



EASTER 2025

Newsletter

STAY IN THE LOOP WITH UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!

An Update from the Headteacher



Dear Parents & Carers,

As we wrap up another successful term, we want to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic progress our Year 11 students have made as they prepare for their upcoming exams. It's an exciting time, and we encourage all students to stay focused and make the most of the remaining weeks.

We have also had some great trips and visits this term which have been very beneficial and students have represented Harbour Vale in a way that has made us proud. These experiences are designed to enrich our students' education and help them embrace learning outside the classroom. Be sure to keep an eye out for more information on more opportunities next term!

Additionally, we want to highlight the importance of our school uniform.

Wearing our uniform not only fosters a sense of community but also encourages students to take pride in their school. Let's continue to support each other by adhering to our uniform policy.

Thank you for your continued support, and let's make the rest of this school year a great one!

Kelly

Headteacher

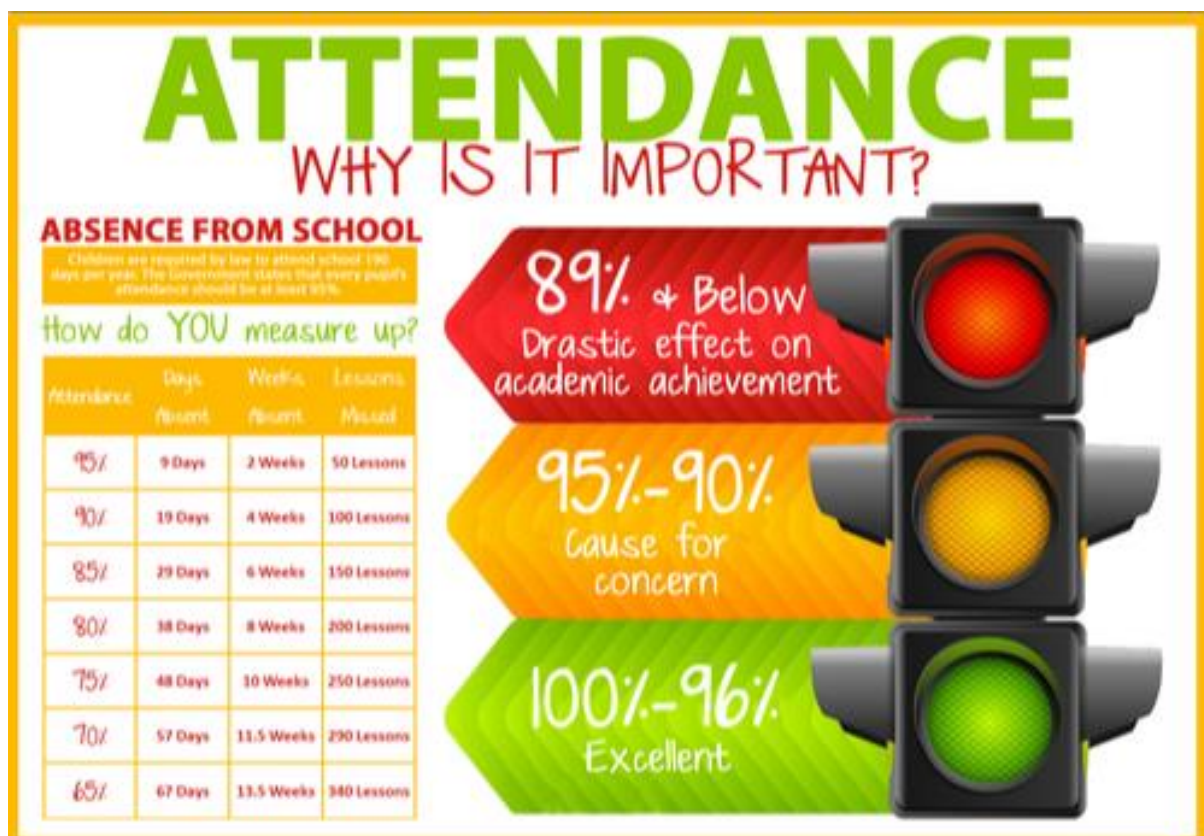
Reminders



Attendance

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

Can students please be on time, ready and waiting 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 correct uniform- grey polo shirts, navy sweatshirt with the HVS logo, black trousers and black shoes. A preloved sweatshirt will be provided to those no in uniform.

Please can any unwanted uniform be returned to the school office.

Dates for the Diary



Easter Holidays- Monday 7th April - Monday 21st April

Summer Term- School re-opens Tuesday Tuesday 22nd April

Half Term- Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May

Year 11 study leave- starts after Half Term- 2nd June

End of Summer Term- Wednesday 23rd July, last day

School Trips & Activities



Yeovil Town Football Club Visit Inspires Success at Harbour Vale

Football at Harbour Vale is more than just a sport—it's become a source of pride and motivation for our pupils. The enthusiasm and dedication shown by the football team have had a positive impact both on the pitch and in the classroom.

One of the biggest benefits has been increased engagement in our Occupational Studies programme, particularly in modules like *Participation in Sport* and *Planning a Fitness Programme*. The excitement around the football club has motivated pupils to develop their fitness and explore the wider benefits of a healthy lifestyle and starting to look at careers in the sports industry.

To build on this enthusiasm, we arranged a visit to Yeovil Town Football Club. Pupils enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour and took part in talks about healthy lifestyles and careers in the football industry, learning that even if playing professionally isn't an option, there are plenty of ways to turn a passion for football into a career.

On the pitch, we recently played a friendly against Buckler's Mead Academy. The skills we practiced in training really paid off, helping us build an early lead

on the tight 5-a-side pitch. Buckler's Mead fought back well and after they equalized early in the second half the game became a tense battle to the final whistle and a perfectly curled free kick from Harbour Vale sealed the win. It was great to see the team showing good sportsmanship afterward, shaking hands and sharing supportive words with the opposing players.

We're incredibly proud of how the football club is making a difference at Harbour Vale. It's fostering a sense of belonging, building self-esteem and encouraging pupils to set goals both on and off the pitch. The success of the club is a testament to the power of sport to inspire young people and create new opportunities.

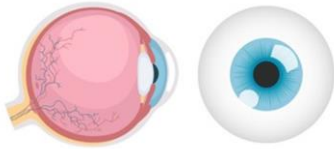


Key stage 3 made a bird table, joining and forming wood DT



Science

In KS4 this term we have been exploring Homeostasis and Response, including topics such as the brain, the eye and the human nervous system. Students all showed off their scientific skills and bravery when we had a go at dissecting sheep eyes!



Child development

In KS4 this term students have been working hard to complete their first piece of coursework, writing about children's growth and development, exploring the factors which can affect this. They have shown a great sense of responsibility for their learning and presentation of their work. Well done!



Creative Arts

Students on the Creative Arts pathway have been looking at the work of Jenny Foster and recreating her highly stylised and decorative animal forms.





Harbour Vale school Returns to the Forest

Embracing Outdoor Learning at Hummer Woods

With the arrival of better weather, our students have eagerly returned to Hummer Woods, thanks to the kind invitation from the Ernest Cook Trust. This return marks another exciting chapter in our forest school education program, where students develop essential skills such as independence, resilience, teamwork, and oracy.

Building Practical Skills in the Great Outdoors

During their time at Hummer Woods, students engage in a variety of activities that hone their practical skills. They select and collect wood, build structures, and create campfires to cook on. Mastering the use of a flint and steel, as well as the art of hammock setting and tarp rigging, are just a few of the hands-on skills they acquire.

Enhancing Navigation and Literary Skills

In addition to these practical tasks, students also enhance their map reading abilities through orienteering exercises. A unique twist to their outdoor adventure includes discussing Shakespeare as they locate letters spread across the site to construct words and sayings.

This immersive experience not only enriches their learning but also fosters a deeper connection with nature. Our students are thriving in this environment, gaining valuable skills that will serve them well in all areas of life.

English

Some of our Year 11 students have already taken an English Functional Skills Level 1 exam and succeeded in obtaining a qualification: this fantastic achievement has really set them up for their forthcoming GCSE exams next term.

Flourishing Friday

This terms winners have included; Persephone, Gracie, Amalee, Annie, Tyler & Cody

Exploring Encryption: Keeping Online Communication Safe

Students at School Dive into Online Safety

In an effort to understand how to stay safe online, students at our school have been delving into the fascinating world of encryption. This exploration is a crucial part of their Digital Functional Skills course, where they learn how their online communications are protected from attacks such as the notorious "man-in-the-middle."

Understanding Key Technical Terminology

As part of their studies, students have become familiar with essential encryption terminology, including:

- **Encrypt:** The process of converting plain text into cipher text to prevent unauthorized access.
- **Decrypt:** The process of converting cipher text back into plain text.
- **Plain Text:** The original, readable text before encryption.
- **Cipher Text:** The encrypted text that is not easily readable without the decryption key.
- **Key:** A piece of information used in the encryption and decryption processes.



Hands-On Experience with Encryption Techniques

To put theory into practice, students have used encryption keys to break both the Pigpen and Caesar ciphers, extracting the plain text from these encoded messages. This hands-on experience not only reinforces their understanding of encryption but also highlights the importance of digital security in today's world.

Through these activities, students are gaining valuable skills that will help them navigate the digital landscape safely and securely.

Safeguarding



● Red Pill – “I see the truth.” Used in toxic male spaces to mean waking up to supposed hidden ‘truths’ about women and society, often linked to misogynistic ideologies.

● Blue Pill – Represents those who are “blind to the truth” or still believe in mainstream views about relationships and gender dynamics.

💣 Dynamite Emoji – An “exploding red pill,” meaning someone is a radicalised incel.

🍲 Kidney Bean – A symbol linked to incel culture, sometimes mocking women.

100 100 Emoji – Tied to the “80/20 rule,” the belief that 80% of women are only attracted to 20% of men.

🕳 Black Hole – Used to express depression, hopelessness, or being sucked into negative online spaces.

🌪 Tornado – Represents chaos or feeling overwhelmed, sometimes used to indicate mental distress.

🐸 Frog Emoji – Associated with alt-right and extremist meme culture, often linked to Pepe the Frog, which has been co-opted by some toxic online groups.

🦅 Eagle – A symbol of extreme nationalism, sometimes used in far-right online spaces.

💀 Skull – While often just slang for “that’s funny” or “I’m dead (from laughing),” in certain groups, it can signal darker themes like nihilism or self-harm.

💖 💗 💙 💜 💛 Heart Colours – Not just about love!

💖 = Love

💗 = Lust

💙 = “Are you interested?”

💜 = Interested but not in sex

💛 = “You’ll be okay”

So what should parents do?

❶ Get Curious, Not Combative – Ask open-ended questions: “I saw something about emojis meaning different things. Have you heard of this?” Keep the conversation light.

❷ Create a Judgment-Free Zone – If your child feels like they’ll be punished for opening up, they won’t. Make it clear you’re there to listen, not just lecture.

❸ Decode Together – Ask them to explain their digital world. What do different symbols mean? Who are the influencers they follow? Don’t assume—ask.

❹ Teach Critical Thinking – Help them question online content. “Why do you think some groups push this idea? Who benefits?” Arm them with questions, not just rules.

❺ Monitor Without Spying – Open conversations work better than secret surveillance. Make checking in on their online spaces a normal part of parenting, not a crisis move.

❻ Be Real About Manipulation – Explain how toxic online groups groom young people by making them feel special, included, or like they have ‘insider knowledge.’

7 Build Their Offline Confidence – The more they feel valued and confident in the real world, the less they'll seek validation in dangerous online spaces.

The digital world is evolving faster than most adults can keep up. But we don't have to be in the dark!

Key Contacts



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Social Media

Follow us on:

Facebook: Harbour Vale School

Instagram: [harbour_vale_school](https://www.instagram.com/harbour_vale_school)

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