



THE HAVEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024



Headteacher's message:

As we approach the end of the spring term I would like to thank you all for your continued support. As you know, when we all work together our young people make greater progress.

Some success stories this term include; the Havens participation in team sports such as cricket and boca, where our students displayed fantastic leadership and team work, achievements in AQA unit awards and our first ever geography field trip. I never fail to be impressed by the amazing work our students and staff do and I could not be prouder to be the Headteacher of such an amazing school!

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the school newsletter and that you have a good Easter break . Let's hope that the rain finally stops!

Be kind to yourselves.

Mrs. Stevenson

Welcoming new staff members to The Haven:

I would like to introduce myself as Miss. Arrowsmith. I teach both P.E and maths across KS3 to KS5. I have been teaching for nearly 15 years, which has passed by incredibly quick! Prior to teaching, I played semi-professional football for Aston Villa and Manchester City ladies. I was also in the Royal Logistics Corps for 10 years.

One of my most memorable moments was completing a skydive, jumping 11,000 feet out of a plane! I also enjoy racing motorbikes in my spare time.

My name is Mrs. Frost, and I have recently joined The Haven as a teaching assistant. My background is predominantly within sports, having completed my degree in physical education and also playing and working for Stoke City FC.

When I am not working, I enjoy spending my time with my family; walking or cycling, and travelling. A travel goal I have for the future is to go and view the Northern Lights.



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Key stage 3 Science:

At the start of the Spring term, the Key stage 3 students started their physics topic on space. They had the opportunity to visit The ThinkTank science museum in Birmingham. This is what some of the students reported back:

“We visited The ThinkTank museum as part of our science topic. On the third floor, there were lots of stuffed (fake) animals such as polar bears, deer, and leopards to explain evolution. It also displayed old fossils and skeletons of dinosaurs. For example, there was a triceratops. On the top floor, we saw equipment based around space such as rovers, robots and drones. We visited the planetarium and learnt about solar flares and constellations. My favourite part was seeing the robots and learning about how they were built and how they work.”



Tomas (Year 8)

“On Friday 19th January 2024, we visited The ThinkTank museum. On the bottom floor, they had displays of cars, buses, planes, bikes and an old train. It was showing lots of machinery from the past and different ways of transport. Some of



the machinery was powered by water and coal, and one of them had to be powered by people themselves to make them work. The second floor had some old jewelry and lots of materials that were used in the past, but also nowadays. These included copper, iron, steel, silver and sometimes gold. Our favourite part of the museum was the planetarium and the display of both extinct animals and ones that still roam the Earth today.”

Lily (Year 8) and Chloe (Year 9)



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English:

Key stage 3 students have been working on a topic based around nature and used a description of a bear attack by Guy Grievess as inspiration to write their own description of an encounter with a dangerous animal in the wild...

A few years ago, I was strolling the desert of Texas when I came across a nest of deadly black widow spiders. I slowly approached the natured nest, not wanting the scare them away. I knelt down on one knee to get a better view and the first thing I noticed was its threaded like legs trooping around on its sticky, gooey web. I saw this it was coming towards me, hence I pit my hand out and picked it up. It felt so smooth and it was a black I had never seen. I put it back and carried on strolling through the desert, wondering what creatures I would find next...



Rayhaan (Year 8)

Key stage 4 students have been practising answering Functional Skills exam style questions...

Recently, me and my family visited Penkridge Park and I am here to speak about my opinion and what could be improved.

The first positive is how clean and friendly the park is. When I was there, I could see no rubbish, and most of the equipment was made out of wood which is environmentally perfect. The metal fencing that surrounds the perimeter prevents children from escaping sue to the one exit in and out.



The second positive is the variety of activities and equipment; the use of gazebos, slides and swings to name a few... My favourite is the zip wire, but you have to run up the ramp to get onto it.

Overall, the place is wonderful for all ages, maybe a few more teenage structures would be mice, and also more safety guidelines. It is a magical place for all ages and I surely recommend it.

Dan (Year 10)



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Careers:

As part of our work with Sixth form and careers, some of our Sixth form have started some work with **MENCAP**. **MENCAP** is a charity that supports students with EHCPs into work and training. This is a great opportunity for some of our current Sixth Form, who are looking to move on from The Haven in the summer and we are excited to support them on their journey and develop the skills they have learnt here.

We are also organising a trip to **NCSG Newcastle College Campus** shortly after the Easter break. This will be an exciting opportunity for some **Y11** and Sixth form students to go and have a look around the campus and speak to staff about the range of courses and subjects on offer.

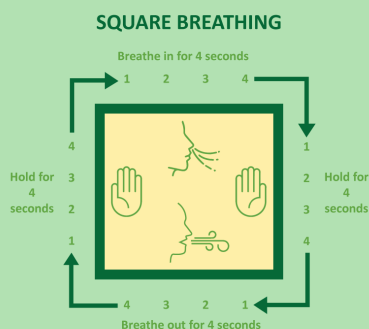
Whilst many students were sitting functional skills exams in February, Mrs O'Grady took a few **KS4** students to visit **Hanyard's Dairy farm** in **Stafford**. These students had the opportunity to feed the **45** baby calves and also took a tour around the milking parlour. Two of the students have plans to apply to agricultural college's after they leave the Haven.



PSHE:

In **January**, we started our new focus for **PSHE** – **Mental Health and Wellbeing**. This is such an important topic for young people and as staff we wanted to equip our students with the skills to be able to look after their own mental health and wellbeing. We looked at different ways to look after ourselves and had the opportunity to practice gratitude,

journaling and breathing techniques, amongst other strategies. We finished with students having their own 'toolbox' of strategies to use on a daily/weekly basis to ensure their self-care was a valuable part of their routine. In addition to this, some of our **KS4** and **KS5** students achieved their **AQA Unit Award in Mental Health Awareness**. Well done to all our students who achieved this!



The focus for this half term is finance. We aim to equip students with the knowledge and understanding of some basic skills for managing their own finances. We are going to look at budgeting and debt and look at understanding pay slips in detail. We will also look at online payments and fraud. Our overall aim is to give students the skills to confidently manage their own finances, a key life skill for any adult and another step towards preparing our students for adulthood



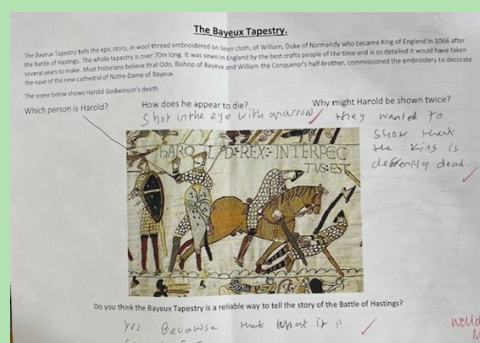
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Humanities:

Key Stage 3 and 4 Humanities students have spent this term learning about Medieval Britain in 1066. They have produced some fantastic work on the Battle of Hastings and the Bayeux Tapestry. Students have completed some extended writing on how William the Conqueror overcame his problems to takeover and rule England, including learning about the Feudal System and the Domesday Book. A huge well done to the 6 students who will be receiving a AQA Unit Award for their history work on this topic.



Understanding the Bayeux Tapestry by Mav (Year 9)

GCSE Geography:

After completing our unit of study on Natural Hazard and Climate change, this term students have been preparing for their fieldwork at Cannock Chase and in Stafford. Students need to visit two different places and collect their own data. Well done to our students who took part – It was a full on day, with lots of walking and tasks to complete. Everyone did really well and should be proud that they participated.





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Physical Education:

This term for Key Stage 3 has been table tennis and squash at Stafford leisure centre. All the pupils have improved their ability of both sports and have achieved AQA unit awards. Pupil's behaviour has been excellent when in a public place and it has been a pleasure to teach them.

Key stage 4 PE has been mainly in the gym at Stafford leisure centre. Pupils have gained more knowledge and experience of the gym and how to work different parts of the body. Pupils have shown respect for both the gym and members of the public who have also been there. The plan next term is to carry on with the gym and then look to start their team sport lessons as we approach may half term.

The BTEC group have a great term with a lot recap lessons and practice assessment lessons. They have shown fantastic determination, retention of knowledge and they have now started on their official assessment 1!

Outdoor Education

Outdoor education this term has been at Beaudesert activity centre. Pupils are learning many skills such as team building, resilience and all the physical skills that come from doing the different activities. So far this term pupils have taken part in pedal karts, team building activities, crate stacking, caving and many more. As we approach May half term, pupils will also get the opportunity to try the water sport activities that they offer.

Staff competitions

This half term has seen quite the competitive side of a few staff members, who have been competing to claim the official Haven table tennis trophy. Previously belonging

to Mr. C. Marshall, it was time for him to hand his title over to our new table tennis champion– Mr. T. Morris. He and Miss. Arrowsmith battled it out relentlessly and tensions were high, but ultimately, he came out on top.

Miss. Arrowsmith struggled with losing, but was happy to retrieve her bat from the field after support from other staff members.





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Exams department

This half term saw a number of students sitting their Maths and English Functional Skills exams, both level 1 and 2!

Some of our students had never sat an official exam before, and they showed great bravery, resilience and determination whilst undergoing such a mentally demanding two days. Some of our students had only sat their level 1 exams in November, so to be willing to give their level 2 exams a go so soon after is something very admirable.

We'll done to each student who sat these exams, and thank you to all other students, plus our incredible staff team for enabling the exam students to have a quiet and calm atmosphere to achieve their best.

Mrs. Westwood and Miss. Seward

Everyone at The Haven would like to wish our students and their families a restful break.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in two weeks for our final term of this academic year!



