

# Camp Hill Girls' Chronicle

End of Spring Half Term 2023



## Letter from Ms Stevens

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw towards the end of what seems like the longest half term yet, I reflect on what our amazing students and staff have managed to pack into the last seven weeks. I don't think I'm on my own when I say the cold weather and seemingly endless dark mornings of January and February have felt like a bit of a challenge. But there's really nothing better than edging towards March, enjoying lighter evenings and the early signs of spring to help us reflect and remind ourselves of the outstanding achievements made by our school community.

We have recently added some upgrades to our school website, so if you haven't had the opportunity to look then I'd encourage you to. Ms. Hayes has been working hard to improve our 'History of the School' page, and we also have a (nearly) live rolling House Point tally on our Homepage, so you can see how well each of our six Houses are doing (I am told as Head I now ought to be an 'impartial observer' when it comes to the competitive house spirit at Camp Hill, but having been in Warwick house for the last eight years makes it difficult for me to be unbiased - I'll keep trying). Our 'Former Students and Friends' page has also been developed in an attempt to create more links with our past students, staff and friends of the school. If you're reading this and you haven't signed up yet, we'd be delighted to hear from you so we can keep you updated with school news and upcoming events. I would also encourage you to follow us on Twitter, where we're working hard to post more regularly with school news and events.

Only last week we received the very sad news about the death of Rosalind (Ros) Jackson. Ros was Head of Classics, and later Head of Sixth Form, here at Camp Hill. She was also a student at the school from 1947-1954, and a member of staff from 1958-1993. There is a feature length article about Ros within this edition of the Chronicle, so you can read more about her contributions to the school. On behalf of our entire community, I'd like to send our thoughts to her family and friends at this difficult time.

Earlier this half term we said farewell to Mrs. Simmonite, our Exams Officer. I would like to thank Mrs. Simmonite for her brilliant work overseeing all of our examination processes over recent years. Everyone at Camp Hill Girls wishes her well as she steps down from full time work to spend time more time with her family. We welcome Becky Cloves, an experienced Exams Officer who has joined us from Swanshurst School.

I won't spoil the articles in this bumper-packed edition, but a couple of stand-out events of my half term have included the visit of multi-disciplinary artist and writer, Osman Yousefzada (and of course the wonderful Heath Bookshop owners, Catherine and Claire), and only this week the long-awaited 17th 'Songs from the Shows' event, featuring no fewer than 200 students from across all year groups! As always, this was an incredible show and we are hugely proud of all who took part. But, it couldn't have happened without the musical mastery of Miss. Hawthorne and Mrs. Marshall, the choreography skills of Mrs. Baylis, and the dramatic creativity of Mrs. Perks. I imagine I'll be singing along (quietly) to 'Thank you for the Music' for most of half term. Just the Staff Talent Show to finish this half term off in true Camp Hill style (you will have to wait for the next edition for the photos). The event will raise money for the British Heart Foundation, in memory of former Art Teacher, Julie Staniland.

I would like to wish you and your families a restful February Half Term break. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. We look forward to seeing all students back in school on Tuesday 28th February (don't forget that Monday 27th February is a Teacher Training Day).

With very best wishes,  
Karen Stevens  
Headteacher

## Professional artists' visits and talks

This term we have welcomed some practising artists to talk to students about their creative careers. These lunchtime talks have been open to Years 9-13 and have been very well attended.

### Paloma Zhu

Paloma Zhu left Camp Hill in 2018 and went on to study animation at Enterprise Studios in London. After graduating, she has embarked on an exciting career doing what she loves and is currently working for Film Studios 'One of Us' in London. As a computer animator, she is involved in the production of a (top secret) film due out on Netflix later this year.

On 24th January, Paloma shared her inspiring journey with us through the delivery of a captivating presentation, including a showreel of her work as a student and professional. There were lots of questions for Paloma, which she was very happy to answer. Thank you to Paloma, and to all those who took the opportunity to hear her talk.



### Holly Reynolds

Holly Reynolds left Camp Hill in 2016 and studied illustration at Worcester University. She now lives in Wales and is a very busy freelance illustrator. She has won several prizes in recognition of her work, has self-published a book, set up her own booming Etsy shop and is now illustrating for a Chinese publisher, working on the story 'Black Beauty'

On 7th February, Holly delivered a great presentation for us and was happy to answer the many questions we had for her. It was lovely to see her after all these years, and she is embracing the challenges of working freelance. As well as her creative work, she has learned so much about marketing, finance and negotiating in business.



### Osman Yousefzada

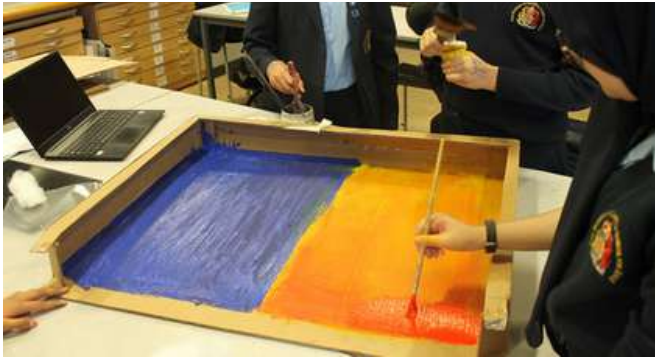
On 31st January, Osman Yousefzada was in school to celebrate and promote the launch of his book. We were so lucky in the Art Department to have the opportunity to meet with Osman and ask him questions about his experiences as a creative practitioner. His multi-disciplinary arts background meant he had plenty of insights to share with us about navigating the creative industries. Osman was approachable, informative and really inspirational. Thank you to Osman for spending time with us, and to the students who came to see him and ask questions. You can read accounts from some students later in this issue.





## ***Art Club News***

Key Stage 3 Art Club is going strong every Friday lunchtime. Jess, Anjali and Caitlyn in Year 12 continue to do a fantastic job working with students from Years 7-9. Their current project is for a company called 'Global Canvas'. They are busy producing displays on the theme 'Biodiversity' which they will enter into the competition for 2023. It has been all hands on deck with some excellent team work and some very exotic looking insects and minibeasts!



## ***Culture Club***

Every Thursday, Mrs Rank is running enrichment sessions for Year 8 students, looking at a variety of art forms and artefacts spanning the globe and centuries. Sessions have included focus on films, paintings, sculptures and objects and students have been encouraged to discuss experiences and ideas relating to these visual prompts.

## ***Show Choir Artwork***

Last month, Year 8 were challenged with designing a poster for this year's Songs from the Shows 17. Look out for an article about this extravaganza in the next edition of The Chronicle!

Mama Mia and Sister Act are this year's featured musicals and we received some very creative and eye-catching entries representing a whole range of media and expertise.

The Art department selected a shortlist of 3 from each form, from which the Music staff selected their winners. Rishika Bodapati's design was chosen for the poster around school and Ingrid Dsouza's work was selected for the program cover.

Well done to everyone in Year 8 for the effort you put into this. We were all very impressed.



# Art Ambassador Badge Criteria



We would like to acknowledge efforts and contributions students make to the Art and Graphics Department by awarding a small number of pin badges to KS4 and 5 students. To earn a badge, students would need to provide evidence of at least 2 of the following:

- Contribution to extracurricular clubs or workshops
- Contribution towards displays in the department or around school
- Help with representing the Art/Graphics department on open evening/options evening
- Contribution towards an Art and Graphics newsletter
- Independent visit to at least one current art exhibition outside of school
- Entry to at least one Art or Graphics related external competition

There is no deadline for this. We will be starting the process of awarding badges after February half term and will continue throughout the year. If you feel you meet the criteria or have any questions, please see Miss Irving in the Art Studio.



## Embroidery Club

*by Mariam Bharde, Bethany Parsons, Maya Desai and Hafsa Khan*

Embroidery Club was set up in February 2022 by Mariam, who loves cross-stitching and needlework, and wanted to give more people the opportunity to take up this relaxing hobby. After a quick tutorial, fellow Sixth-Former Hafsa was also on board, and the two started the weekly club for Key Stage 3 students.

Fast forward to February 2023, and the club has grown: Bethany and Maya have joined the team of Sixth Formers who run the club, there are over 30 people on the Google Classroom, and membership is now also open to Key Stage 4 students who need a break from the stresses of the day with a calming half hour of stitching. There is a core group of students who come every week to work on their projects, but there are also those who drop in every now and then to pick up where they left off.

All materials are provided, and students are able to take their finished pieces home. Mariam has designed many small motifs that fit the 10cm diameter hoops that we use, and we also have cross-stitch books and magazines available, for anyone who needs further inspiration. You don't have to know how to cross-stitch already, as the Sixth Form Embroidery Club team will show you how - and it is so straightforward that you'll learn how to do it in minutes!

Embroidery Club is currently on every Wednesday lunchtime from 1-1:30pm in Room 12. New members are always welcome - just turn up!



*Eshal in 7V completed this design of two hearts*



*Dr Kerr's cross-stitch version of the owl logo from BBC Micro computers from the 1980s*



*This beautiful heart and leaves design was completed last year - if this was your project you are welcome to come and collect it*





## ***Year 13 Psychology trip to London***

*by Haya Sharih, Year 13*

On Tuesday 17th January, the Year 13 Psychology students took a trip down to London to visit the Freud Museum, alongside other exciting venues such as the Grant Museum and The Wellcome Collection. We tried to follow the advice to have an early night as we dreaded our very early start, having been told that the 7am coach will wait for no one and we must be on time!

After a lengthy three and a half hour journey, we finally arrived at the Freud Museum. Our excitement took away all tiredness whilst we made our way into the museum and were quickly greeted by our tour guide for the day, Stefan. We were first taken upstairs where he delivered a quick speech before allowing us to independently explore the house. It's safe to say that one of the many highlights of the trip was being able to see the famous couch where Freud would meet with his patients for their therapy sessions. We gathered again to learn more about Freud and his contributions to talking therapy and psychology as a whole; although some viewpoints shared were unique to say the least, it was interesting to listen to a different perspective of Freud outside of our exam specification. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this learning experience as we got to see some of Freud's belongings and received lots of new information. Before getting back on the coach to drive to the next museum, we briefly stopped at the Freud statue and posed for a few pictures in front.



At around lunch time, we made our way further into central London to get some lunch and visit the other two venues planned for the day. First was the Wellcome Collection where they have fascinating exhibitions about the eyes, alongside interactive displays to improve our scientific understanding. Next was the Grant museum - a zoological museum with many different types of displays, for example, at the entrance there was a display of a pair of antlers which had been found in a pub in Ireland. There were also skeleton displays of different animals and comparisons of these with human skeletons.

**wellcome  
collection**



The trip was extremely entertaining and I think we'd all agree that waking up so early in the morning was definitely worth it!

# ***Tuesday 31st January: A visit from Osman Yousefzada***

*by Mrs Royall*

You may remember reading about the owners of The Heath bookshop visiting us for school assembly in the last edition. This led to Catherine and Claire asking if they could use the school hall for an author event, when the memoir of Osman Yousefzada, from Balsall Heath, was published in paperback. We were delighted to say yes and also invite this multidisciplinary artist to spend some time with our students in school on the afternoon of his evening event.

You may not know the name Osman Yousefzada (I didn't!) but are almost certain to have seen his creations. He is the artist whose installation, Infinity Pattern 1, surrounded the Selfridges building in Birmingham city centre in 2021. He is also a fashion designer and his clothes have been worn by celebrities including Beyonce, Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift, Emma Watson and Emily Blunt. The more we found out about him, the more excited we were that he was willing to visit us!



In addition to speaking at the bookshop's evening event, we're really grateful to Osman for spending some time with Art students during lunchtime, our EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) reps during Period 4 and sixth formers in Period 5. Students present at each of these sessions share their reflections and experiences below.



## ***Meeting CHG artists in Years 9-13***

*by Hooriyah Ali and Zeimal Ayub, Year 9*

Students who had signed up for the opportunity to meet Osman gathered excitedly in Miss Irving's art studio and were made to wait an extra few minutes for his arrival due to his train being delayed! However, this just gave everyone a chance to eat their lunch and think about questions we could ask him. It was so exciting - we would be talking to an actual artist!

As Miss Irving interviewed Osman, we found out that his incredible artwork is influenced by where he grew up; he spoke about always trying to find a way to fit in in the world, something made harder by having a Pakistani heritage in a predominantly white country during the 1980s. This is also what inspired his most famous piece - the Selfridges makeover in the city centre. The canvas was inspired by the beauty of Islamic art, which he used to portray the feeling of freedom, giving the artwork no borders and the ability to go on infinitely. There is also a theme of migration and trying to find a place to fit in and belong in his work. Osman mentioned in his talk that being recognised as an individual is a very important thing for an artist and it can be difficult to be noticed. We found this helpful, to know that it's worth taking every opportunity, and to make our work unique.

As well as all of this, Osman is also well known for dressing stars on the red carpet. It was hard to believe we were talking to someone who had created so many amazing things for incredibly famous people - and he didn't grow up too far from us. However, he explained he is moving away from the fashion world, partly because of his concerns about fast fashion and the impact it has on the environment. At the moment, he is focusing on the beauty of visual art.

As his talk made such an impact, we stayed behind at the end of school to buy his book and get these signed. It was brilliant to have the chance to have a conversation with him. He mentioned how important it is that there is diversity within more creative careers. We think this is inspiring as, while we consider our GCSE options, some of us have been wondering whether to pursue art or not. Even if in the end we don't, it's still important that we can consider the arts as a possibility. We think that it shouldn't be seen as something unimportant or only for certain people from certain backgrounds. Yousefzada encourages young people of colour to pursue art, whether it be as a hobby or as a career. And he told us - no matter what - to keep drawing.

# ***A chat with our EDI KS4 representatives***

*by Sunetra Sen and Sreyaa Sunjay, Year 11*

As EDI representatives, we were incredibly honoured and excited to gain some insight into Osman's experience. It was an amazing, enlightening conversation that spanned across many topics including racism, growing up in a closed community and dealing with adversity. We were taken aback by the meaningful, thought-provoking responses Osman gave to our questions which provided us with food for thought and an interesting, new perspective to situations involving race and identity. One thing that stood out to us was how similar our experiences were as minorities, yet how there was still so much divergence between them and what we had taken away from them, culminating in a varied, insightful conversation about identity and culture. We are definitely going to be taking the ideas shared during our conversation into consideration for future plans within the EDI council.

As a school community we are very lucky to have a diverse range of stories, whether these are our own, our parents' or even further up the generational chain. With events like Culture Day coming up, we hope to see everyone sharing their familial stories and celebrating the culture and diversity within all of us. Osman raised an interesting point during our discussion: his parents couldn't read or write in their mother tongue nor English. By writing about the journeys they have taken, he is preserving these memories and we encourage everyone to make that effort to preserve and share memories. By taking the time to listen to others' stories, we are enriching ourselves.

At the end of the conversation, The Heath Bookshop generously gifted us both a copy of Osman's book, which he was kind enough to sign. We look forward to reading it and learning even more about Osman's experience as someone between worlds, and to using it to improve and better understand the experiences of those in our school.



## ***Period 5: A talk with Sixth Formers***

*by Ashni Shiju, Year 12*

Year 12 and some of Year 13, as well as some students from the Boys' school, gathered in the Hall, ready to hear what Osman had to say. This began with the author reading an excerpt from 'The Go-Between' about his academic experience; he was prepared for the 11+ in school but his family did not take him to sit the test - our link to the book as a Birmingham grammar school. Mrs Royall, our interviewer for the afternoon, prompted him to shed some light on themes he addresses in the book, such as his upbringing and how this has shaped him and his work as an individual. This included misogyny present in his conservative Pathan Muslim community, particularly the difficulties his sisters and mother endured due to the patriarchal system they lived under.

He also mentioned how the conditions at the time in a way sparked his interest in fashion: from a young age, he would watch his mother sew clothes from home, and he did the shopping for all the women in his neighbourhood as they were prohibited from leaving their houses themselves. Additionally, he talked about experiences working in different fields such as visual art; designing the Selfridges building exterior in the city centre; incorporating culture and heritage in his designs; attempting to widen the diversity of models used in fashion showcases; and wanting to liberate himself from the label of 'the designer who once dressed Beyoncé'. The talk concluded with questions from students, and an opportunity to buy a signed copy of his memoir.

For me in particular, it was enlightening to see a prominent figure talk openly about the struggles one has to face belonging to different communities and attempts to assimilate into both simultaneously. Though born in Birmingham, it is clear that Osman has managed to seamlessly integrate elements of his South Asian heritage into his British-based work. I really enjoyed listening to him speak about his drive to break the mould and pursue his passions regardless of cultural stigmas and I thought this was really inspirational for those who are interested in a career in fashion, art or any other creative field, to go after your dreams because one day they will eventually yield success.





The biggest takeaway, in my opinion, was one of the final questions posed in the latter part of the session: "If you could go back in time and change one thing in your life, what would it be?" His answer to the question was one of simplicity and directness - that he wouldn't change anything, because every minute detail of his life so far had brought him up to this point, even if it did mean going to Queensbridge instead of a grammar school. I think this is an important message we can all take forward: to embrace what the future holds for us and allow our circumstances to be the making of us.

## ***The Heath's Author Evening Event***

*by Mrs Royall*

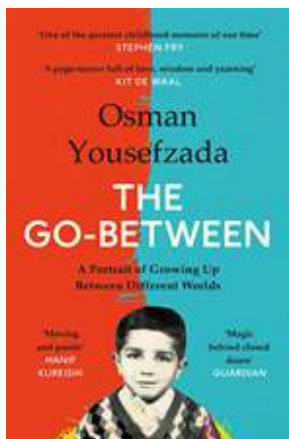
A fantastic afternoon culminated in a successful first event for The Heath bookshop at Camp Hill Girls. Owners Catherine and Claire described it as "an absolute treat" in their posts on Facebook and Instagram. As a school we were delighted to welcome an audience made up of many different people from our community: students past and present, parents, Camp Hill staff, regular supporters of the bookshop and teachers from local schools.

Similarly to the session with Years 12 and 13, I was delighted to ask Osman a few questions about the book and his experiences as well as inviting him to read two passages from the memoir. The audience also contributed excellent questions and were happy to queue up afterwards to meet Osman and get books signed. Thanks go to Ms Ryan and Mrs Strong who provided hot drinks and biscuits for guests while they waited, raising extra funds for Safi coffee. The Heath sold out of all of their copies of 'The Go-Between' and I collected a few additional orders the following week. You can still order a copy (and indeed any other books) directly from the shop, supporting independent businesses in our local community.



## ***Book review***

*by Ronan Maganty, Year 10*



After Osman Yousefzada's captivating talk at lunchtime, I decided to read his memoir; 'The Go-Between'. Osman grew up in Balsall Heath in an orthodox Muslim family in the 80s. In his book, he details the brutality people of colour faced, including gang rivalries and targeted hate crimes. He recounts the patriarchal norms in his community, where women were controlled by their husbands, facing honour-based violence. Girls were taken out of school as they reached puberty; education was seen as a man's world. He also depicts how Margaret Thatcher's policies caused the community to live in fear of deportation with the crushing impacts of the removal of factory jobs in Birmingham.

Reading 'The Go-Between' was an eye-opener. It made me realise how far Birmingham has progressed, to the point where its multiculturalism is known as its greatest asset. Seeing Yousefzada rebel against masculine expectations, and fight for creative freedom is inspiring, especially as his work influences the next generation of BAME artists to follow in his footsteps and defy the norm.





British Schools Gymnastics Association

## ***Trampolining Competition***

*by Tara McGuire, Year 13*

On Sunday 29th January, 15 students competed in the Zonal round of the BSGA Trampolining Competition after many weeks of training and practice. As part of the competition we performed one set routine, which consists of the same skills for all competitors, and the other was a voluntary routine where competitors could change skills to increase the difficulty of the routine.

We arrived at Hinckley Sports Centre filled with nerves and wanting to perform to our best abilities. Performing first were the two Year 11-13 teams, with Molly Egan, Cara Hanratty, Sofia Kang, Ayesha Naushahi, Megan O'Reilly, Anushka Shah and myself performing our routines. The first team came fifth, unfortunately not qualifying for nationals despite their best efforts, as only the top three teams made it to the next round. The second team came in third place and so qualified for nationals! Individually, Anushka came 14th, I was 16th and Cara placed 17th.

After a short lunch break and the morning reward ceremony, the trampolinists were back in action. Up next, the Years 9-10 teams competed, with Emma Bloxidge, Jess Tucker, Eveline Coca, Aliza Hanif, Mannsi Pagaria, Lola Parker, Annika Sinha and Deeksha Sharma performing their routines. The two teams placed 4th and 9th, with Emma placing in the top 10 individually at 10th place, followed by Jess who came 17th. Despite the Year 9-10 teams not qualifying for nationals, they all gave it their best and performed outstandingly.

We are all proud of how well we did in this competition, competing against other trampolinists from across the Midlands. We wish Cara, Anushka, Molly and Tara the best of luck with nationals!



# Sports Leaders

by Birle Tenekeci, Year 10

As many of you will know, a group of ten students (nine in Year 10 and one in Year 11) completed a sports leadership programme to develop five key skill areas: Communication, Self-Belief, Teamwork, Self-management and Problem Solving.

As a part of this they helped out at and organised many lunchtime sports clubs and arranged two tournaments (and a finals tournament) to involve their peers in sports activities. The first tournament was held on Wednesday 18th January after school and was based on basketball for Years 7-10. After teaching all the participants the rules and how to play, the knockout tournament began. The two undefeated teams then participated in the finals, held after school on 8th February.

On Tuesday 24th January another tournament, this time benchball, was held only for Year 7s and 8s. Over 100 students participated in this, and it was an incredible activity! Again, the two top teams took part in the finals round.

On Wednesday 8th February the Sports Leaders ran the finals tournament for both basketball and benchball. Unfortunately, a couple of teams and two Sports Leaders could not attend, so we had to find a way around this. After rearranging the order of play, and recruiting two helpers for the night, the finals ran very smoothly: everyone enjoyed themselves and there were very minimal injuries! Overall, it was a success.

Congratulations to team MJANAAR in Year 8 for winning the benchball, and Discombobulated in Year 9 for winning the basketball.

Planning and organising such events is not as easy as it seems and all the Sports Leaders improved their skills as a result of these sessions. When asked about what it was like to be a Sports Leader Bahar Kayani, Year 11, said: *"Being a member of this year's Sports Leaders Team has been great fun and it was a real pleasure to see the students taking part in the games. We learnt that organisation and time management both play key roles in the success of any group event or project."*

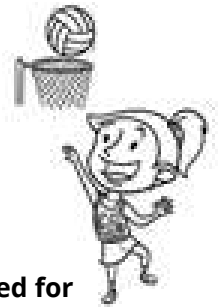
Well done to Birle Tenekeci, Shakthi Sreevats, Bahar Kayani, Tara Hemmings, Ojal Rao, Annika Sinha, Fatemah Babar-Raja, Ephrata Ayalew, Christina Mebrahtu and Maansi Pagaria for organising this.

Thank you so much to Miss Chapman and all the PE teachers for supporting us with everything we do and planning a variety of fun tournaments and activities - I am sure many of the Sports Leaders realised how hard it truly is to consider everything and work incredibly hard to provide memorable experiences.



# U16 Netball Schools Regionals

by Ayesha Naushari, Year 11



**After placing first at the U16 County Netball Tournament, our U16 netball team qualified for the Schools Regional Tournament in West Bromwich!**

On Sunday 5th February, the team all woke up early. Despite everyone wearing what seemed like too many layers, we were all freezing cold, the frost penetrating through our big puffer jackets, fluffy socks as well as hats and scarves. The team trekked to school to arrive at 7:20am in order to get on the coach in time for registration at 8:15am at The Phoenix Collegiate School. As the team dragged themselves in (some half-asleep) many smiles were shared between the team as morale became more and more optimistic. The team set off, music blasting, talking tactics and preparing ourselves for our opponents. First up: Stratford.

Ice and frost covered the courts, and the prospect of nearly two hours of games awaited the squad. Despite playing a good game, Camp Hill unfortunately came out with a 14-10 loss, however the performance was uplifting and there were many positives to be taken: the defence held up incredibly well against extremely talented county netball players, and ultimately a game of slim margins landed in Stratford's favour.

Throughout the tournament, the attack worked very hard to get free against what were incredibly solid defences. At the end of the day the record stood at two wins and four losses, and despite not making it further, the team fought incredibly well and has lots to be proud of for making it to regionals. Camp Hill came out on top against Lucton and Hagley, with scores of 14-2 and 10-6. The most difficult challenge came against Bromsgrove, who played together as a team incredibly well, unfortunately resulting in a loss. Even when on the back foot, however, the girls persevered and managed to score a few and make the defensive performance something to be proud of. Overall, Camp Hill Girls came 5th regionally, which is an incredible feat which cannot be understated by any means.

The entire squad played out of their skin together as a team and as a unit. Every single person worked hard for themselves, and for the team, and the team is right to be incredibly proud of themselves. On the day, three people helped the squad perform to the magnitude they did. First, Miss Keane and Mrs O'Grady were incredible, from organising practices beforehand as well as the logistics of the day, to positive encouragement within and after the games; they deserve the utmost gratitude, coaching the girls throughout and pushing them forward when down on their luck. Also, Faith, a student in Year 13, gave up her Sunday to come and help coach, something which the team recognises as a big sacrifice and we cannot thank her enough.

Overall, it was an exhausting day with hard-fought results against a very high standard of competition. Unfortunately it didn't lead to national qualification, but the county win and regional achievement is noteworthy enough alone. It was a great experience for all involved and very enjoyable for the eleven woman squad, as well as the three coaches. Massive congratulations to everyone!







## ***Year 11 Gurdwara Visit***

*by Aisha Asghar, Year 11*

Across the 10th and 12th of January, all of Year 11 had the fantastic opportunity to visit the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Smethwick. From start to finish the experience was truly exciting and gave us a real insight into the Sikh faith which supports our GCSE studies.

Before entering, everyone made sure to wear a head scarf and upon entering we took off our shoes and washed our hands as signs of respect. Then we were taken upstairs to one of the smaller prayer halls where the person who showed us around, Raj, explained some details that we hadn't been able to cover in class. This included details about the roles of women in Sikhi and some specifics of being a baptised Sikh. We were given the opportunity to ask any burning questions about Sikhi which I personally found really valuable in terms of increasing our knowledge and understanding of the religion: even Ms Woodward had questions to ask!

Afterwards we entered the main prayer hall. As a sign of respect, we were asked to give a small bow in front of the Guru Granth Sahib. It is small things like this that really highlight the importance of maintaining even the smallest parts of a religion and maintaining its values. The prayer hall itself was also very peaceful, with everyone sitting in front of the granthi who was reciting the Guru Granth Sahib in quiet meditation. We could all see just how important Sikhi was to the people there and the critical role it plays in their lives.

Finally, we were able to sit and enjoy the langar (community kitchen) which is open for anyone to try and serves vegetarian food so that no one is excluded (unless you had an allergy). It was super delicious and meant that we didn't have to worry about missing lunch. Throughout our visit, all the members of the Sangat (the Sikh community) were beyond welcoming. In fact, there was a very friendly old lady who said she was glad to see us taking interest in Sikhism and would like for us to visit again. It wasn't just that person, everyone at the Gurdwara was extremely kind and respectful and as Camp Hill ambassadors, we did our best to be just as respectful.

Overall, it is safe to say that the whole of Year 11 is grateful for the opportunity to see the Guru Nanak Gurdwara and match what we have learnt in class to the real life roles and applications.

*"The RS staff would like to thank all of Year 11 for their conduct at the gurdwara; you were all so engaged and interested in the experience that it was a joy to provide the experience for you."*

Ms Woodward





## ***Year 7 Church Visit***

*by Madeleine Gunn, Year 7*

On Thursday 9th and Friday 10th February, groups from Year 7 went on our first ever school trip at Camp Hill. To learn about what Christians do and believe, we visited St Martin's Church in the Bull Ring in Birmingham city centre.

At the church, Ms Woodward led us around, showing us the beautifully crafted, multi-coloured stained glass windows. We got to sit in the choir seats whilst being told about the main stained glass window which had a huge golden cross with people gathered around it. One window in particular had lots of famous people from the Bible and underneath each person had their name in Latin. The people on the window were the writers of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) and some famous prophets and kings: Moses, Elijah, King David and King Solomon. It also had images of the nativity and Jesus' death and resurrection. We were also able to see the altar. This is where the person preaching in the next Sunday service would stand to speak and the table where Christians would have communion.

Before we returned to school, we got to look around the church independently. Two things were particular highlights of the trip for us. Firstly, we were able to go into the pulpit which is sometimes used for preaching. The reason it is high up is so everyone can see and hear the person speaking. The other thing we loved seeing was the organ. On one side of the church were the keys where the organist would play and on the other side of the church was where the huge organ was. It no doubt makes a loud sound on Sundays!

We loved the trip and were buzzing when we got back to Camp Hill.



# Readathon 2022

by Ms McDermott

Year 7 students took part in the school's annual Readathon for a week in November. We are fully committed to Readathon as a school as it is a timely reminder to students that reading for pleasure is so important, both for academic success and wellbeing. Starting secondary school sometimes means more homework and longer journeys to school leading to less time spent reading, but we hope to get anyone in that position back into the habit of reading. Year 7 pupils are given time to read in school whenever possible during Readathon week, spending all of that week's English lessons in blissful silent reading!

For those who want to make this a fundraising opportunity, students receive a sponsorship card. Family and friends are able to motivate pupils to read even more by pledging money to Readathon as a reward for their efforts. All money raised goes to help ensure children in hospital can experience the enjoyment of reading by providing books and storyteller visits. Each year we award a prize to the best fundraising form and this time it went to 7Z - congratulations! Some individual students really impressed their English teachers with phenomenal amounts of sponsorship money collected and deserve a special mention:



Maumina Mahmud	£191
Summayah Raja	£121
Amaanah Visram	£120
Esther Ebube-Awunor	£100



However, we are grateful for every penny collected by students and all contributions are highly valued. Readathon have now sent this year's certificate, showing that we collectively raised a fantastic total of £1313.30. Well done Year 7 and keep reading!







This is to certify that  
by reading for fun the pupils of

King Edward VI  
Camp Hill School for Girls

have raised an amazing

£1,313.70

By completing your sponsored read  
you've helped us bring the magic of books  
and stories to children in hospital.



Well done and THANK YOU!

Sir Tony Robinson, patron

Justine Daniels, CEO

readforgood.org



*Next half term, students will have the chance to enter this year's Poetry by Heart competition. To participate, young people choose poems they love, learn them by heart, and perform them in a school competition. Teachers then record and submit a video of the winning performances for review by a panel of expert judges. The Poetry by Heart website provides an abundance of resources, tips and ideas regarding performance poetry. Camp Hill students are especially lucky to have the chance to be mentored by Iona Mandal who was a 2022 national finalist! Here she shares her reflections on this opportunity.*

## **Poetry by Heart**

*by Iona Mandal, Year 12*

As a lover of English literature, especially poetry, the art of performance has always been a creative outlet which has intrigued me. While writing is my main pursuit, I have learnt to value the act of sharing this deeply enriching art form with others, and performance has always been the most dynamic and rewarding medium for me to do so. Before there were books or even stone tablets with words and symbols on them, there was oral storytelling – an ancient and intimate tradition, unique to the human experience and born out of a necessity for communication. There is an utterly unique energy that is passed through the oral tradition, since it requires no additional effort in order to benefit from the tradition itself. You just have to be present, listening and paying attention.

Learning and performing two poems from the Poetry by Heart website (one published before 1914 and the other published in or after 1914) enabled me to explore a breadth of literature, spanning across canons and time periods. The repertoire of diverse work to choose from led to me exploring literature that was vastly different to what I would usually be inclined to read and perform. Moreover, the experience was immensely beneficial in building my confidence and public speaking skills. I was invited to perform *Adlestrop* by Edward Thomas for the 2023 PbH Launch on National Poetry Day (6th October 2022) at the Globe Theatre in London: a replica of the Elizabethan playhouse for which William Shakespeare wrote his plays, and thus a historically significant location for the art of performance. I also had the privilege of enjoying a free guided tour, meeting fellow finalists and teachers, our poet-mentor Daljit Nagra, Director of the Poetry Society Judith Palmer and Director of PbH, Julie Blake.



*At Shakespeare's Globe, London*

I would greatly encourage all students to participate in this enriching experience, especially those with an existing appreciation for writing and sharing work with an audience. The process is instrumental in developing key transferable skills, as well as catalysing the recognition and admiration literature deserves. If you are interested in partaking in the competition, use the code c3yrqho to join the Poetry by Heart googleclassroom and don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions before then!



*With Daljit Nagra, Poet  
Advisor and Judge*



*With Julie Blake,  
Director, Poetry by Heart*



*With Judith Palmer,  
Director, Poetry Society*



*The ballot box presented to the school when Ros retired.*

*Ros was involved in the time capsule project to celebrate the school's centenary in 1983.*



## ***Rosalind Jackson: Former Head of Sixth Form***

It is with deep sadness that we must inform you that Rosalind (Ros) Jackson has recently passed away; our thoughts are with her family and friends at this difficult time.

Ros was Head of Classics, and later Head of the Sixth Form, here at Camp Hill. She was a pupil here from 1947-1954, and a member of staff from 1958-1993.

Upon her retirement Ros presented the school with a wooden ballot box, which remains in the Sixth Form staff office. Inside the lid was a plaque inscribed with the first four lines of her favourite poem, "Auguries of Innocence" by William Blake; any student taught by Ros could recite these lines from heart:

*To see a World in a Grain of Sand  
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower  
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand  
And Eternity in an hour*

During her retirement Ros edited the book 'Portrait of a School: A pictorial history of King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls, Birmingham 1883 - 1999'. You can view a digital version of this book in the archives, [here](#).

Former students have described Ros as being "the memory bank of all the quirky traditions of Camp Hill" and standing out in their memory for her kindness & infectious enthusiasm. She also had a remarkable ability to recognise former students more than 20 years after she had retired. (A small handful of the many comments from former students are below.)

*She taught me Latin A Level and was instrumental in helping me get started in my career in London - I'll never forget her kindness.*

*A caring, kind and dedicated teacher and talented musician.*

*Ros Jackson was a remarkable woman, genuinely dedicated to her students.*

*A real tour de force and such a role model for making things happen.*

*She really was an amazing teacher who was a positive force in the lives of so many students.*

*Miss Jackson was by far the most influential teacher in my time at Camp Hill.  
May she rest in peace, assured that she gave so much and helped so many young people develop during their formative years at Camp Hill.*



# Sustainability News

*by Mr Cox, School Lead for Sustainability*

Everyone agrees that Camp Hill Girls should be as environmentally friendly as possible. Reducing the impact we have on the environment is a commitment that is also shared by the Foundation, the umbrella organisation of which Camp Hill Girls is a part. This year there are a number of initiatives, big and small, with precisely this aim in mind. One example is the bike racks which were recently installed, having been funded by Commonwealth Games legacy money.



## **School Council Sustainability Committee**

In December the School Council sustainability committee met to discuss the students' ambitions for the year ahead. There was some very well-informed and passionate discussion about increasing biodiversity around school, the environmental impact of the canteen and the possibility of generating electricity via solar panels. In the end, it was decided to focus on reducing waste as a priority.

The next step is to make concrete plans for how to reduce the waste produced by the school. There were many excellent suggestions in the meeting which can be developed in the remainder of the year: changing the setting on heating equipment, reducing the amount of paper used and setting up more swap shops for items like textbooks.



## **Modeshift STARS Active Travel Project**

This year we are very pleased to be taking part in a national initiative, 'Active Travel Ambassadors'. A group of nine Year 7 to Year 10 students have been working hard on ways to encourage more active travel to and from school. Active travel is any method of transport that requires you to be active, and that mostly means walking, cycling and wheeling (for wheelchair users).

Active travel has several big benefits. It reduces the reliance on carbon-intensive transport, especially cars, and also provides physical and mental health benefits to students who travel actively. Studies have shown that children who walk or cycle for just a few minutes in the morning arrive more awake and better prepared to learn than their peers who have arrived by car or bus. In addition, the whole project is student-led, so it's also a great opportunity for developing leadership, communication and planning skills.

The Active Travel Ambassador group have already had three sessions in school and have decided on the aims of their campaign. Over the next half term, they will be developing their plan and starting to share with the school what they would like to do to address the issues they have identified.



### **A Plea for Considerate Drop-Offs**

Getting as many staff and students to come to school using active travel methods is a long term goal. We know that, for the time being, many students are reliant on being driven to school in the morning, and being picked up at the end of the day.

We're very conscious of the impact that morning and afternoon traffic can have on the community around the school site.

If you drive your child to school, we ask that you please give consideration to the following:



**Drop-off responsibly: respect yellow lines and don't mount pavements or grass verges**



**Don't leave your engine running while stationary**



**Take extra care when reversing - you may not be seen by school children**



**Consider dropping your child off away from the busy streets around school, and let them walk the rest of the way**

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## ***Exam Invigilators***

We are looking to appoint reliable, flexible and confident individuals to join the invigilation team who can promote a supportive atmosphere for our students so that they achieve their best.

The invigilation team supports with the day to day smooth operation of examinations, the setting up of designated rooms, the supervision of students and ensures exam procedures and regulations are adhered to.

Successful applicants will be able to work alone or as part of a team, have a good eye for detail, be able to remain calm under pressure and will be required between the hours of 8:15am to 4:30pm during exam periods.

If you are interested please complete an application form which can be found here:

<https://www.kechg.org.uk/our-school/vacancies> and email it to [r.cloves@kechg.org.uk](mailto:r.cloves@kechg.org.uk) Closing date is Sunday 26th February 2023.





## ***First Aid***

*by Anushka Shah, Year 13*



On Tuesday 31st January, Ayesha Naushahi and I were given the opportunity to complete an emergency first aid course. The course was designed to provide us with the skills and knowledge necessary to respond to a variety of emergency situations.

First aid is a crucial skill that refers to medical attention that is usually administered immediately after an injury occurs and at the location where it happened. In this course, we learned about various first aid techniques, including placing someone in the recovery position, performing CPR, how to use a defibrillator, tending to minor wounds such as cuts or burns, and recognising and assisting people who are experiencing a stroke.

Of all the skills we learned in the course, I found learning about CPR and defibrillators the most valuable. CPR, or cardiopulmonary resuscitation, is a life-saving technique that can help revive a person who has stopped breathing; a defibrillator is a device used to deliver an electric shock to the heart to restore its normal rhythm. Knowing how to perform CPR and use a defibrillator can make a huge difference in emergencies and can help save lives. In addition to learning CPR and defibrillation, we also learned about the importance of placing someone in the recovery position. This position helps to maintain an open airway, which is crucial for breathing, and can help prevent choking. Our instructor demonstrated how to place someone in the recovery position, and we practised this technique several times on each other.

The course was a valuable experience for both of us. Not only did we learn life-saving skills, but we also gained confidence in our ability to respond quickly and effectively. We are grateful for the opportunity to complete this course and feel prepared to help others in an emergency. We believe that these skills are important for everyone to have, and we encourage all students to consider taking a first aid course. In an emergency situation, every second counts, and being able to respond effectively could save a life.

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## ***New and Improved Medical Room!***

*by Leen Abdalla, Year 9*

Ever been in the medical room? If yes, you've most likely encountered the infamous uncomfortable bench. I think it's fair to say that sitting and waiting in the medical room with the wall jabbing at your back is a universal Camp Hillian experience.

On the 9th November, a meeting with the school Governors and form reps was conducted, with ways to improve the school in mind. The issue of the wall in the medical room was addressed, and the Governors really understood our want for a more comfortable experience when sitting in the room. That being said, look out for the new and improved medical room! We would like to give a **huge thanks** to Mr Kinkhabwala for donating cushions that are now placed in the medical room and to Ms Swann (Chair of Governors) who led the meetings and allowed the Year 9 reps to feel that our voices truly matter when it comes to ways of bettering our school. Now, when sitting in the medical room you can enjoy the comfort of the new and improved bench.







## ***Fundraising for the DEC: Turkey and Syrian Earthquake disaster***

We are all devastated to read of the crisis in Turkey and Syria after the recent earthquake where tens of thousands of people have lost their lives and countless more are in need of immediate aid.

Both staff and students are keen to contribute and raise funds to support people in such difficult circumstances. We know that you too are keen to support such devastating events and we are so grateful for the £460 already raised through the collection at Songs from the Shows this week.

The school will continue to support the Disaster Emergency Committee, which combines 15 leading aid charities, to raise funds quickly and efficiently in times of crisis. We will be considering the suggestions made by the students and putting plans into place after half-term. Please look out for the ways in which they have fundraised for this important cause in the next issue of the Chronicle.



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## ***WWings of Hope Achievement Award (WOHAA) events and the Staff Talent Show***

This week saw some exciting and inspiring charity events that students in Years 10 - 12 have been organising for the charity Wings of Hope. Staff also displayed their talents as an end of term treat in order to raise money for the British Heart Foundation, in memory of our friend and colleague Julie Staniland.

Look out for all of the photos and details of these events in the next edition of the Chronicle.



# What University? & What Career? Live



This popular event is taking place at the NEC on **Friday 3 or Saturday 4 March** at the **NEC, Birmingham**; unfortunately this year we have been unable to arrange a visit for some of the students in the Friday BUT would like to encourage you to take your children on the Saturday.

This free event will give you and your children the chance to meet leading universities, employers and apprenticeship providers, including the University of Oxford, J.P. Morgan, NHS and Cardiff University.

You will have the opportunity to:

- Watch a packed programme of **35+ free presentations**, covering everything from choosing the right career path to why you should choose an apprenticeship
- Get **one-to-one careers advice** from independent experts
- Take part in **skills workshops**
- Plus much more!

The event also features dedicated talks and advice for parents looking for guidance on supporting teenagers as they make essential decisions about their future.

Further information and FREE tickets can be obtained from -

<https://www.whatcareerlive.co.uk/what-university-what-career-live-birmingham-2023>

## Unifrog – The Complete Destinations Platform



In keeping with our commitment to provide students with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next step after school, we will now be using Unifrog: an award-winning, online careers platform. All students in Years 9, 11, 12 and 13 now have access to this excellent website; and it will be launched with Years 7, 8, and 10 after half term.

The Unifrog platform is designed to support learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each student has their own personal account that provides a wide range of information related to their interests and aspirations. Key features of the platform include:

- Exploring Pathways – personality quizzes, career and subject profiles, MOOCs and webinars
- Recording – self-reflection about extracurricular activities and key employability skills
- Opportunities – search tools showing live vacancies/courses/placements for apprenticeships, universities (in the UK and abroad), FE, virtual work experience and much more
- Applications – tools to help students build applications for a range of pathways (e.g., CVs, Personal Statements, Common App Essays)

Once the accounts are set up, the students will be sent a welcome email. To access the platform for the first time they will need to click a link in their welcome email, where they create a password and can begin using the platform. After this, they login to Unifrog (unifrog.org) using their email address and password and they can do so from any computer, tablet or smartphone. We would encourage you to use the platform with your child so you can support them through the processes involved in deciding their next steps.

We have also set up a parent login so that you can use Unifrog as if you were a student yourself, allowing you to support your child throughout the process. To create your own account please visit

<https://www.unifrog.org/code> and use **KECHparents** as the sign up code. *This code is only valid for 90 days.*



If you would like any more information about Unifrog – please get in touch.

## Work Experience Summer 2023

### Placements

✕ No placements added

Go to tool >

Year 11 and Year 12 students have recently been reminded that now is the time to source their Work Experience Placements for this summer. All the information in relation to this has been emailed to the students and parents BUT it is also on our website:

<https://www.kechg.org.uk/parents-and-students/careers>

This year all placements will be submitted using the "Placements Tool" which is part of Unifrog.

A link to further information about the placements tool will be added to the careers section of the school website.

## National Apprenticeship Week



February 6th – 12th was national apprenticeship week. Modern apprenticeships can be very appealing to some students who would like to work whilst gaining their degree and not have the debt of a more traditional approach. Modern apprenticeships are available in a wide range of careers; please watch out for the newly improved section for Apprenticeships on the website. Soon (next year) students will be able to apply for apprenticeships via the UCAS website.

For a short introduction to apprenticeship, try this quiz (<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/the-apprenticeship-quiz-2023/>) and explore some of the other amazing resources on <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/> but also don't forget **UNIFROG!**

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## Calling all former CHG students!

Previously known as the Alumnae Society, the Camp Hill Girls' Community is for former students, former staff and other supporters.

We are relaunching, and want to reach as many former students and staff to be a part of it, so that we can all keep in touch with the school and with one another.

Please pass the message on to any former students you know!

Further details of what you can expect and how to join can be found on our website here: <https://www.kechg.org.uk/our-school/alumni> or you can email [alumnae@kechg.org.uk](mailto:alumnae@kechg.org.uk)

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For the latest news on help and support available for families in Birmingham, please click [here](#) to access the Hall Green Communities website..



**Hall Green**  
Communities



# Dates for Your Diary

## March



**Year 12 Politics  
Parliament Trip**



**Year 8  
Progress Evening  
(virtual)**



**Year 10 Geography  
Carding Mill Valley  
Trip**



**Instrumental  
Progress Evening  
at CHB**



**Year 9  
Options Evening**



**Y12 Geography  
Bristol Trip**



**Y12 Geography  
Weston Bay Trip  
Teatime Concert  
@ CHB**



**Year 11  
Art & Graphics  
exams**



**Year 10  
Latin trip to Bath**



**Years 9-11  
Belgrade Theatre Trip  
Year 12  
Post-18 Evening**



**Year 9  
Progress Evening  
(virtual)**



**Year 11  
Music & Drama  
Practicals**



**Whole School Photo**



**Year 9  
Options Deadline**



**House Fair**



**End of term**