

13th October 2020

Parent/ Carer Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Over the last few weeks we have seen the next evolution of settling into school life under pandemic safe restrictions. To help facilitate the best pupil experience, we have embarked on the following and thought you would like to know what we have been doing.

- We have **moved the year group bubbles** to ensure the Year 10 and 11 students, have the least movement distance to move, the fewest stairwells to negotiate and the largest communal areas in which to cross over, when they move to access specialist classrooms.
- Year 10 and 11 have also been moved **from a bubble core subject set to individual English, Maths and Science sets**, helping to meet their learning needs in a more effective way.
- All subject curriculums have been re-sequenced to prioritise high tariff, **complex learning** which needs to be **delivered by a teacher**. This is in case we have any further lockdown time and need to resort to remote learning. Also to help with catching up missed learning, homework learning tasks are being interleaved with lockdown topic tasks.
- All **staff** have been **trained on the use of Microsoft Teams**, therefore if there is a future lockdown the curriculum will be taught live via this platform. **All students have email addresses for Microsoft Office 365** and will have induction lessons over the next few days to ensure they know how to use it. We have included a guide for you below, please check that your child can access this from home.
- A working group of staff are reviewing the **pupil reward system** and to bring it in line with our virtues of kindness, gratitude and hard work. In the interim you will receive a text message each time your child either shows kindness, works hard, achieves great learning or is nominated to a visiting member of staff as one of the two possible Super Learners in that lesson that day. Each year group display area will soon celebrate student successes in these categories every week. Successful students will go into a prize draw at the end of term.
- A work group of staff are planning a **consultation about the school uniform** and Hartshill School colours. We have an ambition to make Hartshill students the most elegantly dressed students in the region, improving the quality of the uniform whilst adding no extra cost. Uniform is so important for a feeling of family, a pride in the institution and the development of personal confidence. The consultation is being led by our textiles expert and Director of Learning for Technology and Vocational Studies, Mrs Freeman. She will be working with extensive groups of students over the next two weeks to look at design ideas, fabrics and colour schemes. Please encourage your child to get involved with their ideas.
- We have continued to ensure that safety at school is our priority. In doing so we are now insisting on face coverings for all in communal inside areas – **please make sure your child comes to school every day with a mask to use** (one plain colour preferably black).
- We have launched a new award in Year 9. **The Kindness and Gratitude Award**. This is given to the bubble group who go the furthest to keeping their environment clean and tidy and in doing so are being kind to the cleaners (who are currently working very hard to keep the school safe). The first week's winners were **9A1**. The group winning the award the most number of times this year will receive an overall prize in the summer term.
- Years 8 and 9 have had lessons on **how to use Prep Time** most effectively to help build and keep long term memory. The techniques practiced in Prep Time should also be those used at home each evening throughout the year. If you would like to know more and to be able to help your child with their learning please see the short PowerPoint on our website, linked here

<http://www.hartshill.warwickshire.sch.uk/files/corporation/prep-time-2020/3001>

As the autumn starts to turn to winter we urge you to ensure your child has an appropriate coat to wear to school (not a hoodie or sports top, please see the [FAQ2](#) on the website for more detail). We are seeing a number of students who are not dressed for the English winter weather who may not be focussed on learning as a consequence following break or lunchtimes.

Thank you to all parents who are sending their children into school each day. Good attendance is more crucial for your child than ever and helps to form good habits which are taken into adulthood. We are pleased to still have over 500 students on 100% attendance. In this, the season of colds, it is tempting to allow your child a day off school if they feel under the weather. Please instead give your child the appropriate medicine to remove the symptoms and send your child into school – this will require a signed form which can be collected from reception. If he or she worsens in the day to the point that time in bed is required, we will contact you and send your child home. Please however do not send your child into school with Covid symptoms, follow the government advice.



IT Information

Office 365 information

As a school, we are now using Microsoft teams as our platform through which Hartshill students can interact with learning remotely.

To access Microsoft Teams students must first download Microsoft Office 365.

To log in to Microsoft 365 students must use their school email address. All students will have their school email address that they have been issued since returning to school and a password they set up themselves.

Microsoft Teams

Once logged in to Office 365, students can select the Microsoft Teams icon from the list on the left-hand side of the page. Through Microsoft Teams, they can access all of their classes and channels. Teachers will upload homework and remote learning into the appropriate classes and channels. All teaching staff have been fully trained on how to utilise Microsoft Teams for education. Students have been shown how to access work that has been set and how to complete and upload assignments.

Remote learning

After half term lessons resource will no longer be uploaded to the school website. There will be a full migration to Office 365 and Teams. This will provide students with a more interactive and responsive platform through which they can access live lessons and work remotely.

If any parents or students would like more details on how to use Microsoft Teams or how to log in to Office 365, we have uploaded some easy to follow guides on the website.

Technical support service

Students can use this email address to request technical support. Students can contact them for password resets, and other **technical** support needed if having to learn from home, e.g. issues with accessing their Teams channel, accessing the internet, office365 etc.

RemoteLearningMAT@e-services.freshservice.com

Please note this is a technical service only and **queries about the remote learning itself need to be directed to the relevant classroom teacher.**

And finally we would like to celebrate a significant milestone in the life of one of our teachers.

Congratulations to Mr Whitehouse who has been at the Midland Academies Trust or one of its schools for 30 years. Thank you Mr Whitehouse for your service to the Nuneaton and Hartshill communities.

