

Message from the Principal

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2024! The Autumn term has certainly been a busy one! Our children have had many amazing learning experiences and enrichment activities and rest assured we have lots planned for the New Year. Highlights for me have been seeing the children have such fun at the school disco and Winter Fayre. Some of these wonderful experiences are in this newsletter and I would also recommend that you follow our social media pages to see more. Please also take the time to read this newsletter as key dates for next term are listed.

Our students continue to be a credit themselves, to their parents/carers and the Academy. They enjoy learning and give their very best in everything they do. Just as important they are kind, considerate and polite young people who throw themselves into helping and supporting others, as well as getting into the many charitable initiatives that we have at the Academy. We really have a talented bunch of children here at the Academy and I am so proud that we won the annual City Learning Trust Christmas Card competition and the local Spitfire project! We also came 3rd in the National KMF Greenpower car competition. We have had many sporting successes and the Winter Showcase was amazing! Well, done everyone!

The final week before our festive holidays has been jam packed with fun, Christmas buffets, presents, celebrations and rewards including a silent disco, a trip to the Trafford Centre and Year groups certificates. The children thoroughly deserve to be rewarded for all of their efforts this half term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students for their hard work this half term and parents and carers for their continuing support of all aspects of Academy life. Also, the staff at Haywood for going above and beyond daily for our children. The reputation of our Academy grows from strength to strength as we have record numbers applying to join us in next year's Year 7.

Finally, I wish all of you a wonderful festive break with your families making lots of fabulous memories and all the very best for 2025.

I look forward to seeing our children again on Wednesday 7th January.

Take care,

Amills

Mrs Mills
Principal, Haywood Academy

Festive Card Winner!

Mason in Year 10 has done himself and Haywood Academy proud by winning the City Learning Trust Festive Card design competition! His wonderful design blends together traditional Christmas images with Stoke's historical context and is really a feast for the eyes!

The card design has been sent to all of our families via **ClassCharts** with messages from our staff.

Well done Mason – your dazzling design keeps up Haywood's winning streak!



Students tell us what's "Happening" in new magazine

This term we have launched our Journalism Club with **Mrs Walton**.

The students have been meeting every week to discuss what is happening in school, and to create articles and content by students, for students.

Here is a sneak peak of some of the student-created content in the form of a Christmas poem by Khaleel in Year 7:

*Snowflakes spill from heaven's hand
lovely and chaste like smooth white sand.*

*A veil of wonder laced in light
falling gently on a winter's night.
Gracefully beauty raining down,
giving magic to the lifeless ground.
Each snowflake like a falling star
smiling beauty that's spun afar.*

For more poetry, artwork, opinions and news, keep an eye out for "**Haywood Happenings**", our brand new student-created magazine!

If you would like to join the Journalism Club, it runs every Thursday after school in EN6 with Mrs Walton.



Cervantes Institute and Trafford Centre Trip!

The MFL department took 50 Year 7 students to watch a film at the **Cervantes Institute** in Manchester.

Students watched **Tad, the Lost Explorer**, a Spanish animated adventure-comedy film directed by Enrique Gato.

From there, they headed to the **Trafford Centre** for some lunch and an afternoon of shopping.

Everybody who went had a great time!

Dates for your diary

All dates are subject to change.

Monday 6th January
Staff INSET day

Tuesday 7th January
Students return to the Academy
(at the normal time of 08:40am).

It is important that students arrive on time to school, therefore all students should be on site by **08:35** at the latest to ensure they arrive on time to their first lesson.
We look forward to seeing you all back.

Saturday 11th January
Ski trip (Years 7-10)

Monday 20th January
Year 9 Reports released

Tuesday 21st January
Year 8 Reports released

Monday 27th January
Year 7 Reports released

Monday 3rd February
Year 11 Trial examinations commence

Thursday 6th February
Year 9 Parents' evening

Monday 10th March
Year 10 Reports released

Tuesday 11th March
Year 11 Reports released

Thursday 13th March
Year 11 Parents' evening

Monday 17th March
Year 10 Examinations begin
& Year 11 Photographs

**Monday 24th -
Thursday 28th March**
Lidice Trip

Thursday 10th April
Spring Term Rewards day

Safeguarding Signposts

Should any students or families need support during the break, please use the link below to access resources, websites or telephone numbers that offer a wealth of advice and help.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/for-young-people/how-to-get-help-and-support/useful-contacts/>



Winter Showcase!

We hosted our annual **Winter Showcase** on Wednesday 18th December, and the show was a HUGE success!

We were treated to bands, solo singers, dance performances, our wonderful choir, and even a hilarious festive performance by some of our Drama students!

The Main Hall was packed with proud parents, siblings, friends, and

members of staff – there were plenty of smiling faces, laughs, and even some tears.

Miss Burczak, **Miss Knott** and **Miss Mills**, along with **Mrs Caton** and **Mr Hickman** made the evening such a special one for all who attended, and really gave our students the chance to showcase their talents, and leave them with memories that will last a lifetime.



Future Filmmakers

A group of Year 10 Media Studies students had a great time at a film making workshop at **Framescape** in Stoke, hosted by **IntoFilm**.

Learning all about the different careers that make up the film industry; the students got to storyboard, film and edit their own short films in a two-hour challenge.

Students got to grips with camera equipment as well as professional-level editing equipment - they even experienced their own screenings in a private cinema!



On the 18th of September, **KMF** in Stoke-on-Trent organised an invite-only **Greenpower** race event for schools for the Stoke-on-Trent area at the **Mallory Park** race track. Our team of six year 8 to year 11 students from Haywood attended the event.

After an early 6am start and a journey from school to the event, the team took part in the initial practice session before the main event. After the warm-up, the team took part in two 90-minute endurance races. During these races, the car that goes the furthest distance is the winner- not necessarily the fastest. This makes it a fine balancing act between the speed of the car and being able to make the batteries last the full 90 minutes of the race.

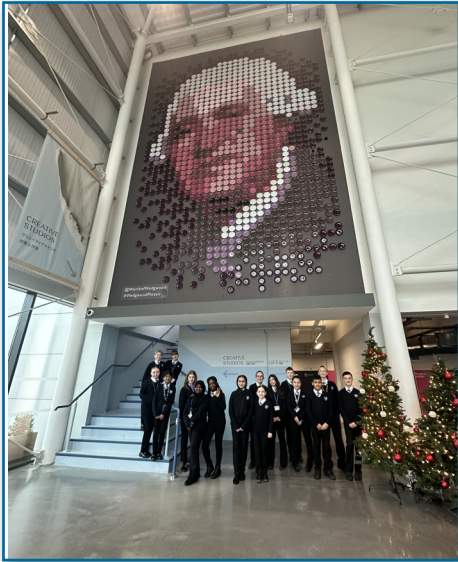
All cars have the same motor and the same type of batteries, so it is down to the individual designs and engineering quality of the cars that take part.

The Haywood Flyer was in the lead for both of the races for a long time, but the batteries just began to fade towards the end of each race. However, the team came away with **3rd** for the whole event! They also achieved **2nd** place for the **best engineered car** competition. Two brand-new trophies now reside in the DT display cabinet!

The plan is to follow this up with a street race around the city of Stoke in the **summer of 2025!**

Many thanks to **Stoke-on-Trent College** for their sponsorship for the event, who have recently helped us out with providing a new motor sprocket for the car.





Ferdinand The Bull at Wedgwood

On Thursday 5th December, sixteen Year 7 Students visited the World of Wedgwood to participate in the Ferdinand The Bull project, run by **Clay Schools** and the **British Ceramics Biennial**.

This project focuses on themes around self-expression, anti-bullying and acceptance of people, as well as looking at the history of Arnold Machin, the creator of the Ferdinand the Bull story. It has curriculum links across key stages linking to PSHE, History and Art.

Students had a guided tour of the **V&A Wedgwood Collection** and a clay workshop, ran by Emma from BCB. Students had a fantastic day out and really enjoyed their visit.

We are running two follow-up sessions early in 2025 which will create outcomes, ready to be displayed in the BCB show next year in 2025.



Creative Careers

Looking at creative careers the Art department welcomed two visiting artists this term.

Paper pioneer **Jennifer Collier** who creates exquisite sculptures from vintage recycled materials in conjunction with stitch gave students a presentation on her career, work and collaborations.

Meanwhile, **Hojo Hattery** shared information about her career as a milliner.

Students learnt about different hat making techniques, participated in hat making workshops and had a go at pyrography, which is where the surface of the felt is burnt to create a relief decoration.

Students enjoyed informative, practical sessions and learnt that the UK Creative Industries represent almost **6% of the UK economy!**





The **Haywood Hotheads** have triumphed in the citywide **Spitfire Project** competition, securing the top spot with their outstanding engineering and teamwork. Their victory was celebrated at a grand final held at the Spitfire Gallery in **Hanley Museum**, where students presented their projects to judges, parents, and special guests. The winning team from Haywood Academy will now enjoy an exclusive behind-the-scenes trip to **RAF Cosford**.

The **Spitfire Project**, an initiative designed to engage Year 9 students with the history and science of aviation, has been a resounding success for Haywood Academy. Over the course of the half-term, students delved into the life of **Reginald Mitchell**, the Stoke-on-Trent-born engineer who designed the Spitfire. They explored the forces and principles of flight through hands-on practicals and learned about engineers like **Tilly Shilling**, whose innovations improved the Spitfire's performance during World War II.

The project was brought to life through a visit from **Julian Mitchell**, Reginald Mitchell's great-nephew. His talk provided fascinating insights into the legendary designer's career and personal history, captivating students and sparking lively discussions. To further enrich their learning, students visited Hanley Museum, where they participated in interactive activities in the Spitfire Gallery. Highlights included flying a Spitfire simulator, experimenting with the handling of the plane at different altitudes, and performing daring barrel rolls. They also heard moving stories from relatives of Spitfire pilots and engineers.

The museum visit also included a hands-on engineering challenge: students built vehicles from Lego and tested their designs for aerodynamic efficiency. This activity fueled their competitive spirit and helped sharpen their problem-solving skills.

In addition to these lessons and excursions, Haywood students took part in an extracurricular club focused on designing and building wooden Spitfire models. The process emphasized the importance of perseverance, with students refining their prototypes through repeated testing and adjustments. These efforts culminated in the creation of high-performance Spitfire models that were submitted for the Spitfire Project Final.

At the final event, Haywood Academy students demonstrated exceptional communication, teamwork, and resilience as they presented their projects to the panel of judges. Despite initial nerves, their confidence shone through, and their hard work paid off with a well-deserved victory.

"We are unbelievably proud of all the students who participated in the Spitfire Project," said **Miss Bradley**, who organised the team and joined them at the event. **"Their dedication, creativity, and determination have been truly inspiring. Winning the competition is the icing on the cake, and we're excited to celebrate their success with the trip to RAF Cosford."**

Congratulations to the Haywood Hotheads and everyone involved in this remarkable achievement!



Exploring Careers

On 26th November we held our first Careers in the Services Day for Year 10. We were fortunate enough to have guest speakers from The **Army**, The **Royal Navy**, The **RAF**, The **NHS at Royal Stoke**, **Keele University** and the **Police**, **Fire** and **Rescue services**.

The students were able to hear presentations from all the services about the sort of skills they would need, qualifications, salaries, and also some fantastic anecdotes about the speakers' own experiences.

Years 7 to 9 experienced various careers-based activities on Careers Day too.

Year 9 had the opportunity to consider what is required in a job interview. They looked at suitable clothing, language, and how to answer questions.

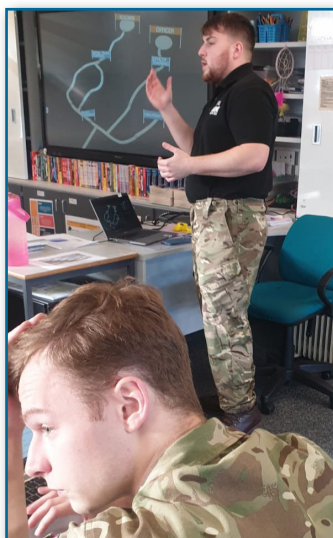
They then had the opportunity to play the role of the employer and interview 3 candidates for a job at a sports shop before debating who should get the position.

Year 8 were kept busy looking at job sectors. They decided which posts they were most suited to and then worked in teams to design, manufacture, price and sell paper flowers.

Year 7 looked at jobs their teachers previously held before experiencing some themselves, trying their hand at special effects and make up design inspired by the previous jobs of Miss Stronach, Miss Robinson, Miss Kent and Miss Baddeley.

We are also fortunate enough to have been able to purchase the careers package, **Unifrog**, for our students.

This package will allow our students to create a careers profile for themselves as they move through the school, and this was launched to KS3 with a profiling quiz.



Chicago Trip 2024

Students in Year 11 celebrated the completion of their Component 2 Dance qualification by going to see **Chicago The Musical** live at **The Regent Theatre** in Stoke.

The students got to see the number *Cell Block Tango* after spending 3 months replicating it for their studies, they had the best time dancing in their seats.

Well done for a successful dance exam Year 11!

Disco of Doom!

This year's **Halloween disco** was an absolute hit!

Our prefects and peer mentors worked together brilliantly to make the night fun and exciting for all Year 7 students who attended.

We had lots going on throughout the night; spooky decorations, dancing, games, face painting and more!

Our Year 7 students that attended had a great time and the fancy dress was absolutely amazing!

Language Leaders

This half term, we appointed our **Year 7 Language Leaders**, students who have a love for learning a foreign language and who are exceptional in their lessons.

This opportunity allows our students to work towards the **Language Leader Award** where they learn how to teach lessons and deliver them to our Primary Feeder Schools.

Well done to all of the seventeen Language Leaders. We are really looking forward to sharing their journey with you all!

Haywood Community Ambassadors



Haywood's brand-new team of **Year 7 Community Ambassadors** have been extremely busy this term!

Successful applicants carried out their first project taking donations of food to the local Food Bank in Chell. They joined Mill Hill students in packing and organising the donations from Year 7 and Mill Hill and the staff from the Food Bank were really grateful for our help.

In November ambassadors carried out their second project in conjunction with students from **Mill Hill** and **TS Domestics**. Students helped to clean up the subway in Tunstall, as well as litter picking and gardening. They plan to return to do more of their good work in the new year.

December brought the popular '**Project Mince Pie**' which was a huge success, with students delivering festive treats and best wishes to the surrounding streets of the Academy, as well as visiting the **Haywood walk-in centre** to do the same!

All students representing the Academy have shone brightly and we are extremely proud of the work they've done already this year.

The Haywood Way

The **Haywood Way** programme continued to go from strength to strength and was, once again, a complete sell out!

Year 5 and 6 students took part in a range of sporting activities, making clay owls in Art, and baking focaccia in Food Technology. The students had a great time with the opportunity to meet staff and students from Haywood.

Keep your eyes peeled for the next instalment of '**The Haywood Way**' after the Winter break, where we will be creating and crafting!



Delightful Design!



Congratulations to **Lordina** in Year 7 who won our Reading Journal front cover design competition! We have taken her original design and recreated it for all Year 7s to be able to track their reading starting in January.

Well done Lordina!

Languages Homework Projects!

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been completing their first term projects for their languages lessons.

Years 7 and 8 were tasked with creating a fact file about either a French or Spanish-speaking country, and Year 9 had to create a fact file on the light festival in Lyon.

The students could hand in their projects in any format, it really was down to their own imagination. Some chose posters, fact files, or even 3D models of famous landmarks!

Some students creatively made a board game, we have had home-cooked tacos, cupcakes, and online games to play! The quality has been phenomenal.

The only issue now? We have to pick some winners!

Well done to our students, you have blown us away with your creativity and talent. We can't wait to see what you all create for your second projects!

STAFF FAREWELLS...

Miss Ball has been a valuable part of the technology team for two years and during that time she has made an impact on the learning and life skills gained with all students in her classes.

She has supported key stage 4 students in gaining valuable high skills through extra-curricular clubs, and will be greatly missed by all staff in the technology department.

Miss Ball is moving to pastures new at Sandbach Boys School. We wish her all the best in her teaching career.

Mr Goddard joined us in September having previously been a pivotal part of the recent transformation of Trentham Academy.

A Maths specialist, he has brought experience and knowledge to this department and the school as a whole, and has made a huge impact in his short time here.

As Mr Goddard moves to a position closer to home we wish him thanks for what he has done and all the best for the future.

Mr Lowndes is leaving Haywood Academy to embark on an exciting new chapter after years of dedication, inspiration, and passion.

He has been a valued member of our teaching staff, inspiring and encouraging countless students and making a lasting impact on both students and colleagues alike.

As he moves on to new opportunities, we bid him a fond farewell and thank him for his commitment to education, ability to bring joy and laughter to lessons, and his incredible contributions to our school community.

Best of luck on your new journey, Mr. Lowndes.

...& STAFF JOINING US

In January, we are welcoming two new members of staff to our team! Joining us on our exciting journey are:

Mr Griffin, who will be working for our Maths department, and **Miss Hanson**, who joins us to teach Humanities subjects.

We welcome them both to the team at Haywood Academy!



This term has been a busy and exciting time for our school's sports teams, with fantastic displays of talent, determination, and teamwork across various fixtures. Here's just some of this term's highlights:

Football News

Well done to our **Year 7 boy's football team**, who easily secured two massive wins. They only have one game left to win the Stoke North League. We wish them all the best with their final push to be the winners!

Our **Year 7 girls** have the **ESFA Cup** competition starting January, and we wish them all the best for that! Stay tuned for news on their progress!

The **Year 8 boys** have played one game so far against **Excel Academy**. The team included **three Year 7 boys** making a big jump by playing up a year. Haywood put up a great fight and represented the academy with absolute pride. Despite this valiant attempt, they had to settle on being second best this time round.



Two league games have been played by our **Year 9 boys** in the league and **ESFA** round 2 cup competition. Once again, we have **two Year 8 boys** playing up a year, who are performing well above expectations. Well done, and thank everybody for their efforts!

Our **Year 9 girls** broadened their knowledge of the game even when they attended a **Referee Course** to further develop their careers in refereeing earlier this term. Well done girls!



The **Year 10 Boys** have been busy playing in the **ESFA** round 2 cup competition. They were more than ready to defend their championship title this season! They played with determination, skill, and teamwork as they beat **Excel Academy** in their first league game of the season and the aim is to become **champions of Stoke North** once again!



Our **U15 ESFA girls** won in round 1 with an astonishing 14-1 result, won again in round 2 with a 5-3 result, and only just missed out in round 3, with a 4-2 loss playing away in Wales.



The **Year 11 boys** narrowly missed out when their **ESFA** Round 3 came to end in a defeat in Warrington. Well done for all your effort!

They have also competed in the Year 11 five-a-side tournament at **Excel Academy** and they start their league title charge very soon! The **U16 ESFA girls** team also did brilliantly with a result of 4th place in the 5-a-side tournament.

Cross-Country

Congratulations to all of our students who competed in the Stoke Cross-Country Championship from years 7-11. Well done on all your hard work & effort!

Netball News



This term, our **Year 9/10 netball team** competed in the Year 9/10 **Stoke Netball League** where they played four games.

They played really well and were able to draw on two occasions, but unfortunately, despite all their hard work, lost the other two games.

The **Year 10 team** played above their age range by competing in a Year 11 league!

Meanwhile, our **Year 8 team** competed in the Year 8 **Stoke North League**.

Sports Leaders

Our young PE Sports leaders have been on a training course this term, to help them to further develop their knowledge in this exciting role!

This will also allow them to make preparations to help them train the new Year 7 next year, and also to start planning and preparing an upcoming fundraiser. Stay tuned for more news!

What's happening next term?

As we gear up for **next term**, our teams will continue to train hard and build on all their successes. A huge thank you to our players, coaches, and supporters for making this term such a memorable one.

Upcoming fixtures after Christmas:

- Year 8 Dodgeball
- Boys and Girls Football Fixtures
- Badminton
- Netball

DECEMBER 2024

Character & Arts Foundation

What we've been up to

The Lidice Project: **Competition Winners Announced**

This term, we launched an amazing competition offering students the chance to win a fully funded trip to Prague in March 2025! Inspired by the story of Lidice and its ties to Stoke-on-Trent, students created "Kindness Matters" initiatives to strengthen our community. After a competitive process, 12 winners were chosen to represent our academy on this unforgettable journey. Congratulations to them all!

Follow us on social media to stay updated on their Prague adventure.



Youth Voice Project with **FEASTED** **and the Stoke Heritage Trail**

Our Hospitality students recently had the chance to work with FEASTED and their head chef to create a unique recipe inspired by Stoke-on-Trent's rich heritage. Using fresh, locally sourced produce, they spent the day cooking, experimenting, and learning new skills. The result was a special recipe blending tradition with creativity.

This recipe will be featured in a new cookbook accompanying the Stoke Council Heritage Trail, preserving it as part of our community's history. We're proud of the teamwork and dedication shown throughout the project.

Well done, everyone!



Musical Pathways Trip to Bridgewater Hall

As part of the Musical Pathways Programme, our aspiring musicians visited the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, home of the Halle Orchestra. They observed the conductor and musicians preparing for a concert, gaining insight into the collaboration behind the music.

In the evening, they enjoyed the full performance, experiencing the power of live orchestral music. On the way back, our young musicians stopped at Piccadilly Station to play the piano. A crowd soon gathered, enjoying the music and atmosphere—a fantastic end to an inspiring day!



Festive Card Competition

The City Learning Trust's annual Festive Card competition saw incredible talent this year. After careful consideration, we're excited to announce that Mason from Haywood Academy is the winner! Mason's design perfectly captures the holiday spirit

Congratulations to Mason — we can't wait to see your artwork on this year's festive card!



What's coming next

We've got some really exciting things lined up, including:

Musical Pathways Programme: Another amazing Halle Orchestra concert is on the horizon!

International Trip to Prague: Our Lidice Project winners are preparing for their big adventure in March 2025.

Character & Arts Foundation - Part of City Learning Trust

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United by our values, we place children and young people first in everything we do.

