

Camp Hill Girls' Chronicle

End of Spring Term 2023



Letter from Ms Stevens

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been an extremely busy and rather unusual half term. Already shorter than most at only five weeks, we have as always managed to pack in a huge amount. I hope you enjoy reading about all of the activities, trips and events that have taken place over the last five weeks in this edition of The Chronicle, as well as news of other events that didn't make it into previous editions. We have also had to manage disruptions caused by strike days, snow days and bus strikes, among others, and I feel it's important to say a huge thank you for your patience, understanding and support over the last few weeks. Whilst some decisions are challenging and can split opinion, your many thoughtful emails and words of thanks and support have been incredibly well-received and appreciated.

Firstly, thank you for your patience and understanding throughout the recent period of strike action. To ensure the continued delivery of high quality education for our students whilst respecting the right of our teachers to stand up for the long term future of education, is a really difficult balance to achieve. It is never an easy choice to take strike action, particularly after the disruption and lost learning during the pandemic. I know that teachers across the country have been conflicted by such an impossible choice. We all remain hopeful that successful negotiations can allow us to return to some normality, so that we can protect the education of our young people, both now and into the future.

The disruption caused by the snow in early March proved particularly challenging, as it did for all of the local schools in the South of the city who closed their doors early on the Thursday. It is never an easy decision to close a school before weather predictions become a reality (because often they don't). Unfortunately for us they seemed to exceed expectations, and the road conditions and untreated surfaces in the local area added to the difficulties many experienced in getting to school. I appreciate that closing the school early meant that many staff and students faced difficult journeys home that day, and we were keen not to have a similar outcome on the Friday.

The events of recent weeks have served as a reminder of how important routines are for us to function well and feel safe. But, in particular, our students have demonstrated great resilience and resourcefulness, and I congratulate all of them for how well they have coped with the unusual levels of disruption (I'd like to say that I hope next term will be better, but I won't tempt fate!). However, days away from school also serve as a reminder that learning does not only take place in classrooms. When we asked students to share what they had done with their time, we were pleased to hear about those who used the time as an opportunity to explore, be creative and be independent. I hope you enjoy reading about the kind of activities students involved themselves in.

In staffing news, we say farewell to Miss. Ellis, Teacher of Religious Studies, who leaves us for pastures new at the end of term. We also say goodbye to Mr. Pearson, one of our IT Technicians who has supported the school over a number of years. I would like to wish both members of staff all the very best for the future, and thank them for their service to the school.

To finish, I'd like to share some long awaited and exciting news about the extension of our Studio Dining Room. We have been planning the project for over 2 years as we have a real need for extra space for students at recess and lunchtime. I'm delighted to inform you that works will start during the Easter holidays, and are due for completion by the end of August 2023 in time for the start of the new academic year. The extension will provide seating for an additional 100 students at recess and lunchtime, with extra outside seating during the warmer months. The current Studio Dining Room facility can be used as normal until the summer holidays, so students will not be inconvenienced.

I would like to wish you all a happy, safe and restful break. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 17th April. Please check the final page to remind you of key dates for your diaries!

With very best wishes
Karen Stevens
Headteacher

Making music with the CBSO

by Sayuri Knox Year 11

The CBSO Youth Orchestra performs three times a year, in October, February and July, and this year I'm a part of it. The orchestra only runs during these half-terms, so there's no commitment during term-time. We rehearse most days at the CBSO centre in Birmingham from 10am to 5pm, during each course. Although rehearsals were time consuming, performing at Symphony Hall with fantastic young musicians made it all worth it! Undoubtedly the best part of being part of CBSO was meeting new people from across the West Midlands, with people commuting from different counties to play in the orchestra.



Most days were full orchestral rehearsals, but we also had sectionals, where you only rehearse with your section of the orchestra. Both types of rehearsal were both challenging and rewarding; we went into a lot of detail in the sectionals, really mastering the ins and outs of the pieces. At the concert we performed four pieces, varying from Berlioz's 'Symphonie Fantastique' to a new contemporary piece - by emerging composer Bergrun Snaebjornsdottir - commissioned for the CBSO's centenary. It was such an empowering experience to play with so many talented musicians and produce such beautiful music!

The CBSO is always looking for new musicians (around grade 7-8) to join their orchestra, so if you're interested why not give it a look?

Schools National Trampoline Competition Finalists: Camp Hill reach for the stars!

by Miss Chapman

The National Schools Trampoline Finals were held in Northampton on Sunday 18 March. The finalists representing Camp Hill were Cara Hanratty, Molly Egan, Anushka Shah and Tara McGuire in the year 11-14 Girls Novice team. The girls won their place at the national finals after storming both the regional and zonal competitions.

The Girls had hard competition from schools across the country. They all did well, and jumped with gusto. They finished 8th in the country and should be very proud of themselves.

Also a big well done to Camp Hill Boys who had Jacob Hanratty representing them. Jacob achieved 15th place as an individual in the Novice Year 7/8 National Final competition.

Big thank you to the parents who came and supported the school.

Well done to all!



'Othello' at the Midlands Art Centre

by Safa Sujan and Sahar Haussar, Year 12



On Thursday 23rd February, a number of budding Year 12 English students went to watch Clint Dyer's production of our set text 'Othello', the story of a noble hero brought down by his scheming subordinate, resulting in a tragic demise. We thoroughly enjoyed the National Theatre's rendition of this classic and wanted to share our love of the tragedy with the readers of the Chronicle.

Although we've read the play, the feeling of watching the performance live was somehow new and extraordinary. Dyer put a modern yet dark and broody twist on the renowned tale: from the lighting to the dramatic devices, an atmosphere of mystery and tension was cultivated. As a group, we were eager to discuss this innovative interpretation of the tragicomedy - what set it apart from other plays we've watched? Some of our favourite parts were the addition of a chorus, typical in Greek tragedies, which seemed to represent Othello's inner demons (nothing like a little existential crisis to get things going), and the vocal, feminist portrayal of Desdemona by Rosy McEwan. It was also really great to just catch up and spend some time with our friends at the MAC, and discuss the play together.

Overall, the trip was extremely entertaining and definitely worth the three-hour run time!



Indoor Climbing Course

by Mrs O'Grady

Students taking GCSE PE had an opportunity to complete a five week climbing course at Creation Climbing Centre, Moseley, as part of the GCSE PE practical assessment. Students received specialist instruction - learning climbing techniques, rope work, belaying and safety protocols - thus providing students with a valuable experience.



Here are some of the students at the bouldering wall, developing and practising specific skills, in preparation for higher climbs, as well as gathering AV footage as evidence of their learning - a requirement of the GCSE PE practicals.

U16 Netball League

by Annika Singh, Year 10



In the U16 Netball League this term we had an A team (Year 11) and a B team (Year 10) competing.

The league started with both teams playing against the Edgbaston High School A and B teams. Camp Hill's A team secured a comfortable win against the EHS A team of 23-4, however unfortunately the B team lost in a close match against the EHS B team 11-10. The next match for both our teams was against King Edwards Five Ways. The A team won their match 17-10 and the B team lost 20-12. After this both teams came up against a very strong Kings Norton side; both teams lost, the A team with a score of 16-19 and the B team with a score of 38-15. Finally, both teams played the opposite EHS teams away, and both teams secured a win, Camp Hill A v EHS B was 20-9 and Camp Hill B v EHS A was 18-16. The last match yet to be played is Camp Hill A v Camp Hill B.

Overall this was a successful league for the Camp Hill A team, and a good learning experience for the B team playing in the league for the year above.

U14 Netball League

With over 20 players in the U14 netball squads at the start of the season, the netball league fixtures were a great opportunity to get some competitive experience for everyone. In the first match against KEFW we lost 6-27. Against Bishop Challoner we won 9-4. Next we faced a formidable Kings Norton Girls team and won a very competitive match 13-10. Our final two matches against EHS resulted in a 1-2 loss, and against Queensbridge a 12-14 loss. All of our squad were part of these achievements, finishing in 3rd place overall at the end of the league season. The progress made was evident and we began to see our play and teamwork improving. Roll on next season!



U13 Netball League

In the U13 Netball League, our Year 8 A team battled it out on the netball court. Our opening match was against the EHS A team and we knew it was going to be a tough one. At the end of the first half, the scores were all tied; unfortunately, we lost by a tiny margin of 11-8.

However, from this point we could only get better and as we came up against KEFW we were desperate for a win. With a brilliant score of 21-6, our team definitely pulled it together and delivered! We kept on improving and in an exciting match against Bishop Challoner we secured a comfortable win, scoring 17-7.

Our final match was our only away match against the EHS B team and after our close loss against their other team, we wanted to get our own back and beat them. Still adjusting to the new atmosphere, our team had a shaky start. Despite this, with a few words of advice from Ms Keane and the Year 9 team cheering us on from the side, we pulled it back just in time with a score of 7-5.

Overall, we placed 2nd in the league - a result we are very pleased with and it was a great experience and learning opportunity for our whole team. We can't wait for the next tournament and are determined to go for gold!

Football at Camp Hill

by Adeena Ahmad and Amelia Beckett, Year 12

Whether it's the Premier League, the Euros or the World Cup, football is always at the forefront of the nation's mind. Due to its reputation as the world's biggest sport and the constant media coverage it receives, the increasing influence of football in the modern age cannot be denied.

Over the past couple of years, women's football has empowered many young girls across the country. Especially as it is typically viewed as a "boys' sport", women's football has become a significant means of subverting expectations and stereotypes surrounding femininity. For example, regardless of whether they were tall, muscular, broad or slender the women on England's team last summer all made their mark in football's history, given their victory in the 2022 Euros. This type of female representation in sport serves to change false societal perceptions of what the "ideal" body is, while also starting dialogue over other socio-economic issues, such as the gender pay-gap and ingrained culture of misogyny.

Having both played for a club for the past few years, we felt it was time that football ought to join netball, handball and rounders on Camp Hill's list of sports. Over the past two terms, we have had a lot of success in restarting football on our very own school fields.

Since the start of the year, the football club has been running every Thursday lunch time for players of all ability (as well as the additional Monday after-school training for the U15 and U13 teams). This half-term, we had the fantastic opportunity to take the U13 team to play an 11-aside fixture at KEHS. While the competition was fierce and highly-skilled, we rose to the challenge and played a magnificent game. A special mention to Amanda Nzamurambaho in Year 9 for being the team's captain and scoring a fantastic goal in the last two minutes of the second half, as well as to Grace Evans in Year 8 for her performance as the team's centre-back and winning player of the match. All the players on the pitch demonstrated great sportsmanship and we look forward to playing against KEHS in the future.

Following this success, the U13 team played in the 7-aside KE Foundation tournament - also hosted by KEHS. With eight strong teams from across the King Edward Academy Trust battling it out on the pitch, it was a tremendous achievement to win third place. We played three matches in the initial round, winning two against KEHS and Sheldon Heath's 2nd team and drawing against Handsworth. As we scored the most points in our group, we progressed to the semi-finals of the tournament to play against Sheldon Heath's 1st team. After a tough match, the score was still 0-0 and we played into extra-time. At this point, it is worth mentioning that a special commendation was awarded to LM in Year 8 for her phenomenal goal-keeping; we did not concede a goal until the last two minutes of extra-time in the semi-final. It was only through her composure and determination that the team was able to comfortably achieve third place. Although all the players were exhausted by the end, it was a wonderful experience to play against rival schools and we look forward to participating in the KE Foundation tournament again next year!

While watching and coaching the players at the tournament, the great levels of progress and improvement everyone has made since the start of the year were apparent. As there has been much enthusiasm and hard work from everyone over the last few months, we hope to do very well at the match against Queensbridge next term.

You are welcome to come along to the Thursday lunchtime football club after the Easter break – perhaps football can be a way to stay fit and lead a healthier lifestyle in the run-up to Sports Day! Many thanks to the PE department and Mr Hamblett for giving up their time in supporting this venture.

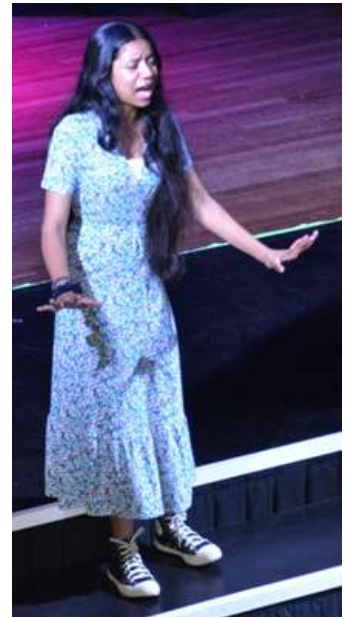


"RAISE YOUR VOICE!"



SONGS FROM THE SHOWS 17 SISTER ACT and MAMMA MIA February 2023

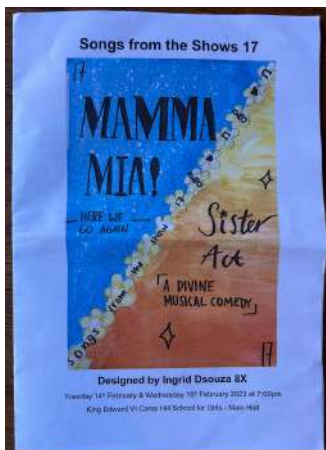
- Our largest ever cast –220 in Show Choir, 25 in Chamber Choir and 4 in the Band!
- Brilliant (and complex) choreography, as always, from Mrs Baylis!
- Superb drama and props from Mrs Perks
- New lighting programmed by Mrs Baylis
- Superb organisation, admin, programme and coaching from Mrs Marshall
- Professional staging



A "mass" of nuns!



Dancing Queens!





Upcoming Musical Events

Fri 28th April
Chamber Choir Lunchtime Concert
 at Birmingham Cathedral
 1:10pm - 2pm

Tuesday 2nd May
Senior Concert

7pm CHG Hall

A chance to bid our leaving musicians a fond farewell

RSC Top of the Bench Competition

by Birle Tenekeci and Kaveesha Maddala

On Saturday 3rd December, two teams from our school competed in the preliminary round of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench competition at the University of Birmingham. Each team consisted of two Year 9, one Year 10, and one Year 11. The teams answered ten rounds of questions, and both teams were successful in qualifying for the regional finals.

Following this, the regional finals took place just over one month later on Saturday the 21st of January. In contrast to the previous round, this consisted of both theoretical and practical challenges. After answering the theoretical paper, we moved on to the highly anticipated practical task.

Held in the undergraduate teaching laboratories, each team was given 3 chemicals (A-Potassium Iodide; B-Starch solution and C- an unknown chemical solution) and distilled water. Using these solutions and with one hour on the clock, the teams had to work out accurate proportions of each chemical to cause a sudden colour change (from clear to inky black) at exactly, or as close as possible to, one minute. Some readers may recognise this as the 'iodine clock'. It was a great challenge and one of our teams achieved their colour change at 58 seconds - just shy of the target time.

Although we did not manage to qualify for the national finals this year, it was an incredibly enjoyable experience and all of us learnt many new facts about Chemistry.

Well done to Kaveesha Maddala, Heather Cooper, Birle Tenekeci, Eveline Coca, Sana Khan, Anesha Mitra, Adella Dandy, and Bexanne Efa-Quayson for their participation and success in reaching the regional finals; and thank you to Ms Biggs for supporting us.

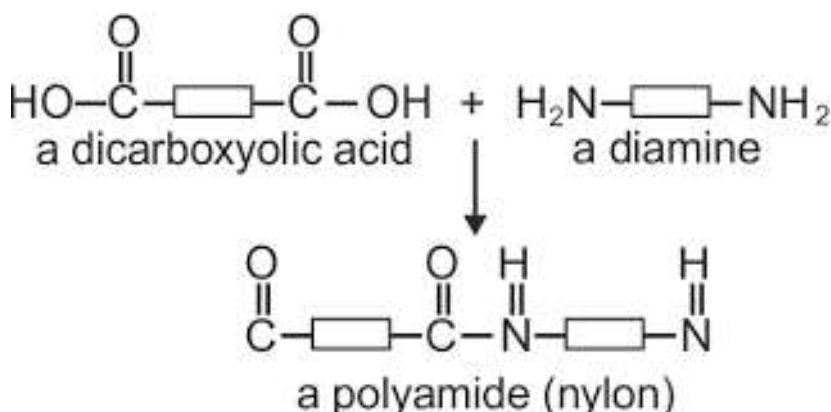
Here is a sample question for the aspiring chemists:

Which of the following is a condensation polymer?

1. PVC 2. Polyethene 3. Nylon 4. PFTP

A) 1 and 4 B) 2 and 4 C) 3 D) All of them

The answer would be C (nylon) because a condensation polymer is one formed by a condensation reaction. In organic chemistry this is a type of chemical reaction where two molecules are combined to form a single molecule. (Extra information: Nylon is an umbrella term used to describe a synthetic polymer made of polyamides. Nylons are formed by a dicarboxylic acid and a diamine.)



On Friday 10th February ten students from Years 9 to 13 attended the annual West Midlands Philosothon at KEHS. Here, students from seven other King Edward Foundation schools and Solihull School came together to take part in this friendly competition in which a team works together to reach a set of philosophically satisfying ideas.

Initially, in groups with students from the same year, we discussed matters based on the stimuli provided and were scored by the quality of our contributions and our ability to help others to contribute. Those who assisted in the facilitation of the discussion and developed the thinking of the team scored well. Suggesting controversial or disagreeable things was also acceptable in order to help the team to agree on some principles; the aim was not to point score off each other but to work creatively with ideas as a team.

We took part in three 20 minute discussions with a member of staff facilitating and an experienced philosopher judging and scoring our contributions. Questions that were debated that evening included 'Are people naturally more just or unjust?' and 'Are all lives of equal value? Should they be?'. Following this, refreshments were served and prizes (in the form of Amazon vouchers) were awarded to the best participant from each year group, with KES named as the overall winners of the competition. Despite this, we learnt a lot from the event and developed valuable skills from being able to take part.



It was a great evening that could not have gone ahead without Miss Ellis's help and guidance and Ms Durham's supervision, so thank you to them, and well done to everyone who took part!

Miss Ellis would like to add that Mayesa was named as a Year 11 winner! Everyone did really well and did the school proud.

Year 13 RS Conference

by Salena Ali, Year 13

On Monday 6th February, Year 13 RS students went on a trip to attend the Candle Conference in Coventry, which was led by Peter Vardy, an established theologian. As Vardy is often mentioned in our studies, I found it really beneficial to hear his thoughts and learn about many interesting topics to expand our knowledge on philosophy, ethics and more.

The trip began with our early morning coach journey to Coventry Cathedral - a historic building with many beautiful features, such as the stained glass windows. We heard Vardy speak about various topics, such as conscience, meta ethics and religious experiences. The talks were all incredibly informative and allowed me to broaden my understanding of these topics, and analyse the ideas presented by different scholars.

In our break, we roamed around the medieval city of Coventry and bought some snacks. We then returned to the Cathedral to hear a few more talks and partake in debates with students from other schools about the existence of God. This was a wonderful opportunity to put my A Level knowledge to the test and practise my evaluation skills.

After a long but informative conference, we headed to Pizza Express to conclude our trip with some tasty food. I would like to thank Ms Woodward and Ms Lamb for organising this valuable trip - we are all very grateful!



Autism Acceptance and Awareness Week

by Miss Orr

It was 2023's World Autism Awareness and Acceptance Week in the last week of the Spring term. It's important to have awareness and acceptance of everybody of course, but in this particular week, we are reminded about Autism.

<p>What is Autism (in simplistic terms)?</p> <p>Autism is an invisible condition that can affect how a person thinks, processes, understands, feels or communicates. It's on a very wide spectrum, so everyone presents very differently (as you would expect, as we're all individual!)</p>	<p>What About In Our School?</p> <p>We have a number of students at this school with Autism or Aspergers, and many people here have friends or family who have Autism too. Some wish to speak to their friends about it, some wish to keep it private – both are ok!</p>
<p>How Can I Help?</p> <p>Having autism should not affect people's progress or happiness, they may (or may not) just need a little support to help them in certain areas in order to do their best.</p> <p>Listen, be kind, don't shout, have patience, seek adult support if needed.</p> <p>Develop your own awareness a little bit!</p>	<p>What can we do to develop our awareness?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a 2 minute look online to research how many successful celebrities have Autism! • Visit the Inclusion Body and Mind Differences section of the library for some further reading if interested. • Find out more information about World Autism Awareness Week and the work that the National Autistic Society do all year-round here: www.autism.org.uk

How do staff help?

Staff train with the Communication and Autism Team (CAT – not real cats, unfortunately!) to get some tips and advice on how to support our autistic students. Little tweaks can make a big difference to their lesson, and their overall day. This term, we also met as a staff team to share our most successful support tips in our lessons with each other, so we can make sure we upskill ourselves to support all students. It's great to keep learning and to keep sharing ideas too!

Mr Shaw recently led a fantastic assembly about communication, and talked about his step-son, Rhys, who alongside being a fun, friendly and a cheeky chocolate loving chap, is autistic. Rhys is non-verbal, but has learnt to be skilled at non-verbal communication. It was interesting to see how Rhys copes with daily life, and understand how his family supports him so well. Ms Chadwick also ran a thought-provoking PSHE lesson for Year 9s on hidden disabilities, which brought about some fantastic conversation points and increased awareness. People are all different; brains are all different; how we communicate and react can be very different too. It's important to be patient with people, kind, offer support if it's needed, and signpost them to an adult if they need guidance or support, whether they have autism or not.

Maybe you could take the lead on raising awareness on an area of inclusion next year, whether you're an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion representative, or maybe it's something personal to you?!

Please come to chat to Miss Orr if you have any concerns, or a wish to take a lead on further developing awareness for others.



Available in the library:

'The Spectrum Girl's Survival Guide'
by Siena Castellon



Exeter Scholars - Year 10 Easter Residential 2023

by Mrs Strong

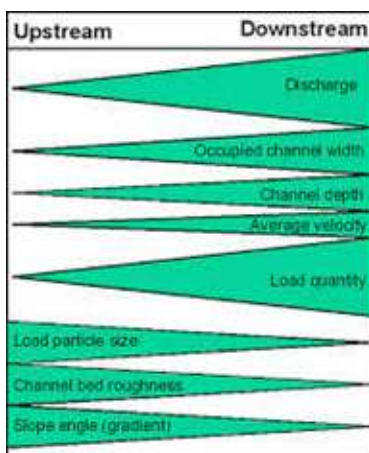
Sixteen of our Year 10 students have been successful in their application for the Exeter University Scholars programme. This begins with an all-expenses paid residential programme, held at Exeter University, over the Easter holiday. This will include opportunities to find out more about the University, learn about academic life and research at Exeter, meet existing students and make new friends. The programme continues to support students throughout their GCSE's and A level's with further residential opportunities and mentoring.

Well done to those 16 successful applicants; we wish them all the best for this amazing opportunity, and look forward to reading all about it in the next edition of The Chronicle!

Year 10 Carding Mill Valley Geography Trip

by Birle Tenekeci and Riya Mitra, Year 10

On the 6th and 7th of March, the Year 10 Geography classes went to Carding Mill Valley, in Shropshire, to collect river data as part of our GCSE geography course. We were all excited to take a leap into the great outdoors, measuring and recording data about the different characteristics of the river channel, and associated flood risk on the nearby settlement of Church Stretton.



Before our field trip, we had been learning about the various ways a river changes as it flows downstream using the Bradshaw model (as seen on the left). In order to see and understand this ourselves we used a variety of data collection methods, both qualitative and quantitative.

After leaving school promptly at 8:30 am, and arriving at Carding Mill Valley at around 10am, we began our trek up the hill. In total we worked at five sites ranging from 100 metres from the source, all the way to a couple of kilometres away from it. The first site we studied - only 100 metres from the source - was extremely small, and the last site much wider!

Most of us managed to avoid falling in (though we cannot say this on behalf of everyone!) whilst others learnt a valuable lesson that day: not to jump into a river with pockets unzipped, as this can result in broken phones!

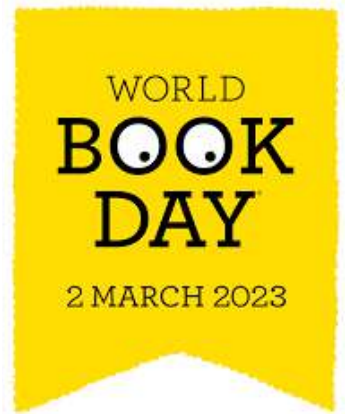
We would like to thank the geography department greatly for the work and effort it took to organise and take us on this trip and for the great time we all had.



World Book Day

The English department celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March by launching a competition called 'Meet the Character'. Students had to write or design a creative piece that would allow the judges to meet their favourite character from a young adult novel.

Here are our winning entries...



Sophie Zhang in 7V introduced us to Alosa from the 'Daughter of the Pirate King' duology by Tricia Levenseller. Here, she invents the prequel chapter.

I breathed in the familiar, salty sea air as I leant against the ship railing. We had rested at shore for a week after the defeat of my father, but now are finally re-stocked with supplies, the injured have finally all been tended to, and the crew are ready to set sail yet again. The Ava-lee had been repaired by the best engineers on land, and although I had preferred my own men and women to do it, it was difficult to deny the brilliant job they had done to my ship. The sail was replaced, the brig fixed, and the deck re-built.

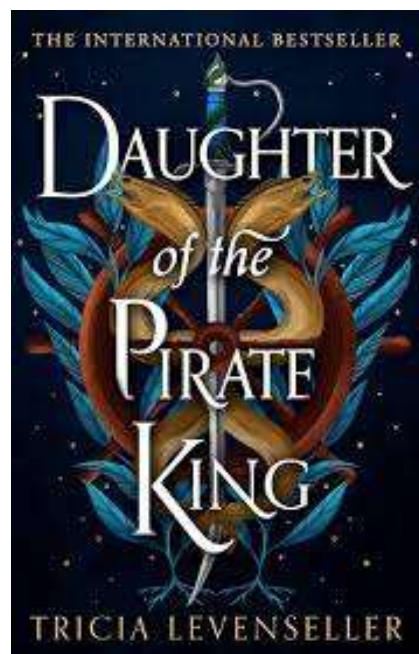
And yet, worry bubbled inside me. Which was a first. I've never felt anything along the same direction as anxiety about crossing the ocean before, so why should I now? The sea was my life, my home, my everything. I was born on these waters. But the unmistakable feeling stubbornly planted itself in my chest, refusing to disappear no matter how many times I commanded it to. Glancing at the waves, they almost seemed to whisper my name: Alosa.

A glint of brown caught my gaze. It was Riden – he looked even more beautiful than the day I first met him; the sunlight was illuminating the specks of gold amongst his chocolate eyes, and for a second, I almost couldn't breathe. He appeared to be in a conversation with Kearen, our navigator, when saw me looking, and flashed me the charming smile that I knew so well. Unable to help myself, I smiled back, the mysterious lump in my throat getting just a little smaller. Baby steps, you know?

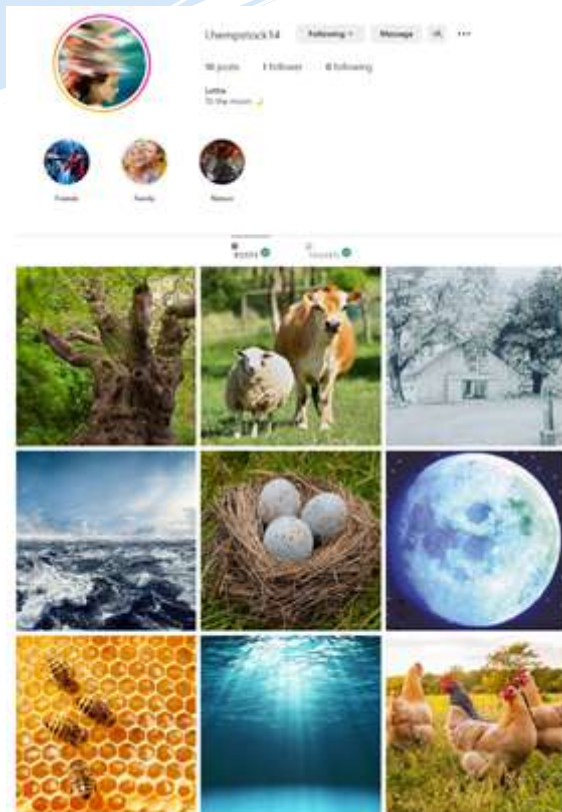
Niridia, my first mate, called from somewhere along the ship edge, "Permission to lift the anchor?"

I took a deep breath, and answered, "Yes."

Together, we set sail.



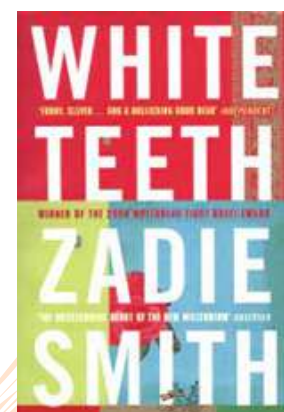
Bahar Kayani in 11S introduced us to Lettie Hempstock from 'The Ocean at the End of the Lane' by Neil Gaiman. Here, she imagines what Lettie's Instagram profile might look like!



Both students win a book voucher and an edible treat to nibble whilst they read their new books!

Meanwhile in other book-related news...

- To celebrate World Book Day, members of staff displayed posters on their door showing what they were reading. These may now be a little out of date, but are still on display if you are wondering what your teacher is reading!
- Mrs Royall and Mrs McDermott have launched this year's Carnegie Shadowing initiative and the club have already begun borrowing books to read, enjoy and evaluate
- National Teen Book Club are about to read and discuss their fourth book of the year, 'Good for Nothing' by Mariam Ansar
- Year 12 and 13 Book Club are reading and enjoying 'White Teeth' by Zadie Smith



Our Twist on a Tale

by Iona Mandal (Key Stage 5 winner) and Bahar Kayani (West Midlands winner)



Recently, we were chosen as winners of Pearson's My Twist on a Tale Writing Competition, which involved writing a short story to shine a light on the idea of representation within literature, discussing what we felt was being excluded from the literary canon of today and centering the underrepresented within our narratives. This was both a demanding yet immensely rewarding task, as both of us felt a responsibility to do justice to those stories that we knew were necessary to tell, perhaps echoed by many others of our generation. It was uplifting to read stories from other young voices, encompassing a diverse range of themes from a transitioning pupil searching for answers to a girl shedding stereotypes surrounding women.

Iona's story was titled *Belonging*, and described the heartfelt moment of a young girl's experience in finally feeling represented within her school's English Literature curriculum, following previous sentiments of isolation and disenfranchisement.

"It was an honour to retell a personal experience which I am sure that many young people from minority backgrounds relate to, but perhaps have not yet found the words to articulate."

Bahar's story was titled *Empty Minefields*, and focused on the daily hardships of an impoverished student enduring daily torments from others, who have no idea of her distressing domestic circumstances. Yet, there is a note of hope for the future when she reveals her struggles and receives aid.

"I hope that marginalised communities and their valuable stories continue to be upheld, and be offered a platform for bringing awareness to their experiences, so that meaningful and long-lasting change can be made."

We would like to extend our gratitude to Mrs McDermott, who informed us of this incredible opportunity earlier in the year, via the English Google Classroom. So, why not have a go at a recently posted creative writing competition yourself? It is a rewarding experience regardless of the outcome.

We win £250 worth of book vouchers each, and you can read our prize-winning entries by following the link below. Iona's story is on page 14 and Bahar's is on page 43.

<https://www.pearson.com/content/dam/one-dot-com/one-dot-com/uk/documents/subjects/English/2022-Twist-On-A-Tale-Winning-Stories.pdf>

Focus On....

FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS



Every year, Camp Hill Girls welcomes Foreign Language Assistants to school, to support our students in their language learning. This year we are lucky enough to have Yves Boesch (German), Louiza Xenofontas (Spanish), and Justine Lahure (French, pictured above in white). Justine was kind enough to tell us about her experience being a FLA in school.

"My name is Justine and I am the French assistant for this school year. I come from Belgium and before this year was teaching English and German.

I help some students from Year 12 and Year 13 in small groups or individual speaking lessons. I also help the students from Year 10 and Year 11 during the lessons with pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary and conversations. Together we practice questions to get them prepared for the GCSE. I also create some resources and record audios so that the pupils can get used to more native speakers.

Every Thursday during lunchtime I have the chance to lead the French Club at the girls' school where we practise French with recreational activities.

I think that having a native speaker in a language course is always very positive. Because the pupils can hear different real accents and expressions coming from different French speaking countries. The language assistant brings authentic material from their country that the teachers can use in their lessons. A language assistant can also be an asset to forge links for school trips."

"The students love practising a bit of French, German or Spanish when they see us in the corridors of the school. I think having small talk really helps some to gain in confidence in the language and to be less scared to practise it"

This is just one of the many enrichment activities in school which is supported by the generosity of our parents through our Annual Fund.

To all those who have given this year, we would like to say an enormous "THANK YOU" on behalf of all our students.

If you would like to contribute, you can still do so through your Parentpay account.

Speak Out Challenge

by Glory Daramola, Year 10

On 17th March, a group of Year 10 students were given the opportunity to learn how to develop communication skills and expand our comfort zones. The 'Speak Out Challenge' is an expert-led, interactive workshop designed to bring out students' confidence by sharing top tips on how to speak in public. The expert, who was given this mission to bring out the inner us, was Claudette - and dare I say, she did a terrific job.

We started the day by learning that facial expressions, as well as our body stance, can affect the audience and the way our message is portrayed. Standing with both feet on the ground, shoulder-width apart, automatically increases the audience's attentiveness; we should avoid the crossed leg pose - or the 'teenage wee-wee pose' as Claudette calls it! It took a conscious effort to stand in a way that exuded confidence, even if we did not feel it.

Claudette then introduced us to 'Bob the baby' and asked 'How many times did Bob fall down before he was able to walk?' While we guessed many numbers ranging from '36' to '55650', none of us were correct as no-one knows the answer; the important point is that every time Bob fell and got up again, his comfort zone expanded. Even though staying in our comfort zone gives us a sense of security and safety, it's better to expand on what we have to create a bigger blanket of comfort. As Van Gogh once said, 'What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?'.

Next we learnt the 5S's in making a successful speech:

1. 'Stride with confidence': walking onto the stage with reluctant steps and a slouched back already fills the audience with disinterest but walking with your back straight and head held high is much better.
 2. 'Stand strong': make it seem like you're happy to be given the opportunity to talk in front of an audience.
 3. 'Smile to engage': we all know that smiling makes people more approachable and likeable, so smiling gets the audience on your side.
 4. 'Speak': an essential part of making the speech but not the only stage!
 5. 'Stay': immediately running off can undo the great effort put into making and presenting the speech; it's best to 'stay and smile' for about five seconds before walking calmly away.
- Add your personality in the mix, and you've got a recipe for success!

After playing some icebreaker games, we were given the task to create a two minute speech. To say this was slightly worrying would be an understatement; to select a topic, create a message and to make it engaging all within the timeframe was challenging. However, they don't call us 'Camp Hill Girls' for nothing! By the end of the short time given, most speeches were ready and we were placed in groups to deliver them and give feedback to each other on what went well and what could be improved. Finally, we reached arguably the most exciting part: hearing the speeches of those willing to deliver them to the whole group.

At the end of the day, it was clear that a 'Camp Hillian's mind runs to no end'; topics ranged from 'Never have a friend with hayfever' to 'Do we really need a Prince Charming?' to more serious topics like 'Being thankful for what we have' and 'Awareness at night'. All were impactful and engaging. Ultimately, planning and delivering our speeches resulted in a boost of our confidence, self-belief and our ego (well...not too much!), alongside gaining tips on how to speak with conviction in public.

We would like to thank Claudette for her amazing skills and patience while helping us achieve our true potential. We would also like to thank Mr Shaw, Mrs Royall and Miss Al-Nemrat for organising and supervising and even joining in too! Claudette appointed me as 'Fun Manager' and I believe our group had a wonderful time. I'd do the #SpeakOutChallenge again if given the chance!





Minchin Cup 2023 - Swimming Gala

by Mrs O'Grady

On 28th February 2023, we put forward a team to compete in the Minchin Cup, which is a gala founded by an ex-KEVI Handsworth student. At this event, girls from various King Edward VI Foundation schools took part in different races, including the 100m individual sprints (backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and freestyle), the medley relay and the freestyle relay.

After a brief warm up, we soon began the races. With the competition starting with the relay, we demonstrated a lot of team spirit by cheering each other on. After some really close-run and highly competitive races we ended up coming in 2nd place (to KEHS), by just two points!

As a team, we wanted to extend some thank yous. First, thank you to Mrs O'Grady and Miss Chapman for hosting and organising the gala. Also, thank you to Nadia Sutcliffe, who stepped in at the last minute, ensuring we were not disqualified for being one swimmer down and without whom we would not have been able to claim the runners up spot. Finally, a big thank you to our team of leaders who helped with the time-keeping and score table duties: Lauren Walker, Dhyana Nanwa, Aqeelah Hussain and Mannat Chawla were all amazing helpers!

Congratulations to our swimming team; Melina Davoudzadeh, Aahan Jain, Sahana Jain, Mia Lowry, Riya Mitra, Nadia Sutcliffe and Lucia Zilles.

Well done!





Run, Rebel

by Sana Khan and Jessenia Ameer, Year 9

On Wednesday 22nd March, we were provided with the splendid opportunity to watch a theatrical adaptation of "Run, Rebel" at the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry

The show started off by introducing all of the characters and their family backgrounds. It then progressed into the actual story. The actors brilliantly portrayed their roles in such a way that we were able to connect with each character to a really deep level and effortlessly feel a lot of empathy towards each and every one of them.

A really astounding fact about the cast was that there were only six members! The actors' admirable skills to portray many different roles and characters so convincingly in one performance is truly commendable. A quality that was incredibly impressive was the actors' ability to remember all of those lines and speak them with such passion and intensity.

The lighting that was used to create various effects deserves to be appreciated because it added to the thrill of the performance by complementing all of the powerful, heartfelt and genuine emotions conveyed by the actors. In terms of techniques, the ideas were very efficient and also added a sense of humour to the play. A much loved example of this were the "rewinds", which effortlessly made the audience laugh at Amber's infatuation with David.

Overall, it was a spectacular performance, and one that we would definitely recommend, to read as well as watch!



HSBC Talk

by Ushna Shami and Anusha Gupta, Year 12

On 8th March, Year 12 Economics students were invited to King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls to attend an inspirational talk delivered by Ian Stuart, the CEO of the HSBC UK Branch. Despite the difficult weather and a surprise fire drill, we managed to reach the venue and attend this extremely interesting event.



HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations, with a network covering 62 countries, including territories in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, North America, and Latin America.

Initially, we were introduced to the company and its international successes as not only an institution but as an inclusive employer. HSBC is centred around opening up a world of opportunity, with the core values of inclusion, capability, resilience, and opportunity. The firm holds particular importance when it comes to strategizing, which was extremely interesting to learn about. We were informed about the bank's corporate and social objectives. For example, HSBC helps people manage their money, buy their homes, save and invest for the future, and supports 700,000 UK businesses, bringing about employment for a staggering 24–26 million people. Additionally, it was intriguing to learn about the company's huge emphasis on inclusivity. In 2022, over 52% of those employed by HSBC in the UK were women. Additionally, 13.3% of employees self-identify as belonging to an ethnic minority, and 8.2% of employees self-identify as having a disability. Although these statistics could be higher, it was refreshing to see an individual so high up in the corporate ladder appreciate and accentuate the importance of inclusivity, especially in the financial sector where these groups are highly underrepresented in the world today.

The topic then shifted to Ian's own individual experience, including his encouraging growth in various jobs. His journey was pleasantly surprising: he left school at 16 and immediately entered the world of banking as a cashier in a branch before moving into business banking. To further reinforce his persistent personality while simultaneously working, Ian also studied at night school and eventually attended the University of Reading at the age of 38, where he obtained a management diploma to develop his career. In a lot of ways, he had quite a nonlinear career as he didn't go through the "normal" path of university first or stay satisfied in the first place he ended up. This was really memorable as it introduced the notion that there is no set path to success and that we all have unique journeys with destinations we would not have otherwise sought out, and that university is not the only possible route to accomplishments. In 2014, Ian joined HSBC as head of its commercial banking business in the UK and Europe, with 40 years of experience in the banking industry already under his belt. Before joining HSBC, he led the corporate banking business at Barclays for six years, and held many roles in business banking during his 22 years at the Royal Bank of Scotland (now NatWest Group).

Not only are his journey and long stream of successes inspirational and motivating, but also his work-life balance is very admirable. Although his work hours are staggering, he still manages to spend time with his wife and four children, as well as maintain his passions as a keen golfer and reading enthusiast.

Overall, Ian's lecture was highly informative and provided an enlightening insight into HSBC as a large bank and the finance industry. At the end of the talk, a few people in our class (including us) had the privilege of talking to him briefly about HSBC and his journey. This was truly unforgettable and fascinating. The whole experience was significantly memorable and something to admire and reflect upon.



Days away from school

On snow days lots of students reported making snowmen, playing in the snow, having snowball fights and sledging. One student built a very tall snow tower with her mum and brother and called it "Ice-engard" after the Lord of the Rings tower Isengard. It was lovely to see how many students enjoyed being creative.



Thank you to all the students who shared what they have been up to. Perhaps they might give some of you some ideas of what you could do in the Easter holidays!

Getting out of the house...

- I went to Oxford
- I went to Sudbury Hall, a National Trust site and recorded a podcast there!
- I went rock climbing
- I went ice skating for the first time ever
- I visited my primary school
- I had a wonderful time with my grandparents in Hereford, exploring lots of new places; walking along the river Wye, climbing trees, splashing in little streams and jumping from cafe to cafe in the Forest of Dean.
- I went to a trampoline park
- I went to the gym and sauna with my mum

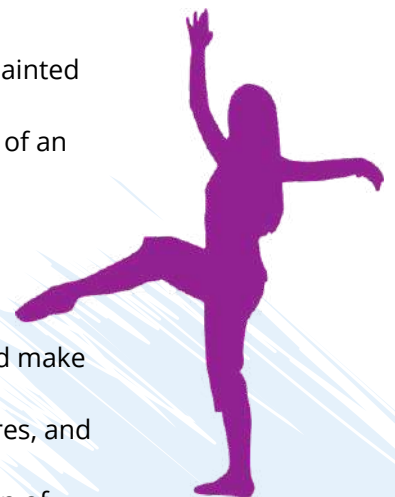


Spending time with people (and pets!)...

- I went on walks with my mum and my dog
- I spent more quality time with my family members
- I spent more time with my cats

Creative activities...

- I wrote stories
- I challenged myself to paint a picture every day and I painted some portraits
- I have made some sketches and made some paintings of an eye and a city skyline.
- I learnt how to make bracelets
- I enjoyed bullet journalling
- I crocheted amigurumi animals
- I tried sewing
- I made diy crafts like origami cat rings, bookmarks and make some earrings and anime needles from scratch
- I did lots of ballet, and cello practice, took lots of pictures, and recorded video auditions.
- I rehearsed my 100+ lines for being cast in a production of Lord of the Flies in the Summer!



Cooking...

- I did lots of cooking with my family, and made a few batches of fudge brownies
- I cooked a deconstructed chicken burrito; I helped make sweet Indian dishes (e.g. gulab jamun, gujia) for Holi
- I tried making souffle pancakes with my friends but I think we made scrambled eggs instead!
- I explored new cooking/baking recipes



Scrambled-egg souffle pancakes



Learning something new...

- I worked on learning Russian
- I've been trying to expand my music taste by listening to other artists
- I explored the natural wonders of the world using Google Maps and Earth - I now have a bookmark folder of places I want to see in real life!

Reading...

- I enjoyed reading some really cool graphic novels based on classical novels, e.g (1984, Illiad, To Kill a Mockingbird)
- I caught up on my reading
- I read the newspaper.



And finally, being nostalgic!

- I found some pictures of me when I was a baby or a toddler and decided to have a look at them



Dingle the Snowman by Jialin Dai



Kiran Arvipalli's snow angel

Teachers Have Got Talent (well, sort of!)

by Ms Woodward

After a three year hiatus, 2023 was the time to see a revival of the Teacher Talent Show. This year it was in memory of former art teacher, Julie Staniland, who always loved a good giggle and all the money raised went towards her husband's chosen charity, the British Heart Foundation.

Needless to say, our staff are not only amazing educators but they have an array of hidden talents ranging from Mrs Royall on the recorder to Dr Dewes telling a selection of dad jokes. There were battles including Ms Irving and Mr Bettison having a "plank off", Ms Buchanan and Ms Al-Nemrat eating a whole lemon as fast as they could and Mrs Kinnaird took on Ms Woodward in rap war. Mrs Mclundie impressed all with her knitting using household items including broom handles and toothpicks, Ms Parker juggled, Mrs Marshall tap danced, Mr Taylor gave us some stand up comedy and every now and then Miss Smith would roller skate across the stage with grace and poise.

The finale was Ms Morris and her extendable arms that got longer as she danced to Uptown Funk, however Mr Boylan and his team of judges decided that the most talented of all the teachers was Mr Hardy and his blank verse on the theft of his pen pot that ended with the ultimate mic drop. Mr Franks did a fantastic job introducing the acts and keeping the pupils guessing who would be next to enter onto the stage.

After a manic 40 minutes, the curtain fell on what had been a highly entertaining lunchtime for both staff, pupils and Julie Staniland's husband Neil who attended as a special guest. We raised a grand total of £870 for a very worthy cause which wouldn't have been possible had we not got such talented and good-natured members of staff, so a massive thank you to all who were involved. Maybe next time we can encourage the Senior Leadership Team to do a Backstreet Boys number...



Dates for Your Diary



Back to school
Week A



A Level Drama
Practical Exam



Non-uniform Day



Whole School
Photograph



AS / A Level
Art Exam



Year 10
Progress Evening



Chamber Choir
Birmingham
Cathedral Recital

Dates for Your Diary



Bank Holiday



Senior Concert



**GCSE Language
Orals**



**A Level Music Recitals
World Culture Day**



Bank Holiday



**Year 8
HPV immunisations**



**Start of external exams
(GCSE, A Level & AS Level)**



Years 7-10 exams



Year 12 exams



**A Level Language
Orals**



**Break up for
half term**