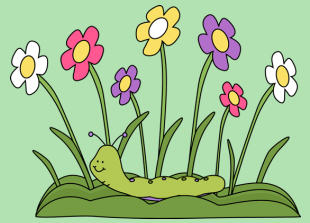


THE HAVEN SCHOOL

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Headteacher's message:

As we come to the close of another amazing, fun-packed term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the highlights and successes we've shared as a school community.

This term has been full of achievements, and I am particularly proud of our students for their outstanding efforts. A true highlight was our victory in the cricket tournament – an excellent display of teamwork and skill. It was also an honor for our team to be asked to represent Staffordshire, showcasing the talent and dedication within our school.

In MMA, Sam has continued to support our students to make fantastic progress, and we are excited to see the new kit he has arranged for us. A big congratulations to all our students who have sat their functional skills exams for the first time. Many of them faced the challenge of formal exams with courage and determination, overcoming any anxieties they had, which is a huge achievement in itself.

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 students thoroughly enjoyed the zoo trip, and it was fantastic to see how engaged they were during the education session. Their enthusiasm and depth of knowledge were impressive! We also continue to be inspired by our Year 11 and 12 students as they explore their future pathways. Several trips to local colleges and Mencap have provided them with invaluable insights into the next steps after school, and I can't wait to see where their futures lead.

Another standout moment was the GCSE psychology trip to Staffordshire University. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience university life and broaden their horizons, further reinforcing our commitment to raising aspirations and providing experiences that inspire.

Cultural development remains an essential part of our curriculum, and our recent theatre trips have been a fantastic way to broaden our students' cultural capital, helping them to engage with the arts and learn in new and exciting ways.

As we approach the Easter break, I want to extend my warmest wishes to everyone. I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable holiday. To our Year 11 and 12 students who will be sitting their GCSEs next term, I wish you the best of luck – you've got this!

Happy Easter to all, and thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Mrs Stevenson





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Cricket tournament:

On 19th March, The Haven took part in the Staffordshire SEND Indoor Cricket Tournament at Fenton Manor. Having shared the title last year, the team were keen to go one better this year and had been practising hard in the corridor and at Rowley Park.

The opening game saw us up against local rivals Walton Hall. Despite some initial nerves, we ran out relatively comfortable winners after some disciplined bowling and fielding and sensible batting without conceding a wicket. This set us up for big wins against Watermill and Blackfriars and captain Jake raising the Lords Taverner's Trophy.



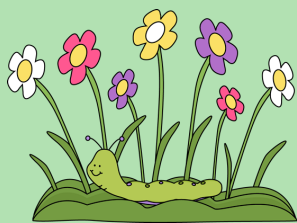
This was a great all-round team performance with everybody playing their part.

Highlights included

Lewis (on his debut) switch-hitting his first ball for 4 ,and Mav breaking the fire alarm with one of his many sixes!

All the players were an absolute credit to the school, and we look forward to their continued success in the outdoor tournaments.

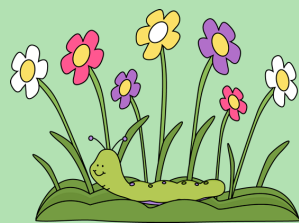
Stop Press - following consistently strong tournament performances, The Haven have been asked to represent Staffordshire in a regional tournament later this Summer. Look out for more details in the next newsletter.



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Football tournament:

On 12th February, 10 schools were represented at the annual five-a-side football tournament at Biddulph Leisure Centre, organised by The Haven. It was a full-on day, with each school playing each other in a league format.

The games were very competitive with some great skills on display along with excellent fair play. Despite tough competition, newcomers Emerge were awarded the award for positive attitude.

The final league table saw a strong Abbey Hill side top the table, remaining undefeated and only conceding one goal.

Walton Hall were runners up, closely followed by The Haven in third place.

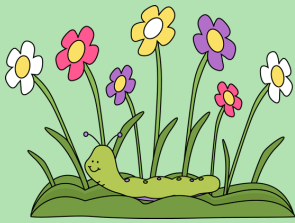
Overall, a great, if exhausting day!



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 EHCP's into work and training. Last year, Mrs Westwood supported several of our young people in working with MENCAP and they are thriving this year in work placements and training placements and some of our young people have been offered jobs. 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.

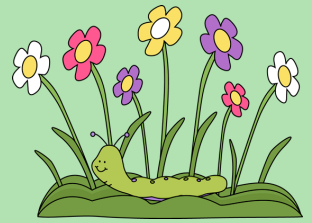
We are also organising a trip to NCSG Newcastle and Stafford College Campus' shortly after the Easter break. This will be an exciting opportunity for some Y11 and Sixth form students to go and have a look around the campus and speak to staff about the range of courses and subjects on offer.



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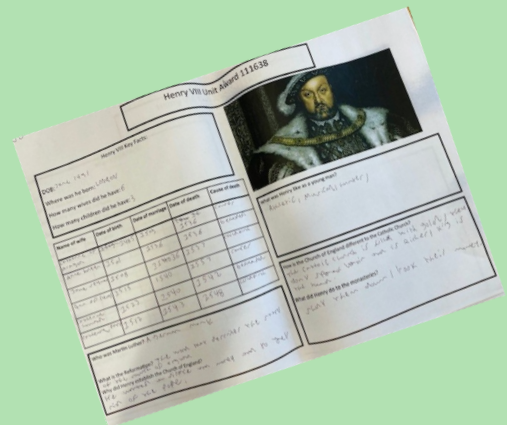
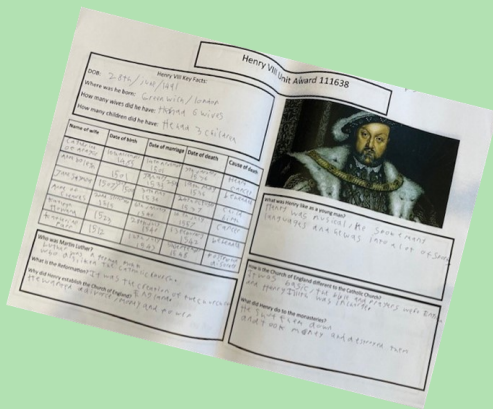
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Humanities:

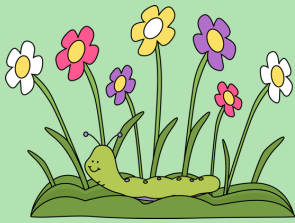
Congratulations to our Key Stage 3 and 4 Humanities students who have worked hard to complete an AQA Unit Award on Henry VIII. Students spent this term learning about the Tudors, and have enjoyed investigating Henry, Bloody Mary and Elizabeth I. I have been very impressed by the enthusiasm that students have shown, and the quality of their work has been fantastic.



GCSE students in Geography have been working hard to complete the final unit of the course called Economic World. Students have learnt about the economies of India and the UK. We will be carrying our GCSE fieldwork just before Easter and then students will be sitting their exams. Those sitting their exams this summer have been given exam prep packs to help support them at home. Good luck to all sitting exams this summer, you have worked really hard and should be proud of yourselves!

Psychology:

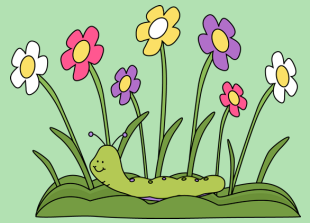
This September, we started the GCSE Psychology course with some of our lovely Y11's and Sixth Formers. They have taken to this amazingly and I'm so impressed by their work ethic and attitude to learning in this subject. Before Easter, we have arranged a visit to Staffordshire University to visit the Psychology department. We will be having a tour around the campus and a psychology workshop. We are really excited about this opportunity and hope to have more visits like this in the future!



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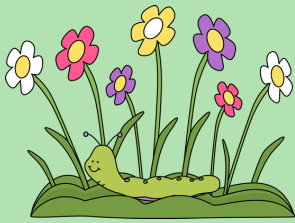
Vocational Studies:

In January we started our new unit in Vocational Studies – unit 19 – creating a document. We have analysed a number of professional documents and now are starting to write our own CV's. Students are doing really well with this and already are thinking about using these to get small part-time jobs or work experience.

PSHE:

In January, we started our new focus for PSHE – Relationships and Sexual Education. This is such an important topic for young people as they navigate growing up and as staff, we wanted to equip our students with knowledge and understanding in this area and empower them in their own choices and decision-making. We are so impressed with students' attitude to learning and engagement during these lessons. Students have had such a mature approach and have really been able to discuss some important and relevant topics during these sessions.

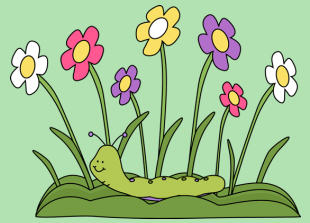
The focus for this half term is careers. Key Stage 3 students have started to look at personal skills and qualities and mapping these to different types of jobs. Key Stage 4 students have been looking at options beyond school education – college, apprenticeships etc... They have also been engaged in some online virtual experience from 'Youth Employment' which has proved to be really interesting. Key Stage 5 have been enrolled in an online course from 'Youth Employment' called 'Journey to Work'. This online course enables students to think about the skills and qualities that they already have and develop these in different areas to become more 'work ready.' Students are working so well independently, and I am impressed with their level of commitment to the course and their ability to work on their own.



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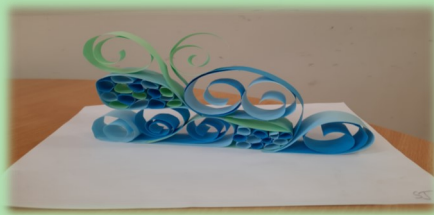
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Art:

Over the past term the students in **Key Stage 3** have had fun learning a variety of different art techniques using paper: weaving, origami and mosaic art to name just a few. They have also enjoyed creating sculptures out of foil and clay.

Key stage 4 and 6th Form have completed a unit on sculpture and have had the opportunity to create their own sculptures out of foil, wire, clay and cardboard. We certainly do have some talented sculptors here at The Haven! So many of the students showed great resilience, when completing a sculpture out of paper to represent the piece of artwork by Hokusai, 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa'.

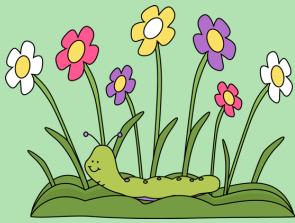


Trinity Arts award:

Five art students from both **Year 11** and **Sixth Form** enjoyed the first Haven art trip to Trentham Gardens, as part of their **Bronze Trinity Arts Award** qualification.

The weather was very kind to us and it made discovering the different sculptures around the vast lake in the gardens even more pleasurable. The students really enjoyed the fact that art can be outside amongst nature and blend into its surroundings. The wire fairies by the sculptor Robin Wight were voted the favourite sculptures of the day by our students.

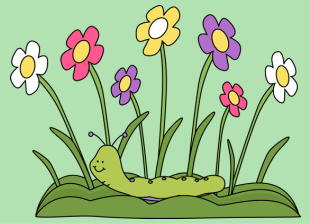




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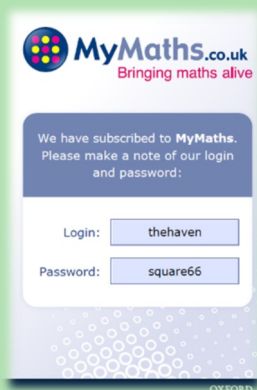
Maths:

Students have been working hard for their upcoming Functional Skills and GCSE exams next term. They have been using a variety of revision techniques including utilising our MyMaths subscription and using the Corbettmaths website. These are both accessible for students at home via these links:

Home - MyMaths

Please ask your child's keyworker for their MyMaths login if they do not know it

Corbettmaths – Videos, worksheets, 5-a-day and much more

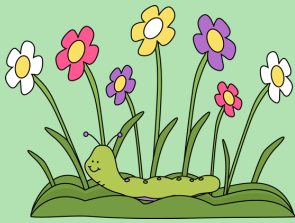


Lexia

This year, we have started using a new package to support literacy development. Lexia® PowerUp Literacy® is a computer-based program that tailors instruction to each child's specific needs. The activities in PowerUp support and build on our English classroom curriculum, focusing on three areas essential to becoming a proficient reader: word study, grammar, and comprehension.

We are really pleased to have the opportunity to use this in school—it can also be used at home for an even greater boost. Details about this have been sent home, but please contact the school office if you would like help in supporting your child to access this.

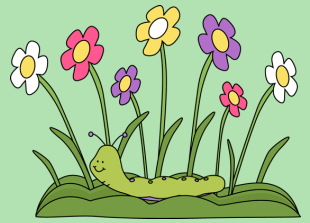




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KS3 Science trip:



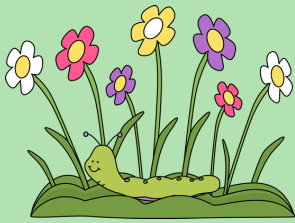
The KS3 students marked the end of their Biodiversity unit by taking a trip to the Peak Wildlife Park.

The day began with a visit to the penguins, who were waddling around and diving into the water. We took a stroll through the park where we spotted some red pandas, and had the chance to see the polar bears who have recently moved to Staffordshire.

A member of the park staff gave us an interesting talk about the lemurs in the park, teaching us about their habitats, diet and the challenges they face in the wild. It was a great way to deepen our understanding of biodiversity and animal conservation.

The highlight of the day was definitely feeding the wallabies. Everyone had the chance to hand-feed them and get up close to these lovely creatures. We ended the day on the giant bouncy castle, and got to pet the huge Flemish Giant rabbits.

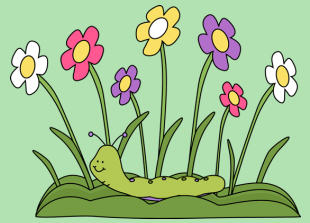




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English

KS3 students have been reading some extracts from a range of Young Adult fiction, nominated for the Carnegie Medal 2025. We have been focusing on how the characters are presented and the theme of power. Some students have produced some creative writing in response to what they have read, making sure that they appeal to the reader's senses; here is a lovely piece by Jacob:

Setting the Bin On Fire

Everyone was setting the lynx can on fire.

We were in the forest by the park, it was a sunny day the can exploded like a firework.

We made a base with the stuff from the construction site it was made out of wooden pallets and the smell of the smoke smells of lynx. I felt the warmth on my face. We were laughing our heads off.

KS4 Functional Skills students have been working on a formal presentation on a topic of their choice. Subjects range from the artist Tate McCrae to the Seven Wonders of the World. Here is a section of Ace's where she discusses the art that she loves (especially statues):

•The Caryatids of the Erechtheion

6 women holding up a building in Greece.

•The theory is that the women betrayed Greece when the Persians arrived.

•The statue is from 420-415 BC which is 2444 years ago.

•It was sculpted by Diogenes, he was only 20 years old when he made it.

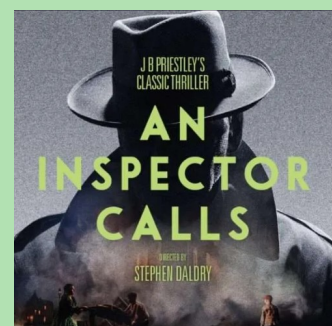
Year 10 GCSE students have begun their study of the text, 'Blood Brothers', focusing on the key characters and their relevance to the play.

Year 11 have completed their study of 'An Inspector Calls' and 'A Christmas Carol' and are currently completing work on 'Macbeth' and the poetry anthology.

Theatre Visits

We have been lucky enough to run two theatre trips this term, both to the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

On 23rd January, 10 KS4 students attended a performance of 'Blood Brothers'. It was a great experience and some of them have now started studying it for GCSE. Then on 6th March the four Year 11 Literature students attended a performance of 'An Inspector Calls'. This gave them new insights to the text and acted as a great revision aid.





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Breaking News

Just as we finished this edition of the newsletter, Oli and Corey arrived in their new MMA t-shirts so we had to include them. Along with a number of other Haven students, the lads have been training with Sam, both at his gym (UTC Staffs in Cannock) and here at Dunston. Sam has very kindly arranged for his students to receive some specially designed kit which the boys are proudly modelling here:



We're really grateful to Sam for these, and also for the work he has done with our students. As Corey told us, "MMA keeps you fit, teaches you self defence and helps you to be yourself."

