



## Welcome



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### Highlight



*As Term 1 draws to a close it's an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate a really purposeful term and start to the academic year at Hanham Woods. We have seen a noticeable improvement in culture around the academy, both in lessons and at social times which is a testament to the way students have taken on board the Academy mission and values. The time invested in supporting high standards in the Academy is paying off and I thank students, parents/carers and colleagues for their support as we seek to improve the Academy further to give people the best chance of success.*

*There has also been lots to celebrate and showcase during Term 1 with a hugely popular Open Evening (and open morning) events, Year 7 'Being me in my world' student exhibition, sporting success in the National Cup, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, after academy enrichment programmes, Black History Month (which coincides with our work towards the Anti-Racist Award) and not to mention record numbers of positive points and golden tickets!*

*I hope you enjoy this newsletter!*

***Dream BIG // Work Hard // Be Kind***



# Black History Month



## Who was Katherine Johnson? A Hidden Figure

[Katherine Johnson's](#) passion for mathematics began at an early age. She skipped several grades and began college courses at West Virginia University when she was thirteen!

After receiving her doctorate, she joined the **worked for Nasa** composed entirely of African American women.

In 1962, she **provided the orbital entry and launch window calculations that enabled John Glenn's orbit around Earth.**

Sadly, she was often not treated equally despite her intelligence due to her race and gender.

Nonetheless, she was integral to providing calculations that coordinated the **Apollo moon landing.** She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015, and her work was profiled in the film *Hidden Figures*.



[Hidden Figures | Official Trailer \[HD\] | 20th Century FOX - YouTube](#)

## Who is Dr Nira Cyril Chamberlain?

**Dr Nira Cyril Chamberlain** OBE CMath (born 17 June 1969) is a British mathematician. He is a Principal Consultant at SNC-Lavalin<sup>[1]</sup> and from 2020 the President of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications.<sup>[2]</sup>

Dr Nira Chamberlain is of Jamaican parentage, and campaigns for more diversity within the mathematical sciences.<sup>[25]</sup> He frequently gives talks in UK state schools, through the charity Speakers for Schools.

In 2017 he was included on *Powerlist*, an annual publication celebrating the 100 most influential British people from African and African Caribbean heritage

Watch his video from 7.20 – 9.30 (longer if you have time)

[The Black Heroes of Mathematics - YouTube](#)



# Y11 GCSE Geography Trip



The Geography department took over 80 year 11 students out to Lyme Regis last week. We spent the day exploring the area and looking at the coastal processes taking place. The students were fantastic and worked hard to practice their fieldwork techniques. This is in preparation for their GCSE exams which require them to explain the strengths and weaknesses of the techniques they used. Well done to all those who took part, we hope they enjoyed it and liked the fish and chips some of them had for lunch !





This year with Year 7 we decided to begin their secondary school journey with a focus on belonging. In PSHE they begin the year with the topic "Being me in my world". This year we decided to make this piece of study bigger and better than ever. Students were invited, during their first days in the Academy, to reflect on their values, on who they were, on the aspects of their identity that made them unique.

In the lessons that followed we considered the people in our lives who are important to us and have influence over us. We considered the differences in our communities and how we can establish belonging alongside celebrating diversity. Not only did Year 7 complete this learning in their PSHE lessons but through their home learning they began to explore their wider community. Taking photos of the places that were important to them, the places that represented diversity and the places that represented them. They were encouraged to speak with their family and members of the community to gather stories of traditions, memories and experiences that they could share together.

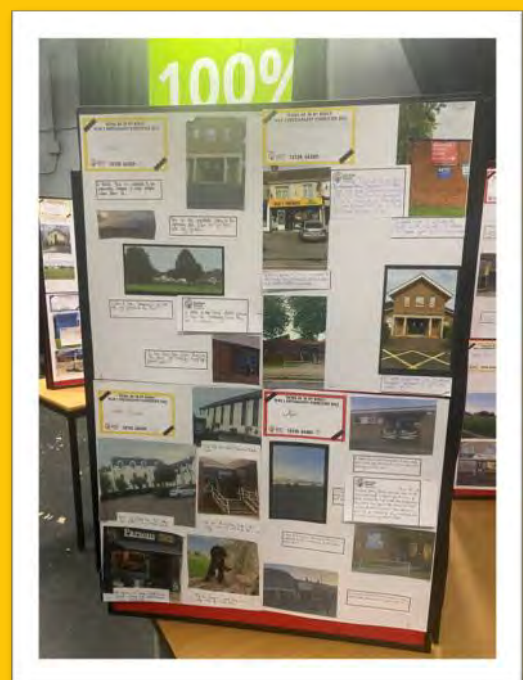




Finally they were asked to consider all the ways that they fit in to their world, how they belong, how they are seen by the people who are important to them. Throughout this first term, within their first month at HWA, Year 7 used all of this learning to put together a magnificent exhibition all about who they are, where they live and why they belong. Alongside the Art department students used their learning in PSHE to create a personal photography exhibit, with each student being invited with their adults to a viewing on September 28th.

The event was buzzing with enthusiasm and potential. The students proudly showed their work to their families as they excitedly searched for their photos amongst the displays. As their PSHE teacher I am immensely proud of the work they have produced and the stories they have shared. It has been a beautiful insight into the values, beliefs and potential of this year group.

Thank you to every student in Year 7 who put together their exhibition piece, thank you to the Art department for their tireless work to put the exhibition together and thank you to the tutors who have supported Year 7 through the process not only in school but also at the event. A great example of community and culture at HWA.





Year 9 were asked to write a story based on the image below.

Tessa's story imagines a creature who lives in the hole and how they see the world differently.

## Writing Task

Write a story about an unusual place. You could base your story on this picture if you like.



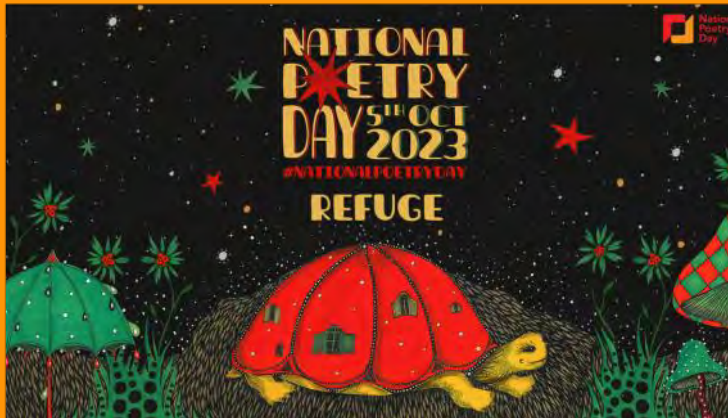
It was dark. It always is. The darkness swirls and spins around me. Shapes in the darkness. I stare at them but they always stare back. In the end they leave. It's just me and the darkness. Today, however, was different. There was sound, footsteps I think. Heavy and loud above me. Dirt falls on my head. The darkness parts, a bright blinding light stabs through the endless dark. Blue. For the longest time it was just blue with green dotted above the dirt. White fluffy clouds drifted above. A pale pink fleshy face looked down from above. I slowly stepped backwards. Away back into the familiar comfort – darkness. The thing never ceased its intrusive glare into my home.

It walked with its loud heavy feet. Skin hung loosely around its bones. I could smell blood pulsing through their veins, loudly in rhythmic beats. Their head was adorned with soft long hair. Although, what I remember most was the smell of fresh meat covered and hidden under the layers of skin and cloth. Their face twisted and distorted into a look of confusion. Standing straight it stepped towards the edge where green met brown. It looked through the darkness and into my unblinking eyes. I took a long step forwards, my bones and tight flesh bathed in the light. It screamed. Loud and piercing. It staggered back and fell, running away.

Tessa S



# National Poetry Day

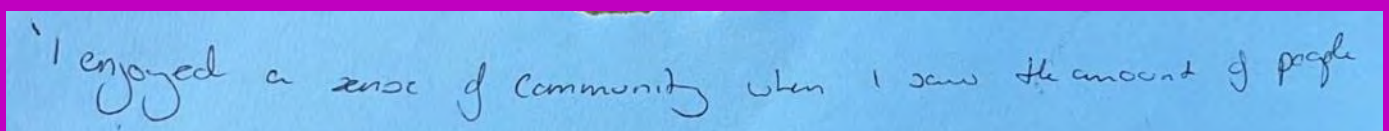
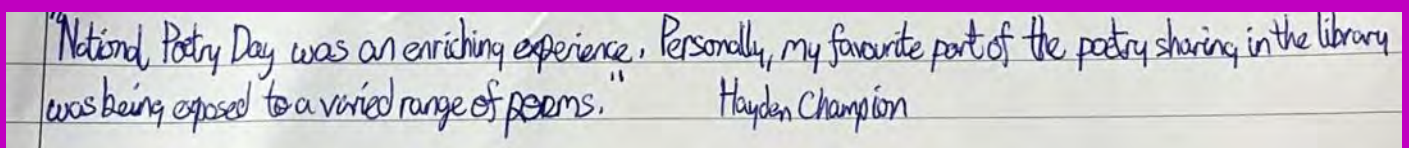
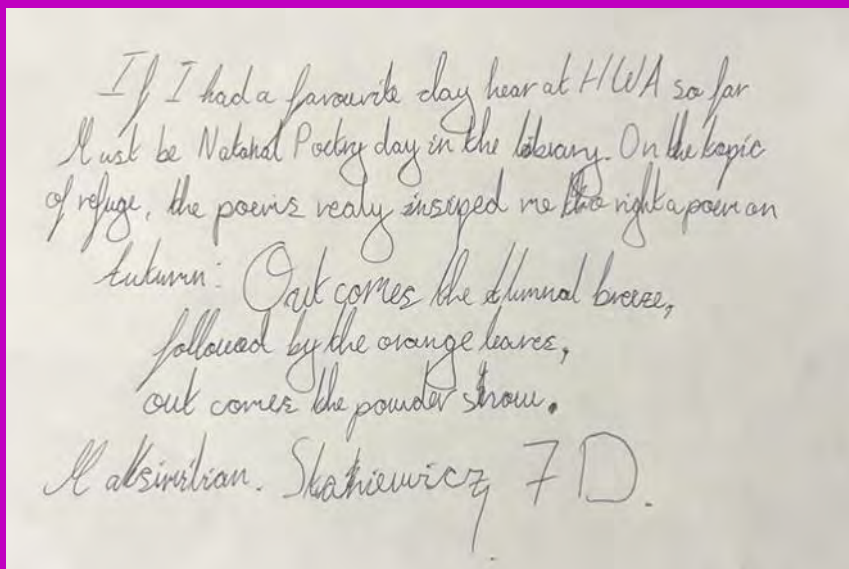


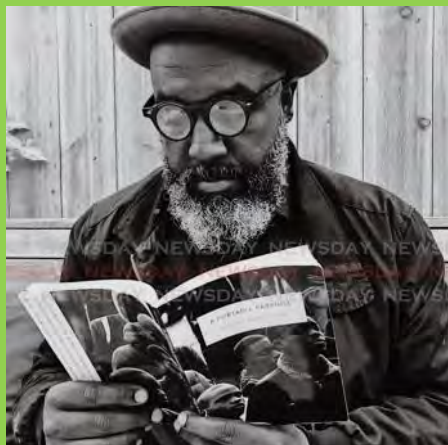
The theme for National Poetry Day 2023 was Refuge.

Refuge is shelter from the storm, it's an escape, it's a hug from someone you love, and it's found in abundance in poetry. It can also be about the actual experience of seeking security as a refugee fleeing from a country that is no longer safe.

*It takes just one poem...*

*National Poetry Day is the annual mass celebration on the first Thursday of October that encourages everyone to make, experience and share poetry with family and friends. Each year we come together*





Students in KS3 explored the poem 'A Portable Paradise' by Roger Robinson to consider the theme of refuge of National Poetry Day.

## A Portable Paradise (2019)

And if I speak of Paradise,  
then I'm speaking of my grandmother  
who told me to carry it always  
on my person, concealed, so  
no one else would know but me.  
That way they can't steal it, she'd say.  
And if life puts you under pressure,  
trace its ridges in your pocket,  
smell its piney scent on your handkerchief,  
hum its anthem under your breath.  
And if your stresses are sustained and daily,  
get yourself to an empty room - be it hotel,  
hostel or hovel - find a lamp  
and empty your paradise onto a desk:  
your white sands, green hills and fresh fish.  
Shine the lamp on it like the fresh hope  
of morning, and keep staring at it till you sleep.

Poem © by Roger Robinson

## POETRY BY HEART

**WHEN?** Friday 3pm-4pm

**WHERE?** E4

**WHO?** Open to all  
students

**Speak to Mrs Owens or  
Miss Mcginnes for more  
information**

National poetry speaking competition for students in England.

It's all about developing confidence with poetry in an enjoyable, accessible and engaging way.

Choose poems you love, learn them by heart and perform them in a school or college performance event.

Teachers select entrants and make a simple video of their performances

Judges select pupils from every region of England to come and perform their poems and meet top UK poets at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

<https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/about>







# We celebrate and value diversity and culture at Hanham Woods Academy!



Colombia



Chile



Brasil



Bolivia



Argentina



Canadá



Guatemala



España



El Salvador



Ecuador



Cuba



Costa Rica



Perú



Paraguay



Panamá



Nicaragua



México



Honduras



Venezuela



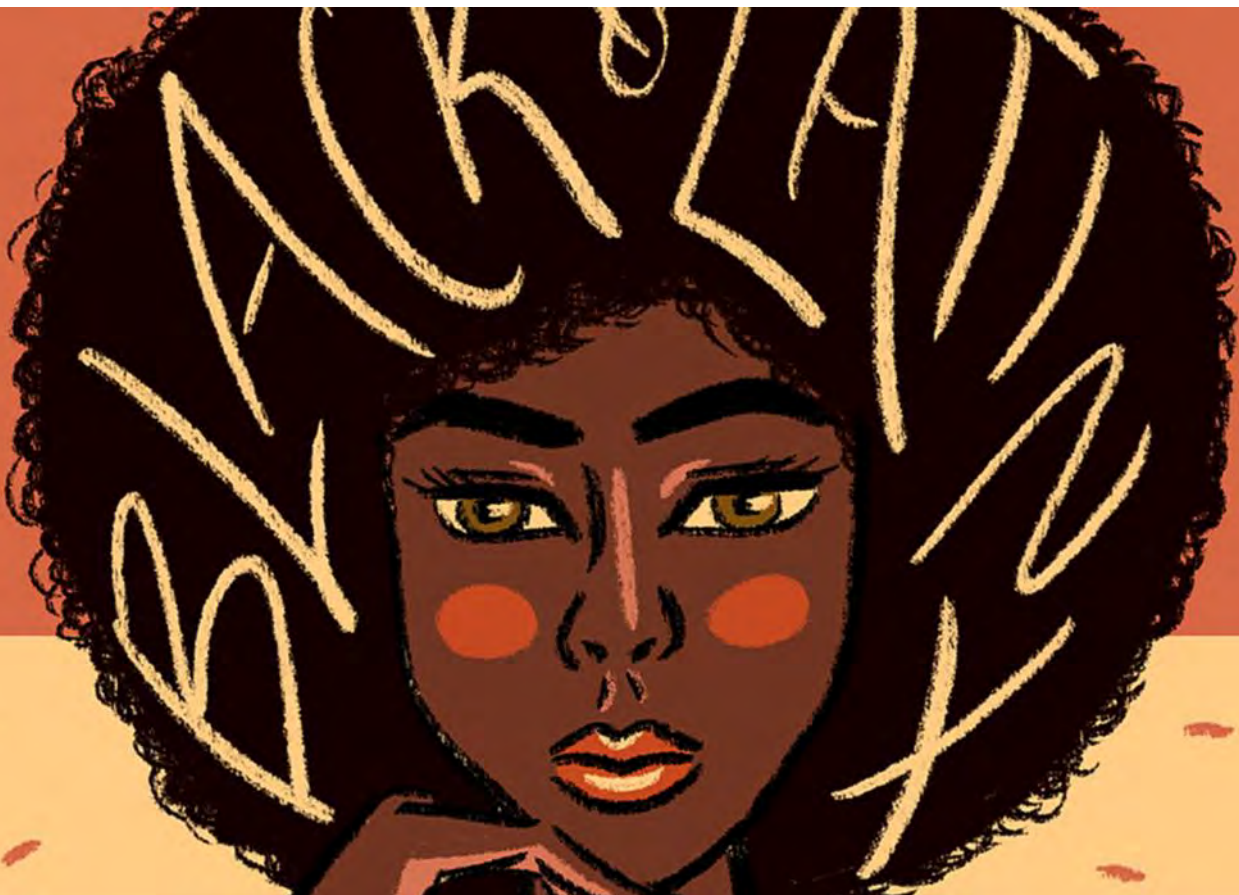
Uruguay

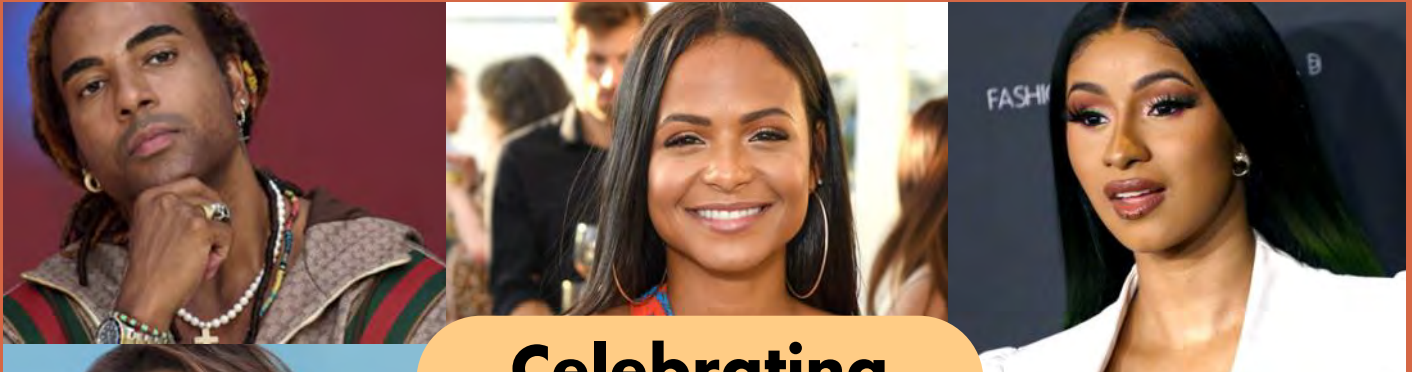


República Dominicana

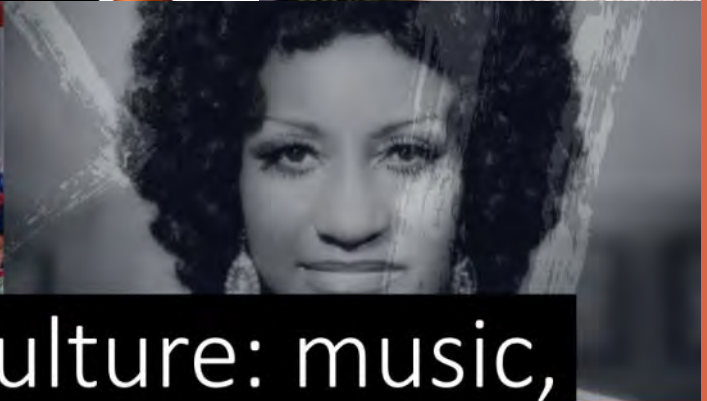


Puerto Rico





**Celebrating  
the Afro  
Latino  
community  
in the world.**



**Celebrating culture: music,  
food, traditions, festivals**





***¿Qué significa ser afrolatino?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67j5sqiqViA>***

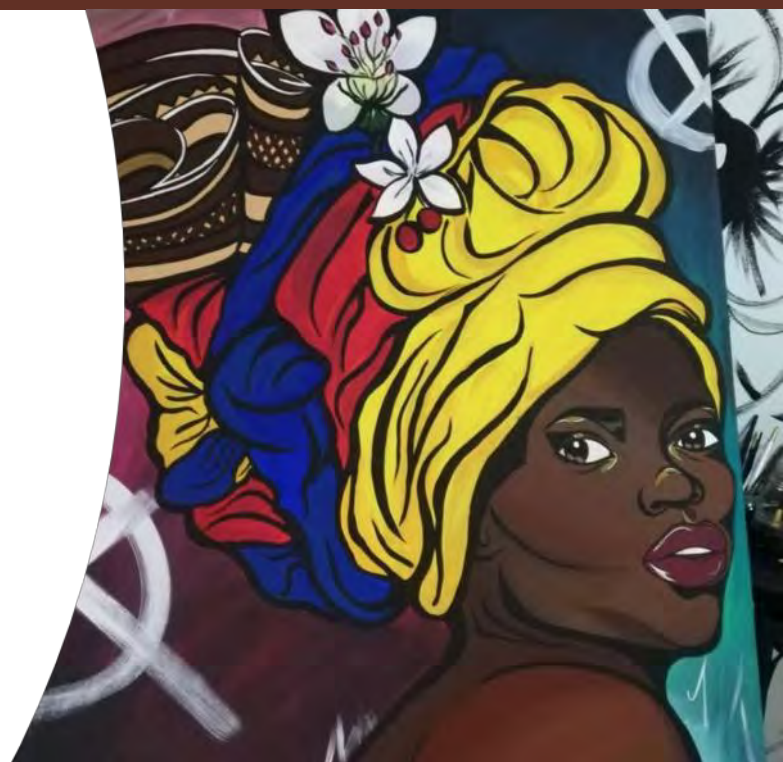
***“En inglés, se escribe ‘Afro-Latino’; en español, se escribe ‘afrolatino’***



*It is true that “Afrolatino” is a term that comes more from the US than elsewhere. In many Spanish speaking countries, it is more common to describe other individuals by the shade of their skin (ex: “my black friend”, “my white friend”, “my mulato friend”) instead of by their heritage. There is a growing movement—especially within the US but in other countries as well—to embrace African heritage and pride, and using the prefix afro- (afromexicano, afrocolombiano, afrolatino) is one way of claiming that heritage.*

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dldkxYLzZDY> –**

**Celebrating  
afro latino culture**



# Duke of Edinburgh



The Year 10 and 11 students took part in their Bronze Award expeditions over two weekends, with everyone passing the standard. The Year 10 enjoyed the last of the 'Summer weather', whilst the Year 11 battled with the elements in wind and torrential rain. Well done to all of those who completed this award demonstrating not only navigational skills and team work but grit and determination; especially the Year 11 who demonstrated great resilience in difficult conditions.



This year has seen a record number of students signing up for the Bronze Award in Year 9, well over 70 students. We have also taken the first steps towards running the Silver Award, launching it with Year 10. This is very exciting as they will be the first cohort at Hanham Woods Academy to take part in this prestigious award.





## Post 16 Assemblies for Year 10 and Year 11 Students

Year 11 students are making important decisions as to their next steps for Post 16. To help with this decision, we've had several guest speakers from a range of Post 16 providers deliver assemblies about the provision they offer.

Guest speakers have included St Brendans College, CLF Post 16, Bath College and BEMA who are an apprenticeship engineering training provider. Post 16 providers have offered wisdom on how to choose next steps, including offering spotlights on subjects that they offer as well as the different range of qualifications available and the extra-curriculars.

## Year 11 Careers Meetings

Careers meeting have started, the aim of these meetings is to allow students to put their ambitions into an action plan or help them explore what their ambitions are and the variety of options available that they could potentially pursue.



### Careers Logo Competition Winner

Last term we ran a logo competition for the careers department. Year 9 student Sophie's logo was very strong, it exceeded expectations, and such has been chosen as the winning logo- very well-done **Sophie!**

Expect to see this logo around the school more.

## Envision

Envision is a national 12-week social action programme aimed at developing the student's skillset with a focus on communication, creativity, determination, and teamwork. Students chose an area of school life they're passionate about improving and base their 12-week project on this. This culminates with a finale where students compete with other schools in the area by presenting their project.



## Young Entrepreneurs Club

Our Young Entrepreneurs Club gives students who have a desire to learn more about business an opportunity to do so by starting their own business! This has so far been a popular club with many students excited about bringing their product to the market. More to come on this soon!



# The Young Entrepreneurs Team



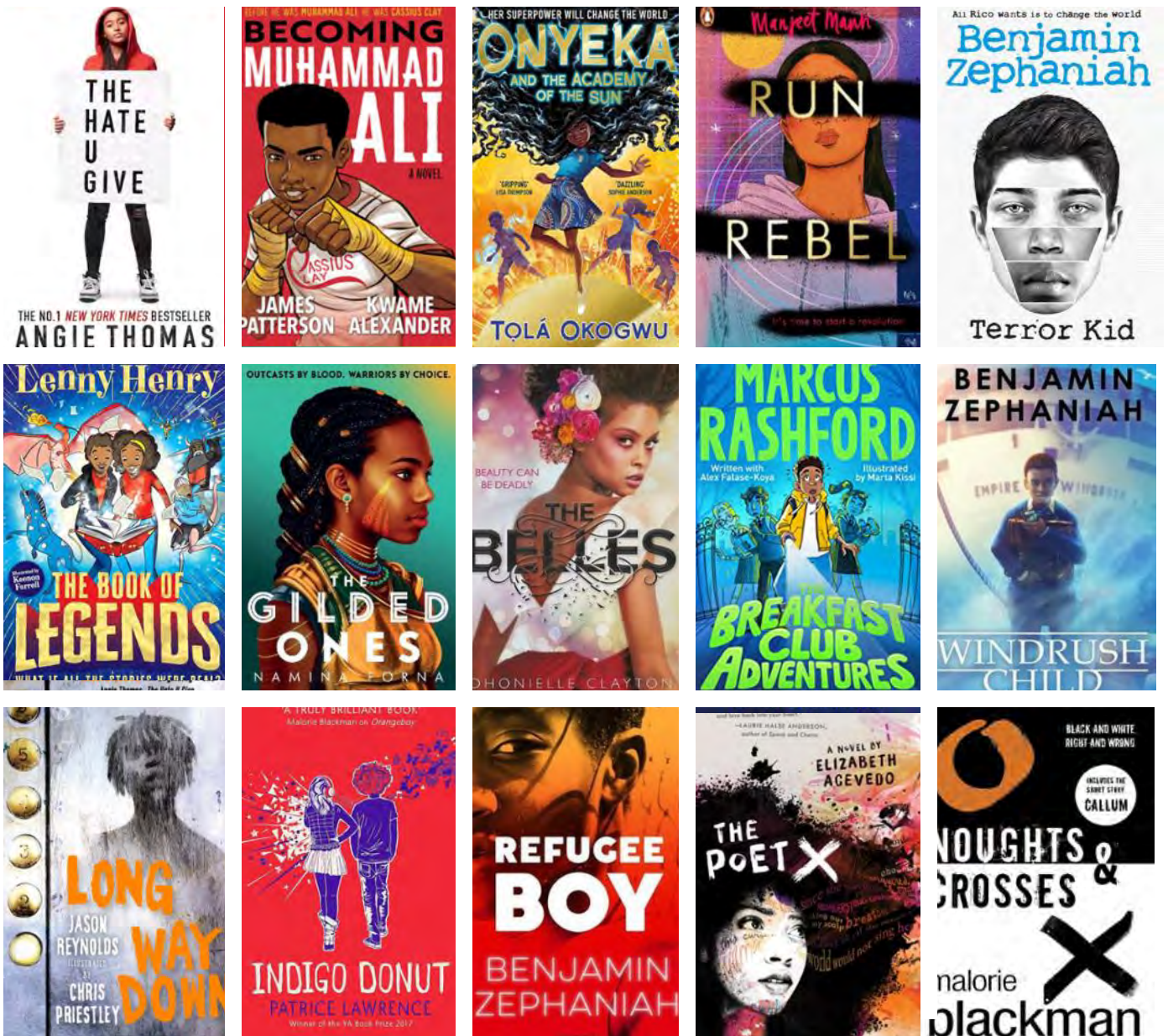
"The Young Entrepreneurs team have made an excellent start and are so enthusiastic! We have 14 HWA students, all with different roles in our prospective company. The roles include Club manager, Finance director, Production director, Graphics Director, Marketing Executive, Events coordinator, Production Executive and Production Assistants, to name a few! So far we have explored what it is to run a company and the responsibilities and roles involved, as well as brainstorming the product we will make and sell. Next week we will be deciding on our company name! There are lots of upcoming opportunities for students including designing our logo, making products using the DT departments facilities, setting up an online shop, and organising selling at a Christmas fair. "



# Library



Spotlight on a selection of the BAME books available to take out of the library.



A special thank you to one of our parents, R A, who donated a great collection of books. All the Diary of a Wimpy Kid's have left the shelves as quickly as they were put on.

We have student librarians, Niamh, Lola, Ryan, Emma, Oliver, Layla, Rosie and Alexandra learning to take books out, return them and place them back on the shelves during lunch.



## CRICKET

Some KS3 girls enjoying cricket coaching sessions with Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation. They have had half a block of cricket and Year 7 and 8 will have the opportunity to take part in a tournament in February. It's been really well received by the girls and a great addition to our curriculum.





# Wellbeing



## Reminder of the 5 ways to wellbeing

Especially in winter it is important for us to take care of our health and wellbeing. This isn't just our physical health but also our mental, emotional and social health too!

The NHS recommend 5 strands that we can focus on to support our wellbeing, take some time to reflect on which ones you do well and where you could give yourself some more self-care.

**Take notice** – be aware of how you interact, your language and your actions

**Learn** – not only in school but also for yourself in your own areas of interest

**Connect** – speak with friends and family, share your day and ask about theirs

**Be active** – move your body regularly and even better if you can do this outside!

**Give** – your time, your effort and your attention to the people and things important to you



# Safeguarding



[www.police.uk/streetsafe](http://www.police.uk/streetsafe)

For our latest  
Safeguarding  
Newsletter go to:

[https://  
hanhamwoodsacademy.clf.uk/  
key-information/safeguarding-  
information-2/](https://hanhamwoodsacademy.clf.uk/key-information/safeguarding-information-2/)



**Kooth**—Your online mental well-being community. Free, safe and anonymous support.

<https://www.kooth.com>



**Childline**—a free, private and confidential service where you can talk about anything.

<https://www.childline.org.uk>



**Off The Record**— mental health social movement by and for young people aged 11—25.

<https://www.otrbristol.org.uk>

**YOUNGMINDS**  
fighting for young people's mental health

national charity offers confidential online and telephone information and support for anyone worried about the emotional, behaviour, or mental health of a child/young person up to 25 years of age, including ADHD, Autism and Aspergers.

Parents Helpline: 0808 802 5544

Website: [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

Young Minds Crisis Messenger Service for free 24/7 support across the UK of you are experiencing a mental health crisis.

Text YM to 85258.

**shout**  
**85258**  
here for you 24/7

**Shout**—Shout 85258 is a free, confidential, anonymous text support service. You can text us from wherever you are in the UK.

If you are struggling to cope and need to talk, our trained Shout Volunteers are here for you, day or night.

**Text SHOUT to 85258**



**Mind**—If you're struggling to cope, you're not alone. [https://  
www.mind.org.uk/](https://www.mind.org.uk/)



**Place2Be**— We provide mental health support in schools through one-to-one and group counselling using tried and tested methods backed by research. In addition, we also offer expert training and professional qualifications. <https://www.place2be.org.uk/>



# Family/parenting support



**NHS website:** Advice for parents on a range of parenting issues, including talking to teenagers, fussy eating and teenage aggression.

Website: [www.nhs.uk/family](http://www.nhs.uk/family)

**Parent Buddies** is a confidential, universal, one-to-one listening service offering short-term support depending on family need. Volunteers are trained to provide parents/carers with listening, and signposting to specialist services. <https://www.parentbuddies.co.uk/>

**CCP – Caring for Communities and People** – Offer outreach support for families at an early help level. Families can self-refer. [www.ccp.org.uk](http://www.ccp.org.uk)

## Support for families who have children with additional needs

### SEND and You - SAY:

Local SEN and disability information service (SENDIAS) - Information and support around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, for children, young people and families. (previously Supportive Parents)

Tel: 0117 9897725 Mon-Fri 9.30 - 4.30 (answerphone at other times),

Email: [support@sendandyou.org.uk](mailto:support@sendandyou.org.uk)

Website: <https://www.sendandyou.org.uk>

### South Glos Parents and Carers:

Information and groups for parents who have children with a disability and/or additional needs. Offers a weekly drop in for parents and carers, support groups, workshops, counselling and events. They also run the Parent Carer forum in South Gloucestershire to collect feedback and views from families with disabled children.

Website: [www.sglospc.org.uk](http://www.sglospc.org.uk)

Email: [team@sglospc.org.uk](mailto:team@sglospc.org.uk)

**JIGSAW Thornbury** Support families who have children who are 0-25 years and have any additional needs or disability. This can be anything from learning needs such as dyslexia to complex disabilities or medical problems. Many children who come have no diagnosis. Weekly support group for parents, carers and children + training courses on a range of topics. Telephone: 01454 416381

Website: <https://www.jigsawthornbury.org.uk/>

## Adult Mental Health

**South Gloucestershire Talking Therapies** - Vitamins: Therapeutic interventions including counselling and group courses, in line with people's differing needs, age 16+. Self-referral via the website:

<https://www.wellaware.org.uk/projects/talking-therapies-south-gloucestershire/>

Tel - 0333 200 1893

<https://www.vitahealthgroup.co.uk/nhs-services/nhs-mental-health/bristol-north-somerset-south-gloucestershire/>

**Samaritans:** Free, confidential emotional support for those experiencing despair, distress, self-harm or suicidal feelings.

Tel: 116 123 (free, from any phone, 24/7).

Website: [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

Email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)



# EXTRA-CURRICULAR



TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>BREAK</b>		Careers drop-in Clinic (SMU)	Careers drop-in Clinic (SMU)	
<b>LUNCH</b>	Library (DLE)	Library (DLE)	Library (DLE)	Library (DLE)
<b>AFTER ACADEMY DAY 3:00—4:00pm</b>	Badminton (DCA)  Netball Y7 (RRO/ SGO)  Sparx catch-up (HPE)  Chess (TAR)  Music (AFI)  Enterprise Club (REN)  Textiles (DRH)	Table Tennis (ESW)  Football Y7 boys (DCA)  Netball 8-11 (RRO/ EBA)  English Wizards Y10 (EMC)	Rugby (ESW/PAR)  DofE Expedition prep (EBA)  Writing Club (English)  Scrabble Club (English)	Girls Football (PAR)  GCSE Intervention (ESW)  Poetry Club (English)
<b>3:00—4:30pm</b>		Legally Blond Production <b>Actors only</b> (AFI/CSI)	Legally Blond Production <b>All</b> (AFI/CSI/HMA)	



# General Information



Share a concern, anonymously.



Find the 'Speak Up!' tile on the student navigator.

## CALL FOR TIES



If you have any school ties you are no longer needing, IA and the Pastoral team would be grateful for them.



Mrs. Tushingham  
Assistant Principal  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead  
Mental Health Lead



Miss. Dickson  
Deputy DSL  
Online Safety



Mrs. Thurston  
KS4 Pastoral Leader  
Attendance



## SAFEGUARDING TEAM Hanham Woods Academy

safeguarding@hwa.clf.uk  
or TEXT us on 07749723552  
3:00pm – 5:00pm Mon - Fri



Mrs. Hendra  
Vice-Principal  
Protected  
Characteristics  
Prevent



Mr. O'Callaghan  
Principal  
Principal



Ms. West  
Academy Counsellor

**kooth**  
www.kooth.com  
Free online emotional &  
mental health support.

**ChildLine**  
0800 1111  
www.childline.org.uk



# General Information



## DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Please find our full uniform dress code on the website:

<https://hanhamwoodsacademy.clf.uk/our-academy/uniform-equipment/>

### HWA Dress Code

All students at Hanham Woods Academy follow a Dress Code which represents our shared commitment to excellence in everything that we do.

**White, long/short sleeved, button-down shirt or blouse. Top button done up.**  
**No polo shirts.**

A waterproof outercoat may be worn to the Academy, this should be block colour and without large branding or logo.  
**No non-waterproof, zip-up tops or hoodies/sweatshirts are to be worn.**

Black, tailored, loose-fitting trousers.  
**No jeans, denim, stretchy fabric, back pockets zip pockets chinos or leggings.**

Black, tailored, loose-fitting shorts may be worn by any student all year round.  
**No denim, chinos or cargo or sports shorts.**

Black, grey or white, calf-high socks or black tights.  
**No colourful or fluffy socks.**

Black, leather/leather-look polishable shoes  
**No trainers or sports brands.**

**No extremes of make up or hair colour/style.**  
**No false eyelashes.**  
**No false/acrylic nails!**

Single pair of ear studs/nose stud may be worn but must be removed for PE.  
**No hooped ear/nose-rings, septum bars or additional facial piercings. No other jewellery should be worn.**

Hanham Woods embroidered, V-neck jumper that matches the House colour of the student; this must be brought to school every day.  
**No hoodies or sweatshirts to be worn on top of Academy uniform.**

Black, double pleated skirt (trouser material) that stays at the knee when worn.  
**The only permitted skirt is the double pleated skirt from Monkhouse. All other skirts are not allowed.**

Hanham Woods, House tie that matches the House colour of the student.

**Dressed for Success**



# General Information



## Free School Meals

Do you think your child might be eligible for free school meals?

If you wish to apply for free school meals for your child attending Hanham Woods Academy you can apply either online, in writing to South Gloucestershire Council or by phone, **01454 868008**.

[Free School Meals Online](#)



## Lost Property

There is a lot of lost property waiting to be claimed. If you have lost any items please ask at reception and also in the PE office. Any unclaimed items will be disposed of at the start of each term.



## Data Protection

Following the UK Data Protection legislation (including UK GDPR), we asked for permission to process and use some personal and sensitive data belonging to students, for example photographs and recordings. This consent can be changed at any point. To change the level of consent given, please email us: [Karen.Cooper@clf.uk](mailto:Karen.Cooper@clf.uk).

**Please note:** Student photos in our Newsletters appear in both print and online platforms, including the school website.

## Change of Details

Please can you ensure that if you change address, Phone number or email address that you inform the school as soon as possible to ensure that we have the most up to date contact details for you and your child. Please email any changes to \_\_\_\_\_

## Student Absence

**Student absence line:**  
0117 440 8900 (Option 2)

**Student absence email:**  
[hwaattendance@clf.uk](mailto:hwaattendance@clf.uk)  
(‘Absence’ in subject line)





**Applying for free school meals could save you up to £414 per year, per child.**



You can check if you are eligible by using our online application form at [www.southglos.gov.uk/schoolmeals](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/schoolmeals)



For more information, speak to your child's school.

## Your child could be entitled to free school meals.

You may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)



You can check if you are eligible by using our online application form at [www.southglos.gov.uk/schoolmeals](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/schoolmeals)  
For more information, speak to your child's school.



**The quickest way to complete your free school meal application is online.**



The Contact Centre is here to help and support those who are unable to access this service or require support in their online application. Contact **01454 868008** for more information.

