

# Camp Hill Girls' Chronicle

End of Summer First Half-Term 2023



## Letter from Ms Stevens

Dear Parents and Carers

It's unbelievable to think that I am writing to you with only one half term to go of this academic year. We've already seen the cherry blossom appear and fall on the tree at the front of school, appointed a Senior Prefect Team for 2023/2024 and said goodbye (temporarily) to our Year 11 and 13 students. It's staggering to think that we're moving swiftly towards the end of this year, and so many plans are already starting to happen to ensure we're ready to start again in September.

I'd like to pass on my sincere congratulations to all students in Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 who completed their internal end of year exams over the last two weeks. Students have worked exceptionally hard, and I wish them all a well-deserved half term break. I'd also like to thank the staff who have organised the exams, prepared papers, invigilated and who are now working through considerable amounts of the 'summer term' marking before report writing season.

We enjoyed a vibrant final week before Year 13 stood down to take their study leave in mid-May, with students wearing their old school uniforms, 'pink' and on their penultimate day, fancy dress (and I must add that the flash mob dance medley was probably the best I've seen in terms of choreography – well done Year 13!). The final Leavers Service was a true celebration of all that Year 13 have contributed to our school community during their time with us, and Chamber Choir (as always) was exceptional. We were also delighted to welcome actor Mei Mac, an ex-student of Camp Hill Girls and recent Olivier Award nominee for her performance in *My Neighbour Totoro*. Fresh from the stage at the Coronation Concert, Mei spoke passionately about the importance of following your passions in life. Her speech was nothing short of inspiring, and I'd like to say a huge thank you to Mei for giving up her time. You can read more about Mei's visit later in this edition.

I'd like to wish Year 13 all the very best in their A Level examinations, and for the future. I'd also like to wish Year 11 students all the very best for their GCSE exams, which are now well underway. We look forward to welcoming you all back for your Year 12 induction later in the summer term.

Hopefully you have all read my letter outlining the forthcoming works to upgrade our 1950s kitchens, which was sent last week (<https://www.kechg.org.uk/parents-and-students/essential-info/catering>). As detailed in the letter, because the work in the kitchens is due to start during the May half term holiday, we will only be able to offer a *cold* lunch service for the rest of this academic year. Thank you to those parents and carers who responded to our request about lunch orders for the week after May half term.

I would like to wish you all a happy and restful break. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday 6th June (*don't forget that Monday 5th June is a Teacher Training Day, so there's a bonus lie in for students!*).

With very best wishes  
Karen Stevens  
Headteacher

# ***Senior Concert: "So Long, Farewell"***

*by Miss Hawthorne, Head of Music*



Our annual Senior Concert took place in front of a large and enthusiastic audience on the evening of Tuesday 5th May in CHG Hall.

It featured varied senior ensembles and choirs: CONCERT ORCHESTRA, CONCERT BAND, CHAMBER CHOIR, CHB CHOIR, SAXOPHONE ENSEMBLE, FLUTE ENSEMBLE, LOWER STRINGS ENSEMBLE, JAZZ ENSEMBLE, SWING BAND as well as several pupil-led ensembles, including Mayuri Swaminathan's amazing composition for voices and strings. The standard was excellent again and it really showed just how far our musicians have advanced.

**CONGRATULATIONS ALL!**



*An entertaining version of "Stand By Me" on kazoos by our Year 13 musicians!*

**GOOD LUCK to all our leavers - we'll miss you!  
KEEP MAKING MUSIC!**



## ***Exeter Scholars Update***

You may remember reading in the last edition of the Chronicle, about the opportunity that 16 of our Year 10 students had to participate in the Exeter Scholars Programme. This ongoing programme of mentoring and support was kick started in April with a residential 'Easter School', and here are two accounts of their time at Exeter University.

### **Adiba Akter:**

It's safe to say that my trip to Exeter was a once in a lifetime experience which I do not regret! I met a variety of new people from all over the UK who I would never have met otherwise, and over the course of the four days, we went through many fun activities.

My favourite day was the second one, where we were led through rugby skills by the local rugby team, and Jack, one of the ambassadors who really loved rugby. We completed a campus challenge, rushing through the university landmarks with my team, where I met some lovely, memorable people. The entire campus is in a very hilly area, which made my legs feel like I was working out every time I went anywhere, but it was all worth it for the magnificent views. At the end of the day, we all had dinner together then explored the campus.

On the last day, everyone had to present an idea for a future University which they created with their team. My group, along with help from our student ambassador Annabel, came up with a University funded by Elon Musk which was on the moon, and this gave us the winning prize: a £10 voucher! I will never forget this experience and I am super excited to go back through the Exeter scholars programme in Year 12, and hopefully meet some more new faces and perhaps find some old ones too!

### **Glory Daramola:**

During this residential trip, we learnt about what life is really like at university, as well as broadening our knowledge of courses available. We were able to meet with the student ambassadors of the University of Exeter, and were allowed to ask questions surrounding concerns about the university as a whole, as for all of us, it would be a significant move into our own independence. There were many fun activities including treasure hunts, rugby games, a 'pub quiz' and many more. I can guarantee that we took home many pieces of advice, pictures and memories. Most importantly, I learnt the art of waking up early using an alarm clock - no one wakes you up at uni!!

Thank you Mrs Strong for sharing this amazing opportunity with us. We definitely learnt more about university life and subject choices. And I think we all gained a taster of what true independence is like.



University  
of Exeter



# **Active Travel Ambassadors Update**

## **What is Active Travel?**

Active travel is making journeys in a physically active way such as walking, cycling, scooting, running or wheeling.

According to health experts, children and young people aged 5-18 should aim for an average of at least 60 minutes of physical activity a day. Travelling to school in an active way can be an easy way to achieve some, or all, of these 60 minutes of recommended activity.

Exercise also boosts your mental health and reduces the risk of depression, anxiety levels and fatigue. It improves concentration and sleep and releases endorphins which improves our mood.

In 1894 the first car was driven on a public road in Britain. Back then, there were probably only 15 to 20 cars on the roads. Now, in 2023, there are more than 33 million cars in Britain. Very many car trips made in the UK are relatively short, and many journeys could be made by other more active means.

Travel and transport causes problems for our school, and the community around our school, every day. Like in many places across the country, there are sometimes accidents caused by busy roads, congestion and unsafe driving. In the morning and evening there is often significant traffic congestion, which causes air pollution; dangerous parking makes active travel methods like walking and cycling even less appealing.

## **Active Travel Ambassadors Trip**

In April the school's Active Travel Ambassadors took a trip to Birmingham Council House and presented a funding pitch to a panel of travel industry experts.

We began preparing for this trip by carrying out a site survey and finding out some more information about why more people don't use Active Travel to get to school. Having found out information about the problems and opportunities relevant to our school, we started work on our plan. We had to consider what would be possible and what would make the greatest impact.

Once we had made our plan, it was time to work on a presentation that would become our pitch.

On Wednesday 26th April we travelled into the city centre to the Council Chamber in Birmingham Council House to present our pitch to a panel of travel experts. Our goal was to get £250 of funding to help promote active travel in our school, so in our pitch we explained the problems surrounding traffic near our school, the data we collected about travel patterns from students here, and our action plan on spending the money.



The council chamber is where the monthly council meeting of the 101 elected councillors from across Birmingham take place. We were told that this was the second biggest democratically-elected chamber in England, behind only the Houses of Parliament. There were schools from across the city including Bishop Vesey Grammar School from Sutton Coldfield, the Jewellery Quarter Academy and Bishop Challoner.

We took turns presenting our pitches to a panel of four judges: Caroline Dawson from the Bikeability scheme, Danny Clark from Active Travel England, Ed Wickes from Living Streets and Councilor Marje Bridle. Although the initial idea of presenting in front of a group of judges at the council house seemed daunting, it became a fun experience for us as we heard the praise and suggestions the judges gave towards our campaign, and listened to the ideas and pitches of other schools.

We waited nervously, but before too long we were told that we had been successful and were awarded the full £250 of funding. And as a bonus, when we got back into school there was some takeaway pizza waiting for us as a reward for our strenuous morning's work.



### What's next?

The data we collected in our survey suggests that many people in school have a negative attitude towards Active Travel and we want to change this!

So, as part of our project, and immediately after half-term, an active travel knowledge quiz will be sent out to all students to be completed online. We hope this quiz will further develop your understanding of active travel and its positive effects.

Students who take the time and effort to complete this quiz will get a score, depending on how many questions they get right. You may use any resource to answer the questions, which will be multiple-choice style.

The top scorers will be entered into a prize draw, and the students randomly picked out will get prizes. The first person picked out in the group of top scorers will get a Fitbit, and the others will either get Chilly's water bottles or chocolate hampers.

We look forward to receiving your quiz entries and look out for more Active Travel news in the next half term!





## ***World Culture Day***

*by Mr Franks*

On Friday 5th May, the vibrant spirit of cultural appreciation and compassion resonated through the halls of our school during this year's highly anticipated World Culture Day. The event, which aimed to celebrate the rich diversity within our student body, was an outstanding success, leaving a lasting impact on all those involved.

School was certainly more colourful as students and staff embraced the opportunity to come to school in cultural dress or the colours of a particular flag. During form time students enjoyed decorating a bunting flag with cultural symbols, designs, or patterns of their choice and combining these to be displayed in form rooms. The highlight of the day was most certainly the lunchtime Cultural Showcase. The audience were treated to a range of performances including poetry, singing and dancing from countries including Turkey, Ethiopia, Eritrea, China, India and Romania.

We asked for a donation of £1 per student to attend the Cultural Showcase and it is heart-warming to announce that, as a united school community, we were able to raise an astounding £497 to support those affected by earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

World Culture Day served as a testament to the power of unity and inclusivity. It fostered an environment where students from different backgrounds, traditions, and perspectives came together to learn from one another. The event facilitated dialogue, promoted understanding, and encouraged the celebration of diversity. By embracing our differences, we were able to strengthen the bonds of friendship and foster a sense of global citizenship within school.

We are very proud of our incredible students, who wholeheartedly embraced the spirit of World Culture Day. I would particularly like to thank the EDI School Council whose unwavering enthusiasm, dedication, and hard work made this day an unforgettable experience for the entire school community.

As we reflect on this year's success, we eagerly anticipate the next edition of World Culture Day in 2024. In the meantime, by working together, Camp Hill will continue to create a platform where cultures can be celebrated, shared, and appreciated, fostering an environment of inclusivity and understanding.



We were delighted to find out that one of our students had been featured in the Birmingham Mail because of the voluntary work she had done with the Islamic Centre she attends. We are always delighted and proud to hear about the work that our students involve themselves in to support their wider communities. We asked Mahdiyah to tell us more...

## ***My Experience Serving my Local Community***

*by Mahdiyah Mawji, Year 9*

Over the holidays, I volunteered at a local food bank near my mosque, which is run by Who is Hussain? Who is Hussain? is a non-profit organisation that works to constructively serve humanity.

We collected donations from students who go to a local Islamic school over the month of Ramadan, and were able to put together bags with various items inside of them. The bags included items such as toiletries and long-life food items including canned items and biscuits.

We loaded up a minibus with the donations and helpers. The distribution point was in Birmingham city centre. Once there, we set up a few tables whilst other members of the food bank arrived with tea and coffee, and some bread rolls to hand out.

Slowly, a long queue formed and people started to come forward to take the bags and some food. The hot drinks were very popular. There were some of us handing out bags, some people serving tea and coffee, and some prepping the bread rolls. It was a team effort and the feeling amongst the youth was really motivating.

It is highly recommended to spend your time doing charitable acts during the Holy month of Ramadan. Charity could be giving money, working for charitable causes, or like me, spending your time serving and helping others. We have been taught that even someone who doesn't have the financial means to support others can give a smile and receive the same reward. Helping others, not necessarily less fortunate than yourself, is a conscious act that humbles oneself.

Helping out taught me a lot of things:

- It taught me to be more grateful (as cliché as it is, it's true). There were necessities in the bags we provided such as shower products or toothpaste that we had to ask around for, whereas our family can make that purchase regularly without giving it a second thought.
- It taught me to be humble. It amazed me how cheerful everyone was; asking me how my day was going, talking about the weather. They were so grateful for the little that they had.
- It showed me that within my community, there are hidden communities that I don't think about or pay much attention towards often enough. Everyone who came to us for a bag knew each other. I remember there was a lady and we called her the alpha; she led the crowd and calmed down others who were getting agitated. Everyone listened to and respected her.
- Helping out taught me that being sympathetic for someone doesn't mean you just feel sorry for them; it's also about the action, the sacrifice, the giving, the serving, and the intention.

The few hours that I gave to the people of my community didn't cost me much, but it gave me more than I could ever measure. I hope I was able to serve them in a way that would help them more than just the tangible items we gave them.

*"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving."*

- Mother Teresa



# Lit in Colour

## Pioneers Programme



### ***Lit in Colour Pioneers***

*by Mrs McDermott, Subject Leader (English)*

In the last edition we included news of the success of two of our students who were chosen as winners of Pearson's My Twist on a Tale Writing Competition. As a result, we were the focus of a recent post in the Pearson Schools Blog about our involvement in the Lit in Colour Pioneers programme. You can read the full article at <https://www.pearson.com/uk/educators/schools/news/schools-blog/2023/04/-it-makes-my-heart-swell-with-pride---how-real-relatable-stori.html>, but an extract is included below.

*Iona's real-life English teacher, Clare Staples, whose decision to teach Brick Lane sparked the events described in the story, said: "In our school, we've made a concerted effort to diversify the curriculum, considering our school's context in such a fabulously multi-cultural city. Our lesson on 'Brick Lane' formed part of our introduction to unseen fiction analysis which also includes texts such as 'Small Island' by Andrea Levy and 'The Beekeeper of Aleppo' by Christy Lefteri. We've had such a positive response to these texts from students who, like Iona, feel represented. In addition, we now teach the Belonging collection of the Pearson Poetry anthology which has such a beautiful selection of poems so relevant to 21st century society."*

*Iona's school, Birmingham's King VI Camp Hill School for Girls, is a Pioneer in our successful Lit in Colour Pioneers programme. Since 2021 the programme has enabled over 180 schools to diversify their curriculum effectively, giving over 24,000 students access to a wide range of authors, characters and books that fully represent the richness of the UK population.*

*As Iona's story Belonging so eloquently makes clear, the effect of inspiring engagement through diverse texts can be revelatory for children and young people, influencing in-class interactions and behaviour, raising the confidence of students who feel left out by non-diverse literature and helping celebrate difference.*

You can also now listen to Iona's story on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vlux2UCAdBw>





## ***Birmingham Cathedral Recital***

*by Pauline Baiasu, Year 8*

On the morning of 28th April, Chamber choir and a specially formed chamber orchestra gathered in the undercroft of Birmingham Cathedral waiting with heightened anticipation for the rehearsals and performance ahead. The rehearsals were enjoyable and excellent fun, even when the work for the historical conservation of the four famous Burne-Jones windows slightly got in the way! Before the performance, we had a chance to explore the grounds of the Cathedral in groups.

In the concert we sang a range of pieces from Pergolesi's Stabat Mater and Sa Tag Mit Hjerte by Michael Bojesen, to Turning Tables by Adele Adkins and Ryan Tedder. The amazing solos from Mayuri Swaminathan, Siyu Li and Mollie Wallace made the performance all the more special. We finished the concert with a lively performance of "Bellas Finals" from Pitch Perfect accompanied by the very skilled Chamber Orchestra.

After a very successful performance we all went to the Roebuck to have a very tasty and delicious lunch. Overall this concert was an amazing performing opportunity and a fun, exciting day too! Many thanks to Miss Hawthorne, Mrs Marshall and Mr Hay for organising this event and making it a wonderful experience!



# ***Year 11 Wellbeing Sessions***

It is an exceptionally busy time for Year 11 with exams in progress and the culmination of their work in Main School.

The Spring term featured Art and Graphics deadlines, Language orals, music performances... PE Moderation on a snow day! So, the run up to the Easter holidays seemed like a good opportunity to pause and have some time to focus on their own wellbeing.

Lunchtime sessions covering a variety of activities including making greeting cards, decorating biscuits and knitting were available to Year 11 students to attend. They spent a happy lunchtime away from the rigours of exam preparation learning a new skill or being creative.

Thank you to all those students who volunteered to run the sessions, supported by Mr Cox and members of the Year 13 Wellbeing Prefects.





# ***Ishita's Kickboxing Success***

*by Ishita Mahesh, Year 10*

I have always loved kickboxing, and believe that competing in fights is one of the main highlights of learning the martial art. I find the exhilaration of training and making unbreakable team bonds truly incredible experiences, and can't express in words how much the sport enriches my lifestyle.

On Sunday 30th April, I participated in the WKU British Open Championships with my club, and was psyched to have the opportunity to compete with other kickboxing enthusiasts from across England. The atmosphere was brimming with energy and after watching fights since the morning, the excitement was almost tangible. After a busy day with lots of action, and with credit to immeasurable support from my coach, family and friends, I was able to win the bout to take the WKU British Kickboxing Championships Gold medal!



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## ***Whole School Photo***

*by Miss Tidd, Media and Marketing Officer*

A whole school photo is a rare occasion at CHG, and the last one happened in 2019! On Monday 24th April we were somewhat relieved that the 2023 whole school photo actually went ahead before our Year 11 and Year 13 students began their exams. Two attempts before Easter had to be called off due to the weather and health and safety concerns; it quickly became clear that even in dry weather this is quite a logistical challenge!

We had braced ourselves for rain, wind and snow, but luckily the sun was shining and we all added invisible layers to keep warm. It was delightful to see all students and staff come to the front school grounds and eagerly line up in height order and await to be escorted onto the outdoor stage. Year 13 were the first to be placed in the centre and then each year group joined them until the final Year 7 students were included. After several 'smile' attempts from the photographer, some beautiful shots were taken and it was much quicker for everyone to get down than it was to get into position!

The whole event was captured as a time lapse, already shown at the Year 13 Leavers Assembly. We can't wait to see the official whole school photo and add it to those which are displayed in the school corridors. Thank you to everyone for participating and taking their part in the school's history!





# ***Camp Hill Girls at the Coronation***

Our school was well represented at the Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6th April. In addition to former student Mei Mac performing as Juliet in a "Romeo and Juliet" scene alongside the next Doctor Who, Ncuti Gatwa, at the Sunday Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle, three of our current Sixth Formers were invited to attend the celebrations.

200 young people from Scouts, Girlguiding, St John Ambulance and NCS were invited to attend a private screening of the Coronation Service at St Margaret's Church, as a result of the support being provided by these voluntary organisations on Coronation Day. Another 200 people from other youth organisations were also invited, their organisations having been specially chosen by the Royal Family.

## **Iona Mandal's Coronation Day**

Recently, I was nominated by the National Literacy Trust (NLT) for the Royal Voluntary Service Coronation Champions Award 2023 in the Supporting Young People and Children category. To my surprise, the Earl Marshal extended me an invitation to the King's Coronation from the Royal Household upon recommendation from the NLT in recognition of my work in helping young people with literacy in Birmingham as a Literacy Champion, Youth Ambassador and as present Birmingham Young Poet Laureate.

After staying in a hotel in Clapham for the night, with all expenses very generously covered by the NLT, we were lucky enough to be invited to a lavish breakfast at Lambeth Palace at which I had the privilege of socialising with young people from other voluntary organisations such as St John's Ambulance, The Prince's Trust, The Scouts and many others. It was a great honour to meet other individuals passionate about their respective causes.

Following a well-spent morning, we headed off for a brief walk towards St. Margaret's Church to watch a screening of the Coronation, directly adjacent to Westminster Abbey where the real event would be taking place. Sitting down in the large church hall with hundreds of other people my age, I felt a sense of pride in representing an organisation which I care so deeply about, particularly its endeavours in giving disadvantaged children the literacy skills to succeed in life.

Before the event began, we were treated to an engaging performance by spoken word artist Guvna B, as well as a brief talk which explained the historical context of Coronations and allowed us to further conceptualise the events of the day. During the service itself, there were speakers who were kind enough to give a running commentary on the significance of particular traditions, helping us gain a better understanding of the event.

Following the two-hour service, we were led outside to the procession during which all the members of the Royal Family came out in their respective carriages and vehicles, accompanied by a grand Royal Salute from multiple troops. Despite the mildly disappointing rain, the splendour of the moment was undoubtedly memorable.



After an equally impressive lunch back at Lambeth Palace, we were fortunate enough to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury, who had crowned the King just moments before. In a very humble manner, he gladly took pictures with many young volunteers (including myself) and I was lucky enough to receive an autograph from him too. To my astonishment, I also met Haaniah Sultan and Abigail Rees from Camp Hill at the event who were acting as representatives for the organisations they volunteer for! I was immensely grateful to all those who organised the event for making us feel valued as young people, upholding the action of volunteering, which I believe is an important life skill and an expression of true compassion for one's community. Not only was it an honour to be a part of history, but more so, to proudly represent the National Literacy Trust as well as Camp Hill in the process.



Haaniah added:

"I was one of 50 members of Girlguiding who were lucky to be selected to attend the Coronation Service. It was an incredible opportunity to be part of and I am extremely grateful to have been able to experience this historic moment with so many inspirational young people. I find volunteering so rewarding, and it can open doors to many different opportunities. I have met so many new people and have made so many memories through volunteering for Girlguiding, and would really encourage everyone to get involved in helping out in their local communities."





# ***Camp Hill Girls' Success at Health and Society Conference***

*by Mrs Neal*



Earlier this year, King Edward's School launched an essay competition for Year 12 students across the Academy Trust. It was focused on the topic of Health and Society, and challenged students to write a paper in answer to the following question: 'Who is responsible for health in society: the individual or the state?'

There was a fantastic response from students and we were delighted to learn that our own Ahana Biswas scooped first prize! Other CHG students: Maria Antoun and Ruth Rafeeq were Highly Commended,

On Saturday 20th May, a group of fourteen students and I headed to KES for the conference where selected students had been invited to present their papers, and also listen to highly-informative talks by academics, including Professor Simon Szreter (St John's College, University of Cambridge) and Dr Joseph Foulkes Roberts (University of Birmingham).

We had the most inspiring day: Ahana, Maria and Ruth presented their papers with impressive alacrity and eloquence. Unfazed by some quite terrifying questions posed by other students and academics, the girls responded with reasoned, thoroughly-researched points, and confidently defended their ideas.

Ahana, who was presented with her prize of a £100 Book Voucher by Dr Martin Otero Knott (Director of Academic Enrichment at KES), argued that ultimately it is the state which is responsible for health as it is the only organisation with the power to oversee all of public health. She explored several different studies on the impact of the environment on the brain, and she unpicked the ethics around the state having so much autonomy over people's health and access to treatments. Dr Knott praised her 'depth of research, her ability to grapple with complex material, and her fluent, academic style of writing.'

The conference finished at 3.30pm and we all left feeling inspired by the high level of academic talk and questioning across the day.

Congratulations to Ahana, Maria and Ruth - and indeed all the students who entered essays and came along to participate in the conference: as always, superb ambassadors for our school.



*Ahana at the lectern in Ruddock Hall, presenting her winning paper!*



*Ahana being presented with her certificate and 1st place prize by Dr Martin Otero-Knott*



# ***A Very Special Year 13 Leavers' Service***

The departure of our Year 13 students as they head off for final A Level preparation is always an emotional affair. It is almost the end of their Camp Hill journey and they are on the cusp of the next exciting pathway in their lives.

As is tradition, the final week of their time with us at Camp Hill was marked by colourful fancy dress theme days, the odd practical joke(!), final lesson 'parties' with non-stop cake - and, of course, the formal Leavers' Assembly on their very last day.

We were absolutely delighted to welcome back former Camp Hillian, Mei Mac, as our guest speaker. Mei was a student here from 2003- 2010. Following A Levels, Mei switched from her original plan of studying Medicine to pursuing her real love - Drama and performance. After numerous auditions, Mei landed a place with a REP company to train as an actor, and she hasn't looked back since!.... You may have spotted her performing with Dr Who actor, Ncuti Gatwa, at the recent Coronation Concert in a magical scene from Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet', just days before she graced our stage here at Camp Hill!



In her speech to our Year 13 leavers, and the rest of school, Mei reflected on the experiences she had gained during her Camp Hill years which have stood her in good stead for making brave and, at times, unconventional decisions - such as choosing to pursue a more precarious career path. She urged our students to always have hope and confidence to forge onwards with their aspirations - and to be undeterred by the inevitable knockbacks which are a part of life. She spoke about the gift of lasting friendships - some of her own closest friends are those she met at Camp Hill twenty years ago. And, as a young woman from a Chinese immigrant family, she emphasised the importance of representation in all industries, but especially in the Arts where traditionally there have been fewer opportunities. 'Breaking through the bamboo ceiling,' she said, was 'essential' to ensuring more voices and contributions from East Asian writers and performers are heard.



*Mei in the lead role of Mei in My Neighbour Totoro*

After rapturous applause and fabulous speeches from the outgoing Senior Prefect Team, we were treated to several beautiful musical performances from an emotional Chamber Choir, including 'When I Grow Up' from Matilda, and 'Only You' by Yazoo. Year 13 (and Mei!) then led the school in their final rendition of the unofficial school song, 'Old Bill Jones' with Miss Hawthorne on piano.

**We wish all of our Year 13 students the very best of luck with their A Level examinations, and all their future plans.**

*Mei was happy to chat to students after the Leavers' Service and pose for photos, along with her new Camp Hill Teddy (wearing a Lichfield House badge!). Here she is with Year 10 students, Shakthi and Mary.*



## ***Work Experience at Corstorphine & Wright***

*by Anjolaoluwa Alabi, Year 10*

Personally, I have realised that planning for the future starts from the younger years and my family, friends and cousins also supported me with this. Therefore, in April I decided to do a week of work experience at an architectural practice called Corstorphine & Wright. I had already tried virtual work experience on Springpod but (out of my own personal preference) I felt that face-to-face work experience was even better.

Corstorphine & Wright is an architectural practice with offices in several areas in the UK such as Warwick, London and Manchester but I did my work experience in their Birmingham office. They deliver a wide range of services to both the public and private sectors, encompassing retail, commercial and many other sectors.

Employees of the Birmingham practice were extremely welcoming towards me and tried as much as possible to make it an enjoyable and informative experience.

On the first day, I was shown around the office and then given a brief introduction to the project I had been assigned. The project consisted of an empty site near Birmingham City Centre; I could create any type of building I preferred but it had to include a residential aspect in the building.

I spent the next three days working with two different software programmes (AutoCAD and SketchUp) that were completely foreign to me. AutoCAD allowed me to create very basic floor plans directly on the site but in 2D format. This was very useful as it assisted me when using SketchUp which allowed me to create 3D floors which were fully furnished and ready to export. At the end of these processes, I used Enscape to transfer my furnished building into a more realistic building before adding my final touches to it.

In the end, I created a three storey building with an ice-cream parlour on the ground floor which would serve refreshments and the other two floors (first and second floor) would both be one bedroom apartments.

Over the course of this work experience, I decided to make a presentation to show my progress over the days which included my initial ideas as sketches on paper to my sketches on AutoCAD to my sketches in SketchUp to my final building in Enscape. On the last day, I presented my PowerPoint to the entire team that supervised me throughout my work experience and they gave very positive and constructive feedback.

Overall, I genuinely loved the experience and I found it extremely useful because I have gained more knowledge about Architecture, developed skills such as using different types of architectural software and presentation skills and learned about working in an office environment.

# Unifrog The Complete Destinations Platform

*by Dr Rose, Assistant Headteacher*

We are delighted to let you know that the majority of our students have now signed up to use Unifrog and Year 7 will be signing up during the next 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.

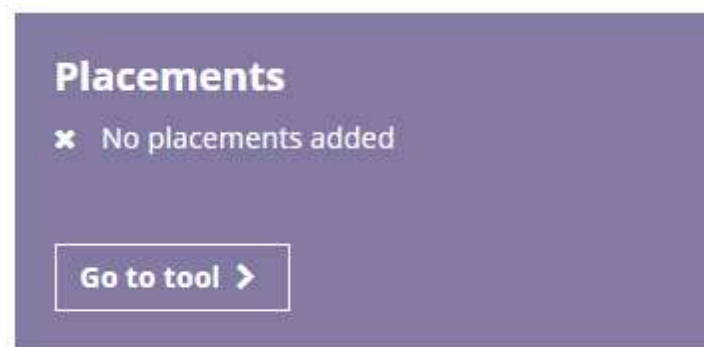
Each student has their own personal account that provides a wide range of information related to their interests and aspirations. Key features of the platform include:

## **Year 11 and Year 12 Work Experience – Summer 2023**

### **Please remember to use the Placements Tool on Unifrog!**

Year 11 and Year 12 students have recently been reminded that now is the time to finalise 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.



**Year 12 students** will also be using it to support their Post-18 plans and we will be asking **Year 13** to provide us with information about their final post-school destinations in the summer. I will soon be sending out a reminder to Year 13 students to register for the site as they can continue to use its resources for 5 years after having left the school.

It would be great to see more parents having accounts to use the site, so that you can see this amazing resource for yourself. 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 until the middle of August.

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



# Dates for Your Diary

## June



**Staff Training Day 5**

**GCSE / AS / A Levels:**  
students to come in for  
timetabled exams



**Back to school**

**Week A**

**Year 10**

**Amsterdam Parents' Evening**



**Year 12 English  
Warwick University Trip**



**Years 10 & 12 Art Trip**

**Chamber Choir Tour (Parents' Meeting)**

**Summer Soiree (CHG Hall)**



**Year 10  
Amsterdam Trip**



**Years 7 & 8  
BAE Roadshow**



**Year 8  
HPV Immunisation**



**Year 12  
Theatre Visit**



**Year 7  
Progress Evening  
(virtual)**



**Chamber Choir Tour**

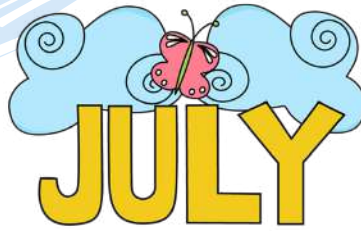


**Sports Day**



**Enrichment Week**

# Dates for Your Diary



**Induction Day**  
(new Year 7 students)



**Open Afternoon**



**Former students**  
**event**



**Induction Day**  
(new Year 12 students)



**Years 7 & 8**  
**Author Visit - *TBC***



**Summer**  
**Celebration**



**House Festival**



**End of term**  
(half day)