

SENIOR & SIXTH FORM

# HCS

AT HOME

22 JANUARY 2021



**“One is never too old to learn something new.”**

Last week I was pleased to meet online a good number of prospective 13+ pupils keen to join Hereford Cathedral School in Year 9 for September 2021. At the same time, members of the SLT met with Year 6 pupils looking to join us for the next academic year. On Saturday we held our first ever 11+ and 13+ remote entrance assessment, which I think caused a few grey hairs for Mr Hartley. However, the final outcome was a good one and we have learned something new.

Later on the same Saturday, I appeared with a number of other Heads on a panel to present on the topic ‘The school you choose will determine your child’s future’. This was part of an online ‘Meet the Heads’ webinar presented to Ghanaian families from America, the UK and Ghana, and was part of our drive to recruit international students from a wide range of countries. Again, this was something new for me, and this, together with our remote mock assessments and entrance assessment, has reminded me that one is never too old to learn something new. I often say this to pupils, and although it may sound a bit hackneyed, it is so true, and I guess this is one of the reasons that I have found working in education to be so rewarding.

So, I hope the pupils have continued to learn something new over this last week, and that the contents of this latest edition will also provide something new for readers.

**Mr Paul Smith, Headmaster**

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY...

On Inauguration Day this week, Mr Blyth shared this:

*“Never stop believing in the power of your ideas, your imagination, your hard work to change the world.”* **BARACK OBAMA**



## 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.](#)

## PE DEPT LAUNCHES ‘DESTINATION AUSTRALIA’ CHALLENGE

To help keep pupils and their families active during lockdown, Hereford Cathedral School’s PE Department are today launching the ‘Destination Australia Challenge’.

The entire HCS community is invited to get behind this effort, to collectively cover the distance to the Australian Open in Melbourne (17,056.6km) in time for the men’s final on February 21.

HCS teachers, students and parents are encouraged to log any distance they run, cycle or walk using the Strava app



over the coming weeks. They will need to [follow Hereford Cathedral School on Strava by clicking this link](#), for their distances to be counted.

HCS PE teacher Mr Milsom, who is organising the event, said:

“With another lockdown upon us, it’s more important than ever for everyone to stay active. This is a challenge for the whole school community to get involved with. Every step counts towards our final goal; whether it’s walking, running or cycling.”

To keep up to date with the cumulative distance travelled in the Destination Australia Challenge, please follow the PE Department’s new Twitter account: [@HCSsport](#)

Please adhere to the [current government guidelines on exercise](#).

## SCONE SESSION

Mr Jackson’s form, 7L, enjoyed a baking demonstration during form time on Thursday by Freddie K and his sister Grace (Year 13). They showed the form how to make scones from scratch – and shared some great tips.

Next week, pizza-making!



## SIGN UP FOR MRS VINES' ROOTS & SHOOTS VEG CLUB

With another lockdown upon us, many in the Hereford Cathedral School community are looking for ways to escape the screens and enjoy the outdoors more.

Head of Cornwall House, Mrs Vines, is hoping to inspire HCS pupils and their families to make use of the time on their hands to start growing their own vegetables at home. She will be adopting the 'no-dig' method, whereby the ground is covered with cardboard to exclude the light, and compost is laid on top, meaning that weeds struggle to grow in the crops.

A section of the Old Deanery lawn has been designated to the project, and the HCS gardeners have this week been busy preparing the ground.

Mrs Vines has been moved to share the no-dig method with the HCS community after signing up for a course run by Monmouth-based no-dig vegetable grower Cherry Taylor. Representatives from 10 other schools, various community gardens and private gardeners have also signed up to learn all about vegetable-growing, biodiversity and insects.

Over the coming months, Mrs Vines will share the tips and knowledge she gains from the course with Roots & Shoots members.



Mrs Vines is keen to share the no-dig method with the school community




This Friday, HCS parent Andrew Lewis will be delivering compost to Old Deanery from his Abergavenny firm, Green Waste Company.

Mrs Vines said: "All through the summer, Cherry was supplying our village with organic salad and veggies and the difference in taste was incredible. When she offered to teach us how to grow our own, I jumped at the chance to join her course."

She added: "Growing veggies is said to be time-consuming and that's what has always put me off. But this year we may have more time on our hands... so why not join Roots & Shoots and give it a go?"

Mrs Vines hopes to start sowing in seed trays on

February 12, with planting out planned from March 19. While remote learning is still in place, she plans to share what she learns with interested pupils and parents, so that they can nurture their own no-dig gardens at home. Once lockdown eases and pupils return to school, club members will be able to join in the efforts of the club during lunchtime sessions. The end result should be a weed-free garden that yields a good supply of delicious vegetables.

 Any pupils or parents who are interested in getting involved in the project and learning to grow their own vegetables using the no-dig method, should email [c.vines@herefordcs.com](mailto:c.vines@herefordcs.com).



### BOARDING

Wilmot House has been a hive of activity in the first few weeks of lockdown. Mr Hunt has been delivering online academic PE lessons and live circuit challenges; Miss Westbrooke has been offering music lessons online and piano lessons in house; while Mr Watt has been setting PE challenges as well as supporting pupils in school two days a week.

This week the boarders marked the Laba Festival – a tradition in Chinese culture to celebrate the enlightenment of the Buddha – with homemade dumpings from Maxwell W's mum.

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR

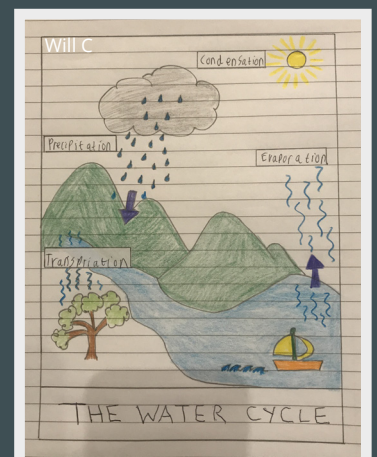
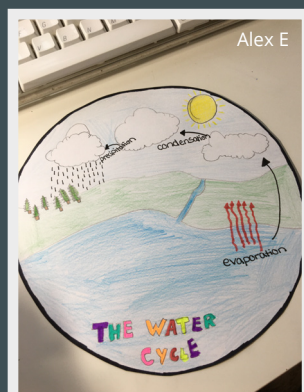
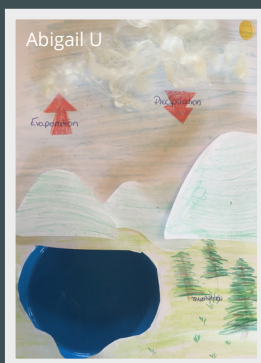
- Remote Debating, January 22, 1.25pm on Teams – *'This House would impeach Trump'*
- Art Club, Mondays, 3.45pm on Teams



The Cathedral looked beautiful in the snow earlier this month

## CHEMISTRY: YEAR 8 WATER CYCLES

Mrs Pasifull's Year 8 Chemistry class have been looking at the water cycle. They could make a water cycle poster, create their own water cycle in a plastic bag, or make a cloud in a bottle. Mrs Pasifull said: "It was great for them to be able to perform practicals at home."





## TECH FOCUS: TEAMS BREAKOUT ROOMS

Subject teachers have been making use of breakout rooms during this current period of remote learning, a tool recently made available by Microsoft Teams. Teachers are able to set up groups within their classes so that pupils can discuss an issue in small groups in different rooms before returning to the 'main room' for feedback. Teachers can pop into the virtual rooms to help the discussion along and send messages to each room to provoke thoughtful debate, making online learning even more interactive and encouraging everyone in the class to contribute and share their ideas more freely.

"I really like it. It gives me an opportunity to discuss with my friends, which I've really missed."

**Maia C-O, Year 12**

"A good method to interact with peers and it keeps lessons engaging!"

**Rose G, Year 13**



## ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WEEK

This week's Enrichment Programme has offered some truly inspiring talks for Hereford Cathedral School pupils.

On Wednesday, more than 250 pupils and staff joined adventurer James Ketchell's talk on Teams. They heard how, in 2014, he became the first and only person to have rowed across the Atlantic Ocean, successfully climb Mount Everest and cycle 18,000 miles around the world, in what the press called 'The Ultimate Triathlon'.

More recently, he made his way into the Guinness Book of Records (*see page 155 of this year's issue*) when he became the first person to circumnavigate the world in an open-cockpit gyrocopter.

James has achieved all this despite leaving school with no qualifications and feeling unmotivated for much of his teenage years. James has spent the last decade working to inspire young people to follow their dreams.

On Thursday, Worcester Warriors Assistant Club Captain Will Butler OH, spoke to pupils about his journey through Hereford Cathedral School, how he got into rugby, highlights from his time at Worcester Warriors Academy, being signed by Worcester Warriors and later playing for England U20s. It was great to hear Will speak about his school days and rugby career.



Adventurer James Ketchell gave an inspiring talk about his achievements, including climbing Everest



"James's talk was really inspiring."

**Honor W, Year 7**

"Gabriel (Year 7) loved both enrichment presentations this week. It's a wonderful way to add another layer to home schooling that is inspiring, engaging and enjoyable."

**Mrs A, Parent**



Will Butler OH spoke to pupils about his journey from HCS to Worcester Warriors

### ENRICHMENT: LOOKING AHEAD

- Former Rugby Union player Kevin Bowring: 'Lessons from a Life in Sport' - January 27, 2pm on Teams
- Boat Club webinar with GB rower Charlotte Hodgkins-Byrne OH - January 28, 7pm on Teams

## NEW FACES AT HCS: MR SIMON BROOKS, ENGLISH



**Role at HCS:**  
Part-time English Teacher

**Previous role/school:**  
My last in-school role was Director of Teaching and Learning at Masada College in Sydney Australia, where I worked for 11 years. For the past five years I have been working with schools around the world as an educational consultant, supporting schools and teachers keen to build

cultures of thinking and learning for their students.

**Interesting fact:**  
I once went in entirely the wrong direction on a walk from Coogee to Bondi in Sydney, got caught by the incoming tide, scaled a cliff-face to escape the pounding waves, and finally popped up in the middle of a shooting range on competition day... Not my finest hour.

**What are you most looking forward to at HCS?**

Learning with and from my students. One of the things I love most about teaching is how much students surprise me with their thinking. I've lost track of the number of times Years 10 and 11 have already wowed me with their insights and questions over the past couple of weeks. My thanks to them!