



Mr Wilson's Weekly Message



Good afternoon everyone and what an exciting week it has been! We had our first Drop Down Day of the year and it was busy. Key Stage 3 were looking at careers and had a brilliant range of speakers and workshops; while Years 10 and 11 had PSHCE and were looking at the issue of knife crime and why it is a social issue we should all care about. In the afternoon, the whole school were off timetable for house competitions in debating, creative writing, sports and team work skills. These days are all about building community and personal development - two things we are committed to here at The Hurlingham Academy. Our staff work incredibly hard on these days and the students have a brilliant time as a result. Well done to everyone involved and particularly to the house winners - Unitas!

Year 11 Mocks

A reminder that the first set of Year 11 mock exams start next week. Students have been given their exam timetables and revision manifests, but these can also be downloaded from the school website here:

<https://www.thehurlinghamacademy.org.uk/students/assessment-manifest>.

These exams are important, because they allow us to get an accurate picture of students' strengths and what support they need to improve, so please speak to your child about how they are revising. All students should make sure that they get plenty of rest each night before their exams. Good luck to all!



Subject in the Spotlight–Music

Year 7 have been continuing to develop instrumental and ensemble skills on their new instruments. They chose their instruments at the end of last half term from a choice of piano, acoustic guitar, trumpet, trombone, or saxophone. They have made excellent progress thus far, and we are excited to see them continue to develop their skills in their first whole-class performance of Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' towards the end of this half term.

Year 8 have been studying blues and jazz. Students have started to learn their first exam piece for their first Year 8 assessment: 'Milestones' by the infamous jazz trumpeter and composer, Miles Davis. This week we have been looking at playing the head (the main tune) as a whole-class ensemble, and later this term we will also explore jazz improvisation on their chosen instruments over Davis' chord progression.

Year 9 are completing two units based on popular musical styles. Mr. Clarke's classes have begun learning 'Livin' on a Prayer' by Bon Jovi as their exam piece for their assessments. They have played the introduction, and have started learning the pre-chorus to this extremely popular song. Ms. Stephenson's classes have started their first composition project in the style of electronic dance music (EDM) on our iMacs using Logic Pro. Last week they composed their own drum beats, and this week they started creating their own chord progressions using synthesizers.

Our **Year 10** GCSE Music class recently completed their first microcomposition based on the lo-fi style, where they were given a brief to compose a piece of music suitable for a YouTube playlist to help students study. This week, they began studying their first GCSE appraising exam module: Musical Forms and Devices; this unit is based on the classical tradition, and analyses the key stylistic features of the baroque, classical, and romantic periods of music. Our Year 10 Performing Arts class has been completing exercises to develop their instrumental skills ready for their solo performance. They have been rehearsing carefully, and have been completing rehearsal log and reflection exercises in preparation for their real coursework.

Our **Year 11** GCSE Music class are currently finishing their first composition coursework. Students could choose their own brief, so we decided to base most of our compositions on a fusion between pop and jazz. Our Year 11 Performing Arts class have been finalising their performance unit, which is due to be submitted this term; they did their final performances last week, and are currently completing their log and reflection exercises to ensure they have submitted their work to the best of their ability.

In addition to our classroom lessons, we have also been rehearsing for our school musical, **The Jungle Book** (due to be performed in February 2024); marimba club has been rehearsing 'Jingle Bell Rock' by Bobby Helms; our brass and woodwind ensembles have continued to work on various technical exercises and duets; and our Music Scholar Big Band has been rehearsing 'Autumn Leaves' by Joseph Kosma.



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Mr Wilson's commendations

It has been another impressive week here at the academy, with pupils once more working hard on their studies both in the classroom and at home. Congratulations go to all the following pupils who made it to the top of our leader boards this week. Photos of 1st places below

SENECA leaderboard:

1. (Yr9)

Seth Araujo



2. (Yr11)

Avery Lee



3. (Yr8)

Monkorn Chor Charoenpanich



SPARX Maths leaderboard:

1. (Yr11)

Karis Mercer



2. (Yr8)

Alfie Alli



3. (Yr8)

Ato Muhamedjanov



SPARX Reader leaderboard:

1. (Yr7)

Jamia Lee Griffith



2. (Yr8)

Badis Bouchaoui



3. (Yr9)

Lorenzo Ballester



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This week in the Library!

we are starting the Trinity Schools Book Award (TSBA) competition for 2024. The 2024 theme is "Elemental".

This competition is a great opportunity to increase students' interest in reading books from different authors and on a range of distinct topics.

Participants need to write a book review or submit a creative response to a book!

Good luck and happy reading!



Key dates

Description	Date	Time
KS4 Mock 1 Begins	Mon 13/11/2023	(All day)
Meet the Tutor 7	Mon 13/11/2023	16:00 - 18:00
Y9 Belgium Trip	Thu 16/11/2023 to Fri 17/11/2023	
Student Council	Fri 17/11/2023	13:45 - 15:15
Geography GCSE Field-work Y10	Mon 20/11/2023 to Wed 22/11/2023	
KS4 Mock 1 Ends	Wed 22/11/2023	(All day)

