

Newsletter to Parents February 2021

Edited by Charles De-Wind (Communications Prefect)



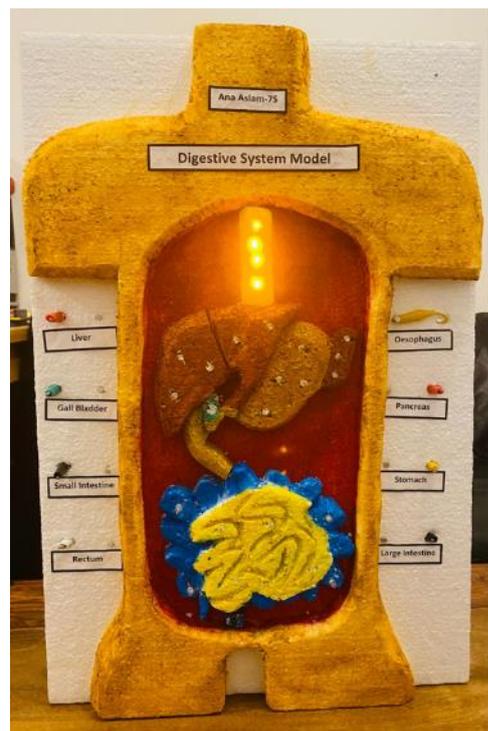
Herschel Grammar School



Parents and all visitors to the school should enter the building through the main reception area at the front of the school. Please do not use the pupils' entrance. Safeguarding our pupils on the school site is a priority.

Newsletter to Parents Highlights

BioArtAttack Competition



Follow us on



@HerschelGrammar

for our

latest news, reminders and
useful retweets!

Dear Pupils and Parents,

We are all now well into the rhythm of online teaching and learning and have been adapting the provision in the light of feedback from parents, staff and pupils. We have just completed surveys of Year 10 and Year 12 and will be surveying Year 8 just after half term.

We are very pleased that the feedback from pupils has been very positive and they have provided some practical suggestions for improvement which we have shared with staff. Teachers are definitely becoming more attuned to pupils' workloads and are giving them more consolidation time to ensure they keep on top of everything. However, it does remain difficult for us to gauge exactly how long a piece of work might take. In a classroom we read facial expressions and ask questions directly. That's much more difficult on screen, so please do get in touch with your Head of Learning if you are having difficulties. That goes for parents too. We are happy to hear from you.

We are eagerly awaiting the government announcement on 22nd February to see if we can have our children back! When we do we will be ready with the lateral flow testing which pupils can have if their parents wish them to. Sixth Form students can give their own consent. Do read the article Mrs Vucic, our Business Manager has written for the newsletter and look out for more information via Parentmail after half term.

Despite the lockdown we have been able to celebrate lots of aspects of school life. I hope you enjoy reading about these in this edition of the newsletter.

I am looking forward to lighter days, better weather and lots of daffodils in bloom when we return. Wishing you a lovely half term.

By Ms Rockall, Headteacher

Herschel Grammar School preparing for the LFD Covid-19 testing

Once we came back to school following our Christmas break it was full on for a number of staff, attending webinars and going through training to set up the school for the LFD (Lateral Flow Device) mass testing programme. We can confirm that for a few weeks now we have been doing Covid-19 testing on staff and keyworker children coming to school and have become quite confident and efficient with the whole process. Obviously, we do not have all pupils in school at the moment so the whole process is not so time-consuming. However, it has given us a good idea of what the process will look like once all pupils and staff are back in school. We are pleased to confirm that so far nobody has tested positive with Covid-19!

Closer to the school's re-opening we will be sending you more information so you will be aware of what will be expected from you should you wish to take part. Please do watch out for those emails. Meanwhile, you may want to start locating your tonsils (use your phone torch to see better in the mirror) so you will be acquainted with what you are looking for when the time for weekly testing comes. If you've had your tonsils removed do not worry, you can swab the area at the back of your mouth where they would have been.

We are setting up a dedicated area in the sixth form block for the mass testing programme and are currently waiting for the flooring to be changed and some furniture we ordered to arrive. We have repainted the room already and it looks fresh and clean. By the time you are all back our testing site will be ready and fully operational.

By Mrs Vucic, Business Manager

LGBT+ History Month

With the struggles of Lockdown 3, our students have shown their dedication and strength through their creativity and voice. We always strive to create a diverse and open environment. However, by being separated at home this hasn't been easy. February marked the beginning of LGBT+ history month, where we learnt about the conception of the community and the struggles they faced in the past and the present. Students have been writing poems and creating pieces of art and informative posters to help raise awareness of this issue in the global community. Leading to the end of this half-term we will see a celebration for Lunar New Year, with an opportunity for students to make their own Chinese lanterns, and practice their culinary skills with some special Lunar New Year recipes! We can't wait to see these magnificent creations!

By Mrs Jandu, Teacher of English, Head of Media Studies & Diversity Lead

Young Enterprise Company Program

Iura

'Light up the moment, play the memory'

We are Iura, Latin for 'rights', which embodies our company belief that everyone's rights should remain sacrosanct. Our main goal is to raise awareness about domestic abuse, a major social issue with devastating impacts.

OUR MOTIVATION

The recent lockdown restrictions have shown to be a catalyst for these incidents and pleas for help from domestic abuse victims and survivors exacerbated by 50%. This is truly a horrifying figure, and as a company we refuse to stand by and do nothing. Purchasing our products will help to spread awareness for these silent epidemics that thrive in environments of secrecy and shame, with a percentage of our profits going towards charities.

OUR PRODUCTS

We would like to offer you a selection of products that can act as a thoughtful personalised gift for a special someone or even to treat yourself; from henna decorated candles, to music glass plaques and resin boards.

INTEGRA MEDICAL ENTERPRISE

OUR PRODUCT

- A pack of around 8 medical cards, attached to a keychain loop
- Each card will advise the person using them on how to best treat a person that presents a medical scenario i.e. an allergic reaction
- The keychain loop will allow the card to be attached to a school bag or a set of keys, allowing for portability.
- They will be sized A7, so will not be bulky to carry

WHY INTEGRA?

A recent study from British Red Cross shows that **59% of deaths** from injury are preventable with basic first aid skills. Our cards can save **LIVES**.

BUY NOW

<https://www.ye-tradingstation.org.uk/product/first-aid-portable-medical-cards-ime?v=514>

ONLY £4.99

integratedmedicalofficial@gmail.com

Every year our Year 12 students take part in the Young Enterprise Company program. The company programme empowers young people to set up and run a student company under the guidance of a business volunteer. Students gain first-hand experience of work, job roles and working as a team as they set up and run their business. They explore the fundamentals of enterprise from understanding customers and selling and marketing products to making difficult decisions and taking and sharing responsibility. Most importantly they learn by doing; enjoying real successes and overcoming real setbacks makes for a truly valuable experience.

This is a nationwide program supported by HSBC. Over the years our teams have taken part and won many competitions that run throughout the year.

This year, we have two teams again. Both teams have been affected by the pandemic lockdown in terms of introducing their product and promoting their company and marketing their products. So here we are introducing the HGS teams – **IURA** and **Integra Medical Enterprise**. Please support them by spreading the word and also ordering their products.

By Mrs Malik, Head of Learning Year 11, Assistant Head of Mathematics

What can we do to help our community during this pandemic?



Due to the current situation, we are obligated to wear masks when we leave our homes. Some of us are using disposable masks and that is a major issue as the masks that you throw in the bin becomes a cause to pollute all areas of our environments, from land to seas. Currently 53 million masks are ending up in UK landfills daily and a large uncountable number of masks dumped somewhere polluting green space, rivers and oceans. The disposable masks are made of three layers of plastic which it takes about 450 years to decompose. Following this rhythm soon before we think there are going to be more masks than jellyfish in the ocean. However, we have a part to play in all this: buy and use reusable masks to help the environment. You just use, wash and then reuse. It is that simple! Please consider the option of reusable masks to help the earth's ecosystem and our future home. Make a responsible choice to care about the environment around you and succeed in life.

By Muskaan Haider Kazmi

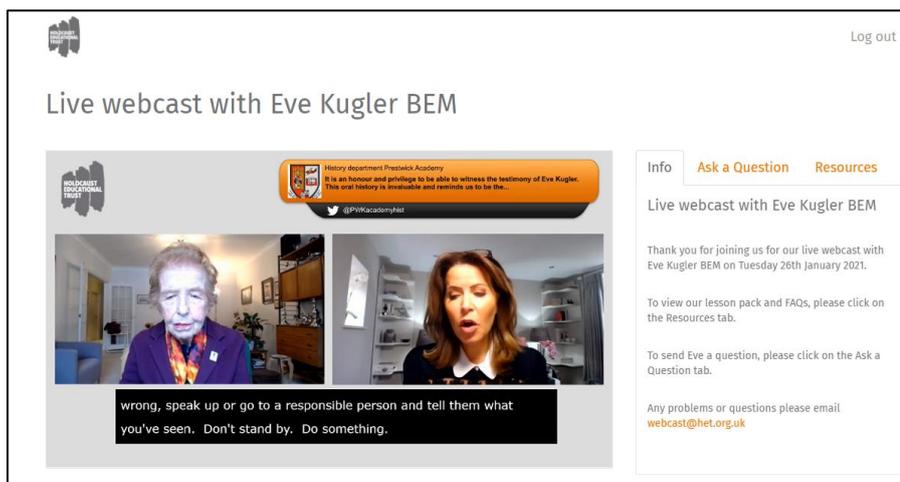
BioArtAttack Update

Having sent off our entries into the Royal Society of Biology's annual BioArtAttack competition, we have now been informed that two of our entries made the shortlist of 14 out of 362 entries nationwide! A solo entry from Ana Aslam in Year 7, and a group entry from Yadhavi Sutharshan, Ayesha Zaheer, Vigyathri Neela, Pranati Madhusudana and Narmeen Saleem in Year 9 can now be seen amongst the other selected entries here - <https://www.rsb.org.uk/news/14-news/2566-bioartattack-2020-competition-winners-announced>. Well done to everyone who entered!

Holocaust Survivor Webcast – an inspiring story

On 26 January, all Year 9 pupils linked up with the Holocaust Educational Trust to hear the testimony of a Holocaust survivor. This year, of course, we couldn't meet a survivor in person, but listening to Eve Kugler's extraordinary story was still a very memorable experience. Born in 1931, she experienced the horrors of Kristallnacht before making her escape from Nazi Germany. Eve Kugler was separated from her family for several years, living with a foster family in America. Many members of her family perished in the Holocaust. Below is a thoughtful reflection from Anshi Singh in Year 9.

"Watching Eve Kugler's webcast was really inspiring. Yes, I already knew a bit about the horrors of the Holocaust but listening to a first-hand experience really changed the way I looked at it. The way she described her family members so fondly, and what it was like leaving them, made me think of my own, and how upset I would be if I was forced to do the same. She described each event so vividly; it was like you were there with her which made it so much more real. To think that this is just one person's story, and that there were so many more Jews who went through the same, most of them facing even worse situations, helped me understand the terrors of the Holocaust and what all its victims had to go through. It's inspiring how she's willing to remember these memories, rather than to keep them locked away in the past. She clearly wants to get her story out there, to teach people what it was like, what she and her family had to go through, and what Jews in Nazi Germany had to go through. I'm extremely thankful to Eve Kugler for sharing her past, it really deepened my understanding of the Holocaust."



Log out

Live webcast with Eve Kugler BEM

History department Friends Academy
It is an honour and privilege to be able to witness the testimony of Eve Kugler. This oral history is invaluable and reminds us to be the...
@PWKAcademyHSL

Info Ask a Question Resources

Live webcast with Eve Kugler BEM

Thank you for joining us for our live webcast with Eve Kugler BEM on Tuesday 26th January 2021.

To view our lesson pack and FAQs, please click on the Resources tab.

To send Eve a question, please click on the Ask a Question tab.

Any problems or questions please email webcast@het.org.uk

wrong, speak up or go to a responsible person and tell them what you've seen. Don't stand by. Do something.

Those who experienced the Holocaust first-hand are a dwindling group, and the current generation of schoolchildren will be amongst the last to have the privilege of hearing these powerful testimonies. All who listened to Eve Kugler were challenged to be a witness to her story and to stand up to racism and discrimination in all its forms. As Sameeha Rizwan in Year 9 commented, *"the main thing which I took away from Eve's testimony was to try not be afraid to stand up for what you believe, and to be brave and persevere"*.

By Mr Bourne, History/Deputy Headteacher

CyberFirst Girls

We first heard about the CyberFirst Girls Competition in November and were immediately intrigued. We entered the competition not knowing much about cyber and coding and discovered that it was a competition for girls aged 12-13, organised by National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). We had to be in groups of 4 to enter the online qualifier that comprised of 4 categories: Logic and Coding, Networking, Cyber Security and Cryptography. As we progressed through the tasks, we were fascinated by the different elements of computing and how much we learnt. It was a great opportunity, and the competition focuses on how young girls can develop their cyber security skills and pursue a career in it. After every online lesson, we were excited to challenge ourselves and it certainly developed our team working and communication skills despite the factor of remote learning. We were very nervous to find out what place we were in after the 10-day qualifier round and we couldn't believe that we started from not knowing much to learning so much more! We were ecstatic when we heard that we won, and it was truly a wonderful experience!

Zainab: "I entered the competition not knowing absolutely anything. However, it was immensely rewarding, to see my improvement increase."

Shruti: "I especially enjoyed working on the Logic and Coding challenges, I didn't know much but now I feel that I have learnt some valuable skills!"

Hameedah: "What I enjoyed most was working and bonding with my teammates through this competition. The satisfaction of completing a question was one of the best feelings!"

Nuha: "In this qualifier, I really liked the Cryptography challenges and once completing an expert question brought so much encouragement and joy to keep on completing more challenges."

Thank you, Miss Wood, for supporting us, it really paid off and we're grateful.

By CyberFirst team TECHnically

Note from Miss Wood:

36 girls in year 8 took part in the competition this year, and I was so impressed with everyone's commitment and support of each other. Excitingly, the girls from team TECHnically (above) have been invited to take part in the semi-finals in March, against the top teams from the South East of England - good luck girls!

Cyberbullying Advice

Cyberbullying and online harassment

Cyberbullying and online harassment can be extremely distressing. They can be classed as criminal offences but there is lots of help available to support you.

Tips to stay safe online

Think before you post - when posting or commenting on the internet, consider what you say and what effect this may have. Never post comments that are abusive or may cause offence to others.

Keep personal information personal - do not say anything or publish pictures that might later cause you or someone else embarrassment. Be aware of what friends post about you, or reply to your posts, particularly about your personal details and activities.

Make the most of privacy settings - keep your profiles closed, allowing access only to your chosen friends and family.

Report cyberbullying to internet service providers - lots of content on social media that is offensive or upsetting is not necessarily a criminal offence. However, cyberbullying often violates the terms and conditions established by social media sites and internet service providers. Report cyberbullying to the social media site so they can take action against users abusing the terms of service.



Social media help sections can show you how to block users and change settings to control who can contact you. You can get advice and support on using the following social media sites including the ability to report content to them.

f Facebook - facebook.com
t Twitter - twitter.com
i Instagram - instagram.com
in LinkedIn - linkedin.com
g+ Google+ - google.com
y YouTube - youtube.com
p Pinterest - pinterest.com
t Tumblr - tumblr.com
s Snapchat - snapchat.com

If you believe that you are the victim of an offence, always keep a record of the content, by taking a screenshot, for example. If you are worried that your child or a loved one might be the victim of cyberbullying here are some signs to look out for:

- Low self-esteem.
- Withdrawal from family and spending a lot of time alone.
- Reluctance to let parents or other family members anywhere near their mobiles, laptops etc.
- Finding excuses to stay away from school or work including school refusal.

For further signs and advice visit bullying.co.uk

Advice for parents and guardians

The internet can be a valuable resource for children, allowing them to connect with friends and learn new things. But there are also risks when going online, and children can be particularly vulnerable. Talking to your child is one of the best ways to keep them safe online.

By understanding the risks and keeping yourself up-to-date on the latest technology, websites and social networks you can help your child enjoy the internet safely and securely.

For further help and advice, please click on the links to our partners websites, where you will find additional help and support. We are proud to be working alongside a range of charities on this important subject.



Help protect your children online

- Keep computers and games consoles in family rooms where you can monitor activity. Also make sure the games your child plays online are age appropriate.
- Install parental control software or activate parental controls through your internet to prevent access to inappropriate content.
- 'Friend' or 'follow' your child on social networking sites, so you can see how they are using them.
- Check they are old enough to join any websites or social networks with age restrictions.
- Advise your child not to post personal information or any images they wouldn't want everyone to see.
- Avoid using webcams unless talking to close friends or family. Consider covering your webcam when it's not in use.
- Monitor your children's internet usage, and be watchful for any secretive behaviour.
- Encourage your child to be open about what they do online and who they talk to.



Further advice is available for parents and carers of children at gov.uk

Advice for schools

Advice by the Department for Education:

Preventing and tackling bullying
Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies can be viewed at gov.uk

Cyberbullying Advice for headteachers and school staff gov.uk

What can the police do?

If we consider a message or post to be potentially criminal, we will take appropriate action. This could involve arresting the person responsible or interviewing them under caution. Cases involving sustained abuse or where someone's life is threatened will be treated seriously.

We will look at all of the circumstances when considering the best response to a report of cyber bullying. We will assess how vulnerable the victim is and what resources are required to trace the offender via social networking sites, which often operate abroad and to different legislation. In certain cases it may be difficult to take action if the offender isn't in the UK.

We will work with the victim to bring about the most suitable and proportionate conclusion. This could include alternative options that include the officer in the case using their discretion and working with the offender to record an apology to the victim.

#Coping – Family life during the lockdown

[Click here](#) to find a useful document compiled by the East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group and available on their website.

Looking for Talent

We would love to hear about our students' achievements in the wider world. Please send a brief description of any such outstanding successes to talented@herschel.slough.sch.uk, stating the students' name and form.

We will celebrate them in forthcoming newsletters.

Mrs Smith, HPP Co-Ordinator

