



February 2022

Issue 20

Henlow Heart

Frosty Mornings

Dear Parents and Carers

Frosty mornings and the beautiful picture of the scenery surrounding us is a fitting opening for this newsletter. After the December snow we re-scheduled our Christmas concert for the first week of January and it was a lovely evening enjoyed by a full audience in the Theatre. Students from all year groups contributed to the programme and in the concluding speech I noted that we may have seen the start of Henlow's first rock group!

Continuing the musical theme Meppershall and Henlow joined an audience of 8000 at the Young Voices event at the O2. This was a wonderful experience and the smiles in the photographs reflect this (for the staff too!)

Henlow has always offered a huge range of lunch/after school clubs and activities and this certainly continues to be the case with any new possibility considered. However, the popularity of lunch time Boardgame club has taken even Mr Taylor by surprise!

The development work across our site is largely complete but ensuring that we have the facilities to offer as many curricular and extra-curricular opportunities as possible will always continue. The new long jump pit is an example of this development and the photographs here demonstrate how this venture is progressing. Other highlights from the sporting field include a huge congratulations to Mackenzie K who finished 4th in the County Cross Country Championships and progresses through to the National Cross Country Finals.

'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' John 10:10

We also celebrated huge success in the Zonal trampolining competition with both our Year 9 and 10 girls and Year 10 boys finishing 3rd. They all progress to the National Finals in March alongside Bethan M who secured her place as an individual competitor as well as in the team event.

Each week brings new opportunities within the curriculum and food technology has been taking centre stage through Bake off and lessons. Awarding various certificates for planning and making wraps has certainly been a highlight.

My final note is to wish Year 10 Good Luck as they begin their mock exams. I know they have been revising and will gain a great deal from the experience of an exam situation; this is an important stage in their GCSE journey and we will be supporting them throughout this time.

Yours Sincerely

Caren Earp

Head Teacher



'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' John 10:10

Young Voices



On Friday 20th January we went to the O2 for Young Voices. There were more than 8000 children there! We started the concert with a big Mexican wave. We saw and beat boxed with The Beatbox Collective, danced with a man called Andy and his team and also sung with Heather Small. I think it was the best concert I have ever been to. It was an amazing experience!

Penny W 6SGO



Christmas Concert

After the disappointment of having to cancel our Christmas concert due to the snow before Christmas, we were thrilled to give our musicians the opportunity to perform before twelfth night struck! This was the first time our new auditorium has hosted a performance and what an amazing concert it was to show off our new facilities. A huge thank you to Mrs Fordham, Mrs Gray, Mrs Farrington and all the students who dedicated a lot of time and effort to put on a fantastic concert. A special thank you to Mrs Kelly and Emily K who stayed to help look after the students back stage.



Mission Zero

Well done to the 13 Year 9 and 10 students who have successfully completed Mission Zero and are waiting for their programs to be sent to the International Space Station. Once there, they will run on the Astro Pi, floating around the ISS, to display their image. The Astro Pi will sense the colours around to change the pixels of the image designed. Once complete, students will receive a certificate to say their code ran on the ISS and its location at the time the program executed.

If you wish to complete at home, you can create an account and complete the tutorial at home by going to <https://projects.raspberrypi.org/en/projects/astro-pi-mission-zero>.

If you would like to complete at school, Years 7-10 can attend on Wednesday 22nd February in the IT suite from 3:45 - 4:45pm.

Food Tech @ Henlow



Students have been busy cooking and baking in food tech this half term. Year 10's have been improving their presentation skills working with chocolate to create decorations and bowls for the chocolate mousse they made. Year 7 & 8 Bake Off have been very busy creating all sorts to compete for the Bake Off Champion. There have been marble cakes, checkerboard cakes and valentines themed creations. Year 5 have been designing and creating tasty wraps.

Sports Highlights



WE ARE GOING TO NATIONAL FINALS! Our Year 9 & 10 Girls and Boys teams smashed the Zonal Finals and will progress to the national finals later this term. Awesome work from all involved!



We have a fantastic evening at the Year 7 Sports Hall Athletics competition. Fantastic individual performances by everyone led to some amazing team results.



Our KS2 team won the District Sports Hall Athletics competition and will progress to the County finals. Well done to everyone involved!

Henlow are pleased to announce the installation of our brand new long jump pit (well pits actually!). We are extremely excited to be able to use this state of the art facility in lessons and for extracurricular clubs, and can now host the summer athletics fixtures. What will our athletics teams achieve? #letsGoHenlow



Check our Easter edition of Henlow Heart for the full sports round up of this term!

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 7th February we joined schools and youth organisations across the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day 2023 alongside computing lessons throughout the week. Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, which calls on children and young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers and more, to help to create a better internet.

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in Henlow, and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year. We would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating the day by continuing the conversation at home. To help you with this, the UK Safer Internet Centre have created some free activities and information for parents and carers which are available at: www.saferinternet.org.uk/SIDparents. Whether you have 5 minutes to start a conversation or hours to spare, there are top tips, quizzes and films which you can use at home with your child.

We suggest the following activities that are shown on the next two pages:

- No tech or better with tech?
- Starting conversations

If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch with your child's form tutor or one of Designated Safeguarding Leads.

More information about the Safeguarding Team at Henlow can be found here, <https://www.henlowacademy.co.uk/web/safeguarding/534243>



Starting conversations

These activities are designed to get learners talking about their experiences of using the internet and the issues that matter online to them the most. They include opportunities to reflect on how their tech use has changed over time, explore the influence of tech on their relationships and interests, and discuss the scope of internet use worldwide and the impacts of this.

Tech on display

Most of the time learners are told not to use their personal tech in educational settings but this activity encourages the opposite. Invite learners to get out their devices and explain that you will be reading out things for them to find on their phone or online. You may choose to make this into a race.

First person to....

- Find their screen time settings.
- Find a reporting page on social media.
- Find a positive news story.
- Find #AD on an influencer's post.
- Find a viral video.
- Find the song at number one in the charts this week.
- Find someone online who is campaigning for change.

Would you rather?

Read out the following choices, asking learners to pick one of the two options. Get them to vote and ask for their reasons.

Work for Apple or **Work for Google.**

Teach an older member of the family a dance from TikTok or **Stream on Twitch**

Get hate online for being yourself or **Praise when you aren't yourself**

Netflix or **Amazon Prime**

Create a successful social media app or **Create a successful game**

Lifelong free subscription to Spotify or **Apple Music**

Buy something online or **Go out shopping for it**

Your phone battery is always full or **You always have signal**
























Name:

No tech or better with tech?

For each of the activities below, discuss as a family: is this better when completed with tech or without tech? For example, would you rather ask a question you have to someone face-to-face, or a voice assistant like Alexa or Siri or Google?

Circle the symbol that best matches your verdict for each one. Different family members could use different colours pens and pencils to show their opinions.

	Better without tech	Better with tech	Undecided
Chatting to friends and family			
Playing games			
Learning and research			
Asking a question			
Getting help & support			
Saying sorry			
Shopping for clothes			

Reflection time

Overall, we prefer to do things...

without tech / with tech / no clear winner

We all agreed that...

We really disagreed about...

The most interesting one to discuss was...

I changed my mind about...

HENLOW
**STREET
FOOD**
ACADEMY

**ARRIVING BREAK
TIMES AFTER
HALF TERM!**

*Make sure your ParentMail
accounts are topped up or you
won't be able to purchase
snacks.*



World Book Day

Save the date!

2 March 2023

With a programme of exciting events, brand new activities for home and school, and our fantastic line-up of £1/€1.50 books - World Book Day 2023 is shaping up to be the best ever



Competitions

GET CAUGHT READING!

If you are caught reading independently between Wednesday 22 February and Thursday 2nd March, staff will reward you with a 'golden ticket'.

All tickets will be put into a prize draw which will take place at break time on Friday 3rd March. Names 'pulled out' (one for each year group) will win a prize!



GUESS WHO'S BEEN READING

Can you guess the identity of staff 'caught reading'. There will be photos on the library display board of staff reading, but who are they? House points will be awarded for each correct answer.

(Photos will be on display from Wednesday 22nd February until Friday 3rd March)



Dress Up For World Book Day

Students have the option to dress up for the day. You can either come as a book character, customise an item of clothing (for example a T Shirt) or make a book related item.



Scout Fundraising Day

The Scouts and Explorers of the Henlow Clifton Scout Group are attending the International Haarlem Jamborette in August this year. Over 3000 scouts from around the world will meet in Holland for the 14th Haarlem Jamborette. This takes place every 3 years and so the last one was pre-covid.

We will be there for 10 nights and will be able to meet scouts from over 25 different countries for different adventures including rafting, abseiling, hiking and crafts. As part of our challenge we need to fundraise as much money as possible.

On Wednesday 22nd February you can wear non-school uniform, scouting uniform, or wear school uniform but be a supporter for a minimum £1 donation. Hand your donation in to your form tutor during registration.



Key Stage 3 Board Games Club

What is Board Games Club? Well, in Mr Taylor's words as the founder of the club, it is "social, competitive and fun". Every Friday players enjoy the opportunity to join in with a range of different table based games, including abstract games like Chess, Backgammon and Go, as well as games that demand more dexterity like 'Klask'. There are social deduction games like 'Sounds Fishy' alongside number crunching card games such as '6 Nimmt'. The atmosphere is always calm as players learn how to encounter victories and defeats with good humour. Board games are an excellent way to improve problem solving, social skills, risk assessment, planning and abstract deduction. Board Games Club is also a fun way to spend a Friday lunch time! Written by Rory C



Science Week

British Science Week Poster Competition

Design a poster with the theme of 'connections' - there are loads of STEM topics that could be explored! How about exploring how our body parts are all connected and work together, the connection between our actions and the impact on our environment, or even how internet connection has changed the world. Hand your entry into Mrs Chambers who will send them into the British Science Week competition to win a range of prizes! Draw your poster on A4 or A3 paper. It will be photographed to be uploaded, so make it clear. Deadline to give to Mrs Chambers is Friday 17th March. For more information on the competition [click here](#)

The BIG Henlow Science Fair is back!

THURSDAY 16TH MARCH

You get to come and display your home Science project on the evening of our Science Fair. There will be certificates and prizes for Key Stages 2, 3 and 4.

To get involved:

- Decide what project you think you would like to do.
- The theme this year is 'Connections'
- Complete the google form letting us know the title of your project and if you are working solo or as part of a team.
- We will make sure there is a display area for your project on the day of the Science Fair. You might like to make posters with all the background information about your project.
- You will stand with your project talking about how you did it to everyone who visits your stall.

Other Science Stuff...

We have the planetarium visiting us over the week. Many of your will be taken to experience the dome as part of your lessons.

Science club runs every day and will include lots of fun activities (the schedule will be published closer to the time)

Outside speakers will be giving talks; Year 9 and 10 will be hearing from a STEM expert working in the field of cybersecurity. A second speaker will be coming to give a talk after school one day.

PE Kit Requirements

Here is the PE kit requirements for the next half term for Year 5 - 8. Please can you make sure that your child is coming to every PE lesson with the right equipment.

Group	Sports	Equipment
Year 5	OAA Tag Rugby	Full PE kit
Year 6 Boys	Trampolining Rugby	Full PE kit Gum shield Boots (preferred) Spare bag for muddy boots/ clothes
Year 6 Girls	Gymnastics Rugby	Full PE kit Gum shield Boots (preferred) Spare bag for muddy boots/ clothes
Year 6 Mixed	OAA Netball	Full PE kit
Year 7 Boys	Trampolining Rugby	Full PE kit Gum shield Boots (preferred) Spare bag for muddy boots/ clothes
Year 7 Girls	Rugby Gymnastics	Full PE kit Gum shield Boots (preferred) Spare bag for muddy boots/ clothes
Year 7 Mixed	OAA Netball	Full PE Kit
Year 8 Boys	Trampolining Rugby	Full PE kit Gum shield Boots (preferred) Spare bag for muddy boots/ clothes
Year 8 Girls	Rugby Gymnastics	Full PE kit Gum shield Boots (preferred) Spare bag for muddy boots/ clothes
Year 8 Mixed	Badminton Netball	Full PE Kit

Can You Help Us?

Year 7 & 8 gardening options group are on the look out for some gardening bits and pieces to help with their lessons. Do you have any spare gardening tools (hand trowels, hand forks, hoes, spades, rakes etc)? They are also looking for large pots/planters that can they grow vegetables in. Any donations would be gratefully received and can be brought in to reception for the attention of Mrs Wild.



We Are Recruiting!



Growing Together



Science Teacher

(Chemistry or Physics specialism preferred)

ECT's welcome

Pay scale: MPS/UPS Full time, Permanent

Start date: 1st September 2023 or sooner if available

Closing date: Friday 17th February

Interviews: Wk. com 20th February

We are seeking an outstanding Science teacher with a proven track record of success and raising student outcomes to join us as we take the next stage of our development.

Henlow Academy has undergone an extensive building project resulting in state of the art facilities including 5 new science labs. Visits to our school are welcome.

The school is committed to safeguarding and the welfare of pupils and expects staff to share that commitment. The school operates safer recruitment practices and the successful applicant will be subject to DBS Clearance.

The successful candidate will:

- Be passionate and enthusiastic practitioner
- Have a proven track record of impact on student progress
- Have recent experience of teaching GCSE
- Committed to continued professional development and exploring new teaching methodologies
- Dedicated to the pastoral care of all young people
- Promote our school Christian values and ethos

To apply for any of the above positions or for more information, please visit www.henlowacademy.co.uk

HONESTY - ENTHUSIASM - NURTURE - LOVE - ORIGINALITY - WISDOM

Stock Your Pencil Case!

Please ensure your child has the correct stationery with you everyday. Students are expected to come equipped for the business of learning and therefore we do not provide stationery for pupils.

You need a pencil case containing:

- Cartridge pen, handwriting pen, ballpoint or a friction pen (black)
- 30cm ruler
- HB pencil and a spare
- 2 Dry wipe board marker pen and a wiper/cloth
- Coloured pencils (not felt tips)
- Ink eraser pen (if using a cartridge pen)
- Green pen (friction pen preferred)
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener (which can collect shavings)
- Glue Stick
- Scissors
- Highlighters
- Scientific calculator (ESSENTIAL FOR KEY STAGE 3 MATHS)
- Protractor
- Headphones (suitable to be plugged into any tablet)

Stationery and revision equipment is available to purchase at the school shop on Monday, Wednesday and Friday break times in the hall.

[Click here for the price list](#)

Name ALL your belongings clearly

At Henlow Academy we are very aware of the increase in the cost of living and are actively looking for ways to support families through this period. In order to support parents/carers we have put together some potentially helpful resources below. If you are concerned about any cost aspects to do with your child's education please email jgregory@henlowacademy.org.uk (Mrs J Gregory).

Childcare Offers for Parents

The Childcare Choices campaign aims to raise awareness and understanding of the support available from the government with the costs of childcare.

You can help ensure your parents and carers aren't missing out by directing them to <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> where they can easily find the right offers of childcare support for them.

With the school Christmas holidays approaching and looking ahead to half term in February, it is more important than ever that your parents and carers are able to access the financial support they qualify for. They could be entitled to:

- up to £2,000 a year of Tax-Free Childcare per child (or £4,000 if disabled) for children up to 11, or 17 if they're disabled
- help with up to 85% of their childcare costs for children up to 16 with Universal Credit
- 30 hours of free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds if they're a working family in England.



Free School Meals Eligibility and Entitlement

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals please ensure they are using this entitlement. The canteen offers a wide range of choices at lunchtimes.

If you feel your child might be eligible for Free School Meals please follow the link below:

<https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/53/benefits/4/free-school-meals/3> The school is then contacted via Central Bedfordshire

Free School Meals Holiday Courses

Central Bedfordshire offers a variety of holiday courses free for students entitled to Free School Meals - please follow this link to find out more.

<https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/11/children-and-young-people/1134/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-haf>

Emergency support

Emergency provision is available following an emergency or crisis to meet the immediate day-to-day expenses relating to food and utilities. Supermarket vouchers and top-ups for pre-paid energy meters are provided to meet these needs.

To be eligible for the emergency provision you must be:

- permanently residing within Central Bedfordshire
- 16 years or older
- in an emergency situation and not have enough money to meet the immediate needs of you and your family
- able to provide sufficient proof of identity

You do not need to be in receipt of any benefit or entitlement. Find out more [on our website](#).

The Need Project Referrals

We are able to refer families to The Need Project. If you would like a referral made please email Kelly Jando kjando@henlowacademy.org.uk with number of adults, number of children, what gender the children are, any food allergies in the household and giving permission for your details to be shared with The Need Project

Help for Households

You can find more information about the broader support available to help with the cost of living on the Help for Households website.

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

Cost of Living Support

Pupil Premium

Are you eligible for Free School Meals?

If you think you are eligible please contact Central Bedfordshire on the number below. As well as receiving the option to have Free School Meals you may also be entitled to a variety of initiatives at school. These may include free access to Breakfast Club, support with the cost of Food Tech, help towards uniform, subsidised music lessons, help towards the cost of school trips as well as other initiatives throughout the year.

The qualifying benefits to receive free school meals for children in Year 3 and over are:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and your annual gross income does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (during the initial roll-out of this benefit)

If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8306. When you call to apply for free school meals, please have the following information ready:

- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner
- dates of birth for your children
- if you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number

The school will then be informed and you will receive further information. If you would like to find out more about how the school uses the funding to support pupils in the school, you can find more information on the school's Pupil Premium Strategy on the school's website http://www.henlowacademy.co.uk/web/pupil_premium/396258 or contact Miss Julia Cave (jcave@henlowacademy.org.uk) For more information on how to apply for Free School Meals, please contact Central Bedfordshire Council directly on 0300 300 8306.

Could you be entitled to Pupil Premium Funding support?

Reminders

Please use ParentMail to make all payments.

All children need to have a NAMED water bottle with them everyday.

Please make sure that all your child's clothes and property is clearly named and that name labels haven't worn off.

The school office aren't able to call home if your child forgets something. Please ensure your child checks their timetable and brings all they need each day.

We offer Homework Club everyday from 3:45pm to 5:00pm. There is no charge for Homework Club but booking is essential. Please email jmarshall@henlowacademy.org.uk

Please check your child's ParentMail accounts and ensure they are in credit for school dinners. Dinner money top ups can be found under the accounts section in ParentMail.

Breakfast Club runs from 8:00am until 8:30am and must be booked in advance. Do not drop children off before 8:00am as they are not supervised and not insured to be on site. Any pupil not attending Breakfast Club must not be on site before 8:35am.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Additional Information
Monday 13th - Friday 17th February	Half Term	
Monday 20th February	First Day Back	
Monday 20th February - Friday 10th March	Year 10 Mock GCSEs	Revision help videos available on our website.
Wednesday 22nd February	Non-school Uniform Day Supporting Henlow Clifton Scout Group	Wear non-school uniform, scout/guiding uniform for a £1 minimum donation. Money to be handed in during registration.
Tuesday 28th February	Year 10 Poetry Live	Please see ParentMail
Tuesday 7th March	Year 9 Globe Trip	
Friday 10th March	Careers Fair	For Key Stage 3 & 4
Monday 13th - Friday 17th March	Year 6 Mock SATs	
Monday 13th - Friday 17th March	Science Week	Check out the Science Week page for the activities going on
Thursday 16th March	The BIG Henlow Science Fair	
Friday 17th March	Red Nose Day	More details to follow
Friday 17th March	Year 9 & 10 Vaccinations	
Friday 31st March - Friday 14th April	Easter Holidays	