMERS SHINE IN THESSALONIKI



Heron Hall Academy sixth formers visited Thessaloniki, Greece and participated in a Model United Nations Conference organised by Aristoteleio College. Our students were amongst 200 other students from across Europe who discussed important issues such as women's rights, equal pay, world health and other global humanitarian issues.

Equally, we took some time to take in the historical sights and tasted a few local culinary delights. Mr Angeletos and Madam Chackal said: our students were able to gain invaluable academic and cultural experiences. They all displayed excellent behaviour and also made new friends.



On the 1st day, Aristoteleio College took us sightseeing around the city; these are part of the fortified city walls, dating back from 1100 AD



This is the White Tower – another fortress and last used as a prison up until the 19C

EXPLORING GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP: HERON HALL ACADEMY SIXTH FORMERS SHINE IN THESSALONIKI



3rd day of the conference with the final speeches from all the countries – HHA sixth formers listening



HHA sixth formers collecting their certificates of attendance and participation to the MUN!

Students' Feedback:

“Best trip ever”

“Really enjoyed the Greek hospitality”

“Made some lovely new friends”

“Liked the Ataturk house museum”

“One thing I enjoyed about the United nations model conference - was the inviting and welcoming atmosphere of Thessaloniki and how comforting the residents of the area was, making us feel safe in their homes and the surroundings”

“I was pleased with the conference and how professional the students of the school were and that they kept their roles in staying in order of the countries they are representing very well which was inspiring as it made the school look good to an outsider such as myself meaning that their students are doing a great job in keeping their reputation to a high standard”

“This experience will help me a lot with my university and employability applications”



EXPLORING ART BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: YEAR 11 TRIP TO TATE MODERN GALLERY

As the Year 11 Art Exam draws nearer, we are thrilled to share with you an enriching experience our students had recently. On Monday, March 11th, a group of Year 11 students embarked on a school trip to the renowned Tate Modern Gallery in London. This excursion was a part of their ongoing preparations for the upcoming exam, aiming to extend their learning beyond the confines of the classroom and into the vibrant world of contemporary art.

The visit to the gallery provided a remarkable opportunity for our students to delve deeper into their Exam Topics through firsthand artist research. En route to the gallery, they had the chance to witness the iconic landmarks of London, marvelling at the dynamic skyline as they crossed the Millennium Bridge toward the Tate Modern Gallery.

Once at the gallery, our students were granted an entire afternoon to immerse themselves in the diverse array of artworks on display that they could relate to, and link to their topics. From paintings to sculptures to mixed-media pieces, they encountered a plethora of artistic expressions that ignited their curiosity and creativity. One particular highlight was Yoko Ono's *Wish Trees for London*, which resonated deeply with many students as they engaged in the act of sharing their wishes with the world.

Throughout the day, their art teacher, Mr Mariyanayagam, engaged in lively discussions with the students about how they could incorporate elements from the artists they encountered into their own work. They captured numerous photographs, which will serve as a wellspring of inspiration for their artist experiments and the planning of their final pieces.

Overall it was a fantastic day we are immensely grateful to all the staff members who accompanied the students on this enlightening journey, providing guidance and support throughout the day.



WORLD BOOK DAY: CELEBRATING LITERARY CHARACTERS



This year's World Book Day celebration was a day filled with excitement, creativity, and a shared love for literature.

Over 60 of our dedicated staff members went above and beyond, dressing up as beloved literary characters, bringing the magic of books to life within the walls of our school. From classic characters to modern heroes, the enthusiasm was palpable as they embraced the essence of their chosen personas. The day kicked off with a burst of energy as students delved into a World Book Day themed Kahoot quiz during form time. Congratulations to Madam Hester's 10Y for their outstanding performance!

Throughout the day, students eagerly engaged in guessing games, trying to unravel the mystery behind the characters represented by their teachers. Laughter echoed through the corridors as they joined in the festivities in the library during break and lunch, casting their votes for the best-dressed staff member and participating in various competitions and games

But the celebrations didn't stop there. Selected groups from year 7, 8, and 9 were treated to captivating workshops in the library, led by esteemed theatre director Hal Chambers. These workshops not only deepened their appreciation for literature but also nurtured their creativity and critical thinking skills, sparking inspiration that will continue to resonate within them.

World Book Day has left a lasting impact on our school community, fostering a renewed passion for reading and storytelling among both students and staff. It was a joyous occasion that reminded us all of the power of words to ignite our imaginations, and connect us with one another through stories.

CELEBRATING PI DAY: A FUN-FILLED MATHEMATICAL EXTRAVAGANZA!



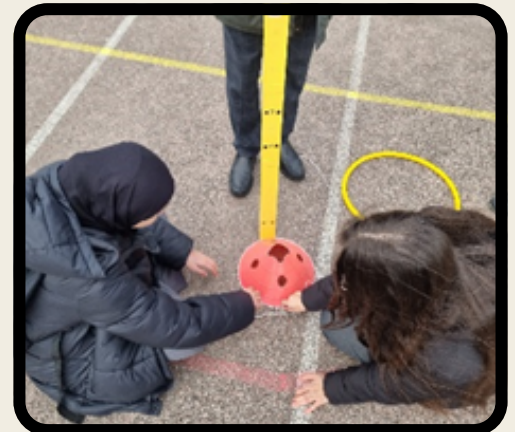
On March 14th (3/14), students across the academy joined math enthusiasts worldwide in celebrating Pi Day—a day dedicated to the mathematical constant π (pi). Pi, represented by the Greek letter “ π ”, symbolises the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter, approximately equal to 3.14159.

Pi Day provided a fantastic opportunity for our students to engage with mathematics in a fun and interactive way. In classrooms throughout the academy, students explored the significance of Pi in mathematics and its applications in real-world scenarios. Year 7 and 8 students, in particular, participated in thrilling competitions centred around Pi, showcasing their mathematical enthusiasm.



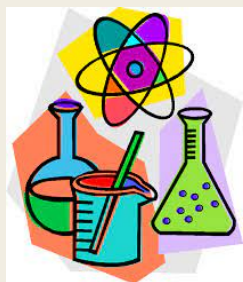
The highlight of the day was the coveted "golden ticket" competitions, where Year 7 students competed for the chance to participate in the annual tradition of "piing the teacher". This highly anticipated event added an element of excitement and camaraderie to the day's festivities.

Our students demonstrated impressive feats of mathematical skill, with some able to recite over a hundred digits of the Pi constant and others showcasing their agility by keeping a hula hoop aloft for over two minutes.



Overall, Pi Day was a resounding success, fostering a love for mathematics and inspiring our students to explore the wonders of this fundamental constant. We extend our sincere thanks to all the Maths team, staff and students who contributed to making this day a memorable and enriching experience.





SCIENCE WEEK : EXPLORING TIME

From March 11th to 15th, Heron Hall Academy was abuzz with excitement as we celebrated Science Week, with this year's theme focusing on the concept of "Time". It was an enriching and engaging week filled with exploration, discovery, and the embodiment of our school's STRIVE values.

Throughout the week, students participated in a variety of activities designed to deepen their understanding of time while fostering collaboration and critical thinking skills. One notable activity involved students working together to create a timer using unconventional materials such as salt, a cup with a hole, a balance, and a stopwatch. This hands-on experience not only challenged their creativity but also encouraged teamwork and problem-solving.

In another captivating experiment, students investigated the effects of plant hormones on the growth time of plants. Through this inquiry-based activity, they gained insight into the intricate processes that govern plant growth and development, all while honing their scientific inquiry skills.

Additionally, students delved into the concept of radioactive decay by learning about the half-life of various radioactive isotopes. Armed with cards containing information on isotopes and their mass numbers, students undertook tasks that required them to convert mass numbers into minutes, offering a practical application of their mathematical and scientific knowledge.

One of the most touching moments of the week was when Year 7 students wrote letters to their future selves, which will be sealed in a time capsule to be opened when they reach Year 11. This activity not only allowed students to reflect on their current aspirations and goals but also provided them with a tangible reminder of their growth and journey over the years.

We are immensely proud of their dedication, curiosity, and engagement throughout the week, and we extend our thanks to the Science team and staff who organised and facilitated these enriching experiences.

ENHANCING LEARNING SUPPORT: COGNITIVE ABILITY ASSESSMENTS

At Heron Hall Academy, we are committed to providing every student with the tools and support they need to reach their full potential and excel in their academic journey. To better understand the individual learning needs of our students, we will be administering a series of short cognitive ability assessments to all Year 9 and 10 students.

This assessment, known as the Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4), is similar to the one your child may have taken at the start of Year 7. It focuses on evaluating various aspects of thinking abilities across four key reasoning batteries:

- 1. Verbal reasoning – thinking with words*
- 2. Quantitative reasoning – thinking with numbers*
- 3. Non-Verbal reasoning – thinking with shapes*
- 4. Spatial reasoning – thinking with shapes and space*

It's important to emphasize that CAT4 is not a test of attainment but rather an assessment of ability. Therefore, there is no need for any pre-learning or preparation. Your child should feel reassured that prior knowledge is not required to complete the assessment.

The results from CAT4 will be utilized alongside our internal assessment practices to gain insights into each student's strengths and areas for development. This information will enable us to tailor our support strategies and interventions to meet the individual needs of every student effectively.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the CAT4 assessments or your child's participation, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to address any queries you may have and ensure that this process is as smooth and beneficial as possible for your child.

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration as we work together to provide the best possible learning experience for all students at Heron Hall Academy.

HERON HALL FOOD BANK: SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN NEED

Through the dedication and generosity of our school community, we have expanded our storage facilities to accommodate a wider range of dried food goods, allowing us to provide assistance to more families in need.

The Heron Hall Food Bank is centrally organized and operated from the main school office. However, we are especially proud to introduce a group of Year 9 student leaders who have taken on key responsibilities to ensure the smooth running of the food bank such as:

- · Regular stock takes*
- · Organise for donations to be collected*
- · Keep the food bank stocked up with on date items*
- · Keep storage space clean and tidy.*

We understand that times may be challenging for some families, and we want to assure you that support is available. If you believe that you could benefit from the services of the Heron Hall Food Bank, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school office. Your privacy and dignity will be respected, and all requests for assistance will be handled with care and confidentiality.



HHA PTA ONLINE PRELOVED UNIFORM SHOP....COMING SOON

We are excited to announce the upcoming launch of the Heron Hall Academy Online Preloved Uniform Shop, an initiative aimed at providing a convenient and sustainable solution for uniform needs within our school community.



The launch of the Online Preloved Uniform Shop aligns with our commitment to fostering a culture of sustainability and resourcefulness at Heron Hall Academy. It also reflects our dedication to supporting families by providing practical solutions to everyday needs.

Stay tuned for further details on how to access and participate in the Online re-loved Uniform Shop. We look forward to your engagement and support in making this initiative a success for our school community.

In the meantime, if you require any information or need to purchase uniform items before the launch, please don't hesitate to contact the main office. We are here to assist you in any way we can.

Year 11 Prom - MASQUERADE BALL

As the academic year progresses, we find ourselves approaching a significant milestone - the culmination of five years of hard work, growth, and unforgettable memories with our Year 11 students.

It is with great excitement that we announce the upcoming Year 11 Prom, a celebration marking the end of an era and the beginning of new adventures. The prom will be taking place on Heron Hall's premise on Friday 28th June, 2024.



Prom promises to be a memorable evening filled with laughter, dancing, and camaraderie, set against the enchanting backdrop of our Masquerade Ball theme.

To ensure the success of this event, we kindly ask for your support in our fundraising efforts. Our students are actively working towards covering the costs associated with Prom, and any contributions in the form of funds, food, or decorations would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to contribute in any way, please reach out to Madam Chalmers at cchalmers@northstartrust.org.uk.

More details regarding ticket purchases and event timings will be provided in the near future. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with our Year 11 students, as we bid farewell to one chapter and eagerly anticipate the next.

Thank you for your continued support.



ROYAL
ACADEMY
OF
MUSIC

GRADE 6 THEORY CLUB

Application deadline: April 1st 2024

Six sessions focused on developing understanding and confidence in preparation for the Grade 6 Music Theory exam, led by Junior Academy General Musicianship teacher, and leader of the "Springboard to Grade 5 Theory" Summer programme, Poppy Beddoe.

Session Dates: **Sunday April 14th (at the Royal Academy), Wednesday April 17th (online), Wednesday April 24th (online), Wednesday May 1st (online), Wednesday May 8th (online) and Sunday May 12th (at the Royal Academy)**

To express your interest or for more information, please contact the Participation Team on participation@ram.ac.uk. Places are limited so please apply early.



TUNE UP! DOUBLE BASS

ENFIELD MUSIC SERVICE

To encourage more pupils to learn to play the Double Bass, Enfield Music Service are offering new pupils fully funded lessons for the Spring and Summer terms at our after-school centre. Parents/carers only need to pay for instrument hire (£40 per term) until September 2024.

We're running taster sessions on **Monday 29th January** for pupils to find out more about the instrument and try playing one to see if they'd like to learn:

For primary school pupils in Years 4, 5 or 6

4:30 - 5:00pm

5:00 - 5:30pm

For secondary school pupils

5:30 - 6:00pm

6:00 - 6:30pm

Sessions will take place at
Enfield County Lower School
Rosemary Avenue, EN2 0SP

To book a spot, please email
robert.domingue@enfield.gov.uk



SPRING ACTIVITIES



Forty Hall has a huge offering of activities this spring

Put a spring in your step with a visit to Forty Hall as they present a busy [activities](#) schedule for all ages to enjoy. From spring wreath making, to arts and crafts, egg hunts and the Forty Hall makers market, there really is something to suit everyone. [Forty Hall Farm](#) is also coming to life with [Lambing Weekend](#) taking place on 23 and 24 March, and the Farmers Market now open six days a week, where fresh fruit, vegetables and meat are available to buy, as well as Forty Hall's very own wine, the sale of which helps to raise vital funds for London's only large scale wine producing vineyard.



Laughter Lounge: Andy Askins

Funny Fridays at Dugdale Arts Centre is back again with Laughter Lounge - a brand new comedy showcase featuring an array of comedians - in Enfield. Join us on 5 April at 8pm to see Andy Askins, who previously headlined at the UK's major comedy clubs, international MC Paul Thorne, award-winning comedian Funmbi Omotayo and one-of-a-kind Luke Chilton. If you and your mate fancy some drinks, head down earlier for Happy Hour from 5:30pm - 7:30pm. For more information and to book tickets visit [Dugdale Arts Centre's website](#).

Early Help Directory

Welcome to 'Enfield's Early Help Directory 4 All' This directory brings together local and national services to support children, families, community members and practitioners.

 Early Help Directory

YOUNG PEOPLE...NEWS



NerdVerse: anime and gaming festival at DAC

Are you the biggest nerd in Enfield? Want to be part of a community that covers all things gaming, comics, anime and film? Dugdale Arts Centre (DAC) is teaming up with The Nerd Council on 30 March to bring all things nerd-culture to Enfield. Expect live panels, gaming tournaments, cosplay competitions and much more. There will also be a live DJ and street food, making this one of the most exciting events at DAC this year. The Nerd Council is the UK's most prominent black-led podcast and online platform dedicated to film, TV, gaming, comics and anime.

[Book your tickets today.](#)



Submit your vote for the Biblio Buzz Book Awards

Enfield Libraries has joined forces with the Alexandra Palace book award project to launch Biblio Buzz in Enfield to inspire a new generation of young bookworms. Participants are challenged to read the novels of [six shortlisted authors](#) and vote for their favourite book. Copies of the books can be borrowed and reserved at your local library. To vote for your favourite of the six books, [email your chosen title to the libraries service](#). The winning book for Enfield will be announced end of March, at the Alexandra Palace awards ceremony, details will be shared via our social media channels.

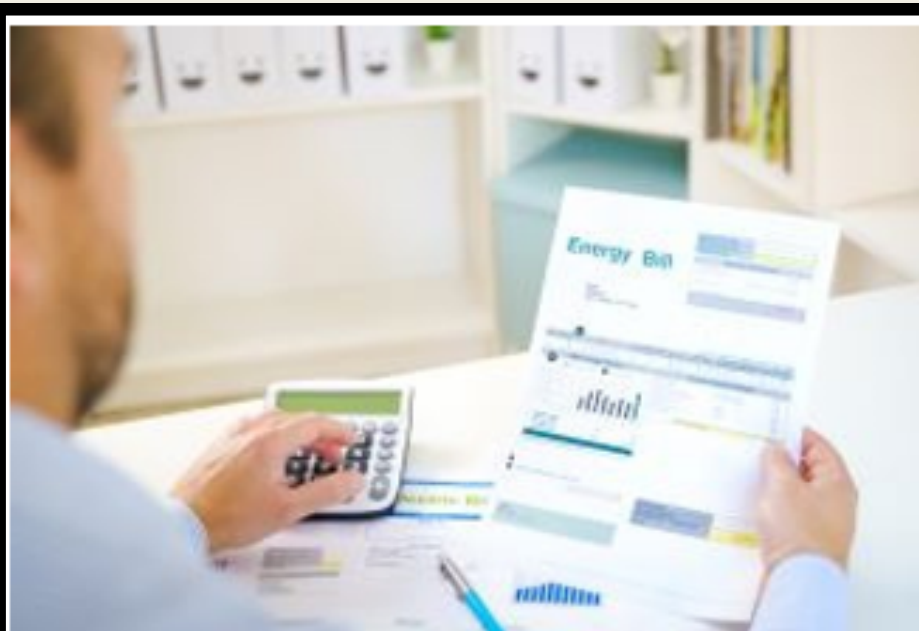


Young People Categories: Activities & Clubs

There are many different types of activities and clubs that can provide a fun outlet whilst helping expand your social network and build your confidence. Being part of a club not only helps you make...

Early Help Directory

FINANCIAL HELP



Extension to Household Support Fund announced

A six-month extension to the Household Support Fund (HSF) has been confirmed by the government in the Spring Budget. More than 170 councils in England had called for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to extend the household support fund which was due to cease at the end of March, including Enfield Council. Enfield Council was concerned that without the HSF extension, families risked falling into crisis, homelessness, and poverty. Information on how the HSF works and the eligibility criteria can be found [on Enfield Council's website](#), which will be updated as more information is confirmed.



Young People Categories: Activities & Clubs

There are many different types of activities and clubs that can provide a fun outlet whilst helping expand your social network and build your confidence. Being part of a club not only helps you make...

[Early Help Directory](#)

Urgent mental health support - 24/7 crisis lines



Area	Boroughs covered	24/7 crisis line number
North West London	Brent, Hillingdon, Harrow, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster	0800 0234 650
	Ealing, Hounslow and Hammersmith & Fulham	0800 328 4444
North Central London	Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington	0800 151 0023
North East London	City & Hackney	0800 073 0006
	Newham	0800 073 0066
	Tower Hamlets	0800 073 0003
	Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest	0300 555 1000
South West London	Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth	0800 028 8000
South East London	Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark	0800 731 2864
	Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich	0800 330 8590

Every mental health trust in London has put in place a 24/7 crisis line for people of all ages - children, young people and adults. The lines which are free to call can provide advice to those in a crisis. These crisis lines are supported by trained mental health advisors 365 days a year.

You can find the 24/7 crisis line numbers using the NHS Service Finder (link below) but the table provides all of the telephone numbers in London.

<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/mental-health/find-an-urgent-mental-health-helpline>

shout
85258

Shout offers confidential 24/7 crisis text support for times when immediate assistance is required
Text "SHOUT" to 85258 or visit [Shout Crisis Text Line](#)

SAMARITANS

Samaritans 24/7 365 days a year - they are here to listen and provide support
Call: 116 123 or email: jo@samaritans.org

Crisis Tools

Crisis Tools helps professionals support young people in crisis - short accessible video guides and text resources
Sign up for free resources [here](#)

PAPYRUS
ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH COUNSELLORS

Papyrus provide confidential support and advice to young people struggling with thoughts of suicide, and anyone worried about a young person
Call: 0800 068 41 41 or Text: 07860 039967 (opening hours 9am to midnight - 365 days a year)

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Childline confidential telephone counselling service for any child with a problem
Call: 0800 1111 anytime or [online chat with a counsellor](#)

Urgent and other support available

Good Thinking

Good Thinking is London's digital wellbeing service and provides a range of resources for young people to help improve mental wellbeing including free NHS-approved apps

THE MIX
Essential support for under 25s

The Mix provides free, confidential support for young people under 25
Call: 0808 808 4994 (11am - 11pm every day) or [Email](#)

Beat

Beat provide support to help young people who may be struggling with an eating problem or an eating disorder
Call the Youthline (under 18's) 0808 801 0711 or Studentline 0808 801 0811 (9am - 8pm during the week and 4pm - 8pm on weekends and bank holidays)

kooth

Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous online mental wellbeing community including live chat with the team, discussion boards, magazine with helpful articles and a daily journal a magazine