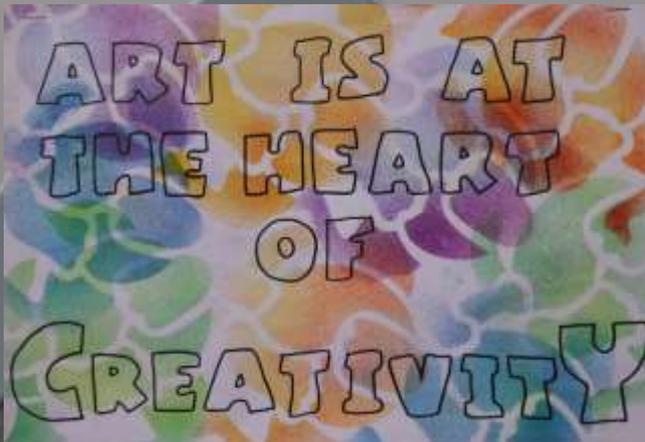




Hodge Hill Girls' School Newsletter

December 2018



Art and Design



Aspirations Day



Charity Work



Armistice Day Centenary

Educating Tomorrow's Women Today

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Friday brings us to the end of our Autumn Term. This is the longest term of the academic year and as you can imagine it has been a very busy and productive term. Pupil learning and progress has been enhanced by the many opportunities offered and this newsletter gives a flavour of the fantastic work undertaken. We received outstanding feedback from pupils as well as from external providers who commented on excellent pupil participation and conduct.

Many thanks to staff for all their hard work and commitment, pupils for their positive contributions and parents and carers for your ongoing support. It is much appreciated!

The final week of term is one of celebration. One hundred pupils are being rewarded with a bowling trip and our end of term rewards assemblies will recognize excellence in pupil attendance, achievement and effort. It is always a great end to the term, rewarding success!

Our Year 11 students have now completed mock exams and should be aware of areas of strength and improvement. They should use their time wisely over the holiday period and ensure that they are finding time to revise as well as time to relax. There are many resources available on the school website to enhance their revision programme.

Taylor Shaw our new school caterers will be starting the term with their Grand Raffle and the chance for one Hodge Hill Girls' School pupil to win an iPad. Please check our school website for the new menus and further information about



A promotional graphic for Taylor Shaw's Grand Raffle. The background is dark blue. At the top, it says 'Taylor Shaw's' in white and 'Grand Raffle' in large, yellow, cursive font. Below this is a photograph of a hand holding a white tablet. The tablet screen shows a school building with a sign that reads 'Hodge Hill Girls' School'. Below the photo, white text reads: 'Spend £1.00 or more per day for one week between Monday 7th to Friday 11th January to enter our massive'. At the bottom, the Apple logo is followed by 'iPad' in white and 'giveaway!!' in yellow.

the company. Copies are also available on [this link](#).

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 7th January. May I take this opportunity to wish you a Peaceful and Happy Christmas holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Adu
Head Teacher

Message from Chair of Governors

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is always a pleasure to read about the variety of activities that are taking place in school and pupil feedback from such events. Pupils continue to think of others and have been successful in their fundraising for three charities this term. Local, national and international charities have all benefitted from the generosity of our school community.

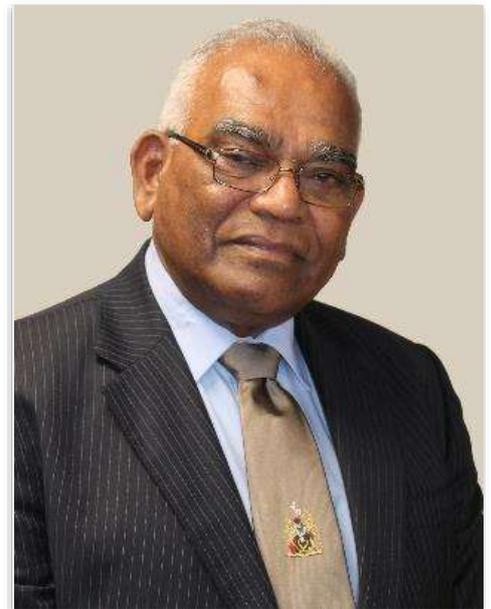
As a school we continue to develop and work is currently taking place to relocate the school reception. We look forward to sharing more details with you in 2019.

This term pupils, staff and members of the governing body have worked together to appoint a new catering team. We are pleased to inform you that Taylor Shaw will be our new Catering Company from January 2019.

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



Charity Work

Thank you to everyone who supported our Wear it Pink fundraising. There were various activities around school which included donating to wear something pink and our 'Extremely Pink' raffle. It is fabulous that, with your support, we have raised a fantastic £442.26 for Breast Cancer Now, to support their work towards a future where everyone with cancer lives.

This term we have also continued to think of others by collecting long-life food for Stechford Food Bank. Thank you to everyone for their generous donations, which will be distributed to members of our local community who are currently experiencing financial hardship.

The term also concludes with a non-uniform day in aid of Unicef. Unicef are an international charity that work with children in 190 countries and territories to save children's lives, defend children's rights, with the aim that all children can achieve their full potential from early childhood and through adolescence. The amount we have raised will be published on our school website in the new year.



Armistice Day Centenary and Remembering the First World War

On Thursday 8th November, winners of the History of the First World War in Birmingham competition visited an exhibition of artefacts from the First World War at the Oratory Catholic Church in Birmingham. Wajeeha reflected that "It was certainly a trip that I will remember for a long time!"

On arrival our pupils first looked around the church, which Adiba explains was "so beautiful. The little details were really nice. It was very peaceful and quiet for people to worship, which was really good." Wajeeha elaborated, "It was certainly a church that I had never seen before! I was astonished by the detail and the size of the inside of it! It seemed so peaceful as well! The church was a humongous room with other small rooms at the side. Looking at the windows and statues just tells you how much effort and work people had put in to building this church! We learned many things about the church, including when it was built and what the many rooms were used for."

Wajeeha continued to explain that the First World War exhibition was in “a different room which had lots of stands filled with old relics of WW1 and contained displays of real records and reports back 100 years ago! It did really look 100 years old! We were guided through the whole thing by helpers, who happily spoke about each of the different artefacts and allowed us to have a good look at them, which was fun! We got to see old and rusty artefacts of



guns, helmets, weapons and grenades that soldiers would have used back in the trenches of the First World War. We even got to see an old record player and a few old water bottles and other items! I even got to wear an old, rusty German helmet! There were also many gadgets used in WW1, like cameras and some really old projectors that required sheets of stained glass to create the image on screen. It was also interesting to see some of the medals soldiers were given after the war for their bravery fighting in the war. In addition to learning about the soldier’s life, we learnt about the life as a nurse providing much needed help to injured soldiers. There were small hospitals all over Britain and nurses helped the soldiers to recover and return to fighting the war.” Adiba was fascinated by the story on one particular nurse who was part of the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), a voluntary unit of civilians providing nursing care for military personnel. She explains that “Ethel Jackson lived somewhere in Edgbaston during the War. She trained to be a nurse at St John’s Ambulance class on Bristol Road. In 1919 Ethel married Major Naughton, who also worked at the same place in Highbury.”



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the First World War. “While the men were at war in the trenches, women had to take charge of the factories, making resources for the war such as grenades and weapons. It was very dangerous though since there was no protection and women ended up getting hurt or even worse, would die.”

We would like to express our gratitude and thanks to all the volunteers and staff at the Oratory Church for making this such a fascinating and enjoyable trip for our pupils. As Wajeeha explained “We’ve learnt so much about the First World War. It was a very fun way to learn outside of school. This trip made my passion for History stronger and I’ll surely remember this trip for a very long time indeed.”

(Wajeeha, 9,ML4 and Adiba 8,TX)

Aspirations Day

On Wednesday the 7th of November 2018 we had our first Aspirations Day. It was an incredibly busy day with outside visitors and school staff working with pupils in all year groups. Pupils had the opportunity to think about their futures and how they would achieve their goals and had a lot of fun along the way!

Year 7, Fatima (7,CL) sent a brief summary of her day for inclusion in this newsletter.

“Year 7 were learning how to keep within a budget and to think about our future. There was a lot of maths and we had a lot of fun. In addition, we learnt about resilience, which we need to know to handle our life. The best part in my opinion was the workshop by a group called Blesma.

A man recounted a really interesting story of how he had overcome life changing injuries and adversity. His story flooded my head with millions of questions. Participating in the workshop, we designed our own person with a problem, which we presented to the rest of the group. On this day I had learnt so much and I discovered your future is in your hands.”



Further feedback from Year 7 includes:

- “I got to work with different pupils and some of the tasks I really enjoyed! Additionally, it made me see a different point of life, listening to the story into the workshop.”
- “I enjoyed it because I found out how to budget and manage money and that there is no limit to what you can be.”
- “I did enjoy it because I am good at maths and it made me stronger in maths.”

- “Because you can learn different things you never knew, and it was FUN!!!”
- “I learnt thing that I don't normally learn on a typical school day.”
- “Because we had a fun time hearing about Kens story and doing lots of maths.”
- “I learned to never give up the first time keep on trying.”

Year 8 thought about their ambitions and aspirations for the future? With this in mind, they considered how to look after themselves which will help them to achieve their ambitions? There were a variety of workshops that explored topics of healthy eating, relaxation techniques in Art, importance of physical activity, music for life, learning performance with the 'Aspirations and Ambitions' workshop. Feedback from our Year 8 pupils included:



- “I really enjoyed this because I learnt lots of different things especially in the food room.”
- “I experienced a lot of things and I learnt a lot about myself being healthy.”
- “I think I really liked it because it inspired me a lot and made me think about my future.”
- “I feel that the lessons were trying to spread a positive message to all students.”
- “It was very relaxing and there were lots of fun things to do.”
- “We had been painting with our fingers and had an amazing teacher to teach us about what we like, her name was Vicky.”

Year 9 also reflected on their goals, aspirations and plans for the future. They considered why languages are important to their future learning, considered their future plans, worked in groups in the MADE 'Goals and Aspirations' workshop and explored a variety of potential opportunities at our Careers Convention. Their feedback included:

- “I found the activities fun and tested our aims. It made us think more about our future and was very helpful. I am very interested in learning more about my educational future and my career. I think we should have more similar days like this throughout the year.”
- “I found nearly all of the workshops and activities really helpful and I have learnt a lot from them as they were informative and helpful as well as interactive”



- “Aspiration day was a chance for us to think about our futures and it helped me understand the different opportunities there were for me.”
- “I enjoyed having a workshop from outside of school which helped me link my aspirations to much smaller targeted goals and I liked having a Convention to see what options I have in terms of colleges and further education.”

Year 10 started planning for their work experience placement, with a briefing from ‘Learn to Work’. They started working on their placement applications and considered the skills needed to find a placement. They also attended our Careers Convention.

- “Aspirations day was a great help to gain more knowledge about work experience and introduced me to expectations of the workplace. Also, I was encouraged to become more responsible and find work placements that would really help me in the future.”
- “I give Aspiration Day 10 stars because I thoroughly enjoyed the day. I was very interested in everything I learnt, and I feel motivated for Work Experience Week. I appreciated Mr Marshall's speech because it really helped me understand what it is that I have to do for this week.”
- “Good activities. Getting in people from different careers helped like the police or NHS etc.”



Year 11 celebrated the success of last year’s work experience, with many pupils being awarded certificates to recognise their achievements and work attitude. Building on this success they considered how ready they are for post-16 education and their future, while also reflecting on their resilience and determination to achieve their aims. They enjoyed our Careers Convention, motivational speaker (The Driver's Seat) and worked in preparation for college interviews.

- “I gave a score of 10, as I enjoyed myself a lot. It was a good break from a normal school day.”
- “I enjoyed it as it made me think about more careers I could do.”
- “All the activities we did were beneficial for our future and our GCSE exams this year.”
- “This event today gave me a wider range of thought of which career path I want to go into, and what I will need in order for me to enter that profession.”
- “It was enjoyable and gave me a little break from the tight schedule of my usual timetable and allowed me to think more about life ahead of school and where I want to go with all of this.”

Year 10 Pupils in Multi-Lingual Professional Theatre-Making Project at The Birmingham Rep

Two girls in Year 10 took part in a Half Term workshop with the Birmingham Rep Theatre where they worked with professional theatre artists on a multi-lingual project.

Alongside working on the exciting new show 'Orange Polar Bear', which is a co-production between the National Theatre Company of Korea, Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Hanyong Theatre in association with Birmingham City University, Kim and Yasmin worked with other pupils from schools and colleges in Midlands in an intensive week of theatre-making.

They also devised their own short piece, which they then performed as an opener to the Saturday performances of the Main Show.

This was a fantastic opportunity for girls from Hodge Hill Girls' School to work with other young people in a professional theatre environment, gaining vital social, cultural, creative, leadership and communication skills. The girls were brimming with enthusiasm following their experience and this has helped them gain confidence for further projects. The Drama Department thanks the families of both girls for supporting their daughters in this wonderful opportunity.

Never Such Innocence

Mrs Oliver had the pleasure of visiting Buckingham Palace to be part of the Centenary Finale of the Never Such Innocence project.

Never Such Innocence is a charity initiative which was set up in 2014 to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. The charity's aim is to give young people from all over the world the opportunity to play their part and engage during the centenary period from 2014-2018.

From 2014-2018, children from all over the world have entered poems, artwork and songs into the Never Such Innocence annual competition. Many of our pupils at Hodge Hill Girls' School entered artwork into the competition from 2015-2018 and contributed to the centenary. The artwork they produced was both thoughtful and thought-provoking, creative and emotive.

It was a great honour to be invited to the Centenary Finale Celebration and an even greater honour to have the fantastic artwork of our talented pupils recognised and valued. It was wonderful to hear pupils' response to war through poetry and song as well as hearing some pupils talk about the inspiration behind their artwork. Every guest was invited to attend afternoon tea in Buckingham Palace after the ceremony.

Every pupil who took part in the competition received a certificate from Never Such Innocence and pupils have been presented with their certificates in Awards assemblies.

The charity will continue its work engaging children and young people in commemorating our shared history and heritage and giving young people a voice on war. We are looking forward to working with the charity again in the near future.

Enrichment Art and Design

During enrichment lessons in Art and Design this term, pupils in Year 10 and Year 11 have produced a piece of work for a competition organised by 'Specialist Craft'; an educational art supplier.

Pupils had to create a two or three dimensional form using recycled paper. Pupils could also include other found objects, materials and embellishments to decorate their work.

The competition is open to all students up to the age of 18 and the prize is a free full day workshop in our school with the artist Jennifer Collier.

Pupils chose their own form or object to make and also chose their own materials resulting in varied responses to the competition. The winners will be announced on 31st December 2018 by Specialist Craft.



Textiles

In the new year pupils in Year 8 and Year 9 are starting a new project in Textiles. The focus of the project is re-use and looking after the environment, with one of the activities to create a long-lasting textile bag. Pupils are asked to bring something that can be re-used and add to the fabric collection. Please consider suitable textile materials that your daughter may be able to bring into school in January.

Big Ideas Day

Last week, Year 8 pupils participated in the Big Ideas day, which is part of a greater programme that focusses on pupils gaining STEAM skills (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) and crosses over into disciplines such as business, geography, design, citizenship, PSHE, or English. Pupils learned about sustainability. They worked in groups to use their STEAM skills to analyse and solve different problems. Pupils researched and presented their ideas successfully and had a great time. Pupils will continue to work on their Big Ideas, which will be submitted to the competition with regional finals held locally and a National Final at the Palace of Westminster in London.



Careers

This half term, it was a busy one for careers and work-related learning. A selection of pupils from Year 10 were taken to the world skills show at the NEC. This is the UK's largest skills, apprenticeships and careers event. Pupils spoke to people from different skills and backgrounds to gain a better understanding of what they can do post-16. Upon receiving evaluation forms from pupils, we found it to be very beneficial and had raised aspirations of the pupils attending.



We also had the careers convention this half term. We invited providers from universities, colleges, work environments and apprenticeships within the school. Pupils then had the opportunity to walk around and have them answer any questions or get advice on what to do post-16, again a very successful event.

Year 9 have started their careers programme in PSHCE. they are using the careers software Kudos. Pupils answer various questions and the software generates potential jobs they could do based on their likes and dislikes. It is then up to pupils to research these further or pick other careers of interest.

Creativity and Art

Pupils in the Art department produced a range of personal responses to remember Black History Month and the many people who changed lives and fought for equality. These pieces of art demonstrate the learning across a range of subjects.



Most of the pupils across KS3 have produced a piece of art by finishing off the sentence "Art is at the heart of ...". The work has been displayed in the entrance to the art rooms and within the art rooms themselves causing a lot of interest and discussion. Pupils could use any materials they wanted to produce something eye catching and individual to remind us all that art is all around us.



Mary Glasgow Magazines

As a parent, it may be hard to keep track of everything your child needs to know and understand to be a successful reader. We proudly present a selection of new magazines from Mary Glasgow. These are an exciting range of interesting, levelled magazines, which are accompanied with a

number of online resources to help your child boast their language skills and grades. You may wish to explore [this link](#) to determine which resources would be most appropriate for your child. Current magazine issues are located in the School Library 1st floor.



Free Resources for English Literature

There are a variety of free resources that pupils can use to support their learning in English Literature lessons and as revision for examinations.

- [Animal Farm Audio Book](#)
- [An Inspector Calls](#)
- [Blood Brothers - Theatre Ink 2014](#)

In addition, during the Christmas period, several versions of the Charles Dickens novel 'A Christmas Carol' are traditionally shown on the television. These are especially recommended for our pupils who are studying this text for their GCSE English Literature.

GCSEPod

During November we reached the milestone of 10,000 podcasts streamed or watched by our pupils since the beginning of this academic year. This is a wonderful achievement that demonstrates the benefit to our pupils learning that is being achieved by their use of GCSEPod.

During November 5,695 podcasts were accessed by our pupils with English Literature (1380), History (1269), Biology (576) and Maths (510) have the most podcasts watched.

So far in December 2,558 podcasts have been accessed by our pupils. This month History (988), English Literature (489) and Maths (325) have the most podcasts watched.



As a school we are now in 1st place of all 73 schools of a similar size to us in the Midlands for usage, with an average of 23.52 pods watched per Key Stage 4 pupil since the beginning of November.

Please continue to encourage your daughter to use GCSEPod during the Christmas holidays to enhance her learning.

Here are a number of questions published by GCSEPod, which may be

useful in encouraging your daughter to reflect on her learning from each podcast she watches.



REGIONAL (NOV TO FEB) LEADERBOARD
MIDDLE MIDDLEWEIGHT - 74 SCHOOLS COMPETING

Position	School Name	Score
1	Hodge Hill Girls' School	23.52
2	Boston High School	23.49
3	Ormiston Venture Academy	22.38

Competition Ends: Thursday 28th February 2019

Quiz your Child!



Test your child on their Pod knowledge with some of these general questions!

General Questions	English Literature Questions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What did you learn from watching the pod? 2. What will you remember? 3. Tell me 3 keywords you have learnt from the pod. 4. Tell me everything you know on the topic. 5. How confident do you feel on the subject? 6. Do you think you need to learn more on that subject? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What's the book/play about? 2. Can you give me a plot overview? 3. Where is the book/play set? 4. How does the setting reflect the book? 5. Who are the main characters in the book/play? 6. What genre is the book? 7. Do you know any important quotes? 8. What is the structure of the book? 9. What are the book/plays themes? 10. Does the story interest you? Why?

General Questions	Character Questions
7. What part of the pod interested you the most? 8. What was your favourite part of the pod? 9. Teach me what you've learnt? 10. Where you surprised by what you've learnt? 11. What was your least favourite part?	1. Who are the 3 main characters of the book/play? 2. What are their relationships with each other? 3. Which social class do 'they belong too? 4. Do the main characters change by the end of the book/play? How? 5. If you had the chance to talk and ask each character a question - what would you ask them and why?

Please encourage your daughter to show you some of the pods available on GCSEPod. You may also wish to watch the video for parents on GCSEPod, which is available on [this link](#).

Work Experience

Year 10 are currently in the process of applying for work experience placements for summer 2019. In addition, we have received information on placements for during the school holidays that are currently available to our Year 11 pupils who are over 16. This is a great way to gain valuable experience that can help to make decisions on future careers, college courses and support subsequent applications. More information is included in the following information we have received from S4SNextGen:

Dear pupils,

We wanted to let you know that S4SNextGen have just released some really exciting new Work Experience opportunities for next **Spring and Summer** available for students aged 16-18. Examples of opportunities that are currently looking for students like you in your area are listed below (*you will first need to [sign in](#) to be able to view these links, should you require your login details please contact S4SNextGen, their details are at the end of this newsletter*).

February Half Term 2019:

BIRMINGHAM: [1 Week at National Financial Services Company, Wesleyan, February Half Term \(w/c 18th Feb\), age 16-18](#)

BIRMINGHAM, ERDINGTON: [World Class Retail Business, Trust Ford, February Half Term \(w/c 18th Feb\), age 16-18](#)

Easter Holidays

BIRMINGHAM: [1 Week at National Financial Services Company, Wesleyan, Easter \(w/c 8th April\), age 16-18](#)

Any questions at all including help with login details etc do get in touch at info@S4SNextGen.org

How do I apply?

1. Follow the steps below to apply - it only takes 5 minutes!
Register/Log in by [clicking here](#). (You should already have an account but if you've forgotten your details, feel free to setup another account).
2. Click on '[OPPORTUNITIES](#)' when signed in or scroll through the list on the website to look for the opportunity you're interested in.
3. Click apply and complete the application form, don't forget to look at our '[Top Tips for Students](#)' which includes advice on making applications and will help to give you the best chance of success.

To give yourself the best chance of success we strongly encourage you apply ASAP. If you have any queries about the process, have forgotten your login details or are having technical issues, please get in touch with info@s4snextgen.org or call 02075 493 656 and they'll help you out.

Good luck!

S4SNextGen

02075 493 656



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