



# HARTBEAT

*Hartford's weekly School Newsletter about the community,  
for the community, published every Friday*

**22 December 2023**

**Issue Number 15**

## GREETING FROM THE HEAD

Today marks the end of what has been a wonderful festive period at Hartford Church of England High School. Students and staff have had many opportunities to come together as a community and celebrate this special time of the year. My thanks to the Heads of Families and all the staff who have coordinated all our events. Read on to find out more..!

## FAMILY NEWS

Mr Perry, Head of Riddings Family, writes: It has been another busy week in school with many students engaging with family events. On Friday 15th staff and students were challenged to 'wear something festive'. It was lovely to see students across all the year groups, as well as many staff, supporting the event.



We are really pleased to announce that **£330 has been raised for the charity 'Save the Children'**. Thanks to everyone for your enthusiasm and generosity!



As promised...an update on the fantastic festive bake off! Year 9 and Year 10 students have now completed their events. It was an exciting atmosphere, and the quality of baking and presentation was phenomenal. It was a very difficult decision, but the winning family in Year 9 was Riddings and Year 10 was Whitehall! Congratulations though to all the baking teams for an excellent performance.



Some of our Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed festive film events this week. Invitations to the event were given for good behaviour and exemplary attendance. I think the films were really enjoyed by all...as was the food! Well done to those students on a great half term!

On behalf of all the Heads of Family, thank you to all staff, students and parents for your enthusiasm and participation in the variety of events that have been organised so far. Have a lovely Christmas break, and we will be back in January with more exciting news and events!



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## YEAR 7 REWARD BREAKFAST

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Ms Daniels, Head of Year 7, writes: Congratulations to 7C, 7R and 7S on winning reward breakfasts for this half term! On Wednesday morning during tutor time the students enjoyed toast and hot chocolate with whipped cream and marshmallows, for best attendance, most improved attendance and most achievement points!



Our thanks go to the Year 10 buddies for helping our new Year 7s to settle in this term, giving a hand in homework club, tutor time and accompanying us on trips! Thanks also go to the Year 7 parents and carers over this first term; your continued support is very much appreciated.

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## PE

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Mr Boys, Head of PE, writes: This week all students took part in our very successful 'Interfamily' event. Students from all year groups engaged brilliantly with an array of different sporting activities during PE, displaying both great teamwork within their families as well as individual skill. Great work, everyone!

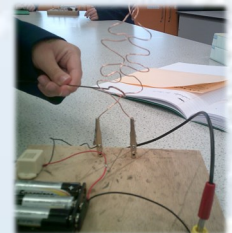
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## SCIENCE

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Mrs Challinor, Science teacher, writes: Year 7 had a festive lesson making Christmas cards for their loved ones (and favourite teachers!), using chromatography techniques they had learned earlier in the year. They really got into the Christmas spirit and made some beautiful creations to take home.



Meanwhile, Mrs Keegan's Year 7 class were investigating circuits making Christmas tree buzzer games.

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## FICTION ADDICTION

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Miss Gregory, English teacher, writes: Our Year 7 fiction 'Addicts' have been working incredibly hard planning and write their own Christmas tales! They have consistently engaged with challenging reading material and have been determined to use this as a stimulus for their very own Christmas tales.



Their vocabulary has blown me away; we definitely have some future authors here!

Fiction Addiction continues from 9 January, 3:00-4:00pm...sweets and achievement points available!



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## SCHOOL CAROL SERVICES

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This week we have celebrated Christmas with [Carol Services](#) for Years 7, 8 and 9 and a further one open to our school community on Wednesday evening. All services took place at St John's Church in Hartford.



Our school orchestra played brilliantly, whilst our Ethos Ambassadors, read, sang, danced and did Makaton to portray the Christmas message creatively.

Special thanks go to Mrs Morgan, School Chaplain, for creating the service and Ms Philippou and Miss Firth for coordinating the music. All colleagues inspired our readers, dancers and musicians and enabled our students to shine in their performances.



Thanks to all students and staff who attended the Key Stage 3 services and sang our carols with such gusto! Further thanks to St John's Church and all those who came along to support the evening service.

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## MORE FAMILY NEWS!

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In special family news of a different kind, we wish Mrs Leybourn, Science teacher, all the very best as she starts her maternity leave. Meanwhile, Miss Hallmark, Business Studies teacher, has just given birth to baby Freddie! Good luck and congratulations to both colleagues and their families!



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## AND FINALLY...

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In assemblies and in the carol services this week I have been talking to students about the true meaning of Christmas. We are aware that, whilst many of our families are looking forward to Christmas, for some the festive season proves challenging and difficult. Where people are struggling, dealing with bereavement, illness, hardship or tough circumstances, I hope that they can find light in the darkness and take comfort from the joy, truth and peace of the Christmas story. May all of us in our school community look to offer the priceless gifts of love and hope, that can last far beyond the festive season, this Christmas time and always.

Wishing all our readers a very happy and blessed Christmas season.

Rachel Pickerill



MERRY

Christmas



FROM EVERYONE AT  
HARTFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
HIGH SCHOOL