

The

Haywood News

Winter 2023

Message from the Principal

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your loved ones are well and are looking forward to the festive break.

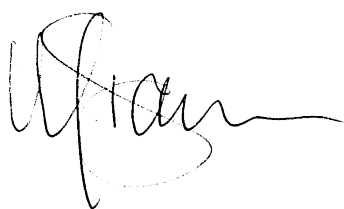
This term has certainly been a very busy and active period of time in the Academy and at City College. If you keep up-to-date with our social media channels <https://www.facebook.com/HaywoodAcademy>, you will have enjoyed coverage of the huge range of experiences our students have had the opportunity to take part in this term. Soaking up a team building experience at Stanley Head, enjoying touring theatre performances, being a part of our Armistice memorial service, getting involved in Children In Need fundraising events, and recognition through our rewards trips and treats - the term has seen it all; our students have, yet again, been a credit to themselves and this Academy! A love of learning, achievement and experience remains firmly at the heart of everything we do. The smiles throughout this edition say it all!

Over the past two weeks, students and staff have enjoyed a number of festive celebration events to mark the end of our first term. Whether this be an end of term awards assembly, participating in our Christmas Performing Arts Showcase events, delivering mince pies and Christmas cards to the local community, or a rewards trip to The Trafford Centre, our community has certainly enjoyed a jam-packed calendar this month. The team and I know that these experiences are fundamental to your child's time with us here at Haywood Academy and City College and I hope that this edition of the newsletter provides you with a useful insight into the opportunities that we offer our students.

Before you go on to enjoy 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.

So, grab a brew, sit back and enjoy flicking through a small taster of what life has been like for our staff and students of the Haywood Academy and City College community this term.

I would like to wish you all a peaceful Christmas break and best wishes for 2024.



Mike Dawes
Principal,
Haywood Academy and City College



Christmas Showtime!

...Read the story on page 2

Christmas Showcase!

We hosted our annual Christmas showcase on 13th December, and it was wonderful to see the level of hard work and practise that had gone into every performance.

The audience was treated to a whole host of dances and musical numbers, including the premier of '**Twisted Christmas**', written and performed by our choir!



Widened Opportunities

Through the **Character & Arts Foundation**, our students have had the opportunity this term to take part in a number of fantastic workshops and opportunities.

Dance students from both Haywood and Trentham Academy took part in a workshop led by professionals from the dance/circus company **Joli Vyann**, which focused on participants learning contemporary dance moves and partner work.

They used daring circus balances, and participants gained skills such as coordination, balance, strength and flexibility. These skills were learnt in the context of the theme of Climate Change, and a focal point was 'teamwork' and working together to achieve harmony for ourselves and our planet.

Our choir had the opportunity to work with professionals **Deb McAndrew** & **Conrad Nelson**, the team from Claybody Theatre, to write and produce their very own Christmas song - '**Twisted Christmas**'!

Lots of hard work has gone into making this original masterpiece, which was first performed in our annual showcase on Wednesday 13th December!



Dates for your diary

All dates are subject to change.

8th January 2024

Staff INSET day

9th January 2024

Term starts for all students

16th January 2024

Year 13 Parents' Evening

17th January 2024

Year 11 Parents' Evening

6th February 2024

Year 8 Parents' Evening

7th February 2024

PSHE Sessions

12th-16th February 2024

Half-term holiday

21st February 2024

Year 9 Preference Evening

26th February 2024

Year 9 Examination week commences

12th March 2024

PSHE Sessions

13th March 2024

Year 11 Art, Photography and Textiles final examination commences

14th March 2024

Year 9 Parents' Evening

18th March 2024

Year 11 Year, group and individual photographs

20th March 2024

Year 9 Preferences deadline

21st March 2024

Term finishes for all students



Doing Our Bit

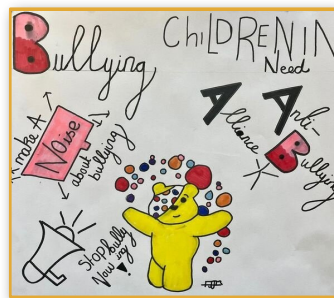


As part of our celebrations for **BBC Children in Need** on Friday 17th November, all of the form groups in the academy competed in a "penny line" competition!

There were some really impressive entries - especially from **7SBE**, who managed to line the entire Humanities corridor with loose change - but the winning form was **7SWA** with a staggering 41 metres of pennies!

Students also had the opportunity to soak **Mr Sellers** and **Mr Leese** with a sponge throw, and our prefects ran a range of activities in the hall during break time. **Lexi Jo-Hughes (8DPA)** won 'Guess the Teddy Bear', **Ewelina Borawska (10AOW)** won 'The Plank challenge', and **Liam Collins LHO** won 'Guess the Film emoji'.

Well done to all those who took part and created a lovely atmosphere in the academy, and helped us to raise a whopping **£556.19!**



Youth Voices

Back in October, two students represented Haywood Academy in the city-wide Youth Council.

As part of this council, young people are working together across all Stoke-on-Trent schools to make our wider community a better place, and to take important votes on issues and projects that make a difference for our young people.

For example, we are now members of the '**6 towns, 1 voice**' group, and students have been working alongside police to help plan the city-wide '**Ditch the Blade**' initiative.



A Green Future

When we returned from Half Term we were straight into **Green Careers Week** (6th-11th November), and through Community Time and their lessons, students learnt about what this is, and about some of the green jobs that are available.

These can be any job, role or occupation that contributes to preserving or restoring the environment and our planet. It can be any industry, not just those seen as 'green.'

In the future, all industries, sectors, and roles will need to adapt with our changing climate and will need to become more sustainable. This will involve the creation of new jobs in areas that we don't yet know about, and the phasing out of other roles, as well as changes to workplaces and methods of working.

It will require students to have adaptable skills that will help them in these new areas, as well as an awareness of the world around them and the challenges that we will face as a society in the future.

Green skills are abilities, attributes, values, attitudes, knowledge, and technical skills needed to adapt services, processes and procedures to support climate change.

To download a parent and carers guide to Green Careers, visit <https://nationalcareersweek.com/gcwpw>



Sweet Treats For Charity

We love seeing our community come together to make positive change, and so our Macmillan Coffee Morning on 29th September was a perfect opportunity for our students to do their bit for an amazing cause!

Our Peer Leaders did a brilliant job of making sure everyone was well looked after and stocked up with cake!



Peer Mentors Are Here For You

Around school we have 20 Peer Mentors, who are here to help! All our Peer Mentors are fully-trained and will be available to support any student with a worry or issue, but who find it hard to speak to an adult.

The Peer Mentors have been raising awareness of themselves and national issues by planning and running an assembly about mental wellbeing, and during **Anti-Bullying Week** (13th - 17th November), they led sessions teaching Year 7 students about respect, tolerance, and working together to create a community of kindness. They did an amazing job!

They have been working hard to make sure all students feel like they have somebody to talk to around school, as well as promoting our agenda of 'kindness matters'. Haywood is a **'Kindness Matters Academy'** - the first in the city!



A Time For Memory And Reflection

On Monday 3rd July fifty Religious Studies students visited the **National Memorial Arboretum** in Alrewas.

The day consisted of visiting some of the over 400 memorials, visiting the exhibition 'Lockdown landscapes', and walking the vast grounds of the arboretum, where all of the trees planted are dedicated to the memory of someone who has been lost.

We were also lucky enough to hear a talk about the life of Harry Farr, a conscientious objector who is studied as part of History lessons at Haywood, and see the plaque commemorating him as part of the 'Shot at Dawn' memorial.

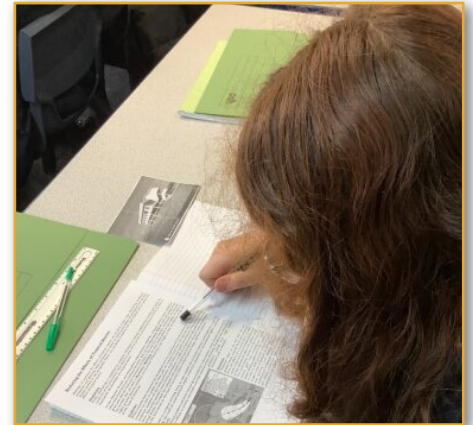
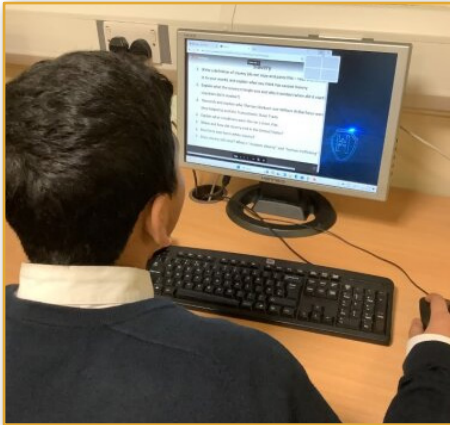
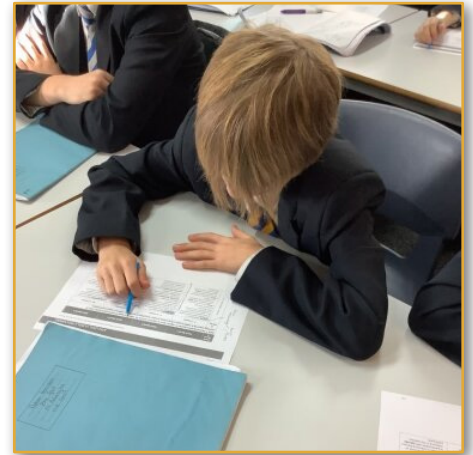
Our students demonstrated our ARCH values of **Respect** and **Community**, and were a credit to the Academy.



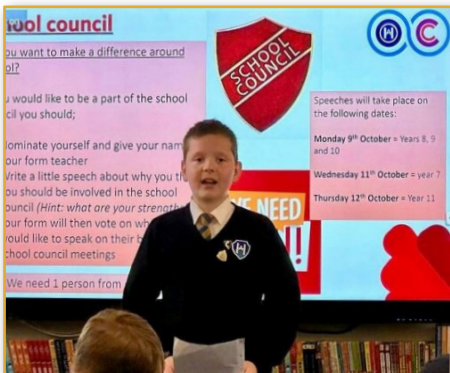
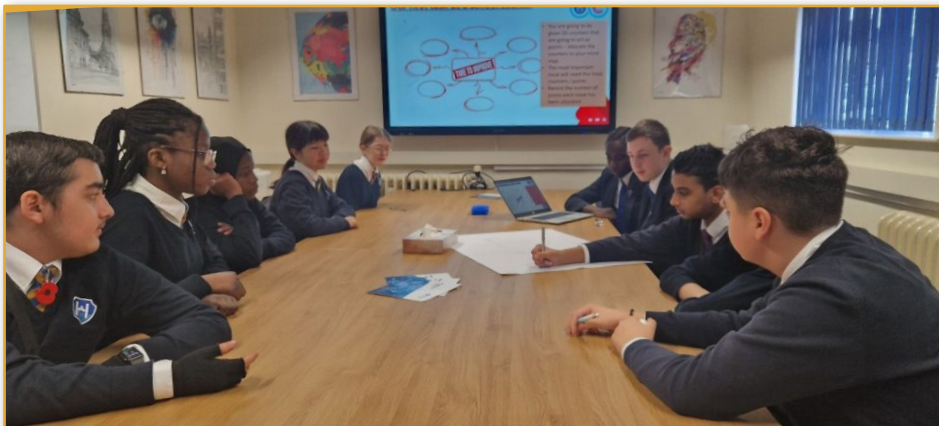
Reading Rocks!

We now have a renewed focus on weaving reading into the curriculum, and this is taking a number of forms, including reading on the board as a class, reading individual paper texts, reading digitally on individual screens, guided teacher reading, silent reading, and teachers drawing out key words from texts to check for understanding.

In this way, students can see that reading is a key cross-curricular skill, and one that is central to success at Haywood.



A Council For You!



their form in order to gain enough votes to be their form council representative. All of the students who took part were absolutely fantastic and took the role extremely seriously. Once all of the votes were in, the winning students were awarded school council badges by Mr Dawes, and the following week, each year group council held a meeting to discuss suggestions about what could be changed or improved around the school. Each form council rep bought ideas from their form to the meeting, acting as a spokesperson for their form's opinions, and after all year group councils had met, the senior prefects pooled the information together to make the agenda for the next council meetings.

To help improve the academy, we have formed a school council, which comprises of both year councils and a whole-school body. Students from every form went through hustings, wrote speeches, and spoke before

Watch this space for positive change from the voice of our student body!

Song of the Sytch

On 13th October our choir were treated to an afternoon at the Spode Works to watch a special performance of **'Song of the Sytch'**, performed by the Claybody Theatre.

The students were very inspired by the Male Voice Choir, and learnt about what life was like in Burslem in the run-up to WWII.

We Will Remember



Before Remembrance, the entire academy used their Community Time to join together and remember those who have served our country, and to also show respect to those who continue to put themselves on the line so we can be safe.

Our Prefect team also laid wreaths to mark the occasion and show our respect, and to show that, as a community, we will remember them.



Mental Health Awareness

World Mental Health Day on 10th October corresponded with our PSHE Day, and so students were treated to a range of activities exploring mental health. Staff and students got involved by wearing yellow to support Young

Minds' 'Hello Yellow' campaign, which aims to raise awareness of mental health and well-being.

Students also had road safety assemblies, explored positive friendships, first aid sessions, a session to create an anti-racism campaign for Year 11, sessions with Stoke City, and studied more about sporting well-being!

Across the week, our Peer Mentors also delivered mental health messages during assemblies, and they all did an amazing job showing empathy and giving tips on looking after our mental health.



Constructing A Successful Future

At the end of October, some of our Year 11 students attended a construction and trade taster day at Stoke-on-Trent College, and were an absolute credit to the school. They loved the opportunity to look at different trades in plumbing, joinery, bricklaying, mechanics, painting and decorating, and completed their own joinery task by creating remembrance crosses.

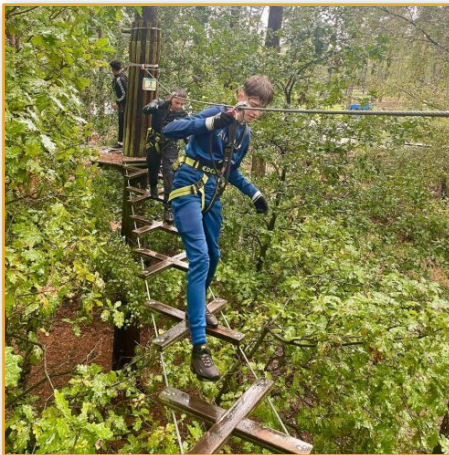


I'm A Haywood Year 11 Student, GET ME OUT OF HEEEEERRREEEEE!!!

On 20th October, our Year 11 students left the academy for a number of adventurous locations, which allowed them to work on problem solving, resilience and teamwork before their mock exams in November. Some students visited Stanley Head, where they tried their hand at axe throwing and rope walking through the trees, and others visited Go Ape! in Cannock Chase.

The Prefects went on a team building visit to the YMCA in order to strengthen leadership, team and communication skills but also to start making plans about their future. The prefects all took part in an escape room, then a very exciting Bush tucker trial where they ate meal worms, locusts, mustard, vinegar, mint sauce, hot sauce, brown sauce and soy sauce to win stars. They ended the day thinking about the skills they have and aspirations of what they would like to do in the future. They also looked at setting themselves **SMART** goals for them to be successful in their dreams.

All our Year 11 students ended the day ready to smash their mocks!



A Star In The Making

This term, our **AMAZINGLY** talented Year 11 student Olivia Hambleton has received her Grade 5 Singing Musical Theatre certificate, has also been accepted into the Regent Theatre Academy, and has achieved a place at the Jill Clewes Academy for Theatre Arts!

Congratulations to our future West End star!



Welcome To Haywood!

This term, Haywood has been welcoming Year 6 pupils from our local primary schools for a wide range of fun activities and events, helping to start the transition to high school for many young people in our community.

The excitement began with the launch on 21st September of The **Haywood Way**, a 6-week programme taking place each Thursday evening, including sports, cookery, art, design, and ukulele playing,



which culminated in a Haywood X Factor! This proved to be so popular that we decided to repeat the experience for Year 5 students!

We then welcomed Year 6 and their families to our Haywood open evening on 28th September, followed on 7th October by our weekend open morning, where we were joined by alpacas from **Hassall Alpacas**, an inflatable assault course, and a range of birds, reptiles and insects from **Wings and Things**.

We have also had Year 6 students in on 20th October to get a taster of life at Haywood Academy, and they had an amazing time completing a range of sessions!

We can't wait to welcome Year 6 back again in the new year!





Ceramic City

Before the summer, a group of Year 8 students (then Year 7) had the opportunity to work with the team from the British Ceramics Biennial to try and explain different pieces of artwork for their Biennial Exhibition, which took place this autumn. Students then visited to see their contributions to the exhibition interpretation panels, experience the whole exhibition, and got their hands dirty!

Using clay from the construction site of Old Oak Common, the new HS2 railway station in west London, they made their very own heritage-inspired tiles, to which they added wildflower seeds. Each clay tile will remain un-fired and will be laid together at Staffordshire University, where they will provide a rich bed for wildflowers to grow on, creating an urban meadow in the city, and creating something beautiful out of disregarded materials and overlooked elements of nature.

From this experience, our students learned how exhibitions like this are organised, some of the behind-the-scenes roles, and what really goes into something of this scale. They also got to learn more about different artwork and artists.

Fight...For Our Right...To Vote!



In 1842 there was a worker protest in Burslem, led by a group called the Chartists, demanding the right for all men to be able to vote. Unfortunately, they were met by Dragoon guards who opened fire on the crowd, and a 19-year-old shoe maker from Leek called Josiah Heapy was shot dead. Several others were wounded and later died of their injuries. A total of 218 men and women from North Staffordshire were put on trial, and 146 of these were given sentences from 10 days to 2 years, with another 54 being transported to Australia.

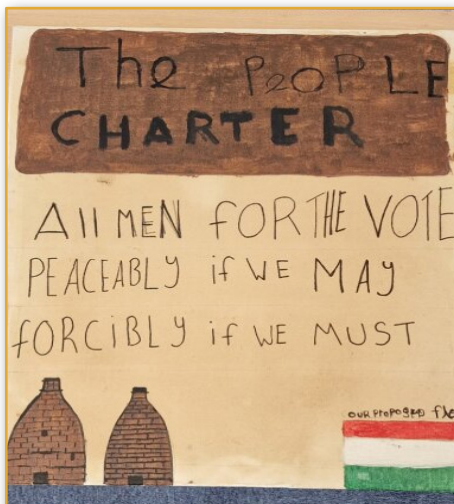
Before the summer, the **People's History of North Staffordshire (PHANS)** created a competition for local schools to create posters



and banners that could have been used during the demonstrations, along with diary accounts and other information, to commemorate the victims of the 1842 potteries riots.

Our students worked really hard during breaks, dinner times and at home to produce the poster, and we were able to submit three brilliant banners and a diary account of Josiah Heapy.

We're pleased to say that Haywood was one of the three schools that had won the competition, which included £100 prize money to spend on the History department, and on 23rd October Year 7 had a special assembly from **PHANS** to celebrate and to learn more about this important event in our local history.



TRUST US, WE'RE OUTSTANDING!

Haywood Academy is part of the City Learning Trust, and we are pleased to say that at the Education Today School & Supplier Awards 2023 on the 8th December, the CLT won the Outstanding Multi-Academy Trust of the Year award!

The Trust won for its innovative and impactful leadership practice, Professional Growth Package for staff, and the Character & Arts Foundation. We are delighted to be part of such a team!



SUPER SOLAR

To support the Year 9 Science curriculum topic about renewable energy, a group of students visited the Keele Sustainability Park at the end of October, where they saw and learnt about how solar panels and wind turbines were able to power more than half of Keele village.

They also learnt how the production of electricity through sustainable and renewable energy sources can support the National Grid by both reducing the amount of electricity needed and by selling electricity back to the National Grid to support with supply and demand.



WORKING WITH WEDGWOOD

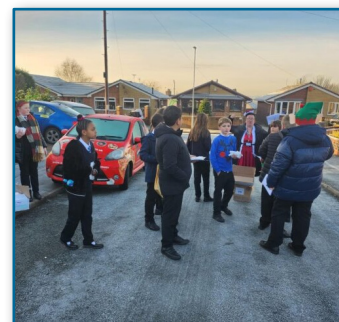
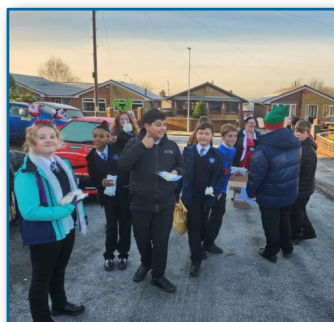
A group of Year 9 students have since September been working with a team from V&A Wedgwood to organise their Upstart careers festival, and the theme this year was wellbeing. The experience started with an opportunity to visit the V&A collection and the Wedgwood factory in Barlaston, and they then had the opportunity to work with local artist Alice Thatcher and students from the University of Derby to develop a range of activities, which they refined through a series of visits and opportunities.

This culminated in the group of students running a day full of activities at Wedgwood for different students from across Staffordshire, and they did an amazing job running sessions that were experienced by everyone!



The team from the museum were so impressed they all received a medal for taking part.

Miss Morgan said it was great to see the students talk about how this project has developed their confidence and abilities to talk to and work with people they do not know, and how they value the range of creative options they have ahead of them for GCSE.



PROJECT MINCE PIE!

Well done to our Year 7 Community Ambassadors for getting out and about in the local community delivering mince pies to our residents!

We've had some lovely feedback from some of the residents, who were very grateful for the kindness and care our young people showed.

FAREWELL TO STAFF

Miss Jones first came to Haywood as a Staffs Uni mentor while she was studying, and she was later appointed as a Learning Mentor. Later in her career she worked alongside the Head of Careers, Mr Stonier, supporting work-based learning students and Year 10 when they carried out work experience. After his retirement, Miss Jones took over as Careers and Work-based Learning Co-ordinator, liaising with local colleges and other providers.

Miss Jones then joined the mentoring team, during which time she continued to support careers, as well as taking part in the primary transition programme, which included the annual school carnival.

When Haywood Sixth Form Academy (now City College) opened in Burslem Old Town Hall, Miss Jones was an obvious choice to be one of the new Work-Based Learning tutors.

Over the last few years, she has been an important part of the **ARCH** team, but is looking forward to her retirement, and having the opportunity to spend more time with her family and friends, to learn new hobbies, and take advantage of cheaper holiday deals! Miss Jones has always been there for our students and will be greatly missed.



Year 9 & 10 Football

Well done to all of our football teams on a great term, and we look forward to competing again in 2024!



Sporty Staff

Staff and students spent some of their weekend in school on 19th November to watch Miss Barnes play for her handball team, NEM Hawks. The students were fabulous throughout and really supportive of their teacher, and the game ended Hawks 27 vs 21 Trafford! Well done Miss Barnes!



From September, we have been running a dedicated programme that takes place on a Monday at City College, called Culture and Confidence at City College, or [CC@CC](#).

This is a bespoke series of opportunities that prepare students for life in the wider world beyond education, including life skills and careers education, as well as visits to places of interest in the local community. For students who need to build confidence, whether for employment or university, we offer opportunities to develop this in a safe and supportive environment, and external speakers

contribute to a rich programme delivered throughout the year, which ensures students leave us fully aware of important issues they may encounter, and how to manage them.

So far this year, our Year 12 and 13s have visited an archaeological excavation at Middleport Pottery, learnt about politics and economics using chocolate, and made a living tile at the British Ceramics Biennial exhibition, as well as looking at options post-18, and a range of other opportunities.

What will they be up to next?



A Successful Evening At City College

Despite the darker evenings and the cold, we were delighted to see so many students and their families attend our [City College Open Evening](#) on 14th November, in conjunction with the Year 11 Exam Success Evening.

As preparation for their November mock exams, Year 11 spoke to their subject teachers about the best ways to revise for their subjects, gained expert advice on where they need to be focussing and how to improve, and Mr Hall gave standing-room-only talks about the best ways to prepare for the exam period, both now and in the summer.

Visitors also had the opportunity to speak to staff and current students about the courses on offer at City College, explore the facilities,

and try some healthy tasty treats made by our Employability & Life Skills group.

Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to make this evening a success.

