



INSPIRING OPPORTUNITIES -

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start by congratulating our Year 11 and Year 13 students who began their exams this week, for the mature and focussed start they have made. The timetable of exams increases next week, with many more students sitting their first exam of the Summer period. I encourage all students to not only focus on revision and achieving the best they can, but to also ensure that they prioritise their health and wellbeing during this time. Alongside revision, take time to see friends, go on a walk and give yourself opportunities to digest the information you are revising before moving on to another topic or subject—balance is important and we know that you will all do yourselves proud.

This week our Year 7 students heard from children's author Ross Welford, during a fantastic live virtual session. This opportunity allowed students to get a unique insight into the man behind the books and hopefully inspired many to borrow one of his titles from our Library -or maybe even to pick up a pen to write their own story. Meanwhile, our oldest year group also took part in a unique activity, when our Year 13 Public Service class visited The University of Warwick to take on their climbing wall. Students not only gained valuable course accreditation, but also showed teamwork and PRIDE to support each other. Diverse enrichment such as this brings learning to life and we look forward to sharing more of the unique trips and visits our students from all year groups enjoy in future editions.

Best wishes,

Lisa Hickman, Headteacher

STUDENTS HEAR FROM 'SUPERB STORYTELLER'



Children's author Ross Welford spoke to students at Hinckley Academy during a whole Year 7 presentation in The Bridge. The author of 'The Kid That Came From Space' and 'Time Travelling with a Hamster', spoke to students about his inspiration, favourite characters and his love of magic.

Students got a unique insight into how he works with his editor to decide upon a title for a new book and also how his passion for where science and magic cross over continues to provide inspiration for his work— as a member of The Magic Circle, he even performed an impressive magic trick during the talk by making 'solid water'!

The virtual session saw Hinckley Academy joined during the session by a number of other local schools, who all enjoyed this unique insight into the creative process. At the end students were able to submit their questions for Ross to answer, including why there is a pet chicken in 'The Kid That Came From Space'!

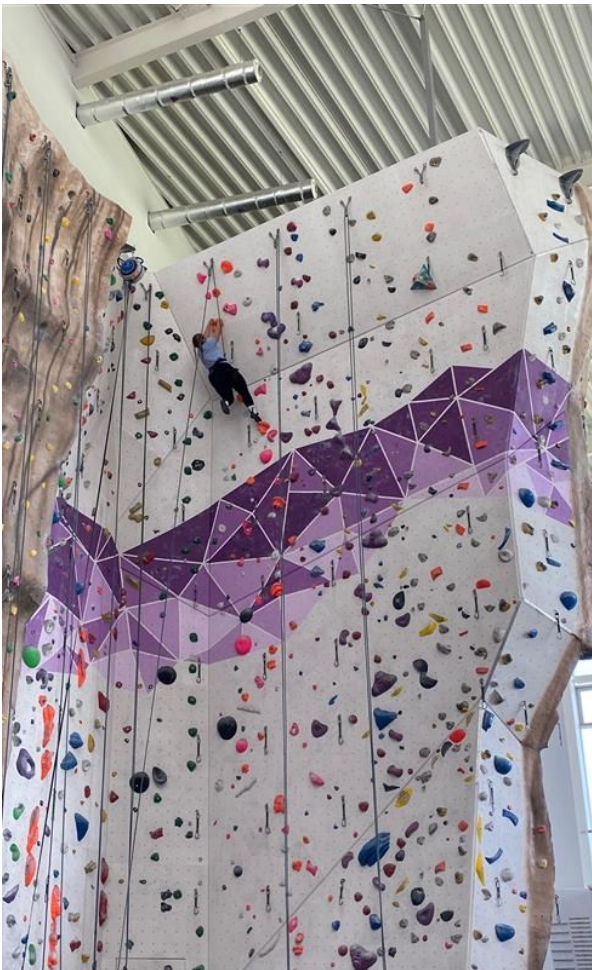


YEAR 13 REACH NEW HEIGHTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

On Tuesday, Year 13 students studying the Public Services Level 3 Diploma attended the University of Warwick Climbing Wall for a day of excellent tuition.

The group spent the day learning climbing techniques, belaying, bouldering and knot tying. To master the skills, students had to not only utilise their physical strength, but also overcome challenges mentally too. The group showcased great communication and team work to support each other throughout the day.

Their teacher, Ms Hayto said, "Not only did they gain practical grades from the experience, they also developed trust in one another and many conquered their fears."



Students reached dizzy heights this week as they demonstrated determination and teamwork at the University of Warwick

**SHOWING OUR
SUPPORT FOR AN
IMPORTANT ROAD
SAFETY PETITION**

We are supporting a petition to have a permanent pedestrian crossing installed near St Peter's Primary School on London Road in Hinckley. The safety of our students is our top priority and the addition of a permanent crossing would enable not only our students, but all pedestrians to cross this busy main road safely. To view and sign the petition, please [click here](#).

BRAND NEW YEAR 7 AND 8 TOILETS UNVEILED



We are delighted to be able to officially open our brand new Year 7 and 8 toilets next week.

The facilities, next to The Cube, have undergone extensive investment, now completely refitted with new basins, taps, toilets, cubicles, mirrors and flooring. The new floor to ceiling cubicles allow students additional privacy and make the new amenities a stylish area for our students to take great pride in.

As our community is aware, the school site is undergoing a significant amount of investment at the moment, including new windows, sixth form steps and toilet facilities, however, these are only a few items on a very extensive and exciting list. A lot of our current site improvement work is also less obvious, but extremely vital as the foundation of our redevelopments, including footpaths and ongoing ground works.

As work continues across our site, we look forward to sharing many more improved facilities with our students, staff and parents and carers over the coming weeks and months ahead.



FRIDAY'S FRUIT COCKTAIL

Students in Mr Pitchford's Food and Nutrition Year 7 class made fantastic fruit cocktails on Friday.

Students spent the lesson learning important knife skills and when to use different chopping boards.

Several students also brought in exotic fruits, such as pineapple and mango, which staff demonstrated how to cut safely.



SILVER PRACTICE EXPEDITION



Our Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award group ventured to the Peak District recently to complete their Silver Practice Expedition.

Ms Fennell, DofE Coordinator said, "Leaving Hinckley on Friday, we travelled up to Wardlow Myres, Derbyshire where we camped for the night. After quite a cold night, the teams were woken up and ready to set off at 8am. Saturday took them across Abney Moor seeing some beautiful scenery and finishing at Hardhurst Farm in Hope for the evening where tents were pitched and they cooked their tea on the Trangia.

Sunday was another early start, they walked over Bamford Mills up to the Church at Hathersage, after lunch they crossed Hathersage Moor to finish at Grindleford train station."

Well done to everyone involved for coping well with the cold and icy weather conditions at night and the sun throughout the day, for remaining very positive and showing lots of enthusiasm.



GOLD AWARD TRAINING WEEKEND

Our Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award group were out and about in the Dark Peaks, exploring the Upper Derwent Valley, Lose Hill and Mam Tor recently. Our young people learnt and enhanced vital navigation techniques in preparation for their next adventure.

Ms Fennell said, "They were a fantastic group who just got on with it, with their positive attitudes and can-do approach. I am sure the weekend will definitely stand them in good stead for any challenges ahead of them. We look forward to their next adventure in the Brecon Beacons."





THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

BRONZE

Volunteering **3** months

Physical **3** months

Skills **3** months

Expedition **2** days **1** night

PLUS a further 3 months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.

**Current Year 9s can enrol onto the Bronze DofE award.
(Completing their expedition in Year 10)**

**Expedition training will start in September*



SILVER

Volunteering **6** months

Physical one section for 6 months, the other for 3 months

Skills

Expedition **3** days **2** nights

Direct entrants must do a further 6 months in the Volunteering, or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.

**Current Year 10s can enrol onto the Silver DofE award.
(Completing their expedition in Year 11)**

**Expedition training will start in September*

**Registration for Bronze, Silver and Gold:
Now Open**

For more information email afennell@hajc.leics.sch.uk