

Camp Hill Girls' Chronicle

End of Autumn Term
2021



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your family are well and looking forward to some time together over the festive period. We have had a very busy half term with a number of activities and events in the lead up to the Christmas break. It was really good to be able to invite parents into school for our Senior Prize Giving event and for the Christmas Concert. Obviously we have been very mindful of the continuing infection rates across the West Midlands and therefore these events were organised to limit, as much as possible, the potential for infection. To have the school filled with the sounds of celebration and song is something we have missed over the past 21 months. Our Year 11 and 13 students have successfully negotiated their way through assessments and I hope that they can now really enjoy their time away from school over the next two weeks.

I am still not able to share with you the outcomes from our Ofsted visit which took place on 17/18 November as the official report has yet to come to school to be checked. This should arrive in the first week of the new term. I can say that we were delighted with the verbal feedback because it recognised the contributions made by everyone in our school community. Our thanks to you for your support in responding to the parental survey. I will send you some selected comments once the report is published.

This December we will be saying goodbye to two of our senior staff, Miss Gouldsworthy, Assistant Head and Mrs Leigh, Director of the Initial Teacher Training SCITT, KEC. Mrs Leigh has led the KEC consortium for 6 years and has made such a difference to the way in which trainees are supported over their programme. Her outstanding leadership has seen the KEC recognised at a national level and her opinion on initial teacher training is valued and sought in roundtable discussions at the highest level by ministers. On a daily basis Mrs Leigh provides outstanding training at the centre and beyond, supporting the trainee teachers and the subject staff who mentor and lead teacher training in 22 schools across the consortium. She has been a valued colleague and we will miss her.

Miss Gouldsworthy, Assistant Head here at Camp Hill will also be leaving us at the end of term. However, she is not going far, just across to the sportshall in fact where she will take over as Director of Initial Teacher Training for our consortium of schools. Miss Gouldsworthy has been a valued member of staff at Camp Hill for the past 9 years and we will really miss her many and varied contributions to school life. Her work with trainee teachers, newly qualified staff and staff new to Camp Hill has been valued by all. In addition, she has led the drive to see Equality, Diversity and Inclusion championed not just in our school but across the other Foundation schools. Miss Gouldsworthy has provided outstanding teaching in the Modern Languages department and I know students and staff will miss her. As a member of the Senior Leadership Team she has provided invaluable support, particularly over the past 21 months which have been so challenging for schools.

I am also writing to let you know of my intention to leave Camp Hill at the end of this academic year (August 2022). I have often said that teaching is the best job in the world and I truly believe it, which has made the decision to stop very hard. The opportunity to lead Camp Hill over the past nine years has been such a privilege, however, I think it is the right time for the school, the Foundation and for me. It had been my intention to leave two years ago but the impact of the pandemic on school meant that I felt I needed to delay that decision. I know that I have only been a small part of the history of our school but I am very proud of what we have achieved and of the place that it is in today. I will leave knowing that there are so many more exciting opportunities for the staff, students and the school to explore in the future. I would like to express my sincere thanks to parents, students, Governors and staff (past and present), as I could not have had better support and friendship over my years as Head.

And of course a quote:

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."
A.A Milne (Winnie the Pooh)

Take care and enjoy the break

Linda Johnson
Headteacher



Year 7 Readathon Week

by Fatima Syeda & Ameera Sultan



This term all of Year 7 took part in Readathon week from Saturday 22nd to Friday 26th November.

Readathon week gave us the opportunity to explore more books, with the idea of reading to benefit not just ourselves, but the children in hospital who can't experience the enjoyment of reading. We received a sponsor card to stimulate our reading, where our family or friends - not strangers though! - could sponsor us for how many books, magazines, newspapers or audiobooks we listened to or read.

The entire week was jam-packed full of reading. During the week of Readathon, our PSHE lessons and English lessons were replaced with time to read, where we also discussed what we were reading. In our other subjects, our teachers ensured that we had time to read at the start of the lesson, or when we had finished a task. We even spent registration absorbed in a book! A graphic novel called 'ILLEGAL' by Andrew Donkin and Eoin Colfer, and the Week Junior (a children's newspaper) were in our classroom so that we could read something different for Readathon.

When you're next reading something, remember that it's benefiting you in a variety of ways.

On the Friday afternoon of Readathon week, we were visited by three special guests. The afternoon started with Catherine O'Flynn introducing us to her new book, 'Lori and Max 2', and telling us a little about herself and how she became an author. She then gave us tips on how to start a detective story and set us a challenge to kickstart our creativity. Some people who had bought books from the 'Lori and Max' series also had the opportunity to get them signed with a personal message from Catherine herself..



After that, a close friend of Mrs Royall, Liz Brown, had very kindly recorded a video of her reciting poetry. The extract she read was from 'Brand New Ancients' by Kate Tempest. The poem brought out the ordinary aspects of Greek Gods and was interesting to listen to. Although Liz was unable to attend in person, her recitation left a lasting impression on us.

Lorraine Mighty then talked to us about our favourite books and our choice on the form she had recently sent out. It was found that in Year 7's choices, several books and authors repeatedly came up such as 'Harry Potter', 'The Hunger Games' and 'Wonder'. Lorraine also picked out several books for their striking front covers. Towards the end of her talk with us, she revealed her nominations for 'Star Reader' award as she was impressed by the students' choices and how original and unique their books were.

As the afternoon continued Graham Langley, a storyteller from Readathon, entertained us with a short story about a coffin rolling down a hill and flying open on a chemist's table! He then finished with a myth which involved a prince, an old lady and a massive lungworm. At the end of the day, Mrs Royall reminded us about collecting sponsorship money, which will go towards Readathon and supplying children in hospital with books to read.

On behalf of all of Year 7, we would like to say an enormous thank you to Mrs Royall - for giving us this delightful opportunity - Read for Good, Catherine O'Flynn, Liz Brown, Lorraine Mighty and Graham Langley.



Year 7 Walking Club

Sometimes you need something to refresh and brighten your day... A walk outside, alongside nature, can dramatically change how we feel about ourselves, our day and the world around us. Even the small things we take for granted can start to mean so much more - from the crunching sound of the leaves to the birds' tuneful melodies.

Adjusting to life in a new school is not without its challenges so a break in the school day and a chance to get outside is often welcome. Walking Club has recently been set up and it has been brilliant at getting us outside but also giving us the chance to make friends in other tutor groups too. This 'walk and chat' allows us to take notice of the natural world around us and it really helps our mental wellbeing.

When we are out for our walks, we go all over the Camp Hill Site. We take an intricate route through the school estate, trekking across our fields and then cutting into our playground via the boys' playing fields and playground. Sometimes we find different types of fungi and plants - although we cannot guarantee survival in the boys' playground as there are lots of merciless footballs flying around followed by table tennis balls!

At times, we have seen a freight train speeding behind the boys' school and we point out birds and squirrels that hide in the undergrowth of our grounds. We love looking for fungi: they are ingenious organisms!

Walking Club is run by Ms Morris (Head of Psychology) and Mrs Strong (Head of Year 7) and takes place every Wednesday at 1pm, weather permitting. We meet on the playground, so interested Year 7 students should bring appropriate footwear - the fields can be rather muddy!



Rishali 7V and Sananda 7X



Art Department News

On 25th November, we finally managed to take our A level Art students to a real Art Gallery! Galleries are slowly starting to take group bookings again and The Hayward Gallery have been showing their excellent 'Mixing It Up' exhibition of 31 contemporary artists whose specialisms are painting in all its forms. When we can see art close up, we gain a much better appreciation of the scale of artists' work, and the textures and brushstrokes on the painted surface.

Our artists were engaged in sketching and analysing the work, and were able to share their thoughts and opinions as we walked through the exhibition spaces.

We were fortunate with the weather as we walked a short distance along the South Bank. It was sunny, but very cold which made it difficult passing by the festive hot food and drink stalls en route to the Gallery!

Thank you to all the A level artists who were a pleasure to take to London.

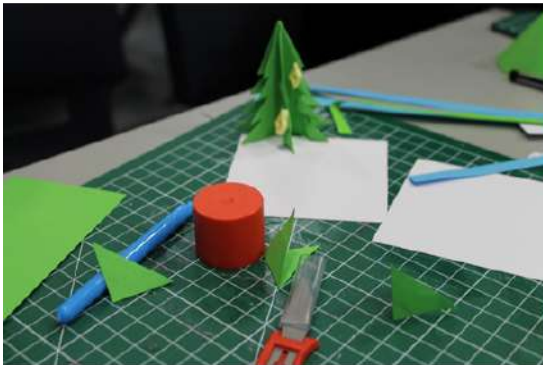
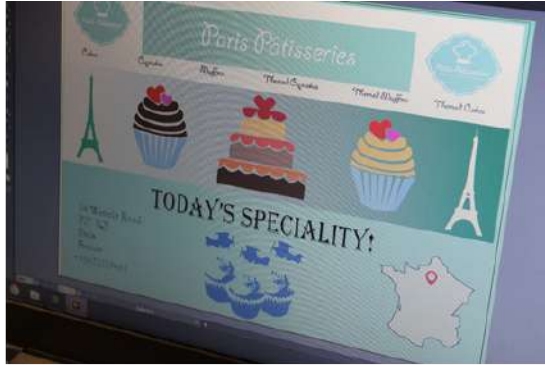


Life Drawing is an important skill for all artists in the Sixth Form to learn and develop. We are lucky to be able to work with an excellent and experienced model and have started our extra-curricular workshops again this term, which have been very well attended. Congratulations to all artists involved.



Year 9 Baking Challenge

Miss Tidd and Miss Stait spent last week working with Year 9 classes on their muffin baking and marketing challenge.



Forms split into small groups to bake, decorate and market their chocolate chip muffins. They created some wonderfully elaborate and sometimes festive packaging, as well as designing a brand and marketing website. Each day a key member of staff has had the pleasure of judging the final presentations. We have seen some very professional and thoughtful outcomes throughout the week and congratulate Year 9 on their excellent attitudes and cooperation. Also a huge thank you to Miss Tidd and Miss Stait for making the week such a success, and of course to all the judges who helped out.



Here's to a creative New Year and a happy festive break.

Ms K Irving

Year 11 Gurdwara Trip

by Maya Desai, Iona Mandal, Aahana Suman and Hibah Iqbal (11W)

Recently, as part of a Religious Studies trip, Year 11 visited Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Smethwick, with the intention of broadening our understanding of the Sikh faith and experiencing aspects of a gurdwara. It was truly a pleasure to have the privilege of going on a trip after the COVID restrictions - and being able to speak and ask questions to practising Sikhs was incredibly eye-opening.

We began our journey by entering the building, making sure to put on our head coverings and take off our shoes before doing so. After being greeted by our tour guide for the morning, we washed our hands, as an expression of purity and respect for the place of worship. Our tour guide then explained the significance of this particular gurdwara, mentioning that it was established over 60 years ago, in a former church building. This confluence of religions seemed to emphasise the diversity we have in the UK, as well as highlight the importance of a place of worship for a religion that was not so prevalent here six decades ago. Since many Sikhs migrated to Britain during the 50s, this gurdwara was one of the ways in which many connected with their faith, despite the hardships they faced being so far from home.

We were then led to the main prayer hall, where a reading of the Guru Granth Sahib was taking place. We paid our respects and were then allowed to sit in the hall in order to listen to the reading. It was an enriching and interesting experience where we were able to relate what we had learned in our RS lessons to an integral aspect of the religion of Sikhism, and see first hand many aspects of the gurdwara. We were then offered Karah Parshad, a sweet snack distributed to everybody at the end of readings and ceremonies, to symbolise Sikhism's belief in equality and the unity of humanity. It also symbolises the idea that no one should leave the gurdwara empty handed. Being able to sit in the prayer hall and being offered Karah Parshad gave us an interesting and valuable insight into the religion, and has furthered our understanding of the religious practices seen in Sikhism.

After spending some time listening to the readings in the main prayer hall, we made our way to the langar hall. Langar is the free meal served in the gurdwara throughout the day on every single day of the year. It is offered to everyone, regardless of their gender, wealth, faith or background. It was introduced over 500 years ago by Guru Nanak (the founder of the Sikh faith, and the first of the ten gurus). Only vegetarian food is served, in order to make it inclusive of all faiths. Everybody sits on the floor to eat together, the food is served in the same metal plates and cups, and nobody holds priority while waiting in line, all of which show equality and the 'oneness of humanity' - a belief holding great importance in Sikhism. The langar is run by volunteers, and it's seen as a great privilege to help out, as Sikhs believe that helping those around them essentially means they are serving God. It is said that some of the tenth Guru's last words were "Keep the langar ever open", indicating that he believed the practice to be a central part of the Sikh faith. The meal we ate consisted of chapattis, a lentil dish (dal makhani), sweet rice noodles (sewai) and a yoghurt raita. The hall also had an amazing display of key dates in the Sikh faith, infographics and beautiful paintings, which we all admired as we ate.

The trip was a wondrous and inspiring experience, enriching us with not only knowledge of the beautiful faith, but some key concepts which we all can learn from and implement within our lives, and some good habits and attributes as well.

The RS department would like to thank all of Year 11 for the fantastic behaviour at the gurdwara. The guides were so impressed by the excellent questions and the respect shown. We hope Year 11 will remember this special day for years to come.



Chemistry Society - Biopolymer Practical

by Aahana Jain, Year 12



Restricted learning over the past two years has impacted many aspects of school life, which we otherwise took for granted. In the sciences, the change affected our ability to carry out practicals, with many students remaining in a classroom or at home for chunks of the school year. This prevented participation in lab-based activities that would usually enhance our learning through conducting experiments. So, when the brilliant Year 13 leaders of Chemistry Society: Aarushi Malik and Shree Kumaresan, announced an opportunity to take part in a practical, 20 Year 12 students leapt at the chance to engage in an exciting biopolymer investigation.

Greeted by two students from the University of Birmingham, our cohort of chemists entered Lab One, eager to discuss, perform and analyse this exciting investigation. Having gone through the scientific detail behind the practical a week before, we came to the session prepared with our hypotheses for the experiment. After a quick summary by the undergraduates on the structure, use and properties of biopolymers, we started the practical.

Alginate can be used as a thickening and gelling agent in the food industry[1]. Found in seaweed and kelps[2], we used two of its polymers 'M' and 'G', dyed blue and red for identification, and observed each of their responses after being dropped via a pipette into a solution containing calcium ions. We observed that while both formed little gel balls resembling tapioca pearls or 'boba', the 'G' polymer's spheres clumped together, often floating on the surface or midway through the liquid, while the 'M' polymers usually sank to the bottom[3].



After watching this spherification take place, we emptied out our beakers and were allowed to touch the gelatinous balls. Holding the small spheres in our hands, we were asked to verbally conclude our experiment and state whether our hypotheses were true, as well as the potential uses for the different alginates relative to their properties.

The Chemistry Society Year 12 students ended the interactive session with thanks to the university students for visiting us, and providing us with an introduction to biopolymers and an additional practical experience that encouraged us to become more curious and hands-on in our scientific journeys.

[1] <https://www.elveflow.com/microfluidic-reviews/droplet-digital-microfluidics/sodium-alginate-and-applications-a-review/> (date accessed: 5/12/21)

[2] <https://edu.rsc.org/download?ac=12159> page one (date accessed: 5/12/21)

[3] <https://youtu.be/N0SOLOhC4v4> (date accessed: 5/12/21)



Poetry Success for Sadeen!

We are delighted to hear that Year 8 student, Sadeen Ahmad, has had her poem, 'The Human Mechanism of Dancing', published online in a competition organised by Spark Writing Magazine. Do enjoy her poem which is printed below:



The Human Mechanism of Dancing

her elegant feet spoke beautiful melodies of songs: with one belting out the lyrics.

a beautiful serenity that flowed like bending water.

no words spoken, just emotion pounding with every twirl and step.

encapsulating the tears and laughs that made this movement a flowing river.

those calloused, bruised feet now effortlessly twirling and pointing.

flashes of blue and pink fabric daring to twirl with the dancer.

the dancing now almost melting in the music,

like it was a swan gliding on its own: no restraining chains or words to hold it back.

a rhythm drawing all eyes in.

painting a picture of things too good to be true.

finishing with a never-ending, hypnotising twirl that could take away your breath.

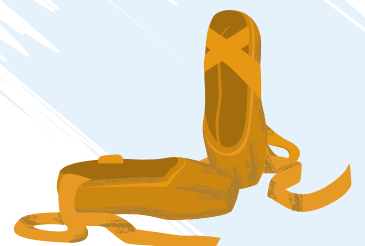
ending with a standing ovation, conjoined with cries and hollers and of people watching,

breathing,

feeling,

and living

for ballerina dancing.





Year 13 House Dance Competition

by Mya and Huda, the Lichfield House Captains

The afternoon of Wednesday 20th October, Year 13 donned their house colours and headed to the Sports Hall for a 'mystery house event'. Upon arrival they were greeted by the eager House Prefects and numerous large music speakers!

Typically, during the last few weeks of the Summer Term, Year 12 enjoy hosting 'House Festival' for the rest of the school: a day of house-related events from Craft to House Song in order to win the House Cup. Unfortunately, due to COVID-safety regulations, this was unable to take place. To compensate for this, the House Dance (which usually takes place during House Festival) was organised for Year 13 only to allow us time to de-stress amongst a busy term of UCAS applications and entrance exams.

The event entailed each House spending around 50 minutes choreographing a dance to the song 'Kiss You' by One Direction. This had been chosen by the House Captains. It was then performed in front of the other Houses and a panel of teacher judges in a bid to win the ultimate prize of bragging rights for the rest of the year!

The judges assigned points to the dances which were full of lifts and human cars(!) based on: synchronisation, the involvement of every person, dance creativity and (most importantly) enthusiasm! After careful deliberation... Lichfield were declared the winners!

On behalf of Year 13 and the House Prefects we'd like to thank the Senior Leadership Team, Sixth Form Heads and the PE department for organising the event. It was a fantastic, enjoyable and memorable afternoon!

A special thank you to the Languages department and Miss Hawthorne for allowing us to chase them down for speakers and cables at 8am!

And thank you to Year 13 for taking part so enthusiastically!



Chamber Choir Concert at Highbury Hall

On Tuesday 14th December, members of Chamber Choir and Flute Choir set off to do our annual Christmas concert at Highbury Hall, in aid of Muscular Dystrophy UK. Due to the pandemic, for the last two years, we were unable to perform a Christmas concert live and so it was really exciting to be allowed to play music (in a covid-safe manner, of course!). Many members of the flute choir and all singers in Years 10 and 11 had never been to a Highbury concert, and the first-time experience was unforgettable. For the older members of the chamber choir, the concert brought back lots of nostalgia and memories of Christmas pre-covid, brightening up the stress of assessments!

While we were there, the hosts held a raffle, as well as some lucky dips in which anyone could win a prize, and many parents of the students took part. As well as this, they served some delicious mulled wine and mince pies for anyone who had bought a ticket, in order to generate lots of festive spirit!

We sang repertoire from a variety of composers, such as Rutter's "Angel's Carol" and Chilcott's "Star of Bethlehem", which was something new that we'd only learnt this year! As well as this, some of the Sixth Form students were able to sing some extra music, such as "Nativity" by Tavener, and there were opportunities for solos, with two Year 12 students singing a duet in "Spring Carol" from Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols", which the audience loved.

Flute choir, directed by Mr Hay, played a number of festive pieces, including an excellent quartet, made up of Sixth Formers. The music was really enjoyable and helped to add to the Christmas atmosphere, in between performances from Chamber Choir and the brass band.

At the end of the concert, we had the opportunity to join the audience in singing some carols such as "Away in a Manger" and "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing", which was accompanied by the Birmingham conservatoire brass band, who also performed some jovial pieces throughout the concert! By the end of the concert, everyone's voices were tired and we were all exhausted, but, like every year, we went home happy that we had taken part in this!

We would like to thank Miss Hawthorne for directing Chamber Choir and preparing us for the concert. We would also like to thank Mr Hay and Flute Choir for also playing. All in all, the concert was a great success and we raised lots of money to help sufferers of muscular dystrophy and their families. We are already looking forward to next year's celebrations!

by Mollie Wallace and Rose Turner, Year 12



Camp Hill Alumni Advanced Musicians Pursuing Music at University or Conservatoire

We have a strong musical tradition here at Camp Hill, and are extremely proud of the achievements of all of our musicians.

- 2021 Anna Sutton - Oxford choral scholarship
- 2020 Amalia Wardle - Oxford choral scholarship
- 2019 Isabella Millicheap – Sheffield
- 2017 Mayah Lewis – Glasgow
- 2016 Flick Smith – Birmingham,
Ruth Owens – Royal Northern College of Music
- 2015 Corliss Luong – Sheffield (Music and Korean studies)
- 2014 Sarah Batten – Christchurch, Oxford,
Helena Logah – Royal Northern College of Music,
Megan Santer – Sussex /BIMM Brighton
- 2013 Lucy Bacon – Leeds and Sorbonne, Paris,
Eleanor Redman – Leeds,
Lucy Templeton – Kings College, London



Christmas Concert 2021: A Musical Celebration!

Monday 13th December saw the return of the traditional Camp Hill Schools' joint Christmas Concert and it was wonderful to be able to celebrate the vast musical talent that exists across our two schools.

Due to covid, we were not able to welcome as many family members as in previous years but, great care had been taken to ensure spaced seating in the hall and on our well-ventilated balcony.

The audience was treated to an eclectic mix of cabaret and festive numbers including: 'New York, New York', 'The Pink Panther', 'White Christmas', 'Let It Snow' and the Chamber Choir classic: 'The 12 Days After Christmas'!

The students and their respective music teachers had worked so hard this term to ensure such polished performances - and there was much foot-tapping and gentle swaying to be seen across the hall as the audience was swept along with the uplifting festive music.

Huge thanks to Miss Hawthorne and Mr Palmer for organising such a special evening. Thanks also go to our peripatetic music team: Mr Hay, Mr Drew and Ms Millar for all their expert teaching of students in preparation for the concert.





National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Sophie Jobanputra in Year 12 who has gained a much-coveted violin chair in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

All Booked-Up for Christmas!

We are proud of our reading culture at Camp Hill Girls' School. There are plenty of opportunities for our students to read for pleasure with our well stocked library and regular book recommendations.

You may have recently heard about another way for students to access a diverse range of quality texts. We have teamed up with a local independent bookshop, The Bookshop on the Green, located in Bournville. They have provided us with a bespoke web page where students, parents and friends can order books. On the website you'll find regularly updated book recommendations for a range of subject areas, as well as our KS3 book of the fortnight and KS4 book of the month.

You can find the webpage here: <https://uk.bookshop.org/shop/camphillschoolforgirls>

10% of the value of all online purchases will come to the school and will be used to further extend the fantastic range of books available for students to borrow in school. Please do visit the website to see the exciting range of texts and perhaps do some Christmas shopping!

Mrs Z. Tromans
Subject Leader for English

**Looking for book inspiration? Check out
the Camp Hill School for Girls Bookshop**



Camp Hill School for Girls

10% every purchase comes back to our school!

<https://uk.bookshop.org/shop/camphillschoolforgirls>

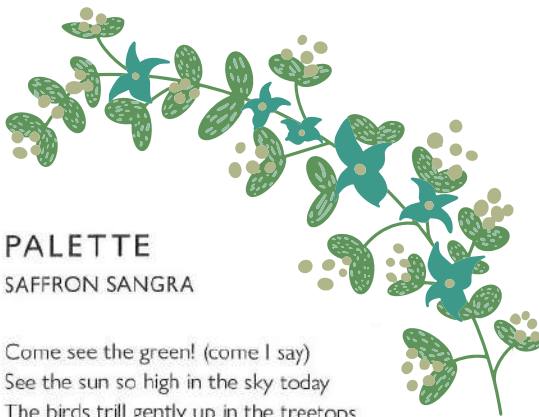
Poetry and Plants!

Students Sadeen Ahmad (8V) and Saffron Sangra (10L) have had poems published in a beautiful anthology to celebrate the 400th birthday of the Oxford Botanic Garden.

The 'Into the Green' poetry project was launched to mark this milestone anniversary of plant science in Oxford - and was run jointly by the Botanic Garden and the Bodleian Libraries.

The winning poems were selected by award-winning poet and Professor of Poetry, Alice Oswald.

Congratulations go to both Sadeen and Saffron on this fantastic achievement.



PALETTE

SAFFRON SANGRA

Come see the green! (come I say)
See the sun so high in the sky today
The birds trill gently up in the treetops
And the wind wound lazily through the copse

Algae, absinthe, artichoke green
Every hue known all be seen
On this one summer's day, so mellow
Under the shining sunlight yellow

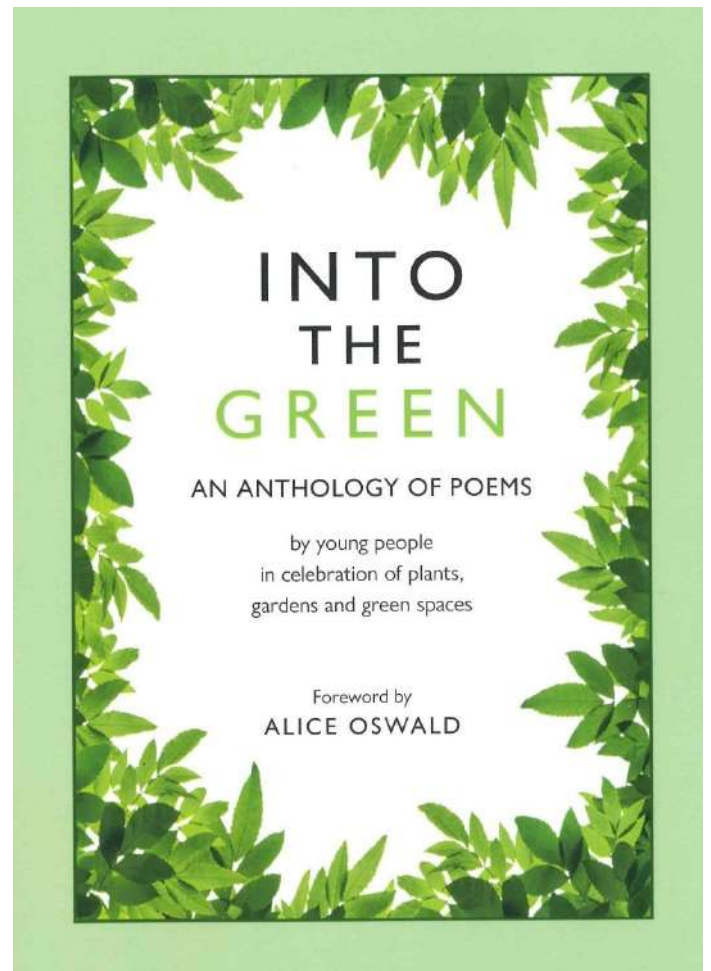
Darker now, deep Dartmouth green
A cooler shade to set the scene
The floor dappled with rays of sun
Shadows growing, marking time 'til the day is done

River, stream, dew and brook
Running water and cawing rook
The jewels in the water and the gold in the air
Oh loving wind running its fingers through my hair

Behind the sea of trees the sun sinks
Staining the sky in reds, blues, purples and pinks
A chill creeps in through the branches and the sky of crayon
A reminder that another day has gone

Remember this for times to come
For when yet another day is done
It is the green that is constant and always there
Comforts and greet when you have laid all bare

Come see the green! (come I say)
Come pass the day away
And keep time's passing at bay.



MY CHILD, MY FLOWER

SADEEN AHMAD

Concealed from the outer skies of blue and white,
snuggled tight like a baby in a blanket.
Its beauty was still stirring, quietly, but any day and it would burst.
There was the bud.

Minute petals seeping out like water wringed from a saturated cloth.
It was already my big girl: already a piece of life.
Its beauty was still stirring, quietly, but any day it would burst.
There were the small petals.

It's crawling out: stretching its hand-like leaves for a hug.
Now it's yearning for liquid. It's hungry like a baby.
Its beauty stirring was nearly complete, quickly, but any day and it would be my child.
There were the last blush pink petals blooming.

There was my piece of heaven on the ground,
I guess it really elevated itself from those dusky, coffee-coloured pieces of ground.
Its beauty is doubtlessly there, contently but today my babies grown.
There were its rosy pads flourishing in the outer skies of blue and white.

There was my child, my flower



WE ARE HERE TO HELP FAMILIES



**Hall Green
Families**

Phone/ Text/ WhatsApp us on **0757 0953 519**
Email: hallgreen.families@greensquareaccord.co.uk
Website: hallgreencommunities.org.uk/familysupport

Follow us on @HallGreenFamilies   



Hall Green Families

We provide free and confidential Early Help for children, young people and families across the Hall Green locality. This includes Balsall Heath, Hall Green, Kings Heath, Moseley, Sparkbrook & Sparkhill. Early Help connects families to organisations and settings to ensure they get the right help close to home.

Please get in touch if you have any questions: hallgreenfamilies@greensquareaccord.co.uk

Family Support over Christmas Holidays

Food Support over the Festive Season				Hall Green Families		
Service Type	Organisation	Address	Community Offer	Telephone	Email Address/Website	
Moseley & Sparkhill	Food Bank Referrals	The Springfield Project Children's Centre	The Springfield Centre, Springfield Road, Moseley, B13 9NY	Family and early years support inc. breastfeeding support, Food bank referrals, wellbeing support, safety advice & signposting	0121 777 2722	info@springfieldproject.org.uk
	Food Pantry	The Springfield Pantry	St Edmunds Church, Reddings Lane, Tyseley, Birmingham, B11 3DD	Food Pantry: Joining fee of £4 per week to access a weekly shop for all the family. Mondays 9.30-11.30 or 12.30-2.30	0121 777 2722	info@springfieldproject.org.uk
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath	Food Bank	Anawim	228 Mary Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham, B12 9RU	Food parcels but only for women & need to attend the drop in session between 10-2pm	0121 440 5296	https://anawim.co.uk/
	Food Bank Referrer	Balsall Heath Church	Mary Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham, B12 9JU	Referrer for Edward Road	0121 440 1138	foodbank@narthex.org.uk
Hall Green North	Food Parcels	Daar-ul-Jannah Advice Centre	861 Stratford Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 8BH	Please arrange for food parcel collections only	0121 792 5442	daar-ul-jannah@hotmail.com
Hall Green South	Food Club	Highfield Hall	127-129 Highfield Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 0HS	Food club membership for local people. £1 membership fee and then £3.50 for a weekly shop.	0121 439 2690 / 07470 153 525	birminghamfoodclubs@family-action.org.uk
Kings Heath	Food Bank	Food Bank	80 High Street, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ	Wednesdays between 12noon and 2pm (prefer referrals but will help with emergencies).	0121 444 1230	Elaine.Hyde@newlifebaptistchurch.org.uk
	Pay As You Feel surplus food bags	Incredible Surplus. Kings Heath Community Centre	8 Heathfield Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7DB		0121 464 6717	incrediblesurplus.org
Central/Citywide	Cooked Food	Homeless One	10 New Bartholemew Street, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 5QS	Meals served 6-7.30pm 7 days a week. For all.	07979 767 979	N/A
	Food Parcels	Foodo Needo	24-28 Smithfield House, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6BS	Food parcels for collection only. Fridays 2-4pm	0300 311 1312	info@feedoneedo.org.uk
	Baby Resources	Baby Aid Birmingham	babyaidbirmingham.co.uk	Baby equipment, clothing, nappies & food. Online referrals.	7706655110	hello@babyaidbirmingham.co.uk



December 2021

Food Support

Sparkhill Food Bank— Appointments by referral only. Mon 13:00 - 15:00, Balsall Heath Church Centre, B12 9JU. | Wed 10:30—12:30, St John's Church, B11 4AE. Tel: **0121 708 1398** or go to: <https://sparkhill.foodbank.org.uk/>.

Highfield Hall Food Bank— Open everyday except bank holidays. Please call in advance of visiting to request a food parcel. Tel: **0121 439 2690**. Email: info@highfieldhall.org.uk.

Food Parcels at Daar-ul-Jannah Advice Centre— Tel: **0121 792 5442**. Mobile: **07847661022**. 861 Stratford Road, B28 8BH. Email: daar-ul-jannah@hotmail.com. Closed 24th—28th.

Incredible Surplus food parcels— Friday Dec 17th & Monday Dec 20th 2021 | 12:00 pm – 2:00pm, Kings Heath Community Centre, B14 7DB.

Health and Wellbeing Support

Birmingham Mind— Adults can get support from MIND 7 days a week. Call: **0121 262 3555**. Email: help@birminghammind.org. For urgent help, contact Forward Thinking Birmingham on **0300 300 0099**.

Umbrella Sexual Health— Free sexual health services for Birmingham. Pregnancy testing & advice, free contraception, STI testing kits and abortion advice. Tel: **0121 237 5700**. Website: www.umbrellahealth.co.uk

Kooth— An online wellbeing community for young people aged 11-25years, with forums, guides and counselling available. Website: <https://www.kooth.com/>

Pause—Mental health call back telephone support for 0-25yrs. Tel: **02078414470**. Email: askbean@childrenssociety.org.uk. 10am-5pm Mon-Sat, closed Sundays and Bank Holidays. **If you are in crisis contact the Access Centre on tel: 0300 300 0099.**

Drug and Alcohol service: Change Grow Live, 9:00—17:00 weekdays. Tel: **0121 227 5890**. Email: birmingham.info@cgl.org.uk.

Domestic Abuse Support

Anawim— Emotional and practical support with finance, housing, domestic abuse, for women. Shower facility, food parcels, clothing, toiletries and baby supplies. Mon-Fri 10am-2pm Emergency drop-in support. Tel: **0121 440 5296**. Email: referrals@anawim.co.uk.

Women's Aid— Available every day between 9:15am—5:15 pm, apart from 26th and 27th Dec 2020. Call: **0808 800 0028**. Email: info@bswaid.org

The **Home Options Hub** is for women at risk of homelessness from abuse. Open every day except Bank Holidays. Call: **0808 169 9604**.

Men's Advice Line— Telephone/webchat emotional support, practical advice and information for men. Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. Call: **0808 801 0327**. Email: info@mensadvice.org.uk. Website: <https://mensadvice.org.uk/>

WAITS: Birmingham domestic abuse support service. Call: **01214401443**. Website: www.waitsaction.org.

Financial & Digital Support

Benefit & Debt Advice: Ashiana Community Project, Sparkbrook, B11 1LU. Tel: **0121 687 6767**. Email: shabana@acpgroup.org.uk.

Free Money Advice Services— Free advice on debt, welfare benefits, and money management. For Hall Green localities, please contact Citizens Advice Birmingham. Telephone: **03444771010**.

Birmingham Settlement Money Advice— Help with debt, benefits, managing income, talking to creditors and more. Call: **0121 250 0765**.



Hall Green Families



@HallGreenFamilies
Contact: **07570953519**

Hallgreen.Families@greensquareaccord.co.uk



My Time at COP26: 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference

by Sanaa Pasha, Year 12

On the fourth of November, I was lucky enough to take the train up to Glasgow to attend COP26: the United Nations' Climate Conference 26th meeting which was hosted by the UK this year.

The weeks preceding the conference were filled with online training workshops on climate anxiety, sustainable energy and youth empowerment, as well as logistical meetings with all twenty Sixth Form students who had been selected to represent young people from different regions of the UK at COP26. The 31st of October marked the start of the Climate Conference and I was inundated with constant news updates, emails and notifications detailing the negotiations and goings-on at the conference. Whilst keeping on top of the constant flow of information from Glasgow, and sending off masses of online forms for my own visit, soon the long anticipated day of my departure arrived.

I took the train along with other students from the UK to Scotland's biggest city and, on the journey I was privileged enough to bump into Dr Morgan Philips, Director of The Glacier Trust (a charity that enables climate change adaptation in Nepal) and published author who kindly gifted us free copies of his book; "Great Adaptations: In the Shadow of a Climate Crisis". This was a lovely and fitting start to my COP26 adventure; it perfectly encompassed the passion, kindness and wealth of information that so many of the people I met at COP26 showcased, from fellow students to Government Ministers.

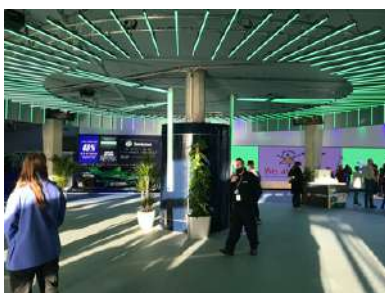


By the time I had arrived at my destination it was dark, and I spent the evening getting to know the other students and teachers over dinner, before being given a t-shirt which had been designed by schoolchildren so that I, along with the other students and teachers, would form a walking art gallery of climate inspired art, designed by young people.

On Friday morning, we piled onto the COP26 shuttle bus and headed over to the Green Zone. (The Green Zone is where the public, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, youth groups, charities, academics, artists and businesses can have their voices heard at COP26, through an extensive programme of events, workshops, talks and exhibitions that promote dialogue, awareness, education and commitments.) We spent the morning visiting different exhibitions, stands and attending various

events, soaking up copious amounts of information not only on the magnitude of the climate crisis but more importantly learning about what different companies, organisations and people were already doing to tackle it, and what we could do. While at the Green Zone, I was interviewed by the Royal College of Psychiatry on eco-anxiety, an issue that is increasingly prevalent, especially among young people. It was really interesting and a valuable experience for both psychiatric professionals and young people to discuss this and try to better understand the best ways of approaching this issue and helping individuals overcome it.

The Green Zone



This structure used the carbon dioxide we were respiring to stay inflated





The Blue Zone

Some of us went to the Blue Zone, a UN-managed space which hosts the negotiations. As Friday was Youth Empowerment Day at COP, the education sector was under the spotlight, with the Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi, announcing a proposal for a Climate Leader's award for young people at the Blue Zone. Students then got the opportunity to participate in a panel discussion on youth empowerment in regards to education at the Blue Zone.



With local primary school children and Chair of the UN Youth Advisory Group, Nisreen Elsaïm

In the afternoon, a group of us students visited a local primary school where we interviewed the Chair of the UN Youth Advisory Group, Nisreen Elsaïm. She had some really interesting insights on the relationship between climate change and conflict and shared her experiences in climate advocacy with us. The Year 6 students who sat in on the interview were proof that no matter how young, people are more interested than ever in climate change and what solutions are available to tackle the situation. Their knowledge and intellectual curiosity reinforced what is already abundantly clear: young people remain passionate and committed to learning more about climate change and doing what they can to tackle it. In the evening, we headed back to the Green Zone where we watched a Harry Styles and ABBA inspired climate theatre event, centering around the reality of being a teenager and growing up in the shadow of the climate crisis.

Saturday was a busy day with some keen athletes in the group waking up early to participate in a sponsored run with St Vincent's Primary School, a local school for children with sensory impairment. The Sixth Form Students acted as guides for them and both the primary school children and the sixth formers braved the rain and had lots of fun.



Parkrun with students from St Vincents Primary School

Meanwhile, I and two other students went to view a model Gen Zero Classroom and had the opportunity to listen to and question a panel on how to encourage students to go into green careers. The Panel was hosted by the Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi, and consisted of the Education Minister himself as well as various other industry professionals. Afterwards, we had a lengthy discussion with Mr Zahawi and various other members of the Department for Education, on how to implement sustainability at the heart of the education sector.

Model Gen Zero Classroom



With the Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi

In the afternoon we were back at the Green Zone where we had a stand which was visited by Alok Sharma, the President for COP26. We also helped out at another stand with PPL PWR, a collective that aims to create a more sustainable future through a variety of innovative technologies. We helped them show people how hydrogen fuel cells work through using miniature model cars and fruit batteries to simulate the real-life application of a carbon-free vehicle powered by hydrogen with the hope of engaging the public in a conversation on how the global transition to clean energy can be facilitated by the switch to near zero-emission hydrogen fuel cells.

Sunday morning was my final day in Glasgow. I attended a lecture on Green Career Pathways before getting on the train back home after a long and highly educational few days. While my time in Glasgow was coming to an end, COP26 seemed to me to be the start of a new chapter of climate advocacy.



I reported on my time at COP26 at the "Transform Our World Youth Summit" to schoolchildren across the UK and reflected on our experiences with the other students in various post-COP26 meetings. Opportunities as a result of our time at COP26 continued to flood in. Some students met George Monbiot, writer and journalist known for his environmental and political activism, at COP26 and - as a result - he kindly agreed to do a Zoom Q&A where he shared his insights with us as a journalist who has been involved in the fight against climate change for quite a while. We all learned so much from his invaluable experiences and are extremely grateful that he took the time to disseminate this knowledge to us.

One particular opportunity in the aftermath of COP26 was from the Department of Education, where I and another student were selected to be on a youth panel advising and offering our opinions and perspectives on the draft strategy for implementing climate and sustainability into the heart of the education sector. Before the strategy is launched in April 2022 we will be having monthly meetings to share our thoughts and feelings on the proposals directly with the Department for Education. It is a wonderful opportunity to take some real steps towards a more sustainable future and I am grateful to have the opportunity to have my voice heard and I hope to represent the diverse array of thoughts young people have in relation to the climate crisis as best as I can.

When I first became interested in climate activism, back in March 2019, I never thought that one day I'd be at COP26, as a representative for Britain's youth. However, I don't feel that I've reached a destination by any means. Rather, these are all stepping stones, part of humanity's journey to a more sustainable, greener future. What drives me in my climate activism is quite often hope and fear in equal parts. Coming out of COP26, I think that still reigns true. While we are all fearful of the consequences of climate change, hope for a better future, supported by action at all levels, is what will drive us all to continue striving to innovate, adapt and make a real change.

National Theatre “Writing For Theatre” Course

by Sanaa Pasha, Year 12



For the past few months I have been attending weekly sessions as part of the National Theatre’s “Writing For Theatre” course. It is a course for 16 to 21 year-olds which serves as a great opportunity to develop and nurture script-writing skills, and for young people across the UK to gain a better and wider understanding of drama and theatre.

In applying to this course I had to answer a range of questions, from performances that impacted me to playwrights that I found interesting. I thoroughly enjoyed writing lengthy paragraphs about plays I had performed such as “Why Is John Lennon Wearing A Skirt?” to extremely passionate commentary on two of my favourite playwrights; Dario Fo and Franca Rame.

I found the process of writing up my application enjoyable and intellectually stimulating in itself, and therefore I was even more excited when I received an email to inform me that I had been successful in being selected for the course. As part of the course, I gained access to a variety of scripts to read as well as “National Theatre: At Home”; the virtual platform where you can stream some of the best of British theatre.

The weekly sessions vary from masterclasses to group mentoring sessions. Masterclasses are led by Guleraana Mir, an award-winning writer and theatremaker. We participate in a range of writing exercises and activities as we explore what we hope to gain from the course and build our stories and characters as well as gaining an understanding of the playwriting process. I have already learned so much about how to write naturalistic dialogue, the different styles and forms plays can take as well as having some pearls of wisdom in relation to writing drilled into me. We are constantly supported and guided with example playscripts, interactive tasks and group discussions.

Mentoring sessions are in much smaller groups with your playwright mentor, who you get to know more personally throughout the duration of the course. These sessions are much more tailored to your needs and developing your own script. You can ask for help on specific elements of your play script, such as plot and characters or take part in more general exercises to help you along.

Despite the course taking place over Zoom, you still get a real sense of the supportive and encouraging community that is the young people and the playwright mentors. We all bond over a shared love of theatre but are diverse in our opinions, perspectives and artistic styles. It’s these differences that make for interesting discussions and provide us with so much to learn from each other.

Just before Christmas we had the deadline for submitting our idea. Over Christmas, myself and the other young people on the course will be writing our first draft of our play, ready to submit ahead of our February deadline.

I’m really looking forward to completing a full draft of my script and seeing how my idea has developed over time. However, for me, it extends beyond simply completing a script. I have already learned, developed, nurtured and gained so much knowledge and so many skills as well as being exposed to a wide range of dramatic and theatrical art forms. Over the course of the next few months, I hope to increase in knowledge and further develop skills which I can apply to all areas of the dramatic arts and writing.

The most important piece of advice I have gained so far during this course is very simple: write.

Far too often, it is the act of starting to write which scares us. We don’t know what to write, how to write, if we’re writing well, if we’re writing poorly. Every week, we do a “freewriting-style” activity where we write and write and write without fretting and worrying and without giving us time to be scared. You would be surprised at the array of wonderful, fascinating, enthralling thoughts that come flowing out, begging to be delved into, cared for, shaped and ultimately fashioned into a story, a concept, an aesthetic.

So one piece of advice that I have taken from this course, which I would like to share with anyone interested in writing, whether that be anything from scriptwriting to journalism, is to simply write. To put any doubts about your own skills aside and to have a go. It’s the only way to find out what you can do and what you can improve upon. Simply having a go is often the best way to make a start. In the words of the Greek philosopher, Epictetus; “If you wish to be a writer, write”.



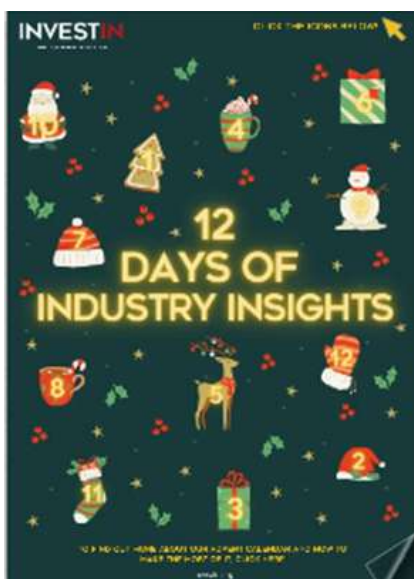
We are pleased to have been able to offer our students access to a wide range of virtual experiences of the world of work this term, and we are certain that this offer which the companies have invested heavily in will continue to be more routine in the future. Students are able to access opportunities that would not necessarily have been available to them locally and without missing valuable curriculum time.

The careers section of our website (<https://www.kechg.org.uk/parents-and-students/careers>) has been expanded and new resources and materials will be added over time. It includes our programme of career based learning and I hope you will take some time to look at this section. Shortly after Christmas I will be asking for some feedback from you in relation to our careers offer.

We could not run this offer without a band of volunteers and we are always looking for more contributors. If you or a colleague are able to offer your time to support the school with any of our activities (particularly in creative careers, music, drama) please get in touch (j.rose@kechg.org.uk) as we would love to hear from you.

I would like to take this opportunity to promote (for the first time in a while) an excellent company (InvestIn) which we have worked with previously. They are now launching programmes which will be taking place in Birmingham. As one of their partner schools we have a 10% discount (if you use the code KECHG2020 at the checkout) and can offer a limited number of students (3 per term for students on Pupil Premium or that are in receipt of Post-16 bursary) a free place on the daily courses. All students can benefit from a **15% discount on all Summer Experience bookings** if they register before 31st December, using the discount code **SUMMER15** at the checkout page. If you are interested in a particular bursary place for your child please email me all the relevant details.

However, their website also has a range of completely free activities – some of which are highlighted (and linked to) below.



The InvestIN Christmas Careers Calendar provides students with 12 days-worth of industry insights which will allow students to explore the world's most desirable careers over the festive period, through exclusive activities, useful resources, advice from professionals on how to break in to their chosen career, and so much more. There are even a number of prizes to be won if students submit their responses this year!

There is something for everyone!

This link looks particularly interesting, or just have a look at the main website (<https://investin.org/>)

Job discussions?

When we talk to our children at home, how many of us consider what job roles will be available in the future and/or how they will change. Gone are the days when children followed in their parents footsteps and jobs were thought to be jobs for life. Careers professionals talk about **"Using Labour Market Information"** to help students choose their next steps appropriately. How many of us, myself included actually know what the growth areas are in the West Midlands?

According to the West Midlands Combined Authority ([link to article here](#)) it is Low Carbon Manufacturing!

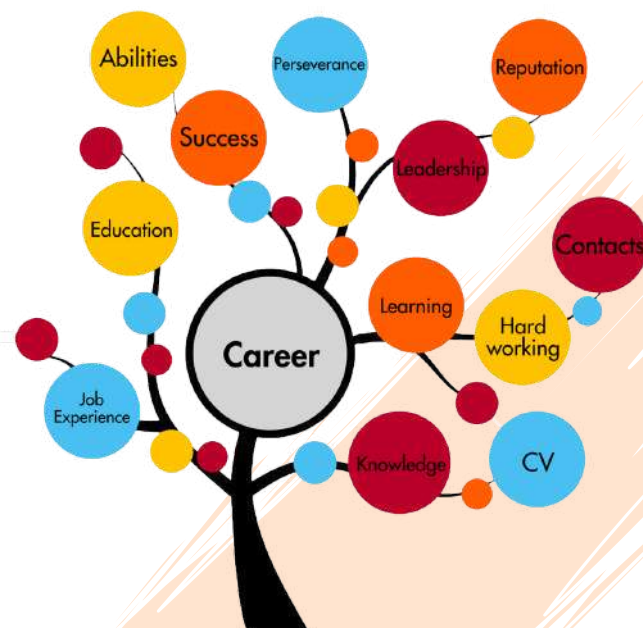
However, I thought it was more pertinent to end the year with some top 10's for Birmingham.

Occupations	Certifications in Greatest Demand
Software developer/engineer Office/Admin assistant Project Manager Sales Manager Lawyer Registered Nurse Account Manager Teaching Assistant Customer Service Representative Finance Manager	Construction skills Nursing & Midwifery Registered General Nurse Health & Care Professions Council Chartered Engineer Disclosure & Barring Service Clearance GMC Registration Digital Tachograph Driver Smart Card Chartered Accountant HGV Licence
Job Openings	Industries
NHS University of Birmingham British Telecom Birmingham City Council Aston University Birmingham City University John Wiley & Sons Ltd Aecom Balfour Beatty Starnow	Freight transport by road Tertiary education Legal activities General secondary education Social work activities Business support services Public administration Human health activities Management consultancy Primary education
Titles	Skills in Greatest Demand
Business Development Manager Project Manager Administrator Warehouse Operative Teaching Assistant Recruitment Consultant Care Assistant Customer Service Advisor Finance Manager Support Worker	Team work/collaboration Customer Service Teaching Budgeting Sales Project Management Business Development Accounting Key Performance Indicators Stakeholder Management



If any students do not know what any of these are, or what the companies do – a Christmas challenge is to find out!

Dr Rose



Enterprise Advisor

Our school works closely with Birmingham Careers Hub and The Careers and Enterprise Company to support us with our whole school Careers programme. The Hub links schools across Birmingham to senior business volunteers who help schools build their employer network and develop their strategic careers programme.

There is a vacancy for a volunteer Enterprise Adviser to support us with developing our whole school careers programme here at Camp Hill School for Girls. We are keen to recruit a volunteer from our own school community - parents relatives, former pupils, friends of the school who are at a management level in their career and looking to give back their expertise to help the next generation. We would appreciate having an employer, employee or entrepreneur to help us ensure all students are inspired and prepared for the world of work and that every student takes their best next step on their career and life pathway.

If you or anyone you know would like to know more about the role, please follow this link: <https://enterpriseadviser.careersandenterprise.co.uk/>

If you would like to apply for the role please contact: Jackie.Plimmer@bep.education



Poppy Appeal 2021

For many years, the school has sold poppies in the approach to Remembrance Sunday. The money raised goes to the Royal British Legion which provides lifelong support to the Armed Forces community including serving male and female service personnel, veterans, and their families. This year was special as we marked the occasion of 100 years since the Royal British Legion was formed.

Students helped to sell metal and paper poppies and other Remembrance items including wrist bands and key rings. Amandie Amunethanne, Imogen Margetts and Satnam Pada did a superb job of selling items during lunchtimes and we are proud to say that the school raised £497 for the Royal British Legion. Thank you to all staff and students who contributed. A special thanks goes to the school's office staff who helped with organisation.

Dr. Dewes

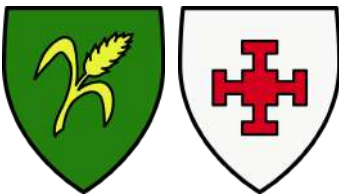
Camp Hill's Christmas House Charity Collections

Each year, Camp Hill collects donations for three charities as part of a House competition for a range of important causes. It is a particularly heartwarming event that helps us make a difference in our community. We also try to get closer to winning the House Cup, as the house with the most donations earns the most house points! This year, the House Captains chose three different charities: Cartland and Lichfield donated to The Trussell Trust, Meriden and Priory contributed to Helping Hands of Birmingham, whilst Warwick and Stratford donated to Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid.

We would also like to thank the Y12 volunteers who did a fantastic job. We could not have done it without their help!



Reception has been overflowing with bags of generous donations! Thank you to everyone who was able to bring items in to support our charities.



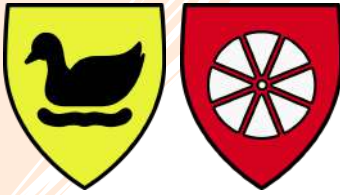
Cartland & Lichfield - The Trussell Trust

During the pandemic, food banks faced an unprecedented rise in demand. The Trussell Trust — the largest network of food banks in the country — distributed a record-breaking 2.5 million emergency food parcels, a 33% increase on the figures in 2019.

51% of regular volunteers at food banks in the Trussell Trust were over 65 at the beginning of the pandemic, and many of them needed to shield, self-isolate or provide child-care. This left food banks with a smaller workforce and a considerable increase in demand across the country. It is notable that in the fifth richest country globally, there are still over 900 more food banks than McDonald's. Donations such as the ones you provide are vital to the survival of such charities. We hope to do more for such crucial organisations in our society.

The Sparkhill Food Bank works on a voucher system where vulnerable people are referred to the food bank by groups such as Citizens Advice, children's centres and health visitors. The voucher can then be exchanged for a food parcel containing a minimum of three days of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable, tinned and dried foods that have been donated. A typical food parcel includes breakfast cereal, soup, pasta, rice, pasta sauce, baked beans, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, instant mash, UHT milk, tea, coffee, sugar, tinned dessert and biscuits. We have collected lots of these during the last two weeks!



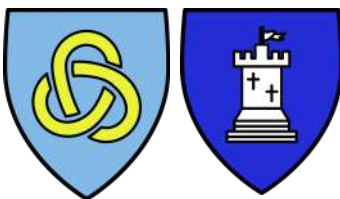


Meriden & Priory - Helping Hands of Birmingham

Meriden and Priory chose to collect for the organisation Helping Hands of Birmingham. We chose this because the winter months can be especially hard for those who are homeless. The charity aims to ensure the safety of the homeless and vulnerable by finding somewhere that they can be housed. Birmingham has a population of 1 million people, and Helping Hands believe no-one in the city should be homeless. The charity meets at 7.30pm in Birmingham Town Centre every night to walk around the city, handing out food, blankets and other essentials that the homeless may require. They serve over 100 hot meals each week and have recently obtained partnerships with Tesco, Greggs, Amazon, Go Outdoors and many more. Their mission to change the lives of the homeless and provide them with a better quality of life motivated us to work with this fantastic charity!

Helping Hands asked that we donate items such as hats, scarves, gloves and blankets especially for this winter. Each form provided a wonderful array of items!

The charity will use our donations for the relief of poverty amongst homeless people and rough sleepers in Birmingham. The provision of food, drinks, clothing and toiletries from our students will hopefully help to relieve their suffering.



Stratford & Warwick - Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid

Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid is a local organisation that supports women and children affected by domestic violence and abuse. Over the last year and a half, rates of domestic violence have significantly worsened - in fact, the number of monthly calls to the National Domestic Abuse helpline increased by 60% over the first few months of lockdown. This was one of the many reasons we have decided to support this charity during the House Christmas collection.

This charity provides material goods for those it helps, and provides specially trained female support workers to provide a compassionate ear and expert advice to women and children in domestic abuse situations. Furthermore, although these reactionary measures are currently necessary, this charity is also committed to working towards a society capable of ending domestic abuse through impact prevention and early intervention initiatives. They emphasise that society needs to move away from victim-blaming. Asking why women don't 'just leave' is an incredibly harmful approach to domestic violence. Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid is focused on moving towards a mindset that correctly blames those perpetrating the abuse.

Thanks to our donations, such as slippers and pamper sets for women - and toys for children, we will have made a big difference in the lives of the people this charity helps. Even if it makes this trying time just a little bit happier for the women and children struggling with domestic violence, it will have been hugely worth it. The Stratford and Warwick House Captains would like to say a big thank you to everyone who donated! Your generosity is much appreciated!



Year 12 Christmas Quiz

by Emily Pitfield (12L)

On Wednesday 15th December the school hall became a sea of festive jumpers as Year Twelve gathered for some cheerfully-labelled 'enforced fun' in the form of a Christmas quiz. Each house was competing to become the champions, and for those struggling to get into the Christmas spirit, 100 house points for the winning team proved a strong incentive!

It all began the previous week, when we were divided into house teams and given one of six possible themes: Christmas, Christmas traditions, 2021 news, music, photos and dingbats. Each house devised ten questions for their round, ranging from the celebrated 'yule goat' to baby photos of teachers.

One week later and the quiz was ready, but alongside our pre-designed rounds, we were also greeted with a box containing two potatoes, four sprouts, some toothpicks and a carrot!..... From these we were supposed to sculpt a Christmas animal masterpiece, which proved to be more than a little challenging. However, by the end of the quiz there was a row of majestic turkeys, penguins and reindeer sitting on the stage, ready to be judged. Given the limited time and resources, the standard of the creations suggests we have some talented vegetable modellers amongst us.

Though at times it was a little chaotic - running to the front to ensure your group got the maximum twenty minutes with the potato peeler - it was a great afternoon, full of festive cheer, and a fun way to spend our final PSHE lesson of the term.

The winning House was Stratford, with Lichfield and Priory coming in 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Huge thanks to Ms Parker-Hall for all her hard work in organising the quiz and making it happen!





Tinsel Day 2021

As is tradition, the penultimate day of term is 'Tinsel Day' at Camp Hill. This is the day when students are invited to add a touch of tinsel or a similar festive adornment to their uniform. This year, students didn't disappoint! They were their typical inventive selves with tinsel draped around shoulders, woven into hair accessories - or clipped on as a fashion accompaniment to blazers! Some students chose to don Santa hats or other festive fascinators - so all in all, there was a lot of Christmas glitz around school to take us to the end of term!



Panto

Another much-loved feature of Tinsel Day is the Staff Panto. Last year, we weren't able to perform this to a live audience due to Covid, so we had to record it, and it was played to tutor groups in their form rooms. This year, we were delighted to have students back in the school hall to watch the panto live! Staff did two performances to ensure students (all wearing masks) could be spaced across the hall.

So, at 9am sharp, students settled down to watch a Camp Hill version of 'Little Red Riding Hood' - written by our very own Mr Franks!

Our very C21st Little Red Riding Hood (Miss Orr) was not bedecked in a velvet cape - but tracksuit bottoms, trainers and with a distinctive South-London accent! There was no way she was going to be cowed - or eaten - by a wolf attempting, rather dismally, to look like her grandma!

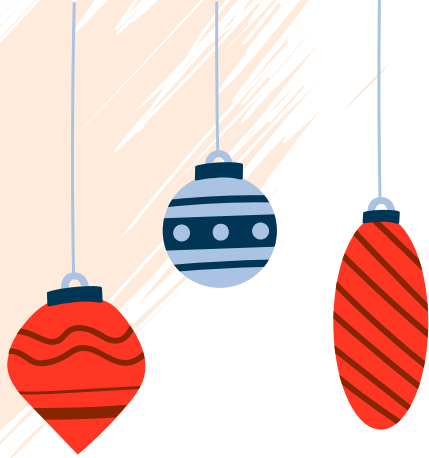
Mrs Johnson made her annual appearance as the witch - although did seem less malevolent than in previous years. (However, some Year 7 students did look genuinely terrified when she mentioned tucking into Mr Hardy and Ms Ellis (aka Hansel and Gretel) for her dinner!)

Ms Kinnaird thrilled as the love-sick wolf; Ms Woodward made a loveable, feisty grandma; Miss Hay stepped in at the last minute to play Goldilocks - and Mrs Marshall and Miss Hawthorne kept the whole show going with a steady soundtrack including tracks such as: 'They Had it Coming' from Chicago; 'We Go Together' from Grease and festive favourites including 'Jingle Bells' and 'White Christmas.'

Huge thanks to Mr Franks and all the staff who took part or who helped to supervise students throughout the morning. The students' obvious enjoyment was a delight to see - and we were delighted to be able to bring a little bit of panto magic to Camp Hill's end of term fun once more!

This year's Tinsel Day charity collection was in honour of former Camp Hill student, Kavya Kumar (Year 13 class of 2018), who tragically passed away in November to a rare cancer. Kavya had been an active supporter of Macmillan Cancer Care, so it is fitting that the money raised through this year's Tinsel Day is donated to the charity in her memory.





Dates for Your Diary

JANUARY



**Staff Training
Day**



**Back to school
Week A**

*See the recent email from Mrs
Johnson regarding timings for
each year group.*



**Year 7
St Martins Visit**



**Y11
Parents' Evening**



Dates for Your Diary



**Year 9
vaccinations**



**Year 13
Parents' Evening**



**Songs from the Shows
(rehearsals)**



**Songs from the Shows
(dress rehearsal)**



Songs from the Shows



**Year 11
History visit**



**Year 11
A Level Options
Deadline**



**Back to school
Week B**

**Last day of half
term**

