

# The Haywood NEWS

Spring 2021



## Dear Parent/ Carer,

I hope you are all safe and well. Since I last wrote to you, we have returned all of our lessons back to onsite provision here at the Academy and City College. It is fantastic to see the beating heart of this community back in full swing! We have been able to welcome the vast majority of our students back to the classroom and, despite tightened measures in our revised risk assessment, the use of face masks being one of the most difficult to expect from our students, they have done themselves and their teachers proud! It really is a pleasure to see them back where they belong, interacting with their friends, teachers and support staff.

Of course, a thorough and comprehensive programme of Lateral Flow Testing was needed in order to allow this to happen and, as you will know, we conducted more than 3000 tests over the course of 6 days to ensure that no student returning to the Academy carried any risk of infection. My thanks go out to you as parents for trusting our testing programme and to the staff who volunteered to make it happen.

## Home testing arrangements (Lateral Flow Device Testing):

Thank you for your positive and supportive responses to home testing. All students should have enough tests to last them until the end of the first week back after Easter. They are now expected to test themselves during the Easter holidays. Upon their return, they will be provided with new kits to take home.

## Year 9 Preference Evening:

A huge thank you to all parents of Year 9 students. We have received a massive and swift response to our preference selection process for next year's Key Stage 4. We are now in the middle of building September's timetable to incorporate each child's preferences wherever possible. Your child will be informed of their result later in the Summer term. Please direct any questions to our Senior Vice Principal Victoria Taylor at the following email address: [vtaylor@clt.haywood.coop](mailto:vtaylor@clt.haywood.coop).

## Grading – Summer 2021:

We sent out information to all families of Year 11, 12 and 13 pupils explaining our approach to awarding grades this summer. We remain on track with our plans and will communicate with students and their families where appropriate throughout the rest of the academic year.

## Year 11 & 13 finish dates:

We are still waiting for confirmation from the DfE about a leaving date for our Year 11 and 13 students. We are provisionally working towards a date around the middle of June, although any planning at this point is subject to change in line with DfE guidance. As soon as we know for certain I will be in touch.

### City College Applications:

When I wrote to you last half term, I reminded you all about City College, our bespoke sixth form centre, and the exciting opportunities available there for our cohort. Students at City College are now able to benefit from the offer of their own high-end college laptop, opportunities and international links with well-known organisations in Europe and the Middle East, and a significant lump sum cash bursary on completion of their studies. I also reminded you that most importantly, we know your children - and that is what really makes the difference, now more than ever!

If your child hasn't applied yet, please do so by following this link and completing the online form <https://tinyurl.com/njz4v3ks>. City College is the place to be!

### Easter treat!

All of our students from Years 7 - 13 enjoyed their first taste of Summer this week with an Easter treat from the Senior staff at Haywood and City Learning Trust. With a choice of ice cream, ice-lolly or slush puppy, our students enjoyed an extended break time, some much needed vitamin D and a visit from Mr Whippy! It was a lovely outdoor event where staff and students could relax for a moment and enjoy one another's company (safely and at a distance).

Before you go on to enjoy this half term's edition of our newsletter, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support. Your positive and constructive feedback not only recognises what you feel we do well, but helps us to continually improve our practice. Thank you. If you haven't already done so, please spare a couple of minutes to let us know what you think: [tinyurl.com/y4auc2uc](https://tinyurl.com/y4auc2uc).

Once again, I would like to extend my thanks to you all for your continued support over the last few months, we have really appreciated it.

Take care and I hope you have a lovely Easter holiday.

Mike Dawes

Principal  
Haywood Academy and City College



On 23<sup>rd</sup> March the nation marked one year since the first UK lockdown. Since that date, millions of people have been bereaved, both as a result of Covid-19 and due to other causes.

The restrictions we've all been living under have meant that many of us have had to grieve without the comfort of having friends and family around them. The National Day of Reflection gave us a time to unite and reflect on this tragic loss of life and our collective grief as a nation.

As part of our Reflection, students created their own daffodils during Tutorials, and then took them home to display in a window, as well as taking part in the nationwide "beacon of remembrance" on their doorsteps by beaming phones, candles and torches into the night sky at 8pm.

Another way that we can pay our respects for those people we have lost is by adding their name to our tree of remembrance.

Form teachers have a collection of leaves that you can write the names of any people you want to remember who have lost their lives over the last 12 months. These leaves will then be added to our tree outside CS1, and you can use this as a space for you to pay your respects.



# Digital Curriculum at HAYWOOD ACADEMY



We have been delighted to see students return to the academy - there is no replacement for in-person teaching, and we are thrilled to have the students back!

Along with the return to life at school, we are pleased to see that the number of students with devices in school has improved massively. Thank you to parents and carers for supporting this. This enables students to access the very best digital curriculum on offer, including having access to research tasks and interactive tools, as well as **Google Classrooms**, **GCSEPod**, **Educake**, **Mathswatch** and much, much more!

Students who are bringing devices in already have seen an increase in independence, opportunities to extend learning past the classroom and partake in interactive quizzes and activities that would otherwise be impossible without a device. Students are encouraged to get out their device at the start of every lesson, alongside their planners and pencil cases, which is why the laptops and Chromebooks are such an essential piece of learning equipment.

As part of our journey working towards a more digital future at the academy, Chromebooks and laptop devices are going to be an essential piece of equipment for all students at the academy, Year 7 through to Year 13.

Therefore, after Easter, we will be conducting an audit of all students to find out which device they have available to them. This information will then be used to open up another period of the Haywood Chromebook Scheme, allowing more parents to purchase devices if they wish. All students should bring in a device (laptop or Chromebook) after Easter if they are able to, and we can then identify the students who don't have access to a device, enabling us to provide relevant support.

Remember, if you wish to bring a personal device in, we are happy to provide the safeguarding software free of charge, which is installed in school by our IT support team. Should you choose to bring your own device in, please ensure it is adequately insured as we cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage to personal devices.

If you have any questions regarding digital curriculum and use of devices in the academy, please don't hesitate to call and ask.

Have a great Easter!

**Dr J Bullous**

# THE BOOKS THAT MADE HAYWOOD

To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 4th March, students and staff created their very own 'virtual library' of the books that have had an impact on them in their lives, and these are now displayed on the screens around school.

It has been really interesting seeing the variety of books our students have been reading, and there are a number of authors who have turned up quite a few times! It's also been fascinating for students to see the kinds of books that their teachers read at their age, and which have stayed with them over the years.

Can you guess anyone from their choices? What do your books say about you?



# Catering to OUR STUDENTS

Cris Cohen, executive head chef at Feasted, gave our Year 11 Hospitality and Catering group an inspirational talk via Teams on Monday 14th March.

He talked about the ideas behind the founding of his company, and the brand-new Level 3 professional cookery course he has set up. He has also initiated a new community meals project which aims to end food poverty has now launched in the city, 'The Real on Meals project'.

All of this was really useful to improve their knowledge and understanding of the industry.

The students really enjoyed listening to Cris and he also offered them some key advice on their future aspirations.



# MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Congratulations to Wendy in Year 8, who won a competition with Speak Up Space to design a positive post for their social media.

They loved the message in the design, and it's something they really wanted to share with everybody! Wendy also won a £20 Amazon voucher - Well done!

Speak Up Space is a youth organisation that works in conjunction with North Staffs Mind, Changes YP and the Dove Partnership to support young people who are struggling with their mental health through phone and instant messaging conversations. They also have a range of resources that can be accessed through their website – visit [www.speakupspace.org.uk](http://www.speakupspace.org.uk) for more information.

# Dates for your diary\*

\* all dates are subject to change.

## Thursday 25th

### March 2021:

Year 7 and Year 8 Reports go out to parents

## Thursday 1st

### April 2021:

Year 12 and Year 13 Reports go out to parents

## Thursday 22nd

### April 2021:

Year 10 and Year 11 Reports go out to parents

Year 12 Parents' Evening

## Wednesday 28th

### April 2021:

Year 11 Photographs

## Thursday 29th

### April 2021:

Year 8 Parents' Evening

Year 11 City College taster day

## Friday 30th

### April 2021:

Year 11 City College taster day

## Thursday 6th May 2021:

Year 11 Parents' Evening

# Year 9 Preference Process!

On Thursday 18th March we held our virtual Year 9 Preference Evening and Parents' Evening. 93% of parents and students engaged in the evening, making this our most successful preference evening ever! We introduced our new electronic recording of choices and students and parents had access to all of the curriculum and subject information via short video presentations and our new updated Curriculum pages on the website.

Please feel free to take a look in the Curriculum section of the Academy website, at our subject specific information about the courses on offer, for all year groups, and short videos, showcasing the work that takes place.

## Our Year 9 students have already received the following support when selecting their preference choices:

Throughout January and February during lesson time, subject teachers provided information to students about the courses on offer.

On **Thursday 11th March 2021**, Year 9 received their preference assembly where the preference process was explained, and they were introduced to the subject selection on offer. Students then had the opportunity to discuss with their form tutors any individual questions. At this point, the Microsoft Preference form went live for completion.

On **Thursday 18th March 2021** we held our Subject Parents' Evening and Preference Evening where students and parents were able to book virtual appointments with subject staff through the Virtual Parents' Evening Booking System, where they could discuss in detail subject specifications and suitability. Careers advisors were on hand as well as our Year 9 Performance Leader, to ensure all students had full access to any information and guidance required.

**Thursday 25th March 2021** saw our final deadline for Year 9 preference selections to be made. Students were asked to complete their Microsoft form with their final preference choices and we are pleased to report we have had over 95% success in placing our students with all 4 of their first preference choices.

We are now in the process of building the timetable for 2021-2022 and students will be informed of their timetable for Year 10 in July.

## What are you up to **THIS SUMMER?**

On Friday 26th March the local NCS (National Citizen Service) team spoke to our Year 11s all about the NCS Summer Programme and how they can get involved in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity where they will:

- Meet new people
- Try new things
- Give back to their local community through voluntary action
- Take on new challenges
- Develop the skills and confidence to take on their next steps
- Generate experience for their university application, job/apprenticeship interview or CV and more!

More information on the NCS summer programme can be found at [wearencs.com](http://wearencs.com). The NCS will collect from School Sign-up forms on Tuesday 30th, and students can post any questions via Google Classroom.

The NCS programme offers young people aged 15-17 a chance to develop skills and take on new challenges that will set them up for adult life. They'll also do something good for their local community, carrying out a social action project to support a cause they care about.



# MYEd App



The graphic features the MY Ed logo at the top, with the tagline 'Connecting parents, students and schools'. Below this is a smartphone displaying the app interface. The text 'Download our school app NOW' is prominently displayed. At the bottom, it says 'MY Ed FREE Download' and provides three steps: 'Step 1: Go to your app store', 'Step 2: Search for My Ed', and 'Step 3: Download the app'. A QR code is labeled 'SCAN ME' and the website 'www.myedschoolapp.com' is listed at the bottom.

We are changing the way that we communicate with parents, and relaunching the My Ed app.

We would like all parents to download this so that they can keep up to date with what is going on in school. The app is free to download, notifications are free to receive, and parents can send messages to the school free of charge.

## What sort of information can parents see?

The app needs to be downloaded on the phone that has the same number that we have on record.

If we do not have the mobile number stored you can download the app but

it will not show your child's details.

It is very important that we are kept up-to-date with any change of mobile number so that you can continue to use the app.

You can only see information about your own children, and so there is no risk of anyone being able to see information about other students.

**The app includes information about:**

- Attendance (absence can also be reported through the app)
- Forms to complete can be downloaded (change of address etc.)
- Key dates- important things going on in school
- Contact numbers
- News items
- Links to social media

**How to download the app:**

1. Go to your app store
2. Search for My Ed
3. Download the app
4. Search for the school name

As long as the mobile number is the same as the one on SIMS then the app will automatically bring up details for students linked to that number. If there is more than one child in the family then it will bring up details for all students.

Students can download the app too but they will not be able to see information about them. They will be able to see general information about the school such as news, key dates etc.



## Coming soon: Online payments to school with ParentPay!

Starting within the next few weeks we will be introducing a more convenient way to pay for school meals, and other school items online, using a secure service called ParentPay.

You will have a secure online account, activated using a unique username and password; you will be prompted to change these, and to keep them safe and secure.

Parents will receive an activation email from [platform@parentpay.com](mailto:platform@parentpay.com).

ParentPay offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available.

## Give Us Your Feedback - go online to Parent View

Haywood Academy would like to have your feedback. You can do this by using Parent View. If you would like to comment please follow the instructions below:

### CONNECT TO THE INTERNET:

Put the following link into a browser:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=/give-your-views>

(this will take you to the website page where you can set up an account).

You need your email address and password for the simple log-in process.

Just follow the on-screen instructions and you will be sent an email to activate your account. Once you have created an account and activated it, you will be able to complete the online questionnaire quite quickly and easily.

### TO SEARCH FOR A SCHOOL:

Enter the name of the school and part of the address (road, city, town or postcode) in the search boxes when you are asked to. Select your child's school from the search results

### THE QUESTIONNAIRE:

There will be 12 statements to consider- for example, "My child is happy at this school"- each with a choice of responses for you to select from:

- Strongly agree • Agree • Disagree
- Strongly disagree • Don't know

Use the "Next" button to move to the next question or the "Previous" button to go back. Once you have completed all 12 questions, click on "Finish the survey" and the questionnaire is complete.

**Thank you for your contributions.**

# SCREEN BREAK PART 2



Back at the beginning of February, we cancelled all lessons for P5 on the Wednesday of Children's Mental Health Week, to give students the opportunity to take a break from screens and to get involved in a wide range of activities.

Well, this proved so popular that we decided to do this again! On 3rd March, staff and students took a screen break as part of 'Wellbeing Wednesday', and managed to use the time productively to get outside, pick up a hobby, or just to unwind!

## THE WORLD OF WORK

This year has seen the 10th National Careers Week, held this year between 1st and 6th March, and to mark it there was a series of tutorials with a careers focus across the week. Also, Year 11 took part in a virtual 'jobs of the future' session with Higher Horizons, where they looked at some of the ways the employment landscape is changing with new technologies.

If students have any careers-related questions they can contact Kelly, our careers adviser, at [kelly.meir@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:kelly.meir@stoke.gov.uk), or Mrs Morgan. There are also a range of links on the Haywood website at [www.haywoodacademy.coop/students/next-steps](http://www.haywoodacademy.coop/students/next-steps), and the City College website, at [www.citycollege.coop/about/university\\_and\\_careers/world-of-work/](http://www.citycollege.coop/about/university_and_careers/world-of-work/), but why not try these as starting points?

- You can start off by researching all the different types of job sectors and seeing what jobs there are in each sector:  
[nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers)
- See what careers link to different subjects:  
[careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors](http://careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors)  
[ucas.com/ucas/after-gcses/find-career-ideas/explore-jobs](http://ucas.com/ucas/after-gcses/find-career-ideas/explore-jobs).
- See what careers may suit your personality:  
[ucas.com/careers/buzz-quiz](http://ucas.com/careers/buzz-quiz)



# Striving for the best



38 students in Year 9 are now up and running with their Duke of Edinburgh qualification. This is a fantastic opportunity for all of our students, and we wish them the very best in their qualification. Through the Duke of Edinburgh programme, young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. They gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CVs for future jobs or College/University applications. This fits perfectly with our missions at Haywood and our **ARCH** values of aspire, respect, community spirit and hard work.

Good luck Year 9 with your amazing journey as you embark on this fantastic experience.

## Former student reaching his goals

Former student **Kieran Coates** appeared on the bench for Stoke City FC's first team in February.

Huge congratulations are due to him on a fantastic sporting achievement.

The PE department and the rest of the Haywood community are extremely proud!



## FOOTBALL Update

Well done to Year 9 for showing dedication, commitment and hard work during extra-curricular football sessions. This club is on every Thursday after school, and everyone is welcome!

Keep up the hard work, as matches will be organised soon! All players are looking sharp and fitness levels are improving each week.

Let's see if anyone can beat 345 kick ups, which has been set by Mr Adlington with a size 5 football. Prizes will be given out if this is completed.

In addition, well done to some of the Year 9s taking part as they are using this as part of their Duke of Edinburgh qualification.





# COMFY COMMON ROOM



We mentioned several newsletters ago that plans were in place for City College to get a newly refurbished student common room, and we are pleased to announce that it is now complete!

Thank you to everyone who has worked hard to get this space ready, and we look forward to our students using it, alongside our redecorated library and study room.

This is all part of our commitment to giving our students the best experience we can.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

For World Book Day, our staff managed to settle down with a good book!



## WATCH THIS SPACE...

Soon we will have some exciting news about some changes coming to our offer at City College – keep an eye on our social media channels for more!