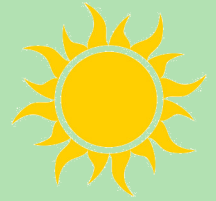


THE HAVEN SCHOOL

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Headteacher's message:

As we bring this academic year to a close, I am filled with immense pride as I reflect on the incredible journey we've all shared here at The Haven.

This term has been packed with memorable milestones and special moments. Our students did us proud by competing in the Inter-County Cricket Competition, showing great skill, teamwork and sportsmanship. Another historic moment for us was participating our first ever all-girls sporting fixture — a brilliant step forward for equality and participation in sport at The Haven!

Another first this term was watching our Key Stage 4 and 5 students explore the world of higher education during their visit to Wolverhampton University. The excitement and realisation that university is truly within reach was a joy to witness. They returned motivated and full of ambition — exactly what we strive to foster.

We've also seen transformation in the most literal sense thanks to the incredible work with Darryl and the fantastic team effort at Lower Drayton Farm. Students worked collaboratively to create something meaningful and lasting, an outside space they can all enjoy — a true testament to their dedication and creativity.

Exams season saw our KS4 and KS5 students sitting a huge number of exams, and they handled the pressure with such determination. They should be incredibly proud of themselves. Behind them stood our KS3 students, who showed exemplary behaviour, maturity and kindness — supporting their peers with quiet encouragement. And, of course, our incredible staff, who patiently guided anxious students and supported them to give their very best. It is during times like these that we see the strength of our school community shine brightest.

A special thank you goes to Mr T. Morris for his *outstanding contribution to the staff rounders team* — a team player through and through!

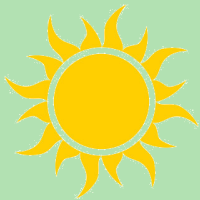
We do, however, have to say a fond farewell to Mrs Ratheram, who is retiring (again!) after 8 incredible years at The Haven. Her dedication and passion for Maths have shaped the futures of so many students, and her legacy will live on as our new and developing Maths team continues to grow from strength to strength. Thank you, Mrs Ratheram — you will be greatly missed.

As we look ahead, I can't wait to welcome all our returning students back on Tuesday, 3rd September, and to greet our new students on Wednesday, 4th September.

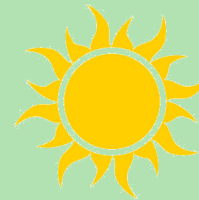
Until then — have an amazing summer. Be kind to yourselves, stay safe, and most importantly, have fun.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Stevenson



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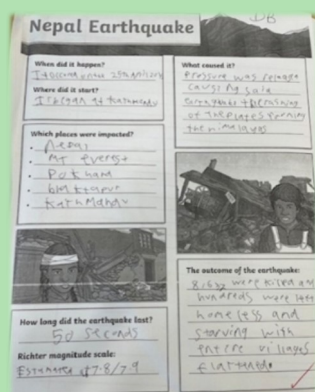
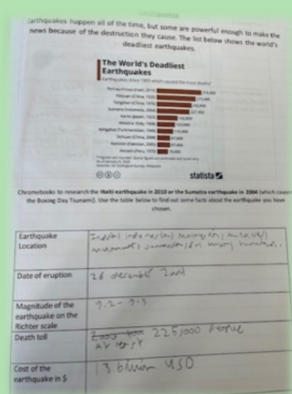
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Humanities

Key stage 3 and 4 Humanities students have spent this last term learning about earthquakes and volcanoes. They have completed some detailed research into the Nepal earthquake, the Boxing Day tsunami and eruption of Chances Peak in Montserrat. Their research skills have been excellent.

Several key stage 4 students have now started to work towards their GCSE Geography qualification, which they will continue with in September, this is a testament to their hard work and commitment. Well done to all of the Humanities students this year – You have shown interest and motivation towards completing your work, an enquiring mind and your understanding of both History and Geography has developed this year. Have a lovely summer to you all.

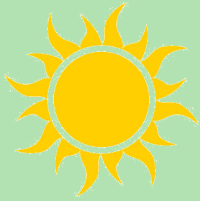
Some images of students' independent work in Humanities.



Earlier this term GCSE Geography students spent the day at the stream on Cannock Chase and in Stafford collecting data and practicing fieldwork skills. Students worked really well, building their team work skills as well as developing their knowledge. Some images here of both students and staff getting busy in the stream!



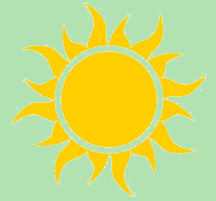
This summer term has also seen students working hard to prepare for their exams. 8 students have sat their Geography GCSE exams. They have worked hard, stayed focused and determined. I am very proud of them all and wish them all success on results day in August.



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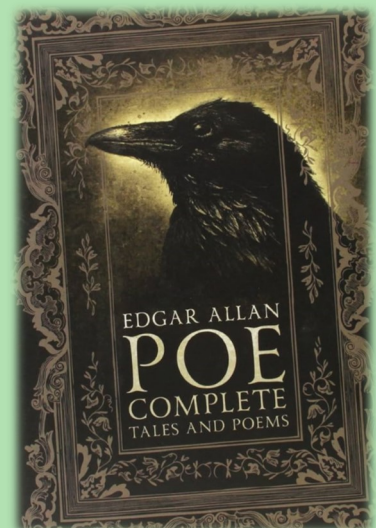


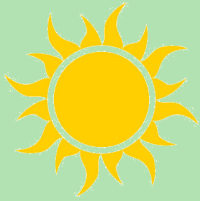
Key Stage 3 English:

At the start of the summer term, students were reading and analysing some gothic fiction and were challenged to describe a spooky setting of their own. Here is a snippet of some examples...

“I was going on a long walk into the dark woods. I could see brown leaves that crunched under my feet and trees. I could hear the wind blowing past and the trees dancing. All of a sudden, I heard someone else’s footsteps. I tiptoed past a large tree and out of the corner of my eye I saw a hand that poked from behind. As I started walking a bit quicker, the footsteps got louder. It sounded like animals scuttering around. I got shivers down my spine...” OV (Year 9)

“I am sitting in this tall chair it’s bigger than the tree. The chair is in the middle of the trees, it’s unusually placed. I feel eyes everywhere. Looking around I hear crying and screams coming from the trees, grabbing me into this cursed sick game. Head hopping out of the ground, “Run!” I hear them say. I RUN AS FAST AS I CAN I AM LIKE A HOUND DOG SNIFFING FOR BLOOD. I run out of the forest; I get grabbed and pulled back in. I am a human puppet...” TGR (Year 9)

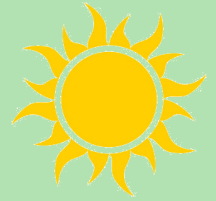




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Key Stage 4 English:

Students in KS4 have been reading a range of texts about how people (and animals) have had to fight for their freedom by rising up against oppression.

Here is an example of work where a student has written a GCSE style response exploring the effect of language in a description of a peregrine falcon (which has had to adapt to living in the city due to loss of habitat):

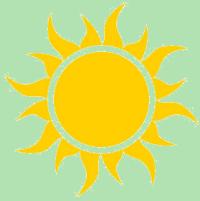
In the extract, the falcon is described as strong and rapid in its attack. This is shown in the text when it says, “extrudes talons as sharp as switchblades.” This simile suggests that the claws are sharp and it shows how dangerous and harmful it is as it can attack quickly and unexpectedly.



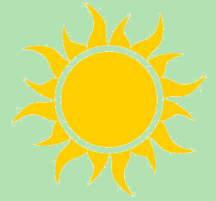
PSHE:

In PSHE lessons, we have been looking at online safety in more detail. We believe this is an important topic for our students to learn more about with the ever-growing concerns we face online. Students have taken a mature approach to learning in this topic and will consider the impact of online hate on a range of different people and groups. They will also be looking at keeping themselves safe online and looking at the long-term impact of negative online abuse.





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Vocational Studies:

We are thrilled to announce the outstanding achievements of our pupils in Vocational Studies this year. We are proud to celebrate the attainment of 3 Awards in BTEC Entry Level 2 Vocational Studies.

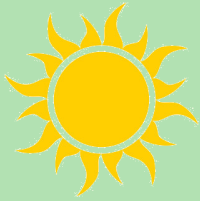
Vocational studies play a vital role in preparing our students for real-world challenges and career readiness. This term, the main focus area was on using public transport, providing our students with practical skills and knowledge to navigate the transportation system efficiently and independently. These achievements highlight the dedication and hard work of our students, and we are proud of all of them. Congratulations to all the recipients, and we look forward to further success in Vocational Studies as we continue to empower our students for their future endeavors.

Careers:

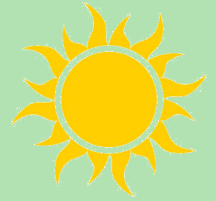
On Thursday 10th July 2025, we took a small group of students to visit Wolverhampton University. Students had a tour of the campus and had the opportunity to participate in a small, hands-on workshop. This was a great opportunity to see what University life might be like and to raise students' aspirations and inspire students to reach their full potential. We hope to have more University and college trips next academic year.



UNIVERSITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON



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Psychology:

In April, we took a group of GCSE Psychology students to experience a 'Psychology taster day' at the University of Staffordshire. We were met by Dr Alison Owen, who is an experienced Senior Lecturer at the University, and taken up to the Psychology department. We then had a seminar about Lego therapy, and how it can support patients of different ages and from different backgrounds. Students then got the chance to experience this therapy first-hand whilst they all took on roles and built items themselves from the Lego working as part of a team. We then had a tour around the amazing Psychology facilities at the University and were blown away by the number of resources available to students.

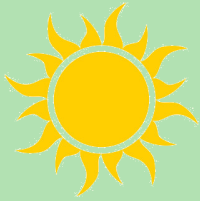
Student comments:

'We really enjoyed visiting the University – we really liked the Lego workshop and building the structures. We were impressed with the facilities at the university.'



**University of
Staffordshire**

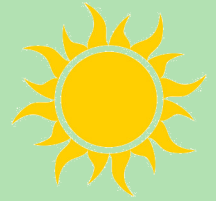




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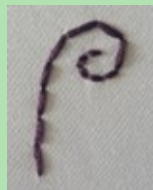


Art:

The students in Key Stage 3 have made the most of the beautiful weather this Summer Term and experienced creating large scale pieces of art outside in the natural environment of Cannock Chase for a few weeks. They have studied and been inspired by the works of Andy Goldsworthy and James Brunt. They have had the opportunity to create abstract art, faces, people or animals using the natural materials, that they found in the forest.

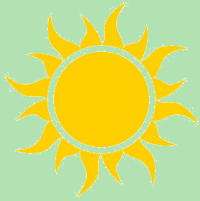


One student commented “*It is amazing what you can create with findings in the forest. I never thought of doing art when out walking, but now I will.*”

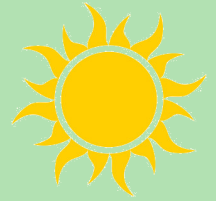


The older students in the school have been completing a textile unit. Through this unit they have developed their drawing skills of natural form, learnt how to do a variety of different stitches and used chosen stitches to create line and shade on a natural form drawing. Sewing has been a new skill to many and the students have shown great patience and resilience, when learning how to sew different stitches.

A Key Stage 4 student said to me “*I never realised that sewing can be so calming and therapeutic.*”



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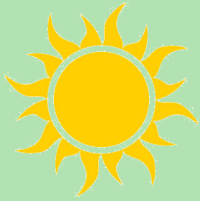
PE:

We have had another wonderful year in the PE department, where students have worked on a range of skills through lots of different types of sports. Throughout the year, students have had a go at tennis, athletics, table tennis, squash, boxing, basketball, football, cricket, rounders and disc golf. The levels of determination and resilience throughout the whole school has been phenomenal as students have both practiced familiar sports and trying brand new sports!

Students have also been working hard on their BTEC PE qualification, with one group completing the qualification in its entirety, and another completing the whole of component 1

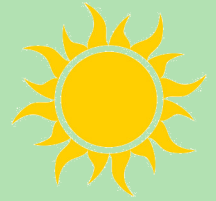
Outdoor Education:

Our outdoor education provision has proven beneficial for our students over the years, and this year they got to experience a number of activities that promotes team work, resilience, confidence, determination and contribution. A few of the activities have included rock climbing at Awesome walls in Stoke, trampolining at Airea 51 in Telford, a range of activities at Beaudesert activity centre and paddleboarding and kayaking at Chasewater.



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KS3 Science:

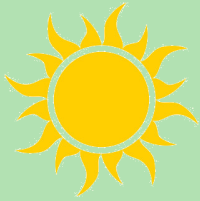
This term in Science, our KS3 students have been exploring the topic of electricity. They've been learning how electrical circuits work and have had the chance to experiment hands-on using circuit kits. Through these practical sessions, students have built their own series and parallel circuits and investigated how different components such as switches, bulbs, and buzzers function. One of the highlights has been using citrus fruits—such as lemons and limes—to generate a small electrical current, helping students understand how chemical energy can be converted into electrical energy in a fun and engaging way. It's been a great opportunity to combine scientific theory with creative, practical learning.

Craft

Craft is a safe space for young people and adults with SEN to go and express themselves through a wide range of therapeutic art techniques. It is run by a gentleman named Ronnie. Students have created some amazing work here. Ronnie will give the young people a task to complete, but they are able to make it their own.

Over the past academic year, they have created hats using cardboard, masks using milk bottles, calendars, and so much more! When it comes to the holidays, they will do activities relating to that. For example, around Halloween one of our young people made a fly trick or treating tub and another made a gravestone to put up for decoration.

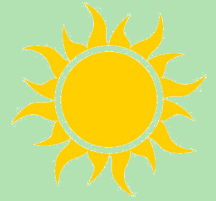




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Maths:

During the summer term, we have been helping our KS4 and Sixth Form students to prepare and practise for their GCSE and

Functional Skills exams. We are very proud of how they approached these exams with determination and a positive attitude. Well done to everyone!

"Learning about money is helping me in my real life." (Y11)

Since the exams, KS4 and Sixth Formers have been learning how to use their Maths skills in everyday personal finance, for example, understanding bank statements, pay slips, calculating percentages for tax and paying bills.

KS3 students have been working hard on probability during the summer term. They have produced great work and enjoyed doing this topic area. This is what they have had to say about maths this year...

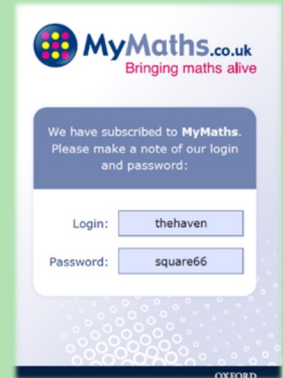
"I used to think I couldn't do maths but I understand it now". (Y9)

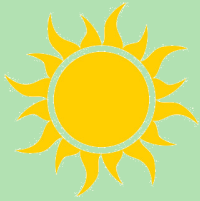
"When I get to finish a worksheet and I have understood it, it makes me feel really clever!" (Y9)

The school subscribes to the MyMaths website. This is helping to develop students' confidence and fluency in maths. There are also lots of maths games and fun activities to encourage students to engage more in their maths learning.

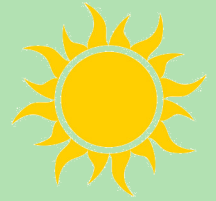
The Corbettmaths website is an excellent resource for all our students to watch video clips of any maths topic they need to revise. Worksheets linked to these topics and videos are often used in class.

Maths Genie is also a useful website to prepare for GCSE grades 1-9. It has useful videos and very clear mark schemes linked to past exam questions.





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MMA

This year, we have been learning MMA with Sam from Lionheart Martial Arts Academy in Cannock. I have really enjoyed learning the punching and kicking combos, and it has really helped to level out my mood when I am dysregulated. I have just received my white belt and we are going to start grading in September. Those who participate in the MMA lessons have been given team kit with both The Haven and Lionheart branded on it. It has shown I can achieve way more than I think, and Sam is a really fun and supportive instructor

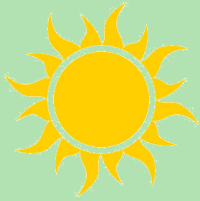
CEH– Year 9

A visit from Capture Motorsport

On Thursday 10th July, we had Ryan from Capture Motorsport visit the school to talk to some of the students about his career as a race mechanic. He spoke to the students about where he started in his career, and what he has been involved with for the last 10 years.

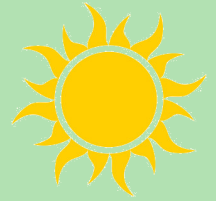
The students also got a chance to look around and sit in a class winning race car that Ryan rebuilds, preps and sets up. This was a great opportunity to broaden their career options, and talk to Ryan about future work experience placements. A special well done to the students who Ryan chose to take a trophy home for showing so much enthusiasm and asking some great questions!





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Cricket

On 18th June we took our first ever group of girls to take part in the Staffordshire tournament. As a tiny school, we couldn't quite make an entire team. However, Maddie went off to captain another school's team and, bit by bit, we ended up with four of our girls taking part. This took a lot of guts and we're really proud of them.

On 25th June we took part in the Staffordshire KS3 tournament—with 4 new girls players wanting to take part we took a big squad, managed really well by Captain Rayhaan. We had another great day of cricket, finishing as runners up.

As trailed in the previous newsletter, we were invited to represent Staffordshire in the first ever regional softball tournament, organised by Lord's Taverners. The team travelled to Dorridge CC in Warwickshire on 8th July, along with a team of supporters. After some early nerves, the team played some brilliant cricket but again ended up as runners-up, narrowly losing out to a mainstream school. In the presentation at the end, Jacob's positive attitude meant he was awarded the Spirt of Cricket Trophy, which was great recognition.

The following day, our KS4 team entered another Staffordshire tournament. This time they were unstoppable and brought the trophy home having been undefeated.

