



THE Harrow Way Eagle

CHRISTMAS 2021

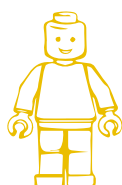
International Day of Peace

First Lego League

Students have entered the CARGO CONNECTS challenge which involves designing, creating and programming

a Lego robot to complete missions that represent transportation safety, efficiency, connection, and access.

Our thanks to both Stannah and Ocado for sharing their transportation expertise.



As part of the United Nations International Day of Peace students took part in the Roots and Shoots peace procession in Harmony Woods, with each student making their own dove and gathering with other schools to mark the day.



Sporting Success

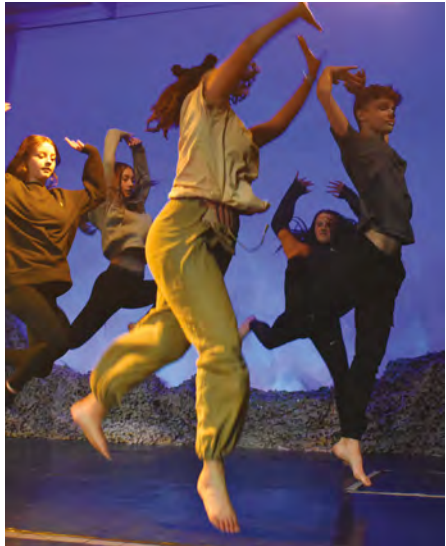
Congratulations to Year 9, Cassius Mitchell who competed at the World Association of Kickboxing Organisations (WAKO) GB Nationals recently and came home as a two times British Champion, taking gold in the 32kg point fighting and light contact disciplines.



Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter. I want to start by saying a huge thank you to each and every one of you for your support since we came back to school in September.

Our lives have been transformed over the last 18 months by the Covid-19 pandemic, and in school we have had to consider every aspect of our school life to make sure it is safe and secure. This, as you know, has meant many changes to what our students have been used to in a normal school day.

I could not be prouder of the way that our students, staff and wider community, including you our parents and carers, have risen to the challenges we have all faced.



The strength and resilience shown by everyone has led to success in so many areas of school this term and you have played a vital part in that success.

Despite the challenges Covid presents to us all, our autumn term at Harrow Way has been packed full of activity and there is so much to share with you in this Christmas Eagle.

I recognise that this is a particularly difficult term. I've discussed, in previous weeks in my eNews, the dark nights, cold days and that long haul into the Christmas break. The last few weeks in particular has had challenges with staff absences, due to Covid-19 and other factors.

Throughout my career I have always told people, when asked what I do, that I love my job as every day is different; that there is nothing better than working with our young people who have an unlimited capacity to amaze. We have achieved so much this term, with teachers and students working incredibly hard in each and every lesson. When I do my daily walks around the school I am always so impressed by the energy and professionalism of our staff and the attitude and drive of our students.

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.

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) 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 and I can't thank our governors enough for all the help and guidance they have offered me over this time.

Hampshire Good Practice Review November 2021 – Harrow Way

Hampshire Advisory Service visited a number of schools at the end of the summer term 2021 as part of a good practice review. This document draws together the findings from that piece of work. In the first part, it sets out elements of good practice in establishing a culture based on strong positive relationships.

In the second part, it outlines thinking and good practice in schools' self-evaluation of their work in this area. I was delighted that Harrow Way was one of the five secondary schools to be part of this best practice review.

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 Kaylee Headdon, cover supervisor.



“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

Praise from Lieutenant-General Sir Freddie Viggers

Sir Freddie Viggers, Lieutenant-General recently visited to thank our teaching team and staff for all the work done supporting students and parents through the ongoing pandemic.

The Lieutenant-General visited the school on behalf of the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire who was keen to show their appreciation and gratitude for the extra effort and commitment made by so many.

Commenting on his trip to Harrow Way Sir Freddie said: “You and everyone who works at the school – teachers, administrative and support staff – have done your utmost to give students the opportunity to continue their education during the last difficult 18 months. I am sure that students and families appreciate your determination to provide these young people with as normal an adolescence as possible in testing circumstances; your commitment to them is exceptional.”



Science technician Mr Willerton retains British tumbling title

Our Science technician Mr Willerton has retained his title as the British number one in tumbling. The British champion, competing at the International Centre in Telford, won the senior men's title for a record 8th time.

Following his success at the British Championships, Mr Willerton was selected to represent the country at the Senior Tumbling World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan where he won a silver medal – an incredible achievement!

Commenting on managing the mix of his two very diverse roles Mr Willerton said: “Science and tumbling have always been two of my biggest passions and being able to combine them was always something I enjoyed and it's great to be able to pursue both. Doing a PhD in a particular field of Science is something I would like to do in the future and I also enjoy Science tutoring, which is similar to coaching, so teaching is also not out of the question for me. I do love being a part of the Science team at the school as they are amazingly supportive and are all doing great things in their roles to create an engaging curriculum for the students.”





Harrow Way introduces a new reading programme

This term we've introduced an exciting new reading programme. Every student in Years 7 to 10 have been given a high quality reading book which they get to read every day during tutor time.



Mr Mann, Assistant Headteacher and Curriculum Leader for English explains the importance of the programme: "There are many reasons why reading is good for us. Reading builds vocabulary; it helps to reduce stress and anxiety and it can aid restful sleep. You can find magic in a book and, as Dr Seuss reminds us, 'the more you read the further you will go.' You cannot overestimate the importance of reading and the magic in stories, which is why we have put in place this reading programme."

By encouraging students to read both independently and with their form tutor, we are seeing students engage with and explore more ambitious and unfamiliar words which will enhance their vocabulary while also improving their communication skills.



The important conservation project at Harmony Woods is now into its tenth year and students from years 7, 8 9 and 11 all recently experienced first-hand how 12 acres of land are being turned into a natural urban woodland, at the annual tree planting event.

Commenting on the experience Year 9 student Willow Turner said: "Today I had the pleasure of going down to Harmony Woods which was a great experience. When we arrived we were shown how to plant a tree, which I found really helpful as I have never planted one before. We were then able to plant our own tree (I planted a hawthorn).

During this Anton Junior arrived with two classes of Year 3s. We were told to find a pair and help them plant a tree before going on a tour of the woods and playing a game to find the differences between the trees and name them. When Anton Junior left, we finished planting our trees. Overall, it was a really fun experience that I enjoyed."

Ready to shine in Year 9!

Year 9 have come back with a fantastic attitude and readiness to start the pathway to their GCSE success.

Now in their option classes, students are studying the subjects that interest them the most and I have loved going around to lessons, listening to discussions, looking at practical work and reading stories - what a talented year group we have. I've also loved handing out sweets to the students who've impressed their teachers the most! Our students really are showing the resilience and independence needed to succeed and I'm proud to hear about their efforts in lessons - in one week I had 43 names mentioned by teachers as being outstanding and impressive.

As a year team, we all really enjoyed seeing parents in person again at our meet the tutor event and the tutors all commented on how great it was to discuss the success of our students with you. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for coming and for your ongoing continued support.

Wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break.

Miss Fowler, Year Leader for Year 9

ONE KIND WORD

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

This year the theme for Anti-Bullying Week was all about the power of positivity in the whole school community, proactively preventing bullying and refusing to stand for it.

The message of **ONE KIND WORD** being a powerful tool for change, was delivered to all year groups in assemblies by Mr Reed, our Anti-Bullying Coordinator. Students were encouraged to show kindness to each other and recognise acts of kindness.

We have a new reward slip for students being particularly kind to one another to support this national agenda.

Above and beyond the rest of the school community we have Year 11 Peer Mentors who stand ready and willing to support younger students should they need it.

Over the week these students introduced themselves to the younger year groups and set up a safe space at break times where students can go if they need support or simply someone to talk to. We have also called for Year 9 and 10

students who feel able to give back to the school to stand up and join the next generation of Peer Mentors and, once they have gone through the training, support students across the school.

We have always been stringent in our measures to tackle any instances of bullying - anyone with concerns should talk to their tutor or click the Support button on our VLE.

Welcome back to the Class of 2022

We would love to start by saying a huge welcome back to the class of 2022! Year 11 is known to be a very challenging, yet rewarding, year as the students step into their final months as Harrow Way students.

The first term has already been very busy for the year group with multiple colleges coming in to visit and students beginning their college applications; we are so excited to see what the future holds for our talented cohort.

We want to say a huge congratulations to the health and fitness and catering students for

their hard work, resilience and amazing attitude this term as they sat exams for their subjects. Our prefects have also impressed us with how diligent and responsible they have been on their duties - the school appreciates your help very much.

This term we have seen our Peer Mentors supporting our younger

year groups; they have been fantastic role models and so willing and ready to help.

We are very proud of you all. It will be full steam ahead from here on in and we hope you all have a very well deserved, restful Christmas.

Mr Reed and Mrs Woodhead,
Year Leaders for Year 11



Celebrating GCSE success

Despite what was a challenging year, our Class of 2021 did both themselves and the school proud. They worked hard, remained committed to their studies and were rewarded with some outstanding GCSE success and achievement.

Commenting on how this year has tested students in immeasurable ways, Mr Serridge said: "None of us could say that the past academic year has been ideal. The class of 2021 are a year group unlike any other in terms of their struggles and challenges, but they have taken this year in their stride, showing commitment, determination and working exceptionally hard."

"I am incredibly proud of each and every Year 11 student. They too should be proud with their achievements and recognise that this year, ironically, will equip them well for the next stage of their lives, from further and higher education to their future careers."



Applauding our stars of 2021

Celebrating student achievement and success at our annual Presentation Evening is a highlight in our school calendar. It was particularly wonderful to welcome back our stars of 2021 to applaud our prize winners and showcase their outstanding results in what had once again been a challenging year.

Giving a warm welcome to our former Year 11s Mr Serridge said: "Welcoming this cohort back to Harrow Way makes me feel incredibly proud. You did not have an easy year, indeed with two lockdowns and remote learning you had what can only be described as a very challenging year. Yet you all coped amazingly well. Not only did you deal with these challenges admirably, you went on to achieve outstanding academic success with brilliant GCSE results. Myself and the entire teaching and support team here at Harrow Way, could not be prouder of you."

Special guest for the evening was Max Barnett, a former Harrow Way student, now successful photographer and art director. Unfortunately, Max was unable to make the evening having caught Covid, however he did provide an incredible video detailing his career progression from his days at Harrow Way to now successfully working as an art director for luxury department store and online retailer, Selfridges. Imparting some words of advice to the students he said: "Try to enjoy your ride. If interested in something and you want to pursue a career in it, you just need to stick at it. That's the simplest way of looking at it. Perseverance is key."





Year 7 make an impressive start

Year 7 have got off to a fantastic start and I have already had lots of comments on how impressive they have been. The reading programme has been a huge success with all students fully engaged in what is a purposeful and peaceful start to the school day.

I have been really pleased with the Year 7 attendance at after school clubs and inter-house competitions. They are really making the most of all of the extra-curricular opportunities, which will help them make new friends and settle into secondary school quickly.

One of the highlights for me was rewarding some of the students who have really impressed us with their attitude



by organising breakfast with the Headteacher. During tutor they had pastries, donuts, bananas and smoothies and had a nice chat with Mr Serridge. It was a lovely thing to do and I will be organising this more in the future.

Mr Carter, Year Leader for Year 7

House Happenings

The term had hardly started when the race for the House cup began again in earnest. We had dozens of entries for the Halloween Costume competition, all of which were full of fun and imagination.

The third place was taken by Hawks' Bella Hall-Cooper (Year 9) who sketched and then made a fantastic witch costume with matching make-up. Creepy-ing into second place was another Hawk, Caitlyn Coombs (Year 11), who designed a freakily-fantastic Mad Scientist costume complete with goggles, tentacles and even a matching lab coat for his loyal dog! Swooping in to steal top spot was Buzzard's Olivia Sacree (Year 7)

who not only designed a magical fairy costume but even made it from scratch using her trusty sewing machine. >>>

Later in the term, the Christmas card competition drew even more entries with the winning design earning the honour of being Harrow Way's official Christmas card. While the Buzzard's Seren Whatley (Year 7) and the Hawk's Abigail Rapson (Year 9) came up with two lovely designs to take second and third place respectively, it was Kestrel's Zoe Semeha (Year 11) who took first place.

<<< Zoe's beautifully shot image of Christmas decorations will look perfect on the mantelpiece of many members of the Harrow Way family.

We would also like to welcome the new Head of Buzzard House, Mr Massiah. As reigning House Cup holders, Mr Massiah has high standards to maintain this year but we're sure he'll give his all to keep those blue ribbons on the cup.





Harrow Way History department puts Andover on the historical map

Our History department is putting Andover on the historical map as part of a refreshed approach to the school's history curriculum.

By embedding and bringing local history to life in lessons, students are learning that history happened and was made right here in Andover.

Lead History Teacher Mr Bates explains further: "When you are a young secondary school student, it's easy to think that history is something that happened elsewhere. So to change this thinking we have introduced a new element to our Year 7 curriculum called 'Why should we care about the history of our

local area?' The focus of this is The Harrow Way, the ancient Neolithic trackway from Dover to Dorset. Our aim as a department is for students to understand that history didn't happen elsewhere, it happened here in Andover and their school bears the same name as a track which has probably been in existence since the stone age."

The school's History department has also been working with local educational charity Cotswold

Archaeology, developing a lesson which focuses on the Weyhill execution site. Mr Bates has already had a piece published on a history teaching website advising his history peers the value of reaching out to local archaeology units and, along with colleague Mr Bowry, has also submitted a piece to the History Association, the UK's national charity for history.

Fantastic start for Year 8

Year 8 have made a fantastic start. We are well aware that last year was very disrupted for them so hopefully this will be their first full academic year since Year 5. However, this hasn't stopped our fantastic year group from excelling since they have returned.

As the head of teaching and learning, I have the absolute pleasure of visiting many different classrooms and constantly speaking to the students about their curriculum journeys. Whether it be studying Private Peaceful, delving into the world of megacities or understanding the complexity of the Empire, Year 8 has excelled. In each lesson, our students are diligent, curious and keen to share their ideas. They have taken a keen

interest in their studies and understand the importance of education. We have also been hugely impressed with their passion for Wolf Brother and the tutor time reading programme. We know there is nothing more important than developing our students' literacy skills.

Just as impressively, we have been delighted by how many of our year group are getting involved in the full range of extra-curricular clubs. We want all students to be well-rounded individuals and know how involvement in after-school clubs can enhance individuals' confidence. Please keep encouraging this commitment.

Mr Whitworth, Assistant Headteacher, SLT attached to Year 8

News from the LRC



"I love the soft chairs to read in"

"It's looking great in here"

"It's so bright and cheerful"

"It's very colourful and welcoming"



The LRC got behind National Coding Week in September which is an event aimed at prompting people to learn new skills. For the event students could find out more from a dedicated display promoting relevant book titles.

It's been a busy term for our new look LRC with numerous national awareness events and campaigns including Anti-Bullying Week, Black History Month, COP26, Remembrance Day and UK Parliament Week, taking centre stage providing student and staff with lots of interesting resources. Manga books, the graphic novels which originated from Japan, are proving so popular, flying off the shelves at such a great speed, we are having to buy more!

What's particularly great is we're starting to see some new faces as well as welcoming our regular visitors. If you want to see what's happening in the LRC then head over to our website where the LRC publishes its calendar of events.

To celebrate Roald Dahl Day 2021 Year 7s enjoyed some Roald Dahl activities and found out some interesting facts about the author, famous for writing some absolute classics including Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda and The BFG.

Follow the LRC on Twitter
@booksbuzzing18



Year 10 show focus and dedication

It has been wonderful to come back and spend time with you, Year 10. A few months away has really provided a perspective to show I was correct about how wonderful you are as a group of people.

I would like to say thank you to Mrs Woodhead and Mr Fluellen for

taking such brilliant care of you and keeping you in line in my absence.

You have embraced the start of your GCSEs with the focus and dedication I always knew you would. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy spending time with friends and family. I am looking forward to

the new year, when we can come back and continue your journey to greatness.

Merry Christmas Year 10.

Mrs Ford, Year Leader for Year 10

Sports Round-up

Sporting fixtures are back on the agenda and it's great to see students benefit from these invaluable experiences where they are challenged by tough competition but also get to enjoy the sportsmanship and camaraderie of playing competitive sports.



Rugby Club

Numbers at Rugby club have been rising week by week and the enthusiasm from all students is exceptional. The Year 8 and 9s had their first fixture against Wellington and played extremely well despite being away from the game for so long. Year 7 are making great progress and are showing signs of becoming an exceptional team.



Netball Club

We have had excellent attendance at Netball club, with over 60 students across the five years attending each week. Year 9, 10 and 11 fixtures have been taking place this term and players are enjoying the return to competitive inter-school matches. The team have been playing well, with a mixture of wins and losses.



Forthcoming trips **Chelsea Women take on Juventus**

Bath take on Manchester Thunder and Saracen Mavericks in the Netball Superleague.



Football

Year 7 Football has got off to a flying start with high numbers attending training every week. Players are gelling together and making great progress having played five fixtures and two tournaments.

Year 8s have also competed in a number of fixtures including a development tournament to enable more players to represent the school in competitive sports.

Sadly, our county cup runs were cut short across all year groups after being drawn against some very good footballing schools. However, there were some excellent performances, in particular the Year 10 side narrowly losing on penalties. Never a nice way to go out of a cup but the players did themselves proud.

Sporting Clubs

Our sporting clubs continue to prove really popular with high numbers attending Badminton on a Monday, Climbing on a Monday and Friday and Year 7 Fun Friday Club has been a big hit. Good news is we are hoping to include a Basketball club after Christmas as well.

**Got any
suggestions for
extra-curricular
clubs?**
Please come and speak
to any member of
the PE department.

2022 Calendar

Christmas Holiday - Monday 20 December 2021 to Tuesday 4 January 2022

4 Jan 22	Spring term begins
13 Jan 22	Y11 NCS Parent Information Evening
27 Jan 22	3.30-7.30pm Year 9 Parents' Evening
w/c 14 Feb 22	Year 11 Pre-Public Exams (week 1)
w/c 14 Feb 22	Years 7-10 Maths Assessments this week

Spring Half Term - Monday 21 February to Friday 25 February 2022 inclusive

w/c 28 Feb 22	Year 11 Pre-Public Exams (week 2)
3 Mar 22	3.30-7.30pm Year 8 Parents' Evening
8 Mar 22	INSET 4 - School closed to students
9 & 10 Mar 22	Year 11 interviews for Peter Symonds College
10 Mar 22	6.30-8.00pm Year 9 Curriculum Evening
w/c 14 Mar 22	Years 7-10 Progress Reviews published this week
17 Mar 22	3.30-7.30pm Year 11 Parents' Evening
w/c 21 Mar 22	Year 11 Progress Reviews published this week
24 Mar 22	Year 10 Careers Fair - Army Flying Museum
31 Mar 22	6.30-8.00pm Year 8 Curriculum Evening
w/c 4 Apr 22	School Musical this week / All Years Maths Assessments this week
4-8 Apr 22	Year 8/9 Argoed Lwyd Activity Centre residential visit
8 Apr 22	Last day of spring term for students – school finishes at 3.00pm

Easter Holiday - Monday 11 April – Friday 22 April 2022 inclusive

25 Apr 22	Summer term begins
2 May 22	Bank holiday
w/c 23 May 22	Years 7-10 Maths Assessment this week

Summer Half Term - Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June 2022 inclusive

13-17 Jun 22	Year 8/9 Calshot residential visit
w/c 20 Jun 22	Years 7-10 End of Year exams (week 1) / Years 7-10 Progress Reviews published this week
23 Jun 22	3.30-7.30pm Year 7 Parents' Evening
24 Jun 22	Year 11 Leavers' Buffet/Dance
w/c 27 Jun 22	Years 7-10 End of Year exams (week 2)
28 Jun 22	Induction Day and Evening
4 Jul 22	INSET 5 - School closed to students
4-8 Jul 22	Work Experience Week
15 Jul 22	Sports Day
21 Jul 22	Last day of summer term – school finishes at 12.30pm

+ Be Ready
+ Be Respectful
+ Be your Best



Harrow Way
Community School
 Learning for life, success for all

Harrow Way | Andover | Hampshire | SP10 3RH
harrowway.hants.sch.uk