



HARTBEAT

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

15 September 2023

Issue Number 2

GREETING FROM THE HEAD

Our School Priorities 2023 to 2024

In last week's newsletter I promised to share with you some areas of key priorities that we are working on during this academic year. I have previously shared with parents the structure of our leadership team where all colleagues lead on specific aspects of school development. In 2023 to 2024, working as a senior team alongside all staff and governors, we are seeking to:

- Improve the quality of the curriculum focusing on key areas of reading, accessibility and quality-first teaching. Within each subject area, ensure that through distinct key stage 3 and key stage 4 courses, knowledge gained throughout school is revisited and built upon with students being challenged in their thinking.
- Improve the behaviour and attitudes of all students through the implementation of a new behaviour policy, ensuring that bullying is rare and that those from disadvantaged backgrounds are attending school and have the opportunity to thrive and flourish.
- Build a strong culture and community across all areas of the school through the development of a family system whilst strengthening our student leadership, extracurricular and careers offers.
- Improve our engagement with parents through the development of new systems for communication (for example, the newsletter and a new website), the re-introduction of face-to-face parents' evenings and new parent forum meetings. We have also planned a series of rewards and celebration events for students across the school including a Key Stage 3 Graduation and Evening of the Arts in the summer term.

Aside from the above, during August 2023, our Estates Team worked hard to create a new SEND hub to aid young people across the school, including an enhanced offer to support young people's mental health and wellbeing (as featured in this newsletter). We have also created new department bases for Art and MFL, new science labs and, with the completion of the Humanities block for January 2024, the space vacated in the Caritas buildings will allow us to develop a new base for English too.

There is a lot to look forward to and be excited about as the school year progresses.



PARENT EVENINGS

On Wednesday 20 September we will be holding our [Key Stage 4 Information Evening](#) from 6:00-7:15pm, where we will be sharing valuable information and insights into how you can support your child in preparing for their Key Stage 4 subjects and examinations. To confirm your attendance please complete this google form: <https://forms.gle/BjCRMt1U5wZ8BBby8>. This will enable the school to ensure adequate seating and refreshments are available.

Also taking place on Wednesday, from 4:30-7:30pm, Year 7 parents have the opportunity to [meet their child's Form Tutor](#) and find out a little more about how students are settling into life at Hartford Church of England High School. It is a chance for parents to find out how they have settled in and ask any questions they may have about the practical aspects of school life. Appointments are for five minutes, on a first-come-first-served basis and can be booked ONLY through our online appointments system: <https://hartfordhigh.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>. The online appointments opened on 14 September at 4.00pm and close on 19 September at 12 noon.

UNIFORM SHOP – from 4:30-7:30pm we will also be selling various uniform items at heavily discounted prices, with sizes covering all year groups. This will be in Caritas canteen on Wednesday, too. Parents of students in all years are welcome!

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING SUPPORT

THERAPY & SUPPORT
SEPTEMBER 2023

We are really excited to be able to offer bespoke internal support to students.

- Sumo & Elsa is being delivered by Mrs Lee
- Art Therapy by Ting An
- All other counselling needs, from 1-1 to group sessions, from nurturing to anger management, and many more, by Miss Godfrey, school counsellor

There is also a quiet lunch club every day for any students who need some support.

Students participating in any of these activities will be issued with a pass.

SJD COLLEGE



SIR JOHN DEANE'S
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
1557

Year 11 had their first college talk by staff from Sir John Deane's this week.

College principal, Chris Atherton, praised the students and told us that they were the smartest and best behaved Y11s he had ever known at Hartford! Such a wonderful tribute to our students. We hope this and future college talks inspire our Y11s as they consider their post-16 options.

MUSIC

Each day our musicians perform as students enter assembly. A big well done to Bradley Johnson, Elsie Shaw, Miles Marshall and Carter Thomas for sharing their musicianship this week!

On Wednesday 20th, our vocal group begins with Mrs Kemsley, starting at 3:00pm and finishing at 4:00pm. We hope your child can join. Other activities are:

- Monday – Rock and Pop Group
- Tuesday – BTEC Group
- Wednesday – Orchestra / Mrs Kemsley's singers

As always, if your child is interested in instrumental lessons please contact Ms Philippou for more information.

LIBRARY (LRC)

This year's books



Creating a buzz about books!

To welcome our new students in year 7 and help inspire a love of reading we are taking part in a scheme called **Bookbuzz**, which provides each student with a book for them to keep.

All our year 7s have been selecting their favourite from the sixteen choices during their reading lesson and their books will be arriving in school in November and December.

CHAPEL



There are student groups running in the Chapel:

Ambassadors – Ambassadors are active Christians who would like to represent Jesus within our school and community. They meet at lunchtimes on Mondays.

School Prayer Meeting – Open Tuesdays 8:10-8:25am, to all students and staff to come together to pray for our school community.

Thrive – Bereavement support group for those who have been affected by the loss of a loved one, lunchtimes every Tuesday.

Christian Union – Fun, friendship and faith! Everyone is welcome to play games, and join in discussions exploring the Christian faith. Open Wednesday lunchtimes.

For all lunchtime activities, students bring their lunch with them.

For more details, please see Mrs Morgan in the Chapel, C23, or check the Satchel One noticeboard.

Y7 ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations from Ms Daniels to 7T for earning the most achievement points this week, closely followed by 7C and 7D.

Congratulations also go to 7S, 7H, 7D, 7A, 7F who all have over 97% attendance with 7S hitting 100%! Let's keep it up!

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

Our **DANCE** clubs started in our wonderful Caritas studio this week and we were delighted to see so many students return to rehearsals after the summer. We have also been overwhelmed by how many new year 7 students have decided to join our team. We are so excited to prepare for our showcase next half term which is based on the theme of power.



Plans are well under way for the first **KS3 HISTORY CLUB** of the half term. Come and join Mr Atherton and Mr Brown at 3:00pm on

Wednesday for the ultimate history quiz! Check satchel for a schedule of upcoming activities planned for this half term!

CHESS CLUB is open to all years and abilities, every Friday from 3:00-4:00pm. There was fantastic turnout last week. Come along to Mr Sharples' maths room and 'Checkmate' your mates!



HOMEWORK CLUB – If you want to get ahead with your homework or need some help the head over to Veritas library any night of the week until 4:30pm. All year groups are welcome, and for our Y7 students, buddies will be available for any help needed!

PE & EXTRA-CURRICULAR – All other after-school clubs are now up and running. **Please check the [school website](#) or the [Satchel One noticeboard](#) for details.**

COMING SOON!

A new lunch destination - the school POD will be opening every lunchtime in the yard near Veritas Sports Hall. Look out for the menus, special deals, more information and the Grand opening!



AND FINALLY...

Today we said goodbye to two members of staff: Ellie Bass and Matthew Holland. Miss Bass has been a member of the Pastoral team since June 2022, primarily with KS4 students but has been a friendly face to students across the whole school. Mr Holland joined us to work in the Maths department last September, and over the summer was a key member of the Estates team, helping to get everything ready for the new term. We thank both Ellie and Matthew for their valuable contributions to the school and to our students' education, and wish them both the very best for the future.

Wishing everyone a happy and relaxing weekend.

Rachel Pickerill