

Newsletter to Parents October 2021

Edited by Hemani Sandal, *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

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new school year. I am very pleased that we have been able to return to more face to face enrichment activities for our pupils. Lots of extra-curricular clubs, trips and enrichment events are running with pupils actually in the same room or area together which is something I know the pupils and staff have missed over the last 18 months. Whilst we may have to implement more measures to reduce the transmission of Covid-19 across the winter, we are determined to do all we can to safeguard these valuable experiences for our young people. I am sure you will enjoy reading about them.

You will also notice our focus on the school values in this newsletter edition. We are a caring school and putting kindness at the heart of all we do is important for the wellbeing of everyone in our school community.

I know both staff and pupils are very tired and are looking forward to the half term break. I hope as families, you have time to relax and enjoy being together over the next week.

Take care,

Ms Rockall

Follow us on

twitter 

@HerschelGrammar

for our

latest news, reminders and
useful retweets!

Year 11 Geography Trip 2021

By Abdullah Ahmed, 11S

Last week the two geography classes went for a trip. Initially this was planned alongside our rivers and coastline module that we did last year, but due to complications related to COVID-19 we were unable to go through with it. However, finally, the two classes that were unable to experience the trip went forth.

The outing included going to two sites on the River Wye: a site upstream and a site more downstream. This was to facilitate an investigation of how rivers change from source to mouth, or in this case, confluence, as Wye is a tributary of the Thames. We went to the different parts of the river and after donning our wellingtons plunged into the river. In our time at each site, we measured various defining features of the river such as depth, width and velocity. In addition, and most importantly, we also discussed health and safety in the river and whilst there was relatively low risk in the first place, we were told about how it was likely a bad idea to try and taste the river water. All in all, I would say it really was a good time that allowed us to really see the processes that we learned in class in action.



GCSE Art Student Tate Visit

By Miss Fozia Shafique, Art

On Thursday 30th September, Year 10 and 11 GCSE Art students visited Tate Britain. After such a long wait, it was an experience that the students thoroughly enjoyed. Pencil and books in hand, students were tasked with finding art that inspired them. Students were encouraged to consider whether the work evoked thoughts, memories or reactions and to be able to express their opinion in a constructive manner. One such piece that stood out to a number of students was the painting of a portrait by John Simpson. 'Head of a Man' (Ira Frederick Aldridge). The famous actor in the painting was the first African American man to have a leading role in a Shakespearean play. More information about this painting can be found here: [Tate Britain](https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-works/head-of-a-man-john-simpson).

The gallery itself was eerily quiet but peacefully tranquil. It was a great experience to be able to view the art work without the usual hustle and bustle of the crowds. It was also quite touching to see how the Tate have started to include more obvious visual diversity from the paintings that adorn the walls to the books sold in the shop. The students thoroughly enjoyed their time and look forward to visiting many more galleries in the future.



Lead with Kindness. Always.

By Mrs Katrina Rodriguez

Pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 have been learning about Lead with Kindness ethos, which plays an integral part in creating and maintaining our kind and caring environment, which we pride ourselves on, here at Herschel.

Pupils have had PSHCE lessons on this topic as well as tutor time activities where they have considered and learnt about the importance of kindness, the benefits that kindness has for everyone and the role we all play in spreading the message of 'Lead with Kindness'. Pupils have also had the opportunity to discuss some more controversial elements around kindness and looked at any barriers they may face in being kind.

Each year group has a Kindness Channel on their year team on Teams. This channel is a space for the pupils to share any examples of kindness they have witnessed or experienced with the rest of their year group. This Channel is just one way that we as a school are spreading the message to lead with kindness. The tutors, Heads of Learning and myself have been blown away at how the pupils have really embraced this message and we have really enjoyed seeing the messages of kindness on our Kindness Channel. Being kind, witnessing kind behaviour and hearing about kind behaviour also has a positive impact on people's wellbeing.

Staff have also become involved by sharing their answers with the pupils to the following three questions.

1. What is the kindest thing you've EVER done?
2. What's the kindest thing anyone has EVER done for you?
3. What's the most recent act of kindness you've witnessed or experienced or done yourself?

Our clear message of Lead with Kindness is underpinned by one simple question, which we have been encouraging the children to ask and challenge themselves: Is it kind? Here, we are referring to their behaviour. Is what I've just done or said, kind? If it's not, don't do it again.

This is a question you may wish to use with the children at home too.

We all look forward to witnessing and hearing about more acts of kindness, as the pupils further embrace our message, Lead with kindness. Always.

Safeguarding at Herschel

By Mrs Katrina Rodriguez

At Herschel Grammar school, the safety and wellbeing of all pupils is of the utmost importance. If you have concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing you should contact a member of the safeguarding team.

The Safeguarding Team for 2021-22 is:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Katrina Rodriguez (kro@herschel.slough.sch.uk)

Deputy Safeguarding leads:

Mrs Catherine Sharpe (csp@herschel.slough.sch.uk)

Mr Chris O'Donnell (cod@herschel.slough.sch.uk)

Ms Jo Rockall (jro@herschel.slough.sch.uk)

To contact a member of the Safeguarding team in an emergency, please call the school Reception on 01753 520950.

For further information about safeguarding at Herschel, please check our new safeguarding pages below. These pages are regularly updated with useful information so please do check them regularly.

One recent addition to the website is details about a new app called Hollie Guard. Hollie Guard is a next generation smartphone app which provides enhanced levels of protection for when your child may be travelling or walking along. Details are included on the safeguarding page and I have also included the link to the websites below:

[Main Safeguarding Page](#)

[Safeguarding and Wellbeing Page for Parents](#)

[Hollie Guard](#)

Safeguarding for Pupils:

All pupils have watched a safeguarding assembly at school, outlining what safeguarding means and how to raise any concerns they may.

Each year group has a Safeguarding channel on the year team on Teams with relevant information.

There are also 3 new sections on the school website for the pupils:

[Safeguarding](#)

[Mental health and wellbeing support](#)

[Reporting Concerns Offline and Online](#)

This last section contains a document at the end called Reporting Concerns at Herschel.

This document outlines all of the different ways pupils can report concerns (including how they can do so anonymously) and is designed to make it as easy as possible for them.

Drama News

By Mrs Emma Callender, Drama

I am thrilled to announce that our main school production this year will be a play entitled “Ramayana Reset” by Ayeesha Menon. The play will be performed through National Theatre Connections and any students involved will perform/technically support performances that will take place in the main school hall as well as an extra special performance at Reading Rep Theatre. The play will involve various styles of dance and music and has the opportunity to be selected by The National to perform at the Southbank venue later in 2022.



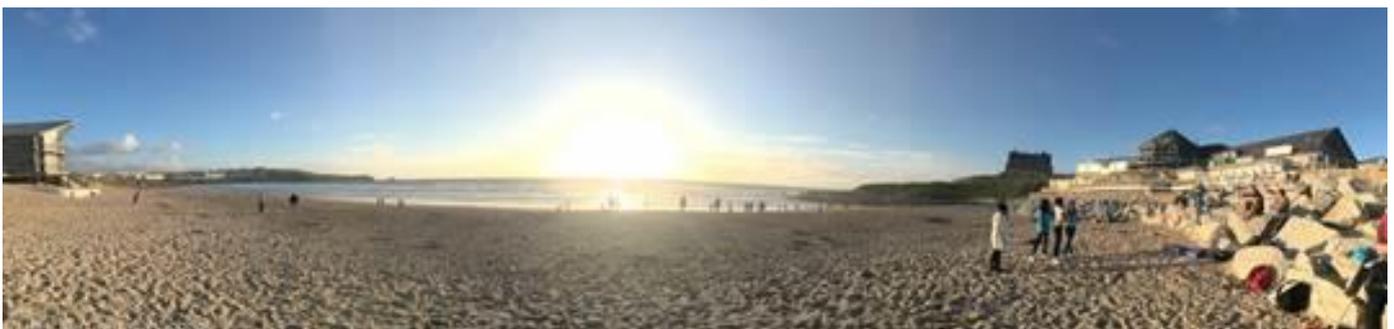
I have already had messages from students requesting to support backstage or to be able to read the script in advance.

Auditions will take place after the October half term after school and rehearsals will take place lunchtimes until January where we will move to after school rehearsals. Auditions are open for Year 9-Year 13 students with a maximum of 21 roles up for grabs.

This is an exciting opportunity and I do hope you will come and support us by attending a school performance or by coming to Reading Rep Theatre.

Year 9 Arts Faculty Activities Week Residential 2022 to Cornwall

I am so pleased to see positive take up and enthusiasm for this residential trip. We have been offering Year 9 students the opportunity to visit Cornwall for several years now and it is definitely one of my highlights of the year! During their stay, Year 9 students will learn and develop skills in a variety of activities including: how to surf, bodyboard, sail, kayak and coasteer. Previous years have also included a sculpture workshop with local artist Richard Austin and a trip to see some outdoor theatre. This year we will be staying at Falmouth University which specialises in the creative industries. A meeting will be held for parents and students in May 2022.



UP AND COMING THEATRE TRIPS

I am also pleased to see enthusiasm for school trips to resume this year. All trips were initially arranged tentatively but response has been completely unprecedented. I am sure you will agree with me that this is fabulous news and so I will do my very best to offer theatre trips throughout the academic year. ***Students will be emailed specific information about each trip prior to the trip taking place.***

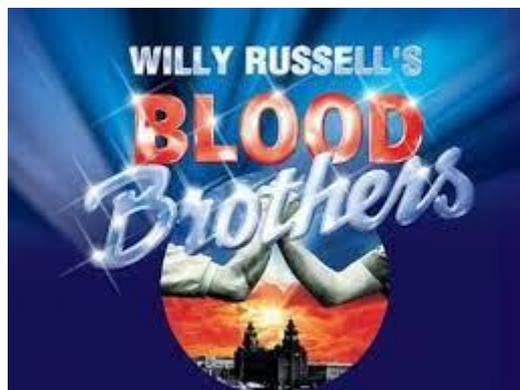
Thursday 18th November – Year 7 & 8 – “The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe”, Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, Aylesbury.



Thursday 2nd December – Years 9-13 “The Ocean at the End of the Lane,” a 2013 novel by British author Neil Gaiman. Performing at the Duke of York’s Theatre, London.



Thursday 20th January - Years 9-13 “Blood Brothers” by Willy Russell.
Performing at The Theatre Royal, Windsor.



Top 20 pupils in Years 7-11 with the most reward points

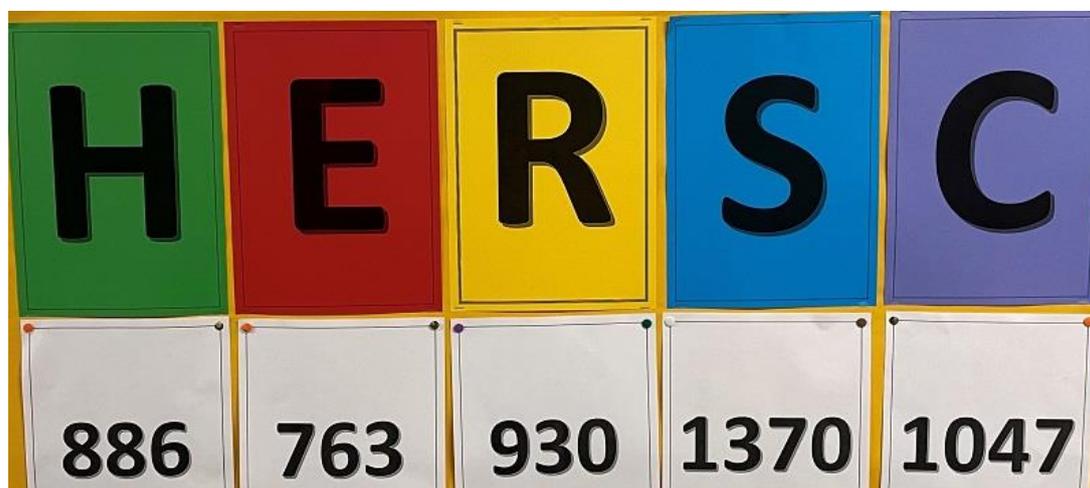
Year 7			Year 8		
Full Name	Reg Group	Achievement Points	Full Name	Reg Group	Achievement Points
Kothari, Saanvi	7S	24	Azam, Taha	8C	21
Essien, David	7S	23	Haq, Umer	8R	19
Yousaf, Abdulrahman	7S	20	Patel, Param	8S	18
Khan, Mamun	7S	19	Mujeeb, Anya	8S	17
Pallikkathodi Erathali, Haneen	7S	19	Walia, Manjot	8R	16
Parida, Divyansh	7S	19	Ali, Selasi	8R	15
Kumar, Arushi	7S	18	Karwa, Saanvi	8S	15
Nair, Anirudh	7S	18	Abraham, Samuel	8H	14
Agarwal, Anya	7S	17	Doggett, Lionel	8H	14
Sivathas, Rishickka	7S	17	Ghuman, Harmani	8H	14
Chaudhry, Eisa	7S	16	Vahisan, Thamilavai	8S	14
Damle, Ananya	7S	16	Mitchell, Harvey	8C	13
Acharya, Rijuta	7C	15	Mokashi, Mayank	8C	13
Khan, Zohaib	7S	15	Ahmed Omar, Abdulhakim	8S	12
Lama, Palden	7S	15	Anton Neethirajah, Pirapahinei	8E	12
Vasa, Sahasra	7S	15	Jain, Arohi	8S	12
Bachina, Bhuvan	7S	14	Pakeerathan, Kaarthikan	8S	12
Derdzinski, Dorian	7H	14	Perika, Mahima	8R	12
Hussain, Ibrahim	7C	14	Rana, Saksham	8C	12
Jafari, Aylin	7E	14	Sharma, Nancy	8R	12
Myo Min, Kristle	7S	14			
Shah, Anushka	7S	14			

Year 9

Full Name	Reg Group	Achievement Points
Khan, Shamaila	9H	19
Faisal, Yusuf	9H	18
Khurram, Fahad	9R	17
Banga, Manraj	9C	16
Bethamangala Rajasubbanna, Tejas	9C	16
Yousaf, Noor	9R	16
Zafar, Ibrahim	9E	16
Saleem, Ahsan	9R	15
Chaudhry, Eshal	9S	14
Kakran, Roma	9H	14
Mehta, Tia	9R	14
Damle, Nikita	9C	13
Chigada, Kayla	9C	12
Farrukh, Aisham	9C	12
Haran, Amber	9R	12
Jeyabalan, Abhina	9C	12
Maow, Isha	9C	12
Vaidyanathan, Advaith	9R	12
Yasir, Zainoor	9C	12
Abubakar, Abdullateef	9H	11
Deol, Pehal	9R	11
Hashimi, Adil	9H	11
Jayarajan, Parvathy	9R	11
Kaur, Jannatpreet	9E	11
Masood, Daanish	9H	11
Prasad, Vrishin	9H	11
Singh, Manraj	9R	11
Thamilvanan, Manasi	9E	11
Young, Jadaine	9E	11

Year 10			Year 11		
Full Name	Reg Group	Achievement Points	Full Name	Reg Group	Achievement Points
Nainu, Rajan	10S	27	Arutselvam, Renita	11S	16
Ulhaq, Emen	10C	24	Brown, Daniel	11S	15
Morris, Daena	10C	21	Dhanjal, Avneeta	11S	15
Elango, Sweety	10S	20	Naseha, Ikra	11R	15
Borda, Vrushti	10E	19	Gupta, Riya	11S	13
Garg, Anika	10S	19	Kanikkainathan, Tharun	11R	13
Urmil, Kashish	10C	19	Karimov, Rasul	11S	13
Aeri, Naina	10C	16	Mal, Suhaani	11R	13
Iyer, Shruti	10C	16	Saini, Dhruv	11C	13
Jaiswal, Ojash	10R	16	Chaudhery, Zinedine	11S	12
Semar, Younes	10S	16	Dhanoa, Manjot	11R	12
Shah, Shaeya	10H	16	Patel, Yesha	11S	12
Sharma, Bhavisha	10E	16	Patil, Atharva	11S	12
Asif, Aayan	10E	15	Young, Rayne	11C	12
Fatima, Noor	10E	15	Ali, Adeeb	11H	11
Kaur, Roseleen	10C	15	Morkeh, Melinda	11S	11
Sattar, Hafsa	10C	15	Sharma, Gurunoor	11S	11
Dhaliwal, Preet	10H	14	Shergill, Shaan	11R	11
Rutherford, Cerys	10H	14	Ahmed, Abdullah	11S	10
Kharaud, Shaan	10E	13	Ahmed, Khadijah	11S	10
Rajakumar, Yoga	10S	13	Dama, Karan	11E	10
Rao, Surabhi	10R	13	Mahmood, Esah	11R	10
			Mohammed, Humza	11S	10
			Muchibi, David	11S	10
			Omar, Aliyah	11E	10
			Shah, Yashika	11S	10
			Singh, Pahuldev	11S	10
			Vaid, Rahul	11S	10
			Zander, Christopher	11S	10

Total Reward Points



Stay Safe Online

Please find below the details of the NSPCC updated pages of support for parents about keeping children safe online.

Pupils may be spending more time online over the summer and with routines changing young people may have seen something that isn't appropriate. It might be that an innocent search has led to a not so innocent result, or children might look for things because they are curious. So, what do you do? The NSPCC have put together top tips for parents to know exactly what to do if it happens.

[What to do if your child sees something inappropriate online \(net-aware.org.uk\)](https://www.net-aware.org.uk)

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

