

SENIOR & SIXTH FORM HCS AT HOME

12 FEBRUARY 2021



“I wish you all a very good Half Term.”

Parents will have received notification of the appointment of my successor, Dr Michael Gray. Appointing a Headmaster is probably the most important job that a Governing Body undertakes, and whilst I had no part in the process, I was impressed by the rigour that the Governing Body deployed to ensure that they recruited the right person. Having met Dr Gray, and spoken to him on several occasions now, I am sure that the Governors have made an excellent choice. I look forward to working with Dr Gray to ensure that there is a smooth transfer, and I know that Dr Gray is very much looking forward to joining the HCS community.

On other matters, I am pleased with the high level of interest that we have received from pupils wishing to join HCS in September – this has been a busy half term for our Admissions Office. It has, of course, also been busy for teaching staff and our pupils, I think we are all ready for a break. I hope that Half Term brings opportunities for families, albeit not extended families, to have some valuable downtime together. Personally, I am hoping that the weather will enable plenty of walks into the surrounding countryside, and I will be doing my best to keep away from a computer screen. I wish you all a very good Half Term.

Mr Paul Smith, Headmaster

FROM HARROW TO HEREFORD: DR MICHAEL GRAY APPOINTED AS HEADMASTER

Chair of Governors Rear Admiral Philip Wilcocks announced this week that, following a thorough selection process, Dr Michael Gray of Harrow School will succeed Paul Smith as Headmaster of Hereford Cathedral School.

Dr Gray, who is currently Director of Studies at Harrow School, graduated from King's College London with a First in History, after which he completed a PGCE, followed by a Masters and PhD at the UCL Institute of Education. Dr Gray taught at Halliford School in Shepperton and St Edward's School, Oxford, before joining Harrow in 2013 as Head of Politics. He subsequently became Academic and Universities Director before taking up his appointment as Director of Studies in 2019 with overall responsibility for all academic matters at Harrow.



Dr Michael Gray and his wife Angharad are looking forward to their move to Herefordshire

Dr Gray said “I am both delighted and honoured to be appointed the next Headmaster of Hereford Cathedral School and to build on the fantastic work that Paul Smith has done. It is an extremely exciting time to join HCS and there is an impressive momentum across the School as we look to realise Vision 2030 and ensure that all pupils are equipped to thrive in a changing world.

“My wife and I are relishing the prospect of moving to the beautiful county of Herefordshire and to join this wonderful community in one of the UK's leading independent co-educational schools.”

Dr Gray will take over when Paul Smith steps down in September, after 16 years at the helm. Mr Smith gave a ringing endorsement

of his successor's appointment: “I am delighted that the Governors have appointed Dr Gray, who is clearly very able and experienced and who seemed to me to be an excellent match for what Hereford Cathedral School needs for the next stage of its development.”

The school community looks forward to welcoming Dr Gray and his wife Angharad.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

- **Christian Union**, Tuesdays, 3.55pm. Contact Mrs Beavan to be added to the CU Team.
- **Classics Club launches after half term**: Tuesdays, 1.30pm on Teams
- **Art Club**, Mondays, 3.45pm on Teams.



ENGLISH: NATURE POETRY

Year 8 pupils have been studying a wide range of poets inspired by nature, from Robert Frost to Ted Hughes, Judith Wright to Seamus Heaney, and using them as inspiration for writing our own poetry.

The Guardian

*It watched as those final screws were attached,
Finally becoming able to do its job.
Every day, his terraced peaks would be the first to touch the rays of sun,
Ready to protect the only entrance to this garden.*

*Soon, though, he learned his wasn't a job of strength,
He witnessed the rhythm, first the birds, the jackdaws, the robins,
Then the squirrels chased by the cat,
And the waking of the badger at the start of the night.*

*As the days sped by and the months and the years,
The gate started to rust and rot.
Slowly, lichen grew and the ivy smothered
The once proud gate.*

*Many years later, he could only see the corner of the garden,
Through the thicket of brambles and ivy.
He would watch the badger at the end of the day
And be reminded of earlier days.*

By Hamish G, 85

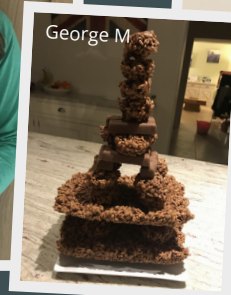
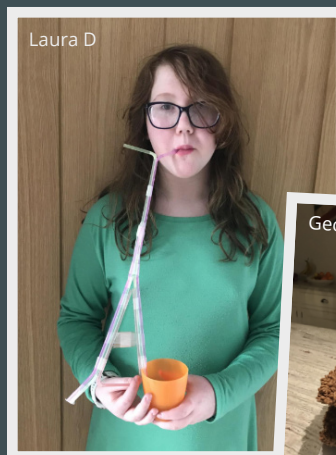


Meanwhile, Year 9 pupils have been writing original articles in their journalism study.

[Click here to read their stories.](#)

MFL: EIFFEL TOWER CHALLENGE WINNERS

Last week, Miss Rimington set her Year 7 pupils a 'Build Your Own Eiffel Tower' challenge. It looks like the pupils enjoyed the chance of a screen-free activity and got really creative. Some used socks, food and even toilet rolls to recreate the French landmark. Well done to Laura D, who made an Eiffel Tower out of straws; George M, whose construction was entirely edible; and Honor W, who used materials in the tricolore colours to make her creation. *Fantastique!*



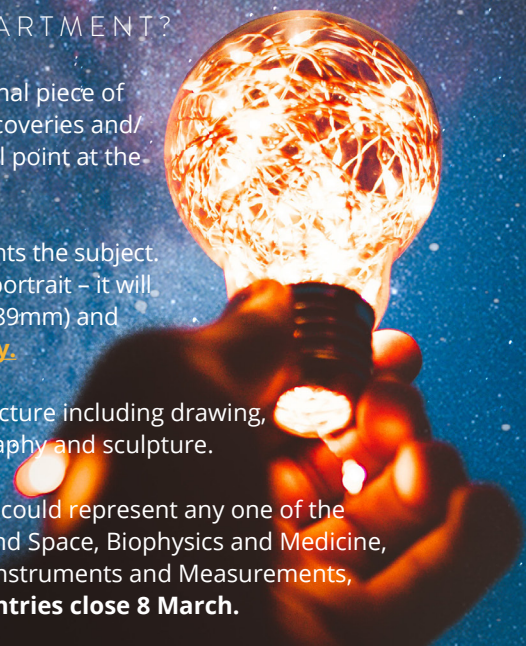
COMPETITION: COULD YOUR DESIGN BE A FORCE FOR GOOD IN THE HCS PHYSICS DEPARTMENT?

The Physics Department would like to install an original piece of artwork that encapsulates the beauty of physics (discoveries and/or applications). The winning piece will form the focal point at the entrance to the department.

You are asked to design a picture that clearly represents the subject. Your picture should be on A4 or A3 paper and set as portrait – it will be enlarged when printed to at least A0 (841mm x 1189mm) and mounted in a frame. [Click for more details on Firefly.](#)

You can choose to use any medium to create your picture including drawing, painting, printing, computer aided drawing, photography and sculpture.

Your images could be on a selection of categories or could represent any one of the following fields: Atomic and Molecular, Astronomy and Space, Biophysics and Medicine, Business and Innovation, Environment and Energy, Instruments and Measurements, Materials, Optics, Particles and Nuclear, Quantum. **Entries close 8 March.**



BOARDING: QUIZ NIGHT & BIKING FUN

Hereford Cathedral School boarders had great fun during Mr Watt's quiz last weekend at Wilmot House. One round was a timed-challenge where teams had to dress each other in bin bags (see right).



The HCS Destination Australia challenge has been making such strong progress that Mr Milsom agreed to a detour via China, Hong Kong and Taiwan to say 'hello' to our students who are learning remotely, and also to 'call in on' the families of those students studying from Wilmot House during lockdown. Team Wilmot have contributed over 100 miles this week, including a bike ride back from Ross-on-Wye during the Senior Sports afternoon on Wednesday.



With the beginning of the Guinness Six Nations, Hereford Cathedral School PE Department has launched a fantasy rugby competition.

As befitting his position as Head of Rugby, Mr Thomas accumulated the highest weekly total with 860.1 points in the first week.

Could you beat Mr Thomas? With weekly winners as well as an overall winner, it's not too late to enter, [click this link to join the league](#) and pick your winning squad.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WEEK



NEW FACES AT HCS: MRS MANDY SHIELDS, CHEMISTRY

Role at HCS:
Chemistry Technician

Previous role/school:
Science technician at Gryphon School in Sherborne, Dorset.

Interesting fact:
I have worked in Chemistry on an oil rig and in nanotechnology before becoming a school technician.

What are you most looking forward to at HCS?
Getting to know the students and staff as everybody returns to school.

Hereford Cathedral School pupils gained wide-ranging insights from figures in the charity sector, the music industry and the sporting world in this week's popular Enrichment Programme sessions.

On Tuesday, Jaime Thurston gave a moving presentation to pupils in which she told the story of the founding of her charity 52 Lives. The organisation aims to change the life of one person in need, every week. It has helped women who have escaped domestic abuse, arranged a video call with singer Michael Ball for a lady who was terminally ill, and even bought teeth for someone in need. Many were touched by Jaime's story – Year 10 pupil Haripriya R commented: "It was so inspiring and uplifting!"

On Wednesday, Old Herefordians and professional singers Patrick Dunachie and Ruairi Bowen spoke about their musical journeys after leaving HCS. Both spoke of how their early experiences as choristers set them up for a career in music.

They spoke frankly about the enormous impact the pandemic has had on musical performers. Although they have only performed four of the more than 100 concerts they had planned in the past 12 months, Patrick's ensemble The King's Singers have put together a collection of videos in lockdown.

On Thursday night, New Zealand international rower and Hinksey head coach Axel Dickinson spoke to HCS pupils about representing his country on the world stage multiple times as an U23, winning a Bronze in the



Jaime Thurston gave a moving presentation to pupils on how her charity 52 Lives helps to change the life of a different person every week

Click to watch
ENRICHMENT
SESSIONS



Old Herefordians Ruairi Bowen and Patrick Dunachie (left) shared their experiences of a career in music



Axel Dickinson

Men's Coxed 4, being chosen to be the spare for Rio 2016 and rowing for multiple clubs on two continents. On top of all of this, he has also set up his own boat club.

ENRICHMENT: LOOKING AHEAD

● **Caris Morgan**, Severn Stars and Wales U21 netball player, 24 February, 3-3.40pm. Open to pupils in Years 7-13. This will be a participation session, so you will need a ball and kit. Please register your interest with Miss Clark, who will inform P8/9 tutors.

Many thanks to pupils Liv A, Maia C, Bo M and Ioan O for their assistance with hosting this week's Enrichment Programme sessions.



Click for
VIDEO

THOUGHT OF THE DAY ...

Mr Blyth shared this during Safer Internet Week:

"The internet is written in pen, not pencil. Think before you post."



FREE ONLINE FICTION LIBRARY

Our librarians have arranged for our e-book library to be available for the school through Firefly. Free, downloadable reading to keep students sane through lockdown. Use your Firefly details to log in. [Click here to access the catalogue.](#)