



THE HAVEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2025



Headteacher's message:

Mrs. Stevenson

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding autumn term I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the many achievements and memorable moments across our school community. It has been a term filled with progress, new experiences and plenty of reasons to feel proud of our young people.

Academically, our students have made encouraging progress. Health and Social Care assessments have shown clear development in knowledge, independence and applied skills, while our reading assessments demonstrate steady improvements in confidence, comprehension and stamina. Just as importantly, we have seen a real increase in engagement in lessons. Many students are showing greater willingness to try new things, take positive risks and persevere when learning feels challenging – a significant achievement for our young people.

Beyond the classroom, there have been some wonderful highlights. A particular standout was our girls' athletics tournament. The determination, teamwork and sporting spirit on display were fantastic. The sense of achievement and confidence gained from this event will last well beyond the day itself.

This term also marked a major milestone for our school with our first-ever Geography residential. It was a huge success and a powerful experience for both students and staff. Seeing our young people grow in independence, resilience and confidence away from home was incredibly special – and I am certain it will not be the last residential we run.

Our careers programme has gone from strength to strength. Students have engaged in amazing careers work, developing aspirations and practical understanding of future pathways. Our post-16 students, in particular, have impressed us all by taking part in college visits and interviews, and by applying for apprenticeships with maturity and ambition. These experiences are invaluable in preparing them for life beyond school.

We ended the term in true festive style. The school Christmas dinner was a real highlight, expertly cooked by The Havens' very own "Merry Berry" and "Gordon", and enjoyed by all. Ice skating trips added to the excitement, providing fun, challenge and plenty of smiles as students tried something new and celebrated the season together.

I would like to thank our staff for their dedication, care and commitment, and our families for their continued support. Most of all, I want to congratulate our students for their hard work, courage and progress this term.

Have a fantastic break, stay well, and have fun. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year for another exciting term ahead. See you all on 6th January!



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Maths:

Maths this term has seen some excellent work produced and progress made.

KS3 have worked on the fundamentals of Number – including place value, sequences, BIDMAS and an introduction to algebra. In the run up to Christmas students have worked with money and budgeting, using set money and costs to plan the food for a Christmas Party.

FC: “Recently we did a party planning activity where we planned the food for a Christmas party. I enjoyed working with money and being able to relate my learning to real life!”

In KS4/KS5 we have been exploring geometry – looking at properties of 2D and 3D shapes and how these can be applied in the building industry: plumbing, architecture and interior design. We have then moved on to data representation and analysis.

JD: “Working with data is important for our daily lives. It provides the evidence we need to help with our decision making. It is factual information so it can boost confidence and get rid of biases. In maths we have been learning about data and how to generalise it using different types of average – choosing the average which best suits each set of data.”



With our next set of exams fast approaching in February, students have been working hard and tackling some tough exam questions – keep up the great work!



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English:

In KS3, students have been learning about media– considering the language of adverts, analysing film and structuring opinions in review writing. Here is an excellent example from a year 9 student:

“Sparkle and Shine?

Nativity! (2009)

Nativity is a Christmassy spirit film about a school presenting a Christmas play.

Mr. Maddens, the main character, is a grumpy teacher who writes out the Christmas play, but his heart is not in the spirit at all. Then there’s Mr. Poppy the charming, childish teaching assistant who brings loads of joy to the classroom.

Although he is a teacher, he needs looking after just like a student. Can this play succeed in bringing the Christmas spirit to Mr. Maddens? Director Debbie Issit has created a good storyline with an amazing cast, and funny heartwarming clips in the film.



All the children's performances were amazing but, Bob's performance stands out the most. This is because he is small and cute. His break dance was hilarious. Although Nativity is really funny, it could have improved by being shorter.

The one thing that sticks with you after the film is the joy Christmas can bring.”



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English:

In KS4, students have completed a unit on non-fiction which prepares them for their Functional Skills/GCSE exams. Students have tracked the writers' opinions, read between the lines and compared viewpoints in a variety of texts around the theme of Crime and Punishment. Following this, students wrote an article expressing their own viewpoint powerfully. Here is an example:

"So, are prisons really a waste of time?

I personally think they can be useful to show prisoners actions have consequences. They can also be a good educational place for people who struggle with the following: making money, reading, writing and communication. Do you agree? Write your opinion and send it in!

As bad as prisons can be, they also have a lot of beneficial factors for instance education. In prison you can get small jobs - if that's working in the kitchen or doing the laundry - money is money! This then encourages people to count their money, making them do maths.

Contrary to popular belief the majority of people in prison can't actually read or write! I know! Who would have thought! As well as reading and writing, people can also learn to communicate their thoughts, wishes and feelings.

People who go to prison may make it look easy, but what goes on behind closed doors?

Dependent on the severity of your crime depends on your time in prison. If you are in there for something as bad as killing or anything like rape, you will get heavily judged by your inmates and officers. This is no different to if you are in there for a small amount of time. However, if you are respectful to everyone and own up to your actions with a sense of regret and sincerity then you will be rewarded.

When people go to prison, no matter the crime committed and the time inside it gives the victims a sense of relief and calm as this can be a very traumatic time period for some individuals. So! As well as the victims start to feel safer, the inmates in prison should start to regret their actions showing remorse and trying to be a better person. However, this may not be the case for some individuals it depends on the person and if they have strong feelings!

All in all, prisons are like any other place! They both have ups and downs! In some ways it is amazing for people as they learn remorse as well as communication. However, there are also people who will commit more crimes to be in there again, some even attempt crimes in prison so they don't have to leave!

What do you think? Feel free to get in touch today and give us your point of view!"



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Geography:

The Haven School's First Residential!

A group of our amazing sixth formers took part in the school's first residential to North Wales this October.

Students who are studying for their AS Level Geography had to collect data on tourism and crime in Llandudno and also then studied the sand dunes on Newborough beach on Anglesey. Our students completed their work incredibly well, showing knowledge and skills including asking questionnaires to the public in Llandudno. We also had time for a visit to Conwy Castle before heading home.

It did not rain once, and it was even quite sunny.

The real highlights of the trip were the day on the beach and hot chocolates around the evening campfire. Less impressive was the very small beds and some dodgy packed lunches provided by the accommodation, but students dealt with these things with both humour and resilience.

We were really proud of our students. They showed independence, maturity and organisation to make the most of this opportunity. Well done everyone for making this residential a success!



This is what students had to say about it...

"We spent 2 days doing the extremely hard work and 1 day exploring Conwy Castle before we sadly went home. We were supported by our teachers throughout it all...

The evenings were spent doing enriching activities, such as Daryll's amazing campfire...This lit up our second night and the soft marshmallows melted in our mouths for the most incredible sensory overtake!!"



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Art:

Bronze trinity arts award:

I am delighted to announce that our first four students here at The Haven have completed their Trinity Arts Award qualification this term. Over the past year they have all worked so hard to complete four units of work to create their own amazing, unique portfolios of art work. Well done to you all!



Key stage 3:

Students in Key stage 3 have had fun learning what silhouettes are and how to create them in a variety of ways in pieces of art work. They have also learnt about the importance of one of the nine elements of art– line– and created a number of art pieces focusing on this element in their own work. Throughout this unit, they have also studied work by Van Gogh



Key stage 4 and 5:

Students have learned all about one point perspective and created many fantastic pieces of perspective art work. They have been amazed at how simple it is to create a one point perspective piece of art that looks so much more complicated to the eye. They have also been learning about the art element tone, and how to use tone in their pieces of work



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PSHE:

Operation Christmas Child:



'This year, all the students at The Haven School participated in Operation Christmas Child appeal. We collected donations of items such as toys, clothes and other essentials as well as shoe boxes to send the items in. The students wrote letters to the children who received the boxes. We wrapped up the boxes in pretty Christmas paper and carefully put all the items inside ready to be sent off. The students and Mrs Dodd delivered the boxes to the drop off point to be sent to children around the world. Thank you all so much for any donations that you sent in.'

GW (Y13)

Haven Walk

As part of our PSHE curriculum, students took part in our very first 'Haven Walk' at the end of the Summer term, to raise money for Katherine House Hospice. Katherine House Hospice is a local charity based in Stafford that students themselves chose to support. The charity's aim is to enable people with incurable illnesses to live life as fully as possible and make the most of the time that they have, as well as supporting their loved ones. Their care is free and provided where and when it is needed most – in the community, at home, or at their hospice. It relies on the generosity of the community to cover most of the cost of the vital care services, and each year it costs almost £4 million pounds to keep it running. We completed our 'Haven Walk' on 17/07/25, in the pouring rain. Unfortunately, we had to end the event after only 1 lap due to weather conditions, but managed to complete 46 miles as a group. Students demonstrated resilience, teamwork, and communication skills during this event.

I would personally like to thank everyone who has contributed to the donations towards Katherine House Hospice.



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Careers:

As part of our aspirational careers programme at The Haven School, some of our fantastic keyworker's have taken some of our lovely Sixth Form students, on an individual basis, to visit Stafford college. This was a perfect opportunity for students to view the college at some of their quiet times and have a tour around the building, with the opportunity to ask questions and visit departments that they were interested in.

'Hello Haven readers, I am writing to you from the pink room. Friday, the certain date in November, me and the sweet Harding stumbled upon the great Stafford college to look at the film course. Upon my arrival, I was greeted warmly with a kind hand that met mine within an instant. Throughout the whole tour, I was able to confide in my keyworker as the number of steps arose. I sipped on a wonderful hot chocolate funded entirely by my teacher. Thank you, Haven, for the opportunity!'

SJ (Y12)

There will be a group visit to Stafford college next term, so let your keyworker know if you might be interested in going. I also want to say a massive 'well done' to those students who have visited colleges with parents/careers at various open evenings. This is a huge achievement and has resulted in some of our Sixth Form students applying for courses of their choice. Excellent news!

NSCG
STAFFORD
COLLEGE



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Sports!!



Congratulations to Josh on completing his grading in MMA and achieving his red belt. Sam has been really impressed with Josh's enthusiasm, hard work and respect at his training sessions.

Towards the end of November, our sports association ran an indoor athletics competition at Fenton Manor. It was open to boys and girls, but as the girls have been making amazing progress in PE we decided to send an all-girls team – the first time we have ever been able to do that at The Haven. Every girl in KS3 and 4 went along and participated in a variety of events including running, jumping and throwing. The girls were a credit to The Haven and finished 3rd overall.



Congratulations to Mav – His team, Staffordshire Spitfires, were Team of the Year at the Staffordshire Cricket Awards in November. This follows them winning the West midlands competition and then reaching the national final, finishing runners up to a strong Middlesex side. Mav also received the award as top bowler, despite being one of the youngest in the team.



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Craft sessions:

Students have completed some challenging projects this term, and the end results are evidence of their hard work. Everyone who takes part in these sessions learn to use a variety of crafting tools and gain skills using different materials.

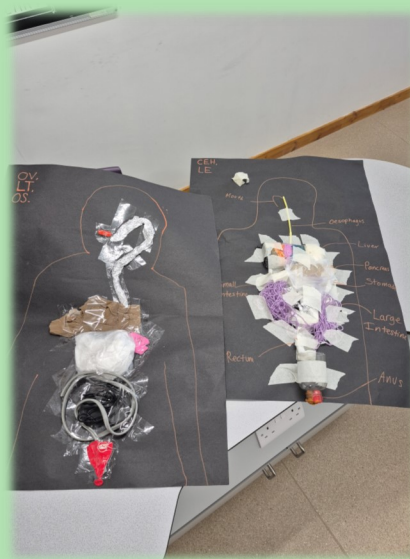


Science:

Students have been getting hands-on in science this term! As part of their topic on living organisms, some KS4 students have been building their own digestive systems. Meanwhile, our GCSE biology students have been carrying out their required practical investigating the activity of enzymes that help break down food.



All of this fantastic work has taken place in our brand new science lab, completed over the summer and already proving to be a brilliant learning space





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Photography

During this half term, all Haven pupils and teachers were invited to explore the nature that surrounds them and share what they see in pictures. The idea for this interest group was born out of wellbeing conversations with a pupil who shared the positive impact that going for nature walks has on their well-being. A little bit of research on this topic confirmed their experience that nature is good for you! Being in nature helps regulate emotions, reduces stress, and the essential oils that are emitted by tree and plants help our bodies fight disease. Sunlight improves our sleep and helps lower blood pressure.

So why take pictures? Because sharing photos can boost positive feelings. Photos of object make people happy, reflective appreciative. Viewing nature pictures has even been found to improve attention.

Each week, a different focus was suggested. Themes included taking photos of something that was experienced as enjoyable or interesting. Another week's challenge was to find signs of life followed by a focus on colours and patterns. Close-ups were the topic of the final week.

One student said "This was the view out of my car window I enjoyed seeing"



From all at The Haven, we wish you a restful and safe Christmas break, and a Happy New Year!