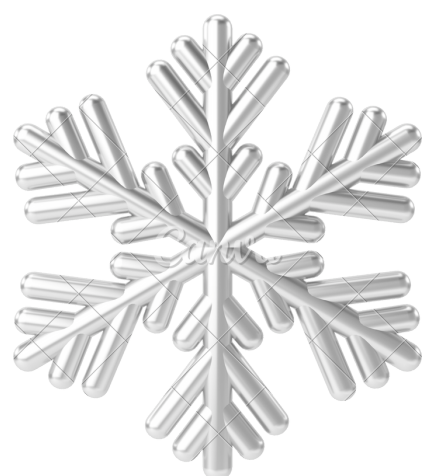


The Hundred of Hoo Academy

Christmas

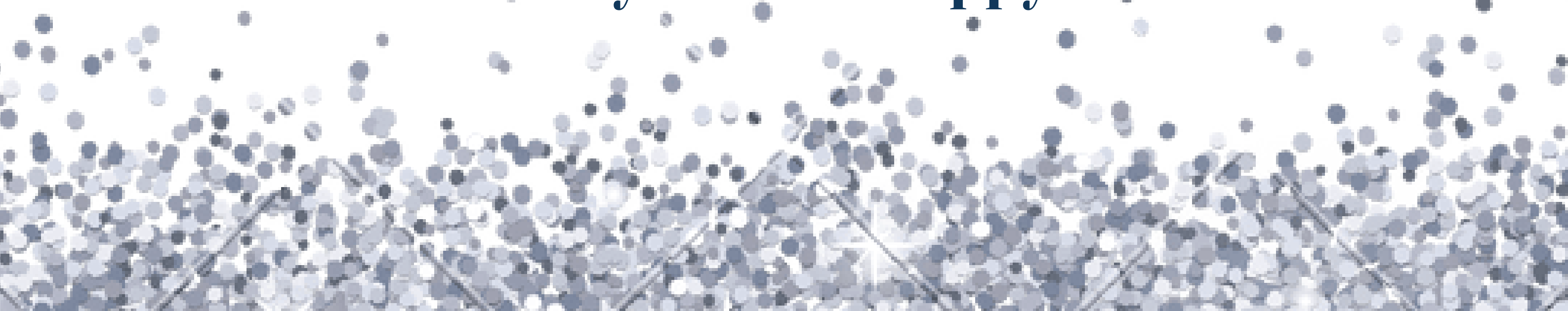
NEWSLETTER



December 2023 Edition



**We hope you had a lovely Christmas
and we wish you all a Happy New Year!**



International Visitors

At The Hundred of Hoo Academy we have started our year well with two international groups visiting us through our partnership with Concorde International, based in Canterbury. In term 1 we were visited by a group of Spanish pupils from Vigo, who spent their time with year 10 and 11 attending lessons and spending social time with our pupils at Hoo. We were then joined by a small group of girls from Thailand who attended lessons with year 8, 9 and 10 pupils. Those who have been buddies have thoroughly enjoyed representing both our Academy and our country by sharing insights into our culture and helping their international buddies improve their English, whilst learning more about different cultures and making new friends at the same time. Pupils are looking forward to our next groups arriving in term 3 and 4 with South Korean pupils joining us in January and more Spanish pupils in February.

Creative Writing Competition

The Creative Writing Competition has been extended over the Christmas period for any students that want to get involved! Please join the relevant Google Classroom below, complete one of the available tasks, and upload any completed work. Winners will be announced in Term 3 with prizes to follow!

KS3: 2uu6tmt

KS4: op4g2k4

KS5: ypsks5k

SPARX English

The top 8 students from years 7-9 for the highest SPARX English points took part in some Christmas baking last week. These students have read the most in the academy for their year group and significantly more than the 30 minutes a week expected. Well done!

A Polite Notice

A reminder to all parents/carers that they are unable to arrive at reception and ask to see a member of staff, without an appointment as staff are unable to leave their duties during the Academy day. Please contact your child's college on the relevant email address to arrange an appointment and you will be met at a time and date that is convenient to yourself and staff members.

Thank you for your continued support of the Academy.

Tower of London

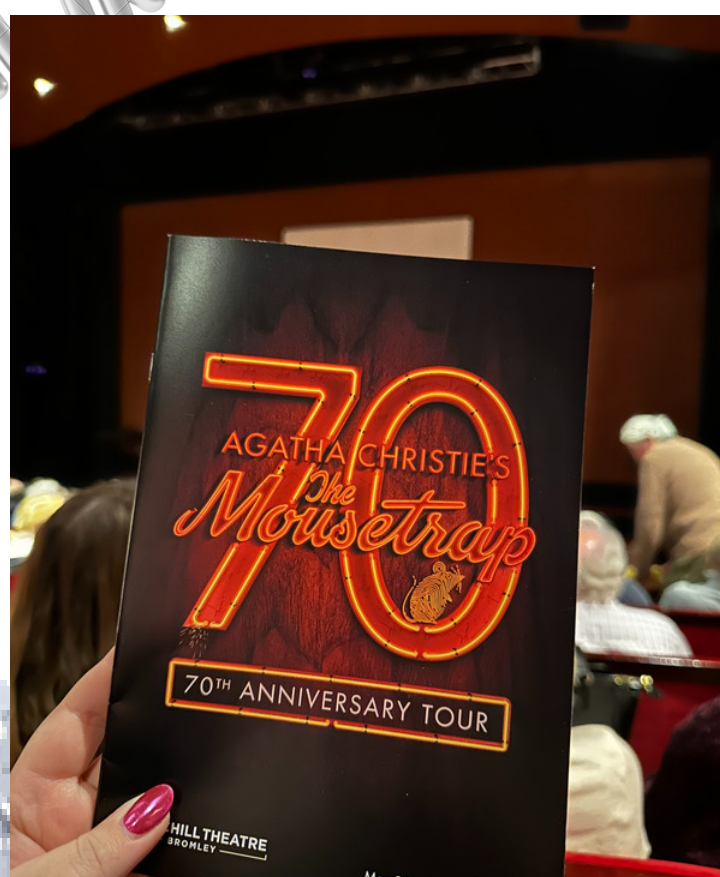
Despite the pouring rain, our trip to the Tower of London was eye-opening to say the least. Seeing the places we have learned about placed us in the footsteps of the Kings and Queens of the Wars of the Roses, allowing us to indulge in the history of the past. However, what peaked our curiosity was seeing the changes to the castle and how this impacts our historical assumptions and analysis of events. Was Clarence actually drowning in a barrel of wine? Did Henry VI die in the room he was imprisoned in? Were the Princes killed in the Tower? We will never really know however, our debates helped us consolidate what we know and how this determines our conclusions of what actually happened at the Tower of London. By the end of the day, the sun had come out, and the truth of whether the Tower of London was an accurate source to asses the myths of the Wars of the Roses became obscured.

Darcy L, Y13.



Mousetrap at Churchill Theatre

Year 10 and 11 students visited the Churchill Theatre to watch the 70th Anniversary touring production of Agatha Christie's 'Mousetrap.' Can you guess #whodunnit?



Harry Potter Trip

3D Design students were invited to the Harry Potter Studio tour to look at industry leading fabrication. Pupils were conducting primary research and collecting ideas and imagery for their ongoing film and tv prop projects. The spectacular film sets and set piece experiences were amazing and provided incredible inspiration for our students here at Hoo. The cherry on top was a burger and a butterbeer in the HP cafe, followed by an hour wandering the enormous (and equally magical) shop! Students showcased their exemplary maturity and were wonderful ambassadors for our school. Huge thanks to Mrs Glover, Miss Maxwell and Mrs Purnell for assisting in the first ever 3D trip. This will definitely become our yearly outing!

Mr Aaron -

Head of Design Technology

Fairy Light Lanterns

In their dedicated Design Technology sessions led by Mr. Aaron and Mrs. Purnell from the secondary school, our Primary school pupils have delved into crafting enchanting fairy light lanterns entirely from scratch. They have not only learned to utilize new tools proficiently to shape and construct these lanterns but have also received delightful notes from Santa's elves, adding a touch of magic to their creative journey.





HOO H Christmas Carol Concert

On Friday 1st December, the Hundred of Hoo Academy opened its doors to the local community to share the joys of the holiday season with our talented students as they performed in the Christmas Carol Concert. It was a wonderful evening, filled with a variety of musical acts; from vocal soloists to musicians who have been working in their private instrumental lessons as well as curriculum music lessons to our very own Steel Drum group. Students from the Hoo Dance club performed a fantastic number to 'Underneath the Tree' and two of our Year 8 Dance students became a risk taker and performed a duet of their own creation. The whole event was tied together with student readers, who spoke of the joys and message this Christmas season can bring to those around us and topped off with 'Hoo Harmonics,' the Academy choir who, as well as singing their own prepared music, also led the audience in congregation carols to ring in the season. It was an incredible evening of warmth, joy and mince pies that was concluded with the local Reverend; Mark Borley, who presented the students and community with a Christmas blessing. A huge thank you goes out to all those that supported this event, whether in the planning, the ticket sales or in the moral support for students who performed.



Terms 1 and 2 'Theme of the Fortnight'

The theme of the fortnight at Hoo is not just the heart of our form time programme, but seen throughout our wider curriculum too, developing pupils' awareness of The Fundamental British Values, protected characteristics and building Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development within our pupils. The start of the 2023/24 Academic year began with the theme of "Our Community". This was a great opportunity to set out expectations of what our values and culture are at The Hundred of Hoo Academy. Within form time, pupils also researched the mythology surrounding their individual colleges of Neptune, Athena and Forseti, giving context and understanding to what it means to be a member of such communities.

Our second theme was "Hoo Leaders", building our sense of democracy within the academy, as our focus turned towards electing student ambassadors and a whole school student council. Mrs Whyte led on assemblies to outline what democracy and leadership means, and how every member of the community was a stakeholder in making change where needed and the power of having a voice. During form time, pupils wrote anonymous applications to be their form representative, with blind election and vote taking place based on this to elect leaders. We are delighted to now have regular meetings to share opinions and feedback, voicing suggestions through this leadership group.

The third theme in term 1 was "Hoo Against Hate". Mr Carey led assemblies focusing on the importance of treating others with respect and dignity, through an approach of mutual respect and tolerance, despite any differences there may be. This targeted examples of discrimination such as racism, homophobia, sexism and misogyny, outlining why negative actions towards these groups are examples of hate crime, against protected characteristics.

At the start of term 2, we began with a split theme - marking both "Remembrance" and "Anti-bullying week" respectively. Marking Armistice Day with 2 minutes silence within assemblies and on our final day closest to 11th November, we demonstrated our respect for all those who have given their lives and service for the individual liberties and freedom that we enjoy today. Year 9 pupils in Key Stage 3 forms enjoyed sharing their presentations to the rest of their tutees as part of their service as action from History lessons, demonstrating their knowledge and communication skills. The second part of this theme focused on the national anti-bullying week, in line with this year's theme "make a noise about bullying", advocating for young people to become active bystander upon witnessing or experiencing bullying. All pupils were informed on what bullying is, how to report this in school and also what to do should this bullying continue after reporting.

Next up in term 2 our attention turned to "Road Safety" in line with national road safety week. This focus was split, with our younger pupils focusing on how to make positive and safe choices at the roadside, whilst our older pupils focused on how they can be safe drivers and passengers in cars.

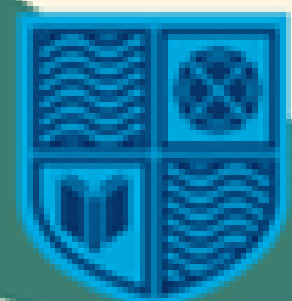
Our final theme of the fortnight for term 2 was the first of our cultural themes for the year, "Thailand". There are three cultural themes each year, with the purpose being to enrich the cultural capital of pupils, raising their understanding and awareness of different nations and cultures. Pupils learnt some simple phrases of Thai within form time lessons, as well as numbers and even some Thai numeracy tasks! Pupils also got to experience some cultural and religious tasks, taking virtual tours of some of Thailand's cultural places of significance.

Monty Mondays



Monday Lunchtimes
in the
Wellbeing Room
by the
Athena Social Space

**Come and spend some
time with
Little Monty**



**The Hundred of Hoo
Academy**