



Hodge Hill Girls' School Newsletter

October 2018



**Black History Month –
Inspiring Firsts**



**Workshops to Enhance
Achievement**



Chatsworth House



**Remembering Life in the
First World War**

Educating Tomorrow's Women Today

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Our pupils have settled well into this new academic year and the half term holiday is already upon us. The past few weeks have flown by and our pupils have enjoyed many fantastic learning opportunities within school in lessons, through our out of hours learning activities and on trips further afield. It is wonderful to see the enthusiasm and positivity that pupils are bringing to these experiences. So many pupils have gained positive points for their contribution to school life, excellent behaviour and hard work. We will be rewarding excellence at the end of each term with a range of rewards. We appreciate your support in encouraging your daughter to make the most of the opportunities available to her.



The Year 7 pupils are now used to their new routines and have adapted well to the changes of secondary school life. They continue to be supported by Ms Wilcox, the Year 7/8 tutor team and fellow pupils, who have been welcoming and supportive. This school year we have also welcomed the following staff to our team: Miss Bartlett, Ms Begum, Mrs Cooney, Mr Carvalho, Ms Mir, Mrs McDonald and Mrs Rajput.

It has been lovely to meet with so many parents at the Year 7 Information Evening in October and at the Post 16 Event for our Year 11 pupils as they prepare for their next steps post Hodge Hill Girls' School. Our Careers Advisor has a careers meeting with every Year 11 pupil to ensure that they are aware of all the options available to them and college open days are now underway. The Year 11 pupils started the year with a study skills and revision workshop, which will be beneficial now as they prepare for their mock exams.

A weekly news update can be found in our Bulletin every Friday. If you haven't done so already, please sign up via ParentPay to receive it straight to your inbox. Alternatively, it is published on the school website each week. You will find details of our upcoming parent workshops, we look forward to seeing you there.

I wish you all a relaxing half term holiday. School will resume at the normal time on Monday 5th November 2018.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Adu
Head Teacher

Message from Chair of Governors

Dear Parents/Carers,

May I take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to you all in this new term, but especially to any new members of the Hodge Hill Girls' School family. A new start is always exciting, but can be equally nerve racking and I'm sure that many parents and their daughters were somewhat apprehensive in September. Your daughter will now be settled in and very much a part of the school community. We look forward to working in partnership with you in the coming months and years.

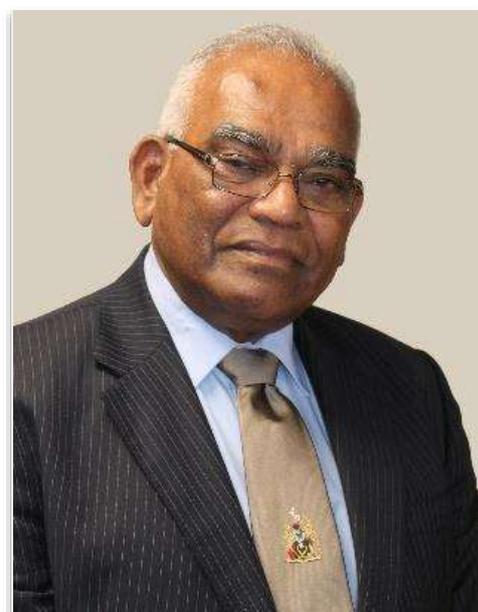
We are proud of the successful exam results from Summer 2018. The last few years have seen tremendous changes and we extend thanks to staff and parents who have worked hard and supported pupils to achieve these results.

The Governing Body continues to meet regularly with meetings calendared throughout the year. I continue to meet with the Headteacher, Mrs Adu, on alternate Friday afternoons and I am available to meet with parents by appointment at this time. Please contact me via the Clerk, Mr David Wallis, who can be reached by post at the school address.

Yours sincerely,

K Siva Yogaiswaran

Chair of Governors



Parent Workshops

It has been wonderful to welcome parents to our first two parent workshops titled, 'How to help my child be organised and help with homework?' and 'How to safeguard my child online?' These were the first two workshops in a series aimed to help parents to support their daughter's learning and wellbeing as well as meeting other parents from our school community. The workshops will continue throughout the next half term on Thursday mornings, starting at 9:00am and finishing at 9:45am. Booking is recommended, please ring the school on 0121 464 3094 to book your place. It may be possible to join at the beginning of a workshop and sign in.

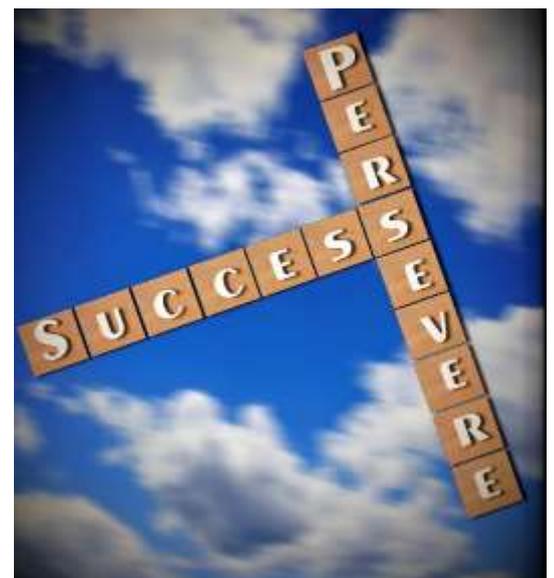
08-Nov Healthy lifestyle, exercise and wellbeing for me and my family

15-Nov What does positive behaviour for learning look like at home and school?

22-Nov	Keeping Safe with PC Fletcher
29-Nov	Preparation for exams and managing the exam period
06-Dec	What is emotional and mental wellbeing and how can I help?
13-Dec	How can I support my daughter with Maths?
20-Dec	How is attendance celebrated in school and what can I do to help?

A Time for Firsts During Black History Month?

Black History Month gives everyone the opportunity to question their own contributions to society and take time to think about how they are making the world a better place in their own small way. Progress is not an inevitable part of life – it requires people to push forward and put their heads above the parapet to change negative attitudes. Pupils have had the opportunity this month to reflect upon their aspirations and ambitions for their future. In 2018, we mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War and the horror and devastation it caused in Europe and the world. Pupils listened to an assembly linking together Black History Month with the centenary starting with the story of Walter Tull. Orphaned at the age of 9, Tull became England's first black professional footballer. As World War One approached Tull volunteered to fight for Britain and by 1917 he became the first black officer to command white troops in the British Army. Pupils also heard the story of Hope Powell, who herself has broken down barriers by becoming the first black female football coach of England's national women's team. Their stories act as a constant reminder of the need for individuals to shake up the status quo. During this month's Form Time pupils reflected on how they are going to contribute to changing labels within their communities. Their responses have made for very powerful reading. Amongst our pupils here at Hodge Hill Girls' School we have ambitious doctors, scientists, leaders, inventors, educators and university graduates to name a few. Keeping to the football theme that connects Tull and Powell; life is like a game of football. You are a key player. Don't sit on the side-lines criticising the match. Play. You might even score a goal.



Wear it Pink

Pupils adapted their uniform for the day on Friday 19th October as part of the 'Wear it Pink' for Breast Cancer campaign. It was great to see so many pupils wearing pink and buying raffle tickets to support this worthy cause. Thank you for your contributions.



MADE Revision Workshop

Year 11 pupils participated in a fantastic revision skills workshop delivered by MADE training on the first day of term. All pupils completed an evaluation and 100% said that they enjoyed the workshop and found the content useful. Feedback included:

"Made me think about how much easier it could be to revise rather than just cramming information."

"Motivated me to do well. Gave me hope. Calmed my nerves down about starting Year 11. It was perfect."

"The workshop has had a big impact. It has showed me four different, simple and easy to use revision techniques."

Year 7 Induction Day Workshops

On September 5th we welcomed our new Year 7s to Hodge Hill Girls' School. This year our new pupils had the opportunity to settle in and forge new friendships as they participated in two targeted workshops held during their first day. All girls experienced the 'Blast-Off' workshop, working in small groups to improve their study skills. During the other workshop pupils worked together to engineer roller coasters, using their science skills to develop solutions in this practical activity. Both of these workshops made an exciting and extremely enjoyable start to the term and their time at Hodge Hill Girls' School.



Year 8 inspired at Chatsworth House

On Wednesday 5th September, Year 8 visited Chatsworth House in Derbyshire. Many of our pupils were keen to see Chatsworth because it would enhance and complement classroom learning and was an opportunity to be transported to another world. Chatsworth House is a stately home built in the 16th century and steeped in history and literature.

Year 8 explained that on their arrival, and by looking through the gates, they knew it was going to be a spectacular and phenomenal experience. The elegance of the house left them awestruck and mesmerised. It was lavish, and the gardens were stunning. The staff were kind and welcoming. They took our pupils on a tour, which was filled with ancient paintings, magnificent ceilings and glorious tapestries. Year 8 were able to identify and understand historical architecture and how it linked to the novel 'Pride and Prejudice'.



The visit was intriguing and beneficial. The factual history of the house demonstrated a more visual representation of society through the centuries. Technologically, pupils were able to realise how others achieved new possibilities. Our pupils explained that what impressed them the most was the structure of Chatsworth House and how it survived two World Wars.

It was a fantastic day out and is highly recommended!

(Article written by pupils from 8.2)

Year 10 and 11 Growth Mindset Workshops

Some pupils in Year 10 and Year 11 participated in workshops delivered by Learning Performance to support the development of confidence as they embark on and continue their GCSE studies. 86% of pupils said that they found the workshop either extremely or very helpful, with all 100% saying that it was helpful in some way. Feedback included:



“THINK POSITIVE! Basically, not to give up, because you can achieve anything.”

“I have learnt a lot about my brain and how it works and about remembering things.”

“We can change the way we think, even if it takes a long time.”

“How to break through limitations and knowing that nothing is really impossible.”

Year 7 Catch-Up Maths Interventions:

Catch-Up pupils in Year 7, who attend Maths interventions after-school, have been asked to involve parents in their 'Spontaneous Times-Table Challenge'. Once pupils have learnt their times-table target each week, parents are encouraged to test their daughter by asking them a times-table question at completely random times during the day and throughout the week. For example; you can ask 'what is 3×6 ?' just before they tuck into their breakfast or are about to watch their favourite programme and so on. The choice is yours. This is a great way to keep pupils engaged in their learning at home. So, please get involved and feel free to send any feedback about the challenge to Ms Sagheer (Catch-Up Mentor). Many thanks.

MathsWhizz

This term Year 7 pupils have successfully completed a baseline assessment for MathsWhizz, - a great online programme that supports and develops pupil's numeracy skills and promotes independent learning. Their results reflect the fantastic effort they have been putting in so far. Pupils now have full access to their online tutor tasks, so we would like to encourage them to use MathsWhizz at home. Ideally, pupils should spend up to 60 minutes every week completing the online tailored maths activities within MathsWhizz - this will be checked and monitored by Miss Ainge every Monday.

GCSEPod

GCSEPod usage has grown hugely since the start of the academic year as more and more pupils realise just how much this can help them with their learning and revision. Please ask your daughter to show you how she is using GCSEPod to support her learning. Please also [click here](#) to watch a video for parents, which also gives you an introduction to some of the benefits of this learning resource.

GCSE Pod is a valuable resource for pupils in all year groups; if your daughter is in Year 7, 8 or 9 and has not yet created an account, please encourage her to do so. Over 5000 pods have already been watched since the start of the school year, which is a huge increase on last year when under 300 pods had been watched in the same period.



KS3 Form Literacy activities: First News

So far this term, Year 7, 8 and 9 have been provided with activities during form time based on 'First News' newspaper. First News is a great cross-curricular resource that focuses on enhancing key Literacy skills whilst keeping pupils 'in touch' with contemporary issues and events taking place around the world. It is also a great way of developing their understanding of non-fiction texts. The form time activities are a key factor in supporting pupil's reading and comprehensive skills, as well as testing their knowledge of spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG); which are a vital tool in preparation for their GCSEs. Additional copies of First News are available in the Library for pupils to read during break and lunchtimes, so please encourage them to do so.

Classic Literature at the Theatre

This term pupils have been able to develop their understanding of English Literature through two theatre trips. On Wednesday 19th September, pupils from Year 10 visited the Old Rep in Birmingham to watch Jekyll and Hyde. This was followed on Wednesday 9th October with a trip to see An Inspector Calls at the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham. Both of these visits enabled our pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of these texts, which they are studying as part of their English Literature GCSE.

Elishba (10,11), reflecting on her visit to see 'An Inspector Calls' said, "*It was an unforgettable experience which has increased my confidence for my exams as I will never forget it. I couldn't look away, not even once. I could not stop talking about how fantastic it was because it made me feel tension which could not be experienced from reading the book. I am still talking about how good it was. It was my first experience, hopefully, of many and leaves a memory that will be treasured forever. All I can say is that it was majestic, and I hope we go again.*"

Also inspired by 'An Inspector Calls' Madihah (10,10) said, "*The theatre was absolutely FANTASTIC and I really enjoyed it. It was a good way of learning more about the play. The teachers took charge and the pupils listened carefully.*

It has made me more motivated to learn and has pushed me to think about my GCSEs. It was an amazing day and my family loved hearing about it. The theatre production was good, and I felt like I was a part of it. I think it was a good way to gain knowledge and enjoy the setting in the theatre.

When I told my parents, we decided to make a family trip to the theatre in the near future. I felt as though I was one of the characters and they were speaking to me. I was mouthing the words with them. It made me more aware of today's world and the way people live in our society."

Life as a Soldier in the First World War

It was lovely to welcome Warrant Officer Miller back to our school to talk about life during the First World War and the innovations that have happened since. Pupils had the opportunity to see and feel the equipment supplied to a soldier in the First World War and develop their understanding of some of the medical developments that have resulted from the First World War until the current day.



"The workshop was really enjoyable and insightful on soldiers' lives, not only in the past but also currently. It was interesting to see the development in army equipment and how advanced it has become. We were informed about soldiers' experiences, the suffering they endured as well as their families and their country."

(Saffah 11,6)

100 years since the armistice and the end of the First World War.

When pupils arrive back after half term they will be given the opportunity to take part in many activities designed to allow them to reflect on the horrors of the First World War. The aim of this is not to celebrate war but to understand its impact on Britain and the wider world. During lesson time, week commencing 5th November, all lessons will include a link to the First World War from a subject specific point of view. Pupils will be asked to study poetry, looking at how poppies are made and how effective commemorative displays are. Pupils will explore how the First World War is linked to human rights and how technology was developed during war time. Pupils will also be invited in Form Time to be creative in creating their own poppy, which will go towards creating a display in the school. The winners of the recent 'Birmingham at War' competition will be invited to attend a trip to the Oratory Church on Thursday 8th November to visit an exhibition of photographs, medals, memorabilia and battlefield relics.

Please encourage your daughter to reflect on pressing issues at this time of year and discuss the purpose of remembering and commemorating the First World War.

Sports Update

We have had a great first half term with many extracurricular sports clubs in PE. It is wonderful to see so many enthusiastic pupils attending all the clubs. If your daughter would like to join one of the sports club she can obtain a consent form from her PE Teacher.

There is lots of energy and ideas on Friday in the Dance Club. Pupils from all years are working well together and creating some great choreography. We are looking forward to seeing their performances.

Members of the Netball Club have enjoyed taking part in the netball league, playing a series of matches against different North Birmingham schools. With so many enthusiastic pupils attending our netball club, a different team has played in each match, enabling all our club

Sports After School Clubs	
Tuesday	Basketball
Wednesday	Netball Fixtures
Thursday	Netball Club and Fixtures
Friday	Dance Club

Netball Fixtures	
Years 7/8	Years 9/10
St Edmund Campion Won	St Edmund Campion Lost
Great Barr Lost	Great Barr Lost
Arena Academy Lost	Arena Academy Lost

members to gain experience of playing Netball in a competitive match.

All our teams have played excellently and are working hard. With the commitment, energy and determination the teams have demonstrated, we are confident that we will get a few more wins. There are more fixtures in the new half term and I am sure the pupils will continue to do us proud and be excellent ambassadors for our school.

Out of Hours Learning Reminders

We have a huge number of pupils taking part in out of hours' learning, with various clubs happening after school throughout the week. Should your daughter wish to join an after-school club she must return the consent form to the Admin Office.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catch-Up Maths • Homework Club • Post 16 Drop-In Session • Science Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball • English • Health and Social Care • History Ambassadors • Homework Club • Mathematics • Science • Urdu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catch-Up Maths • Homework Club • Maths Interventions • Netball Fixtures • Spanish • Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art, Craft and Design • Catch-Up Maths • English • Fine Art • History • Homework Club • Netball Club and Fixtures • Science • Urdu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance Club • Mathematics

Please ensure that, if you are collecting your daughter from an after-school session, you come down the drive and into Reception; this enables us to supervise pupils.

Aspirations Day

All plans are in place for our Aspirations' Day on Wednesday 7th November. All pupils in the school will be off-timetable and there are a range of activities planned to support learning about the future and raising aspirations. Pupils will take part in activities as follows:

Year 7 – Money management, Blesma resilience workshop

Year 8 – Healthy eating, relaxation techniques, the importance of physical activity, music for life, Learning Performance 'Aspirations and Ambitions' workshop

Year 9 – The importance of languages for future learning, Careers' Convention, MADE 'Goals and Aspirations' workshop

Year 10 – Work Experience launch and preparation, Careers' Convention

Year 11 – Careers’ Convention, Work Experience reward assembly, ‘The Driver’s Seat’ motivational talk, preparation for college, grammar school application process (for pupils considering applying to grammar schools)

This will be an incredibly valuable day of learning for our pupils; please take time over the half-term holiday to talk to your daughter about her plans for the future and how she hopes to achieve her goals.

Work Experience

For work experience I went to WH Smith. I went there to get a feel for what work was really like. It also helped me to socialise more with different people at all ages and improve my confidence. When I went to WH Smith, it was not as I expected. The staff were very kind and helpful and I did not get any boring jobs to do. The atmosphere was very upbeat and throughout the first day I got less nervous and more comfortable with everyone. Due to the hot weather, not many customers were coming so I did not have a lot of interaction with customers, but I still helped some people when they asked me a question. I enjoyed work experience as it was not what I expected but it was a lot more exciting, enjoyable and I got a taste of what work was really like. I got many interesting jobs that were not boring at all.

Overall, I had a good experience and I definitely recommend you do work experience.

(Alina, 11, 2)

Art Gallery Visit

Last term pupils enjoyed various workshops to create jewellery and learn a variety of techniques. Their jewellery subsequently formed part of the Make Your Future Exhibition, which was open to the public at Vittoria Street Gallery, Birmingham City University School of Jewellery.

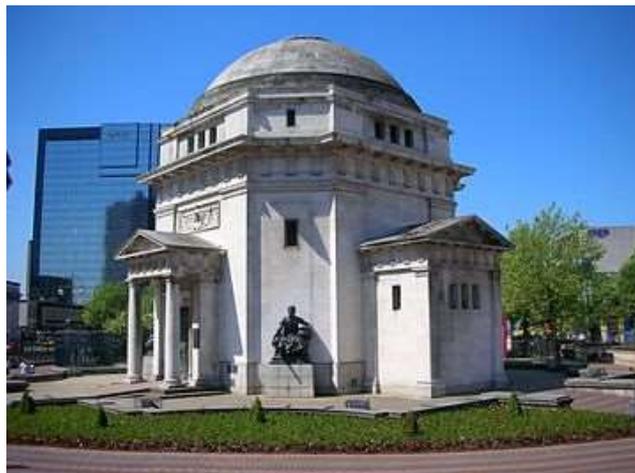
Faatimah visited the exhibition with some of our other pupils. She explained, “I really enjoyed the art gallery trip. I was able to experience different ways and techniques in which art and jewellery are created. We were able to see the jewellery that we had made on display as well as different jewellery by pupils from other schools. I appreciated the opportunity to ask questions, which enabled us to learn and understand the different techniques that we were shown.”

(Faatimah 10,10)

Competitions for Half Term

Birmingham Hall of Memory Art Competition

To commemorate the 100th Anniversary to the end of World War One and the rich cultural history attached to the Birmingham Hall of Memory, Birmingham School pupils of ages from 5 to 18 are invited to enter an Art Competition and submit a drawing/painting of the Hall of Memory. Birmingham Hall of Memory is located on Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2HF and is open Monday to Saturday from 10am until 4pm.



The picture could be of the exterior or interior of the Hall of Memory. Pupils may choose to draw the entire building as viewed from the ground or above, for example, from a view point in the Birmingham Library. Alternatively, the picture could be of just a small area of the hall or the contents such as the statues, bookcases etc.

Each drawing should be no bigger than A3 (297mm x 420mm) in size and can be produced in any media; it should be accompanied by Pupil Name, Age and School along with up to 250 words describing what inspired their drawing.

The best three from each key age category 5-9, 10-14, 15-18 will be selected by the Hall of Memory team and showcased on the Hall of Memory website and Google Gallery.

All submissions must be sent to: Hall of Memory 100th Anniversary, Birmingham City Council, PO Box 37, 1 Lancaster Circus, Queensway, Birmingham, B4 7DQ

Deadline for submission is: 5th November 2018

More information is [available here](#).

My Wild Future Competition 2018

Pupils in Year 10 or Year 11 with an idea for a project in our community to #BeatPlasticPollution are invited to enter the My Wild Future Competition. The competition winner will receive support from The Wildlife Trusts, Birmingham and Black Country Community Engagement Officer and a £400 budget to bring their idea to life.



The project could identify ways to reduce plastic use, more sustainable uses of plastic, community campaigning, species-focused awareness or something else entirely innovative! Your idea can be as broad as your imagination within the £400 budget.

To enter in no more than 500 words or a 3-minute video, provide an outline of your project plan. Your application can also include optional images or drawings.

When writing a competition entry or application consider:

- Why you are taking part
- How this issue affects your local area
- How your project idea would make a difference to your local area
- How you plan to manage your budget

Submit your application form along with your video or wording by Monday 5th November 2018 to: emma.s@bbcwildlife.org.uk.

More information is [available here](#).



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