



HYDESVILLE
TOWER SCHOOL

WEEKLY

News in brief...

Nursery Star of the Week:

Annaliese – awarded for working hard and growing in confidence



Senior Pupil of the Week:

Karam (Y7) – awarded for being an excellent ambassador for Senior School.



A note from the Headmaster

When people talk about 21st century skills, they can be referring to qualities that will enable adults to cope with the dynamic work environment. “Collaboration” often features in these skill lists, recognising that we rarely work in isolation and gain more working alongside others with different outlooks. Hence this past week has shown some excellent examples of the collaborative qualities that are embedded in daily life at Hydesville.

First, I was delighted to attend the “Stand Up! Giving Hydesville a Voice” showcase, with the challenges that any dramatic ensemble piece presents in working together, responding to the actions of others. It was lovely to see such a range of pieces, involving pupils aged from Year 1 to Year 11. There was even a piece featuring Prep pupils and Rory from the Senior School. As ever, the confidence shown by the children on the stage was great to see. Thank you to the many parents and friends attending to support the event, and to the various staff who brought it all together (especially Miss Waite, Mr Leslie and Mr Ison).

Academic progress is always a key priority in the school, and hence senior teachers and I visited classrooms this week to see learning in action. The best schools know that there is a time for silent work, and other times for groups tackling problems. I witnessed some wonderful examples of the learning jumps that pupils make through these opportunities – a child explaining a concept to another child is a very powerful pedagogical tool, with both benefiting. As such, the teachers skillfully developed independence and resilience in their pupils, whilst monitoring closely to avoid misconceptions. Teaching has changed a lot in the last 30 years, and our high quality staff have the awareness of how to lead the children in an amazing journey in their learning. It also works well because the children are so good at their co-operative skills: they display great attitudes in their learning and are surrounded by others with the same outlook. As ever, they are a joy to be among...



May Half Term Nursery & Reception Fun Club

A reminder that we're running a May Half Term Fun Club for children in Nursery & Reception, 9 am - 4 pm. Places are filling up fast so hurry to reserve your place and secure an Early Bird price of £15 a day. Hydesville children can also bring a friend.

See Mrs Smith in Nursery (or your child's Reception teacher) for more details.

Performer of the Week:

Joel (Y8) – awarded for his wonderful determination and resilience paying off in his drum grading exam.



A visit from Chartwells' Nutritionist

To celebrate Mental Health Awareness Week, we had a special visit from Clare Hedderman, nutritionist from our catering company Chartwells Independent.

Clare held a series of interactive and informative workshops that focused on the connection between moods and foods, looking at how pupils' emotional wellbeing affects their food choices and how their diet has an impact on how they are feeling. Pupils from Year 1 to Year 9 took part. For the younger children, the sessions encouraged them to think and express their feelings. Our older pupils benefitted from Clare's advice on coping with exam stress and making sensible diet choices that have a positive effect on their emotions.

All pupils learnt lots, including tips on limiting sugar before bedtime to help with sleep, keeping hydrated to stay alert and the importance of eating breakfast to avoid being grumpy during the day!



Classroom Escapes

Pupils in Years 3 to 9 enjoyed a classroom escape whilst learning about Maths and Science last week. They worked in small groups to crack a series of codes, work out riddles and solve puzzles to gain access to different levels.

The groups raced against the clock to reunite with information and unravel the mystery...



Royal Wedding celebrations



We're all very excited about the forthcoming Royal Wedding and will be celebrating in School on Friday 18th May. Nursery and Reception children are invited to come to school dressed as Princes and Princesses. KS1 and KS2 and Senior School pupils can wear an item of red, white and or blue (or better still, all three colours!) for a **£1 donation**. Children in

Prep School will be enjoying a sandwich lunch and will be joined by Nursery to help us create a 'street party atmosphere'.

Senior pupils will tuck into a traditional British lunch of fish and chips. There will also be a lunchtime disco and an all-School cake and sweet sale, so pupils might want to bring in some additional money to buy treats!

All donations will go to towards the Senior School's Tanzania trip and Crisis charities (the charity fundraising day is being organised by Senior pupils Ria and Zara; well done pupils!).

Thursday 17th May lunch theme day announcement: Thank you to those parents who suggested ideas for next Thursday's theme day lunch. The most popular choice was 'American' so we'll all be tucking into hot dogs, burgers, southern fried chicken and ribs (with lots of vegetarian options too)!

Congratulations to the following Prep School Class who achieved 100% attendance this week:

- 1B
- 1C
- 2P

Well done to the following Senior Form Groups who also achieved 100% attendance this week:

Form 2



Giving Hydesville a Voice

We would like to congratulate all pupils that took part in our 'Stand Up! Giving Hydesville a Voice' event on Tuesday. It was an exciting occasion where pupils from both the Prep and Senior schools showcased their talents in drama, dance and music.

Parents were wowed by some beautiful vocals, hard-hitting drama and lively characters. Miss Waite looks forward

to seeing our wonderful audience again for the School performance of Bugsy Malone later in the Summer term (more details will be released soon!).



Year 6's Sponsored Walk



Pupils in Year 6 spent the day walking in Walsall Arboretum last Friday to raise money for a variety of good causes which they selected themselves. Between them, the class walked over 400 miles, with some pupils even managing 18 miles!

Notices/reminders:

<p>KS1 & KS2 snacks</p>	<p>A polite reminder for KS1 and KS2 parents. Children should bring in one piece of fruit for their snack. A treat is allowed on a Friday. Thank you for your cooperation and working with us to educate your children to make healthy choices.</p>
<p>Annual parent survey</p>	<p>Thank you to those parents who have completed the annual parent survey. The survey remains open so we would be grateful if you could complete it, if you haven't already. Your feedback is very important to us.</p>
<p>Friday, 18th May</p>	<p>A reminder that for a £1 donation:</p> <p>Nursery & Reception can come to school dressed as Princes and Princesses.</p> <p>Prep School can wear an item of red, white or blue (or all three).</p> <p>Senior School can wear an item of red, white or blue (or all three).</p>

Dates coming up week commencing 14th May 2018:

<p>Monday</p>	<p>Visit by Ruth Hodgkiss to talk to Year 10 about managing stress & anxiety. After School Clubs: Archery: Upper Prep Cricket: Seniors Musical Theatre: Seniors German Intervention: Seniors</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>After school clubs: Music Club: Seniors Spanish Film Club: Seniors Spanish: Upper Prep Music Club: Upper Prep Cricket: Upper Prep Art Club: Y3 & Y4</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>Residential to Edmond Hall: Y3 & Y4 (until Friday) After school clubs: Hockey: Upper Prep</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>Themed lunch day: American After school clubs: Y5 Booster sessions: 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm</p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>Senior Fundraising Day Royal Wedding celebrations After school clubs: Duke of Edinburgh: Y9 – Y11 Karate: Reception – Y6</p>