

End of Year Message from Mrs Johnson

My thanks to Mrs Neal and Ms Hayes for putting together the final Chronicle of the year. We are delighted that the revised style of news from school has been able to reflect many of the positive aspects of school life from a difficult year for all. I have sent a more detailed letter to parents/carers with information about next term but I would like to wish you a very happy and safe summer break.

Mrs L Johnson

Staffing

Leavers: Unusually we have a number of staff leaving us at the end of this term.

- Miss Meredith, Head of Year, will leave after 31 years' service to the school. She is embarking on a complete career change taking up a Curate position with a view to becoming a Church of England Vicar. We wish her well.
- Mrs Davidson, Subject Leader for RS, will retire after 18 years at Camp Hill.
- Mr McDonald, who has been integral to the introduction and success of Latin over recent years, will also retire.
- Mr Brown, Head of Year, leaves at the end of term, having been appointed as Head of Chemistry at King Edward VI High School for Girls (KEHS).
- Ms Shelton, maternity cover for Art, will also leave.
- Ms Lanham is leaving her post in the school office. She is an ex- student from several years ago.
- Mr Cartmell, a member of the site staff, retires in the summer.

Appointments:

- With two Heads of Year leaving, internal appointments have been made - Mrs Strong (currently teaching RS, History and Geography) and Ms Ridley (currently Subject Leader of Chemistry).
- Mr Clements has been appointed as replacement Subject Leader for Chemistry and will join CHG from King Edward VI Sheldon Heath (KESH).
- Ms Woodward has been promoted to Subject Leader for RS from September 2021 and Ms Ellis will join us in the RS department.
- Ms Sheppard from KE Handsworth Girls has been appointed in History.
- Ms Parker has been appointed to teach Psychology, working part time in both PE and Psychology.
- Dr Jones has been appointed as a part time teacher of Latin.
- Ms Rank has been appointed as a part-time member of staff in the Art department.
- Ms Knight will provide maternity cover in Chemistry.
- Ms Hay (an ex-student) returns to support in the office as an intern.

Maternity leave:

- Mrs Hamblett started her maternity leave in July and is expected to return next June.
- Ms Aubury, in the Art department, will return on a part-time basis in September.

As the term draws to a close, I reflect that this year has been a year of changes, not least in terms of the staff, and so, in true Camp Hill tradition, a quote;

"Change is the law of life, and those who look only to the past and present are certain to miss the future"

John F. Kennedy

News about our Heads of Year Team

Ms Maginnis

We are saying goodbye to Ms Meredith (Head of Year 7) and Mr Brown (Head of Year 9) in the Pastoral team at the end of this academic year. We are going to miss them dearly! The knowledge they have of their students; their excellent teamwork and sense of humour have been much appreciated by everyone. Both Ms Meredith and Mr Brown have shown consistent care for students at Camp Hill, and we wish them all the best as they begin their new adventures - but hope they keep in touch. (See page 15 for a special article about Ms Meredith's HUGE contribution to Camp Hill, spanning more than thirty years!)

Joining the Pastoral team from September, we have two new Heads of Year who you will recognise from the geography and chemistry departments.



Mrs C Strong



Ms V Ridley

Heads of Year from September will be:

Head of Year 7: Ms C Strong
Head of Year 8: Ms L Chadwick
Head of Year 9: Mr B Hardy
Head of Year 10: Ms V Ridley
Head of Year 11: Mr M Johnson
Head of Year 12: Ms J Parker-Hall
Head of Year 13: Mr C Revitt

Before the end of this academic year, students will receive an email notifying them who their Form Tutor from September will be. For some students this may be a new Form Tutor.

We are very much looking forward to returning to some further normality in Tutor Time activities from September!

Student Council Round-up 2021

Miss Gouldsworthy

The usual activities of the Student Council have been severely curtailed this year for obvious reasons. The changes to the form and functions of the council have been very well-received and positively viewed by the staff and students involved from September to March. In short, the council now comprises five focus groups: a Wellbeing Forum, Site and Facilities Forum, Curriculum Forum, EDI Forum and Sustainability Forum. Each forum sits separately, which came in handy when the sittings were organised during the developing Covid situation!

Here are some words from our Year 12W EDI Rep, Chelsea Ofoegbu, who describes her experience of being part of the Student Council EDI Forum:

"Due to COVID-19 and lockdowns, we were not able to have as many student council meetings, however, the ones that we did have went well. The first meeting was earlier in the year in which we discussed our ideas for how Equality, Diversity and Inclusion could be improved in the school. I was able to get ideas from my family and friends before the meeting in order to prepare for our discussion. In the second meeting, one of the members of our team, who was volunteering for a charity called KEEN UK, presented her ideas to us on how she would promote the Spread a Smile campaign in Year 12. I took some cards home to decorate them and the following half term we distributed them to people in our year group to spread a positive message. Being able to discuss ideas and projects with other students was something I enjoyed."

Although our last meetings took place back in March, we have remained in contact with the students involved via the individual Google Classrooms set up for each forum. We have found that this enables students to spread news efficiently among their peers about new initiatives and items of interest. The Sustainability Forum, for example, has had links to pertinent newspaper articles, information about online events happening within the Academy Trust and eco-themed competitions. Similarly, the Wellbeing Forum classroom has received updates, links and articles on relaxation and healthy lifestyle tips and the Curriculum Forum has posted educational articles and national briefings about curricular development. The Site and Facilities Forum had visits from Mr Ratcliffe our Site Manager and requested additional seating outdoors to help students enjoy their time outdoors: more seating was provided and has proven invaluable. Perhaps our most active forum this year has been Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, led by proactive Year 13 students (now replaced by Year 12 appointees) and benefiting from our membership of the Academy Trust Student EDI Committee. We thank our outgoing reps, Cleopatra Mangwende and Anjali Shingadia, for their service to the Academy Trust Committee and we welcome our new reps: Anna Cooke and Casey Duncan.

In place of a school-wide meeting, a google quiz was sent out to our students. We wanted to find out more about their thoughts on this past school year and will explore their feedback very thoroughly. We were very pleased to receive more than 250 responses from students across all five year groups still in school. Given the extent of restriction placed on its activities, the Student Council has had a successful year and is looking ahead to more freedom to meet in person next year. To end our year on a very positive note, we include some of the KEEN 'Spread a Smile' cards that Chelsea produced.



Involvement with Global Climate Action

Trisa Sivavijayakumar 9X

On the 27th of March, as part of my role as Eco Rep for the School Council, I attended the Tideturners Panel, which discussed local climate action worldwide. It was interesting to see how there are so many different methods and facilities for recycling around the world. Some countries have creative ways to get the public to recycle; others don't even have a recycling system. It was fascinating to hear how you can take action to tackle climate change all over the world, no matter how old you are.



We all know that the leading cause of climate change is our greenhouse gas emissions which are slowly warming up our earth. But as someone from the UK, the impact of climate change is not always visible. Here, we may have the odd flood, heavy rainfall, or a hot day, but the consequences that I experience would be utterly different from Zimbabwe, one of the world's countries which was most impacted by extreme weather in 2019. Climate change will cause Zimbabwe's temperature to rise by three degrees Celsius in the next century. Zimbabwe is particularly sensitive to climate change as it is dependent on rain-fed agriculture and climate-sensitive resources. Even though heat waves have become more common in the UK, it is often seen as a great thing as the UK's climate is cold and rainy. This leads to many ignoring the signs of climate change as it is seen as something far into the future. But it is not far away. By the time you have read this, approximately one and a half garbage trucks filled with plastic have been dumped into our oceans.

As we know, plastic cannot be broken down quickly, and it can take centuries for a single plastic bottle to biodegrade. Due to this, reducing our plastic waste is essential to lower our climate change impacts.

So, how can we do this?

There are various small steps we can take to make a big difference. Although these changes may seem difficult and can be a little expensive in the beginning, they are an investment in reality because they will help you save money in the future as you go along using these products and help save our planet, if we all make a small change in our daily lives.

Another aspect of climate action which was discussed on the panel was ways to lower our carbon footprints; according to research, the most effective way to reduce your emissions is to go vegan! Researchers at the University of Oxford found that cutting meat and dairy products from your diet could reduce an individual's carbon footprint from food by up to 73 per cent. Food production causes many emissions as it often results in deforestation, harmful preservatives and waste of land in some instances. By cooking at home and preparing your meals, you can reduce the cost of buying ready-made vegan foods, which are often more expensive than meaty alternatives. It is important, however, to find what works for you and your lifestyle; if you can go vegan, that is fantastic, but if you are unable or struggle to go vegan, consider lowering your meat and dairy consumption instead.

The UK's climate change act that hopes to reduce greenhouse gases by 2050 significantly is a step towards the right direction, and so is its ban on plastic straws, cotton buds and drink stirrers. The 5p bag rule is also highly effective, but more is needed to be done. Emailing your local MP is a great way to get your voice across and help get the change you want. It is easy to find out who your local MP is. Here is a link where you can enter your postcode and find out who to contact <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>



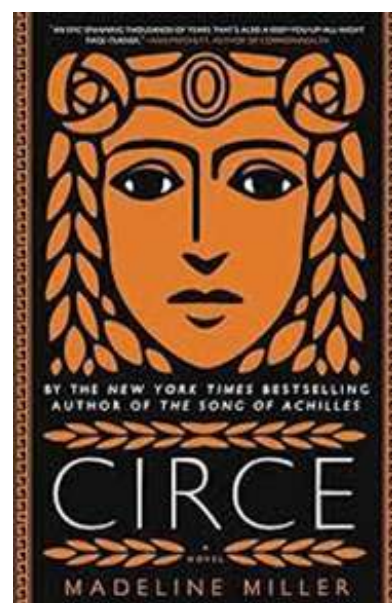
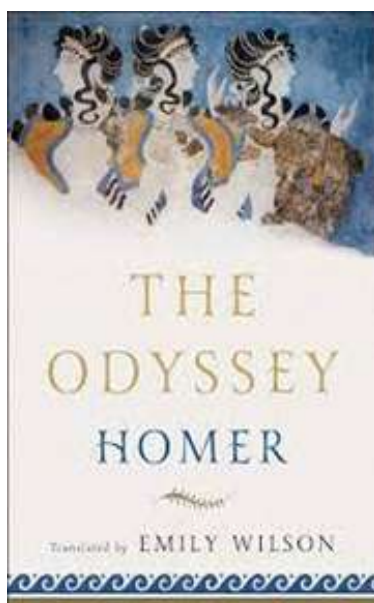
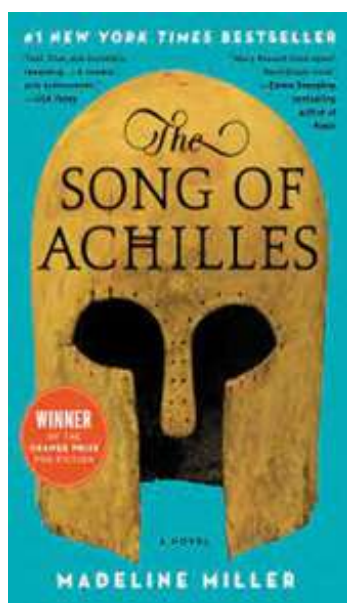
Fighting climate change is not a one man's job. Our efforts can only work if we are all together, and spreading the word is essential. Being an Eco Rep in school and having the opportunity to take part in the Tideturners Panel means I can do my bit to bring about change.

KS5 Book Club Update

Ms Staples

Whether meeting in person or virtually this year, Key Stage 5 Book Club has generated some enriching discussions. We have read and responded to texts by diverse writers, such as Arundhati Roy ('The God of Small Things') and Tayari Jones ('An American Marriage'). We've explored issues of racial and social justice, ranging from the Indian caste system to US prisons, delving into themes such as love, time and memory.

Over the summer we'll be reading a selection of classically-themed texts, ahead of our next meeting in September. We'll travel to Ancient Greece via Madeline Miller's LGBTQ+ love story 'The Song of Achilles'; the feminist retelling of the story of 'Circe' by the same author and a new translation of Homer's 'Odyssey' by Emily Wilson.



Wellbeing Update

Ms Maginnis

This academic has certainly had its challenges and one in which we have all - staff, students, Governors and parents - prioritised the wellbeing for all stakeholders at Camp Hill. This year we have focused on weekly check-ins with Form Tutors, introduced The Wellbeing Crew to Camp Hill, gained an additional school counsellor and we have been able to support hundreds of students with these interventions. We have tried, wherever possible, to safely continue traditional school events such as the Staff Panto, a Senior Citizens' Party (albeit done virtually this year!), amongst other activities - to continue to keep ourselves mentally healthy.

The closure of the CSG room this year meant that the Wellbeing Prefects had to try and find an alternative way to reach out to the student body and The Camp Hill Chronicle has been a great vehicle for that. As we continue towards step four in the roadmap out of lockdown I am delighted to share that the CSG room will re-open to students at lunchtime next academic year. Our new cohort of Wellbeing Prefects are looking forward to meeting students if they want a quiet, relaxing space to reflect, talk to someone or perhaps try something new (such as mindfulness activities).

We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Wellbeing Prefects:

Peace Buraimo: Hi, I'm Peace. I study Biology, Chemistry and Religious Studies. Outside of school I have a big passion for the Arts. I am a competitive dancer, I sing and play the guitar. I love performing and music in general as I find it a very effective release after a long day at school or when I need a break from everything. This year with covid restrictions I was unable to partake in my usual training and performances which was definitely strange and quite hard however I managed to take up new hobbies with what I had around me. These included distance running and reading novels. I think wellbeing can definitely be improved by trying new things as when they are persisted with, they usually have a way of making you a lot happier than expected.

Anna Gooding: Hi! I'm Anna and I am one of the Wellbeing Prefects this year. I study Physics, French, Maths and Further Maths. Outside of school I love climbing, reading (sometimes in French) and listening to and playing music. Especially this past year I've found it super important to get out of the house even if it's just walking the dog or meeting up with friends, find those things that help relax you and make space for them even with the busyness of school.

Katherine Li: Hi, I'm Katherine! I study English Literature, French and History, and I'm one of the Wellbeing Prefects. I love reading, video games and listening to music/podcasts. Even now, being in school after months of lockdown and online learning, can be quite disorientating and stressful. One thing that has really helped me is having a routine, which allows me to be more productive while still maintaining a good balance between life and schoolwork. No matter what, always make time to do the things that make you happy, and never feel guilty for prioritising yourself and your wellbeing.

Dhanyata Narendra: Hi, I'm Dhanyata! I'm one of the Wellbeing Prefects this year and I study Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths. I love playing the piano and reading in my free time to escape the realities of life. I found the jump from GCSEs to A-levels quite challenging in terms of time management, which led to days of working without taking time to relax. One thing I soon realised was that doing just an hour of something you enjoy every day (for me it was karate) to relieve your frustrations, for example, can refresh and increase your overall productivity. Also, sharing your concerns with others can ease the pressure - don't be afraid to ask for help.

Chelsea Ofoegbu: Hello! I'm Chelsea. I study Biology, Chemistry and French, and I'm one of the Wellbeing Prefects this year. I love learning languages and painting. Language and art has shown me new ways of expressing myself and developing my communication skills. Painting portraits is very relaxing for me and I believe art draws our attention to the beauty of life. Aside from my hobbies, I also enjoy spending time with my family and friends. Relaxing hobbies such as knitting or painting to help you de-stress after a long day of school.

Chenyao Zhou: Hi, I'm Chenyao! I study Economics, Maths and Further Maths, and I'm one of the Wellbeing Prefects this year. I love playing the piano and going to the park with my family and friends. Although in lockdown I was constantly surrounded by my family, I started to bottle in my thoughts and emotions but coming up with three things I'm grateful for everyday has helped me to lift up my mood. You can do something similar by writing it down or drawing, so you can look back and reflect because a cheerful heart is good medicine for a crushed spirit.





A level Art Exhibition

Ms Irving - Head of Art

It was our pleasure to invite our A level artists and their close families to celebrate their achievements this year with a display of their work. The event was very well attended and the students were proud to see their work and happy to see one another again.

In a year like no other, the artwork has been produced in the classroom, in living rooms, bedrooms, kitchens – wherever space could be found. Conversations and tutorials were held in person, on Google Meet and via email.

We had to adjust our normal way of exhibiting work too; portfolios were shown digitally on slides rather than being accessible for visitors to handle.

But we managed it! Huge congratulations to Iris Heising, Shveta Patil, Kiran Gosal, Maryam Alatmane, Georgia Rose, Phoenix Koo, Rebecca Stokes and Femi Themen.



The **Discover ARTiculation** national competition by the University of Leeds was created to encourage KS4 students to understand more about their favourite pieces of art and share that knowledge, as well as their own thoughts and opinions, through a presentation. I was introduced to ARTiculation in an art class back in April, and since I have always enjoyed delivering speeches, I thought the competition would be an interesting way of merging two of my passions. Initially, I was stumped on which artwork to discuss for my presentation, but after some thought, I decided to choose a piece that represented a part of my culture for a more personal response.



ARTiculation



I chose the *Glow of Hope* by Sawlaram Haldankar, an iconic painting of India, as my piece of art. While working on this piece, I thoroughly enjoyed discovering parts of Indian art history that I previously knew little about. In fact, I even had an initial misunderstanding, like many others who had seen this piece, of which artist had actually created it! This piece has several layers to its meaning, which I found very fascinating, as it truly highlights how art can be interpreted in so many different ways.

For the first submission, the maximum time was 3 minutes: it was quite a challenge to fit all of my information into this time, and I spoke at lightning speed to fit my speech into 3 minutes! I was very pleased to learn in May that I had been successful in the first round and was selected as one of 6 finalists. We all met each other through a virtual workshop, where the organisers from the University of Leeds very helpfully discussed tips for enhancing our presentations. For the finals, my original entry had to be developed into a 7 minute presentation, so this gave me the opportunity to flesh-out some of my ideas, and speak at a less frantic pace! I submitted my final entry at the beginning of June. The competition awards 3 prizes: Prize for Presentation, Prize for Research and Highly Commended. I was extremely pleased to find out that I had been selected for the Prize for Presentation, as the competition had been very tight and the other finalists all had equally meaningful and thought-provoking presentations.

This experience was incredibly valuable, as it provided me with an opportunity to share my interpretations of artwork with others, and develop my own confidence. Art is universal and a way where one can express themselves, as well as find expression in other works.

In true Camp Hill fashion, I'd like to end with a quote:

'The aim of art is not to represent the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.' - Aristotle.

by Arya Das Kozhipally 10S

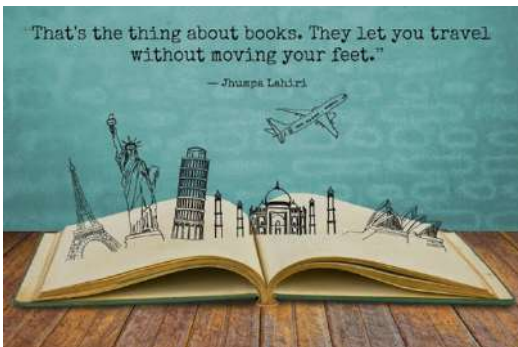
Read the World Summer Challenge!

Mrs Royall

After a hectic year, summer offers a welcome, well earned break for all of us. And it is also the perfect time to relax with a book in the sunshine! The English Department's Read the World Summer challenge is a chance to dip into a thrilling range of diverse literature from all around the world.

Although we are confronted by Covid travel restrictions and are probably unlikely to be jetting off to the stunning Seychelles or sunny Spain, having to settle instead for sandy Scarborough, this challenge offers an insight into a multitude of places and perspectives. The Read the World challenge is an opportunity to pick books set in any country outside of the UK (either from the English department's extensive list of suggestions or one of your own choice), read them and tell us about them.

We really hope that as many of you as possible will take part, reading at least one novel, if not taking on the full challenge of reading six. Please join the google classroom using code u5psmsm where you will find everything you need to take part. Parents are of course welcome to participate along with the whole family! School staff have relished the opportunity to offer recommended titles for older readers and are being set this challenge too.



For students there will be certificates and rewards for participation but ultimately we wish everyone who takes part many hours of enjoyment as you travel the world - albeit in your imagination - this summer.



Year 7 & 8 Shakespeare Speaking Competition

Mrs Royall

All Year 7 and 8 classes have enjoyed studying Shakespeare this summer term. Shakespeare wrote that 'All the world's a stage' and Y7 students will finish this year on their feet, performing some of the most famous speeches from his plays. Most have chosen speeches from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', the play they have been studying, transforming themselves into enraged fathers, mischievous fairies, defiant daughters... and even donkeys. A few have taken up the extra challenge of selecting a speech from another Shakespeare play.

Here are comments from two students in 7Y to explain what they have to do and how they feel about it.

'The Shakespeare Speaking Competition is a competition where we have to learn a Shakespeare speech off by heart and perform it to the class. I have chosen Titania's speech in Act 3 Scene 1. This is a speech by Titania telling another character (Bottom) to stay with her as she has fallen in love with him. She is organising fairies to be Bottom's servants. This speech will involve the use of face and body. We will also need to show character by the use of voice. I am really looking forward to this speech as I will get the chance to perform it in front of an audience whilst using all of these skills.' - Haania Shah

'There is a lot of anticipation about the Shakespeare reading competition, with many individuals having practiced their speeches thoroughly throughout the course of what seems to be a prolonged amount of time. The atmosphere has significantly changed as the excitement has begun to spread throughout school. I myself am very excited to express myself with Shakespeare's talent for literature. Any individual in any class has the ability to win and I have a feeling the teachers are in for a challenging job indeed when it comes to choosing only a few winners. Who will they be?' - Irem Ahmed

By the time you read this, all forms will have held their competitions and the most stirring performances rewarded with certificates and prizes, leading no doubt to some successful future acting careers!

Camp Hill's Carnegie Literary Shadowing Group 2021

by Sayuri Knox and Bahar Kayani 9V

This year's Carnegie Shadowing Event was an incredible opportunity to explore the work of different authors and see how their writings could influence and shape our lives. Transporting us from Franco's Spanish dictatorship to the hot summer of 1976 at Carrig Cov, the Carnegie books were full of surprises that satisfied our imaginations. With a wide variation of genres from historical fiction to utter fantasy, the Carnegie Shadowing Event was an interesting process - to say the least! Every Thursday we would meet up outside, if the weather was nice, or inside to vocalise our opinions on the books. There were some unanimous opinions in the group, whereas at other times our group was divided on certain books; but everyone always had the opportunity to make themselves heard.

"My favourite thing was probably hearing everyone's different views. They definitely caused me to view some books differently! I also enjoyed reading books I might not have picked up if it weren't for the competition" says Jenny, one of this year's Carnegie Shadowers.

The Carnegie Shadowing Event really gives students an opportunity to explore other people's perspectives on reading and what genres they prefer. It made us pick up books we thought we would never have been interested in - it really proved the 'don't judge a book by its cover' sentiment! Of course, it wasn't just the contents of the books we discussed, but also their covers and what we thought of their design too. If this doesn't already persuade next year's Year 9 students to join Carnegie 2022... there are biscuits too at every meeting... but it really is an amazing opportunity that you should grasp at the first chance!

In short, the Carnegie Shadowing Group is a small group of Year 9 students that meet every Thursday lunchtime from March to June to discuss the shortlisted books selected for that year. (These are supplied by school so it's a bit like a private library but without a rigid return date - and people to discuss the books with afterwards!) Students are asked to write a short review once they have finished reading a book so that it can be published on the Carnegie website - there are also some optional fun challenges set by the authors.

Here is a poem we wrote about our experiences of the Carnegie Shadowing Event:

Despite the weather
We'd meet up together.
Rain or shine
We didn't mind!

Discussing books
And how they looked.
Venturing deep into the pages
We felt like we could read for ages!

The world around us disappeared
Brand new characters became clear.
We journeyed through different themes
Family, drama, and romance for teens!

This was an experience we'll never forget
Do it next year... and you won't have regrets!

The CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals are awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book written in English for children and young people.

Every spring, CILIP invites reading groups in libraries, schools, homes...in fact, anywhere there are children and young people and books, to get involved with shadowing.

The young people taking part are known as 'shadowers' as they 'shadow' the judging process for the CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals; they read, discuss and review the books on each shortlist, engage in reading related activity which they can share online, and vote for their favourites to win the Shadowers' Choice Awards.

The scheme has thousands of registered reading groups across the UK and internationally – engaging tens of thousands of children and young people in reading.

In school we always offer this to Year 9 students. This year's group had 19 members and for the first time ever they were able to watch a livestream of the ceremony when the winner was announced.



The CILIP Carnegie
& Kate Greenaway
Children's Book
Awards

ISRSA: essay writing competition success!

Ms Woodward

The RS department would like to celebrate the success of Year 9 students, Mayesa Mir and Amulya Magant, who were both highly commended for their contributions to the Theology, Philosophy and Religion essay writing competition. The competition was open to all students in Key Stage 3 and we had a number of fantastic entries from Years 8 and 9 which were submitted in early June, many choosing the philosophical topic, 'Is that which is right because God commands it? Or does God command that which is right?'.

Amulya was highly commended for her essay on this topic where she effectively debated Divine Command Theory in under 800 words. Mayesa chose the religious topic 'Meditation is less effective than prayer' and wrote her essay from a more personal perspective which impressed the judges.

Thank you to all the students who took the time to produce such a high calibre of work and we look forward to continued success in competitions next academic year!



Geographical Association Lectures to Support and Enrich our Curriculum

Mr Lang (Geography)

While Covid put paid to visiting speakers here at Camp Hill, we were delighted to be able to offer students a wide range of geographical talks from around the world using webinar software. In September, we started with a talk from Dr Jess Mclean from Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia on how bushfires in Australia in early 2020 could have been managed by indigenous practices.

In October, Birmingham University Professors, Rob Mackenzie and Jeremy Pritchard, teamed up to talk about the role Birmingham Institute of Forest Research is playing in climate change research, and the transmission of Carbon in forest systems.

Other lectures offered to students by the Geographical Association have included Mr Andrew Brumwell, a Geospatial intelligence manager with West Midlands Police who talked about the use of GIS in managing crime, and Dr Patricia Noxolo (University of Birmingham) on the use of Literature in Geography. This talk focussed on the portrayal of different cultures in literature including looking at the works of Caribbean authors.

Our final talk of the year was delivered by Dr Sean Waugh from the National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, Oklahoma. He talked about the research that NOAA (the US version of the Met Office), does to try to learn more about what causes tornadoes. This helps forecasters at the US National Weather Service better predict hazardous weather and issue forecasts, watches and warnings to save lives and reduce property damage.

Looking ahead, we have several talks planned for next academic year to support and extend our geography curriculum, including: the impact of climate change on coastal processes in the UK; the Icelandic Fagradalsfjall volcano which is currently erupting; and the importance of mangroves and blue carbon. All talks will take place after school and, because they are delivered remotely, enable GCSE and A'Level students from across our Academy Trust to take part. It looks set to be an exciting and collaborative year ahead. Watch this space!



Charities Update

Students at Camp Hill have continued to support the local community and the wider world throughout the past few months showing typical generosity of spirit! This term alone, they have worked with real industry and determination to support the following charities:

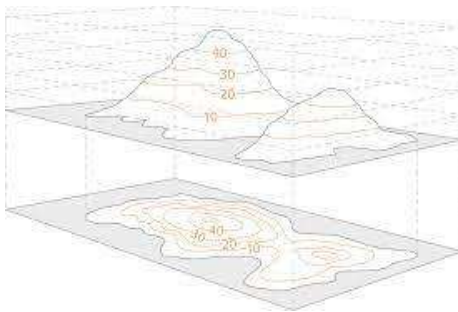
- **Unicef:** £185 raised through a collection to support the aid for children in the Middle East
- **India Disaster Relief Fund:** £428 raised by students to support the aid relief in India during the Coronavirus pandemic
- **Senior Citizens Party:** Normally during this term we would host local “senior” citizens for an afternoon of entertainment – and a light afternoon tea. Unfortunately, this has not been possible this year so Year 10 have raised over £1000 to fund hampers for local care home residents which will be delivered in the next couple of weeks. These contain delicious treats, crafts and some virtual entertainment for the residents to enjoy.
- **Spread a Smile:** Year 12 students sent messages of kindness to others in their year group to raise awareness of invisible disabilities through the charity KEEN. Chelsea initiated this through an assembly, and is planning to develop further awareness of the work of Keen next year. Shrutha Harish, also in Year 12, has worked diligently alongside Chelsea to spread the vitally important message to students at KS3 and 4 about the work of KEEN which is the UK's only youth-led movement for the inclusion of disabled people. The purpose of the charity is to change young people's perceptions of disability and promote inclusion.



7W: Bringing Contour Lines to Life in our Geography Lessons

by Lara, Darcy, Dhyana and Ashvi

During geography lessons this term, 7W have been looking at how 3D landscape features can be represented on a 2D map. Contour lines are used on maps to show the different heights of land and landscape features, just like this:



The different numbers on the lines show the variety of height on the land, and the closer the lines are together, the steeper the relief of the landscape. They can be used to show many different landscape features such as mountains, valleys, cliffs and volcanoes.

In geography, we have been creating 3D models of our own fantasy islands – representing a range of landscape features. Here are some of our finished models. We've really enjoyed getting creative!



Kineton STEM Mascot Competition

by Mr Bettison, Subject Leader Maths and STEM

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, something we take very seriously at Camp Hill School for Girls.

Earlier in the year, several members of Year 8 entered the Kineton STEM Mascot Competition which was organised by the RAF Kineton STEM team who were looking to update their mascot. The Kineton STEM team is a mixed team of RAF, Army and civilian STEM Ambassadors, delivering a wide range of community engagement programmes. They operate mainly within the West Midlands area but also across the wider Defence community, working with local schools and youth groups such as Cadets and Scouts. Check out their website for more information: <http://www.kinetonstem.net/>

All of the submitted designs from Year 8 for this competition showed an innovative take on the theme of STEM, and there were some wonderfully inventive characters as well!

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Dora Ifrim and Jasleen Chahal were among the winners of the competition, and Ishita Mahesh made the final shortlist. Dora has been asked to work with a professional artist to develop her mascot as the 'A' in STEAM (STEM with the addition of Art), a special honour since many of the traditional STEM activities are now incorporating this formal artistic element.

Both Dora and Jasleen received a STEM goodie bag which I had the honour of presenting to them.

Here are Dora and Jasleen's entries:



Jasleen's entry



Dora's entry



Year 10: A Senior Citizens' Celebration with a Difference this Year!

by Holly Garside, Ahana Biswas, Shenelle Abeyagunaratne10C

This year, the long-standing Camp Hill tradition of the Senior Citizens' Party was forced to drastically adapt as we faced multiple restrictions due to the pandemic. Instead of the vibrant and lively jubilee held annually in the school hall, this year we had to 'send the party' out to our guests. We managed a digital-offering of performances, and we also decided to send out gift hampers to the care homes assigned to each of our form groups. We funded much of this by holding a non-uniform day. The weeks spent planning, buying, painting and organising were so much fun and all worthwhile the minute we saw the finished packages bedecked in ribbon and wrapping paper glory! Our aim of spreading positivity despite the difficult year that everyone has had was fulfilled, and we thoroughly enjoyed being able to do something for the people in our community.

Each form chose a theme for their gifts. Cartland House chose 'retro' as our theme. We channelled a fusion of pop culture and art to produce packages filled with paints and well-loved books. The comfort of a book which had travelled around was unanimously deemed unrivalled in comparison to the pristine coolness of new ones. To add to the personal touches of our gifts, we included handwritten notes to convey our hopes that the books would act as a reminder of how literature created bonds that not even isolation could break. The paint, we thought, allowed expression of ideas and also the ability to partake in some art therapy through the calm of colour-by-number. Thanks to extremely generous donations by Oxfam, we were also able to send books to our care home's library: to be enjoyed by all the home's occupants. These were wrapped beautifully with finishing touches of ribbons curled into elegant swirls. Some of Cartland's members also produced a grey scale oil painting to hang as a decorative piece. Our budget ended up being £100 per form and our budgeting team did a sterling job of keeping us on track and making sure we didn't overspend. We also had a team in charge of the entertainment, who produced a fun-filled virtual concert in which the team performed a trio of songs reflecting the retro theme of the celebration.

We thoroughly enjoyed putting this celebration together and working closely as form-teams. Although it was disappointing not to be able to welcome our guests into school this year, responding to the pandemic's restrictions helped sparked our creativity and taught us how to adapt things such as entertainment to a different, online platform.

A big thank you to Mr Johnson for helping to organise us as forms and for keeping us on track!

Here are some of the packages from Cartland:

And also some screenshots from our virtual performances by Holly, Shenelle and Sai-Shreeya:



Miss Marie Meredith: Head of Year and teacher of PE/Psychology Leaving Camp Hill after 31 years!

Marie Meredith began her teaching career in 1990 at Camp Hill School for Girls. Back then, the school looked quite different; it was four-form entry; there was no Hub, no Stem, no Dining Studio, and no Sports Hall among other building extensions. The head teacher at that point was Miss Percival and Miss Meredith was employed as a PE and Psychology teacher in her first year.

Miss Meredith's contributions to the school are worthy of so much appreciation! For over 25 years, she has been the school's Expedition Assessor and eventually Centre Manager for the Duke of Edinburgh award. This means that she has been responsible for somewhere in the region of 2,000 students achieving the award.

In addition to this, over her 31 years of service, Ms Meredith has supported numerous music tours, geography trips, King Edwards' Foundation Leadership weekends, Gaines Outdoor team-building, Year 7 trips to Anglesey, training numerous sixth formers as Peer Mentors - and who can forget her numerous appearances in school pantomimes!

In January 2003, Miss Meredith was promoted to Head of Lower School and Coordinator of Leadership Activities and, whilst this job title has changed to accommodate the school development, it means that she has been pastorally responsible for settling in 2,250 children.

Students past and present are in awe of her ability to remember names and indeed, numerous ex-students have responded to our call for farewell messages which is a clear sign of the impact this remarkable woman has had upon so many individuals. (See below).



After 31 years of service to teaching and, specifically teaching at Camp Hill School for Girls, what else could Ms Meredith do but take her skills of diplomacy, resilience and calm to a whole new level? It is wholly fitting that she has decided to become a Deacon in the Church of England. Last month, on a balmy evening, the spectacular cathedral of Lichfield was bathed in sunlight as a smaller than usual, but nonetheless substantial mask-wearing congregation, assembled to witness the ordination of eight individuals - including our own Miss Meredith - to the role of Deacon by the Bishop of Lichfield. There is an often-misinterpreted quotation which declares: 'the sun shines on the righteous'. If we take this phrase at face value, that certainly seemed to be the case on that very special June evening.

It was truly meaningful to witness the ordination of Miss Meredith and it seemed most fitting that the sermon was delivered by another inspirational woman, the preacher, The Revd Canon Dr Sharon Prentis, who is Intercultural Mission Enabler and Dean of Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic Affairs for Church of England, Birmingham.

The poignant passages chosen throughout the ceremony gave context to the rite of ordination, and the organ and choral music carefully reflected these words. Sir Edward Elgar's motet, The Spirit of the Lord, was a particularly delightful example of this.

The service ended with perfect divine intervention as the two west doors were stirred open for the newly-ordained ministers and the evening sun-rays poured in as they literally walked out into the light.

Miss Meredith will be much-missed by staff and students but we all wish her well in her new role. We offer her sincere thanks for everything she has done for the school and the thousands of children who have benefitted from her teaching and pastoral support over the years.

by Ms Parker-Hall

Some of our alumni have been in touch with their memories and good wishes for Miss Meredith:

'I'm pretty sure we rewrote the school song whilst on a D of E expedition!...'
(Lailah Peel - Class of 2005)

'I think I was in the DofE expedition Lailah mentioned. I remember my Mum had given me tinned food as my emergency stock and a tin opener and Miss Meredith joked she'd fail me then burst into laughter when, after two days lugging it through the Peak District and general exhaustion, I burst into tears! You could always trust her and Miss Weitzel for tough love!'

(Jessica Kenny - Class of 2005)

'Miss Meredith was a wonderful teacher! I'm sorry to hear that she is leaving - the Church's gain is Camp Hill's loss!'
(Kome Gbinigie - Class of 2004)

'I was in Lichfield, which of course, was also Ms Meredith's house. One sports day, I had signed up to run the 800m for the intermediate year groups. However, the girl who was supposed to be running for the seniors dropped out on the day. This meant we all got promoted and I ended up running against the seniors. As if this task in itself wasn't daunting enough, I was half-way round the track when I heard Ms Meredith over the megaphone, with the school watching on: "Catherine you've run faster than that in your PE lessons, get a move on!". I'm not sure where I placed in the end, but it was a personal best for me and I clung to that 3 min 20 second record for years!! Starting in year 7, I thought she was the most terrifying teacher I'd ever had, but safe to say by the end of my years at Camp Hill she was one of my favourites and had one of the strongest impacts.'

(Catherine Kay - Class of 2005)

'The end of an era! Thank you for all your support during my 7 years at CHG especially in truly going the extra mile in popping my blisters on our Gold DofE to try and get me to the end! Many other fond (and soggy memories) of you meeting us at random styles on many expeditions to ask us "where we thought we were". There are simply too many other memories to mention but thank you and a big good luck for your next chapter!'

(Debbi Wallace - Class of 2005)

'Miss Meredith was a caring and motivational teacher. She made me want to study Psychology at University and even now as a teacher myself I find myself inspired by her. Even if she did mix me up with my older sister half the time! Fond memories include cake club, Psychology class banter, and when she came to visit me in year 6 to calm my nerves at going to Secondary school.

I wish her the very best in her new career and thank her for all she did.'

(Rebecca Teece - Class of 2013)



Miss Meredith in one of her many staff panto roles!



Miss Meredith (early 1990s)
(2nd row 4th from left)

Things to do and see in and around Birmingham this summer

Check out these ideas for family days out this summer which are either FREE or easy-on-the-budget.....

The Blue Lagoon Beach - Bosworth Water Park, Nuneaton

<https://www.bosworthwatertrust.co.uk/family-days-out/the-blue-lagoon-beach>

Built in 2015 this attraction brings the seaside inland! The crystal clear blue water is inviting for a paddle, or relax on the golden sand or grassed areas surrounding the lagoon. Don't forget your buckets and spades!

£3.00 per hour (per family group of 5). This fee includes access to the park grounds, picnic areas, beach, paddling area, adventure playground & toilets.



Shrewsbury River Walk

Jump on a train from Birmingham Snow Hill station to Shrewsbury. This beautiful walk starts in the centre of Shrewsbury, just 4 mins from the train station. It will take you around Shrewsbury, visiting the River Severn, exploring the castle grounds and the Quarry Park. You can also extend the walk to include woodland trails and a view point over the town. The walk is easy to access as it starts next to the train station at Shrewsbury Castle. View the full route [here](#).

The Migrant Festival

IKON gallery, Birmingham 19th-22nd August 2021

Ikon presents the third annual Migrant Festival. A four day programme mixing visual art, music, film and performance, it celebrates the contribution made by refugees and migrants to Birmingham and the UK, whilst bearing witness to the hardships and sacrifices involved.

<https://www.ikon-gallery.org/event/the-migrant-festival-4/>



Martineau Gardens, Priory Road, Edgbaston

Martineau Gardens is a beautiful therapeutic community garden and a charity, located two miles from Birmingham City Centre. An oasis for wildlife, a haven of tranquillity, a destination for an outdoor escape, there are two and a half acres of organically managed landscape for you to explore. Entry is free. Check out this link for opening times and details of what's to see and do:

<https://martineau-gardens.org.uk/visitor-information/>



The Barber Institute, Edgbaston, Birmingham

You'll find Art Deco galleries with paintings by artists like Botticelli, Bellini, Rubens and Van Dyck, to Vigée Le Brun, Turner, Monet, Renoir and Magritte at this University of Birmingham gallery.

There's also decorative art and sculpture, as well as changing displays of prints and drawings and a coin exhibition.

Open every day except Mondays, admission is free but booking is now essential. Find out more [here](#).



Lapworth Museum, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston

Explore life over the past 3.5 billion years at Lapworth Museum, where all of the state-of-the-art galleries and interactive exhibits are completely free of charge. The museum, based at the University of Birmingham in Edgbaston, features something for all ages from rocks and fossils to volcanoes, earthquakes, and even dinosaurs.

Booking is essential. Find out more [here](#).

BOM Gallery and Cafe

Birmingham Open Media (BOM) Gallery and Cafe in the city centre is a nice quiet, autism-friendly place to take the kids. It has quieter coffee machines, no music and gentle lighting and is on Dudley Street, near Bullring and Grand Central. The centre hosts art, technology and science workshops and exhibitions which are well worth a look.

There's also summer camp running from August 23 to 27 where children can go on a 'musical journey through the sounds of space' learning how to live code algo beats, create digital art, synthesise their own electronic music waves and create visual sound vibrations (fees apply).

Find out more [here](#).



Aston Hall, Trinity Road, Birmingham

This beautiful Grade I listed 17th century mansion house is one of Birmingham's most iconic buildings. Full of architectural and historical delights from its breath-taking Long Gallery to the battle scars of Civil Wars, Aston Hall is one of Britain's finest treasures steeped in 400 years of history.

King Charles I spent the night here and Queen Victoria visited on more than one occasion. The surrounding parkland, including the beautiful Lady Holte's Garden, provide a calm oasis in a busy city.

With a reputation for being one of the country's most haunted buildings, the Hall is also famed for its tragic tales of tight-rope walkers and spooky stories of mysterious ladies!

Children up to the age of 15 can enter for just £3.00. Check out the website for more details:

<https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/aston>



Sunshine and ice-creams at the end of this school year

The past academic year has been one of the most challenging we've ever experienced but, on the penultimate day of term, we had sunshine and ice-cream.

Students (and staff!) were treated to a very welcome ice-cream or ice-lolly at lunchtime, and it was the perfect way to cool down amidst the end-of-term heat.



We wish all our Camp Hill families a safe, happy and restful summer break. We look forward to welcoming staff and students back in September.

"And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer."

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Dates for Your Diary



**Staff Training
Day**



**Staff Training
Day**



Back to school

*You will be notified of any changes to
timings via email over the summer*



School Photographs
Years 7, 10 and 12



**Year 13
Parents Evening**



Entrance Examination
*For students starting Year 7 in
September 2022*



**Year 9
vaccinations**



**Year 12
Transition Evening**

Dates for Your Diary



**Staff Training
Day**



**Year 10
Transition Evening**



**Year 7
Settling In Evening**



Virtual Open Evening



Last day of half term

Enjoy the Summer Holiday!

