



Mr Wilson's Weekly Message



It's been an incredibly busy week again here at The Hurlingham Academy. On Wednesday we had our termly PSHCE and House drop down day. In the morning pupils tackled a number of important issues. Years 7 looked at mental health, and participated in a fantastic yoga session, teaching them some relaxation techniques. Years 8 – 10 were looking at different career opportunities, from careers in the arts with LAMDA to engineering with the Heathrow graduate scheme. As always, pupils were polite and respectful, and as I was walking around the

building I heard some incredibly insightful discussions. It is always lovely to hear feedback from visitors who support with the delivery of these days, and it was fantastic to receive an email on Wednesday afternoon from one visitor stating:

"Everyone was incredibly warm and friendly and the students asked great questions and seemed really engaged. I'd definitely come back to do support again in the future".

The afternoon was given over to the House system. Pupils competed in six House competitions that ran across the school. As I walked down the corridors, I heard innovative solutions to complex problems; collaborative work on brilliant costumes and choral rehearsals of original songs! I love seeing our pupils work on something that is not a part of our everyday curriculum. While knowledge of their core subjects is important, I believe that it matters just as much that we give our students opportunities to explore their creative sides with open-ended activities and challenges. A big thanks to our ever-energetic Heads of House, who did a wonderful job organising the day. The competition between our four Houses remains hotly contested - be sure to attend rowing on Tuesday, the competition on Wednesday and countdown on Thursday to keep the points rolling in.

Science Club

This week in science club pupils presented their skyscraper designs that they have been working on throughout out the term. Pupils have been working incredibly hard but there could only be one winning team. A massive congratulations to Avery and Khadijah.



Subject in the Spotlight



This week's subject in the spotlight is Modern Foreign Languages (MFL), with Head of Department, Miss Cabo.

This week in: MFL...

Year 7: Our Year 7 Spanish and French students will be reinforcing the topics related to families and free time. The last week of the term will be to work on more free time activities and sports they do and play. Our Mandarin students will learn to write a short paragraph describing their favourite sports and hobbies as well as free time.

Year 8: Our Spanish and French Year 8 students have learned how to express their likes and dislikes regarding food and will be increasing their exam skills after their assessment.

Year 9: Our Year 9 Spanish and French students are working on the topic of festivals, celebrations and different types of food in other countries, and are reinforcing their past tense knowledge. This week they will be focusing on carnivals and also including our much-loved Pancake day! Our Year 9 Mandarin students will be working on how to describe their birthdays and describe what their friends and family give them as presents.

Year 10: Our Spanish and French Year 10 students have been learning all about schools, they have revisited this topic from Year 8, and they have worked on how to give opinions about subjects, teachers, facilities as well as after school clubs they have taken part. This week they will finish the topic by commenting on foreign exchanges by using the near future tense. Mandarin students have started the topic of travelling and they will be looking at where they went on holidays and their preferences.

Year 11: Our Year 11 Spanish and French students will be discussing their future plans and their options when they finish school. They will also work on writing and speaking skills in order to consolidate the last unit of the specification.

For further curriculum information, please go to www.thehurlinghamacademy.org.uk/curriculum/curriculum-maps



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Mr Wilson's Commendations

Congratulations this week go to the following pupils, who made it to the top of our maths, science and English leader boards:

Top of the leader board for Sparx in maths this week are:

Year 7: Maxwell

Year 8: Zlata

Year 9: Jaynie

Year 10: Tim

Year 11: Anis



Top of the leader board for Educake Science this week are:

Year 7: Maksym

Year 8: Isabella

Year 9: Simeon

Year 10: Bilal and Matheus

Year 11: Rihanna



Top of the leader board for Sparx in English this week are:

Year 7: Yana and Maxwell

Year 8: Sofia and Zainab

Year 9: Ellie and Muhammad



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House News with Mr Pudney

House Update!

We have just had our second House Drop Down Day of the academic year, and what a day it was!

During the morning, the school was thriving with engagement as different year groups took part in yoga, meditation, careers sessions, assemblies, and workshops. It was such a lovely atmosphere which provide such enrichment for our pupils and help better their understanding of topics outside of their regular timetable.

During the afternoon we had our House Drop Down Day with our exciting activities; Performance, Dragon's Den, Taskmaster, Creative Writing, Debate Mate, and Sport. It was every House for themselves and students were primed to do what they could in order to secure the most points for their House. Caritas fought bravely in Sport but could not avoid defeat, with Veritas clinching the victory with most wins in dodgeball and benchball throughout the afternoon. In Taskmaster, pupils were given the joy of using their intellect to problem solve, and it was Caritas and Unitas who were named joint winners! It was so close! In Dragon's Den, it was Unitas (with the help of a home-made production video) were able to convince the judges that their product was the best, and in Creative Writing, Performance, and Debate, it was Veritas, Unitas, and Caritas who enjoyed the spoils.

Overall, there could only be one winner, and this was...Unitas! They were closely followed by Veritas by a mere 50 points, but they continue their excellent run of form in the House system.

Have a wonderful February half term.!

See below for scores!



Term 2

1 st	Unitas	2025
2 nd	Caritas	1675
3 rd	Aequitas	1625
4 th	Veritas	1550

Overall

1 st	Unitas	6000
2 nd	Caritas	5575
3 rd	Aequitas	5525
4 th	Veritas	4625

KS4 mocks

The second set of mock exams for students in Year 10 and 11 begin on Monday 27th February. These exams are really important and will help you to see how your child is performing in each subject.

Students have been given their exam timetable and revision manifests and should start their revision over the half term break. We particularly recommend the following revision techniques:

- Self quizzing to learn definitions from a knowledge organiser (see [this video](#))
- Testing yourself on flashcards using the Leitner system (see [this video](#))
- Completing practice questions - your teacher will provide you with these

Teachers will be giving out lots of revision tips in lessons after half term, so it's important for Year 10 and 11 students to be in school every day and to get plenty of rest each night. You can find the revision manifests and exam timetables available [here](#).

KS3 reports

Well done to all students in Years 7-9 for completing their mid-year assessments. Reports will shortly be sent to parents by e-mail and these include students' exam results and attitude to learning grades. We have produced a video explaining what your child's report shows, which can be accessed here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5vzhzs2>. If you would like to discuss your child's report in more detail, please contact their Head of Year.



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Chinese New Year

Students and staff at THA shared the joy of Chinese New Year celebration during the past two weeks.

Activities were held at lunch time. Students were extremely competent and creative with **kick ups** using a characteristic Chinese shuttlecock called *Jian zi* (毽子). Jian zi is a popular pastime in China, enjoyed for centuries by adults and children. Students enjoyed it so much. Mr Pudney is already considering to hold this activity again.

At library, students also made traditional **paper-cutting decorations** for Chinese New Year. The pattern means 'spring' in Chinese, and they were used in the canteen for lovely decoration. Lots of pupils received red envelopes as another tradition for children in China.

Our lovely Chef and Canteen team delivered the most impressive Chinese-themed lunch in the history of THA. Students and staff also tried to speak Chinese during the meal time with festive Chinese songs in the background. Clementine was given as one of the traditional food for Chinese New Year, symbolising good luck and fortune.

Wish you all a prosperous Year of the Rabbit!



Key dates for weeks beginning 13th and 20th February

Description	Date	Time
February half term	Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th February	
First day of half term 4 – all pupils back in school	Monday 20 th February	08:30 - 15:30
Whole school assembly	Monday 20 th February	08:30 - 09:00
KS4 HPV vaccinations	Thursday 23 rd February	All day

