

# Camp Hill Girls' Chronicle

End of Summer Term 2024



## Enrichment Week

*by Mrs Neal, Deputy Head (Curriculum)*



Our annual Enrichment Week took place at the end of June. The school timetable was suspended and students across Years 7 - 10 headed off to a range of venues locally and further afield, including France and Germany and our exhilarating residential to Condover, near Shrewsbury. Sadly, our Year 10 Amsterdam trip could not go ahead due to the flight from Manchester being cancelled, but Ms Woodward, Ms Kinnaird, Ms Lamb and Ms Morris stepped up to put on a fun-filled programme including Aikido, badge making and watching a film back at school for one day. On the remaining day, the students were able to join the planned activities with the rest of the year group. We know that these Year 10 students are eagerly awaiting news of the rescheduled trip!

Huge thanks go to Dr Rose for her vision and strategic planning of the week. Also, Mrs Hughes and Mrs Gahir for their incredible organisation in ensuring tickets were booked, coaches arrived, and all the reams of paperwork were in order! Thanks too to all our fabulous teachers who led and accompanied trips, and who also delivered a super programme of activities here in school including willow-weaving, crochet and creative writing. Big thanks to Ms Chadwick for expertly leading Year 10 through their planning of a wonderful Senior Citizens' party with an 'Under the Sea' theme!

Read on to discover more about the fantastic programme of creative and sporting activities that students got to experience. This reflects our firm commitment to enrichment opportunities, and the enhancement they bring to every individual's education here at Camp Hill. Learning and personal development extend far beyond the classroom, and lasting memories were made in this action-packed week!



# Year 7 Condover

by Anusha Mukherjee, Ana Silk, Isabella Cho and Bianka Kajkush, Year 7

From 26th-28th June, Year 7 went to Condover Hall in Shropshire.



We arrived at school at 11am on Wednesday morning, which was a great opportunity for us to get a good night's rest before the tiring yet extremely enjoyable days ahead of us. When we arrived, we heaved our bags into the sports hall, only to find out that we had to move them straight back out onto the field! Once we got outside (and solved 'the case of the missing suitcase') we settled down for some time in the sunshine. At 1pm, just as we were about to explode with anticipation, the coaches arrived and we set off. After a one and a half hour drive consisting of eye-spy, singing, and Mr Hardy telling bad jokes over the tannoy, we finally arrived at the giant gates of Condover Hall.

We hastily got off the bus and dropped our suitcases in the enormous mansion. Then our JCA instructors met us on the front lawn and took us on a tour of the site. There was a boating lake, vending machines, and even a games room, which we frequently visited during our free time. After the tour we began our first activity: trapeze. This tested our ability to support our peers, who had to jump off a tall platform and catch a metal bar in mid-air! Some teachers even made it up there, including Mrs Strong and Mrs Irving. Then it was time for dinner and an evening activity, where we had to solve the mystery of who killed the Bottle of Ketchup, in Giant Cluedo. The JCA staff acted the whole story out in costumes - it was a great end to our first day.

On Thursday, we woke up early and eager. The day began with an amazing breakfast so we were all very full and ready for the activities ahead. Our first activity was the climbing wall. It seemed colossal! However our teachers cheered us on and we yelled encouragement to each other so loud we lost our voices, and many of us eventually managed to reach the top and feel a sense of achievement. Soon after, our group made our way to the archery bay where our instructor told us the basics of archery. We had a lot of fun, where some of us, including Miss Zsar, almost hit the bullseye!



After a well deserved lunch and a chill in our dorms, we set off for our next activity: raft-building. We were all incredibly excited at the thought of playing in the water and making our own rafts as we walked towards the lake, where our instructors showed us how to put the floating barrels out and tie knots to keep them together. Although we got totally soaked, most of us had remembered to pack spare clothes and trainers so only a few people had to deal with soggy shoes for the rest of the day! Finally, it was time for the aerial trek, which was a huge obstacle course about eight metres up in the air. Although it looked scary, everyone was enthusiastic to have a go and most of us were able to make it across - even Miss Fahy and Mrs Lennon!

After dinner, the whole year gathered for the Run Around Quiz and finally, exhausted, we settled in our dorms to sleep. Lights had to be out at 10pm and absolutely everybody in the year group followed this rule immediately; we were perfect angels and our teachers didn't have to come and tell us off even once! Amazing!

On the last day of our trip, our group did the laser maze and grid of stones activity. This involved agility, teamwork and respect as we had to guide each other through the grid, placing our feet on the right tile according to our memory. This was tricky as at the start, there was a lot of yelling, however towards the end, we figured out ways to communicate, guide better and overall be a great team.

With the coaches delayed by 90 minutes, we got to spend a last afternoon playing football on the lawn and singing along to 'Call Me Maybe' and 'Love Story'. Coming closer and closer to the conclusion of our residential, everyone was definitely sad to leave, but it was an amazing experience we will never forget!

Thank you to all the staff whose hard work made this residential happen and to the teachers who helped and accompanied us on the activities. A big thank you to our parents and carers as well who allowed us to go! And finally, well done to everyone in Year 7 who came along and gave it their all. The staff at Condover Hall said we were one of their favourite schools and they couldn't wait to host the next group from Camp Hill Girls!







## ***Year 7's Tales of Enrichment Week***

*by Faryal Mukhtar, Year 7*

A small group of students spent Wednesday to Friday of Enrichment week doing Bikeability and exploring the wildlife on the school site.

We were put into different groups - one group for the people who knew how to ride a bike and others who could not. In the group that I was in, (the group for people who did not know how to ride a bike) we began with a challenge - a treasure hunt. We all set off, after the task had been explained, and we were determined to find different locations of the school by using pictures and a map. Some we could tell by the background, but some were harder to find and had changed through the years, making them harder to locate. After that, we switched activities with the other group, and the real challenge began - riding a bike with no prior knowledge.

With butterflies in my stomach, I listened thoroughly on how to be safe with a bike, how to check your bike is safe, and how to balance whilst being on your bike. Under the scorching heat, I tried again and again, committed to learning how to ride a bike. I was not going to stop trying until I had at least got the gist of riding a bike. After plenty of practice, praise and prompting, I finally could do it without the instructor's help, although she did tell me she was holding me when she was not. Sometimes, I went too fast and started going up the hill - I even collided with a big rock and fell, however it was a learning experience.

On Thursday, we went out to explore the school site and find different types of trees and tried to spot the different features of different trees like the Sycamore, Holly and Lime. By the sports hall, we found blackberries that grow annually every year at school that we would have never guessed we could eat (when they are ripe!). Mrs Royall suggested that we try her amazing blackberry jam, that she made using the blackberries grown locally. Unfortunately, there was also some litter that we picked up with trash grippers. Also, we got the chance to participate in a task that the University of Birmingham sent to Mr Revitt. We got to install dendrometers on trees, after 'hand picking' trees that were not too lumpy, too big, or too small. This was a delightful and new experience, as in a few years time the spring on the dendrometer will expand as the bark of the tree grows and we have to measure that every 6 months. We also enjoyed some peaceful time outside, watching some baby moorhens in the pond, with binoculars. We ended the day off with meeting with the students who were biking all day, and celebrated by eating some sweets and hopping down to the library to finish our journal to record this week.

The group of more experienced riders started by completing Bikeability Level 1 in the playground on Wednesday. This involved learning safety checks like wearing your helmet correctly before we got onto our bikes and rode round in circles. Once we were riding we learnt signalling with one hand; practised using brakes so we could stop and start at junctions; narrow, wide and U turns. Despite the bike pedals attacking our trousers and a few minor falls, we really enjoyed ourselves and felt more confident on the bikes.

This meant they could advance to Level 2 on Thursday and venture off the school site to local roads like Pineapple Road, Newland Road and Cartland Road. We were able to do things on the actual roads that we had practised on the playground. We developed our safety knowledge too, learning we should cycle a car door's space away from parked cars and when to take primary and secondary positions in the road at junctions. We learned and practised the four core skills: Observation, Position, Communication and Priority. Some things were challenging, like looking left, right and behind you quickly, balancing when riding one handed in order to signal and pedalling up the quite steep hills around school. However, we persevered, listened to Onjam

and Karen's advice and managed to achieve Level 2 as well as having lots of fun going downhill!! It was great to do a bit of proper riding too and feel hugely more confident in our cycling skills.

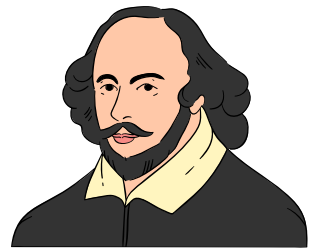


On Friday both groups got to continue with the Bikeability programme, with extra time to practise our cycling skills. The more advanced riders had some time to explore our amazing school site and enjoyed making friends with a robin as well as spotting lots of ladybirds! At the end of the day Onjam tested our knowledge of road signs with a quiz and presented us with certificates. Lots of us are keen to continue cycling and will be using the tips we were given to look into getting a bargain second hand bike!



## ***Year 8 Shakespeare Workshop***

*by Mariam Mohammed, Year 8*



On the Wednesday of Enrichment Week, Year 8 were given the opportunity to participate in a thrilling Shakespeare workshop, testing our ability to work together as a team and try to tap into the world of our characters. Overall, I think we can all agree that it was a new amazing experience and we all thoroughly enjoyed it.

Personally, I enjoyed directing my form and seeing the different viewpoints of the exciting play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. I also appreciated the additional (and may I add helpful) feedback by each of the actors. Moreover, the three talented actors also performed well-rehearsed, engaging snippets of different Shakespeare plays e.g. Macbeth. After a time of hard work and rehearsal, each form performed their scenes to the rest of the year group. Each group embodied confidence and resilience in their performances and I enjoyed watching each one and performing with my form.

We ended the day with a Q&A session and a massive thank you to the actors, the staff, and all the students for participating. I hope that we are given many great opportunities like this one in the future.

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## ***Year 9 Paper Fashion Challenge***

*by Miss Irving, Subject Leader (Art)*

Once again, we were thrilled with the response from Year 9 to our paper 'fashion' challenge. The theme this year was 'Circus' and 'Insects'. The garments and accessories needed to reflect the extravagance of circus performer costumes, whilst taking inspiration from the characteristics of insects and creepy crawlies. Students could only use white paper, tape and scissors to make their creations. After two hours of making them, they celebrated their outcomes on the catwalk!





# Year 8 Murder Mystery

by Madeleine Gunn, Nailah Mziya, Salma Kerchaoui, Askin Tenekeci and Hunain Zaman, Year 8

During Enrichment Week, Year 8 took part in a Murder Mystery activity. To start off, we worked in teams of five to solve some quick mysteries...

## If you want to have a go here is an example:

On a Japanese ship there was a captain and four other crew members. When the captain went in the shower, one of them stole his watch. When he found out, he asked all of them what they were doing.

The cook said, "I was preparing this evening's meal in the kitchen".

The route planner said, "I was entering the route into the computer".

The signals officer said, "I saw the flag was upside down by mistake so I was correcting it".

The engineering officer said, "I was making sure the engine was okay".

The captain knew straight away which one was lying.

Who was it and how did you know?

(Answer is upside down at the bottom of the page.)



...After solving multiple quick mysteries, the groups moved on to the main murder. The murder of a cleaner, Conan Drum.

The activity took place in the library, in which multiple clues, including newspaper articles, emails, photos, suspect's possessions and profiles and hints as to who and why the murder took place, were left around for us to decipher and solve. These also included multiple locked clues, which we had to crack and also had to hand over to the teacher in return for another big clue.

After connecting clues, taking notes and coming up with theories, we headed back to rooms 22 and 23 to share our ideas.

Who did it?

How did they do it?

Why did they do it?

Why did the other suspects not do it?

Using these questions, we had to write our final report.

It was the signals officer because the Japanese flag is the same both ways up.

# ***Year 9 visit to the National Memorial Arboretum***

*by Mrs Tromans, Assistant Headteacher*

At the end of a busy Enrichment Week, eighty Year 9 students visited the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. This site of national remembrance was created to commemorate those who have fallen in the service of their country, not only from the British Armed Forces but also members of the Commonwealth Armed Forces, the emergency services and civilians who have given their lives in the service of others.

Students had a guided tour of some of the site - at 150 acres (the size of 85 football pitches!) it would be impossible to see all of the 400 memorials. Our tour focused on memorials of World War 1. Having studied 'Journey's End' as part of their GCSE English Literature course, all students appreciated the significance of the memorials, asking insightful questions and getting detailed information from the volunteers who worked there. Students were particularly moved by the 'Shot at Dawn' memorial which remembers soldiers who were executed by the British Army after court martial for cowardice or desertion. Each soldier's life is marked with a wooden post bearing his name - but not necessarily his age, as many were below the age of conscription and were not meant to be at war at all.

For those interested in medicine, it was useful to hear how medics played such a key role on the front line. We visited the memorial to the Royal Army Medical Corps: a bronze sculpture showing a wounded soldier being carried from the battlefield. We heard how the horrors of the battlefield actually prompted some of the developments we take for granted in medicine today, such as reconstructive plastic surgery, blood transfusions and an understanding of post-traumatic stress. We also heard about the extraordinary life of Noel Chavasse, a surgeon who joined the RAMC. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for extreme bravery, having treated and saved the lives of twenty men who would otherwise have died, despite being under fire and wounded himself. He was then awarded a second VC for his bravery during the Battle of Passchendaele, going out several times into no man's land to recover wounded men. He is one of only three people to have ever been awarded the VC twice.

Our guided tour ended with a collective act of remembrance, where students read poems and considered the importance of remembering the sacrifice of others. In the afternoon, there was time for students to explore the site independently in small groups, searching for memorials which might be of particular interest to them and appreciating the peaceful landscape amongst the 25,000 trees. Despite some cautious looks to the sky when a few raindrops fell in the morning, the weather held and we were all able to appreciate the importance and beauty of this special place.





## ***Year 9 Trip to Oxford***

*by Pravagi Piratheesan, Sara Hasan, Ariona Sutradhar, Rosalyn Bishop-Park & Hannah Butt, Year 9*

In Enrichment Week, Year 9 were given the opportunity to have a day out of school and in the city of Oxford! It was certainly worth the time spent on the coach to get there. The teachers provided us with a myriad of areas to visit. One of the special places we visited was Keble College, who coincidentally were hosting an open day. The college certainly seemed like a dream with its wonderfully picturesque architecture, though this was just the outside. As we entered, a swarm of eager students willingly guided newcomers around the campus. The site was one of a kind. Two enthusiastic and experienced helpers guided us around specific zones of the campus, including the college bar, the accommodation and the lounge area, helping us to be more aware of what life as a college student is like.

The next building we were scheduled to visit was the Pitt Rivers Museum. As you open the doors to this building you could be overwhelmed with the history and memories of what was once acknowledged as the present day. Founded in 1884 and located in a magnificent building, the museum displays a wide range of elements from different cultures, religions and regions including an exhibit of thousands of archives of black-and-white photos from around the world. Some of these treasures are exceptional cultural and religious objects; others were simply made for tourism or trade. The experience was like no other, learning about items that can't be found anywhere else on this planet. The artefacts in the multi-layered and dense displays held in this museum remain meaningful to contemporary audiences and have inspired, enthralled and intrigued many generations of visitors.

And that's not all, our last destination before exploring the city in our groups was the Natural History Museum. A building of historical wonders, Oxford University Museum of Natural History was created in 1860 for scientific study and field investigation by various departments at the University of Oxford. Today, this famous museum has grown to be a hub of scientific discovery and curation in operation, just as we witnessed on our visit. It also provides a broad spectrum of events, exhibitions and educational services to the general public as well as school children. We were provided with the chance to look at fossils and animals that one would have never guessed existed.

During the last part of the day we had some free time to roam around the bustling city, filled with several market places, cafes, bookstores and colleges to visit. In summary, although it was quite a busy day, it was spent with joy and enthusiasm. Year 9 were more than satisfied with the outcome of these contrasting experiences.





# **Year 10 Senior Citizens' Party**

*by Leen Abdalla, Year 10*



After 7 weeks of intense preparation and anticipation, the Senior Citizens Party, hosted by Year 10, finally took place. This year's theme was 'Under The Sea'. Cartland, Meriden, Priory and Warwick spent many hours working away at a plethora of decorations: from seaweed to starfish paintings, from SpongeBob and Squidward decorations to fish centrepieces and carefully crafted real life paintings (and to scale!) of Johnny Depp! Year 10 left no stone unturned this year.

At the same time Lichfield cooked up ideas (pun intended) for the menu - we were all hoping nobody would get seasick! They ended up making some amazing food which was thoroughly enjoyed by our guests. Stratford were responsible for entertainment, a job which required a tough round of auditions (which had a big turnout!!!), many rehearsals and many hours spent outside of school polishing off the final product.

On the morning of the 27th June, we eagerly awaited the arrival of our esteemed guests with Warwick ready to greet them at reception with even some students outside giving directions. Upon arrival, each guest took a photo at our beautifully decorated photo booth, created and photographed by Warwick. Meriden were all set to chat with our guests in the hall, bringing out teas and coffees to help them settle in and adjust to the complete transformation the hall had undergone.

After having had their delicious meal, it was time for the entertainment! This year, our Year 10 performers blew us all away: from hilarious dance interludes to Rihanna, to an extremely unique diabolo performance, we managed to capture many smiles on our audience's faces. I think it was safe to say that the senior citizens were delighted with the entertainment!

But before this, the raffle winners were announced! The winners enjoyed their prizes! All of our guests also received a goody bag to take home with them - filled with under the sea themed gifts, many of which were handcrafted by the students.

Our party ended with one big sing-along to The Beatles' 'Yellow Submarine'. It was great to get our guests involved! Much to our delight, a huge conga line formed around the hall. Our happiness was so infectious some of our guests decided to join!

The 2024 Senior Citizens Party was absolutely amazing. A massive thanks goes to Miss Chadwick for having to organise all six forms simultaneously (a very difficult job); without her, the party would definitely not have been what it was. Further thanks also go to all members of staff who were present on the day who were constantly helping out, whether it was last minute decorations, or taking down the huge Johnny Depp painting! It goes without saying that this year's SCP was a roaring success!







# Sports Day 2024

by Shakthi Sreevats, Year 11

As we approach the end of the school year, we would like to reflect on one of the most important dates this year - Sports Day 2024! This exciting day began with many track and field events including the 'dreaded' 800m, overarm throw, long jump and triple jump. These events went very well and students demonstrated a great deal of resilience, especially when running longer distances. Although the morning was full of fun, soon lunchtime fell upon us. Lunch was busy with the incredibly successful AFS tuck shop being crowded with children eager for some candy floss! As soon as this hectic lunchtime ended, the afternoon spectacle began. Mr Hamblett and Ms Stone introduced the races with flair and kept the entire school entertained throughout the hot afternoon. The participants of the 100m and 200m races speeded across the track and represented their houses remarkably. After the relay races, the long-awaited teacher race commenced, and the crowds cheered loudly for the teachers representing their houses. The winners were Meriden which Mr Hamblett clearly conveyed with his stylish forwards roll over the finish line.

Overall, I feel that this day would have been impossible without the hard work and supportive nature of the PE department who encouraged every participant to try their very best to not give up. Additionally, we would like to thank Mr Frost for his help with the scoring spreadsheet as well as the Y11 volunteers who came in and helped out so the day could run smoothly. Finally, we would like to thank all of the students for cheering for their friends and bringing the vibes to Sports Day, without which we would not have had such an enjoyable day.



## Sports Day Results

1st	Lichfield
2nd	Cartland
3rd	Warwick
4th	Stratford
5th	Priory
6th	Meriden



# ***Sports Year in Review***

*by the Senior Sports Captains (Birle, Annika, and Shakthi, Year 11)*

This academic year our school has been involved in many different activities, ranging from fun sports clubs to competitive inter-school fixtures.

The Year 7 to 13 netball teams played league matches against other schools in Birmingham, as well as participating in the county tournament. The effort and commitment displayed by all the players was amazing, and particularly well done to the Year 9 team who came first in their league. Also, huge congratulations to the Year 7 team for coming third in their first ever tournament as a team.

In the Autumn term, a fun netball league was led for 8 teams in Year 7 and 8, where the players in the league were able to learn the rules of netball if they had never played before and practise their skills, but most importantly were able to have fun with their friends whilst staying active. We had over 60 students attend one lunchtime a week and several Year 10s and 11s were on hand to offer advice to help the students improve their netball playing ability.

Furthermore, the swimming team (composed of swimmers from all age groups), participated most notably in a gala against Edgbaston High School. The A team won, and the B team only lost narrowly, leading to a marginal loss overall. However, our top eight swimmers performed extremely well in the Minchin Cup (which is the KEVI Foundation swimming tournament) securing second place overall.

During the Autumn term, a group of students in Year 10 and 11 took part in the Your Time Leaders Award, where they put on a very successful dodgeball tournament for over 90 students in Years 7 and 8. Their organisational and leadership skills were put to the test and they did very well.

Year 11 Active in Mind mentors have been working with a group of Year 7 and 8s each week leading various fun activities. Each session is oriented on improving either physical or mental health and we do this not only through sports such as dodgeball and volleyball but also activities that involve teamwork and communication. In one session we even did some cookie decorating which was very good for everyone's mental health as we got to eat them afterwards!

We also saw the first ever Teachers vs Students Dodgeball match take place, in which we were able to raise over £200 for Women's Aid. The students emerged victorious, although the staff definitely gave it a good go and the competitive nature of both the staff and students was evident. Look out for more events like this next year!

The Spring and Summer terms have been packed with lots of different activities, including tennis, rounders and cricket. Many students have enjoyed participating in a fun rounders league as well as taking part in tennis and cricket clubs at lunchtimes. Years 7-10 have also participated in competitive fixtures in all three sports, with a near clean sweep of wins against EHS in rounders. Furthermore, Camp Hill retained the Gardener's Cup (Foundation rounders tournament) as well as performing well in a tough national tournament.

Everyone has also enjoyed taking part in House matches in cricket, tennis and rounders, with many spirited and competitive matches, however the most competitive House sports event of the year has to be Sports Day. Everyone came in dressed in House colours and competed in a wide variety of events from the 100m to speed bounce. The most exciting event was the teacher relay race in which we saw some interesting hand overs, a tumble, and a dramatic finish from Mr Hamblett!

We want to say well done to everyone who has participated in sports this year and hope many more of you will join in with sports next year!





# ***Trial Dates for 2024-2025 Sports Teams***

This year was full of many fixtures and tournaments for our different sports teams, ranging from netball and swimming in the winter term, to tennis and rounders in the summer. In order for our school to participate in these, as always we require the commitment of students to our sports teams.

Some key trial dates to look out for next year:

## **Netball**

Year 9 Trials - Wednesday 4/9/24

Year 7 trials - Monday 9/9/24

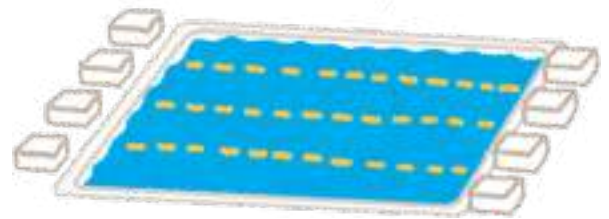
Year 10/11 trials - Wednesday 4/9/24



## **Swimming**

TBC - keep an eye on your year group PE Google classrooms for further information on this.

A big thank you to all of this year's sports team members for their commitment to sports and their outstanding playing, and especially to our PE department who make all these fixtures, training sessions and tournaments possible for us.



Good luck to everyone trying out next year!

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## ***National Badminton***

*by Anoushka Hari, Year 8*

On Saturday 20th April, the Camp Hill KS4 badminton team travelled all the way to the National Badminton Centre to take part in the National Badminton School Championships, where we proudly represented the West Midlands. This competition is a highly prestigious badminton tournament where the top eight schools in the country battle against each other to see who will be crowned the overall national champions.

Upon arriving at the National Badminton Centre, we played several competitive games against the three other teams in our box: Pate's Grammar, Colchester County and Kesteven and Grantham Girls. After many inspiring performances, the KS4 badminton team came third overall in our box due to our crushing defeat against Pate's Grammar and Colchester County. Shortly after, we were again back on court after a short lunch break (where we were able to meet with Senior England players) to battle for fifth - eighth position. After some beautiful and exciting games of badminton, the Camp Hill KS4 badminton team came fifth overall, securing us a place in the Top 5 schools in the country!

Overall, I think we can give a massive pat on the back to Jay, Pratha, Jess and Anoushka for playing wonderful games of badminton and for achieving such an outstanding result. As well as this, we want to thank Ms Parker and Ms Chapman for supporting us throughout the day and a special thanks to Ms O'Grady for helping us train during lunchtimes. We hope this has inspired the younger years in our school to play more competitive badminton and we hope to see more results like this in the future!



# ***Rounders National School Finals***

*by Annika Sinha, Year 11*

On Thursday 4th July, a team of twelve students, ranging from Year 8 to 11, attended the Year 10 and 11 Rounders National School Finals in Leicester. After being finalists for the last two years, our expectations were high. We started strong against Kesteven and Grantham with an 8-2 win. We then unfortunately lost 3-6 to an impressive Chesham team (who ended up winning the competition). However, our last group match stands out in particular because we defeated Belvoir Priory, who actually finished runners up in the competition. We batted first scoring only 3.5 rounders, giving us a tough score to defend but by this point our fielding had improved dramatically and they only managed to score 2.5.

Unfortunately we came third in our group winning three matches and losing two. We missed out on a semi-final place by only half a rounder. However as the two teams above us ended as the finalists, we did pretty well with a tough group!

Thank you to Miss Chapman and Mrs Parker for spending the day with us and offering their expert tactics and advice.

Finally, a huge congratulations to Maia Spencer in particular for receiving a golden ticket that gives her the opportunity to trial to join the England talent pathway. Maia was noticed by umpires throughout the competition for her impressive performance throughout all five of our matches, including an impressive catch as well as many accurate throws and reactions at fourth post. Well done Maia!

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## ***Gardener's Cup***

*by Marriam Javed, Year 10*

Recently, a group of Year 9s, 10s and 12s participated in the Gardener's Cup (the KEVI Foundation rounders tournament) at Handsworth. As our school were the winners in 2023, we were keen to maintain our title.

We performed exceptionally well as a team, managing to win all five games, and therefore were successful in bringing home the cup once again.

A great thank you to Miss Chapman and Mrs Parker for taking us to the tournament and for their superb guidance, which contributed to our victory.



*Designed by Wannapik*



# ***Beyond the Baseline***

*by Anaya Hassan, Year 7*



On Monday 15th July, students gave a class to Years 7 & 8 to teach about sporting skills, focussing on tennis. In June we had a brilliant tennis player come in named Yasmin Clarke, who taught us vital skills for tennis and overall sports. For sports, these skills include: creativity, support and more. In tennis we learned how to handle a racket, rallies, games and speed.

In Monday's session, all students were able to learn these skills, with the group who worked with Yasmin leading the class. This helped everyone to improve with some students learning new tennis skills and others developing vital skills for sportsmanship.

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## ***Fry Cup***

*by Shae Chew, Year 10*

On Tuesday 4th July, KEHS hosted the Fry Cup which has been happening since 1912. It was a day full of lots of tennis, doubles and fun even though it was slightly cloudy!

There was a good standard across all the schools and it ended with KEHS taking the win followed by Five Ways and Camp Hill coming a close third; Handsworth followed behind.

After the tennis we went inside for some strawberries and cream with brownies and presented KEHS with the trophy. There was good healthy competition and don't worry - we will get the trophy back next year!

A big thank you goes to Miss Chapman and Mrs O'Grady for taking the team and spending the whole day there.



# Cricket

*by Neeva Vishnupurikar, Year 8*

Cricket has been an upcoming sport here at Camp Hill. Many girls are getting involved in the sport, and you can too. Whether that's by coming to cricket club, playing in Games lessons or even joining a cricket club outside of school, there are ways for everyone to get involved.

I personally am very interested in cricket. As a girl in an Indian household, I've grown up watching cricket on the TV, hearing about it from my family and have been interested in the sport for quite a while. My dad also plays cricket, so I practise with him when I can. He's the one who taught me how to bowl, field and bat (though I definitely still can't bat!).

As I am invested in the sport, and now know that I can take it for GCSE PE, I decided to start playing for Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club. It is one of the best clubs for cricket and also has the best girl's team. Their training is from 5:30 - 6:30pm after school on a Wednesday, and they have proper kit, as well as a sports uniform. I've been going for about a month or two now and I can definitely say I enjoy it. Everyone there is very friendly and they teach you cricket properly too.

Cricket has also been played in school. Cricket club is held in school at lunch times - Wednesday lunch time is for all, and Friday is usually for Year 9 and above, or people on the cricket team. Both of these sessions are made super fun by Ms Keane, and you are able to work on all of your skills, be that batting, bowling or even fielding, with different ways to train, as well as playing a match. You can also get involved by choosing to play cricket as your summer sport for Games lessons, where you work on your skills and end off the lesson with a match.

Also our own school cricket team has been playing matches. On 5th June, the U13 and U15 teams went to EHS for a cricket match. We were all really excited to play as this was our first match of the season. After warming up, both teams were ready to start playing our pairs cricket match, desperate to win. In the end, both of our teams won the matches, 226 runs for U13 and 242 runs for U15. We all had a lot of fun playing and made some fun memories together.

Thank you to Mrs Keane for the opportunity and for training us!





## Art News



### **Crafts Council 'Material World' presentation**

During Enrichment Week, the Crafts Council invited us to a zoom meeting presentation to celebrate all the entries to their 'Material World' competition. Students had the opportunity to see each others' work across all the schools who took part. We also had a 'tour' of the Eden Project in Cornwall and learned about some of the work they do. There was a make-along session with an artist during which we all made beautiful origami rosettes. Well done to all the students who took part. Their work can be seen on the Crafts Council website:

<https://www.craftscouncil.org.uk/learning/craft-school/material-world/material-world-exhibition-2024>



### **Key Stage 3 Open Choice Exhibition**

Students from Years 7-9 were invited to submit some of their own art work for an exhibition to mark the end of term. Work could take any form, and was totally free choice. The only requirement was that the work should be inspired by an existing artist/artwork.

The exhibition showcased work by 22 students and was attended by many, many more. Well done to all who entered work; Manha K, Liang Zi, Vicky, Rupitha, Ameera, Harshita, Sanvi, Keya, Ahana, Hidayah, Adithi, Linn, Manha H, Sathviga, Emilie, Hiba, Divine, Isabella, Zahra, Siya, Aashna, Aisha and Hasti. Thank you to everyone who came along to support the event.





# ***Visit to Birmingham City University***

*by Upaharika Bellamkonda, Sadeen Ahmad and Ivy Zhang, Year 10*

On 13th June, the Year 10 Art and Graphics classes took a trip to Birmingham City University to take inspiration from the graduate students studying creative courses for our own GCSE projects. The graduates' artwork was displayed in various exhibitions and we were able to take a look at many different departments including fine art, photography, architecture, costume design and many more. It was wonderful to see the array of different media and styles displayed and all of the unique ideas that they had brought to life.

Firstly, we went to the School of Art, Margaret Street. The building's exterior was heavily inspired by Gothic architecture and was really beautiful to look at. We were already feeling inspired by all the details on the outside and we hadn't even got inside! The exhibitions inside were unique; we were expecting a lot of paintings and drawings, however most were in fact art installations or sculptures. The work ranged from tiny little structures of houses made from paper all the way to giant webs made from wool and yarn. It was also interesting to read the varied meanings behind these pieces of art and how ideas connected.

After a windy lunch, we headed to the modern-built Parkside building, where the focus was more on graphic design, photography, architecture and fashion. In the fashion section, we saw various styles and mediums from beautifully stitched dresses, inspired by old royalty, to a more punk and modern look of mini skirts and balaclavas. Each look clearly reflected the designer's personality and their own style, accompanied by sketchbooks of drafts and trials or moodboards.

We were led into an awesome studio where we were able to see different photographs taken by the students and also a recording station. We then saw lots of unique designs and 3D installations by the students that we all found very inspiring as it had materials we weren't used to working with, such as woodwork and furnishings. There was a large exhibition based around chairs and it amazed us how they were able to make seats so creatively. We enjoyed being able to freely explore the different sections and took lots of pictures. The architecture section was huge, and it had so many things from floor plans to larger models which were very exquisite. In the graphic design section, there were countless posters, cartoons and character ideas presented on boards. Each designer had different concepts for their boards (my personal favourite being the recreation of the movie poster "Coraline") and created their own little worlds and characters. Some designers presented their work through their published picture books or through the cover of their books, giving ideas on how to utilise graphic design skills within everyday life. We ended at the illustration section, where we were allowed to take small postcard size artworks of the illustrators, making it a perfect souvenir to remember this trip.

Overall, it was a great experience all around. This trip thoroughly allowed us to explore what the word "art" means to people and the forms it takes within us. It inspired us with the range of materials and media used and allowed us to think out of our comfort zone. My favourite department was the costume design department: each costume was intricately considered with an immense amount of detail. Before this trip, I had never thought of doing costume design. However, after this trip, I might give it a go!



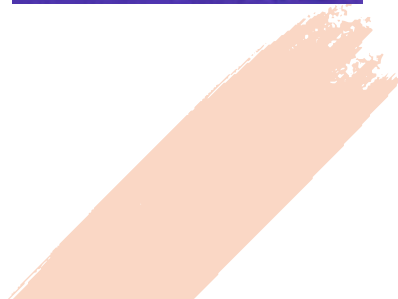
Year 8 artists have won the Tamanna Abdul-Karim award for their creativity and ability to produce outstanding outcomes in school art.

A collection of various 3D pop-up cards and booklets, some featuring illustrations of people, landscapes, and text, displayed on a light-colored surface. The cards are arranged in a cluster, showing different designs and themes. Some have colorful backgrounds, while others are more text-heavy. The pop-up elements are visible, showing the mechanical structure of the cards.

[illegible]

Carnegie Shadowers were to read the books and write reviews on the Yoto Carnegies website as well as discuss and take part in activities related to the books every week. Of course, chocolates and house points were involved! In our final meeting, we debated which books were most likely to win the Carnegie Medal. My favourite was *The Boy Lost in the Maze* by Joseph Coelho, which ended up winning overall! The verse novel cleverly balances the Greek myth of Theseus and reality, and is made more compelling by following these multiple perspectives in parallel with well-timed switches.

You can read all of our reviews on the Carnegie website as well as find out more about the books themselves. On each book's page you can also watch a video with the author and each writer has also set a challenge for those who enjoy c reactive writing.

[illegible]



## ***Ex-Student Visit***

We are always thrilled to welcome back our ex-students and this half term we were lucky enough to see Jia Wu, who has just secured a place to study women's fashion design at Central Saint Martins in London. She came in to talk to art students about her year on a foundation course, her portfolio process and what to expect at the interview. After presenting her work and explaining the ideas behind her designs, students asked lots of questions about the transition into further education and Jia's practical processes.



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## ***Davidson Inventors Challenge***

*by Mr Bettison, Subject Leader (Maths)*

Team 'Breaking Bonds', a Year 11 collective consisting of Rinsola Alatise, Tzu-Wei Liao, Navya Pillai, Anviti Venkateshwaran and Bhumika Talwar, took part in the annual Davidson Inventors Challenge, a competition for Year 11 and 12 students, organised by the University of Cambridge, where teams design innovative solutions to modern-day engineering problems.



After working tirelessly on the project since before Christmas, they submitted their solution to the judging panel and were shortlisted for the final.

The final took place on Teams in June – the four shortlisted projects, from schools across the country, were presented again to a panel of industry and university experts. Breaking Bonds did a superb job with both the presentation and in answering very technical and challenging questions from the panel afterwards.

After what seemed like an interminable wait, the judging panel made their final decision and, with a virtual drum-roll, announced that Breaking Bonds had finished in first place!

That is an absolutely superb achievement from this team of committed students and they have received national recognition in both the [Chemical Engineer magazine](#) and from the BBC!



# Industrial Cadets

by Mr Bettison, Subject Leader (Maths)

For over six months, the two Year 12 teams who participated in the Industrial Cadets Gold Award worked tirelessly on their projects, fulfilling briefs set by our industry partner, Collins Aerospace. The briefs were extremely technical and required a lot of initial research before work began prototyping during a two-day workshop at the University of Birmingham in December 2023. After Christmas, a site visit to Collins enabled both teams to work on their final designs before they wrote up their reports and presented them to a panel of industry experts after the Easter holidays.



Team 'Parsnip': May Smith, Bahar Kayani, Sudarshana Karthikeyan, Desandi Haputhanthirige, Tanya Sinha and Anika Vohra



Team 'Turnip': Jiya Aggarwal, Subhangi Bhaumik, Fatima Noman and Siyuan Liu (Jeya Sandhar – absent)

At the beginning of July, the teams were invited to a Celebration and Assessment Day at De Montfort University in Leicester where they showcased their projects to other teams and experts from industry and the university itself. The event included both a campus tour and STEM-related activities and concluded with speeches from the head of the school of engineering at De Montfort, the Engineering Development Trust and Andrew Benn, director of Collins Aerospace.

At the presentation of awards, Team 'Parsnip' were awarded both the Teamwork Award and the award for Project of the Year – a fantastic achievement for the team!



Many thanks to all of the students in both teams for their hard work and commitment, and to the mentors at Collins (Andrew Benn, Kate Cooke and Michael Dawson) for their guidance and dedication to the success of the teams.

# UK-Germany Exchange 2024

by Ms Smith

This year, five lucky students from Year 10 here at Camp Hill spent a week on exchange at Elly Heuss Gymnasium, a grammar school in Weiden in der Oberpfalz, Germany. Here follows a short description of what they did while there in German. If you study German, see if you can work out the answers to the questions below. And even if you've never studied German, see what you can understand!

Am Sonntag, 23. Juni sind wir vom Birmingham Flughafen nach München gefahren, um unseren Austausch mit Schülerinnen von Elly Heuss Gymnasium zu beginnen.

Der Flug am Sonntag war ziemlich früh – wir mussten um 8 Uhr morgens im Flughafen sein! Wir haben im Flughafen Bücher und Essen für den Flug gekauft.

Wir sind um 16 Uhr in Weiden angekommen – Weiden liegt eigentlich ein bisschen weit weg von München – rund 160 Kilometer! Wir haben Sonntag Abend mit unseren Gastfamilien verbracht – wir haben typisches deutsches Essen probiert, wie Käsespätzle und Kartoffelsalat. Frau Smith hat einen Berg namens Parkstein bestiegen!



Am Montag waren wir zum ersten Mal bei Elly Heuss Gymnasium für Mädchen. Es ist benannt nach Elly Heuss, die eine bekannte deutsche Politikerin des 20. Jahrhunderts war. Montag war ein bisschen anders als normal, weil es der Abistreich war. Das heißt, dass die Mädchen, die das Abi absolviert haben, die Schule schmücken und eine Veranstaltung haben, wo die Lehrerinnen Lieder vom Barbie Film singen müssen! Das war wirklich lustig und unsere Schülerinnen hatten viel Spaß.

Während der Woche haben die Mädchen alle Sorten von Klassen besucht – Mathe, Englisch, Deutsch, Geschichte und auch Sport! Am Mittwoch haben sie Interviews mit Leuten von Betrieben und Geschäften in der Nähe von Weiden gemacht. Die Mädchen müssen einen Bericht über verschiedenen Themen schreiben, zum Beispiel Transport, Sport und die Umwelt.

Am Samstag, 29. Juni haben wir einen Tagesausflug nach Regensburg gemacht. Das Wetter war sehr heiß – über 30 Grad! Wir haben eine Stadttour gemacht und wir haben etwas über die Geschichte der Stadt gelernt. Nach dem Mittagessen sind wir mit dem Schiff auf der Donau nach Walhalla gefahren. Walhalla ist ein Denkmal für viele wichtigen Figuren von der deutschen Geschichte, zum Beispiel Heinrich Heine, Käthe Kollwitz und Sophie Scholl.

Wir sind am Sonntag wieder nach Hause gefahren. Wir waren alle sehr müde, besonders weil die Schule um 7 Uhr 50 in Deutschland beginnt. Wir müssen in der Schule sehr früh sein! Wir haben zuletzt einige Souvenirs gekauft und dann war es Zeit, zurück nach England zu fliegen. Wir hatten wirklich viel Spaß und ich hoffe, dass wir so einen Austausch nochmal in der Zukunft machen können!



**Test your understanding here!**

**What's the name of our partner school?**

- a) Weiden Schule
- b) Elly Heuss Gymnasium
- c) Samstag Schule

**How far is the town of Weiden from Munich?**

- a) 160 km
- b) 180 km
- c) 200 km

**What did we do after we'd arrived and met our host families?**

- a) Watched TV
- b) Listened to German music
- c) Ate typical German food

**What did Frau Smith do on Sunday?**

- a) Climbed a mountain
- b) Did a city tour
- c) Read a book

**Who was Elly Heuss?**

- a) A teacher at the school
- b) A politician
- c) A famous singer

**Why was Monday a bit unusual?**

- a) It was a non-uniform day
- b) It was German stand-down
- c) The teachers were all off work

**What topics are being covered in the students' reports?**

- a) Transport, sport and the environment
- b) Transport, sport and education
- c) Transport, sport and history

**What was the weather like during our day trip on Saturday?**

- a) Extremely hot
- b) Extremely cold
- c) Mild

**What exactly is Walhalla?**

- a) A museum
- b) An art gallery
- c) A memorial

**Why was everyone very tired on the last day?**

- a) No one got much sleep because of Germany's success in the Euros
- b) In Germany, school starts very early
- c) The flight home was very early

**Quiz  
Time!**





# ***Theology, Philosophy and Religion Essay Competition Success***

*by Ms Jones*

We are really proud of Lara Punjani in Year 8 who received a commendation for her entry into a national essay competition organised by the Independent Schools Religious Studies Association.

Lara said, "As part of an optional RPE project, students in Year 8 were invited to enter a national essay writing competition set by the ISRSA. The competition involved writing an essay limited to 800 words in response to one of three statements. I chose, "***Religion is not about having beliefs; it is about doing***". This allowed me to explore both arguments "for" and "against", and was really interesting to write about. In the end, I decided that religion was both about beliefs and actions!"

The judges reported, "Yet again it was a very great pleasure to read so many excellent essays which clearly indicated how much personal reflection, research and care had been given to their composition. All the winners and those who have been commended, are to be congratulated on the sophistication of their language and the quality of their personal engagement with the subject matter."

Well done Lara!



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## ***Beamline***

*by Samia, Fatima, and Yashvi, Year 12*



BL4S is a competition run by CERN (The "Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire" or European Council for Nuclear Research), where the world's largest particle accelerator is located. The competition involves writing a scientific proposal for an experiment using one of their beamlines. Three winning teams are invited to physically conduct their experiments at the CERN laboratory in Geneva!

Our proposal, titled 'The Effect of Intense Particle Radiation on Carbon Steel', was about gauging how the ductility and tensile strength of steel is affected by neutron radiation. We were inspired to make this proposal by combining our interests in materials science, aviation, and chemical engineering, which led to us researching how irradiation affects materials. This field has surprisingly many uses, from nuclear reactors to NASA spacecraft! In comparison to previous proposals, ours was relatively simple. Although we didn't make use of the scintillation counters or Cherenkov detectors at CERN, our proposal was based on what we thought was an important application of particle physics to real life.

A few months after the submission of our beamline proposal we received an email saying our team was one of 46 others to be shortlisted from 461 participating teams around the world! This meant that we received prizes like the BL4S T-shirts and could choose an additional prize from a selection, which for us was the quirky quarks game. Our team is very grateful to be shortlisted and we would like to give a special thanks to Mrs Nicholson, the coach of our team, as this would not be possible without her prompting, support and physics expertise. Congratulations to the whole team for our efforts in converting an idea into a scientific proposal!



## ***Year 10 GCSE Latin trip to Bath***

*by Marriam Javed and Aemaan Anjun, Year 10*

On Monday 10th June, Year 10 Latin students were presented with an amazing opportunity to visit the Roman Baths in the English city of Bath (known to the Romans as Aquae Sulis). The Roman Baths are one of the finest historic sites in Northern Europe and are famous for their spring water, thought to have curing powers.

The Roman Baths were constructed around AD 70 - a long time ago! These baths allowed citizens of all social strata to mingle with others and relax. As part of the complex of the public baths, a temple was built honouring the goddess Sulis Minerva. The Romans believed that the water emerging from the earth possessed the ability to cure, reflecting its sacred nature. Throughout Roman times, people from different places travelled to Aquae Sulis to seek the goddess's healing hands due to the site's holy spring and temple.

Visiting the Baths was a great experience for us and has assisted our understanding of Roman Baths. We were provided with the chance to see items and historical artefacts in person, as well as develop contextual knowledge of the stories we read in class, as our GCSE Latin textbook is set in Aquae Sulis.

During our visit, we started with an introduction to the Roman Baths, where we were told about the Romans' visits to the baths and their ritualistic nature, but we also found out about more casual ways in which the baths were used. Fun fact: the baths were even used for sport! After this we were given the opportunity to find and write down some information about various artefacts in the museum, then we all met up in the gift shop where we got ourselves some overpriced souvenirs.

Our final activity of the day was in the Clore Learning Centre, where we analysed gravestones of different demographics. Here all of our Latin skills came in useful and we translated and broke down the different messages on the tombstones and tried to guess what relation the author had to the deceased. We then headed to tables that had a mix of authentic and models of customary Roman objects and had to guess which part of the bath each object would be used in.

Once all the activities were finished, we had the opportunity to look round the shops in the main square. Some of us went for ice creams, whilst others enjoyed Krispy Kreme donuts, and Dr Kerr showed us her favourite fudge shop where we got some sweet treats before the ride back to school.

Thank you to all the staff who took us to Bath, especially Dr Kerr, Ms Simmons and Ms Plummer for organising the trip, and Ms Durham, Ms Orr and Mr McDonald for coming with us as well. For more photos of our trip and some fun facts check out the new noticeboard between Rooms 12 and 11 on the Languages corridor.



# ***Duke of Edinburgh***

*by Mr Hamblett*

This year we have finally managed to get expeditions up and running again, going out for three weekends during this summer term. On 7th and 8th June we ran our first expedition since before COVID and a very successful group of Year 12s accompanied me and Dr White around the Clent Hills area to the west of Birmingham; Dr White was amazed at how much countryside we have right on our doorstep! The standout moment of the weekend was when the group managed to help a family in an emergency; they acted with impressive calmness and composure, helping them communicate their location to an ambulance so a person in need could get the support they required.

After the brilliant success of this first trip Dr Borg and I took another group out the following weekend, again heading to camp at Wassell Grove where the alpacas provided a welcome party for the Year 12s joining us. This group worked together brilliantly to navigate some of the challenging paths they had planned and were not fazed when I told them to avoid a field of rather protective cows who didn't want humans in their field! Finally, on the 5th and 6th July Me, Mrs Hamblett and group of Year 11s brave a VERY WET weekend to complete the final element of their Bronze award. Finishing at Uffmoor Wood with a round of applause from a group of rightly proud parents was a fantastic way to finish the expedition season off for the summer.

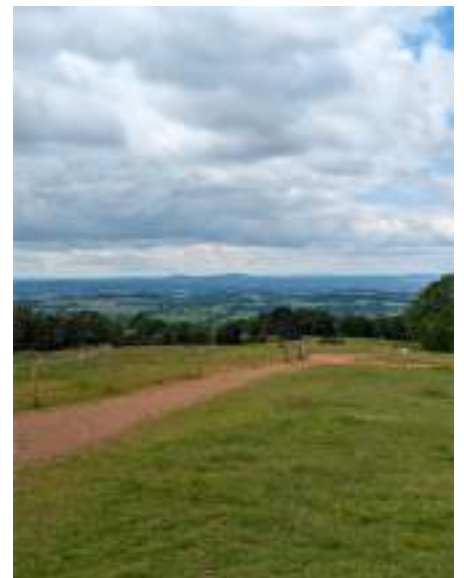
Below are some first-hand tales from the first two groups out on expedition:

Our group of six were the first DofE group to do an expedition in a while and it was an eventful night and two days to say the least. We started our journey at King Edward VI Five Ways school where none of us could remember how to use a compass, then after going in the wrong direction and getting lost for 30 minutes, we finally got on track to our destination. We clambered through many fields of grass and wheat and in one even got chased by cows.

After walking for a total of around six hours and passing all our checkpoints, we finally made it to the campsite where we cooked pasta for dinner and slept through the cold night. The next day we were up bright and early at 7am, some of us well rested and others not so much... We left at around 8.30am to allow plenty of time to reach our pick up point for 2pm. After mentioning how nice the weather had been to us, it began to rain. Luckily we all had waterproofs so we carried on despite the showers. Because we had altered our route in the morning, we soon found ourselves at the foot of Clent Hills. We had two steep hills to climb up before we were met with an incredible view. It was rewarding to see all of our hard work and how far we'd climbed.

However the journey wasn't over yet. After climbing back down the hill we were met with a frantic lady on the phone to the emergency services. She didn't know where she was and needed an ambulance, so using our quick thinking skills we spoke to the responder and gave her our location using what 3 words. Unfortunately we couldn't stay to wait for the ambulance so we carried on with our journey. Eventually after a long seven hours of walking we reached the final car park (five minutes early as well despite all our delays!) and could finally rest properly.

*Ayesha Naushahi, Aniqah Ahmed, Imaan Bashir, Hawi Asfaw, Emily Bennett, Anishka Kaul*





Our expedition was an unforgettable experience: over the course of two days, we braved the elements, navigated challenging routes and learnt the importance of teamwork and maintaining high spirits.

On our first day, the sun was shining and the weather was surprisingly warm! We were layered up for the rain and cold winds, so within the first few minutes we had to take a break to de-layer and drink plenty of water. As we traversed through the vast fields, we embraced the beauty of nature and the good weather. After six hours of trekking, we finally reached our camp site. The journey was filled with challenges, breathtaking scenery, and a few steps retraced around fields. As the campsite began to come into view, we dropped our bags down and were greeted by the alpacas!

Unlike day one, day two consisted of us battling against the heavy rain. Trekking up Clent Hills was quite the task with soggy socks, but we kept our spirits high with impromptu karaoke sessions and lots of breaks. Once we got to the top, walking down was an easy task and eventually we made it to the car park to get picked up. Despite the typical unpredictable British weather and the physical demands, we returned with a sense of accomplishment, stronger friendships, and unforgettable memories. Duke of Edinburgh Expedition? Nailed it!

*Bahar Kayani, Sudarshana Karthikeyan, Anika Vohra, Suhela Mukherjee, Hanne-Lise White, Janani Anand*



Well done to all of the groups involved in these expeditions. You should be very proud of your achievements - I certainly am very proud of you all! Thank yous must go to the amazing staff team (Dr White, Dr Borg and Mrs Hamblett) that have given up their time over the weekends to support these trips; I hope sleeping under the canvas was as enjoyable for you as it was for me! Thank you also to the brilliant support staff in school without whom trips like this could not go ahead.

# ***Year 9 French & History Trip to the Somme***

*by Ishani Bhole and Olivia Yang, Year 9*

During Enrichment Week, Year 9 students had the opportunity to visit France. The four-day trip was packed with educational experiences, cultural immersion, and plenty of fun activities. After starting bright and early on Friday morning, we arrived in Dover. After a morning of karaoke on the coach, we boarded the ferry and for many of us it was our first experience on this form of transport.

The excitement was palpable as many of us admired the breathtaking views of the White Cliffs and azure depths from the deck. Upon arrival in France, we made our way to Chateau du Broutel, a charming historical site nestled in the picturesque countryside, where we would be staying for the next few days. The evening was filled with settling into dorms and exploring the Chateau, a fantastic way to start our adventure, and everyone was eager to see what the next few days would bring.

The second day took on a more sombre tone as we visited the battlefields of the Somme. Our knowledgeable guide took us through the history of World War I, showing us the trenches and memorials that stand as a testament to the bravery and sacrifice of soldiers. As we walked through the now-peaceful landscapes, students learned about the tragic events of the Battle of Somme and the role these very grounds played in the conflict. It was a moving experience, allowing us to connect with history on a deeper level. Many of us were left reflecting on the importance of peace and the impacts of war.



On Sunday morning, we ventured down to the idyllic seaside market, St Valéry sur Somme which was a hive of activity. It was interesting to see our classroom learning translate to real world skills, as many of us left with charming souvenirs and stomachs full of French delicacies. After the market, we took a leisurely walk through the ancient town of Rue. Its cobblestone streets, historical architecture, and the Chapelle du Saint-Esprit made us feel like we had stepped back in time. The day was a wonderful blend of cultural immersion and practical learning.

Our final day in France was both unique and fascinating. We visited a snail farm, where we learned about the farming process and even had the chance to sample some escargot – a first for many! The experience was both educational and adventurous, adding a fun twist to our trip. After the farm visit, we made our way back to the ferry, ready to return home. The journey back was filled with chatter about our favourite moments and what we had learned.

Overall, the Year 9 trip to France was an unforgettable experience. It couldn't have happened without the time and dedication of our teachers, especially Madame Price, who gave us the independence to learn while exploring, which created lasting memories. We're already looking forward to our next adventure!







# **Bugsy Malone**

*A joint junior Drama production from  
Camp Hill Girls and Boys schools  
by Madeleine Gunn, Year 8*



For two nights at the start of July, Camp Hill Boys School was overrun with New York gangsters plotting and killing each other with spray foam! But this wasn't an accident, it was a junior production of 'Bugsy Malone', put on by KS3 students from both of the Camp Hill schools.

The show was the end product of six weeks of hard work. Auditions started back in April; each school was given a song to learn for students to audition in small groups. After these initial auditions, selected students got an email inviting them to the call-backs. This time, the call-backs involved learning a dance routine to one of the main songs and then dancing it as a group to the teachers. Then it was time for the teachers to decide who would be in the show and who would get which part. Finally, the cast was picked and the rehearsals could begin!

Across the last month and half, the cast and teachers have worked really hard to make sure the show was as good as it could be. From music rehearsals on Monday lunchtimes, to dance practice on Tuesday afternoons, drama on Wednesdays and solo practices in between, the show really started to come together.

Time flew by and before we knew it, it was already the weekend rehearsals: two busy days to tie together all the different bits of music, dance and drama we'd learnt separately. (The teachers were kind enough to reward everyone's hard work with pizza on Sunday!) It was a really fun weekend and a chance for the cast - especially since it was spread across both schools - to spend time with each other and see each other perform.

Soon it was the week of the show. The tickets were selling fast and everyone was excited for the week ahead. On Tuesday, an assembly was performed at CHB to promote the show. Followed by the first official dress rehearsal, from the end of lunch to 6pm. This was a chance for the tech team to light and sound the whole show, and the cast to work out entrances, cues and exits.

Finally it came to the first show on Wednesday. It was nearly a full house and the cast loved performing in the atmosphere created by the audience. On the Friday night, before the show, the teachers held a cast party with pizza, chocolate and confetti! Then after the show on Friday night, the cast presented gifts to the teachers, speeches were made, and we celebrated by covering each other in foam!

Those six weeks will definitely be remembered for the rest of our lives!





# Year 10 Drama Assessments and Design

by Mrs Morgan-Long, Subject Leader (Drama)

This term Year 10 have completed an assessment for one unit of their GCSE Drama course. This unit involved them picking a stimulus from a range given by the exam board and creating a piece of original drama for performance using their chosen stimulus as a starting point. Each year the majority of our students work as performers but some also work as designers specialising in either Set, Costume, Sound or Lighting. The design candidates from one of our classes have kindly agreed for us to show photos of their work here as examples of successful design and to celebrate the diversity of choice available in the Drama GCSE curriculum. Enjoy!

## Set Design: Jess Wang

My group picked stimulus 10, which was a song called "Crashed the Wedding" by Busted. This allowed me to create a full on wedding venue set design complete with an arch (styled after a balloon arch), lots of flowers, romantic floating candles, and even some (fake) champagne for our audience. Lots of my set was hung from the lighting rig to give a cool floating effect but it took Mrs Morgan-Long (with *some* help from me) practically the whole of lunchtime precariously perched on the top of a ladder to manage to suspend my awkwardly large arch!



## Costume Design: Murshitha Imithiyaz

Together as a group we decided to pick stimulus 1 which was about an all female gang called Diamond Annie and the Forty Thieves. For my costume, as our performance was set in the 1950s, I decided to make a black dress (which was worn with a petticoat), a fur stole, and black gloves as these were popularised during that time and exuded luxury and high-fashion. Due to the delicate material I picked for the dress, it was hard to sew it together without it fraying and getting damaged. To overcome this problem I made sure to take extra care when sewing the dress, making sure to sew it slowly and accurately. Another problem I faced was the material I used for the gloves. I wanted to use velvet but as it wasn't elastic enough I switched to nylon to make it easier to put on. Overall, it was a fun costume to work on and I would definitely consider doing costume design again.

### Set Design: Mishthi Shah

I worked in the same group as Murshitha and we needed a heist setting as well as a meeting spot. This led to the creation and formation of the idea to create a pivoting/spinning table where one side has a diner table and the other has a casino table. These opposing sets can be easily changed without effort due to its ability to spin. After a long process of finding an appropriate table (for free, might I add!) and cutting it down to fit specialised hinges so it can spin, then came the decoration which was so fun to do using all kinds of materials like felt, plastic, wood, paper etc. There were lots of problems that I encountered along the way but all in all the process was very enjoyable and I am pleased with the final outcome. In addition to the table, I also made a jukebox using old bits of wood and all types of weird things like a pool noodle and bubble wrap! I painted it all after creating many layers and installed LED lights and a speaker so it could play music during the performance. Other things that were made include a murder board at the back and a Casino/Diner sign. Overall I really enjoyed making all of the set for the performance and how it was used during it. I recommend future drama students to take set design if they have a knack for making things with their own hands and watching it come alive during a performance.



### Set Design: Amina Chaudhry

For my drama performance, our selected stimulus was an extract from the book 'Ink' by Alice Broadway. The overall idea for our performance was to have a girl who was adopted, discover that her birth mother had another child. This led to the girl getting revenge, in the form of her taking the life of the baby away. The performance shows the journey of the police investigating who killed the baby, and at the end, the killer is revealed. For my set design, I made evidence bags, a lie detector (which was mentioned in the stimulus), a double sided gravestone, and prison gates. The evidence bags and the lie detector were both quite straight forward items to make (even though the buttons and wires kept falling off the lie detector). However, because of the size of the prison gates I faced some challenges such as transporting the gates to school, as I made them at home. Luckily, I was able to bring them in during a teacher training day. Also I was still building my set just a few days before my performance and had to dedicate some lunches to finish it, however I managed to build everything before the performance.





# Musical Showcases

by Mrs Marshall

We have had another successful year of Musical Showcases at lunchtimes. They proved such a popular event after their introduction last year that they have become a regular half termly slot throughout the year. There has been a wide range of talent on show from different year groups and different styles of music. To coincide with Culture Day, there was a showcase where students performed songs from countries other than this one. Congratulations to all of those who performed and a huge thanks to the Tech Team who have made these events possible. I look forward to more of the same next year!





# Wellbeing Prefects 2024-25

Meet the new Wellbeing prefects!! Join our Wellbeing Classroom and see some of the exciting books we recommend to read over summer and activities to do. Use the code [cx2utxt](#).

[18choudhary598@kechg.org.uk](mailto:18choudhary598@kechg.org.uk)

Hi! My name is Mischa and I study English, RS and History and I used to study German so if you ever need any help with those, feel free to get in touch and I'll try my best! Anything STEM related and particularly Maths is unfortunately not my forte. To get away from A Levels for a bit, I love to read, watch films, draw and I highly recommend the book (and the film) 'Little Women'. I really like to play and watch tennis so Wimbledon time is one of my favourite times of the year but football is my favourite sport to watch and I become somewhat obsessed when international tournaments are on. My club is Manchester United - the best football team in the whole world! I listen to music 24/7 but strangely don't have a favourite singer, so I'll take any recommendations you can give me. In the future, I hope to do a Law degree but also to travel as much as possible. My dream place to travel to is the Maldives because it is so beautiful there! If you ever need to talk or want to ask me any questions at all, you can email me or you can find me in the CSG room.



[18smithmay492@kechg.org.uk](mailto:18smithmay492@kechg.org.uk)

Hi, my name is May, I study Chemistry, Physics and Maths, and I am incredibly excited to be a Wellbeing Prefect. My favourite hobby is sport: I am a black belt in karate and train in athletics during the week. Amongst the inevitably busy life as a Camp Hill Student, I strive to prioritise my mental health through going to the gym, reading and journalling. Mindfulness colouring is also a personal favourite! I love socialising with new people and making new friends - so feel free to come and speak to me if you ever need anything.

[18stitan320@kechg.org.uk](mailto:18stitan320@kechg.org.uk)

Hi everyone! I'm Mayar, and I'm currently doing Geography, English and Politics, which I'm really enjoying (I also took Biology in Y12). Outside of school, I enjoy music, photography, reading, and discussing politics for hours on end (I feel sorry for my friends). Even though I'm known for being a Brum warrior, I love travelling to new and familiar places. My favourite place to revisit is Egypt, since I love catching up with my relatives and immersing myself again in its beautiful culture. I love playing guitar daily to de-stress after a very long day of school work, or if I'm feeling lazy, rewatching another episode of Doctor Who. My favourite artist is David Bowie, and I like to think I'm right when I argue that Ziggy Stardust is one of the best albums ever created. As I mentioned before, I love to read, and strongly recommend reading 'Little Women' as a fun way to get into the classics, or if you're feeling bold and don't mind sobbing over fictional characters, try 'Of Mice and Men'. It's critical to remember that while you should always try your best in school, it's even more important to invest time in various hobbies to enrich your mind and wellbeing. If you want to talk about anything at all, you can find me walking around school (probably trying to clamber to the top of school breathlessly for my politics lessons) or you can email me.





[18omarsalma946@kechg.org.uk](mailto:18omarsalma946@kechg.org.uk)

Hi everyone! My name is Salma and I am studying Biology, Chemistry and Psychology. I also studied Maths at AS level. In my free time I love playing both the flute and the piano as I find it relaxing and a good way to destress. For my wellbeing I also love going on long walks to clear my mind after a long and stressful day. I also love seeing my friends and socialising as a fun way to decompress. They are an important part of my life and I really cherish moments with them. I also love spending time with my family and travelling to Egypt to see my relatives. I am passionate about volunteering and giving back to the local community. I find this is a great way to detach from school worries and it enables me to connect with the wider community. I am always around the science corridor or the CSG room if you ever need to talk, or alternatively you can email me any time

[18Abreham280@kechg.org.uk](mailto:18Abreham280@kechg.org.uk)

Hi everyone, I'm Leah! I take History, Politics and RS, and I also did Psychology in Year 12. With the busyness of school and A Levels, it's important to find ways to de-stress and focus my mind on things other than my studies, and I do this in a range of ways, particularly through reading the Bible, praying and listening to Gospel songs. I love bingeing shows, and have a slight tendency to obsess over ones I particularly enjoyed (Vampire Diaries!). My study of A Level Politics has given me a newfound love for the subject (my lack of knowledge of anything remotely to do with politics at the start of Y12 was astounding), so my family have been on the receiving end of many of my rants, but outside of school-related topics I also enjoy crocheting, spending time with friends and reading. Although I do love Camp Hill, my six years here have shown me how intense an environment with such intelligent peers can be, and having been overwhelmed with the pressure at times myself, I would like to stress how normal it is to feel pressure sometimes; the important thing is that you don't let it get you down and seek help if you need it (e.g. by speaking to your Wellbeing Prefects). If any of you would like to have a chat about anything, you can find me around school, the CSG room at lunchtimes or email me - I'm always happy to help.



[18medani793@kechg.org.uk](mailto:18medani793@kechg.org.uk)

Hi everyone, I'm Bushra and I study Biology, Chemistry and History and studied French in Year 12 - which I do miss! My favourite would probably be Biology as I love learning about human anatomy but I definitely love taking a break from science and learning about Russian history and the Tudors. Outside of school I love to read, especially historical fiction and fantasy books so if you're ever looking for any recommendations I'd be more than happy to help. As much as I love a good book, I've also basically watched every TV show out there! I really believe that making time for relaxation in our busy lives is so important for ensuring we don't burn out, which is also why I love going to the gym - it allows me to relieve so much stress, as well as chat and catch up with friends! If you ever want to talk (not just about a TV show!), feel free to drop me an email or simply stop me in the corridor.

# Year 11 Work Experience - June '24

*by Mrs Strong, Head of Year 11*

Year 11 students have spent time after their GCSE exams taking part in valuable work experience. Their opportunities have been wide, varied, and exciting. If you are an employer, and think you could offer work experience to Year 11 and Year 12 in the future, please get in touch with Dr Rose ([j.rose@kechg.org.uk](mailto:j.rose@kechg.org.uk)).

Below are just a few accounts from the experiences of Year 11 this summer.



## **Vidu Wickramasinghe**

I was very fortunate to be able to complete one week of work experience with an assistant professor at Aston University. During the week, we focused on different aspects of Biochemistry which involved mainly working in a lab environment. During the initial tour of the campus, we were introduced to the many confusing hallways, their offices and the medical simulation rooms. I found these very impressive as the rooms looked like hospital wards with realistic dummies, programmed to cry to create a convincing setting to train medical students. Most importantly, we saw our lab which was packed with various powders, solutions and large machines that we observed. This was extremely interesting as it was very different from the school labs we had seen since there were much larger experiments happening. We were given lab coats and taught the basics of how to use some of the simpler equipment, did serial dilutions and helped a researcher as she did an ELISA assay.

Many of the lab's current projects were explained to us which, while fascinating, were complicated and therefore more challenging to understand. Overall, the experience gave us a clearer understanding of lab work and was very fun and informative. A definite highlight was walking into the giant freezer rooms with liquid nitrogen containers!



## **Shakti Shreevats**

I recently had the opportunity to do a week of work experience at Birmingham Children's Hospital, shadowing doctors in various departments, including neurology, nephrology, and endocrinology.

This enriching experience deepened my medical knowledge and highlighted both the challenges and rewards of the profession, such as bringing comfort and smiles to patients. I observed that a friendly demeanour is a universal trait among the doctors, contributing to the hospital's homely atmosphere.

Witnessing children in palliative care was particularly challenging, and I was struck by the importance of doctor-patient interactions, exemplified by a patient who felt slighted for not receiving a hug after a consultation.



## Riya Mitra

When most people hear the name Rolls-Royce, their thoughts immediately turn to luxury automobiles. However, Rolls-Royce is also a global leader in the manufacture of jet engines for aeroplanes and provides nuclear powered submarines for the Royal Navy. This summer, I had the remarkable opportunity to witness firsthand the complex process involved in manufacturing their jet engines. This experience encompassed everything from delving into the sophisticated softwares aerospace engineers use to design optimal engines - meticulously considering factors such as fuel efficiency, drag, and weight - to observing the intricate manufacturing stages within their expansive factories. Additionally, Rolls-Royce is actively working to enhance the sustainability and environmental friendliness of jet engines by exploring the use of hydrogen and alternative fuels.



Furthermore, I gained insight into their rigorous testing procedures, which can extend over several years, to ensure the highest standards of performance and reliability. This included measures such as controlled explosions to test fan blade durability and propelling frozen birds into engines to guarantee their resilience during mid-flight bird strikes! In fact, I was lucky enough to witness the celebration of the development engineering team, marking the successful completion of this process: a fun sports day of activities ranging from football and volleyball to rounders! Lastly, I spent a day immersed in the sales and marketing department, gaining an understanding of the various strategies and key components emphasised to market and sell Rolls-Royce jet engines to prominent aircraft manufacturers such as Airbus and Boeing, as well as to leading airlines like Emirates and Lufthansa.

This work experience proved invaluable: the hands-on exposure and direct interaction with industry professionals offered profound insights into the complexities and innovations of aerospace engineering.

Thank you, Rolls-Royce!

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## ***Campaign Celebration Event***

*by the Anokhi Yeluguri, Anna Faux, Aroush Haider and Ayla Beso*

Throughout the year we, your Active Travel Ambassadors, have been working on various projects to promote active travel throughout the school. On Tuesday 16th July we met with Alice from Modeshift and students from Ninestiles Academy to celebrate our campaign successes. It was a great experience to meet other students and talk to them about what they did to promote active travel. We reflected on the skills we have developed in this role, especially building on our public speaking skills and increasing self-confidence as a result of speaking at the Council House in February and at Y7 Induction evening more recently. We also enjoyed giving Ninestiles' ATAs a tour around the school grounds, for example showing them the new Pineapple Road railway station and some of the baby moorhens by the pond. Overall it was a very enriching experience and left us feeling proud of what we have accomplished as a team.

Over the summer is a great chance to think about how you are going to travel actively to school next year - perhaps consider cycling! Furthermore, we will be recruiting more Active Travel Ambassadors to join us next year, so please consider if you would like to be a part of the team. For any questions get in touch with one of us!



# Walk to school week (20th-24th May)

by Maram Elarag, Year 7

Walk to school week was a fun opportunity to go out of your comfort zone and explore more eco-friendly methods of travel such as cycling or walking rather than driving. During this week some teachers went above and beyond encouraging students to take part.

## Walking bus

The walking bus was a fun method many students from Year 7 took part in. Every day that week we met up at a marked place in Kings Heath Park and then made our way to school while we enjoyed things such as sweets, snacks, lollies and bubbles. Mrs Yale and Gwinnie joined us too. We met up with Mrs Royall and our Active Travel Ambassadors to start walking at 8:30am and on our way we encountered teachers including Mr Hardy on various occasions as well as Miss Lamb, Miss Irving and Mr Bettison.

The Year 7 forms competed against each other to win their form a picnic. Here are the results:

Place	Form	Total passengers
1st	7Y	96
2nd	7W	57
3rd	7X	47
=4th	7V and 7Z	26

The picnic took place all lunch on 20th June at the front of school where we sat and ate lots of food, from cheese sandwiches to chocolate brownies, cookies and sweets. It was very enjoyable.



## Selfie competition

The selfie competition was a fun competition judged by the Year 10 Active Travel Ambassadors Ayla, Anna and Anokhi. They said it was a very difficult choice to pick three winners from an array of different selfies portraying many different benefits of active travel. However, after careful consideration they decided the winners, in no particular order, were:

Mariam Tabib, Year 7  
Bianka Kajkush, Year 7  
Darcy Taylor, Year 10

Each winner received a £20 Amazon voucher.

## Big thank yous to everyone who helped organise these events!

In particular, a huge thank you to Mrs Royall and the Active Travel Ambassadors.







# House Festival

by Ms Maginnis, Deputy Headteacher

This year Year 12 organised an amazing day, with the theme "A Night At The Movies." They dressed to impress, ranging from Alvin & the Chipmunks, Gru & his minions, super heroes, the Wild West cowboys & cowgirls as well as the Men in Black (The Senior Leadership Team followed their lead with this idea too!). The day was as exciting - and noisy - as usual and it was incredible to see our new Year 7s embrace the "only at Camp Hill" approach to this day: solo singing, group singing, dancing, craft activities and quizzing. Year 10 Meriden's group song was so excellent they performed this again in the final assembly of the year, as well as solo performances from Lily-Marie, Lola and a duet from Suhaanie & Lucie.

Thank you to our AFS who not only hosted a Tuck Shop at lunchtime, but provided ice creams/ice lollies to all students and staff in school - on the hottest day of the year this was much appreciated!

Congratulations to CARTLAND for winning the House Festival overall, but extended congratulations and thanks to ALL Houses, Ms Ridley, Mr Revitt, Mrs Parker-Hall, Mrs Akhtar and all of the Y12 Tutors and judges for making the day a truly memorable way to finish 2023-24!







## House Winners 2023-24



<b>Sports Day:</b>	Lichfield
<b>House Fair:</b>	Priory
<b>House Points:</b>	Warwick
<b>House Festival:</b>	Cartland
<b>Overall House Winner:</b>	<b>Cartland</b>



**Congratulations!**

## Final House Points

*\*correct as of 19th July 2024*

	House	Points
	Cartland	11,453
	Lichfield	9,774
	Meriden	11,026

	House	Points
	Priory	10,888
	Stratford	10,321
	Warwick	11,729

# Invisible Illnesses

by Miriam Shpanin, Year 12

*"Be kind. For everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about".*

Invisible illnesses aren't talked about enough. And for anyone suffering from an invisible illness (be it physical or mental), I want you to know you're not alone.

This term, my aim has been to raise awareness for juvenile arthritis, especially because most people think arthritis only affects the elderly. After being diagnosed with it at the age of 16, I have met many young people whose lives are affected by the illness. Juvenile arthritis is one of the most common physically disabling diseases in children and adolescents. It's an autoimmune disease which at the moment has no cure. Symptoms of juvenile arthritis include swollen joints, joint pain, loss of appetite and fatigue.

Chronic illnesses can cause fatigue and the change in energy levels experienced by a person can be hard to understand but the spoon theory can help. The idea is that most people start off with about 12 spoons a day, the spoons representing the energy needed to complete a part of your daily routine. Each activity uses up a different number of spoons depending on the difficulty and the person. Having a chronic illness means you could wake up with fewer than average spoons as well as spoons being used up more quickly, leading you to run out of energy before the end of a day.

On the 27th June I donated 60cm of my hair to the Little Princess Trust that supports children who have lost their hair due to ill health and medical treatment. I also asked for sponsorship to raise money for two charities for arthritis. A sponsored haircut appealed to me because medication often used to manage arthritis is also used for cancer and in extreme cases (which require a high dose) the patients lose their hair. In total to date, I have raised £600 (£294 for Versus Arthritis and £306 for Kids Like Us). Versus Arthritis is the UK's largest charity which helps to increase access to support and treatment whilst also carrying out research into prevention and cure of arthritis. Kids Like Us is a charity in the West Midlands, who run events to bring people together and raise funds to help those living with juvenile arthritis. By raising awareness and fundraising, I hope to have helped the charities as well as the many people in similar situations to me.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me, I couldn't have done it without you.









# ***The Summer Edit 2024***

*by Mrs Strong, Head of Year 11*



With a long summer stretching ahead of you, here are some ideas of things to do, places to go and ideas to occupy you, to make sure it's a summer to remember! All of the following are free, or low cost, so what's stopping you...??

## **Art, Culture and Museums**

The MAC in Cannon Hill Park including Pauline Farrar: Talking Points, Tereza Buskova: Hidden Mothers, Acts of Creation: On Art and Motherhood, And Who Cares? with Kaye Winwood this summer

<https://macbirmingham.co.uk/whats-on/exhibitions>

Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham University <https://barber.org.uk/>

Walsall Art Gallery <https://thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk/>

Lapworth Museum, Birmingham University <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/facilities/lapworth-museum>

Music events and concerts - some lunchtime ones are free <https://bmusic.co.uk/whats-on>

The Ikon Gallery, Brindley Place <https://www.ikon-gallery.org/>, which includes, for this summer only; <https://www.ikon-gallery.org/exhibition/artemis-in-birmingham>

Digbeth Grafitti Trail <https://visitbirmingham.com/things-to-see-and-do/graffiti-art-of-digbeth-walk-p1346341>

## **Sport and Fitness**

Couch to 5K - download the free app. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/get-running-with-couch-to-5k/>

Be Active - free use of gym and swimming pools at some Birmingham Leisure Centres at certain times of each day. <https://www.birminghamleisure.com/be-active-passport-to-leisure/>

This Girl Can - lots of women only sessions, many are free - search by postcode <https://www.thisgirlcan.co.uk/this-girl-can-classes>

Local tennis courts - parks such as Cannon Hill have bookable tennis courts which are free <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/CannonHillPark/>

Park Run - Community based 5k - run or walk, or a bit of both! There are volunteering opportunities here, too. <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/cannonhill/>

## **Learn a New skill**

Learn to knit or crochet - videos on YouTube to get you started. Pick up knitting needles and wool for a bargain price in local charity shops.

Eg [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p\\_R1UDsNOMk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_R1UDsNOMk)

Develop your First Aid skills - download the app from the British Red Cross <https://www.redcross.org.uk/first-aid/first-aid-apps>

Learn or improve a language - <https://www.duolingo.com/>

## Discover the West Midlands

Use this collection of 13 online maps showing bike and walking friendly routes linking all 69 wards of Birmingham to plan journeys, leisure and as fun days out <https://ecobirmingham.com/project/69wards-by-bike-or-foot/>

A day out on the train - Stratford, Leamington Spa, Warwick, Shrewsbury. A 16-17 Saver Railcard can significantly reduce the cost and is valid for a year. <https://www.16-17saver.co.uk/>

And you can combine a trip on the train with a walk... <https://wcrp.org.uk/rail-trails/>

Sustrans offer free guides to traffic-free cycling routes which will let you see a different perspective of Birmingham - herons, otters, and loads of special places (<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/national-cycle-network-route-collections/2019/all/top-routes-in-and-around-birmingham>) and <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/cycling>

As well as the obvious canals (for walking, running or cycling), parks and reservoirs you could explore the following to escape the traffic on the roads:

- Rea Valley cycle path
- Harborne walkway
- The Birmingham-Wolverhampton green route, which mixes canals, the greenway alongside the tram line and lots of industrial heritage, all from a different angle.

Bikes are free to take on WM trains, so you could use the train to escape the city, or plan a longer trip knowing you can use public transport for one direction.

Explore your local parks - Cannon Hill, Sutton Park, Cotteridge, Pype Hays etc... take a picnic! See if they have a website with suggestions and information, like Kings Heath Park's <https://kingsheathparktrees.uk/>

Use your Bus Pass! Your 'Travel West Midlands Term Plus' bus pass is valid until mid August!

Plough through the book bucket list in your local library <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/libraries> or check out the charity shops and second hand bookshops.

The Great Waddle of Worcester - embrace your inner penguin, it's brrrr-illiant! <https://waddleofworcester.co.uk/> (turn it into a real adventure, and go on the train!)

## World of Work

Volunteering - What can you give back to your community? Check out; <https://theaws.co.uk/>

Friends of Kings Heath Park are always looking for volunteers - litterpicks/planting etc - <http://kingsheathpark.org.uk/index.php/contact-us/> and Oxfam too... <https://www.oxfam.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer-with-us>

Do some litter picking! (see The Kings Heath & Brandwood Litter Pickers' Summer Newsletter for details of their activities and contact details for other similar local groups

<https://www.enjoykingsheath.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Kings-Heath-and-Brandwood-Litter-Pickers-Newsletter-Summer-2024.pdf>

Volunteer in Moseley <https://moseleycdt.com/the-moseley-hive/>

Look out for a part time job - brush off and update your CVs (you've all got one!!), print and hand deliver to local coffee shops and businesses.

Work experience - virtual and online opportunities as well as face to face. ANY work experience is valid, as it teaches us the importance of soft skills, so don't worry if it's in an area that you don't want to pursue as a career.

NCS - a few places still available <https://wearencs.com/>



# PHOENIX FEST 2024

**SAT 20TH JULY  
10AM-3.30PM**

★ **STARRING** ★

**JAMIE SMART  
NEILL CAMERON**

**JESS BRADLEY ZAK SIMMONDS-HURN  
JAMES STAYTE GARY NORTHFIELD  
SAM DAVIES JAMES TURNER  
ROBERT DEAS ABBY BULMER JOE LIST**

**HOSTED BY ROBIN ETHERINGTON**

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**Islamic Help**  
EMPOWERING PEOPLE IN NEED

# WM AMP COMMUNITY FUN DAY 2024

**Sunday 4th August**

**11:00 - 18:00**

**Tally Ho, Pershore Road, B5 7RN**



**Bouncy Castle - Stalls - Games - Kids Activities - Desserts  
Food & Drink - Emergency Services - Face Painting  
Drones Unit - Police Cars & Bikes - Firearms Unit - Dog Unit  
Cricket Tournament - Basketball Tournament**



**Scan the QR code or visit [www.linktr.ee/wmamp](http://www.linktr.ee/wmamp) to get your free tickets!**

**For stalls information - contact 07743987312**

**All proceeds go to charity**





Hall Green  
Communities

The latest Hall Green and Selly Oak Families Early Help Newsletter (July 2024) is available on our website, [here](#).

The newsletter includes information on Family Hubs, free courses, free activities and more from community partners across Hall Green and Selly Oak localities. It also includes SEND information, asylum and refugee, sleep hygiene, various food events and much more.



### Reporting Absence

We have had over 70% of parents signup to Studybugs but we are keen to make this 100%! If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app and use it to tell us whenever your child is unable to attend school due to illness.

A link to StudyBugs can be found on the school website [www.kechg.org.uk](http://www.kechg.org.uk) or scan the QR code:

*Any requests for planned absences need to be submitted **in advance** to [head@kechg.org.uk](mailto:head@kechg.org.uk).*

*This includes, for example, requests for medical appointments, university Open Days and religious observations.*



## AFS Prize Draw

**WINNER**

Thank you to the parents and friends of the school who have joined the AFS Prize Draw. We still only have a small number of participants but the prize fund for the July draw was the largest so far. The AFS Prize Draw took place on 17th July 2024. Once again, there were two prizes up for grabs. The first prize was won by Mary Marshall. The second prize was won by Flor Blenkinsop. The more entries we have, the greater the value of the cash prizes and the more money we raise for AFS funds to support the girls at school! Up to four numbers can be purchased per household so you can boost your chance of winning by entering multiple times. The next Prize Draw will take place at the end of November so get your membership forms completed and emailed in as soon as possible to be part of the next draw and have the chance to win cash prizes.

### How does it work?

Complete and sign the membership form and set up a standing order for a minimum of £1 a month per number (or £12 annually) or pay by annual cheque. The draw will take place at the end of each term (three times per year). The prize money will be 40% of the membership fee taken that term. The remaining 60% goes to the school to help fund equipment, resources and opportunities for pupils.

Remember, the more participants involved, the more money we can raise and the larger the cash prize, so please encourage your friends and family to sign up too.

Please visit <https://www.kechg.org.uk/our-school/afs> and scroll to the bottom of the page to find the Prize Draw Application Form and the Prize Draw rules.

Any queries, please contact Katherine Brown, Prize Draw Officer by email [afs@kechg.org.uk](mailto:afs@kechg.org.uk).



# Household Support Fund - Round 5

The Household Support Fund - Round 5 is now available to Birmingham households who are experiencing financial hardship. The payment is up to £200 and is available to support with essential household bills such as energy, food and water bills.

To be eligible, you must be a Birmingham resident, you must be experiencing financial hardship and you must not have received a previous Household Support grant in the last 12 months.

The deadline for application is 30th September 2024, although may close earlier, if the funding is exhausted.

To find out more, and to make an initial enquiry, please click on the link here; <https://www.bvsc.org/hsf>

Further information regarding support with the cost of living and family support can be found at <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/livingsupport> and at [https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50224/birmingham\\_childrens\\_partnership/2218/from\\_birmingham\\_with\\_love](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50224/birmingham_childrens_partnership/2218/from_birmingham_with_love)

## Household Support Fund

# 5

### HALL GREEN & SELLY OAK



### WHAT IS IT?

A grant of up to **£200 per household**.  
It will **not** affect your benefit claims.

### WHO CAN APPLY?

1. People needing help to pay for **food, gas, electricity & water bills**
2. You cannot apply if you have had this grant in the **last 12 months**
3. Only one application *per household*
4. Birmingham residents **ONLY**

### HOW DO I APPLY?

Fill in a short form at **[www.hsfbirmingham.online](http://www.hsfbirmingham.online)**

If eligible you will be put on the waiting list.  
Our Hall Green & Selly Oak HSF team will phone you to complete the full application.  
You will need to provide **proof of address** and **any means-tested benefits**.

Open to new applications **until 30<sup>th</sup> September**

### For more information

   @hallgreenfam @sellyoakfam  [hallgreencommunities.org.uk](http://hallgreencommunities.org.uk)

 07855 409582  [household.support@greensquareaccord.co.uk](mailto:household.support@greensquareaccord.co.uk)



SEND Birmingham webinars (including Readiness for starting Secondary school) :  
<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/webinars-4/>

<p><b>Occupational Therapy Advice Line</b></p> <p>Parents, professionals and educational staff can contact the OT advice line to gain advice and signposting on a child's need. Monday- Friday, 09:00- 16:00. 0121 683 2325</p> <p>Interpreting Advice Line information is found on our website via the QR code.</p> <p></p> <p>  @bchcsmtherapy  BCHC SEND Therapy Team  @BCHC_Childot</p>	<p><b>Occupational Therapy Advice Packs</b></p> <p>A variety of advice packs (self-care, school skills, sensory) are available on the Occupational Therapy website.</p> <p></p> <p><b>FREE FOR FAMILIES</b></p> <p>Please share with parents/carers Copy this into your newsletter</p>
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## ***Selly Oak Supported Internship***

*by Ms Maginnis, Deputy Headteacher*

We have been so honoured to host Toby & James from Selly Oak School this year, for their Supported Internship. They have been an absolute delight to work with in both our site and kitchen teams. From their culinary skills, to their organisation skills and Toby's knowledge of the new LED lighting system we have in school they have flourished this year.

At the end of July we hosted a celebration event for Toby and James where, alongside the staff they have worked with, their Job Coach, family members and Senior Leaders, they presented the skills they've learnt in their Internships and highlights from their year. They shared how much they have enjoyed their year here and will miss us - we will very much miss them too!



We are delighted to say that they are both going onto exciting new ventures in their plans for College and an Apprenticeship for Toby and James, respectively. We wish them both the very best for the future and are looking forward to welcoming our new interns, Kyle and Harry who are joining us in September.

# ***Shabana Mahmood MP***

*KEVI CHG 1997-1999*

The former barrister and MP is the first Camp Hill Girl to become the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice.

Shabana Mahmood was appointed Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice on 5 July 2024. She was elected as the MP for Birmingham Ladywood in July 2024.



# ***Jess Phillips MP***

*KEVI CHG 1992-2000*

Jess Phillips was elected as MP for Birmingham Yardley 2015 and regained her seat in July 2024. She is also known as an author, broadcaster and podcaster.

Before becoming an MP Jess worked for Women's Aid, and later became the Shadow Minister for Domestic Violence and Safeguarding.



We send our congratulations to both Shabana Mahmood and Jess Phillips on their re-election and new roles in government. We are rightly proud of these Camp Hill Girls for their dedicated public service. We hope that they will inspire our current students to follow in their footsteps and become the leaders of the future.



# Dates for Your Diary



**Summer School**  
(new Year 7s)



**Results Day**  
A & AS Levels



**Results Day**  
GCSEs

## Post Results Services

Detailed information about the Post Results Services (Clerical re-check, Review of Marking, Copy of Scripts, Access to Scripts) and the associated costs and deadlines will be included in students' results envelopes and also available to access on the school website from A Level Results Day onwards.

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

*Good luck!*

# Dates for Your Diary



**Staff Training Day 1**



**Back to school  
Week A**



**Music tuition &  
Ensembles start**



**Years 7, 10 & 12  
School Photos**



**Entrance Exam**



**KS5 House Matches**



**WMTC  
Chemistry Lecture**



**Year 11 Geography  
Broadway &  
Willersey Trip**



**Years 12 & 13  
Mathematical  
Olympiad**



**The Heath  
Bookshop event**



## ***Dates for Your Diary***



**Years 11 - 13**  
**UKMT Senior Maths**  
**Challenge**



**Year 12 Politics**  
**Parliament Trip**



**New Year 7**  
**Induction Evening**



**Year 10**  
**Induction Evening**



**Old Girls event**  
***TBC***



**Year 12**  
**Induction Evening**



**Year 13**  
**Oxford Admissions**  
**Tests start**



**End of Half Term**  
**Open Evening**



**Staff Training Day 2**