



# Hodge Hill Girls' School

## Newsletter

**April 2020**



**SPRING TERM**

**Educating Tomorrow's Women Today**

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. At the time of the previous newsletter we couldn't have predicted how quickly global issues would unfold and the impact that this would have on our daily lives.

Firstly, I would like to recognise the fantastic work of staff over recent weeks. All staff have been trying their very best to ensure that new systems and ways of working are quickly implemented, and everything continues to work as well as it can. Staff have shown such determination to support our pupils at this difficult time. A time when everyone is adapting to a new normal and balancing changing personal and work routines. It is also important to highlight how impressive our pupils have been, adjusting to a different kind of learning, showing outstanding commitment to their work and displaying an amazing resilience in these challenging circumstances. They should be very proud of themselves. We are very proud of them.



Parents and carers, we also acknowledge the challenges that you may be facing trying to juggle new routines while supporting your daughter with her learning. We realise that the work set cannot replace usual classroom-based teaching and completion will need to fit around daily family life. We appreciate your efforts in supporting your daughter as we all strive to do our best in this unprecedented situation.

This is a good opportunity to thank you for all of the kind messages of support we have received in recent weeks. These have been gratefully received and shared with staff. The school buildings may be closed, but the sense of community and the opportunity to connect is more important than ever. Keep abreast of news and relevant updates via the school website and School Gateway. We will continue with our weekly bulletin and hope that this newsletter illustrates some of the positive achievements from earlier in the term. It always gives me great satisfaction to be reminded of some of the wonderful opportunities that have taken place.

We look forward to a time when we can open our doors and welcome our pupils back into school. Until then take care of yourselves and your loved ones and keep safe.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Adu  
Head Teacher



## Message from Chair of Governors

Dear Parents/Carers,

At the time of writing the school is playing its part in supporting the countrywide effort to keep people safe during this challenging time by opening to a specific group of pupils as defined by the government. Thank you, parents and carers, for following the guidance and keeping your children at home if you do not meet the set criteria. I would like to extend my thanks to all the staff who have responded to the need to change their normal way of working to ensure that learning opportunities are still provided, pupils and parents are updated and children are still being educated. Many staff volunteered time during their Easter holidays to continue with the positive work needed to respond to this lockdown situation. Such partnership working demonstrates the values of our school and the dedication of our staff at this time.

The Governing body has continued with the planned March meeting, to set the new budget for the next financial year, although due to the current restrictions this took place virtually. This was also an opportunity to show our gratitude to three of our longstanding governors who have shown such dedication and commitment to the school during their tenure and are now standing down. Mr Hakil Ahmed, Mr Yash Alhuwalia and Mrs Mandy Bonfield have given generously of their time, knowledge and skills to steer the school in an everchanging educational landscape. We have greatly valued their contributions and we wish them well in the future. We welcome three new governors Sabah Hussain, Angie Lawrence and Tahira Rehman to the Governing body team and look forward to working with them as the school develops.

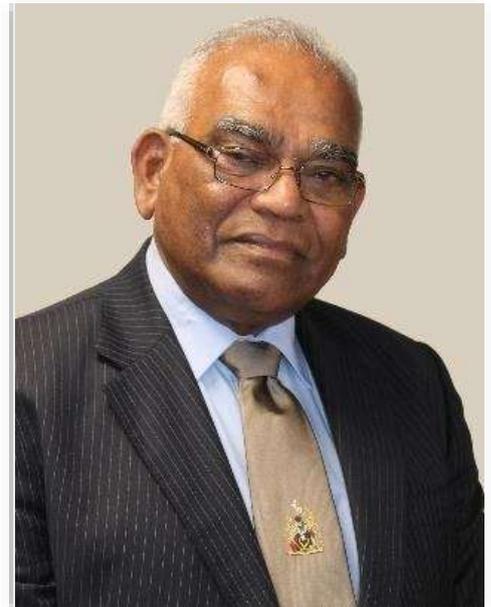
It is hard to predict how the summer term will unfold. Ofqual has recently informed schools about how they will set exam grades for the cohort of 2020 and we expect further announcements from the government and key educational bodies on a regular basis. These will of course set the direction for the summer term ahead. While it may be a time of uncertainty, we will look to continue to try our very best to support your daughter and the wider community during these challenging times.

I am in regular contact with Mrs Adu, the Headteacher at the school throughout this time, although as you would expect our face to face meetings have been put on hold for now.

I look forward to seeing you back in the school building in the future. Until then may you all be safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

Mr K Siva Yogaiswaran  
Chair of Governors



## Les Garçons – The Play



On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February, we had a visit from Onatti Theatre Company who performed a play called Les garçons (the boys). It was a story about Monsieur et madame Dulin who were going to a fancy-dress party and Natalie was going to babysit.

Natalie's quiet evening with baby Bruno was interrupted by her ex-boyfriend Tristan, who wanted to get back together with her. Reluctantly she lets him stay and help with the babysitting. Natalie and Tristan argue, and she storms out leaving Tristan to look after the baby - then the Dulin's return!

This was an excellent play and it was very hilarious!

A lot of the pupils made positive comments to all of the teachers involved and were very engaged. The pupils were pleased to be able to understand the play and to interact with the actors.



**Miss E Carriere**  
Teacher of French



## National Careers Week

As part of National Careers Week pupils took part in a number of careers related activities on 2nd March 2020. In addition to activities delivered during lesson time, including the opportunity to watch short videos and presentations linked to a broad range of career paths, we also organised a number of guest speakers to visit the school, the aim being to deliver talks about careers in construction, engineering and the NHS. Visiting speakers also attended lessons to discuss their career paths in business and science which was informative and engaging for all those involved.

In addition, pupils also had the opportunity to learn about different career paths during assemblies, equipping them with essential information and support regarding their future career aspirations. During form time, pupils learnt about the skills and qualities needed for employment as well as essential labour market information which has affected the changing nature of job roles. Pupils were also actively encouraged to continue their careers research and complete a number of home learning activities, for example, pupils in Y9 and Y11 were given STEPs booklets to complete during their form time and for homework.

The careers event was hugely successful, with pupils learning a variety of skills, including how to write their own CV's. All pupils were also given the opportunity to write down their career aspirations, potential career path they would want to take post 16. These ideas were then posted onto a notice board in the main foyer for all to share. This gave both staff and pupils and invaluable insight into the career aspirations of pupils at Hodge Hill Girls' School.

All pupils were equipped with an 'employability skills sheet' in their planners. They were encouraged during the week to write down their key employability skills. Where attributes were clearly identified, these were then signed by their teacher. All pupils with completed sheets were then given certificates to celebrate their success. Teachers also took part in Careers Week by displaying posters on their classroom door stating which career paths they had taken which pupils found to be most engaging and informative, also giving them new ideas for their own career pathways. Pupils also had the opportunity to take part in the Careers Week competition whereby they had the chance to design an app for primary school pupils to support pupils with their career choices and employability skills. All activities during Careers Week and the on-going provision we have in place at Hodge Girls' School are aimed at raising pupils' aspirations and meeting the Gatsby careers benchmarks.

**Miss N Nazish**

## Careers Talk with the Police



At Hodge Hill Girls' School we maximise every opportunity to broaden our learners' knowledge and understanding of the world and opportunities following completion of their studies. With this in mind, we organised for our Community Officer, PC Fletcher to come into school to talk to pupils about careers directly within the police force or other associated career paths.

Pupils made the most of the opportunity to ask PC Fletcher numerous questions and they learnt invaluable information which not only will support them with their future career choices but also broadened their understanding of the essential skills and attributes required for such Public Sector roles.

The positive promotion of British Values and core Citizenship attributes is at the heart of all we do in school. PC Fletcher's visit reinforced the work we do with pupils in the PSHCE and Citizenship curriculum linked to these themes. For example, the ability to positively apply an understanding and appreciation of Democracy, The Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Respect and Tolerance and Equality of Opportunity is an

essential part of our learners' character education. We hope that PC Fletcher will be able to visit school again to build upon the invaluable work completed with our pupils.

Mrs S Barron

## STEAM Week March 2020

The second week in March coincides with British Science Week; at Hodge Hill Girls' School, we turned this into a celebration of STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics - activities. There was a huge range of learning opportunities taking place both inside and outside of school. Many pupils worked with visitors from outside agencies as well as our own school staff. There were several opportunities, too, for pupils to work with different year groups. The school took on a different 'feel' for a few days; as one pupil commented: "It was really fun; there was a variety of activities and it was laidback, and pupils were relaxed with no pressure on anyone."



Pupils learnt about sports injuries and developed their First Aid skills with the Red Cross. A butchery workshop was held, and pupils created portraits of leading engineers. Textiles' skills were developed as pupils developed an understanding of how electronics can support and enhance fabrics, and many Year 8s baked all morning before treating themselves to a very civilized afternoon tea. Songwriting workshops were held, and pupils learnt how to cut glass. Many stained-glass windows were designed, and Year 7 sang and clapped their way through the Punctuation Show.

A group of Year 10s visited UCB and all of Year 9 visited the National Memorial Arboretum where they saw some wonderful sculptures and developed their understanding of technology and medicine in World War One.

Year 8s played and learnt with 'Happy Puzzles' and created eat well plates in their chosen MFL. News broadcasts were staged about the impact of wind energy, and Arts' Award pupils rehearsed their chosen play and demonstrated some fantastic make-up skills! There were live performances of Jekyll and Hyde and Paper Umbrella for many pupils across Years 9-11 to enjoy and link to their learning.



Fingerprints were taken as the place of technology in fighting crime where Year 8s and 10s cracked all sorts of scientific codes as they used their skills and knowledge to conquer 'Escape Room' tasks. The history of mental health and the role of science and technology in the development of medicine provided through provoking workshops for Year 10 and 11 pupils, and Energizer Workshops prompted Year 8 to think about just how important engineering skills are.

We welcomed the Dogs' Trust and the British Hens' Welfare Trust to deliver sessions on the science behind looking after animals, and 'Maths' Masterclasses' were held in exam technique for Year 11s. There were some very interesting – and at times slightly unsteady! – group counterbalances in 'Team Building in Engineering'.



Year 7 and our Eco Group listened to a talk from Baroness Bennett, former leader of the Green Party with her very powerful message about the positive things we can do to make an impact on society, particularly with regards to reducing waste.



**Miss C Middlehurst**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

## **STEAM Week cont.**

During STEAM week Year 10 and year 7 pupils worked exceptionally well together to create portrait paintings inspired by female engineers. These included some of the exciting visitors who had presented assemblies within school highlighting the wide opportunities available to women wanting to follow a career in engineering. With clear links to art and design, pupils spent the day working on creating hard edge paintings in the style of modern pop artist Martin Kreloff, celebrating women excelling in a traditionally male dominated environment. Including art with the traditional STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) enables the kind of risk-taking approach and creative problem-solving that can be applied to the world's biggest issues, such as climate change and healthcare with several engineering schools now introducing creative arts courses to support their programmes of study.

Pupils worked with great focus throughout the day to produce excellent portraits celebrating a range of female engineers throughout history. After selecting a photograph of their chosen engineer, pupils use Photoshop to change the photograph so that all the tones are separated to support painting in a hard edge

style. Year 10s then drew their selected engineer whilst Year 7s were given the option to trace all the outlines needed for the technique. Following that pupils used acrylic paint, mixing appropriate colours and tones, painting with a high level of skill and control producing great outcomes.



**Ms R Corser**  
**Art, Design and Technology**

## STEAM Week cont.

### Animal Man

"I enjoyed the animal man's lesson a lot today and learnt lots of interesting facts. In his lesson I learnt that snails have 400 teeth that are microscopic so we can't see them which gives their tongue a sandpaper like texture. I also learnt that chinchillas are a very endangered species because celebrities use their fur for coats. I learnt that tarantulas are heavier than normal spiders and when they fall, instead of landing normally, they shatter because they are more brittle. I found out that snakes have adapted from lizards, barn owls have good hearing and since they cannot turn their eyes around, they are able to turn their neck around 270 degrees. I found the Animal Man's lesson really fun and I hope he can come again."

**Pupil: Hana**

"First of all, I learnt that some insects play dead to avoid being eaten because the predator does not want to eat something that has something wrong with it. I also learnt that some scorpions glow in the dark to attract prey. I really enjoyed the experience and hope for more events like this in the future."

**Soffiyah**

### Energy Workshop

This session encouraged pupils to find out all about sustainable energy and learn about associated engineering careers. The workshop was packed with hands-on activities, careers information and stories from nuclear engineer working at Rolls Royce. Pupils learned as they explored concepts of energy generation, sustainability and made their own electric cars.

**Ms N Egeh**  
**Science**



## STEAM Week cont.

Examples of some of the electronic textile keyrings made in STEAM week. The pupils were given praise for the high standard of quality work achieved.

Hana K Year 7



Lina G Year 8

Jemimah B Year 7



Aleena R Year 8



Safaa I Year 7



Tania H Year 7



## Birmingham University – Big Health Quiz

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, Miss Egeh took a group of Year 8 pupils to attend a Health and Careers event at Birmingham University which was aimed at giving them a taster of the variety of careers in health.

They spent the day taking part in a wide range of fun, innovative workshops, and competitive science-based quizzes.



“The trip was educational and entertaining, because of the quizzes we were given. It was also insightful, and it gave us more knowledge about the career we may want to have - it also inspired us enough to reconsider the career that we had in mind before the trip.

My favourite bit of the trip, was when I learned that the UoB had tiles, that generated electricity, (which was sent to the benches so you could charge your phone) with kinetic energy”

By Lina

**Miss Egeh**  
**Science Teacher / STEAM coordinator**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM**



# Art

As an introduction to using clay, Year 7 Art and Design pupils have been designing and making fantastic clay plaques based on the theme of a house and garden. Pupils learnt how to roll out a level piece of clay and use a range of stamps for the doors and windows as well as creating textures using a range of equipment such as a tea strainer, paintbrushes, and clay tools. Believe it or not the areas that look like grass are created by pushing the damp clay through a tea strainer or sieve. The plaques use relief, so some areas are carved into and some are raised by adding more clay. After the first firing in the kiln pupils brush on an oxide which shows in the photographs as the darker colour.



Ms R Corser  
Art, Design and Technology



## Health & Social Trip to University of Central Birmingham

A school visit was arranged for a group of Year 10 pupils to visit UCB to participate in 'Have a go' session related to Health and Social Care on Wednesday 11th March 2020. The visit coincided with the National Science Week, and school's STEAM week.

When we arrived at UCB we had a guided tour around the campus and we visited different departments outlining potential career paths for our pupils to consider. They explained how long the course would take and what qualifications were needed. The courses we visited were;

- Hairdressing
- Beauty
- Bakery
- Cake decorations
- Food testing laboratory

New to the college was a course for becoming an Air Stewardess. We experienced what it would be like to be an Air Stewardess by checking into a dummy air plane that was on site.



Here is what some of our pupils thought of the experience;

- "We did a Health and Social Care activity. We learnt how to do CPR and learnt how infections spread."
- "For those that were interested in becoming an Air Stewardess they took us to a make shift airport and an aeroplane room. This was just one of the courses available at UCB."

**By Aliza**



“We enjoyed this trip as we were able to have a go at CPR and were taught about college life.”

**By Fabbih**

“We visited UCB for our own knowledge and experience for the courses we were interested in. We went to a session called ‘have a go’ where we learnt and talked about courses to do with Health and Social. We really enjoyed visiting UCB – it was a great experience!”

**By Sana and Ilesha**



**Mrs A Roche  
Health and Social Care**



## Food Technology – Master Butcher Class



On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March we had fantastic support from Brain Hainsworth Leaf Education, linking environment and farming, one of the Master Butchers from Aubrey Allen came into the school to show the students how to prepare fresh lamb from scratch. The students were shown the various elements to the role of a Master Butcher as well as how to prepare the whole lamb within the morning session. Pupils also learnt how different religions prepare and source meat differently. Pupils were shown how sustainable and environmentally friendly lamb production is in the UK as well as quality assurance, linking the Red Tractor Assured Food Standards.

Some of the pupils prepared their own cuts of meat that they were going to use in the afternoon cooking session, with the butchers guidance. It was great to see how enthusiastic the pupils were.

In the afternoon the pupils had two hours to prepare a dish using the meat that was specially prepared. Pupils used a wide range of different techniques and skills, some using family recipes that have been handed down through the family.

All food produced was cooked from scratch and was well presented following exam guidance criteria. The food produced was fantastic and was well prepared and the aroma was fantastic in the kitchen all afternoon.

Well done to Year 10 ladies who showed an excellent display of respect for the food they were producing.



**Miss A Merrigan  
Food Technology**

## Afternoon Tea



Year 8 pupils made a fantastic effort on producing food items for their afternoon tea. They worked in teams of three or four pupils. The pupils learnt a lot of new skills and enjoyed their produce in the afternoon.



A great day had by all.



**Miss A Merrigan  
Food Technology**

## NCS – National Citizen Service

At Hodge Hill Girls' School we encourage students to make the most of all opportunities available to them both within and outside of the classroom in order to develop character, resilience and essential life skills and experience.

National Citizen Service (NCS) is a charitable, government backed programme for 16-17 year olds that build skills for work and life. NCS supports young people to take on new challenges and adventures, make new friends and contribute to their community. We are delighted to have received the NCS Silver Award which recognises that many of our Year 11 students accessed the Programme last year. Well done to all our students involved!



**Mrs D Woodcock  
Assistant Headteacher**

## Youth Parliament



We would like to extend our congratulations to Sumaya in Year 10 who has recently gained the post of Deputy Member of Youth Parliament for the West Midlands.

This really is a fantastic achievement and the school is extremely proud of her endeavours. In order to achieve this Sumaya had to prepare a campaign and speech on a topic of her choice. She chose crime and the social deprivation of young people. Sumaya successfully campaigned and gained many votes from within and beyond our school community.

She now has the opportunity to represent young peoples' voices for our area and have the experience of engaging in Youth Parliament debates, discussions and activities with other young people across the West Midlands.

**Mrs D Woodcock**  
Assistant Headteacher

## Mother's Day

Mothering Sunday was celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and to help mark this special occasion pupils at Hodge Hill Girls' School were treated to a pop up shop within school. The shop was supported by Mr Ahmed (Pastoral Manager for Year 10) and Mrs Afzal (School Governor) for one week during school lunch break. They sold gift sets ranging from chocolates, perfumes, picture frames and many more items.



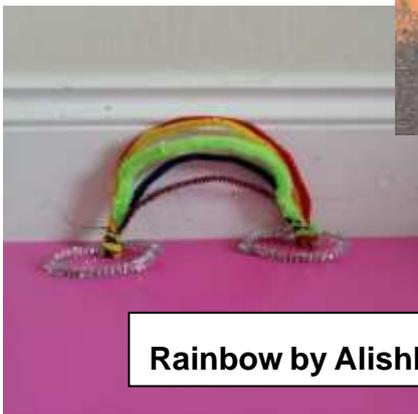
Thank you to the **NHS** and all Keyworkers



**Rainbow by Tania**



**Pavement Rainbow**



**Rainbow by Alishba**



**Rainbow by Arumaisah**



### Netball News

Both Year 8/9 and 10/11 teams played against St Edmund Campion. The Year 8/9 team came away with a win and unfortunately the Year 10/11 lost. Even with the loss the other school's teacher commented on how much the Year 10/11 team had improved since last time we played them and could really see the hard work they had put in.

The Year 8/9 team also had a game against Stockland Green School, unfortunately this time we did not get the win we hoped for, however, we did only have six players and had two students playing their first ever game, so the team did well.

Big well done to all the girls who have participated in training and matches so far this year. You have all worked hard and done the school proud.

**Mrs S Barron**



On Friday 13th March Hodge Hill Girls School took four Year 8 pupils to the Level 3 Dance competition as part of the School Games Initiative, this was held at the Patrick Centre, part of the Hippodrome in Birmingham. At the Patrick Centre HHGS pupils got to experience dancing in front of an audience and competing against other schools from the Birmingham area in a professional setting which is a once in a lifetime opportunity for many dancers.

We are so proud of our pupils who did an exceptional job performing and who were so professional throughout the whole experience, especially when competing against such amazing talent from other schools in the West Midlands.

Hodge Hill Girls School won the award for Self - Belief and the dance judges made some lovely comments regarding the concept of the dance, how it was portrayed to the audience and how well the pupils performed with the music.

Well done Marwa, Hamera, Zaveria and Zara, such fantastic role models for all your hard work and commitment in rehearsals, the day of performance and your attitude towards learning something new.

**Miss Walker**

