

22ND OCTOBER 2021

# NEWSLETTER

Harrow High School

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HARROW  
HIGH SCHOOL

# A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER



Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. I hope they are proving informative and we'd like to thank all of you who have given us feedback on our efforts so far. As I have written before, we are constantly trying to ensure excellent communication with parents and anything you tell us about this is extremely valuable.

It's been a busy half-term and I know all learners and staff are looking forward to a well earned break. We've welcomed in a fantastic group of very enthusiastic Year 7 learners who are already making excellent progress in their learning whilst watching our older learners move seamlessly into their new year groups; Year 11,12 and 13 are working particularly hard, being focused upon the upcoming exams.

For this edition of the newsletter, Mr Corner draws your attention to the latest information from Ofqual around the Summer exam series and it is really important reading for anyone whose children will be taking exams this Summer. Please do read this carefully. I have also led assemblies with all year groups on the importance of ongoing revision and ongoing focus on work. The key thing I emphasised was 'deliberate practise.'

This means that when studying, young people need to focus hardest on the areas of a subject they find most difficult, not the bits they find easy. It makes for much harder work but it will help them make much quicker progress. It's made me think about how we as parents can support our children; often just a conversation about what is going well and what isn't can help us focus them on the right things.

Parents of Year 10 will also find details of the National Tuition Programme, a fantastic opportunity for the vast majority of our Y10 learners. Please read this carefully as it will make a big difference to their progress. For those in Y10 that aren't involved yet, watch this space as an alternative will be coming soon. In the next half term, we will also be announcing a similar programme for our Year 9's.

We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 1st November.

Enjoy the half term break.

Paul Gamble  
Headteacher





# MR HALLAM

## YEAR 7 NEWS

After a long half term, I am delighted to congratulate Year 7 on a fantastic transition from primary school to secondary school. It has been an incredibly successful seven weeks and learners have set excellent standards for themselves, and we have no doubt this will continue for the rest of the term and school year. There have been many successes this half term, in particular Muadh, Umar, Abi, Charvi and Aziza who won learners of the half term and were rewarded with some Nando's vouchers. Also, a big thank you to Mr Sa'id, who has organised an excellent experience for Year 7s, including numeracy and life skills, all learners got a great kick out of the day.



Onto co-curricular news, in a half term revolving around football, the Year 7/8 Girls football team went on to have a highly successful campaign, and will wait eagerly to see if they made it through to the semi finals. The boys team competed well in the borough tournament, coming up just short in the final games. However, one particular shout out for goalkeeper, Andrew, who was scouted for an academy after his performance.

Moving into the next half term, a reminder to sign up for the trips to the pantomime and Middlesex University, which will be great experiences for the learners.



# MR PREDA

## YEAR 8 NEWS



It gives us great pleasure to announce that five members of the Year 8 group have been selected for the Excellent Start to the Academic Year Award this half term. The five students below have been dedicated, hardworking and showcased exemplary attitudes to learning.

We look forward to working with them throughout the year.

- Aarav Bhat
- Hasan Alraji
- Mohamad Barghol
- Abel Anania Apopei
- Dany Duca



# MR ESTON

## YEAR 9 NEWS

Congratulations to 9 UCL who have had the best Net achievement this half term.

Congratulations to 9 Cambridge who have the best attendance this half term.

There are a large number of year 9's visiting 'the home of football' Wembley Stadium this Saturday to watch England women v N Ireland Women for World Cup Qualifying as part of a rewards trip for PE.

Well done to all those who signed up and attended the careers fair on Wednesday evening it was a very successful event. And a big thank you to those who helped out.

The following learners in year 9 have received Nando's vouchers as rewards for their school spirit and participation in community projects and contribution to different aspects of school life.

- Richard Prilogan
- Shrey Parikh
- Aeesha Rani
- Medina Khan
- Mifrah Mushtaq

# MR GONCALVES

## YEAR 10 NEWS



It has been an extremely successful start of the year! Learners have embodied the school excellences and that is visible while walking around the corridors and when dropping into lessons. The levels of engagement and enthusiasm during learning time are extremely high and this is translated in the amount of praise the year group is receiving from their teachers.

Learners have also finished the first set of GCSE assessments this half-term. We are looking forward to seeing their successes.

It has been a productive end to Autumn Term 1 for the Year 10s. The National Tutoring Programme sessions have started and we have had several of our learners attend their slots to help boost their Maths and English grades. It's been great to see learners enthusiastic and engaging with the sessions so well. Looking forward to having these sessions go on and see the positive impact it is having on the learners' results.

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact us.

### Reminders:

- School returns for Autumn Term 2 on 01/11/2021 at 8:50am.
- We are looking to maintain our excellent standards, so please make sure you are in full uniform and fully equipped ready for the next term.

Enjoy your holiday, be safe and we look forward to seeing you back in November!

'The levels of engagement and enthusiasm during learning time are extremely high...'



# SIXTH FORM NEWS

## UCAS UPDATES

After months of hard work and research, we have had several University applications sent with three students applying to prestigious universities in London, hoping to read Medicine.

Three of our students have applied to The University of Cambridge where they are hoping to read: Chemical Engineering, Computer Science and English. The students must now prepare for their admissions tests that are taking place in November.

## NATIONAL CITEZEN SERVICE (NCS) IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMME

We are excited to announce that the Year 12's will be taking part in a 6 day NCS In-School programme at the end of November. They will spend the first three days completing outdoor activities, then returning to school to complete a social action project. We strongly believe that this programme will empower our young people to make positive changes in their local communities and build essential skills for work and life. More information can be found on your Google Classrooms.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

The Sixth Formers have been staying active during school by participating in some extra curricular clubs. The Sixth Form now have Badminton and Football Clubs up and running. It's a good way for learners to work on their teamwork and communication skills as well as carrying out 30 minutes of activity a day. With this week's personal development lessons focusing on healthy eating, it's been great to see learners use their break times to stay active! For any other Sixth Formers who would like to join these clubs, Badminton runs in the Sports Hall every lunchtime at 1:05pm and Football runs on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 1:05pm. We hope to see you there!

## OPEN EVENING

Sixth Form successfully facilitated Sixth Form Open Evening for prospective Year 11 students. It was great to see so many students interested in what our Sixth Form has to offer and get an insight into the subjects they will be studying. We look forward to you joining us in September 2022.

# CAREERS FAIR

It was so wonderful to have over 350 families visit the Careers Fair on 21st October to learn more about Apprenticeships, Universities, Further Education, Careers, and Skills Building from a diverse range of professionals. Many thanks to our exhibitors who gave up their time so generously to support our learners with planning for their future.





# SCHOOL NEWS

## EXAMINATION NEWS

We wrote to parents in Year 11, 12 and 13 last week with a summary of the proposed summer 2022 examinations. We have digested this information carefully and strategies are already in place to ensure our learners make the most of these conditions. Learners were informed of these changes in assemblies last week. We are very excited about what we can achieve in the 2022 examinations and will communicate our strategies throughout the academic year.

## PRE PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

We are approaching our first set of Pre Public Examinations for Year 11-13. Currently, we have been told examinations in Summer 2022 will take place, but this was the same at this point last year. We do not know how important these assessments will be so we urge all learners to do their very best. Please take notice of when examinations will take place and prepare accordingly.

Any queries regarding examinations or PPEs, do feel free to email Mr Corner: [ncorner.310@harrowhigh.com](mailto:ncorner.310@harrowhigh.com)

## NATIONAL TUTORING PROGRAMME (KS4)

We are delighted to announce that we have signed up for the National Tutoring Programme. This programme is a government initiative to try and close the gap during the time lost due to school closures. Sessions started this week for 150 Year 10 learners in English or Maths. The programme lasts for 15 weeks where learners in groups of 3 will receive extra tuition in English or Maths by external providers. There will be pre and post testing so we are able to evaluate the impact of these sessions. We will communicate further on this at the end of the programme.

**"We are delighted to announce that we have signed up for the national tutoring programme"**



# MATHS HOMEWORK (SPARX MATHS)

Dear Parent

We are delighted to let you know that from **1<sup>st</sup> of November** students in years 7-9 will be completing their maths homework with Sparx Maths. Sparx is an exciting online platform that offers every student a personalised maths homework.

We know that you want to support your child's maths progress so we've put together this letter to explain how Sparx works and why it is important to make sure that maths homework is 100% completed.

## How does Sparx homework work?

Sparx **personalises each child's homework**, creating a weekly set of questions **tailored to their level of understanding and learning pace**. The questions are designed to be achievable whilst offering the stretch that learners need to make progress.

Each week, topics are set by your child's maths teacher and will make up the majority of the homework questions. Questions from previous topics will also be included in the homework so that students can keep practising the skills they have learned.

## How can I help my child with their homework?

We appreciate that you will of course want to support your child with their home learning but please try not to help them with a question until they've had a go first! It is **really important that they complete their homework independently**, and that questions are marked as correct. They can watch the support video if they need to. This way, Sparx can make sure your child continues to see homework that's at the right level for them.

## Why does my child need to achieve 100% compulsory homework completion?

Sparx Homework is deliberately designed to **help students really get to grips with and understand the concepts and skills they are learning by ensuring they cover the essential building blocks needed to make progress in maths**. Sparx' research ([sparx.co.uk/evidence](https://sparx.co.uk/evidence)) has shown that an average of 60 minutes a week of this type of personalised maths home learning leads to clear progress. It is therefore advised that students do their homework as early as possible, so they have the time to have a go themselves and seek help from their teacher if needed. Homework is not marked as complete until **all** of the compulsory questions have been answered correctly, so starting early is key to finishing before hand-in time.

You can keep track of your child's homework completion in the weekly email you will receive from Sparx.

We hope you agree that Sparx will play an exciting and important role in helping your child's understanding, success and confidence in maths to grow.

If you have any questions, please contact **Mr. Hooper** ([dhooper12.310@harrowhigh.com](mailto:dhooper12.310@harrowhigh.com))

Kind regards

Mr H. Emanuel

# NATIONAL NUMERACY – NUMBER CONFIDENCE WEEK (1ST-5TH OCTOBER)

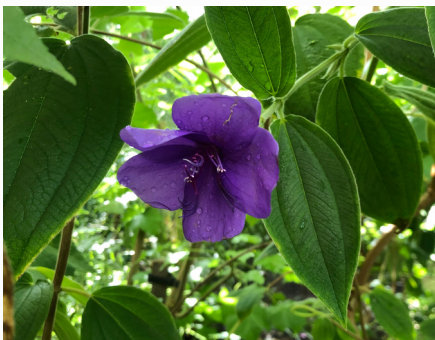
Across the week National Numeracy will be hosting conversations about building confidence with numbers. These will go out on their Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube accounts and will be packed with advice and stories to inspire greater confidence with numbers. They will also be running live events on Instagram every day at 6.30pm with the help of one of our amazing celebrity ambassadors.

Gaining number confidence is the first step to gaining the number skills that help in everyday life, for getting into work, managing money, or helping children with homework. Many people have low number confidence and experience stress, anxiety or fear when working with numbers. It's understandable, but it can be overcome. Watch the videos and download the free resources below, and try the National Numeracy Challenge to give your number confidence a boost!

<https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/number-confidence-week>

## KEW BOTANICAL GARDENS TRIP

In October year 10 learners went to Kew Botanical Gardens in London as part of their GCSE Art and Design course. The learners really enjoyed the experience and the weather Gods were on side as we had unseasonably warm sunshine on the day.





# LITERACY NEWS

## THE LIBRARY

We are really pleased to have reopened the library this half term after 18 months of closure due to covid. It has been so lovely to see so many learners from all year groups back in the library and borrowing books. At the moment, each year group has a specified day on which they can access the library, but we plan to open up access to the library more widely after half term. We have had lots of requests from learners who want to help out in the library and attend book clubs, so we hope to offer more opportunities for learners to get involved with this next half term. Here are some of the learners' thoughts on the library:

I was happy when I found out that the library was re-opening because there were so many books I wanted to catch up on that I had seen in the library in previous years. I missed the atmosphere of the library in general, since it's a great place to take a break from the noise of school and to get some time to relax and read.

- Fatima, Year 10

I was super happy when the library reopened it as there were so many books and different genres to read through! It has a space to just sit down and study which helped me a lot to read and write through my notes for classes. Overall, I think the library opening again is a wonderful thing to happen, as so many people attend it.

- Ananya, Year 8

## BOOKBUZZ

This year we are participating in Bookbuzz. This scheme, supported by the Book Trust, supports all learners in Year 7 and 8 to choose a book to take home and keep from a list of 17 titles. All the books are carefully selected by a panel of experts to ensure quality, suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure. During form time, learners in Year 7 and 8 have read the synopsis of each book, heard from each author and this week have made their choices. Books should arrive early next half term and we are really looking forward to hearing their thoughts about their books!

'The Haunting of Aveline Jones' by Phil Jones was a popular choice amongst year 7s. Meanwhile in year 8, lots of learners were keen to read 'Rat' by Patrice Lawrence.





# ENGLISH NEWS

## NATIONAL POETRY DAY

This half term, we celebrated National Poetry Day. On the 7th October, learners in Year 7 studied a poem by John Agard. This poem, entitled 'More Pointless Questions' is all about the potential impact of the choices we make as humans on the natural world.

### More Pointless Questions

by John Agard

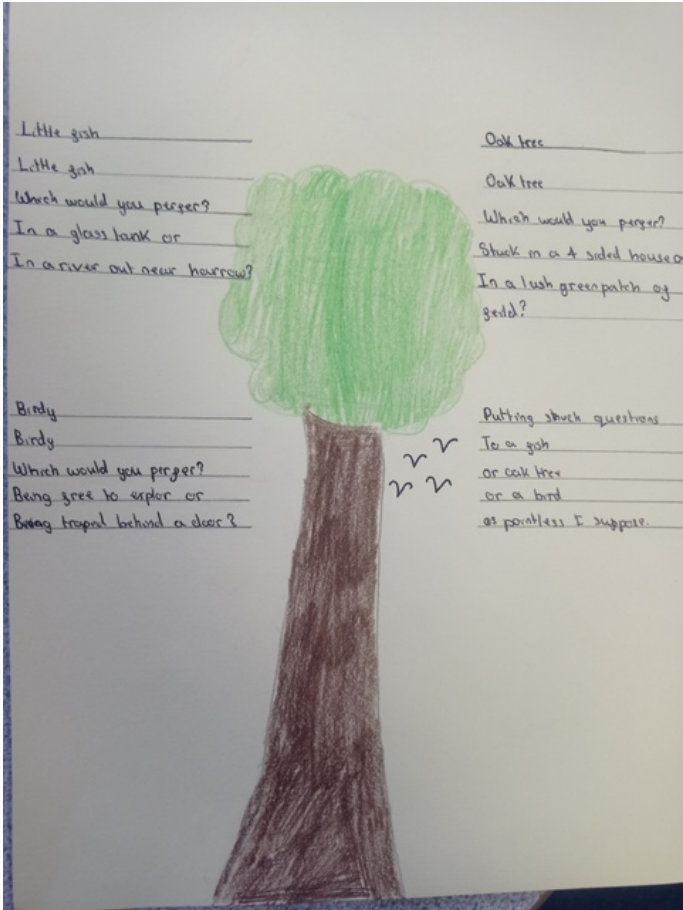
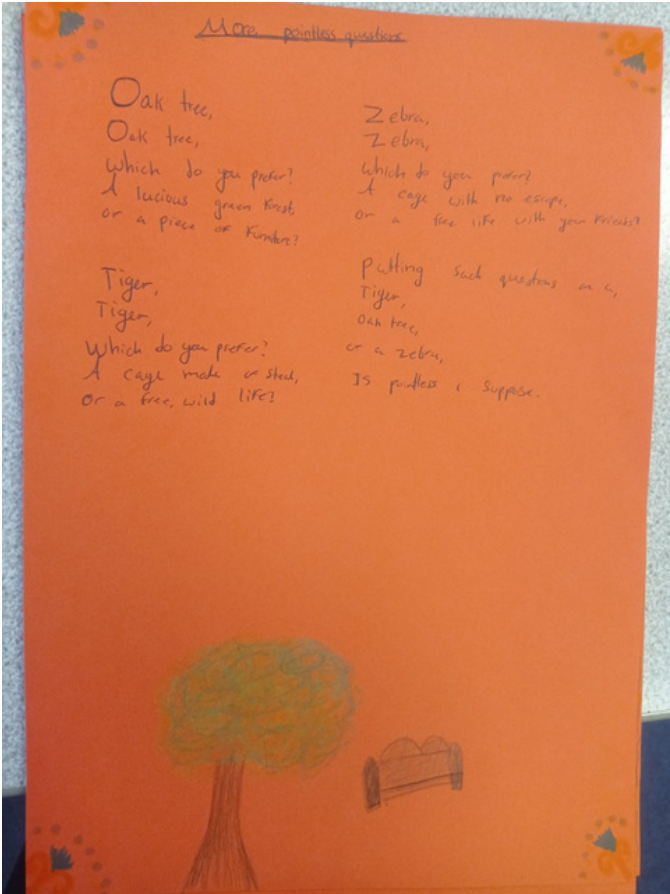
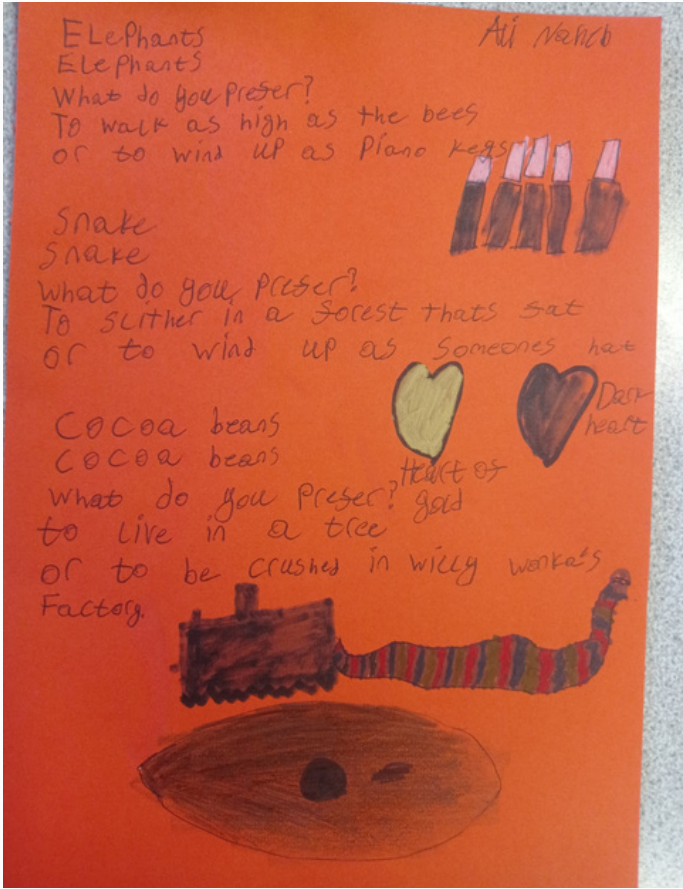
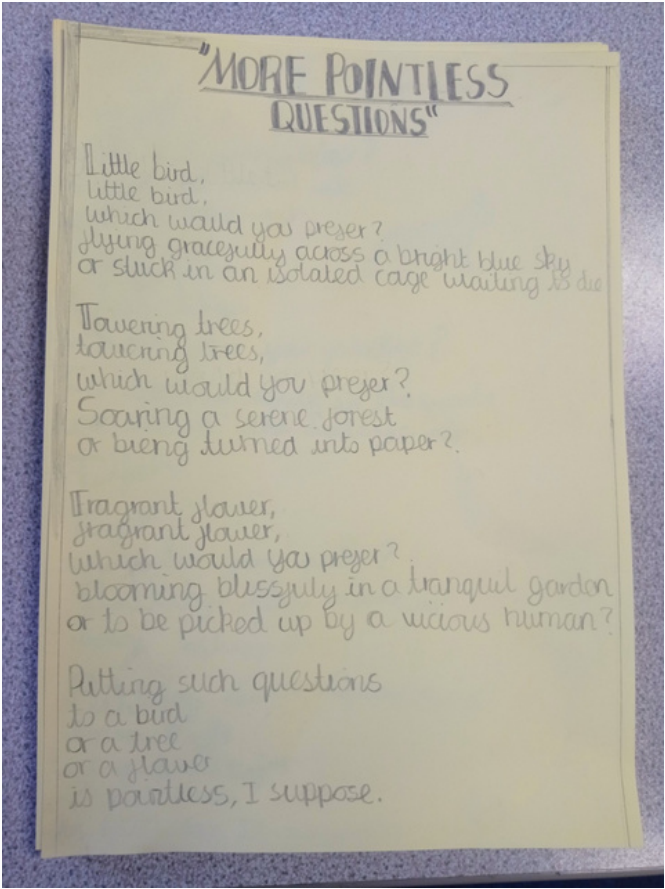
Goldfish  
goldfish  
which glass do you  
prefer?  
A bowl of glass  
or a pond that ripples  
when the winds pass?

Little bird  
little bird  
which do you prefer?  
A house of wires  
or a branch  
that's a stage  
for feathered choirs?

Red rose  
red rose  
which do you prefer?  
A vase once used  
to contain dry flowers  
or a patch of ground  
blooming with briars?

Putting such questions  
to a goldfish  
or a bird  
or a rose  
is pointless I suppose.

Agard chooses to present the poem as a series of questions to confront the reader to make them reflect on the choices they make everyday and the impact they have on the world around them. Year 7 explored the message of the poem and then had a go at creating some of their own poems in the style of Agard. You can read some of their brilliant poems below:



Meanwhile, years 8 and 9 explored a powerful poem by Caleb Femi, who served as the Young People's Laureate for London between 2016 and 2018. In his poem, 'Thirteen', Femi provides an insight into the experiences of a young, black boy being racially profiled.

**Thirteen**  
by Caleb Femi

You will be four minutes from home  
when you are cornered by an officer  
who will tell you of a robbery, forty  
minutes ago in the area. You fit  
the description of a man ? – You'll laugh.  
Thirteen, you'll tell him: you're thirteen.

You'll be patted on the shoulder, then, by another fed  
whose face takes you back to Gloucester Primary School,  
a Wednesday assembly about being little stars.  
This same officer had an horizon in the east  
of his smile when he told your class that  
you were all supernovas,  
the biggest and brightest stars.

You will show the warmth of your teeth  
praying he remembers the heat of your supernova;  
he will see you powerless – plump.  
You will watch the two men cast lots for your organs.

Don't you remember me? you will ask.  
You gave a talk at my primary school.  
While fear condenses on your lips,  
you will remember that Wednesday, after the assembly,  
your teacher speaking more about supernovas:  
how they are, in fact, dying stars  
on the verge of becoming black holes.



Additionally, a huge congratulations to Gabriella Lahmann in Year 8 for her wonderful poem inspired during the exploration of poetry on National Poetry Day. Her poem describes the experiences of a soldier during World War One, which goes alongside the novel 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo, which we have been reading in English.

### 'World War I Poem'

by Gabriella L

Will I die? Will I survive?  
Everyday I just cry,  
Traumatic events passing through my mind,  
The flashbacks, never forgotten and I ask why.

The day will never be buried,  
The day when I got taken away from my mother,  
I remember it like it was yesterday,  
They came.  
BANG... BANG!  
They knocked on the door.  
They told me to fight in the war.  
I didn't want to, but they threatened me,  
I didn't give up,  
I still said NO.

They had enough,  
They grabbed me from behind,  
As I was holding on to my mother,  
Our hands parted,  
My hands sweating and my heart pounding.  
I wailed and I screamed,  
I was only 13.

My father died in the war where I'd been dragged,  
He died a hero,  
And maybe I can be one too,  
I will continue to follow his steps,  
And this time it could be me.  
I'm next.