

Harbour Vale School Newsletter



Easter 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

What a busy Spring term we have had! A massive thanks to all staff and students for what has been a really positive and productive few months. A special thank you to Karen, who has been a fantastic deputy head teacher over the past year. I am really pleased to say that she is not leaving us, but is taking on a new role within Harbour Vale, focused on the areas that she is most passionate about. After Easter we will welcome Gilford Sweetenham as deputy headteacher and Charlotte Forni as a classroom teacher. Our students have achieved so much over the past term. We have welcomed many new students to our school during this short space of time also. It has been wonderful to see everyone settle into school and thrive in their own ways. I wish you a happy safe and restful Easter break and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday the 15th of April.

Kelly
Headteacher

Flourishing Friday

This terms winners have included Sandi, Max, Oliver, Eli G, Amalee, Rocky, Ava



Dates for your Diary

Easter Holidays – Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April 2024

Summer Term – School re-opens Monday 15th April 2024

Year 11 Study leave- starts Thursday 9th May 2024

Half Term- Tuesday 28th May to Friday 31st May

End of Summer Term- Wednesday 24th July

Reminders

Attendance

Please ensure that all absences/ lateness/ medical appointments are communicated to the office.

Can students please be on time for their taxi pick up as delays have a knock-on effect on other students and taxi customers.

Uniform

Please can all students arrive at school wearing the correct uniform- Grey Polo-shirts and Navy Sweatshirts with the HVS logo. A preloved sweatshirt will be provided to wear for the day for those not in uniform.

Activities in the area

North Dorset Parent Carer Support Group Drop in sessions for parents/carers of young people (0-25yrs) with SEN or high needs. The opportunity for advice, support or just a listening ear.

Mondays, 9.30-11.30am (term-time only)

Address: Stour Connect, Stour View Close, Sturminster Newton, DT10 1JF

Useful links

This link has of information including free and low cost activities as well as support for parents.

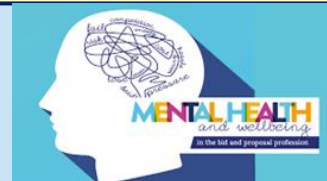
www.dorset.mumbler.co.uk

WHAT IS GILLINGHAM YOUTH COLLECTIVE?

If you're aged 11-19 then the Gillingham Youth Collective is for you. Every year for five years, with funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, we will have a range of activities and events for you to take part in – for FREE.

Gillingham Youth Collective
(gycollective.com)

Mental Health and Wellbeing



This term there have been lots of opportunities for our students to participate in activities that have been beneficial for their mental health and wellbeing. These include:

- KS4 sexual health workshops
- Gore Farm Forest School
- Work experience at Oliver's Café
- Mental health and wellbeing workshops
- Aiming higher club
- Badminton at Oxley's Leisure Centre
- Off-site tennis and badminton
- Face painting techniques during Enrichment

ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) sessions continue to be offered where a need is identified. The aim of these sessions is to impact positively on students' emotional literacy and wellbeing. ELSAs understand the barriers to learning that some young people might have, and relationships are key in helping our students to feel safe and nurtured. This relational approach is one of our fundamental principles as we continue to create a reflective and therapeutic space for all at Harbour Vale School.

ELSA is usually a short-term focus intervention with clear aims and lasts between six to twelve weeks. SMART targets are set when a young person begins ELSA and these make the intervention specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time limited. Pre and post assessments enable us to monitor impact on the young person and to help us to know how successful the intervention has been for them.

In addition to ELSA, we have two school counsellors in every Tuesday afternoon and one counsellor on Thursday afternoons. Our counsellors follow a person-centred approach with sessions that are led by the young person. **Please ensure you have given written permission for your child to access the school counsellors.**

If you are interested in learning more about the types of support we offer your child, please contact me at: karen.blatch@harbourvale.dorset.sch.uk

We are currently implementing SNAP-B (Special Needs Assessment Profile-Behaviour) at Harbour Vale which is used to organise all that is known about the social, emotional, and behavioural factors that may be affecting a young person. SNAP-B gives us a much clearer understanding of a young person's difficulties that may result in barriers to their learning. SNAP-B gathers information via questionnaires that are completed by school, family/carers, and the student themselves to produce a profile of both strengths and needs across a young person's relationship with self; relationships with peers; and relationships with adults. SNAP-B uses the information from these questionnaires to suggest strategies that give focused and specific advice about how to help a young person overcome identified difficulties as well as further developing their strengths. **Please ensure you have completed the form or given written permission for us to complete SNAP-B assessments and complete the parent assessment when you receive it.**

Please contact me if you have any further questions regarding SNAP-B.

Take care and have a lovely Easter break,

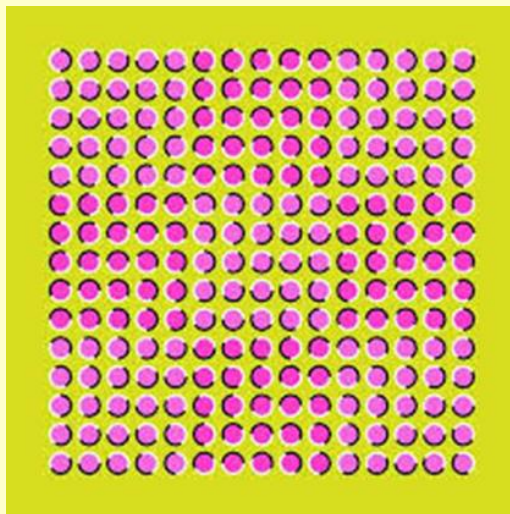
Karen Blatch (Deputy Headteacher)

Biology

In Biology we are learning about how our bodies maintain homeostasis. This includes how our eyes take in light through photoreceptors and how our bodies maintain balance through our equilibrioceptors.

Look at the image on the right.

How does it make you feel?

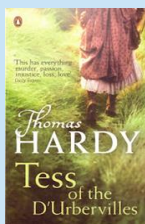


English

In English, **Key Stage 3** have been reading and watching *Romeo & Juliet* by William Shakespeare and looking at how this 400-year-old play is still relevant today – even when it does include the music of Elton John and gnomes...



Year 10 have been looking at extracts from locally set *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Dorset's very own Thomas Hardy – some lively debates on equality and the politics of gender both in Hardy's Day and our own.



In **Year 11** students have recently completed their mock exams and are now consolidating their knowledge as we recap all the skills they need to succeed, question by question.

Some useful resources:

[GCSE English Language - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)
[English Language Paper 2 - YouTube](#)

PHOTO GALLERY

What a fantastic afternoon at Hummer Wood learning to build hammocks and shelters in the great outdoors



Some of our students attended a Careers Fair at Dorchester Learning Centre.



Some Year 11's went on a day trip to London and visited the Tower of London



Face painting in enrichment



Planting herb seeds in enrichment

Key Contacts

Main Office 01935 814582

Email: office@harbourvale.dorset.sch.uk

Ace Taxi's: 01747 821111

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