

Newsletter to Parents December 2022

Edited by Mr Smeath and Mrs S Sahi



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.

Once again, we are celebrating an action packed and exciting term and have a newsletter packed with all the amazing opportunities and achievements our pupils have been involved in. As you will see, the Eco Committee has been very busy contributing to our awareness of the environment and saving the school money through energy saving. They have lots of ideas for next term too.

House competitions have got properly underway this term too. The pupils and staff are enjoying the competitive spirit between the houses, and definitely improved their general knowledge. The STEM competitions and involvement in the Thames Valley Learning Partnership events have also contributed achievement points for Houses.

It's great for me, as an English teacher, to see so many theatre trips taking place. I know the pupils have loved seeing live theatre and are inspired for our own production of the Wizard of Oz next term. It's sure to be a real highlight. More news items and photos are available on our new website!

I hope the pupils enjoy the end of term. Of course, the annual talent show is the highlight of the school year for pupils, but I'm also looking forward to Christmas lunch and to admiring the Christmas jumpers.

My thanks to our wonderful staff for all their hard work and support. Wishing you all a relaxing and peaceful break. Merry Christmas.

Ms Rockall

Follow us on

twitter 






@HerschelGrammar

for our

latest news, reminders and
useful retweets!

School house system

After our first term with a new school house system, here are the results as it stands. There have been many pupil and staff house competitions carried out over this term and more will continue after the Christmas break. As Electra are in the lead at the end of this term, our school House trophy will be wearing red ribbons until the end of the spring term. Well done to everyone who has taken part in any of the house competitions so far.

1		Electra	1,017
2		Regulus	755
3		Capella	600
4		Hydrae	597
5		Sirius	592

Eco Committee

Students and staff have been busy showing their care for the environment!

1. House Clean up competition (September)

Students and staff have used the app LITTERATI to log and tag litter collected in and out of school!

1st House Clean Up Competition- Next Week!

Herschel Grammar School

LITTER PICKING COMPETITION Starter Pack!

10-14th October

RUBBISH SUMMERS ARE OVER!!

QUICK START Guide

- 1 Download the app and create your account
- 2 Sign up for the challenge
- 3 Pick litter, taking photos via the Litterati app as you go
- 4 Upload your photos in the Litterati app
- 5 Tag your photos in the gallery after uploading

Code and instructions: Next Slides



LITTERATI



Turn litter...



into detail

Eco Points awarded as part of your house points!

Exchange for **vouchers on Reusable!**



Around 40 people were actively involved in the collection, and we collected over 400 items of litter. Those who showed clear evidence of their collections have won house points!

Overall the points collected by each house were the following: H-4, E-16, R-20, S-16, C-24.

After the house clean some students continued volunteering for the collections using the litter pickers available and winning Eco-Points.

Well done to those involved, making our Slough Community look pristine!

2. SwitchOffFortnight Campaign (November)

Staff and pupils were encouraged to **turn off projectors, light and computers** at break, lunch and end of day. Eco Points were awarded to students who were actively involved.

Bulletin Notice
Eco-Schools:
Last week of the Switch Off Fortnight Campaign- win at least **4 Achievement Points**:




Switch off fortnight campaign
TURN OFF and win Eco Schools achievement points





JouleBug

1. Remind teachers or **turn off yourself** and be awarded **1 Eco point**
2. Download the app **JouleBug** for more tips on saving energy – the farm tutor you are using app for **1 Eco point**
3. Help spread the message by entering a competition to design your own **SwitchOff organic cotton t-shirt! 2 Eco Points**



Automated messages were sent to **computers** at the end of the day to **remind** teachers to turn off at 3pm and notes were placed by light switches.

Pupils completed **audits** on appliances used on all floors in school **before and after the campaign**. There was a clear drop in lights, computers and projectors left on at lunch and afterschool.



Gas and electricity readings were taken every week for 4 weeks. We **saved around 1471 Kwh of electricity**, which saved the school roughly **£640!**

3. Pre-loved Christmas Jumper swap (December)

Reuse last year's Christmas jumper, donate and/or buy preloved Christmas jumpers in our sale before Christmas jumper day

Students and staff have **donated pre-loved Christmas jumpers to be sold for our chosen Christmas jumper charity (Period Poverty)** before Christmas jumper day and were encouraged to reuse their jumpers

1. **Mon-Wed (5-7th of Dec):** Donate any unwanted Christmas jumpers (clean and in good condition) for **5 Eco points** during registration.
2. **Tuesday/Wednesday (6/7th of Dec) (depending on assemblies):** Eco reps (or Charity reps) to bring items to **G20** sorted by size at end of reg
3. **Monday-Tuesday (12-13th of Dec):** Eco reps to **sell preloved items at lunchtime - hall stage (£1 each)** – reps to sort jumpers by size. This will go to same charity as Christmas jumper day (Period Poverty)
4. **Christmas Jumper day- 14th December**
Reuse a Christmas jumper (show a photo to your tutor from previous year) for **3 Eco points**

1 IN 4 CHRISTMAS JUMPERS ARE ONLY EVER WORN ONCE. 75% OF THEM ARE MADE FROM PLASTIC FIBRES LIKE ACRYLIC OR POLYESTER.

WE ARE TAKING PART IN THE BIG Christmas Jumper Swap!

- * Please bring in good condition, clean Christmas jumper(s) that your child no longer uses or fits on the designated day or over the course of a designated week.
- * On your Big Christmas Jumper Swap day, bring in some money - your school will let you know how much - to purchase a new (preloved!) Christmas jumper that your child can wear over the festive season!
- * Feel happy that you have helped to give these jumpers a new lease of life and also helped to raise funds for a worthwhile cause!

too. A **parent mail** was also sent home to remind parents of this.

Resources from Final Straw Foundation were used to help publicize this

(<https://finalstrawfoundation.org/2021/10/19/christmas-jumper-swaps-re-home-those-jumpers-and-raise-money-for-charity/>).

Forms also watched a few videos about fast fashion and its impact and how to **normalize the use of repaired, patched and pre-loved clothing**.



TVLP MFL Language Day

On Wednesday 30 November 14 Year 9 students were lucky enough to be able to attend a Language Day run by TVLP in Langley Academy. They were greeted with a wonderful spread of French and Spanish food including *albóndigas* (Spanish meatballs), tortilla, chorizo, olives, French cheeses, stuffed tomatoes and a delicious olive cake topped with raspberries.

This was followed with a talk about how studying a language can open all sorts of doors to future careers and we had a talk about what studying a language would be like at university from a tutor at Royal Holloway University.

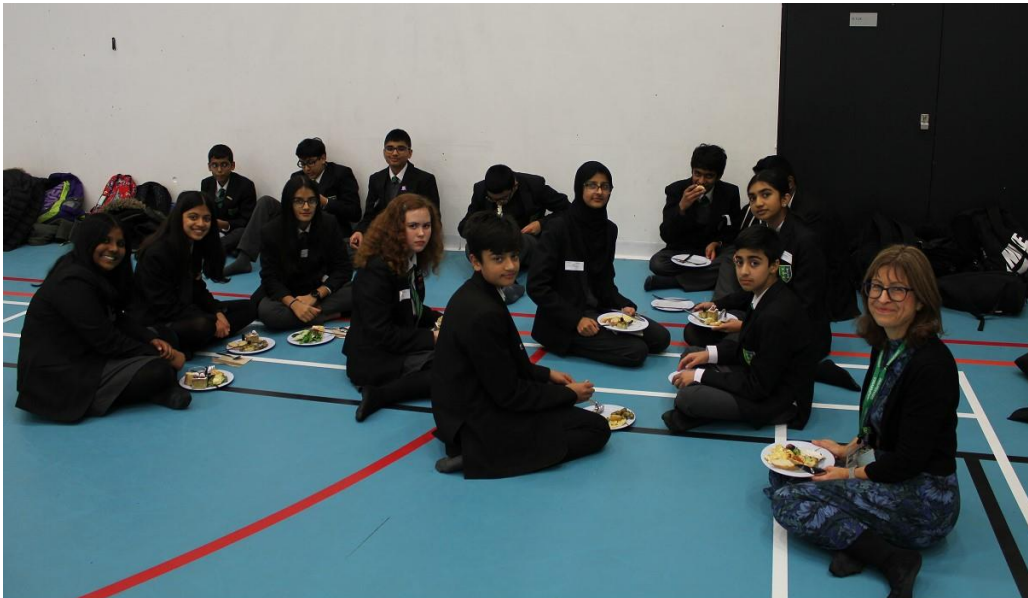
"The event was really interesting and I learnt a lot about what it would be like if I were to take a language through to university." (Thamilavai Vahisan)

The event was brilliant for everyone and I would recommend it to anyone into languages. I liked the food too! (Samuel Abraham)

"I really enjoyed the languages event held at Langley academy! I loved learning more about Spain and France, and I enjoyed taking part in some of the competitions (such as the postcard making competition)." (Yashita Gate)

"The food was spectacular and delicious. The event taught us quite a bit about the Spanish and French languages, which countries speak Spanish and French and amazing facts about these places. There was a postcard competition allowing potential artists to showcase their creative abilities and for those who study French, there was very intense play from all the competitors in the final of the Spelling Bee which went to a sudden death round where one of our own students was in joint first place with a student from another school." (Aren Atwal)

And finally a message from Saksham Rana in Spanish: Me gustó porque fue muy divertido y aprendí más español. ¡Qué fenomenal! y ¡Qué guay!



Newspaper/Writing Club

Well done to Sara Inayat (our Communications Prefect) and the Newspaper/Writing Club, who met every single Wednesday lunchtime this term in B33 with Mrs Sahi, to work tirelessly on the first edition of 'Beyond the Bubble'.



Year 7 enjoying the panto in Windsor...Oh no they're not!

Year 7 got into the festive spirit with a trip to see 'Sleeping Beauty' in Windsor. They were fabulously well-behaved and it was lovely to be able to share live theatre with our amazing students.



HGS Online Chess club

By Mr D Brown

The HGS Online Chess club is still happening every Tuesday with around 30 meeting for the lesson and around 40-50 participating in the weekly online tournament. We welcome two year 12 coaches (Daniel Brown and Tejas Dabke) who have been teaching lessons and officiating at the first ever Inter-house Chess Tournament, which took place in the second half of the term.

This saw 5 players from each house compete in a round-robin style tournament in B23 each Wednesday during lunch break. Thank you to Mrs Rockall who supplied the ten brand new chess sets (including chess clocks) so that we could return to face – to – face chess. We ended the first term with an Interform online tournament, and the winners were as follows:

- Year 7: Saaheb Singh
- Year 8: Noel Ashiedparambil
- Year 9: Saksham Rana
- Year 10: Abinash Yogarajan

I would like to thank Mr Taiwo Brown and the two coaches for their contributions towards chess. Also, a big thank you must go to the players who play the game with such enthusiasm.

Watch this space in January for further developments in chess at HGS.

2022 Term 1 Results							
	H	E	R	S	C	TOTAL	
C	3	5	4	4		16	1st
H		2.5	3	3	2	10.5	2nd
E	2.5		2.5	4	0	9	3rd
R	2	2.5		3	1	8.5	4th
S	2	1	2		1	6	5th

TVLP Debating Competition at Eton College

6 Year 10 students had the opportunity recently to practice their debating skills at Eton College. TVLP provided the chance to enter the beautiful Jafar Hall and debate against 7 other schools. The students did really well to overcome their nerves and complete their arguments and showed a real strength of character. The feedback they received from the judges was excellent and this will help them to improve their public speaking skills further in the future.



TVLP
- THAMES - VALLEY - LEARNING - PARTNERSHIP -

Globe Players

The Globe Players performed 'A Christmas Carol' for pupils in Year 8 on November 11th. Key scenes from the text were acted out, illustrating Dickens' original tale. The performance also examined the social and historical context of the Victorian era. A most enjoyable morning!



CyberFirst Girls Competition

The CyberFirst Girls' Competition provides a fun but challenging environment to inspire the next generation of young women to consider a career in cyber security. The competition continues to be a team event, with each one made up of 4 students that identify as female in Year 8 (England).

The competition consisted of **two** distinct phases:

[the online qualifying round](#) to identify the top teams in each home nation and English region.

[the Finals](#) 13 simultaneous finals held across the country where teams battle it out against rivals to be crowned winners.

We are super proud of our Year 8 girls who have enthusiastically taken part and dedicated their time at school and at home for 10 days (21st Nov to 30th Nov 2022) to score for their respective teams.

One of our year 8 teams have done incredibly well to reach the **Final of the CyberFirst Girls' Competition 2023 which will take place on the 4th Feb 2023.**

Best of luck to the team **'We Don't Byte!'**

Bebras Challenge 2022

The **Bebras Computing Challenge** introduces computational thinking to students. It is organized in over 50 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing.

Herschel Grammar provided the opportunity to all the students in the cohort to take part in the first round in which each participant answered questions online at school, that were focused on computational and logical thinking.

87 students in our school received the **Gold Award** in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. This is a proud moment for the students as they worked hard to achieve this award and be in the **top 10%** of the all those who took up this challenge (360,000 in 2022)!

Next, they will be invited to the **online Oxford University Computing Challenge** which takes place in the week beginning 16th Jan 2023. Best of luck to our students!

Staff Bake Off

By Mrs Pether

Thank you to all those who participated in the Staff Xmas Bake Off. You were all fabulous. It was such fun watching you and tasting all the mince pies. Thanks to the judges too. All fantastic outcomes it was hard to judge however the scores are as follows:

1st Place Regulus, joint 2nd Hydrae and and Electra and joint 3rd place Capella and Sirius



Year 13 Bake Off

On 14 December, the Year 13s completed a Christmas Bake Off. Students were challenged with a Gingerbread Person Technical Challenge, and a Yule log Show Stopper.

Teams were made up of 2 students from each form:

Jeremiah Oraa & Alisha Ali 13H, Medeeha Sohail & Millan Sall 13E, Naiha Atlas & Aisha Razaq 13R, Saba Zaine & Manal Razi 13S, Maariya Khan & Zoha Hussain 13C, Harman Gill & Aleena Hussain 13L.

The outcomes were of a very high standard and judging was difficult. However overall winners were:-

First Place 13L Harman Gill & Aleena Hussain

Second Place 13E Medeeha Sohail & Millan Sall.

Thank you to Sally for her hard work setting up the event and Tellie for organising the students, and everyone who supported, it was great fun.



Trip to the Globe Theatre

By Gunveen Kaur, 8R

On the 28th November, Year 8 had the fantastic opportunity of being able to visit the famous Globe Theatre as part of their English unit – A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. The trip, organised by Mrs Forrest-Smith, was amazing! The Globe Theatre was a round auditorium with an open roof and a thrust stage. The whole atmosphere had been preserved well, as if we were reliving William Shakespeare’s England. After visiting this, we arrived at a new room, where we explored the most well-known play of all, Romeo and Juliet. Everyone enjoyed the activities, especially the bitter conflict between the opposing houses! This whole experience was fun and very beneficial for everyone.



Drama

By Ismaael Akhtar, 13E

It has been a busy term as we prepare for our first school production since 2018. The students have worked tirelessly during rehearsals for "The Wizard of Oz" in preparation for their performances on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th February 2023. Those of you who have experienced previous Herschel school productions may have an expectation of audience immersion, and this show promises to deliver!

Rehearsals will continue from January, including a full-day school rehearsal on 7th January where students will be expected to have learnt their lines and found their costumes in preparation. Tickets for this wonderful production will go on sale for all except witches in January- we hope to see you there!

Frantic Assembly's Othello

On Wednesday 2nd November, Year 9 students were invited to the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford to watch a production of Shakespeare’s "Othello", which is being studied by many students in English. The production was performed by renowned theatre company, Frantic Assembly, who are also famous for shows such as "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" and "Pool, No Water". Frantic Assembly is a GCSE Drama practitioner and also studied in Year 9 Drama lessons. Students were amazed by the physical interaction of the characters that helped to support communication of character emotion and relationships. We were even lucky enough to bump into Welsh-born performer Matthew Trevannion, who played Brabantio and Ludovico, after the show.



On Thursday 26th January, Years 7 & 8 will be heading to Woking to watch the critically acclaimed "The Ocean at the End of the Lane" and on Thursday 23rd February Year 9 will be heading to The Fortune Theatre in London to see "The Woman in Black", which is famous for being one of the scariest theatre productions ever created, as well as being the script they will be studying in Drama lessons.

THE WIZARD OF OZ poster competition

Winning prize: achievement points, 2 free tickets to the show plus interval snacks.

We are looking for posters that capture the mood of the production in a creative way... You could design matching tickets too!

Digital or hand drawn designs are welcome. Please design as A4.

Please submit electronic or paper copies to Mrs Callender by Thursday 5th January 2023 3pm.

Your poster must include the following red information...

Herschel Grammar School presents

THE WIZARD OF OZ

By L. Frank Baum

Thursday 9th & Friday 10th February 2023.

7pm

In the Main School Hall.

Tickets £5

With Music and Lyrics

by Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg

Background Music by Herbert Stothart

Dance and Vocal Arrangements by Peter Howard

Orchestration by Larry Wilcox

Adapted by John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company

Based upon the Classic Motion Picture owned by

Turner Entertainment Co. and distributed in all media by

Warner Bros.

Adaptation and support materials for the Young Performers' Edition

Developed by iTheatrics

Under the supervision of Timothy Allen McDonald

An amateur production by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC

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.

Ms Forrest-Smith, HPP Co-Ordinator



Assemblies: Mental Health and wellbeing from Number 22

By Mrs Rodriguez

This half-term, every year group has received an assembly from Number 22, our school counselling service. The counsellor, Paul delivered three different sessions, which were tailored to our specific year groups. He covered topics such as anxiety, managing exam stress, social media, managing emotions and many more. The pupils responded exceptionally well and I've already received many requests for him to come back and speak more to the pupils!

Please see below for the link to our dedicated mental health and wellbeing support pages.

There is one for the students and another for parents. These pages contain details of all the support on offer to the pupils and how to access that support:



For students - [https:// www.herschel.slough.sch.uk/for-students/mental-health-and-wellbeing/](https://www.herschel.slough.sch.uk/for-students/mental-health-and-wellbeing/)

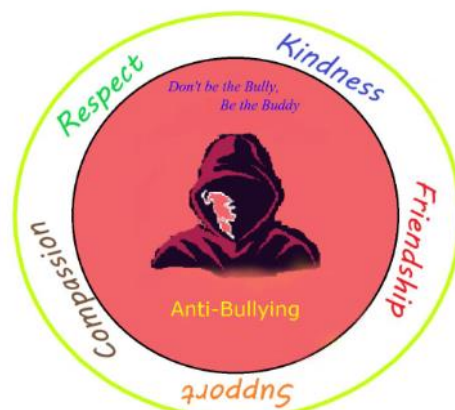
For parents - <https://www.herschel.slough.sch.uk/for-parents/mental-health-wellbeing-support/>

Antibullying Week 2022

This year we had a whole week of activities focussed around anti-bullying. A team of our anti-bullying ambassadors delivered an assembly to the whole school on different days reminding pupils of how to report bullying and where to get support.

There was an Anti-Bullying Logo house competition, which was won by Prajin who is in Electra. Here is his winning design.

The students also engaged in adding words of motivation and positivity onto our Anti-Bullying Graffiti wall.



You can find more information on Anti-bullying at Herschel using the link here

<https://www.herschel.slough.sch.uk/for-students/anti-bullying/>

Financial support and Free School Meals

If you are in receipt of benefits, you may be eligible for financial support, including Free School Meals, School Trip and music lesson subsidies. To find out more please visit our website the page on our website: <https://www.herschel.slough.sch.uk/For-Parents/Free-School-Meals>

The following website contains some useful guidance and support relating to income support, Energy costs, childcare costs and more.

<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>

Do you have a child in year 11 or 13?

By Mrs Katrina Rodriguez

Do you ever feel unsure of how to best support them with their workload, exams, stress or general wellbeing? If so, please read on.

We know that, at times, knowing how to support and engage with your own children can be challenging, especially at a time when they may have the additional stress of upcoming exams.

I am therefore pleased to announce that we will be running a parental workshop on **Friday 27th January 2023 in school 3pm-4pm**. The session will include:

- Promoting wellbeing
- How to have conversations to support your child
- How to support your child manage their own stress, including exam stress.
- Understanding and managing stressful situations
- Strategies to support common worries in children.

This session is following the huge success of the recent year 7 parental workshop, where 100% of the parents who attended said they found it useful and would highly recommend to other parents.

Please note that there will be limited space and you will be required to sign up.

I will be sending out details via parentmail in the New Year, including how to sign up so please look out for those.

We are also looking into scheduling sessions for parents of pupils in the other year groups, in due course.

Safeguarding at Herschel

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. **Please note the safeguarding email address: safeguarding@herschel.slough.sch.uk**

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Katrina Rodriguez

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.

Main Safeguarding page: <https://www.herschel.slough.sch.uk/School-Information/Safeguarding>