



Mr Wilson's Weekly Message



This week I have been reflecting about the role of parents and the community, in supporting our vision here at The Hurlingham Academy. It is through working together that we really can achieve the best for our pupils. At the beginning of term we had our Year 11 parents evening. It was so powerful to be able to speak to parents face to face about how we can all work to support our children to achieve the very best GCSE results. We have Year 8 parents evening coming up and I look forward to having many more productive discussions with parents on Thursday 9th February. Over the next week I am also looking forward to sitting down with Mr Ives to look through the results of the parent survey. I will be looking at the feedback and discussing suggested areas for development with staff and parents to ensure that we are providing the best education for our pupils that we can. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents who took part; your feedback really is valued. As ever, I would like to remind all parents and members of our community that we pride ourselves in having an open-door policy that extends further than the classroom door. Truly, our doors are open to the public every day, as anyone who would like to see The Hurlingham Academy in action is welcome to a tour or a conversation with a member of senior staff. If you would like to meet with me, do contact my PA who can ensure I am available to meet.

Science Club

This term in science club the Year 9 and 10s have been working on their Architecture skills! Here are some of the projects they have been working on including towers, bridges and even plans of the science department. Science club is open to Years 7 and 8 on a Monday and Years 9 and 10 on a Wednesday. Please do come along if you would like to get involved.



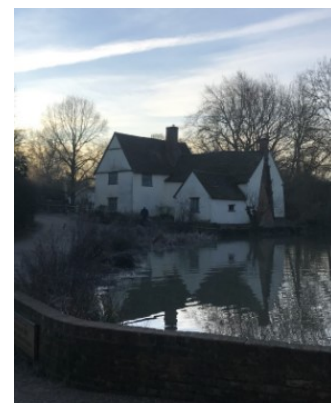
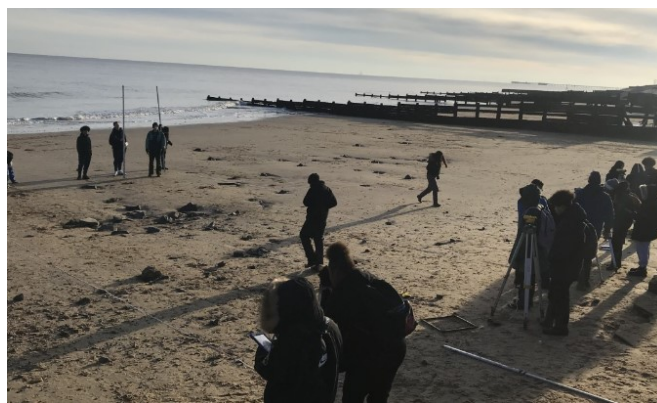
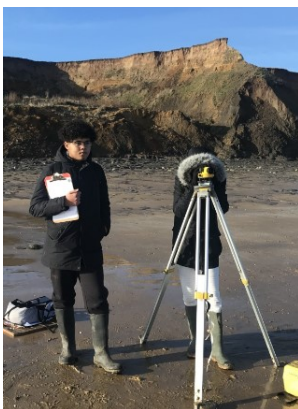
Subject in the Spotlight

From Monday-Wednesday last week the Geography department took around 50 Year 10 geographers to Flatford Mill in Essex for their GCSE Fieldwork residential trip. Leaving early on Monday, we arrived at our accommodation, a centuries old farmhouse complex made famous by the artist John Constable. We settled into our rooms and then headed out to practice geography skills such as creating a fieldsketch of the surrounding physical and human features of the Dedham vale.

The pupils were then introduced to practical investigative skills in completing the 'bucket challenge' on Monday afternoon. Given a bucket of seemingly random equipment, they set out into the rural surroundings to try and use it in an investigation of their own design, into any theme that seems appropriate, examples were tourism, water drainage, or examining local pond wildlife and biodiversity. This challenge allows pupils to have a go at their own small investigation and in doing so practice key fieldwork skills and processes - the creation of an enquiry question, data collection and presentation, the reaching of a conclusion, and the evaluating their investigation overall. This was in miniature, what pupils would undertake for the rest of their time in Essex as we investigated the coast in the coming days.

Tuesday started early, with classroom sessions to set out the aims of the coastal investigation. We were going to Walton on the Naze to investigate how effective the coastal management was there, and to collect our data. Students worked hard to prepare a hypothesis before we made the 40-minute journey to the coastline. What was forecast to be a -4°C day was saved by still winds and clear skies - excellent conditions for gathering our data. Pupils used the 'dumpy meters', measuring staffs, and measuring tapes to measure the shape of the beach at 1m intervals, gathering data from the managed side of the beach and the unmanaged, and significantly muddier, side. The still conditions and the determination of the Year 10s saw the best data collection that Mr Charkham had seen in around four trips to the site!

Back at the Flatford accommodation, this data was presented with the appropriate graphs and charts, and conclusions made before the whole investigation was evaluated. It was a fantastic trip to build our fieldwork skills, which will account for 10% of next year's GCSE. The classroom sessions continued until 12pm on Wednesday, when it was time to head back to London. Particular highlights of the trip were Ms Guron's Tuesday quiz, an intense affair that saw Jack, Nila and Tamila crowned champions, Mr Lawler's constant insights into local bird wildlife, and the Mario Kart experience set up by Marley in the site's rec room. A particular thanks to Mr Perkins and Mr Lawler, non-geography department staff who gave up their evenings to help the department deliver this residential trip, and Ms Coulson for organising overall what was a really successful 3 days – we're looking forward to next year!



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Subject in the Spotlight



This week's subject in the spotlight is.... maths with the head of maths, Mr Capes.

This week in: maths.....

Year 7: Year 7 are currently focussing on fractions. They have looked at manipulating and simplifying fractions, before moving onto adding, subtracting, ordering and comparing fractions. These are some of the most core skills of Mathematics and must be understood very well to be successful at GCSE. Once these skills have been mastered, students will be moving onto their first ever Angles and Geometry unit.

Year 8: Year 8 are currently learning about angles in polygons. They will then be moving the Circumference. These are all GCSE topics which, if mastered, will prepare them very well for Year 9 and their GCSE.

Year 9: Year 9 are starting the GCSE Scheme of Work. They are currently studying probability and proportion. They will then move onto linear equations. This is the last time they will study these topics before their GCSE exams, so it is very important that they master them this term.

Year 10: Year 10 are currently studying the GCSE unit of Standard form. It is a new and very important GCSE topic that they have never seen before. They are crucial if they are going to understand later topics in the syllabus and have real world applications. They will then move onto studying Speed, Density and Pressure.

Year 11: Year 11 are revising topics from Years 7-10. Students should be completing past papers and seeking support from teachers when they find a topic they do not understand.

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: Michael

Year 8: Lorenzo

Year 9: Rafael

Year 10: Ridwan

Year 11: Kashmita



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

Year 7: Shaficy

Year 8: Harry

Year 9: Simeon

Year 10: Christine

Year 11: Daniel



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

Year 7: Omar

Year 8: Honour

Year 9: Irfan



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Lost Property

We have lots of lost and unclaimed coats in our lost property. With the cold weather, we are keen to ensure that these coats are returned to their owners. On Friday 3rd February during break and lunchtime we will be running a collection from the Main hall. If your child has misplaced their coat or jacket, please encourage them to come down to see if it has been handed in. After this date we will be packing up all the left over jacket and delivering them to the local charity shop.



Drama Showcase

On Thursday evening, 21 students from across Years 7-9 performed in the Drama Showcase. The students showcased their assessment performances from the end of their scripted unit in Drama to parents, friends and teachers, with great success! Every performer did themselves extremely proud and exemplified their fantastic success in Drama with gusto. Mr Wilson and Mrs Quinton were especially impressed. Well done performers, you've made the Drama department very proud!

Key dates for weeks beginning 30th January and 6th February

Description	Date	Time
Whole school assembly	Monday 30 th January	8:30 - 9:00
Teaching strike – no school for KS3	Wednesday 1st February	All day
Drop down day	Wednesday 8 th February	All day
Year 10 art trip	Thursday 9 th February	8:30 - 13:30
Year 8 parents evening	Thursday 9 th February	16:00 - 19:00



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