



Hodge Hill Girls' School Newsletter

May 2019



Year 10 Practice
Employment Interviews

Fantastic workshop with
author Harriet Goodwin



Read her books available in
our school library



Sheku Kanneh-Mason
Concert

Educating Tomorrow's Women Today

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

This has been a short, but very busy term. Exam fever has taken over with Year 10 and Year 11 sitting external GCSE exams this term. We have been impressed by their conduct during this time, their hard work and positive efforts need to continue for the remainder of the exam period.

Internal exams have taken place for the Year 7 and Year 8 pupils and Years 9 and 10 should be revising for their forthcoming exams. Independent work at home to reinforce the work that has been learnt throughout the year will ensure that pupils have the best opportunity for future success.

Good organizational skills are vital and some of our pupils still need support from home to ensure that they have the correct equipment and uniform for school each day. Please can you support your daughter to adopt a positive attitude to learning and be the best that they can be every day.

We have had a number of visitors into school this term with many business leaders taking part in our planned career events. We have received numerous compliments about the conduct of our pupils and the Year 10 pupils certainly set the standards high in their one-to-one interviews. They prepared well, overcame their nerves and performed well on the day. Well done to all those who took part!

I would like to thank staff, parents and pupils for the ongoing support and wish you an enjoyable half term break. Eid Mubarak to all of you who will be celebrating shortly after the half term break.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Adu
Head Teacher



Message from Chair of Governors

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a pleasure to meet so many pupils and parents at the recent Year 8 parents evening. Many of our pupils are working hard to receive achievement points and so far this year have been rewarded with trips to bowling and the cinema. There is still time for pupils to collect positive points before the deadline for the summer reward.

The Pastoral and Curriculum Committee meeting has taken place this term. This has given the governors a chance to meet with key staff around these areas.

I continue to meet with Mrs Adu, the Headteacher on alternate Friday afternoons and I am available to meet with parents by appointment at this time. I can be contacted via the Clerk to the Governors at the school address.

Yours sincerely,

Mr K Siva Yogaiswaran

Chair of Governors



UKMT Maths Team Challenge

Towards the end of last term, a team of four pupils from Year 8 and Year 9 competed in the UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) Maths Team Challenge at Keele University. This followed many weeks of preparation during which our team worked at lunchtimes and after school to fine-tune their mathematical skills.

Danya (8,TX) explained that she enjoyed participating in the Maths competition, which she felt was an excellent opportunity for her to experience a new situation and test her Maths skills. She found the competition challenging and feels that it has also helped her to develop her teamwork and communication skills.

Taslima (8,A2) also enjoyed the challenge, especially the opportunity to compete against other schools. She felt that the Maths Team Challenge was a great opportunity to improve her maths skills, in addition to developing a range of employability skills, such as communication and

working with others. Taslima would love to enter this competition again, because it has helped her to develop her own self-confidence.

Year 11 Fascinated at Workshop with Author Harriet Goodwin

A group of Year 11 pupils were lucky enough to work with the well-respected author Harriet Goodwin, during a session which took place after school. She focused the 2 hour session on helping the pupils to get their writing to 'spring off the page', explore story structure and openings, and look at characterisation.

All the pupils found the tips and advice she gave both easy to understand and extremely useful. Everyone who participated were thoroughly engaged and came out the session buzzing. We are hoping to continue working with Harriet Goodwin in the future with more pupils from different year groups.



If anyone wants to read her books, we have several of them available in the school library- including: The Boy Who Fell Down Exit 43 and The Hex Factor.

Year 10 GCSE English Literature

Our Year 10 pupils have worked incredibly hard in preparation for their first GCSE in English Literature. The English Department, who held two revision sessions the day before the examinations, want to praise all the students for their mature attitudes and commitment.

Work Experience Interviews

As part of the Year 10 work experience programme, pupils have been working hard at improving communication skills, including telephone skills, sending emails and letters, that will support their applications for work experience placements. They have also been learning about interview techniques, body language and creating a good first impression. These skills were put to the test on the morning of



8th May when all our Year 10 pupils completed practice interviews with representatives from major companies. Each interview lasted about 20 mins, during which our pupils were asked about their qualifications, time in school, hobbies, goals and aspirations. While our pupils were nervous they were also determined to be successful and ensured that they provided evidence of their achievements.

At the end of each interview our pupils were provided feedback on their performance and how to improve. Overall, our pupils came away from the experience feeling very positive. Their feedback shows that this was an extremely valuable learning opportunity and feedback showed that they learned a lot from the experience.

Pupils will be able to use what they learned in these practice interviews, in June when they have interviews with their prospective work experience placement. We trust that this experience will stand our pupils in good stead for this day and for any interviews they may have in the future.

Year 7 Visit to see Sheku Kanneh-Mason

Sheku Kanneh-Mason is becoming a household name in Classical Music, especially after performing at last year's Royal Wedding of Harry and Meghan. Year 7 pupils from Hodge Hill Girl's were amongst the schools that saw him perform at Birmingham Town Hall. Sheku performed with his sister Isata, who accompanied him on piano throughout the programme of the following;

- Beethoven Variations in F Major, Op 66, 10'
- Lutosławski Grave, 7'
- Debussy Cello sonata, L 135
- Fauré Élégie, Op 24, 7'
- Mendelssohn Cello Sonata No 2 in D Major, Op 58, 26'

Sheku performed all these movements with vigour, emotion, expression and displaying his virtuosity on his instrument. While performing he used the elements of music such as dynamics, variations of pitch, melody and different musical textures like homophony.



Our pupils listened attentively and applauded after each performance. When the performance ended, many of our pupils stated they were glad for the opportunity to see Sheku perform and enjoyed the musical journey that he and his sister took us on.

Year 8 Solutions for the Planet 'Big Ideas'

Two teams of Year 8 pupils representing our school in the Regional Final of the Solutions for the Planet 'Big Ideas' competition. The teams were selected from 169 entries nationally. 'Big Idea' is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) programme that encourages pupils to work in teams to develop a project to improve sustainability on our planet. Over the last few months our pupils have been researching and developing their 'Big Idea'.



Smile for Cancer team, Sania (8,CL), Zoya (8,16), Aleena (8,PL) and Atiqa (8,12) designed an app for cancer patients. The app is to increase the patient's self-esteem and confidence following treatment and hair loss.

Stong Minds, Samrah (8,18), Kalsoom (8,12) and Emaan (8,DL) developed a project to reduce childhood obesity. As part of this project they created a granola bar as a healthy snack for children.

Congratulations to both teams on their excellent projects and the presentations they delivered at the Regional Final.



Mosaic Mentoring Programme

Since January a group of Year 9 and Year 10 pupils have been taking part in the Mosaic Mentoring programme. As a team they meet once a month with an inspirational mentor for workshops that are designed to build their confidence, communication and other skills important for success in education and employment. Recently our pupils have been considering their long term and short term goals as the project aims to raise their aspirations and awareness of future opportunities.

AimHigher Mentoring

Year 10 pupils have embraced the opportunity of regular meetings with AimHigher mentors. The mentors are current undergraduate students, who have been holding a series of meetings with our pupils to identify the individual pupil needs and agree a range of personal and learning-related development objectives.

As a result of participating in this programme five of our Year 10 pupils have been successful in their application to Unifest. This is a residential summer school for Year 10 pupils who are considering higher education and university study. During Unifest our pupils will experience learning in a university environment and receive information, advice and support to promote aspirations, attainment and enable planning for their future.

Sports Clubs

As a school we support the 'This Girl Can' initiative with a variety of initiatives that encourage physical activity among our pupils. There are a variety of afterschool activities that are organised by our PE Faculty, which includes Basketball on Tuesdays, Rounders on Wednesdays and Cricket on Fridays. Pupils who attend these clubs are awarded house points, with the bronze certificate awarded for 10 house points, silver for 30 house points and gold for 50 house points.

Alina (8,A2) is thrilled to have achieved the bronze certificate for her involvement in the basketball club. She loves playing basketball and taking part in other sports, which she feels strengthens her and makes her feel happy. She recommends joining the afterschool PE clubs because sport helps you to be more energetic and cheerful.



Congratulations to Joy (9,8), who has achieved the gold award. Reflecting on her experience at the PE after-school clubs Joy explains, "I think that doing after-school clubs really helps to raise your mood and get your mind off any troubles you may have. If you're stressed out with revision, homework and assessments then going to after-school clubs can help you have fun, relax and socialise with other year groups. Doing exercise has been proven to help people calm down and be more focused. All in all, I really love attending after-school clubs just because it really is fun to play sports with others and get your mind off your worries."

The PE Department are busy planning activities for the next half term. This includes an exciting recognition trip to Ackers for pupils with the highest attendance at sport extra curricular activities and our annual sports day.

Examination Preparation Advice

We are now in the middle of external examinations and our internal end of year examinations. This is the climax of many months of work and an opportunity for our pupils to show how much they have learnt. However, it is acknowledged that exams can be stressful. Here a few points of advice for before and during exams.

Before the exam	In the exam
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the time and place for the exam. • Do not cram at the last minute. • Put your equipment in a clear plastic bag the night before. • Get a good night's sleep. • Eat before the exam but not junk food. • Stay calm and confident. Breathe deeply. • Don't forget your equipment. • Be early for the exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay calm. Relax. Stay focused. • Have confidence in yourself. • Answer the easy questions first. • Do not spend too long on each question. If you have extra time at the end return to the question. • Cross out mistakes with a single line. • Read questions twice. Circle key terms. • Keep your answers clear and to the point, do not waffle or be vague. • Proof read answers. Ask yourself – Have I written a complete answer? Have I answered the question that was asked?

The following websites provide help and support on dealing with examination pressure and stress.

[Childline – Exam Stress and Pressure](#)

[NHS – Help your child beat exam stress](#)

GCSE Pod

Pupils have been making excellent use of GCSEPod as they prepare for their examinations. Since the beginning of May our pupils have watched 3228 pods. The most popular subject is English Literature with 1046 pods watched as Year 10 and Year 11 prepare for their GCSE English Literature examinations. History, Religious Studies, Biology and ICT have also been popular subjects with our pupils.

The half term holiday is an excellent time for pupils to use GCSE Pod to either prepare for their examinations; to support their learning of more difficult topics they may have covered and to prepare for topics they will be studying during the next half term. Remember that learning is most effective when it is 'active'. To maximise learning please encourage your daughter to try one of these activities after watching GCSE Pod:

- Note down at least 5 key facts, dates, diagrams or quotes from the video.
- Create a mind map to join ideas together.
- Discuss the key learning from the pod with a family member or friend.

The [GCSE Pod Parents section](#) contains lots of useful advice to help parents support their daughter as they prepare and complete examinations. Especially recommended are '[Supporting your child through their GCSEs](#)' and '[How to deal with exam stress](#)'

Out of Hours Learning Reminders

There are many opportunities throughout the week for additional support for pupils. Should your daughter wish to join our 'Out of Hours Learning' programme, she must return the appropriate consent form to the Admin Office.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homework Club• Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basketball• History Ambassadors• Homework Club• Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• History• Homework Club• Rounders• Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art, Craft and Design• Cricket• Homework Club• Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• French

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.

Ideas for Activities during the School Holidays

Birmingham Museums – There are lots of different events, exhibitions and family workshops organised by Birmingham Museums that are happening during the school holidays across the city. During May and June there is a special offer with 10% off the price of Family Annual Membership. There are lots of benefits with family membership which includes free entry and guided tours at Aston Hall, Blakesley Hall, Sarehole Mill, Soho House, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Weoley Castle and the Museum Collections Centre, Free art and craft activities, discounts in selected cafes and shops, and much more. Further information is available on [this link](#).

Art Competition – Inspire 19 Art Competition – Organised by Birmingham Museums there is the opportunity to win up to £200 of CASS Art Vouchers and many other prizes! To enter pupils, need to create a piece of art inspired by the theme of 'What does family mean to you?' Artwork could be inspired by a family pet, parents, siblings, foster family, carers or grandparents... The closing date is Friday 31st May and more information is available on [this link](#).

BOM (Birmingham Open Media) – Is a free gallery in the centre of Birmingham for Art, technology and science dedicated to creative innovation with a purpose. It contains cutting edge digital artworks and exhibitions that spark debate about technology and scientific progress.

On 28th May they are hosting a Kids Half Term Hack. As part of this 'hackventure' participants have the opportunity to be hacking fruit & veg with electronics and taking part in live coding. Places are limited. For more information and to book click on [this link](#).

Family Workshop – Crows on the Canal at the IKON Gallery – On Friday 31st May there is a fabulous opportunity to join artist Matthew Krishanu on Slow Boat for a drawing workshop inspired by his crow paintings. For more information and to book click on [this link](#).

Family Saturday – Imagery and Ornament at the IKON Gallery – On Saturday 1st June, you are invited to join artist Farwa Moledina to create embellished imagery in response to Hew Locke's installation 'The Nameless' (2010), reminiscent of a medieval tapestry, and 'Souvenirs' (2018-19), busts of the royal family heavily decorated by the artist. For more information click on [this link](#).



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