



## Mr Wilson's Weekly Message



Tuesday's Drop-Down Day was my highlight of the academic year so far. During PSHCE in the morning, students discussed difficult issues with confidence and supported one another in learning more about the world around them. They explored important topics such as mental health, FGM, healthy relationships and social media. As always, our pupils were polite and respectful and really embraced the opportunity to explore some difficult topics. It is always so lovely to hear the feedback from external speakers who come to deliver sessions to our pupils during drop-down days. I have already received the following two emails from speakers who were particularly impressed with

the groups they were working with:

*'I just wanted to say another thank you for having us today. I really enjoyed speaking to your Yr 8 students and was seriously impressed with their enthusiasm and their insightful, articulate contributions.'*

*'We love coming to this school. One of my team says that out of all the schools we tour, this is the only secondary school that he wants his son to come to.'*

I think these sessions are vital to helping our students feel they can enquire about issues that are important to them, both within and outside the curriculum. I am grateful to staff and students for their work during our Drop-Down Day, and I encourage all parents and carers to ask about what students learnt. I wish you a safe and well-rested weekend!

## Year 7 Trip to PGL

Last weekend, the year 7 students went on an adventure trip to PGL in Surrey. A wonderful weekend was had by all, as the students pushed themselves out of their comfort zone in abseiling, archery and even raft building. Refusing to be put off by the poor weather, our students showed such strong resilience to experience new activities. On Saturday night, they danced the evening away at the PGL disco and came home smiling through the rain!



## House Drop-Down Day

Following PSHCE in the morning, the rest of Tuesday was handed over to the House system, with all teachers and pupils competing in a range of activities, all to try and secure their place at the top of the leader board. From debating to bench ball, and Dragons Den to musical performances and creative writing, it's fair to say there was a buzz in every classroom. The quality of work produced never fails to impress. Our pupils are so creative and talented. It is also such a lovely opportunity for pupils of all ages to work together. I would like to say a particular thank you to year 11 who really took the lead not only in inspiring the younger years but also ensuring that all pupils were included in the day, making it a real team effort from all. Although all houses created some fantastic work, it was Aequitas who reigned top at the end of the day with Veritas in second, Unitas third and Caritas in fourth place. It was such an exciting day, roll on the next House challenge!



## House Football with Mr Wells

The first football-themed house competition took place this week. Matches of two and a half minutes took place between the four houses. The teams consisted of three players from all year groups swapping on and off during the match. There was a fantastic turn out for the event where Unitas came out convincing winners. However, there was great effort and collaboration across the years and every house did themselves proud.



## Changes to routines at THA

We would like to remind all parents to please ensure that they have read the letter regarding changes to routines here at the Hurlingham Academy. The letter was sent via text message on Monday. If you have not received a letter, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



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## Mr Wilson's Commendations

As well as putting in a great performance during Drop-Down Day, our pupils also continued to work hard both in lessons and at home. Congratulations this week go to the following pupils, who made it to the top of our maths, science and Spanish leader boards:

Top of the leader board for Hegarty Maths this week are:

Year 11 - Ibtisam

Year 10 - Athina

Year 9 - Chrisa

Year 8 - Sonia

Year 7 - Sofiane



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

Year 11 - Abdullah

Year 10 - Ryan

Year 9 - Aya

Year 8 - Anais

Year 7 - Asharie



Top of the leader board for Memrise Spanish this week are:

Year 11 - Ivana

Year 10 - Hannah

Year 9 - Adem

Year 8 - Sonia

Year 7 - Sofiane



We would like to say a particular congratulations to Sonia and Sofiane who both made it to the top of the Spanish and Maths leader boards. I wonder who will be the first to get their name at the top of all three?



## Year 7 go to Battle

This week Y7 historians have been putting their study of the Battle of Hastings into action by re-enacting the battle and bringing it to life in their history lessons. They will use the re-enactment to help them to argue what was the most important reason why William of Normandy was victorious. Was it luck, Norman tactics or the weaknesses of the Anglo-Saxons?



## Getting to know you - Miss Jerez de la Pena

**Name:** Miss Jerez de la Pena

**Job:** Teacher of MFL

**Favourite Book:** *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

**Interesting fact about me:** I don't have a driving licence but I have travelled through three countries on my bicycle.

**Favourite thing about working at THA:** the commitment and effort that both students and staff display every day.

**House:** Aequitas



## Key dates for week beginning November 11th- Week 1

Description	Date	Time
Whole School Assembly	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	08:30 - 09:00
KS4 assessments	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November– Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	09:00 - 15:25



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