

SENIOR & SIXTH FORM

HCS

AT HOME

15 JANUARY 2021



*"I know our staff
will once again rise
to the challenge."*

I had already wished everyone a Happy New Year before the latest lockdown had been announced – so we are obviously not starting this term as we would have wished. Whilst I know our staff will once again rise to the challenge, and pupils will continue to receive excellent remote teaching, I am also acutely aware of the strain that remote teaching and learning places on staff, pupils and parents. A less obvious problem is that effective communication, which is so important in the smooth running of a school, is severely impacted by each of us working in our isolated bubbles. It is so difficult to gauge how well things are going, how people are coping and the level of problems that might exist when you do not have face-to-face daily contact. Couple this with all the gloomy stories in the media and it is easy to get down-hearted.

So, all the more reason to showcase many of the positive aspects of our school life, albeit 'remote', and to remind ourselves that we are privileged to belong to a happy and successful community, with so many caring and dedicated people – staff going the extra mile, parents expressing their gratitude and support, and pupils resiliently coping with the varying demands of remote learning. I hope that this communication will help lift spirits and allow us all to celebrate the many great things that happen within our school community and encourage us all to look forward to a brighter future. Thank you, everyone, for all your efforts.

Mr Paul Smith, Headmaster

THOUGHT OF THE DAY...

Mr Blyth started the week with this quote:

*"Hope is being able to see that there
is light despite of all the darkness."*

DESMOND TUTU



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.](#)

HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION: SOME OF OUR ENTRIES...

You can view the rest [here](#).



Georgina M



Imogen B



Finlay H



Polly S



Robin R



Theo G



Sarah G



Fred M



Oscar S



BOARDING

Hereford Cathedral School boarders are able to take a break from remote learning by shooting hoops in the grounds of Wilmot House, now that the new basketball pad is complete.

On Tuesday, Boarding Assistant Mr Watt and Director of Sport Mrs Hopkins entertained our Year 7 pupils with a virtual basketball shoot-out, with Mr Watt shooting hoops at Wilmot House, while Mrs Hopkins was in the HCS Sports Hall. Well done to Mrs Hopkins, who scored five goals to Mr Watt's three!



PE

Alongside teacher challenges mentioned above, pupils have been watching visualisation and growth mindset videos in PE this week, which have helped them answer questions and apply that knowledge to their own development.

PHYSICS: EXOPLANETS LECTURE IS OUT OF THIS WORLD

Hereford Cathedral School Sixth Form Physics students were this week treated to a Zoom lecture by a leading academic in the field of physics and astronomy.

Dr Ingo Waldmann, who is Associate Professor in Extrasolar Planets at University College London, gave a detailed talk on exoplanets. In his lecture 'Searching for Earth 2.0', Dr Waldmann discussed how to find habitable planets - using processes from big data to mass spectroscopy - and whether any have been found.

The lecture was arranged by

Year 12 Academic Scholar Seyi A, who, after attending an online lecture about exoplanets by Dr Waldmann in November, took it upon herself to invite the academic to deliver another lecture to her HCS peers. Seyi was encouraged to attend the original lecture thanks to Mr Hartley's Scholars Initiative, whereby Academic Scholars gather weekly to discuss current topics in their fields of interest.

Commenting on this week's lecture, Seyi said: "It was inspirational to see where the future of space exploration will take us in next few decades."

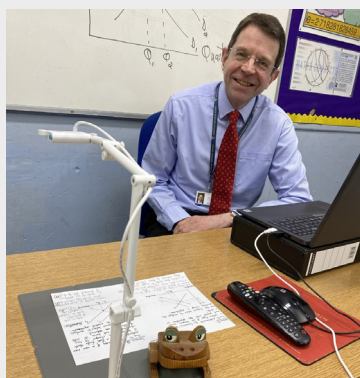


Dr Waldmann of UCL spoke of the future of space exploration in the Zoom lecture.

Another Sixth Former said of the lecture: "That was one of the best hours of my life."

Hereford Cathedral School Head of Physics Mrs Cal Hendry said: "It was really interesting to get an insight into the current research work that is being done on exoplanets and the ongoing plans for research over the next 10 years, too."

TECH FOCUS: MR JACKSON SWAPS OHP FOR NEW GADGET



Few in our school community can be unaware of Head of Economics Mr Jackson's penchant for an overhead projector, but even he has upgraded his tech to meet the demands of remote learning.

After relying on his beloved OHP for well over 20 years, Mr Jackson recently took delivery of a visualiser, a classroom aid which he hopes

will revolutionise his teaching. The device means that pupils learning remotely will be able to view Mr Jackson's hand-drawn slides and diagrams. In short, the device is an OHP for the digital age.

Mr Jackson commented that the new device was "tremendously exciting". He added: "Little did I think that I would be so motivated by new technology!"



Mr Jackson's form, 7L, brought their pets to registration on Thursday. They introduced Trigger the royal python, Ted the terrier, Isla the pointer and more. Well done 7L for sharing some animal magic.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

- Boat Club webinar with GB rower Georgie Brayshaw - January 21, 7pm on Teams
- Remote Debating begins January 22, 1.25pm on Teams
- Art Club, Mondays, 3.45pm on Teams

ENGLISH: YEAR 7 HAIKUS AND CINQUAINS

Even with distance
the world feels painfully
close
but hope turns the page.
Leonidas M

The bitter wind blows
the soft snow falls slowly
down.
Frost covers the ground.
Mimi B

Crisp and frosty night,
glistening and shimmering
in the light.
Drip and drop, ice thaws.
Maisie G

Into the bitter
Storm, snow flying down,
The wind biting your face.
Oscar S

A frosty tall twig
hanging on a thin thread.
Snap, the wind takes it.
Perdy J

Silence,
Tranquil, peaceful,
Calm, gives you time to think,
Transforms the anger into calm,
Be still.
Laura D

Tom cat,
Sly, determined,
Prowling, spying, chasing,
Thinking of his amazing skills.
Bad boy.
Lucille L

Snowing,
Magical, floating
Playing, building, throwing
Everybody cherishes it
Such fun.
Abbey W