

HARTBEAT

Hartford's weekly School Newsletter about the community,
for the community, published every Friday

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GREETING FROM THE HEADTEACHER



It was fantastic to welcome all our students back to school on Monday! For our Year 7's, it was their very first day as high school students. However, it really was just a welcome back, as they had been with us so much during the summer term. They have done brilliantly in their first few days and are already successfully navigating the school and getting to their lessons on time. Their arrival means that the school population is now bigger than it ever has been before, and we very much look forward to seeing how the students progress during their five years with us.



For Years 8 -11 it was business as usual from Period 3 on Monday onwards. Having welcomed everybody back in their year groups on Monday morning, it was in Family assemblies on Tuesday and Wednesday that I got to share with all the students what it means to me to be the Headteacher of Hartford Church of England High School. I feel privileged to be in charge of the school on a daily basis, working alongside fantastic students and staff and I cannot wait to see what we can achieve together this year!

FAMILY NEWS



The **Year 7 Skellig Family Competition** is now live on **Seneca**!

As part of our encouragement for students to read *Skellig* by David Almond, Year 7 students have been invited to take part in this exciting quiz to test their knowledge and understanding of the novel. All students who participate will receive **family points**, and we are encouraging everyone to aim for a score of **80% or higher**. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to challenge themselves while earning rewards for their family.

The competition closes on Friday 18 September, so students need to make sure that they complete the quiz before the deadline! Good luck to all Year 7 students taking part!

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2026 - 2029

Mrs Pickerill writes: The start of the new academic year also signals the resetting of the school's strategic priorities for another three years. Whilst there is so much going on at the school that is brilliant, we can still improve even more. Following feedback from all stakeholders across the school community, and through the independent reviews that took place last academic year, we have proven that we have strong foundations on which to build upon. Therefore, what we do over the next three years will enhance the provisions now in place at Hartford Church of England High School. Our strategic priorities for 2026-2029 are:



Put simply, we want to ensure that all members of our school community fully feel as though they belong. We want to ensure that we are as aspirational as we can be for our students through enhancing our personal development offer further. We want to ensure that students are fantastic leaders and have many opportunities to lead, whilst also ensuring that our development of staff at the school focuses on high-quality leadership. And when it comes to learning, we want to ensure that in every classroom learning is the very best that it can be and that as a result, children continually achieve well and that academic outcomes at the school improve consistently in the way that they have done over the past three years.

HART VALUES

Mr Hardwick, Head of Year 7, writes: It has been great to welcome our new Year 7 students this week and to see them start to embrace our HART values. I have received lots of positive comments, including the following special mentions from our Year 7 tutors :

Archie Garner displayed our HART value of 'TOGETHER' on his very first day - whilst a lot of our form struggled with their ties, Archie went around helping his peers to put on their ties unprompted, which was brilliant! (Dr Bannell). **Isabel Owen** has been punctual every morning and read aloud beautifully in English (Miss Lofthouse). **Freddie Inches and Darcy Whittingham** have made a fantastic start to the year (Mr Perry). **George Gardner and Grace Lightfoot** are doing well with achievement points already! (Miss Pargeter). **Roxana Pluta** displayed absolutely phenomenal effort and application at Open Evening whilst running the 'Magic Ink' experiment for all the children coming to look around our school. The confidence and bravery demonstrated to run this independently, as well as the fantastic scientific knowledge shown, was incredible just three days into high school! (Dr Bannell). **Gethyn Marklove** is our form's reigning champion so far this week with the amount of achievement points earnt and he even helped with a tournament on Tuesday! (Miss Lofthouse). I have been really impressed with my new form. They are a lovely bunch of young people, full of character and hopefully bursting with ambition to be involved in all the Family activities. I have been so impressed with their manners and politeness and with the way they have taken to new things thrown at them. I look forward to being their form tutor for a number of years and seeing them flourish into young adults. (Mr Sharples). **Well done Year 7**, what an amazing start! Keep up the good work!



Mr Farrall, Head of Year 9, writes: I am extremely proud of how Year 9 have started their new academic year. It was a pleasure to see how many of the year group represented the school fantastically well at Open Evening and I am looking forward to another wonderful year as their Head of Year. Well done Year 9!

OPEN EVENING

Mrs Pickerill, Headteacher writes: Our open evening took place on Wednesday and we welcomed families from all over the local area as they explored the school and listened to presentations from students Oliver Barker, Daisy Rowlands and Sean Wong, alongside Jono Wills (parent of three current and former Hartford students) and Amber Gregory (Teacher of English and Head of Year 11). More than 130 students took part in Open Evening – acting as tour guides or demonstrating what students can learn in different subject areas. From the team organising parking, to those signing families in, to the staff and students who took part, it was a great team effort which showcased our HART values. Without a doubt, it was another proud moment for me as a Headteacher. Thank you to everyone involved and to all those who attended!



YEAR 8 FOOTBALL

Well done to the Year 8 boys who took part in our football tournament against other local schools on Tuesday. The team remained unbeaten throughout the competition, demonstrating great teamwork, determination and sportsmanship. Special recognition goes to George Dunne, whose motivating team talks and excellent leadership played a key role in the team's success!



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our programme of extra-curricular clubs starts on Monday, 14 September - full details of all the clubs on offer this term can be found on our website by using this [LINK](#). With so many clubs to choose from, there is hopefully something for everyone! All clubs are free of charge and we would encourage students to come along and join in!

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Discover the joy of music, speech and drama and develop a lifelong skill. Instrumental lessons are available to all students in Years 7-11, whether you're a complete beginner or looking to build on existing experience.



Scanning this QR code allows you to see full details of the instrumental lessons provided at Hartford Church of England High School and includes any additional information you may need. Once the form is filled out, your details will be passed on to the relevant peripatetic staff, and they will get in touch with you directly to organise start dates and lesson times.

SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS

MACBETH - Don't miss out on seeing this captivating school production on Wednesday 23 September at 6:30pm in the Main Hall. Tickets will go on sale next week via Scopay.

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL - We are excited to invite students to audition to take part in our next fantastic school production. Whether they are experienced performers or trying something new, we encourage all interested students to get involved. Auditions will take place on Monday 21 September from 3.00pm-6.00pm. Full details have been sent to all parents/carers via Arbor.

AOSTA SKI TRIP 2027

There are still a limited number of places available on our exciting Aosta Ski Trip, taking place from 27 March to 3 April 2027. Students will enjoy five days of skiing in the stunning Pila ski resort, with professional ski instruction, full-board accommodation, ski equipment, lift passes and a fantastic programme of evening activities included. If your child would like to join us for this unforgettable Italian skiing adventure, please contact the Finance Department via finance@hartfordhigh.co.uk as soon as possible, to enquire about one of the remaining places. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity!

AND FINALLY...

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Rachel Pickerill