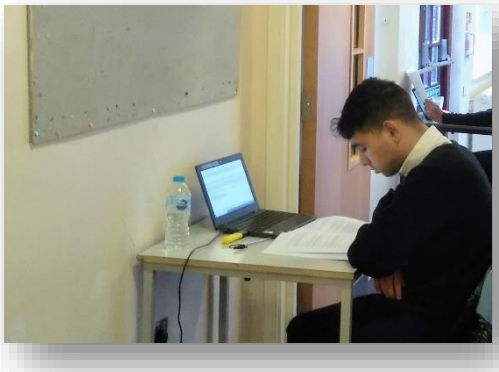
Falconer School

Achieving the extraordinary together

Headteacher's Update Friday 11 February

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been extra special for Year 11 and Year 9 students. Year 11's sat their second round of mock examinations in preparation for their GCSE examinations this summer. The students worked incredibly hard throughout. They will receive their mock results in a special assembly on Friday 25th February where they will have a taste of what it will feel like on the real results day in August. The Year 11's will also have the opportunity to sit a third round of mock examination during the week commencing 21 March. This is to ensure the students have had adequate practice of exam style questions, exam technique and an experience of the environment.



For Year 9 students, they had a week of taster lessons to help prepare them for their option choices in March. The boys had tasters in Motor Vehicles, Barbering, ICT, Photography, Business Studies and Horticulture. Student feedback:

Motor Vehciles was the best session, I am definitely going to choose it.

Horticulture was good fun – we chopped down loads of reeds round the pond.

I liked the barbering and motor vehicles the best.

We will be giving the Year 9 students a second opportunity to experience their option considerations next half term.

Lessons this week















I do hope you and your families have a good half term break next week – please remember that the students return to school on **Tuesday 22nd February** as we have a Staff Development Day on the Monday.

Please find a letter from Hertfordhsire County Council on the next page.

Kind regards

Mrs Ash
Headteacher

Ahead of February half-term, we'd like to say thank you once again for continuing to play your part and for helping to keep yourselves and others safe from COVID-19.

If you're travelling abroad this half-term be sure to check and follow COVID-19 guidance for your country of travel and on re-entering the UK, you can find the latest travel guidance at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-abroad-from-england-during-coronavirus-covid-19

- **Get vaccinated -** vaccination continues to offer the best protection for ourselves and others around us from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19.
  There are lots of walk-in options available locally for first, second doses and boosters, you can find your nearest vaccination centre and also book an appointment at: https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/

  Young people aged 12-18 yet to receive their COVID-19 vaccination(s) don't need to wait for a visit to their school or setting. You can find out more, including walk-in options for clinics for young people, and book at: https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/vaccine-information-for-young-people

  - **Half term COVID-19 'Relax and Vax' sessions for nervous teenagers**
    Five of the larger vaccination centres across Hertfordshire and west Essex are running 'Relax and Vax' sessions during half-term week aimed supporting 12 to 18-year-olds who are nervous about having their COVID-19 vaccine.

    Specially trained staff will be on hand to help overcome worries like a fear of needles and answer any other concerns using simple and clinically effective relaxation techniques to help reduce tension and support them through the process. Children aged 12-15 need to be accompanied by a consenting parent or carer and just mention they're nervous on arrival so that the staff can make adjustments and they're given plenty of time and support.

    You can find a list of participating venues and times at: https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/

  People under 18 who have recently had COVID-19 must wait 12 weeks before having their vaccination.

- **Test regularly** – 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't display symptoms. Regular rapid testing at home can help to prevent transmission. Find out all the ways to get home test kits (LFD tests) at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest

- **Stay at home** – if you have symptoms stay at home and book or order a PCR test online at: www.nhs.uk/get-tested

  If you test positive you must self-isolate for the required period and not have people visit you at home. There is support available to help people who need it to self-isolate, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net

Please don't send children and young people back to school following half-term if they have any symptoms or feel unwell. There continues to be a high number of outbreaks across Hertfordshire's childcare, nurseries, schools, special schools and colleges – they need your support to help protect our communities and have the least disruption to children's learning and development as possible.

We hope you enjoy a healthy and safe half-term.

Hertfordshire County Council