

ACTIVITIES WEEK!

Mrs Pickerill, Headteacher, writes: It has been an truly amazing week here at Hartford Church of England High School, with so many opportunities and fantastic experiences for our students, who have all embraced Activities Week! A huge amount of work takes place behind the scenes in the months and weeks leading up to Activities Week, to organise the various workshops, external speakers and trips. It has been wonderful to welcome so many visitors to our school this week, as well as staff going out to visit organisations and companies who have kindly opened their doors to our students for work experience. I would like to say a massive thank you to absolutely everyone who has been involved in making Activities Week such a resounding success and an enriching experience for our students. Thank you all!

WORK EXPERIENCE

Our Year 10 students have been out of school undertaking work experience and there has been lots of wonderful feedback from employers and members of the public!



Mr Mason, Head of Key Stage 4, writes: As part of work experience week, I visited students on placement at Cheshire Fire and Rescue HQ. What I actually witnessed was a demonstration of the young people putting out a simulated fire at a petro-chemical rig. On what was already a hot day, I saw our students, in full kit, working together and with other people to unroll hoses, attach them, take the water from the hydrant and extinguish the flames. The whole thing was quite the spectacle and I was so impressed with the students and the skills they were demonstrating. At first, I thought Lydia was a bad aim with the hose pipe, but she explained to me afterwards that she was keeping the stored petrol and chemicals cool whilst they could get other hoses onto the actual fire. Freddie had become an expert on rolling and unrolling the fire hoses (no easy task) and Frankie was a whizz on working the fire hydrant to feed the hoses. It was a wonderful thing to behold, and the number of skills and the team work our students demonstrated was excellent! Well done to those involved and well done to all our Year 10 students for their hard work this week!

VALENCIA TRIP

Last week, 70 students and 8 staff travelled to Valencia in Spain for 4 days of exciting and enriching cultural experiences.

On the first day, students enjoyed some time at the beach followed by a tasty meal at the Hard Rock Café. On Day 2, students went to the modern Science district of the city, where they spent time at the Fallas Museum, the Science



Museum and the largest aquarium in Europe! The third day gave students the opportunity to visit the Bioparc zoo, the Valencia FC stadium and learn how to cook paella at the Valencia cookery school. On the final day, students had a guided tour of the old town in the historical city centre and relished the opportunity for some final souvenir shopping. Mr Perry and the team were so impressed with the engagement and excellent behaviour of the students, and they were a credit to our school community on the trip. Here's what some of the students had to say:

Grace, Y9: I really enjoyed exploring the modern and traditional cultures around Valencia. The guided tour was a great way to explore the city, from the futuristic design of the Science museum to the historic fountains and cathedrals in the city centre. Muy bien!

Curtis, Y9: The Spain trip was my first ever flight and visit abroad and that was amazing! The accommodation was incredible and the breakfast buffet was delicious. I also love the cheap prices in the Spanish supermarkets! My favourite part was the aquarium, especially the dolphin show. The trip was also a great opportunity to make new friends!"

Tiana Y9: My favourite part of the trip was the paella cooking class! But honestly I enjoyed the whole trip a lot as I got to spend time with my friends abroad

THRIVE

Our THRIVE students have had a fantastic time during Activities Week, taking part in a variety of activities designed to develop key life skills, including teamwork, communication, problem-solving, resilience, and independence. Despite the warm weather, students showed great determination by completing a walk around Marbury Country Park, finishing with a well-deserved ice cream. They also enjoyed trying new activities at the driving range and padel courts, building confidence and encouraging one another throughout. A highlight of the week was a trip to Tesco, where students worked to a budget to purchase ingredients before creating their own starter, main course, or dessert in our THRIVE Bake Off. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, resilience, and positive attitudes our students demonstrated throughout the week, making it a memorable and successful experience for everyone involved. Well done THRIVE!

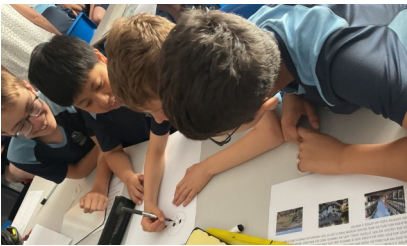


HOME AND COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

Year 7 have embraced the theme of 'Home and Countries Around the World', with activities primarily focused on History, Geography, Art, Performing Arts and Religious Education. Last Friday, Bishop Gary spoke to students about life in remote Ugandan communities, the work of the church in refugee camps and the hope and kindness brought by the Christian faith. Throughout this week, Mrs Hogben and Mrs Bolster-Woods have worked with all Year 7 students on becoming community problem solvers. On Monday, students



took part in a local fieldwork investigation, visiting three locations to collect data on traffic, safety and litter. This gave them the opportunity to experience the practical side of Geography by carrying out real fieldwork within the local community. Back in the classroom on



Tuesday, students used the evidence they had collected to identify the key issues at each location. Working within a set budget, they had to decide which improvements to invest in, carefully prioritising the needs of each site and justifying their spending decisions. On Wednesday, each group presented its proposal

for improving the local area with their classmates, evaluating the strengths of each plan. We were incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and maturity shown throughout the project. Students demonstrated excellent teamwork, thoughtful budgeting, problem-solving skills and growing confidence when presenting their ideas. It was fantastic to see them applying their geographical knowledge to real-life challenges and thinking about how they can make a positive difference to their local community. Year 7 also took part in learning and performing

their very own musical this week, 'Everyone wants to rule the world'. The students have been rehearsing dancing, singing and acting and came together today with over 60 on stage for each performance, including full lighting and sound production. We are so proud of each



and every one of them. Well done. Keep a look out for the audition packs for our production in 2027 'High School Musical'. We are expecting to see many of you involved!

THE WORLD OF STEM AND THE TOWERS



Year 8 students have been out of school as well this week, either enjoying a variety of outdoor based activities on The Towers trip, or a STEM based trip to the University of Chester. Back in school, Year 8 have engaged in a programme of predominantly

STEM-focused sessions, putting their engineering skills to the test by building rockets and bridges! Year 8 and 9 students even got to experience the star dome in school, courtesy of our friends at Keele University!



CAREERS AND DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Year 9 have had an extremely busy Activities Week, exploring a range of career pathways and gaining valuable insights into a broad range of careers - details to follow in next week's newsletter! A number of year 9 students have also been working hard to achieve the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. We can't wait to hear more from Mr Marklove!

PERFORMING ARTS

On Tuesday, Miss Haughton took 6 dancers from Years 7, 8 and 9 to Chester Cathedral to perform in front of around 400 students. They were so professional and performed a piece relating to the journey that Year 6 go on as they head into Year 7. Well done to all involved!



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Emily Cawley (Y7), who performed in Chester Cathedral last Saturday as part of a 107 person strong orchestra! The orchestra was composed of members of the Love Music Trust ensembles from across Cheshire East, Cheshire West and the Wirral, all aged 11-18. The acoustics in the Cathedral are reported to have been incredible. Well done Emily and everyone involved! *** **

Congratulations to William Webb (Y7), who had another fantastic day last Saturday on his cricket journey, taking his first senior 6fer for Winnington Park Cricket Club, with figures of 6.3 overs, two maidens, 11 runs and 6 wickets! Well done William!



CHESHIRE YOUNG CARERS RAFFLE

We are holding a raffle in support of Cheshire Young Carers, with all money raised going directly to this fantastic charity. Raffle tickets are available to purchase through Scopay, costing £1 for one ticket, £4 for five tickets, or £8 for twelve tickets. There are some fantastic prizes to be won, including a £95 Breakout Chester voucher, free padel at Destination Padel, a £30 Anderton Boat Lift voucher, McDonald's vouchers, and many more. Thank you for supporting this great cause and good luck!

WORLD CUP CHALLENGE

The Form World Cup Challenge continues in form time! Each form has been assigned one of the 32 World Cup teams. Students have been following their team's progress throughout the tournament, keeping an eye on the results, and seeing how far their team can go. There is a prize for the form whose team wins the World Cup, so good luck to everyone, but especially the form who have England ahead of the match this weekend!

AND FINALLY...

Our friends at Hartford Parish Council are hosting a 'Picnic in the Park' this Sunday, 12 July. This free event is taking place from 1-4 pm on Sunday at Grange Park, Bradburns Lane, Hartford. There will be a BBQ, bar, DJ, music, dance performers from our school, community stalls and entertainment. Everyone is welcome! Have a lovely weekend!

Rachel Pickerill