

Hollies Herald

Spring 2017



"Determined to Succeed"

This term's theme: Resolution

The sun is shining as I write this article, spring has definitely arrived. It has been a busy Spring term for all of our pupils and staff at the Hollies. As we approach the Easter holiday we are getting ever nearer to the examination season. During this time all of our Year 11 pupils will be taking part in:

- Final Examinations
- Completing coursework with their teachers

It is particularly important at this time of year that attendance is as high as possible so that your child has every opportunity to meet with targets and pass the courses they have been entered for.

Attendance is an important part of school life, congratulations go to the following pupils

Most improved Attendance:

Jurelle
Josh S
Jordan P
Katie

Highest attender this term is:

Liam G

I hope that you enjoy reading this term's Herald, I wish you all a very happy Easter and we look forward to seeing all of our pupil's return to the school on Tuesday 25 April 2017.

Sonia Lockett
Acting Headteacher

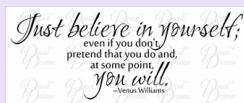
Resolution:

def: firm determination to do something

When we hear the term resolution, we automatically think of something that happens once a year, at the start of a new year. Whether it is changing our diet, trying to spend more time with the kids or giving up a bad habit, nine times out of ten by the end of January we have returned to our old ways and that's it until next year!

Resolution means so much more than this – it can mean to resolve a dispute or argument – in other words, to come to an agreement between all parties, to find a peaceful solution or, (in chemistry) to break something down into its component parts.

It is about the attitude we have towards everyday challenges that we face in life.



As our year 11s come up to the most important time of their educational lives, they need to face the stress of the exam period with resolve. Resolve to put down the Xbox controller or social media and dedicate their spare time to revision and preparation; resolve to have a go at every exam, no matter how difficult they find the subject or how little they feel they know. Resolve to try their best and not to give up!

We all wish our year 11 pupils every success over the up-coming exam period and hope that the maturity, strength, and resilience they have developed at the Hollies serves them well in both their preparations, as well as the examinations themselves.

I'll leave you with a few motivational quotes (maybe parents/carers could use a few to help calm nerves and resolve a moment of stress!)



- ◇ *I'm not telling you it's going to be easy, I'm telling you it's going to be worth it. (Art Williams)*
- ◇ *It always seems impossible until it is done.*
- ◇ *Just believe in yourself. Even if you don't, just pretend that you do and at some point, you will. (Venus Williams)*
- ◇ *Push yourself, because no one else is going to do it for you*
- ◇ *Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out. (Robert Collier)*
- ◇ *Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don't quit. (Conrad Hilton)*

Mrs J Smyth
Acting Deputy Head

Holocaust Memorial Day 2017



Mr Nation had asked me to accompany him to London to

take part in the National Holocaust Memorial Day Event. This event is commemorated worldwide and I felt very honoured to have been asked.

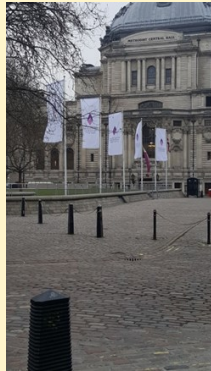
The day started quite early for both of us, and we met at 7:20am in order to catch the train to London. When Mr Nation and I met up at the train station, there was just enough time for a quick coffee, to wake us up. Before we knew it, we were sitting on the train, ripping the world of politics to shreds while reading the Times (as you do).

The journey took just 2 hours, and we arrived at London Euston Station, where we took the tube over to Westminster. We were still relatively early, so we got ourselves a McDonald's breakfast and saw some sights, before heading over to the building where the memorial would take place, which for legal reasons we can't give away the name of the place. Even still, we had enough time to have a look around again, before coming back to the building and being assigned our jobs, which in our case was to help holocaust survivors who required a wheelchair up to the area where the presentation would be held.

There were many paintings that had been done by primary school children, inspired by the holocaust and Kristallnacht, (meaning 'night of glass') which was the one night that started the destruction and degradation

of the Jewish people in Germany. Many interesting paintings were on display throughout the area, as well as tapestries and poems.

The presentation consisted of some celebrities and holocaust survivors reading out to the audience about the holocaust. One survivor named Valdemar



Kalinin even had the opportunity to read out his poem named "It's Going to Rain" which he wrote during his time in a concentration camp as a

Roma. Keeping in mind as well, that Holocaust Memorial Day does not just remember the holocaust of WWII, but as well the one's that occurred in Rowanda, Cambodia, Darfur and Bosnia. Holocaust Memorial Day is a day for remembering.

Many celebrities attended the event including British actors and actresses, but some very important names too; Sajid Javid; The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the Labour party. Other names included The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan and many important religious figures who attended the programme as well, such as the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis. There was a personal message from the Prime Minister, Theresa May, through video feed.

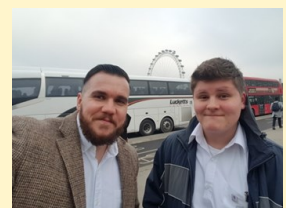
The whole event lasted around an hour, and ended with a prayer from the chief Rabbi, which only the Jewish people in the audience were taking part in, for obvious reasons. Afterwards,

we got the chance to socialise with some of the other volunteers and even some of the survivors. In fact, the same person that I had the privilege of taking upstairs asked for me again specifically, and honestly that was the most humbling feeling I had felt in a long, long time. Turns out, his name was Alfred, and yes he did survive the holocaust, but despite that, he's a very cheerful man. He has been in many professions, including medical and business.

So as we were socialising, and just getting to know the people there, plates of Jewish h'orderves were being carried around and offered to people. When it was time for them to leave, I helped him out to the bus that he was to take back with his wife and her sister (I think sister). Afterwards, it was back on the tube for us, where we would travel back to the same station that we came to. A massive Burger King dinner was an amazing treat for both of us, and afterwards was back on the train for around 2 hours again.

Overall the day was an extremely humbling experience for me and sir. I got to meet and talk to humans that have been through things in their lives that we can only read about now. It was a great experience, one I will remember for a long time. I am even thinking about becoming a youth ambassador for the HMD now. It has made a lasting impression.

**Liam
Year 10**



KS4 Literacy: A New Approach to Exams

In years 10 and 11 we are now fully into the new syllabus in English for public exams. This is like every other school in England. Coursework has gone and our pupils will now be graded on their performance in two examinations at the end of year 11. The 'Reading' element actually involves showing understanding through a written response. 'Writing' involves pupils showing skills in fiction and non-fiction.

As well as the written examinations, the pupils also have to take part in Speaking and Listening activities which need to be recorded and sent to the exam board. There is nothing to be worried about – the pupils will have plenty of time to plan, prepare and rehearse for their Speaking and Listening assessments. The results from the Speaking and Listening do not affect the overall GCSE grade – the pupils will receive a separate grade for this element of their course.

The written examinations take the following format:

Paper 1 – Reading and Writing – responding to an extract from a fiction text in four answers, and producing a piece of creative writing.

Paper 2 – Reading and Writing – responding to two non-fiction texts, comparing them and summarising them, and producing a piece of writing to argue or persuade.

As year 11 gear up to working at the necessary level to achieve the result they hope for I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all great success.

Z.Millinchip Head of English



English

Resolving to be Proud of Our Work

A Year 10 pupil wrote this English story starter based on an image of a jetty. Initially it was written in an exercise book and then onto a computer which enabled further editing to take place. Adverbs were added to make the description more precise, for example 'loudly', 'slowly' and 'rapidly'. Adding further adjectives like 'icy', 'dark' and 'misty' on the second draft helped set the scene and create a chilling atmosphere.

Mrs L Stephenson-English Teacher

"It was a freezing cold night. The winter wind was whistling loudly through my black hair. I was standing still on an empty jetty near the dark, misty water. It was icy. I had run away from home. I heard a quiet whisper coming from behind me. I slowly turned around to see what the noise was – there was a little boy white as a ghost, floating in the air. I rubbed my eyes, and he was gone. I was shocked. I thought I was hallucinating. It was all quiet for a second. All of a sudden I felt someone touch my neck as if they were just about to strangle me. I turned around rapidly and there was nothing or nobody there. Just a note...

HELP

I stood there all confused. Looking around, no one was there! It was completely still, I felt like I was being pushed forwards into the water but I wasn't moving. I knew I wasn't alone."



BTEC First Award in Sport Level 1/2

This year for the Year Eleven Core Group, The Hollies has decided to run the BTEC Sport qualification. In our view this will be particularly useful and motivating for our pupils as the course provides a well-rounded approach to working within the sports industry.

This qualification will run at both Levels 1 and 2 giving scope for pupils needs and abilities to be met. The unit coverage includes:

- Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise
- Unit 2: Practical Sports Performance
- Unit 3: The Mind and Sports Performance
- Unit 4: The Sports Performer In Action

I look forward to all the fun and challenges ahead

Mr Nwenwu—PE

Y9 Art and Design

Pupils have been looking at and being inspired by original African masks. Pupils were tasked with designing their own mask using clay relief.



Period 6 Provision

Period 6 is specialised extra provision that is offered at The Hollies after normal school hours. This provision is for pupils who are in need of extra support in terms of behaviour, engagement and exam work to name just a few.

All of this is in support for pupils to move forward in their education, to promote positivity and to create a sense of inclusion to school life.

AN EXCITING NEW INITIATIVE
THE SUPPORTING SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

The Hollies is proud to have recently signed up to the Supporting Schools Programme which is an initiative between the Safer Communities Partnership and schools in Stafford Borough. Its aim is to work together to keep our pupils safe, reduce crime and the fear of crime and improve behaviour in schools and the local community. The initiative enhances our existing PSHE curriculum and compliments the work we cover on British Values and the OFSTED framework. It is part of our commitment under the Every Child Matters Principles. We believe this partnership will help our pupils to make safe informed choices, understand what may influence their decision

making and will help to increase their confidence, resilience and self-esteem. Our PCSO is now regularly available on the school site to support the pupils and the school and to offer advice. (Please contact the school if you should wish to speak to anyone in any respect).



We have an exciting programme of special assemblies with outside speakers tackling issues such as healthy relationships, mental health and wellbeing, hate crime, fire safety, drug abuse and CSE. Our first assembly "NO KNIVES BETTER LIVES " was delivered by Staffordshire police. Separate assemblies were held for KS3 on the 31st January and KS4 on the 1st February. The pupils learnt all about the law relating to knife crime and the dangers involved.

They studied real cases and had the opportunity to discuss their concerns and feelings. Our PCSO Jennifer Ludlow-Smith was on hand to answer any questions. Pupils responded well to the assembly and we were proud of their attitude and the contributions they made. Year 10 have gone on to explore the topic further in our PSHE lessons where we considered ways of making better choices through the no knives better lives website and resources.

[No Knives Better Lives: Knife Crime Prevention](http://noknivesbetterlives.com)
noknivesbetterlives.com

Further information about this exciting new initiative and a full list of dates and forthcoming assemblies can be found on our school website.

Mrs Pinkney TA and Supporting Schools Coordinator

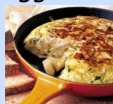
Cookery Corner
Spanish Omelette

We are all faced with the challenge every night of what to have for dinner that is quick and easy after a long day. Why not try our quick and easy Spanish Omelette.? This classic Spanish dish is very versatile and quick to whip up. The tortilla (or Spanish omelette) can be served hot or cold and is a fantastic way of using up all kinds of ingredients – simply add in any leftover vegetables, crumbled or grated cheese, jarred red peppers or cooked sausage. You can use anything out of your fridge you have in that needs to be used up, or keep it simple with cheese and potatoes like the recipe below. They'll all taste great, so get experimenting! Why not give it a go for a quick, easy and cheap alternative to your usual

dinner?

Ingredients

- 300 g waxy potatoes
- 1 onion
- olive oil
- 5 large free-range eggs



Method

1. Peel the potatoes using a speed-peeler, then carefully cut them into thin slices. Pat the potato slices dry with a clean tea towel.
2. Peel and finely slice the onion. Drizzle 2 tablespoons of oil into a small frying pan over a medium heat, then add the onion and potatoes.
3. Turn the heat down to low and cook for 25 to 30 minutes, or until the onions are turning golden and the potato slices are cooked through. Try not to stir it too much or the potatoes will break up – just use a fish slice to flip them over halfway through.
4. Crack the eggs into a

- mixing bowl, season with a tiny pinch of sea salt and black pepper, then whisk together with a fork.
- 5. When the onions and potatoes are cooked, remove the pan from the heat and carefully tip them into the eggs. Transfer the mixture back into the frying pan and place it over a low heat. Cook for around 20 minutes or until there's almost no runny egg on top. You could even finish off under the grill.
- 6. Use a fish slice to slightly lift and loosen the sides of the tortilla. Carefully flip the pan over a dinner plate and tip out the tortilla. Slide it back into the pan and cook for another 5 minutes, or until golden and cooked through.
- 7. Turn out the tortilla onto a serving board, then cut into 6 wedges and serve hot or cold with a simple green salad.

Mrs Morgan

Diary Dates and School Closures 2017

Holiday:

Mon 10 April - Fri 21 April

Staff Trg day:

Mon 24 April

May Day:

Mon 1 May

Half Term:

Mon 29 May - Fri 2 June

Staff Trg Day

Weds 21 June 2017

Holiday:

Mon 24 July—Mon 4 Sept

Staff Trg Day :

Tue 5 Sept