



Update

What's been
happening at
Hartford CE
High School



**STAY HOME
STAY SAFE**

**AND WE WILL SEE
YOU ALL SOON!**

English
Dance
Sport
Maths
Art
Lock down

SPRING 2020

HEADLINES: APRIL 2020

As a small boy I dreamed of being Alan Buckley and playing football for Walsall (sad but true). I always had a plan B however, and from my mid teens that was to become a teacher. As a Head you dream about different things and I often imagined a brand new building and brilliant facilities for our students and local community.

On Friday 28th February 2020 we took possession of our new building, Veritas. Last week I told you all about the history of the East Building – a history I had only been part of for 20 of its 65 years. Veritas is something I have been involved with since before the architects, planners and builders even knew it would happen.

In 2012 Hartford High School became Hartford Church of England High School. As a consequence of this, the buildings became the property of Chester Diocese rather than Cheshire West & Chester Local Authority. One of the jobs of the diocesan facilities management team was to carry out condition surveys of our buildings. About a week after these documents arrived on my desk every school in the country received an email from the Department for Education asking us if we felt that we needed buildings refurbished or rebuilt. We sent in a covering letter along with the surveys and asked for our buildings to be considered.

In late 2014 we received an email telling us that the East Building qualified for a refurbishment. We were ecstatic to receive this news as, since the economic crash of 2008, finance available for school buildings had fallen off a cliff. I also had a fair idea that once they started to survey the East Building they would very quickly come to the conclusion that a refurbishment was not viable and that it would have to be a complete rebuild. It took one visit on May 12th 2015 for that decision to be made in principle and then confirmed later that year. Once it became a new build project it meant that we had a major say in where the building would be located on the campus.



I cannot count the number of meetings I have attended regarding the new building but the most important ones took place in October – December 2017 when the fine detail of the build was agreed. There was not a bottomless pit of money available and the aim of the DfE was purely to provide us with a facility that would enable us to deliver our curriculum. As a split site school the project was unique in that we were to have half of a new school. At the top of our list of priorities was to have a Sports Hall and this was given the go ahead on the basis that we lost a hall and a gym. I was also determined that we should maintain 2 canteens as I have visited too many schools where canteen provision is far too crowded.

Looking at the building with your back to the tennis dome, Veritas has 2 entrances/exits. In terms of the curriculum on the left hand side of the building we have provision for PE, D&T, Art and Science; on the right hand side we have Drama, the Library and English. It is clad in red brick and will age well.





Lets go on a tour!







If we enter through the right hand door we walk into the canteen, kitchen and locker area.



On the left hand side of this area is the Drama Studio – an imposing teaching area of two storey height.




Walking down the central corridor on the ground floor we have an enormous Food Technology room on the right and a D&T workshop on the left.




Continue and turn right into our brilliant new Sports Hall (with its very green flooring).






If we go up the left hand stairs to the first floor we alight into the area opposite the D&T IT room, then on our right we have an Art room and another D&T workshop on the left.




We continue past these to find an English room on both sides and the Library at the far end of the corridor.



The Library is a magnificent space: with two small teaching rooms, an IT wall and a separate teaching area – as well as all of the books. Architecturally, the Library cantilevers over the canteen below.



Out of the Library and up the right hand stairs to the top floor. We have 5 English rooms, 4 Science labs and an Art room.



Mr Douglas' Science room and Ms Hughes' Art room at the extreme left of the top floor have stunning views out over the school field and then onto Jodrell Bank beyond the M6 and to the left The Cloud in Congleton and to the right Mow Cop in Staffordshire.



As I look at the campus now and compare it to just 5 years ago the transformation has been remarkable. In that time we have built a 3G football pitch, our amazing Tennis Dome – both of which have extensive curriculum and community use – and now we have Veritas. It is such a shame that we only had three weeks in Veritas before our forced closure. We are still looking at the inevitable snagging issues (nothing major) and we know we need to tweak a few things – such as the queueing system for the canteen area – and we have yet to put up displays on the corridor and stairwell walls; but each of the 20 teaching spaces is excellent and we have a state of the art facility for our children and staff to work in. We will add some photographs to this article for the newsletter although they won't do it justice – you really have to see it.

It would be remiss of me not to thank a few people. We have worked extensively with the DfE and the builders, Wates, on this project and I have been so impressed by their determination to deliver what we have on time and to a very high standard. Wates representatives on site have been a joy to work with and when we hold our official opening (currently postponed!) we will ensure that they and the DfE are given the public recognition they deserve.

Additionally, our teams of support staff within school have worked incredibly hard to ensure an almost seamless transition. In the past year we have moved the site, finance and admin team bases and closed a reception. Over the two weeks of the move we installed a new telephone and Wi Fi system so that all buildings had compatibility. And we moved a school. Any one of these things is a major undertaking by itself. To do all of these things in close proximity, with minimal impact on our core business of learning, is great testimony to the quality of all of our staff teams.

In 'Caritas et Veritas'

M Holland (Headteacher)

The world was spiralling out of control. The speed of life was the ultimate goal:
How much can I do? How rich can I get? How far can I go so that my needs are met?
Our lives like our roads, so busy it seems. It's all about me, we all have our dreams.
That's just how it is, there's no other way. Everyone does it- we live for today!
Our planet is dying, our children confused. Families are broken, hurt and abused.
No time to chat, to play or to see. I'll just join the rat race, get rich and get free.
We'll make our own rules, I'm god of my life – but the meaningless speed and turmoil and strife
Made us long for much more. For this I was made?
Where's God in the mess? The hope starts to fade.

We cry out to God, but do not hesitate. We don't stop to listen, too busy to wait.
The sky is polluted, the forests cut down, the children are hungry right here in our town!
Where's the good news? Who'll suffer the cause?

We cry out to God...

And

Then

God

Pressed

PAUSE

The roads are now empty, the shutters are down, streets are deserted in country and town.
Life as we know it has started to slow, and into the silence there's one thing I know:
God never changes, He is very near. He's silently waiting, He loves you so dear.
His masterpiece painted each day in the sky...but we had not noticed as we hurried by.
A bouquet of flowers on tree and on lane. Just open your eyes- He's healing your pain.
In this moment of stillness you are not alone. Another soul waits on the end of a phone.
A moment of peace; a kind act of love: the birds are still praising their Father above!
We pray for our nurses, those on the front line, those who are suffering, that they will be fine.
Let's give what we can, to those who are poor. Let's show God's love, then show it some more.

When we get back to 'normal' to make our ends meet, let's not forget those who live on the street...
Let's love one another and make time to just 'BE'.
Let's PAUSE and show Jesus to each one we see.

TRACY MORGAN
School Chaplain



Jack Broughton 11H

MATHS NEWS

UKMT Maths Challenge

Our top Year 9 & 10 mathematicians sat the Intermediate UKMT on Thursday 6th February and as usual, we had some fantastic results.

Between them, they gained

2 gold, 6 silver and 17 bronze awards.

The certificates are here in school waiting for their return.

A special mention to **Daniel Houghton, Jack Broughton (Year 11) and Jorja Houston (Year 9)** who got through to the next round. They sat their paper on Thur 19th March, however, we have been asked by Leeds university to keep their papers in school for now due to the closure of the university.

Well done to all involved.



Mathematical Education on Merseyside (MEM)

MEM has been running Challenge and Senior Challenge take-home competitions in February half term since the late 1970s. Together, these competitions attract about 2,000 entries annually, with Challenge aimed at Years 7 and 8, and Senior Challenge aimed at Years 9 and 10.

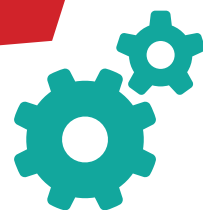
The best entry from Hartford CE High School in each of the above competitions was:

Best in School for Challenge '20

Anna Smith 8H

Best in School for Senior Challenge '20

Mary Smith 10A



ENGLISH NEWS

Farewell to East by Hartford High Poetry Club

“Oh dear, oh dear,
There’s nothing worse than a break-up,”
Lamented the lonely ROSLA building.
“East Building, what will I do without you?
Do all these years mean nothing to you?
I can’t believe you’re leaving me for a younger model.”

The DT tools moaned and groaned as always.
“These old bolts of mine could do with a little oil,
Although the pension payments may help with that!
Years of endangering children have taken their toll,
It’s about time for the young ones to take over
And earn their keep.”

The library shelves cooed with delight.
“Since the Encyclopaedia of Britannica was packed away,
I feel like a new shelf!
I haven’t been this slim since the day I was bought!”
They boasted vainly.

The giant library clock looked down enviously.
“I haven’t shed a thing, I’m ticked off!”

“Don’t look at me, I’m naked! I’m nude!”
The walls squealed in horror.
“I woke up and all my posters were gone,
The shame! The shame!”

“Those posters are coming with us”
Growled the desks,
Gnarled with chewing gum,
Tall and short,
Scarred from The Great Battle of Leavers’ Day 2019.
“We’re off to Veritas.
Just hope we get treated to a bubble bath before we go.
We deserve it.”

Before half term, Hartford High Poetry Club wrote a joint poem bidding our East Building goodbye! It was inspired by **Have a Great School Year** by Kalli Dakos, in which all the objects in a classroom chat to each other about the year ahead. We stole the personification element of the inspiration poem and tried to make it our own!

“Will we still get our daily massage?
And will we lose our carpet jumpers?”
Queried the panic-stricken floorboards.
“Just please let us keep our Year 9 drama class,
They cure all my aches and pains.”

“Sadly, we can’t say the same”
Croaked the unused blinds.
“We’ve been stuck in the same position for weeks,
Does anyone have any sun cream? We’re frying!”

The whiteboard sighed wearily,
“They’ve unplugged me.
This is the end.
My power is being drained,
I only have a little juice left!”

The radiator shivered.
“I am so jealous of the children’s blazers,
Just two days ago I had one draped over me in lesson three,
I was so lovely and toasty.
Now the heating has been turned off
The chill is unbearable.
I think I’m getting frostbite!”

In the distance, a giggling, infantile voice called out,
Making East Building wince with irritation.
“Hello! Who are you? My name’s Veritas!
Will you be my friend?”

ROSLA sighed, defeated.
“I suppose you’ll have to do.”



Victory at Poetry by Heart!

This year, we held a Poetry by Heart competition at Hartford. Poetry by Heart is a national initiative encouraging pupils and teachers alike to learn new poems and engage with poetry in new ways. The purpose of the performance is not to wave your arms around or dance dramatically around the stage, but instead to deliver a poem the way it was intended to be read – with feeling, emotion and understanding.

Each participant was asked to learn two poems – one written pre-1914 and one written post-1914. We heard wonderful performances from Sophie and Zara Jones, Anna Smith and Louis Holmes and enjoyed some fantastic poetry including The Jabberwocky, The Language of Cat, and El Dorado. After careful judging from Miss Gittins, Mrs Hardy and our school governor, Heidi Nixon, Zara Jones was crowned Hartford's poetry recital queen for 2020. She read Daffodils by William Wordsworth and Russian Doll by Rachel Rooney eloquently and with humour. But this was only the first stage in the journey!

After the school competition, we had to record a performance from our winner and enter it into the county competition. These are judged externally by a body of poetry experts and poets, and the winners from this category are then entered into a regional competition. Finally, ten regional winners in each age category are selected to attend a national finals event at the Tate Modern in London.

We submitted Zara's tape and felt incredibly proud of her performance. All her effort paid off, as a few weeks later we received the wonderful news that Zara had won the regional competition for KS3 and had been invited to the national finals event!

Sadly, due to the current circumstances around COVID-19, the finals event has been postponed. The final judging is to be carried out remotely based on the video entries and a panel of poets will be in touch to give feedback on Zara's performance. Poetry by Heart have confirmed that they are intending to hold a winners' celebration around National Poetry Day in October, so we still have that and the winner's prize bundle to look forward to!



*Congratulations
Zara,
you did a fantastic job!*

Lockdown resources for English:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwDepgRNabfCqQfT4_B0A2Q

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWNETVSbCR2P7QPNqmKERQA?view_as=subscriber

<https://twitter.com/hartfordenglish>

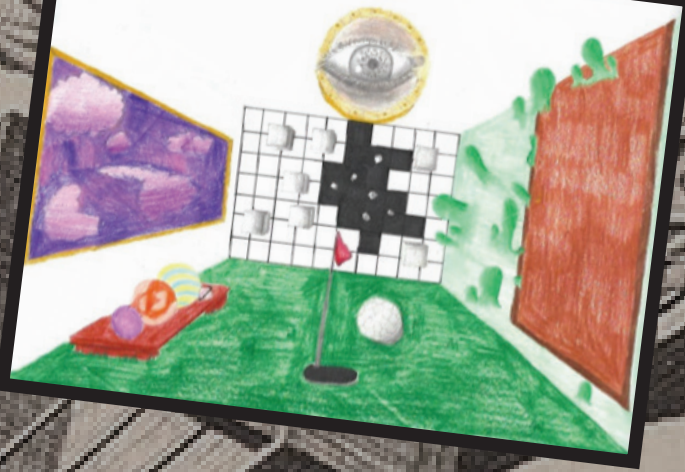
Keep reading!

Year 8 Art

Year 8 have been studying the rules of perspective and have been producing drawings based on one point perspective in class. We set them a challenge to produce a surreal room using one point perspective not knowing at the time that we would be on lockdown. Here are some examples submitted so far, they have certainly risen to the challenge, maybe due to the surreal times we find ourselves in.

Well done Year 8 keep your examples coming in!

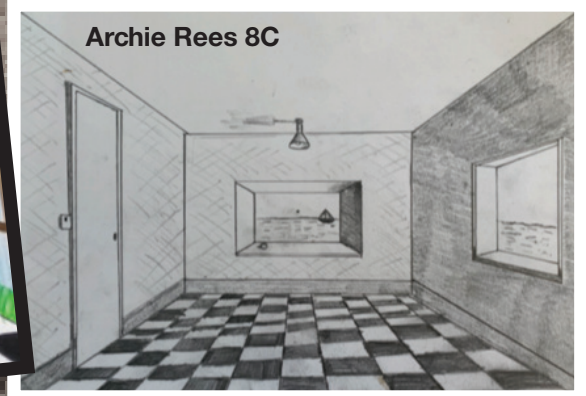
Emi Jones 8C



Mya Greatorex 8C



Archie Rees 8C



Lottie Purdie 8A



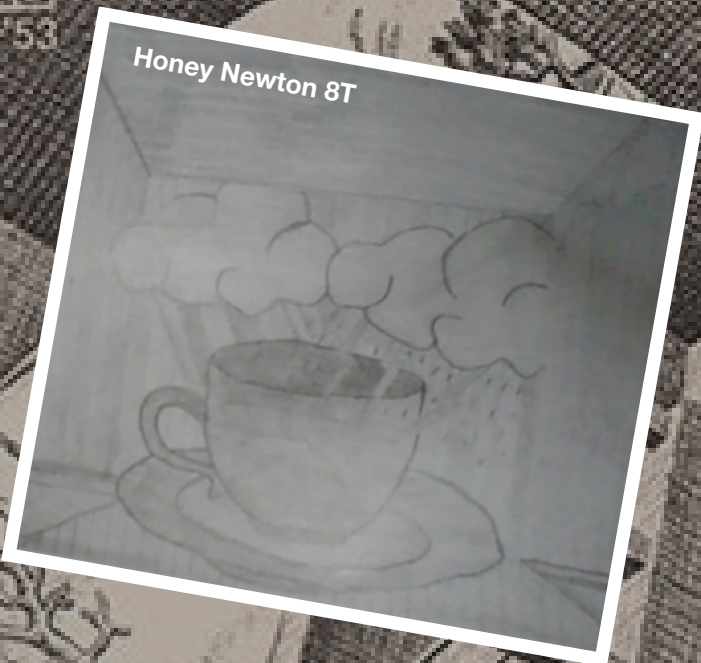
Charlotte Small 8C



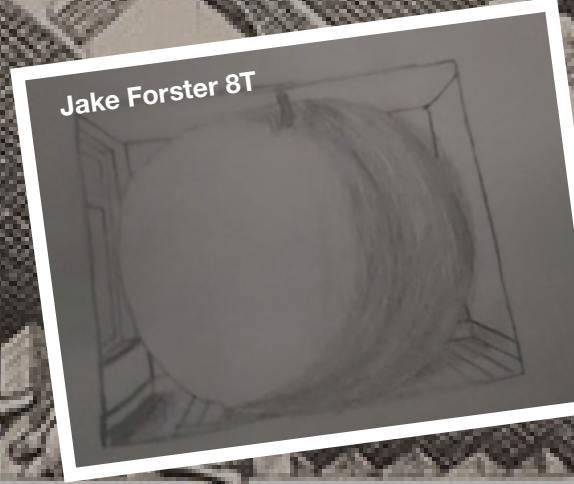
JJ Price 8C



Honey Newton 8T



Jake Forster 8T



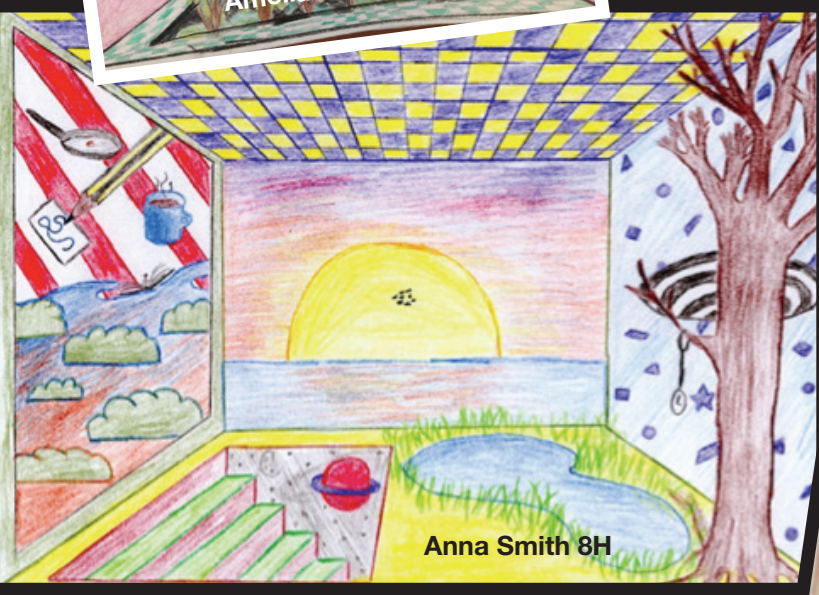
Molly Bennett 8H



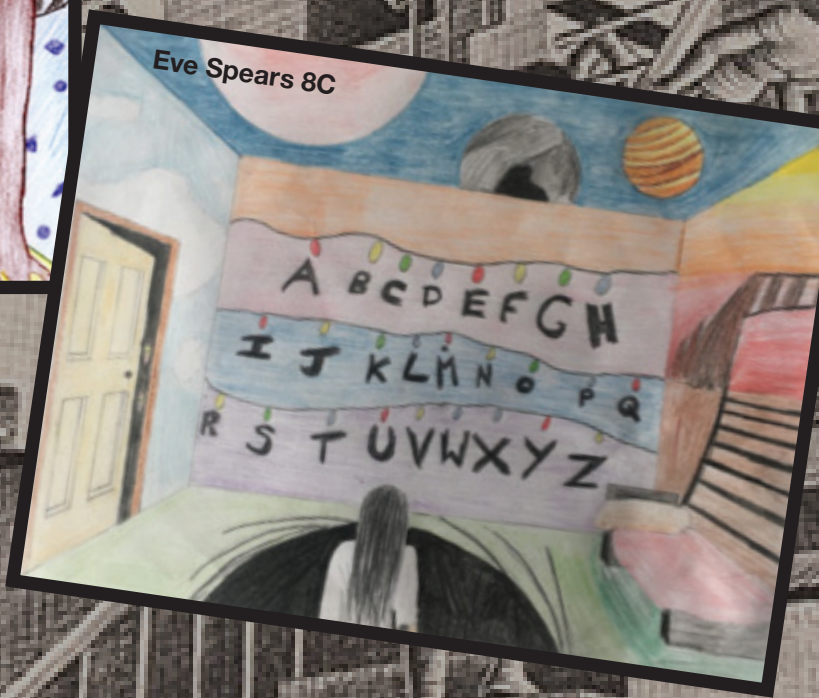
Amelia Bennett 8H



Anna Smith 8H



Eve Spears 8C



MUSIC NEWS!

We have lost a few weeks of music making and sadly had to postpone our Inter-House Music Competition, however we have much to celebrate this term.

Each academic year we welcome Year 7 through our doors; many choose an instrument and, with the help of instrumental tutors, begin to flourish. To celebrate their progress we invite pupils to perform, in front of an intimate audience to showcase their new found skills. We also invite our more advanced players to inspire our youngsters.

From pupils drumming, to a whole string ensemble, the evening was a huge success; despite a few wobbles each pupil took to the stage proudly.

Well done to all our performers.

Battle of the Bands

We are lucky to have many bands in school: a Year 8 rock band, a Year 9 band, a Year 11 band and Mr. Oakey's Rock Choir, now more a School of Rock Band. However, one band decided to take a leap to competition level and entered Battle of the Bands at Sir John Deane's. **Idris Christian** (Year 11), **Reuben Makin** (Year 10), **Ben Johnson** (Year 9) and guest drummer **Nathaniel Westwell** (Year 10) are Adolescence.

The band were competing with schools across Northwich and confidently took to the stage - not only with Idris singing the vocals, but performing a song he had written.

After a fantastic performance and fierce competition Adolescence were proud to be placed as Runners Up.



OUT AND ABOUT



Many of our performers, including our very own Mr. Thompson, have performed out and about nationally. Saxophonist **Nina Martin** (Year 10) proudly took to the stage demonstrating intrinsic improvisational skills at Southport Jazz Festival. Saxophonist **Andre Adams** (Year 9) performed at the 'Accessible Festival' in Bury. Also, in a first for Northwich, a music festival was organised to raise funds for Northwich market traders after the tragic Northwich Market Fire; both Mr. Thompson and Andre Adams took to the stage, in separate performances, in and around the Northwich area.



Year 10 Working in the Music Industry

Year 10, as part of their BTEC course, learn about Working in the Music Industry. As part of this course we invite guest speakers who have first-hand experience in the industry. We were lucky enough to listen to Paul Howard, former industry specialist, on his vast experience working on live tours, with both major and independent record labels and his experiences with the iconic band Slipknot.

Staff in Isolation – Lean on Me

Once we were given the news that school was closing, Ms. Philippou set herself the task to bring people together through music. Bill Withers' version of Lean on Me is all about people not suffering in isolation; anytime there is trouble all you have to do is pick up the phone. This song was the exact message we wanted to deliver to pupils; although you are at home, we are all in this together and we are still here for you. Twenty-two staff got involved in this task; all recorded Lean on Me via various recording methods and sent them to Ms. Philippou who recorded her own track, mixed it down and then mastered it ready for students to hear.

A big well done to all staff who got involved. Here is the link below.

<https://www.hartfordhigh.org.uk/lean-on-me/48>

Andre Adams

André has been shortlisted and recognised as 'Young Volunteer of the Year' by the sponsor 'Mini Me Yoga' at the Community ReAwards 2020 event, held at Vale Royal Abbey in January 2020. André was asked to perform on his saxophone which enhanced the ambience as people arrived.

André also attended and performed at the Sponsorship evening for 'Accessible Festival' in Bury and has been asked to perform at two venues in Northwich, Benny Bings and Salthouse, on Saturday 1st February to help raise funds for the Northwich Market fire victims. This has been organised by 'Music Making a Difference.'





Our inspiring teenage musician with autism has used his creativity to turn a difficult coronavirus lockdown into a work of art.

<https://youtu.be/Fz-UGcrEHp0>

To mark World Autism Awareness Day on April 2nd, 14-year-old André Adams released Mouth, a one-minute track recorded entirely from his own anxious tics and sounds that have been triggered by the Covid-19 crisis.

The project has helped to keep André calm during the pandemic, and it is hoped the song will reassure others who are in a similar position. Mum Tracy Adams told us, “We have been self-isolating for more than two weeks now and André’s anxiety levels have been going through the roof.

“That sets off André’s tics and sounds, but we can’t do anything about this situation. So we are using this opportunity to make something really positive and fantastic out of this awful situation that the whole world is currently in.”

“We just want to get the message out there to anyone who is really struggling during these difficult times that they are not alone.”

André – who has been diagnosed with autism, ADHD and learning difficulties – is already well-known as a saxophonist and drummer. He is now discovering how to manipulate sounds and turn them into electronic music using his laptop, and he hopes to learn more about the craft by learning media studies in Years 10 and 11 at school.

Tracy said:

“André is a natural musician. From a very, very early age, we just knew that music was his thing. He has been recording himself and manipulating the sounds electronically. He has had no training with this at all, he is just learning as he goes along. His passion at the moment with music is learning how to manipulate sounds, I think that is the route that he wants to go down. He is only 14, but there is no better time to start than now while we’re stuck at home.”

PE News

Spring 2020

Great fun



"PS – Mr Holland would normally never allow so many shirts out but this was Year 11's last day so they are forgiven (just this once)!"

Year 11 Badminton Club

After launching a lunchtime badminton club in our brand new sports hall, we said a fond farewell to our Year 11 students who had become eager players within a short space of time. We will miss seeing them every lunchtime.

Basketball

Fantastic results for our Year 9 basketball team:
38-18 victory over Tarporley
46 -6 victory over Winsford.



A great way to say
goodbye the East
Building gym!

Our Year 11 team christened the
new sports hall with an impressive
30-20 win against local rivals,
St Nicholas Catholic High.





U15

Our Netball Squads 2019-2020

Well done to all of our netball squads this year. Despite the season finishing earlier than planned, we had some fantastic games with all of our teams achieving much success within the leagues. Although the league is being abandoned, we want to congratulate all of our squad players for their consistent attendance at training. Keep it up next year!

U14

Congratulations



U13



Year 10 Tech Award Dance

Well done to our Year 10 dancers who took part in some commercial workshops this term. They have enjoyed learning a completely new style and have been inspired by one of our dance leaders, Maria Santos, who has travelled around the world participating in Commercial Dance competitions.

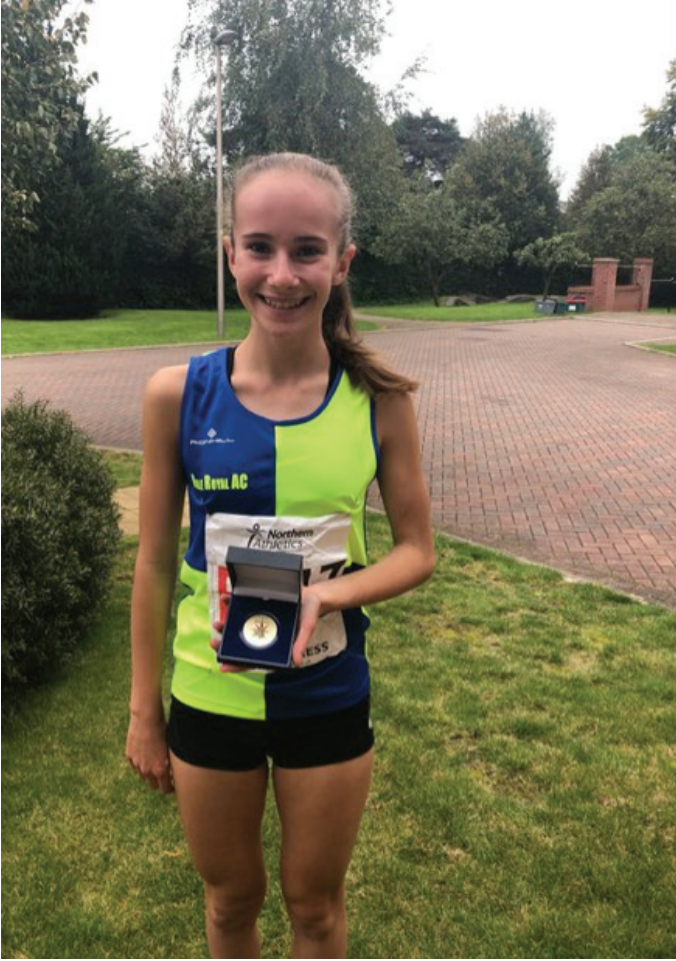


Challenge us on Tik Tok!

If any of our students want to follow us on Tik Tok, we have recently been adding some challenges on there that can keep you active from home!

Please find us at **HartfordPE**





Congratulations go to Grace Roberts (Year10), who finished a fantastic 4th place in the Inter Girls U16 English School Cross Country Championships in Liverpool. She achieved a time that qualifies her to run for England. Well done Grace!

Athletics

Well done to all our Year 7 & 8 athletes, who competed at Winsford in the Schools Athletics regional finals! Some impressive performances!



Rugby

This term we have been joined by WPRC Coach and parent, Paul Rees, who has kindly helped with the after school Rugby Club and provided some excellent coaching.



Girls Football

Year 8 girls enjoying a Football lesson on our amazing 3G pitch.

NEW SPORTS HALL!
Badminton and volley ball
have proved big hits in our
new sports hall.



Now for some **GOOD NEWS**

Who would have thought, when we welcomed in the New Year 2020 that just a few weeks later things would have changed so dramatically in every sphere of life as we know it?

We started the new year with hope...a new beginning, a fresh chance. For some it would be the year they took their GCSEs and moved on to new ventures, for others plans of a family holiday, a career move, developing a pastime... Who would have thought that something as tiny as a microscopic virus, invisible to the naked eye could bring down world leaders, stop all physical interaction, threaten our finances, close businesses, shops, clubs, cafes, churches, schools and colleges and fill the world with fear? It seems so surreal, like something from a science fiction film, and yet it is real.

We live in a world where there are no guarantees, where nothing is certain...that is, outside of God. Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." God never changes. The Psalms in the Bible describe God as a 'safe place', 'refuge' and a 'rock'. When everything else is stripped away, we see that God is still there, longing for us to turn back to Him. When we hit rock bottom, we realise that God is the Rock at the bottom.

When I was 23 I hit that rock bottom. I lost someone I was very close to and the shock made me ill. Because of that I couldn't work. I had been working freelance, I had no back up plan and no money for my rent. For 8 days, I lived in my old beetle car with my dog. One night, I couldn't sleep (have you tried sleeping in a VW?) and I sat on a dry stone wall to pray. I remember it was a very starry night, and the next thing I knew I was on my knees in the middle of that field crying out to God. I felt I was in the middle of a deep dark pit and I didn't know how to get out. I said sorry to God for living my way instead of His way, and for filling life with things before Him. When I was stripped of everything, my home, my job, my finances, my health, my hopes and dreams, I realised that God was still there and He met me in my need. I felt as if I was at the foot of the Cross and Jesus was stretching his arms out saying, "I did this for you". I felt warm and filled with His peace. I knew that everything would be okay. The next morning I bought a paper, applied for a great job and the rest is history. However, I will never forget the night Jesus met me in my deepest need. He forgave me of my sin and I promised to live for Him and put Him first – I will never regret it.

God is not a distant God, living in luxury whilst we suffer down below. God loved us so very much that He came to earth as one of us, Jesus, who knew what it was to feel hunger and hardship, pain and suffering. Why did Jesus come? He came because there was, and still is a terrible, invisible virus that is costing people their lives. That virus is called SIN. Sin is a tiny word with a huge meaning, and in the centre of SIN is the letter 'I'. We live for ourselves and forget about our Creator. The disease that sin causes, robs people of the true, abundant life that God intended for us: a life of love, joy and peace.

When Jesus stretched out his arms on the cross and died that horrific death that very first Easter, it was NOT God's rescue plan gone horribly wrong. The only way our sin could be dealt with and we could be set free to live the full life God intended for us would be if someone paid the price. Jesus took my punishment and your punishment on the Cross that first Easter. Why? Because He would rather die than live without you! That is love that demands a response.

The Good News this Easter is this. Whilst the world is still shaking under Covid 19, we can know Jesus' forgiveness and despite our natural circumstances have peace and hope for the future, both in this life and the next.

Death could not hold the Author of Life! On Easter Sunday Jesus rose to life again and appeared to over 500 people over the next 40 days. He is alive today and one day He will come back and make all things new. Until that day...we have Good News to share, hope for the hopeless and love for the loveless.

In a dark and fearful world there has never been a greater time to share the Good News that Jesus brings.

God bless you and your loved ones this Easter-time. May you look to Jesus and know His love and peace.

TRACY MORGAN
School Chaplain

