

HE Harow Way CHRISTMAS 2020

The Show Must Go On!

Covid-19 may have put a temporary stop to live performances but as they like to say in showbiz 'the show must go on!'



A wonderful Winter Concert and performance of the Nutcracker gave Year 9–11 Performing Arts and Music students the opportunity to experience live theatre, with professional lighting, sound and negotiating their cues.



You click, we deliver

A great new service from the Library for our Year 7 students. Find out how to simply and safely get hold of the books of your choice on page 8.



Remembrance Day

We remembered the fallen with some beautiful artwork produced by Year 7 students. Their imaginative (tea stained) letters from the trenches to families at home detailed their war experience and were a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by those who fought in WW1.

SUCCESSION Learning for life, success ad's Corner

This has been one of the oddest and most challenging terms of my career. For all of us, there have been a lot of challenges, new routines and procedures to learn. I cannot pretend it has been easy but it has been made a lot easier by the dedication, flexibility and 'can do' attitude of Harrow Way staff.

Friday 20 March, after the last students had gone home, was one of the most poignant moments in my career. At the time, I wrote in my Headteacher daily journal:

began. I want to pay a huge tribute to all Harrow Way staff and students for how well they have adapted. The biggest compliment I can pay is that it feels very 'normal'.

66 I walked the school for one last time: every block, deserted, empty, silent. It brought home to me that the school isn't the buildings, the classrooms, the whiteboards and the playing fields. It's the people. The students and their teachers, the support staff, cleaners, site team and technicians. They are the school. 99

In September, school came alive again. We had planned for so long, so carefully, that we couldn't wait to get started. Every department was opened up, classrooms prepared, precautions in place.

Walking the corridors to see classrooms filled with young people brought a lump to my throat. I had been so caught up in hand sanitiser dispensers, face covering policies, one way systems, catering provision and transport organisation, that I had not prepared myself adequately for the joy of real human interactions with our students.

Research shows that habits can be formed in 21 days and early October marked 21 school days since term

During the first lockdown COVID-19 was new to all of us. During the second

one, some things were the same - but some are very different. The anxiety was still there, of course: but student attendance has



been a very impressive 94.7%.

I was pleased that schools are staying open. We firmly believe that our students are better off in school: no matter how good remote learning is, there is no substitute for being in a classroom with an expert teacher. We know it is there that our students will get the best educational experience and make the best progress.

We also believe that the 'normality' and structure of the school day is good for mental health and wellbeing. Of course, it's not quite as 'normal' as any of us would like: our extra-curricular programme is severely limited; we cannot hold in-person assemblies or run our programme of trips and visits; and the big events, concerts, presentations and performances that we look forward to, are all on hold. But even so, the routines of a school day, seeing friends and continuing to learn in person is stable, reliable, and welcome.

The governing body has continued meeting (virtually) during lockdown and this autumn term. It is important during this time of constant change and uncertainty that governors continue to carry out our role and to provide support to the school. I can't thank Harrow Way governors enough for all the help and guidance they have offered me over this time.



We are **oversubscribed** again!

Early indications are that we will be significantly oversubscribed again next September and I would like to acknowledge the trust that the families of Andover are placing in us.

STAFFING

This term we have said goodbye to Sonia Heaton, Science Technician and have welcomed Amy Robinson, Science Technician and Richard Appleton, Cover Supervisor. In January we will also be welcoming back Katie Shaw from maternity.

Presentation Evening The Class of 2020

Normally, during this term, I would be writing to our outgoing Year 11 students to confirm the plans for an upcoming GCSE Presentation Evening. However, despite our optimism around being able to host the event, current government guidance on COVID-19 related to social distancing and the size of gatherings permitted, means that we were sadly unable to do so as planned. However, we did want our students to have an opportunity to mark their results and achievements, so we produced some Presentation Booklets that are on the website. We wanted to celebrate student successes by awarding individual subject awards and presentation of annual trophy awards (find out more on page 5).



Ofsted Visit

In October we hosted Ofsted who were gaining insight into the impact the extended schools' closure has had on students across England. The fact-finding visit will feed into a national report for the government and the education sector with Harrow Way's views and experiences helping to inform future policy (you can read a full write-up on their visit on page 4).





And finally...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. It now remains for me to wish you all a very restful Christmas break and peaceful New Year.

Mr Serridge, Headteacher

Impressing Ofsted

Harrow Way was one of approximately 1200 schools selected for an Ofsted fact-finding visit. Although not an official inspection, inspectors provided the school with some positive feedback acknowledging our swift return to full teaching.

Commenting on the visit Headteacher Mr Serridge said: "Establishing how schools across England have bounced back from the extended closure is an important piece of work being conducted by Ofsted. We, like Ofsted, want to see students fully caught up with their studies and a full curriculum being taught. We were very pleased to be able to contribute to this important national work and that the measures we have introduced to ensure our students experience a full and meaningful education, have been noted by the inspectors."

With regard to their specific observations on how we are helping students catch up, the inspectors commented: "In all subjects, teachers have checked what pupils remember. Teachers are supporting pupils both individually and as class groups to

catch up with any learning they have missed. Year 7 pupils are getting extra help with their reading.'

We have also introduced effective measures to ensure we can deliver a full curriculum remotely with the inspectors commenting: "Pupils who are off school are supplied with remote education which mirrors what is being taught in school. Leaders have combined publicly available resources with material which the school's teachers have produced. Plans are in place to deliver the full curriculum remotely if, in the future, the school is fully or partially closed because of **COVID-19.**"



raising standards



FANTASTIC START FROM YEAR 11

Well done to Year 11 which has made a fantastic start to the year with students working very hard to prepare themselves for their GCSEs.

We have all been extremely impressed by the number of students turning up every day for various revision/project classes that have been put on after school for their benefit. The atmosphere in these extra classes has been really positive and I am proud of the extra efforts that they have been willing to put in. This will all help them to achieve their full potential this year.

It's been great to see the Year 11 prefects walking around with their new ties on. It is a shame that in the current situation they are unable to have the impact I know they would have had, but they continue to lead by example and are fantastic role models for all of the other students.

Mr Carter, Year 11 Year Leader



Celebrating the Class of 2020

Each year celebrating and recognising the achievements of former Year 11s in our annual Presentation Evening is one of the highlights in the school calendar.

We were hugely disappointed that we were unable to welcome back our Class of 2020 to present in person their GCSE certificates, awards and trophies. However, we were determined that the 'show would go on,' all be it under very different circumstances, and as per previous years we produced a Presentation Booklet, awarded the individual subject awards and the annual trophy awards.

Commenting on the year group, Mr Serridge said: **"I know I speak for many staff when I say that we have**

fond memories of the class of 2020. For five years the year group led the way in so many things. Throughout it all you were hard working, determined and increasingly committed to your studies. This led to you achieving some fantastic results. Your results day in August was very special and it was lovely to see you all. I hope the things you learned in your lessons and across the curriculum will shape your thoughts and ideologies, and who you are as a person."

To read the Presentation Booklet and to see who was awarded the subject and trophy awards, please head over to our website at **www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk** where you will also see a wonderful video we created to celebrate **GCSE results day in August.**

The cancellation of the GCSE examinations in 2020 provided a great challenge in the summer term. Our '2020 leavers' had worked immensely hard for three years, and we had no doubt that they would have been extremely successful in their final exams had the opportunity not been removed from them. So it fell upon their teachers and the senior leadership team to ensure that these students received

GCSEs 2020

the grades they deserved, enabling them to progress to the next stage of their education. This process of allocating the Centre Assessed Grades dominated much of the summer term.

On 20 August we held a results day for the 2020 leavers which pleasingly felt very much like previous, more normal, years. Students nervously opening their envelopes, followed by the elation of realising they had earned the grades they had worked so hard for. Mr Serridge said on the day: "Unlike previous years these students had to dig deep and find inner strength while coping with a very brutal end to their time here at secondary school."

It is therefore with even more pride they should celebrate their achievements and we wish them every success in the future.

House Happenings

Well what a term it has been! COVID restrictions and social distancing haven't clipped our wings, that's for certain. We've had a busy start to the academic year with competitions, celebrating stamp champs and chasing each other's feathers. In the spirit of Christmas and all this entails - sweets, chocolate, turkey - we have launched a 12 Days of Fitmas competition to get our birds fighting fit and ready for the indulgence of Christmas 'Yet To Come.' Each day, a new exercise will be released to students with the aim for them to complete the 12 Days of Fitmas challenge and then for them to submit a video or montage of photographs that document their participation. As always birds, points mean prizes. We'll be keeping a beady eye on your entries!

Head Hawk's Headlines

Hawks, we are soaring to the 'top of the wood' – Year 10 and 11, I hope you know what that means! We aren't far behind Buzzards now with a whopping 7700 points to us! A particular success was the Halloween competition where Hawks had the most entries and the wonderful **Emily Miller** placed second with her brilliant Ominous Origami. Our attendance is up with Hawk tutor groups dominating the attendance leader boards and our stamp champs are working away to earn us points.

Not only have I had the pleasure of leading a Kreative Kettle of Hawks, I have also been able to appoint **Dylan Clark** and **Crystal Elliott** as our new House Captains and **Danni Gooden-Husbands** as our new Sport Captain (cue round of applause). There is still one more place for Sport Captain available so watch this nest! Hawks, I know you'll be in the festive spirit and I hope to see an abundance of entries flying in for the 12 Days of Fitmas challenge! **Mrs Hamilton**





King Kestrel's Kolumn

We've had a hugely successful half term with one of our very own Kestrels winning first place in the Christmas Card contest (well done **Maya Knight**!).

We had lots of spooky Halloween competition entries too. Kestrels really have been busy! Our great work in the Pixl Unlock league has been adding to our House points total and I'm sure that you'll all be taking part in our new 12 Days of Fitmas challenge! Finally, I'd like to welcome all of our new House and Sport Captains to the team: **Megan Nikolic, Archie Broome, Harry Pay, Maddie Parkes** and **Lara Dale**. Go Kestrels! Ka K'ah! **Mr Manson**

Boss Buzzard's Bulletin

It's been an egg-citing first term for the mighty Buzzards who flew straight into their rightful nest at the top of the leader board! Buzzard students have been working hard on Pixl Unlock, winning Mrs German's weekly challenge nearly every week since September and gaining 500 points each time! The flock has also got involved in all of the competitions on offer this term. I was left very impressed by **Kitty Stillman** who came 3rd in the Christmas Card competition and **Jess Rist** who wowed us with her Halloween entry gaining 1st place! In our latest virtual assembly, we celebrated the efforts of **Janelle Charlot, Matt Dickens, Dmitrijs Meiksans, Jamie Freitag** and **Harry Horan** who were our stamp champs, and the amazing 7NJP who were our tutor group champs! The long awaited announcement for House and Sport captains was finally revealed and I am proud to announce my two Sport Captains as **Emily Phillips-Strudwick** and **Faith Holman** who will work alongside **Jess Rist** and **Dmitrijs Meikans** as our House Captains for the year. Keep ruling the roost, Buzzards! **Miss Fowler**



Applauding the Student Leadership Team

We cannot end this term without acknowledging the great work of our Student Leadership Team in supporting students through the first lockdown.

Recognising that this period presented a number of challenges, the team stepped forward to lead the production of a series of 12 videos for the whole school community to watch. The focus for each was different with the students tackling a range of subjects from challenging racism to protecting mental health.

Commenting on the important role the team played in keeping students engaged in the school community while learning from home, Assistant Headteacher Mr Whitworth said: "Our Student Leadership Team really rose to the challenge of supporting and uniting, what was at the time, our remote school community. And while teachers and students were working hard to keep the lessons and learning going, we also recognised that there were other important issues and subjects for all our students to understand.

"By creating these videos our Student Leadership Team has played a vital role in helping students understand these topics which are key to developing the values and morals of good citizens."



Impressive start from Year 7

Starting a new journey can often be a daunting undertaking. Prior to September I had countless conversations about the new Year 7; how would you settle? Would you make new friends? Would you remember how to learn? Would you learn how to tie a tie? Could you figure out a new timetable and a new school environment? Well I am very happy to say that our newest intake has made an excellent start to life at Harrow Way Community School.

Now, I am having conversations about how well you are doing, how many hopes we have for your future and what lovely individuals we have welcomed through our doors. It makes me very proud!

Of course, there have been bumps in the road, we will always have to work to keep our focus, but under the strangest of circumstances you have surpassed our expectations. You have stepped up with your learning and you lead the school on stamps, attendance and conduct. I am incredibly impressed with the example that we are setting for ourselves.

It is a shame that we cannot yet talk about our successes in extra-curricular activities, I would love to be talking through our splendid performances in sport, drama, dance or music but we will have to be patient before we realise our full potential. If what you tell me is true, then the best is yet to come!

All that leaves me to do is wish you a wonderful Christmas and I look forward to seeing what 2021 holds for us.

Mr Cole, Year 7 Year Leader

News from the LRC and Library

Our Learning Resource Centre and Library may well be closed but there are still a number of ways in which they are continuing to support learning:

You click, we deliver

A great 'book loan' service for Year 7s. All you have to do is browse the Reading Cloud catalogue from the VLE link and then email Mrs Burningham (**sharon.burningham@harrowway.hants.sch.uk**) your book request and she will deliver it to your tutor group all clean and packaged with handling information. We are hoping to extend this service to other year groups early in the new year.



Run by Hampshire School Library Service this is a spoken word performance poetry competition which is being supplemented by regular free workshops delivered by established performance poets. **Get involved here: sls.hias.hants.gov.uk**



Virtual Author Visit

We may not have been able to host any authors this term but we are hoping to have a virtual visit or two in the near future courtesy of Hampshire School Library Service. The award winning author Tom Palmer's virtual session is available to view at home or in English lessons until 12 February 2021. Famous for his historical fiction and several book series set in the football world. Tom's books can also be found in the Library at the Learning Resource Centre. We are also expecting a virtual visit from Emma Carroll, former secondary school English teacher turned author who brilliantly weaves historical facts into adventure fiction.

eBook Platform

Did you know Harrow Way students have access to the largest platform of books and audio books supplied to schools in the UK? GCSE English students can access many of the set texts, annotate their virtual copy and then export their notes as a PDF which they can use for revision.

It's also a very valuable tool for dyslexic students as they can completely customise how they 'see' their book. We've seen an incredible 142% increase in the ePlatform use (supplied and managed by Hampshire County Council School Library Service) since last year but if you haven't yet had a look yourself you can explore further via our VLE or the Wheelers e-book platform app.



Excellent start for Year 8

Year 8 has had an excellent start back to the school year. With only six months at Harrow Way in Year 7 and then nearly six months off, it must have been a strange feeling for our year group to return to school.

As a year team, we're super proud of the way all of Year 8 has responded to the necessary changes. Students have taken all of the safety measures in their stride, adapted to them and even been the first year group to need to go into partial isolation and still have been doing brilliantly in lessons.

Congratulations to all of our high achievers and particularly to Lydia Smale in 8MEH who, at the time of writing, has the highest stamper total in the entire school! As we move towards Christmas and the well-earned two week break, I know that Year 8 will continue to do themselves proud in the New Year. Well done everyone!

Mr Reed, Year 8 Year Leader

Music makes its mark

We were rather proud that our commitment to music has been recognised by Music Mark, a national organisation which supports and promotes the highest quality music education for all children and young people. Hampshire Music Service nominated the school for this special status based on the value we place on music and our broad and balanced musical curriculum.

Commenting on becoming a Music Mark School for the current academic year, Mrs Massiah, Music Teacher said: **"We work very hard at Harrow Way to ensure we deliver an enriching music curriculum. It is** therefore great to have this recognised and acknowledged by Music Mark. Music plays such an important role in all our lives, both professionally and personally, and is something which we like to enjoy and celebrate here at the school."

Going for Gold

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At Harrow Way our mantra is borrowed from Professor Dylan Willam:

66 Every teacher needs to improve, not because they are not good enough, but because they can be even better. 99

We pride ourselves on devoting a huge amount of time and effort in supporting Continuous Professional Development so that teachers can provide students with a fantastic education and also so that our staff develop and feel valued.

In more recent years we have been part of a group called the Teacher Development Trust. Founded by teachers in 2012, the Teacher Development Trust (TDT) is the national charity for effective professional development in schools and colleges. We first joined in 2016 and were quickly awarded the Bronze Award for our commitment to providing good professional development to our staff.

In 2018 we invited the TDT to our school again to go through a further

audit and were awarded the Silver Award. We are currently working our way towards the Gold standard. The expectations for this are very high so we are taking our time to embed the systems and structures needed to enable our professional development to be some of the best for miles around.

At Harrow Way we are lucky to have such exceptional staff. We do our very best to retain and develop them and we buck the national trend in terms of recruitment and retention. **We will keep** you posted on our journey to Gold!



Year 10 Step Up

In each Eagle I describe my pride in the year group. This time I am even more so. I am always impressed with how our young adults have an incredible capacity to adapt and overcome challenges. This year they have stepped up to not only following a full GCSE curriculum and the rigors this entails, but also the expectations of an ever-changing world. I am proud of the way they have maturely adapted to our changing environment and facing all challenges with a positive attitude.

Our virtual Parents' Evening was a great success and it was lovely to see so many parents, albeit by screen.

Looking forward to the New Year, we have many exciting prospects, starting to look at career opportunities and pathways. Within our tutor programme Year 10 has excelled in the Pixl Unlock achieving the best score within the school. In addition the year group is leading the weekly Tassomai school leader board with over 27000 questions correct each week. I look forward to seeing this continue into the New Year.

Another exciting opportunity for 2021 will be our prefect applications. This will give a chance for our amazing students to show off their talents. Further details about this process will be shared in the spring term, and I am looking forward to choosing our Head Students from our applications.

I wish you all a restful Christmas holiday, and look forward to seeing all of our students back in the New Year.

Mrs Crossley, Year 10 Year Leader



Anti-Bullying Week is a national campaign we've proudly supported for several years and this year's theme of 'United Against Bullying' resonated firmly with our community.

During the week we spent time discussing how our differences and diversities are one of our biggest strengths and that no one should be singled out or made to feel victimised due to their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or any other factor. Through virtual assemblies and discussions in tutor time we looked at how we all have a part to play in the fight to eradicate bullying and looked at what every member of the community could do. Students from all year groups completed, individually or in small groups, puzzle pieces with their pledges on what they, as individuals, will be doing to prevent bullying and bring those acting in a bullying way to the attention of staff. We have discussed the types of bullying and Harrow Way's firm NO BYSTANDERS policy as well as strategies to report bullying should it be noticed.

We have also, this term, re-launched the peer mentor system. Our Year 10 Peer Mentors went through a

66 The buzz on anti-bullying has never been higher with our commitment to tackling this national issue going from strength to strength. 99 training process last school year and were very keen to make a difference but, unfortunately, have been unable to due to the restrictions on mixing bubbles. We have now set up a system of online support from student volunteers who are able to act as buddies for those in our community who simply need some advice or a friend to talk to.





Walking the Walk

We've been inspired this term by Year 10 student **Dmitrijs Meiksans** who pledged to walk 175km in just two weeks in order to raise money for Andover Trees United. Dmitrijs, who is also the Member of Youth Parliament for North West Hampshire, managed to raise an incredible £420 for the charity which promotes conservation and improved access to natural wild spaces.

Commenting on what inspired him he said: "Getting young people back into nature and for them to enjoy committing time to support local causes, especially as important as the work that Andover Trees United has been doing for over a decade, is absolutely crucial. Not only will it improve their wellbeing and mental health but also allows them to develop as mature and confident individuals, ready to tackle the boundaries that society might present."

Year 9 embrace new changes

It has been so lovely to welcome the year group back after our extra long summer break. They have all returned with so much positivity and have engaged with everything that we ask of them; they have reminded me, Mr Fluellen and Mrs Chappell why we missed having them in school so much.

Year 9 has started with lots of changes and I've been impressed by how they have embraced them. The Pathways subject choices they made remotely in the summer term have allowed students to study some new subjects and also to have some choice around the subjects they are studying. Year 9 seem very positive about this and are already starting to contemplate which subjects they are looking forward to studying next year at GCSE.

It has been wonderful to see them back in class and working hard. They continue to have a fantastic reputation around the school. A special mention to Lilly Kew (9JPM) for the highest stamp total in the year.

Despite the added restrictions, Year 9 still have brilliant attendance, which shows great resilience and commitment. Both 9CSM and 9SHS have been especially impressive with over 97% attendance this term!

Keep up the good spirits and positive attitude, Year 9; I can't wait to see what you can achieve this year.

Mrs Ford, Year 9 Year Leader

Sports Round-up

ENGLAND SUCESS



Congratulations to **Aidan Stanbrook** who has been selected for the Swim England Para Training Talent Squad. Aidan is one of only 12 children to receive the England call to join the first tier of the talent programme which could see him ultimately representing Great Britain internationally.

Aidan's training programme is already very full-on. While in lockdown the focus has been on installing the correct ethos for Team GB (responsibility, ownership, commitment and knowledge) so he's been having lots of zoom meetings with former para Olympians and sports psychologists.

An all-round swimmer, Aidan competes in all strokes and is already a Wiltshire County Champion. As would be expected for an athlete at this level, Aidan trains very hard – normally four times a week, which has been a challenge with the restrictions of lockdown.

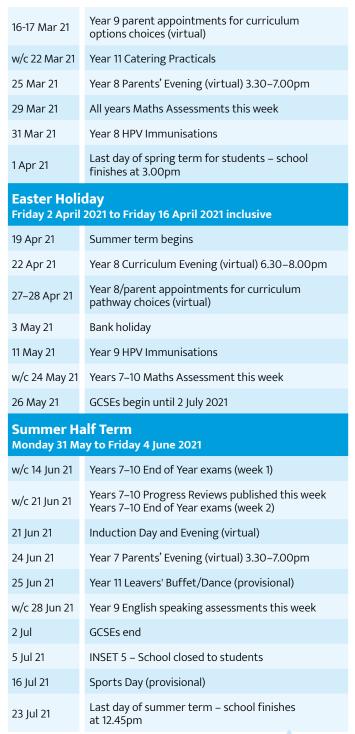
From the foundation tier, Aidan's goal is to progress to the youth tier and then into the adult GB training teams. Best of luck Aidan – the whole school is behind you.



2021 Calendar



Christmas Holiday Monday 21 December 2020 to Friday 1 January 2021 inclusive	
4 Jan 21	Spring term begins
14 Jan 21	Year 11 Hospitality & Catering online exam
14 Jan 21	Year 11 Parents' Evening (virtual) 3.30–7.00pm
18 Jan 21	Year 9 Teenage Booster Immunisations
25–27 Jan 21	Year 11 Andover College Interviews
27 Jan 21	Year 9 Teenage Booster Immunisations
28 Jan 21	Year 9 Parent's Evening (virtual) 3.30–7.00pm
4 Feb 21	Year 11 BTEC Health & Social Care exam
w/c 8 Feb 21	Year 11 Pre-Public Exams (week 1) Years 7–10 Maths Assessments this week
Spring Half Term Monday 15 to Friday 19 February 2021	
w/c 22 Feb 21	Year 11 Pre-Public Exams (week 2)
25 Feb 21	Year 7 and 10 Photographs
25–27 Feb 21	Year 11 Andover College Interviews
w/c 1 Mar 21	Year 11 Pre-Public Exams (week 3)
3 Mar 21	World Book Day – Whole School
4 Mar 21	Years 8/9 More Able Parent Information Evening (virtual) 6.00–6.30pm
w/c 8 Mar 21	Years 7–10 Progress Reviews published this week Year 11 Catering Practicals
9 Mar 21	INSET 4 – School closed to students
11 Mar 21	Year 9 Curriculum Evening (virtual) 6.30–8.00pm
w/c 15 Mar 21	Year 11 Progress Reviews published this week Year 11 Catering Practicals





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