

#### Secondary phase newsletter

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today

Thursday 26th November 2020

#### All-through news

It is surprising that time seems to be rushing by quite so quickly! Almost at the end of November, and, despite the second lockdown, we believe that there is lots of hope for the weeks to come. As an all-through we are busy planning our virtual Christmas service, and, although with adaptations, we are so pleased to be continuing to offer Christmas celebrations, with Christmas jumper day (with an important fundraising link), Christmas lunch for all and more.

Mrs Kirk and I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you all that it is not long before the vision of our all-through school will connect. Our first cohort of Larch children are now in Year 5, and we are so excited about the all-through joining, with a busy, thriving school in every year from Reception to Year 13. Last week we held a virtual workshop with Year 5 parents, entitled 'Looking forward at Simon Balle' and we were really excited to share our plans for Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7. There will be opportunities for many students in both primary and secondary phases as we connect - those of both student leadership and responsibility. Much more to follow but we hope our Year 6 and 7 cohorts will join together, perhaps at lunchtimes and for extra-curricular activities. We look forward to ensuring that our Year 6 join in transition projects too with all of our primary feeder schools. Thank you, as ever, for the home and school partnership that we value so greatly.

In other all-through news, we have been delighted with your generosity in contributing to our plans to launch **Simon Balle All-through School mini-farm.** The vision is beginning to take shape and form into a reality! So many parents, and indeed students across the all-through, have been in touch to share their expertise - from caring for particular animals to fencing, to signage, to the experience of rescuing animals, to so much more. Thank you all! Each and every name and offer has been noted! Thank you too for your contributions to our fundraising: at the point of writing, you have raised a wonderful £3,370; there is £1,130 left to raise so if you are able to make a contribution, please help us via this <u>link</u>. We still aim for a launch date of 1st March 2021 so do please stay in touch.

#### Wellbeing

Wellbeing and learning how to live well is at the heart of our vision for all members of our community here at Simon Balle. We continuously look at how we promote this and educate our young people as to what this means, how we manage our own wellbeing and the support available when we need additional help. Last week we supported the national campaign "Just Talk", which to put simply celebrated the power of talking to express our emotions and feelings.

Staff enjoyed homemade cakes and time to talk and connect. Secondary students took part in learning for life sessions covering coping strategies, the importance of talking about how we feel and discussing the stress bucket. In the Primary phase children enthusiastically completed the e-learning modules on the 5 Ways to Wellbeing.

As a community, we have for several years been working with the international charity "Action for Happiness" <a href="https://www.actionforhappiness.org/">https://www.actionforhappiness.org/</a>

Do please research their work as it is very powerful, mainly based on scientific methodology and knowledge. Mr Pooley and Mrs Saunders will be working with our students in the Larch over the next few weeks introducing and exploring the "Ten Keys to Happier Living" or the "Great Dream", as the first focus is highly appropriate for this time of year- the importance and value of "giving".

#### Simon Balle All-through school

#### **Secondary News**

#### Vacancy



Due to the resignation of our current Business Manager, Mr Whitehouse we are currently advertising for a Business Director on our website https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/community/vacancies/ where you will find full details including a full job description and person specification.

This is a unique opportunity to join our school community. We look forward to receiving applications. We look forward to working with Mr Whitehouse until the end of January.

#### School dates

Friday 27th November Occasional day (school closed)
Monday 30th November Occasional day (school closed)

Thursday 3rd December Y7 flu immunisation
Friday 11th December Christmas jumper day

Tuesday 19th January PSA meeting

Wednesday 10th February Y13 Parents evening (virtual)

15th to 19th February Half term

We will be finishing for the Christmas holidays on Friday, December 18th, and all students will return on Tuesday 5th January. School will finish from 12 pm -12.45 pm, on Friday 18th, depending on the dismissal of year groups. You will be informed in near the time of the order for dismissal. Monday, January 4th is a staff training day, so the school is closed to students.

#### 6th form application information for next year

Applications for Year 11 students to join the Simon Balle All-through School Sixth Form from September 2021 are now open! On the school website, you will find welcome videos from Mrs Saunders and Head of Sixth Form, Mr Morris. Plus our Sixth Form Course Guide that gives a brief overview of each subject available and the entry requirements needed to study the chosen option at A level.

Please complete the online application form if you are considering continuing your study with us. The deadline for applications 10th January 2021.

#### **PSA** news- Fundraising

We are very grateful to this group of parents who continue to keep fundraising alive for the school, even when we can not traditionally meet. For those parents who have been part of the Simon Balle community for a while, you will be aware that our annual fun run was not held, and this usually raises around £10,000 for school funds, part of which pays for one of the school mini-buses.

Following this week's meeting of the PSA, members are brimming with enthusiasm for a range of mini-projects to replace our very popular "Frost Fair". The ever-popular "Hamper Raffle" is happening and all students from Reception to Y7 (inclusive) will be given tickets to sell at home. Details of this will be issued shortly. If you would like to buy tickets but your child is not in one of the year groups mentioned your child can collect a raffle book from the main school reception or the school library.

In addition, we are also organizing for the Larch children the highly popular Secret Christmas present room, whereby the children can come and choose a gift for their parents. This year, the children will decorate the gift bag as well. If your child would like to be part of this (and we expect that most of the children will!) the cost per child is £2.50 per parcel. Again more details on how to pay and when it will take place shortly.



The estate agents "Kings" have again kindly donated £10 a board advertising the activities we are holding, so if you are prepared to put up a King board in your garden to support the school, please.....

It was so good to see many parents joining the online PSA meeting earlier this week, and we will meet again on January 19th, 2021. So do join us. We will be planning some online activities in the new year suitable for families, older children and adults.

#### Christmas jumper day

We would like to remind you that the whole school will be taking part in the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. This is more than just about wearing a silly jumper, it is about improving the life chances of children both in the UK and overseas. A little can do so much - £1.00 will buy a hat and blanket to keep a newborn baby warm in Afghanistan and £6.00 will buy enough antibiotics to help five malnourished children. The pandemic has only made life much harder for these children as well as children here.

We would encourage all students to bring a minimum of £2.00 (which will be collected in class ( Covid measures in place) and wear their finest Christmas jumper to support those who need our help more than ever this year. Thank you for your support.

#### **Christmas collection**

This Christmas, Simon Balle All-through School Sixth Form has partnered with the Hertford & District Foodbank. We want to make sure that no one in our local community has to go hungry this Christmas and need your help to make this happen. So this year we will be asking Sixth Form students to donate items to help support our local Foodbank Christmas collection.

The Foodbank provides much-needed food and essential items to families, children and those who are alone during these challenging times, by making sure they don't go hungry. Any non-perishable items would be greatly received, however, the following will give an idea about what is most is needed.

Items that are urgently needed include: Jars of instant coffee 100g, Jars of Cooking sauces (ie. Curry-Chilli-Sweet n' Sour), Ready-made custard in tins, Rice pudding in tins, Potatoes - tinned, Instant mashed potatoes, Instant custard powder, Long-life fruit juice in cartons, Tinned spaghetti, Tinned fruit

Little extras include: Deodorant, shampoo and new toiletries

Please bring all donations to the Sixth Form Learning Centre. Our donation will be collected up until Friday 11th December. Thank you in advance for your support.

#### Staff fundraising

As a staff body, we normally celebrate by taking part in Secret Santa. This year we thought that in the current climate it would be a good idea to give our energy, money, time and thoughts to good causes instead. We have set up a donation page and will be distributing the monies raised to the following three charities. The Herts Young homeless, Blood Cancer UK and a local charity Jedidiah, which supports families in our school and many local ones providing food parcels for Christmas.

#### **Christmas lunches**

Due to Covid restrictions, we will be unable to hold our traditional Christmas lunch for all our students on the same day. However, we do want to keep the tradition so this year Christmas lunches will take place as follows -

Tuesday 15th December Y7 followed by 6th form Wednesday 16th December Y10 followed by Y11 Thursday 17th December Y8 followed by Y9

The meal will cost £3.75 and has to be paid for in advance via ParentPay. There will be the traditional fare of turkey with all the trimmings followed by Rocky Road. A vegetarian option is available. Students will be issued with a ticket to hand in when getting their meal. The closing date for ordering a meal is Thursday 3rd December. No tickets will be able to be purchased after this time. Students will be able to wear a festive hat while dining! A limited menu will be available daily from the coffee shop for students who are not having Christmas dinner.

#### Slight changes to timings of the day

We have made several adjustments to routines for all students over this term to keep everyone as safe as possible and to mitigate the spread of Covid 19. Further to these, we are changing the timings for lessons in the secondary phase from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday we will be shortening the lunch period to reduce the amount of time that students are in communal areas or out in inclement weather. This has been more pertinent over the winter months as they spend more time indoors. The effect of this will be that on those days school will finish at 3:10 each day; Tuesday will continue to be a 3:00 pm finish as before.

This is not a permanent change and one we will review after Christmas.

#### **Careers November Update**

Please see below a wide variety of virtual careers opportunities to discover more about the world of work. If you have any questions or would like to know more about our careers programme at Simon Balle, please visit our careers website at <a href="https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/careers/">https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/careers/</a>

Mr Brennan (Careers Education Lead)

#### Library news

Emma Carroll's Virtual Online Visit -

Students in Years 4, 5 and 7 enjoyed meeting popular children's author Emma Carroll online on Monday 16 November, the first day of our book festival.

Here are some quotes from our younger students:

Emma Carroll showed us some artefacts from world war 2 and spoke to us about her books based around that time. She also read some passages from 'Letters from the Lighthouse' and 'Secrets of a Sun King' which we really enjoyed. Holly, Mallards class.

Emma Carroll was very funny and I really enjoyed listening to her- she also showed us her cute pet dog! Prince, Mallards class

One of the advantages of these online sessions is the opportunity to observe where real writers sit to write! Emma talked about the writing process and how she manages to create a full book in about 9 months.

I would like to thank all the parents and staff who ordered signed, laminated copies of the two novels Emma focussed upon in her talks. Unintentionally, the 90 copies ordered resulted in about £230 profit which will help



library funds and for this, we are most grateful. The second issue of our library's newsletter *Off the Shelf* will be published next week and will contain more details about SBAS Book Festival events.

#### Reading events to watch out for this weekend:

I cannot recommend highly enough the current Cambridge Literary Festival (running in conjunction with Stratford Literary Festival) which ends on Sunday 29 November with a Free Family Day online. Speakers include famous figures such as Michael Morpurgo and Jacqueline Wilson from her home in Sussex as well as inspiring newcomers tackling big issues. For further details please go to <a href="https://cambridgeliteraryfestival.com/whats-on/childrens-events/">https://cambridgeliteraryfestival.com/whats-on/childrens-events/</a>

If you are a keen older reader yourself I can thoroughly recommend the session where Dara McAnulty is interviewed by Robert Macfarlane. At 16 years of age Dara is the youngest winner ever of a major UK book prize and, as Robert points out, "Dara speaks in poems". Individual events are £5 each or £25 for a Festival Pass. I will be reporting on other events in the festival in *Off the Shelf*.

#### A message from Hertford Council

Please see the events programme attached together with a gift guide, that was produced by us to support local businesses and to encourage local residents to shop locally.

#### Covid 19

Over the Christmas period, we would be very grateful if you would notify us of any positive Covid 19 cases in your household. You can do this via <a href="mailto:covid19@simonballe.herts.sch.uk">covid19@simonballe.herts.sch.uk</a> Thank you for your support with this.

#### **Head lice**

A case of head lice has been detected in school. Anyone can get head lice... mainly through direct head-to-head contact but also from sharing hats, brushes and other personal items. Head lice are a problem in many communities and do not reflect poor hygiene. Please do your part to prevent the spread of this communicable condition by checking your child(ren) daily for the next few weeks, and on a regular basis thereafter. Lice infestation is much easier to treat if caught early. Thank you for your support.

# CHRISTMAS IN HERTFORD

## Festive Programme

A whole month of festive activities to keep the spirit of Christmas alive.



www.hertford.gov.uk/events





Friday 27th November

Winning Windows Competition

Watch as Hertford Traders compete for the best window display. Walk around the town centre and see the beautiful creations with this year's theme Winter Wonderland, FREE

Throughout December. Winners announced week ending 7th December

Saturday 28th November

Virtual Christmas light switch on

A chance to watch the Mayor of Hertford turn the Christmas lights on in Hertford on the Hertford Town Council Youtube Channel, FREE

The Grinch Christmas Trail

Running until Sunday 6th December.

Based on the classic Dr Seuss book, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, follow the trail around Hertford Castle grounds. Join in the activities, relive the story and solve the clues to help us save Christmas. FREE, self guided, no booking necessary.

Walk - Hertford Castle

**11AM** 

Explore the long and eventful history of the castle - a fortress that became a royal palace - this guided walk is based in the grounds of Hertford Castle with no access to the gatehouse permitted. £6 per ticket.

Friday 11th December

Walk - Haunted Hertford

7.30PM

An atmospheric guided walk through the ghostly haunted sites of Hertford. £6 per ticket.

Event details are subject to change Visit www.hertford.gov.uk and www.gohertford.co.uk for more information

### Saturday 12th December

The Christmas Trail

Running until Sunday 3rd January.

Local businesses and organisations have joined together to bring the spirit of Christmas to Hertford Castle. Follow the trail around the grounds, and soak in the wonderful displays and lights. FREE, self guided, no booking necessary.

Suuday 13th December

Walk - Presidents, Pilgrims and Puritans

The American Connection

Enjoy a guided walk around Town Centre discovering Hertford's many American connections. £6 per ticket.

aturday 19th December

The Christmas Book Trail

Running until Saturday 9th January.

Follow the trail around Hertford Town Centre, match the Christmas book with the shop they are displayed in to win prizes. FREE, self guided, no booking necessary. Collect Trail Map from the Town & Tourist Information Centre, Bring your own pen.

Suuday 20th December

Walk - Gorgeous Georgians

11AM

Discover the Georgian influence on Hertford's townscape and meet some colourful characters on this guided walk. £6 per ticket.

Wednesday 30th December

Walk - Haunted Hertford

7PM

An atmospheric guided walk through the ghostly haunted sites of Hertford. £6 per ticket.

Friday 1st Jauuary 2021

Walk - Historic Hertford

**11AM** 

Start the New Year by looking back at a thousand years of Hertford history. £6 per ticket.

Booking essential for all Walk events - please contact the Town & Tourist Information Centre on 01992 584322 or email tic@hertford.gov.uk





# SHOP HERTFORD THIS CHRISTMAS TO WIN £50!

Spend a minimum of £10 in Hertford this Christmas for a chance to win £50!

1ST NOVEMBER – 19TH DECEMBER
GOHERTFORD.CO.UK









Bring long own ben

## The Grinch Trail

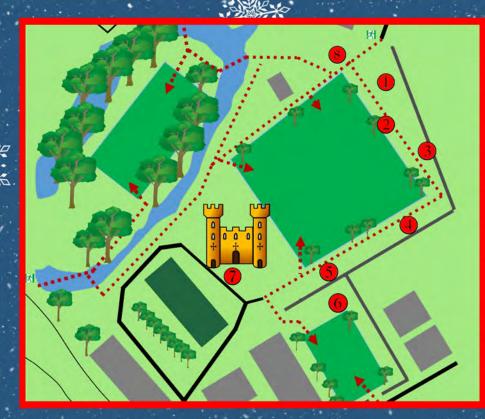


Follow the Map around the grounds of Hertford Castle, solving the clues and making the sentence that will save Christmas.

2 6

3

4



The trail is self guided and free, no need to book.

Castle grounds are open from 7.30AM till. 6.30PM





## The Hertford Castle Christmas Trail



Saturday 12th December to Sunday 3rd January 2021

Follow the trail around the Castle grounds and see the displays put on by local businesses and organisations.



Hertford Town Council



Carers in Hertfordshire



Office Fox



B. Green Store C.I.C



Manic Ceramics



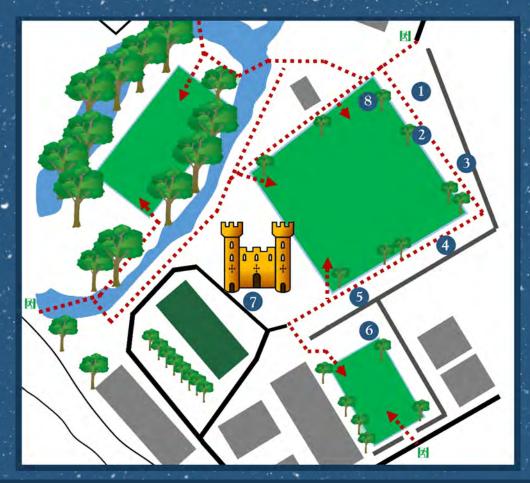
Hertford Town Council



Gingerlillie Boutique



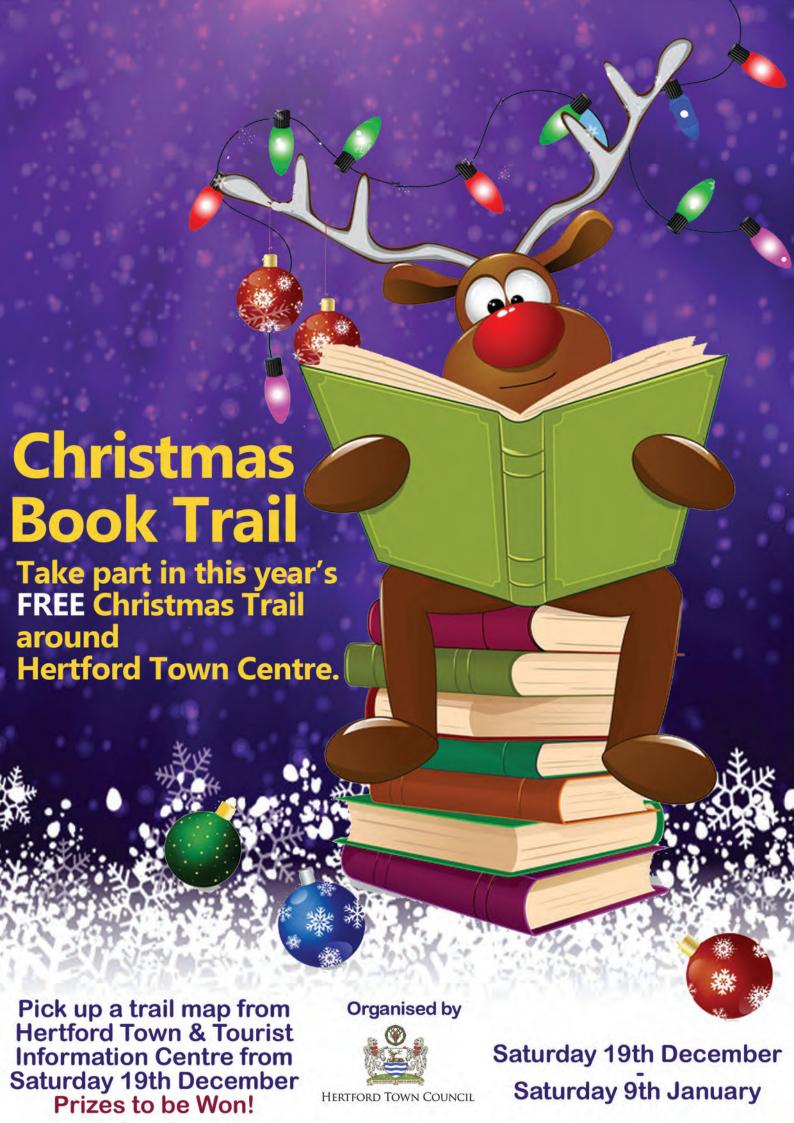
Mudlarks Community Garden



The trail is self guided and free, no need to book.

Castle grounds are open from 7.30AM till 6.30PM

Details are subject to change, check www.hertford.gov.uk/events for more information.



FOR DETAILS OF ALL HERTFORD'S SHOPS AND SERVICES VISIT GOHERTFORD.CO.UK





# GREAT GIFTS for all the family

from our local shops right here in Hertford

This guide offers just a small selection of the gifts available locally, so please visit our Hertford shops to find more presents this year.

HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

FOR DETAILS OF ALL HERTFORD'S SHOPS AND SERVICES VISIT GOHERTFORD.CO.UK





# GREAT GIFTS for all the family

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HERTFORD '

HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL



- 1 / Hand decorated gin glass £15.99 CLOCK CARDS, 14 Railway Street
- 2 / Vegan wax wrap eco kit £14.99 NATURAL HEALTH, 4 Old Cross
- 3 / Replay stylish black glitter handbag £119 WOMEN'S SOCIETY BOUTIQUE, 2 St Andrew Street
- 4 / Laines London super soft fluffy faux fur slippers with stunning handmade brooch £35 GINGERLILLIE BOUTIQUE, 7 Market Place
- 5 / Silver heart pendant with crystals £30 JEWEL OF HERTS, 9 Maidenhead Street
- 6 / 9ct yellow gold hexagon necklace £165 LANCE JAMES THE JEWELLERS, 15 Market Place
- 7 / Camera bag 100% leather (original strap included) - £45 Plus extra adjustable strap in various colours and designs £14.95 RETAIL THERAPY, 29 St Andrew Street
- 8 / Hand woven gold colour evening necklace £60 MAGPIE AMORE, 6 St Andrew Street
- 9 / Butterfly pouch £15, Sence earrings £34.50, The Curious Yak luxuriously soft scarf £40 MINT OF HERTFORD, 49 Railway Street
- 10 / Kusan stylish 100% wool bobble hat £24.95 Kusan 100% wool mittens £22.95 FRANKIE AND OLIVE. 19 Old Cross
- 11 / Face care bundle: 5 eye pads, 5 face wipes, 1 face cleanser – various choices available – & 1 laundry bag £20 REPLENISH REFILL, 10 Railway Street
- 12 / Big range of Clarins, Lancome and Guerlain cosmetics plus various perfumes for him and her PAUL MARTIN PERFUMERY, 13 Maidenhead Street



























**13** / Limitato Marilyn tee £220 **AZIR**, 5 Parliament Square

14 / Dartington handcrafted cider glass £14.99 (can be engraved from £10); Harrows Rapide dart set £34.20 CONCORD TROPHIES & SPORTSWEAR, 1 Ware Road

15 / Cavavin's custom gifts start from as little as £10 CAVAVIN THE WINE SHOP, 22 Maidenhead Street

16 / Barbour tartan 100% lambswool scarf £35 ROBERTO GERRARDS, 30 Railway Street

17 / The Rotary W1369 watch £109 (RRP £239) F HINDS, 2 Maidenhead Street

18 / Silver topped cut glass decanter hallmarked London 1971 £145 MARK WINES ANTIQUES, 1 St Andrew Street 19 / Panasonic wet and dry washable shaver £29.99 ALBANY RADIO, 63-65 Fore Street

**20** / Lazy Arm smartphone holder £9.99 WH SMITH, Bircherley Green

21 / Colourful resin bulldog £26 ROSSI'S ATTIC, 4 Mill Bridge

22 / Adidas Stan Smith heritage trainers £69.99 SCOTT SPORTS INTERSPORT, 4 Market Place

23 / JCB leather wallet, RFID protected £15 MR BRANSONS, 12 Railway Street

## for Kirls and the home

- 1 / Tutu ballet bag £12.99; ballet shoes £11.99 KIDS CONNECTION, Great Northern Works, Hartham Lane
- 2 / Raine and Humble bee cushion in terracotta £30 THE SHOP, 19-21 Parliament Square
- **3** / Bingo family game £9.99 MESSAGES, 25-27 Fore Street
- 4 / Beautiful hand painted gifts for all the family – call 01992 554125 to book MANIC CERAMICS, 22 Port Vale
- 5 / Stereo Bluetooth wireless headphones £25 HERTFORD PHONES AND GADGETS, 10 Market Place
- 6 / Into the Woods pencil case £9; 6 pencils £5; set of 4 erasers £4 UOE STORE & POST OFFICE, 23-27 Maidenhead Street
- 7 / Local gifts including Hertfordshire Cookbook £14.99; Paul Crowley mug £7.50; Hibiscus Lily chutney £4.75; Herts Delight Tea £4.35 HERTFORD TOWN & TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE, 10-12 The Wash
- 8 / Children's books including Little People, Big Dreams: David Attenborough £9.99; The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy £16.99 and Little Leaders, Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison £7.99 LEAF CAFÉ, 8 Old Cross
- **9** / **Rainbow bauble £10 FIVE AND DIME,** 91 Fore Street
- 10 / Award-winning children's bike range from Frog – all sizes stocked HIGHWAY CYCLES, Great Northern Works, Hartham Lane
- 11 / Cupcakes Christmas designs launching in November – £2.50 each or 12 for £25 HERTFORD CAKE CO, 21 St Andrew Street
- 12 / Marzipan fruits £7.99; Italian fruit jellies £4.99; sweet cones from £2.50 MR SIMMS OLDE SWEET SHOPPE, 24 Maidenhead Street



#### Generation Stevenage: The future is in your hands

A virtual event for 15-18 year-olds on Tuesday 1 December, 6-7.35pm.

Generation Stevenage is an exciting online event where young people, and their parents/carers, can meet the world-class employers on their doorstep and learn more about careers in science, technology, engineering, maths, and healthcare.

Visit www.hopinto.co.uk/generation-stevenage book your free place.

#### Generation Stevenage: The future is in your hands

Generation Stevenage aims to raise awareness of the opportunities for young people (aged 15-18) within their local area. These are focused on the STEM sector champions represented by:

- MBDA: engineering, technology, maths
- Airbus: engineering, technology, maths
- GSK: science and healthcare
- NHS: science and healthcare
- Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst: life sciences
- Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult: life sciences

This virtual event delivered via Zoom will take place on Tues 1 Dec, 6-7.35pm, and will be aimed at 15-18 years olds within a 10-mile+ radius of Stevenage. Students will be able to book two breakout sessions to hear from apprentices and early career starters what it is like to work in their chosen sectors.

Registration is via Hertfordshire Opportunities Portal (HOP), the premier gateway in Hertfordshire to explore career opportunities: <a href="https://www.hopinto.co.uk/generation-stevenage">www.hopinto.co.uk/generation-stevenage</a>

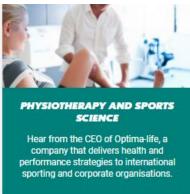
## CAREERS WEBINARS FOR STUDENTS ON THE HERTFORDSHIRE OPPORTUNITIES PORTAL (HOP)

Due to the COVID-19 lockdown, schools across the UK have been unable to meet the requirement to provide students with at least one meaningful encounter with an employer per year, traditionally achieved through careers talks and work experience opportunities. These encounters are a vital part of careers education, with research linking them to increased motivation, aspiration, and a greater chance for future success in the workplace.

So to support this Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Hertfordshire Opportunities Portal (HOP) are launching a new series of webinars featuring interviews with local employers. To access these please visit the HOP website on

https://www.hopinto.co.uk/explore-careers/webinars/virtual-employer-encounters/

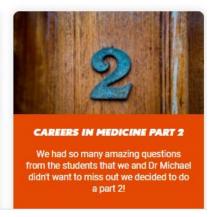












This week's Careers Webinar focuses on careers in **Journalism**. There will be a former BBC and ITV reporter leading on this. The direct link for registrations is here:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7238403215590848525

#### Free-of-charge InvestIN, 'Live Online' event for parents aged 12-18



InvestIN provides students aged 12-18 with immersive work experience in some of the world's most competitive and desirable careers - medicine, law, engineering, investment banking and more. More than 40,000 students from 81 different countries have attended an InvestIN programme.

You are cordially invited to our free-of-charge, 'Live Online' event for parents aged 12-18. You will hear our expert panel share their knowledge on:

- Why your child's career starts at school
- The most in-demand skills top employers are looking for, and how to get them
- The role you can play in helping them achieve their aims
- Guidance on work experience, interview techniques, LinkedIn profiles and more

Date: Thursday 10th December 2020

Time: 19.30 - 21.00 (GMT)

Register Now



Saturday 28th November: 10am - 2pm

Employability and the world of work. A great opportunity to learn more about the world of work from the speakers below, which include;









On Saturday the content is adapted to engage parents, carers, guardians and others who encourage young people in their career choices. Please do encourage your wider networks and fellow influencers to register.

See full line up & register  $\rightarrow$