

# THE HAMLET HERALD

'Outstanding learning, within a glittering curriculum, where everyone matters'



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### HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NOTE

Welcome back to the start of our Autumn term 2 – it's going to be another busy one. Already this week we have had an incredible performance at the Greenwich Theatre, a visit from the Young Shakespeare Company, and today, 40 have been the first class to try out our inaugural trip to the Sky Skills Studio.

With so much going on, effective communication is vital. Our aim is to provide you with as much notice as possible, utilising the Hamlet Herald, the website, and email communications to disseminate all you need to know in a timely fashion.

I spent an enjoyable session yesterday morning with a group of parents who have joined DHJS this academic year, but not via DVIS. I shared a school document with them which helped me to guide them through the school year in terms of how we engage with you as parents and carers. Our Parental Engagement Cycle gives a great overview of all our activities. It is divided up into activities related to the children's learning, parental learning, and social/community/celebration opportunities. I'm sure there is much more that we could add, but at the very least, it maps out and gives you a flavour of how we encourage you to engage with the school community. It is available on our website, but I have also included it on the final page of the Herald today.



### PUNCTUALITY MATTERS

We recorded a staggering 111 late marks for the first half of the Autumn term across the school – that actually equates to a lot of lost learning.

Punctuality really does matter. It is important that the children arrive in good time so they are actually able to be in the line at '5 to 9', feeling prepared, with the readiness for learning mindset that will give them the best start to their day ahead at school. Rushing through the gates, out of breath, worrying if you have everything you need for the day is not great for anyone. Can we please encourage all of our families to re-visit home routines, both for the night before and for the morning. To support stress-free starts to the day, the children need to arrive calmly, before entering the buildings collectively with their peers. They can then access the learning prepared by their teachers. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

### KEY DATES

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November**  
'Mop-up' flu immunisations

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November**  
Y3 trip to the Southbank

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November**  
PTA Bonfire Night cake sale,  
3:25pm Village playground



### SHAKESPEARE FOR SCHOOLS

A group of our Y6 children took part in the Shakespeare for Schools Festival at the Greenwich Theatre last night, performing a unique, abridged production of Julius Caesar. They were one of four south-east London schools performing, each school taking a different Shakespeare story. The confidence, engagement and talent of our Hamleteers shone through; with our understanding of the complex plot, the 'slickness' of our performance, and use of voice being commented upon specifically at the concluding mini-adjudication. We were all so proud. Many thanks must go to both Mrs Evans and Miss Gorbutt-Rice, our 'Teacher Directors' who worked hard to prepare the children for this memorable experience.



### WEEKLY HOUSE POINTS

Topaz Water	Ruby Fire	Garnet Earth	Sapphire Air
43	52	50	37

## HOMEWORK PLEA

Some of you have hopefully seen our new [Homework Policy](#). It was launched just before the break so we were disappointed to find that fewer than 20% of our pupils used Times Tables Rock Stars and Doodle Maths over the half term. These services are free to you but paid for by the school. As per our policy, it is a school expectation that the children will access this online home maths learning during the course of the week. Teachers are monitoring and talking about both Doodle and TTRS in class.

We believe that these systems can - and will - produce results. As expert mathematician, adults (yes, you are!) suffer from 'expert blindness' and consequently underestimate the amount of practice that novice learners require to embed their understanding fully. We also tend to undervalue 'overlearning' - it's not about children just learning until they remember, it's about children learning until they cannot forget!

So we would love your support in getting the children back into good habits and engaging with a short amount of regular practice on TTRS and Doodle. For any questions regarding Doodle or TTRS, please contact our Assistant Headteacher and Maths Lead Tom Salomonson: [tsalomonson1.210@lgfmail.org](mailto:tsalomonson1.210@lgfmail.org)

A quick parent tip for Doodle Maths: The children should be able to complete the '*6 a day*' activities independently and in fact, are more than welcome to complete as many rounds of these a day as they wish! When the '*new this week*' activity is activated, it is a good idea to work through these questions with your child to ensure they are on track. While there is an explanation provided before the children attempt the questions, in our experience, they are more likely to just gloss over or skip this bit to get on to the actual questions. As such, having you there to support the '*new this week*' part of the learning will certainly enhance this.

A quick pointer for supporting completing reading records: We know how easy it is for the children to stick to the same kind of responses (the ones they feel most comfortable with), but ideally, we would like them to explore a range of responses to the texts they read. While we talk about this in class, they may need support and encouragement from you to diversify their brief comments. Have a look at our [Reading Question Stems](#) which are under the English section → Curriculum page → Our School tab on the website for some ideas.

Thank you in advance for supporting our Hamleteers with their home learning.

## ANTI-BULLYING PARENT WORKSHOP

We are looking forward to welcoming Kidscape to Dulwich Hamlet on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November as part of our DHJS Anti-Bullying week activities. They are going to be delivering an Anti-Bullying workshop for parents and carers at 6pm in Turney Hall. The session will cover the following outcomes:

- Understanding what behaviours constitute bullying
- Developing an awareness of the prevalence of bullying
- Exploring the impact and effects of bullying on children and young people
- Understanding differences and similarities of online bullying
- Understanding how incidents can be appropriately responded to
- Looking at future plans to reduce the effects of bullying behaviours

We will also make reference to our Anti-Bullying policy and the specifics of our work at DHJS.

Please RSVP via the school office if you would like to join us for this informative evening:

[office@dulwichhamletjuniorschool.org.uk](mailto:office@dulwichhamletjuniorschool.org.uk).



## REMEMBRANCE



We always hold special assemblies to mark Remembrance, learning about key events and people, including some of the past pupils from the Hamlet. There are some photos of these pupils on our display in Pickwick building, there is also a plaque of names outside 6GR's classroom. We are now selling poppies in the school reception. The children are allowed to wear the poppies to school, especially on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November when we will come together as a school to observe a two-minute silence.

STEAM  
QUESTION OF THE MONTH  
Why do we dream?  
Deadline: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November  
Hand your submissions in to Miss Harris or put them in the folder in Griffin.

Deadline on Monday!  
Hand your entries in to  
Miss Harris, or place them  
in the folder in Griffin Hall

## PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT CYCLE 2019-20

