

HAD NEWS

Haberdashers' Abraham Darby



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Senior Jazz- best band winners at the Great North Big Band Festival 2025



The start of spring?

There are no hard and fast criteria to determine the start of each season; the onset of spring, for instance, could be the date on which the first daffodil flowers or the first birds make their nests. The dates of these are not only extremely difficult to determine but also vary quite dramatically through the United Kingdom, let alone the rest of the world.

Because they are well-defined dates, the equinoxes and solstices are probably as good as any other criterion, although just as many people prefer the simple use of three calendar months for each season, with spring being March, April and May.

The Senior Jazz Band have won 'Best Band' at the Great North Big Band Festival. All members did Haberdashers' Abraham Darby proud! The music they performed was challenging, and some would argue not suitable for a 'school' band to attempt. However, everyone played superbly, and thoroughly deserved to win best band yet again! Simply awesome.



Three groups of year 10 Business students are participating in the 2025 Hope House £50 challenge.

Each team that signs up to take part in the challenge is given £50 to grow as much as they possibly can in 50 days between March 3rd and April 21st, 2025.

Our purpose is to ensure that every child with a life-threatening condition, and their family, can live their best lives

hope house
we're here for children

There's lots to be proud of here at Haberdashers' Abraham Darby; especially our team of Mental Health Ambassadors. These remarkable students have made a huge impact in their roles as advocates for mental health awareness within our school and wider community.

The referral process for mental health support can be complex and frustrating. Often, if access to mental health services such as CAMHS or BEEU is delayed or denied, mental health can go unsupported. As a result, lots of our young people can feel vulnerable. Despite my role as full time Mental Health Practitioner, helping to support a school community is a job bigger than one person. It requires a trained individual to deliver effective support to those in need.

The Mental Health Ambassadors are equipped with both compassion and the skill set to do this effectively. Following an application process, seven students completed a Level 1



THE RISE OF THE AMBASSADOR

Safeguarding in School's course. They developed skills as empathetic and active listeners through a bespoke training programme designed by me. To date, over twenty pupils in year 7 to 9 have received early intervention for mental and emotional health concerns from our team. This is a tremendous achievement.

Our ambassadors are passionately committed to raising the profile of wellbeing in school and have championed a variety of initiatives including the use of social media platforms and 'Petals of Positivity', which have had a positive impact both within school and in the community. This was further enhanced by two outreach trips to Ironbridge and Shrewsbury which received fantastic feedback from members of the public. Our ambassadors contacted His Majesty King Charles and received written correspondence in response to their championing of the importance of mental health.

Behind most people's passion for mental health lies a story of struggle. My own journey began at age 11 after suffering huge trauma and not having access to support. This journey has led me to where I am today, but it has not



been an easy road. Therefore, my motivation to train, lead and support a team of young people to serve their school community is the driving force behind the Mental Health Ambassador scheme at HAD.

Applications for future ambassadors will open in September. We look forward to welcoming more to the ambassador family. I am extremely proud of these young people. I hope to recruit future cohorts to develop our team and continue the legacy of the Mental Health Ambassadors' impressive contribution to our school's story.

David Warren
Mental Health
& Wellbeing
Practitioner



The Parents' Guide to **CAREERS**
For National Careers Week 2025

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Options at 16 and 18
- Career pathways
- NCV - day by day
- Work experience

CLICK HERE

- what can my teen do after GCSE and sixth form?
- show me the ways each qualification helps them get the job they want
- how can my teen get qualifications when they're not good at exams?
- how can I help my teen find great opportunities?
- how can I chat to my teen about their future?
- how can I help them be the best they can be?



WORLD BOOK DAY

To celebrate World Book Day, the Academy was delighted to welcome children's author Catherine Randall, who held an assembly to our Year 7 pupils and later ran a writing workshop for some of them. We thoroughly enjoyed hearing about how to write a historical novel and getting it published.

Catherine Randall was brought up in Shropshire but has lived in London since graduating from St Catherine's College, Oxford with a degree in Modern History. She worked as an editor before taking a break to bring up her family. Catherine took a master's in children's literature at the University of Roehampton and realised that what she really wanted to do was write her own children's books. Her debut novel, *The White Phoenix*, an historical novel for 9-12-year-olds, was published in August 2020 and she is currently writing her second novel, set in the Victorian era.



U15 Girls winners of the TAW Netball Trophy. Year 9 and 10s spent the day bag packing to fund raise money for their netball tour to Gibraltar. A fantastic £350 raised.



Five A-Side Football Tournament

£2 Per Player!
Maximum of 7 players per team!

Date & Time
3:15-5:00 Wednesday 2nd April : Year 7, 8 and 9
3:15-5:00 Thursday 3rd April : Year 10, 11 and Sixth-Form

Please enter and pay for your teams at the sixth-form pod!
Deadline for entry - Wednesday 26th March

Location: Outdoors (up on the fields - wear appropriate footwear!)

All the money raised will be put towards sixth-form events!

MAKE A SOLAR OVEN

What you need:

- 1 Instructions
- 2 Tin the black card & connect it to the cardboard walls of the box.
- 3 Clean the inside of the box with a damp cloth.
- 4 Cut 3 strips of the silver mylar (make sure the top can open and fold).
- 5 Glue the bottom of the box with foil.
- 6 Glue the top of the box with foil.
- 7 Glue the top of the box with foil.
- 8 Glue the top of the box with foil.

Need help? The video is part of the Climate Science Project. It's part of the Engineering & Design Hub. You can get more information on our website: www.englishmiddleschool.org.uk

At home: Make sure you use a heater for home in your kitchen. It's not safe to use a heater in your kitchen.

Can you do it? Can you do it? Can you do it? Can you do it?

Skills involved: Constructed models

SCIENCE WEEK

Pupils made solar ovens from recycled cardboard boxes and silver foil. By making these DIY solar cookers, pupils learnt about absorption, insulation, and the Sun's energy.



DELICIOUSLY DECADENT DESERTS

Tasked with making a layered desert from their own ingredients, Year 9 pupils came up with some wonderfully creative interpretations. Sweet!



ALMOST TIME!

Year 11 received their mock exam results on Friday 7th March. As students opened their envelopes staff were on hand to support with careers advice, sixth form applications and revision strategies. The event was a very positive one, with lots of students celebrating some fantastic results. Teachers encourage students to keep up the hard work, stay focused, attend before and after school revision sessions and make the most of independent revision time.

"Before anything else, preparation is the key to success".
(Alexander Graham Bell)

