



## Mr Wilson's Weekly Message



Thursday'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 FGM, homelessness, extremism and sleep. As always, our pupils were polite and respectful and really embraced the opportunity to explore some difficult topics. I was so proud to hear that in order to support the charity that delivered their session, Year 8 arranged a bake sale at the breaktime. They raised

over £200 which I'm sure will really help to support the homeless community Year 8 have been learning about. 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:

"Your year 7s were brilliant – so mature and sensitive and confident in asking questions. They were a credit to the school and we were impressed with their engagement and behaviour throughout."

"I was very impressed by how calm, orderly and well behaved the students were! At least five also came up to thank me at the end."

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!

## Parent Survey

We would like to remind all parents and carers that our parent survey is now live. Help us to understand what you value about The Hurlingham Academy, and what we should improve. The survey takes around 15 minutes to complete and you can access it [here](#), with the chance to win a £25 Amazon voucher.



## Year 7 Conservation Day with Royal Parks

On Monday the whole of Year 7 went to Kensington Gardens for a 'Conservation Day', facilitated by the Royal Parks, to perform activities related to protecting and growing the bat populations in the park.

Arriving at 10 o'clock, the students were taught by professional experts about the principles of conservation through a range of vital activities. Students used special machinery to uproot 'suckers', trees that had sprouted from the root system of the larger trees. As well as being great fun, this



meant that the main tree could last longer and lost less nutrients from its roots. A surprise favourite activity was 'bramble bashing', students learned how to use secateurs to cut back bramble which was taking nutrients from larger trees. These materials were then carried over to another activity, 'dead hedging'. Here the pupils built a hedge out of the dead branches, which would be a great breeding ground for insects. The insects are a vital part of the food chain, and the main source of food for the native bats.

In another section of the park students made 'bat boxes', which would be se-

cured in trees and be perfect places for the bats to stay and roost.

Other than these, there were other habitat building activities such as tree planting, as students dug the hole suitable for a new park tree, and soil decompaction, where students learned how by injecting air into the soil, it can be made more suitable for the trees that it supports. Earlier in the day, pupils observed as tree surgeons worked to treat a tree in need of support and pruning.

Students asked fantastic and fundamental questions all day, and everyone, including staff had completely new experiences. As the geography department we are excited as to what doors this will open in the pupil's outlook and interests, in both conservation, climate, and wide citizenship awareness. I must say a huge thank you to the staff that came on the trip, you were fantastic!

As ever we were very proud of our pupils and their supportive community, it was a fantastic day.



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## House Dropdown Day

We had a fully-loaded week of House events as it was our first annual House Drop Down Day of the year. This is when Houses split into six vertical tutor groups (mixing Y7-Y11) and they compete in one of six events – Dodgeball/Benchball, Creative Writing, Debate, Performance, Dragon's Den, and our newest event – Taskmaster!

It was double points so there was a potential 1200 points if a House was able to finish 1<sup>st</sup> in all activities. There was a House which came close, Unitas won Drop Down Day with 850 points! They won Performance, Debate, and Taskmaster, as well as coming second in Creative Writing. A really good effort by Unitas and Ms Banert-Lucas with her red army! Unitas also reigned supreme at rowing AND Countdown...as well as the Epraise totals! It was an absolutely explosive week for Unitas who have extended their lead in the House system to over 200 points. Veritas were able to leapfrog Aequitas back into 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a win in Dodgeball/Benchball, and two runners' up places in Taskmaster and Debate.

It was an absolutely incredible afternoon after our PSCHE sessions throughout the morning, and these days really bring together and demonstrate our sense of community and teamwork that we have at The Hurlingham Academy. Pupils from Y7 all the way up to Y11 participated brilliantly and also worked tremendously together, this despite having almost two years since our last vertical Drop Down Day. Pupils left school on Wednesday full of life, and then returned on Thursday morning focused and ready to learn in lessons. What fantastic pupils we have! A huge thank you to all staff, and a massive shout-out of appreciation to Miss Banert-Lucas, Miss Hargreaves, Miss Hayward, and Miss O'Reilly for organising such fantastic events.



1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Unitas</b>	<b>3270</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Veritas</b>	<b>3050</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Aequitas</b>	<b>2980</b>
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Caritas</b>	<b>2495</b>



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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 English leader boards:

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

Year 7: Sarah

Year 8: Seren

Year 9: Marley

Year 10: Misty

Year 11: Ezana



Top of the leader board for Educake this week with most correct questions answered are:

Year 7: Anissa

Year 8: Efrata

Year 9: Abdu

Year 10: Chuqiao

Year 11: Sofia Bielaja



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

Year 7: Aryan

Year 8: Juan

Year 9: Miya



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## Parenting Smart

### Parenting Smart (Place2Be)



Place2Be, have launched a new website aimed at helping parents with situations they can find themselves in with their children.

## Getting to know you - Ms Zhang

**Name:** Ms Zhang

**Job:** Teacher of Mandarin

**Favourite Book:** The Picture of Dorian Gray

**Interesting fact about me:** I like playing the piano

**Favourite thing about working at THA:** the lovely community spirit

**House:** Unitas



## Key dates for week beginning November 15<sup>th</sup>- Week 2

Description	Date	Time
Whole School Assembly	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	08:30 - 09:00
KS4 assessments	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> November - Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	09:00 - 15:25
Year 9 WW1 Film Showing	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	15:45 - 17:45



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