

Camp Hill Girls' Chronicle

End of Spring term 2024



KING EDWARD VI
CAMP HILL
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Educational excellence for our City

Dance Show - 'Icons'

by Miss Orr

Congratulations to the Dance Committee and all of the students who took part in last half term's evening performance of the Dance Show, 'Icons'. UNICEF have now gratefully received their grand total of: **£1102!** What a fantastic contribution from one evening showcasing Camp Hill hard work, teamwork and talent!



Reading With Friends Book Review Competition

by Ms Morris and Mrs Royall



Before Christmas, students were offered the chance to borrow sets of books from the school library so they could 'read with friends'. They could choose selected titles from a broad range of genres: classics, thrillers, romance, adventure, historical, spine-chilling supernatural and more!

It was optional for groups to submit a written review and we received some really thoughtful responses from those who took part. We are delighted to announce details of the prize winners below, with a brief comment on their submission and extracts from their reviews. Certificates, chocolates and books will be awarded as prizes at the start of next term. Well done to all of the prize winners!

Best Review Overall:

Ashvika Thayabaran and Vicky Yu (Year 9): 'Never Forget You' by Jamila Gavin

This thoughtful review illuminates characters in vivid detail, impeccable language and attractive descriptions. The reviewers offer considered opinions and theme outlines, as well as true biographic historical detail. Style is also highlighted, and neatly rounding off the review is a song and reference to the title, along with a closing summary.

Appreciation, depth, quality of writing, and elegant layout, makes this review our overall winner. Congratulations Vicky and Ashvika!

"The idea of never forgetting those who served their country, whether directly or indirectly, is a very important and recurring theme within the book. A French folk song that is repeated throughout the book strengthens the idea that no matter how much time passes, those who gave up everything for those they love should never be forgotten."

Although they all had their own differences in religion, race, appearances, class and background, the unlikely group of friends stuck together and supported each other no matter what. Their times and memories as schoolgirls tied them together. The balance of romance, historical accuracy and deep themes is exquisite. We think that the book's themes resonate with many people and are extremely strong. Whether it be because you enjoy war novels or you're just looking for a good book to read, we think it would be perfect."



Runners up:

Ayla Hussain, Eliza Mahmood, Ching Nam Fung, Fatima Binyameen, Zaara Abeel & Zaara Hussain, (Year 7): 'Wonder' by Christopher Paolini

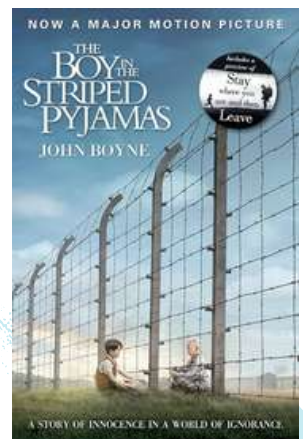
This group of students worked really well together to create a joint response which particularly picks up on the writer's use of multiple narrators, linking this to a key idea in the novel about different perspectives and experiences of the same situation. They also explored the impact this book has made, for example in inspiring the Choose Kind movement.

"In this book, I really enjoyed the fact that it emphasised that each person has their own side to the story. It was really inspiring how the kids stood up for each other."

Hannah Hoque (Year 7): 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne

This is a charmingly and cleverly written review, each sentence delivering its message with elegant clarity. Both simplicity and choice of adjectives, sparingly applied, emphasise the points the reviewer makes. My heart was caught by one significant detail, without any plot spoiler. Congratulations, Hannah.

"'The Boy In Striped Pyjamas' is one of those book that left me speechless. It is a book that will bring tears to your eyes for two simple reasons: One, is the friendship made along the way, and two, is the ending of this remarkable story."



World Book Day: Thursday 7th March

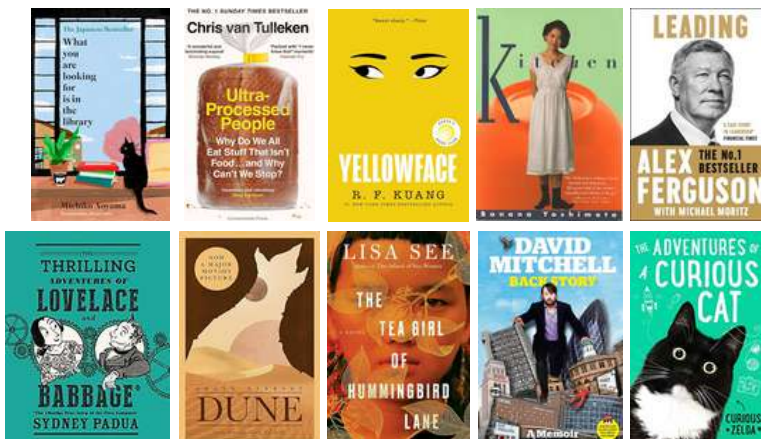
by Mrs Royall

It was great to share lots of recommendations of great books this World Book Day and to add to our "to read" piles.

All students had the chance to say what they were reading and describe it in three words, with everyone taking part entered into a prize draw to win books. Congratulations to the winners: Katie in Year 10, Zara in Year 11 and Siya in Year 7.

Staff responded to the call to display what they are reading on classroom and office doors. Can you match the books to the member of staff who was reading them? (Answers on page 22.)

- Mr Bettison (Maths)
- Dr Borg (Biology)
- Mr Clements (Chemistry)
- Dr Dewes (Physics)
- Miss Jones (RS)
- Dr Kerr (Latin)
- Mr Khan (IT)
- Mrs Kinnard (History)
- Frau Smith (German)
- Mrs Tromans (English)



And finally our Big World Book Day Book Sale was a great success. We raised £161.61 to help World Book Day continue their work in promoting reading for pleasure and its huge benefits. As their website says:

Our mission is to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own. Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income. We want to see more children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings them.

If your £1 voucher is still tucked into your planner or lurking at the bottom of your school bag, you have until 31st March to use it!



Trip to Moseley Village Train Station

Twelve Year 10 students were lucky to spend the morning of Monday 18th March at the site of the new Moseley Village rail station. As part of Build UK's Open Doors week, we were hosted by VolkerFitzpatrick and the purpose of the visit was to find out about the new Camp Hill railway line and the many careers on offer in the construction industry.

The presentations began with the Project Manager responsible for all three Camp Hill line stations telling us about the many different kinds of projects VolkerFitzpatrick undertakes and what this specific project involves. Our first glimpse of the works was on the journey there, seeing the developing Kings Heath station from the top deck of the bus. On site we were shown photographs of what the original train stations looked like in the 1930s and could compare these to images of what they look like now. We heard about the progress that has been made to date and found out that there have been many challenges, especially at the Moseley Village site, including dealing with unexploded WW2 bombs and badgers. Much of the work done on the project will be invisible by the time the build is complete, but the presenters told us how satisfying it is to have a physical output that will benefit so many people, in this case allowing residents to travel to Birmingham New Street in 14 minutes from Pineapple Road, 11 minutes from Kings Heath and 8 minutes from Moseley Village.

Next we donned very fetching PPA in order to go on a guided site walk-through with Helen (site agent) and Matt (site engineer). We could then see for ourselves the work that was being done and the challenges of the project, including restricted access to the sites. The lines are still being used by Network Rail and while we were outside both a passenger train on its way to Bristol and a very long freight train transporting goods for Tesco went past. Matt and Helen certainly do lots of problem solving which they said is the best part of their job. We had the chance to ask lots of questions, for example finding out from Helen what it is like to be a woman in the construction industry and how lasers and trigonometry are used to calculate distances on site.

After this we returned to the portacabin office for a final session thinking about the range of career opportunities available at a construction company like VolkerFitzpatrick. A video showed many roles including quantity surveyors, civil engineers, project accountants and occupational nurses. You can take different routes into the industry and we heard from Matt who had begun as an apprentice and Tasneem who began as a graduate. It was especially great to hear from Tasneem who is a former CHG student; she told us she was fulfilling her desire to make the world a better place by working on this particular project. She also spoke about feeling included as a Muslim female in the industry: she's recently given a talk to colleagues about Ramadan which sparked lots of interesting conversations. We were also reminded that we have many transferable skills that we are developing all of the time, for example showing responsibility when looking after a younger sibling, developing teamwork skills when taking part in sports or time management when getting homework done!

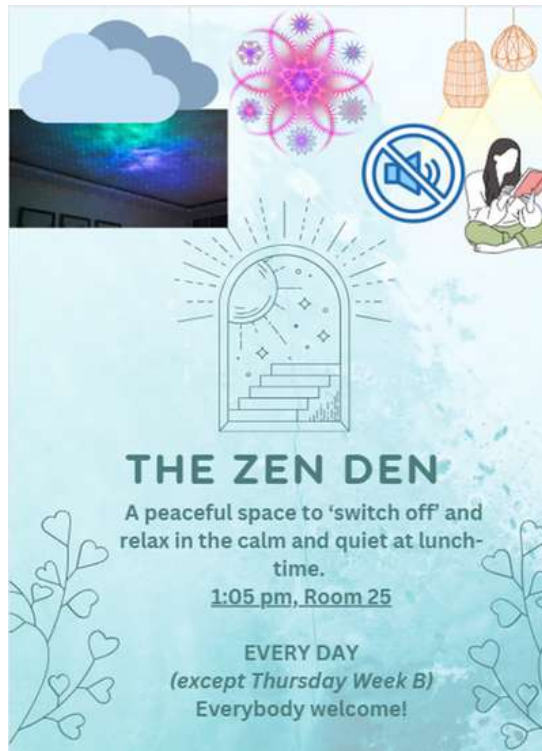


Wellbeing

by the Wellbeing Prefects

The school holidays are a great opportunity to take some time out, reflect on and celebrate our achievements of the term and have some much deserved rest. There are so many great opportunities this holiday to engage in fun activities: socialising with friends, reading a good book, watching a great boxset/film you've been meaning to, playing some board games with your family and of course, catching up on some sleep! The holidays also provide the perfect chance to get some fresh air, embrace nature and get in some exercise: healthy bodies lead to healthy minds! Perhaps you want to try something new? There is a Spring Wellbeing Calendar on our Wellbeing google Classroom which might give you some inspiration for how to stay mentally healthy during the holidays!

If you haven't already done so, use the code cx2utxt to join the Wellbeing Google Classroom. Don't forget, when we return in the summer term there is lots on offer in school to support wellbeing. Check out the posters below which showcase some of the support we have.



Sports Colours

by Birle Tenekeci, Year 11

Last year, as many of you will remember, the PE department introduced Colours into the sporting life of Camp Hill. Sports Colours and commendations are a fantastic way to celebrate the success of individuals in their sport, that go above and beyond with their commitments to the school teams, recognising the effort which many students put into sports.

Sports Colours are small badges that are worn on our school blazers; only a few people win this award from each year group, as it signifies the top participants in each year group. Commendations are a certificate showing that students have contributed largely to the sports life of the school and also deserve recognition.

There are three different levels of Colours for different year groups:

- Lower School, which is Years 7 and 8
- Middle School, which is Years 9 and 10
- Upper school, which is Year 11 and Sixth Form

Sports Colours for lower school are green, and once this has been achieved, students are able to achieve the bronze award.

Similarly for middle school, the Sports Colours are red and once this has been achieved, silver.

In upper school the Sports Colours are blue and then the following achievement would be gold, which is the highest award that can be obtained.

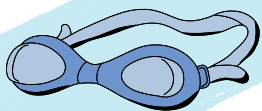


These awards can be achieved in multiple sports all throughout the year and there is no limit to how many an individual can get, or for how many different sports. Purely, it depends on maintaining the highest standard of playing and enthusiasm, thereby meeting the criteria to be nominated for each one.

Sports Colours and commendations are awarded twice a year, just before the Easter holiday for the winter sports and at the end of the summer term for summer sports. Recently, Colours were awarded in netball, football, trampolining, leadership, swimming and badminton.

Well done to everyone who received Sports Colours and commendations this half term, and make sure to get involved in even more sports in the summer term!

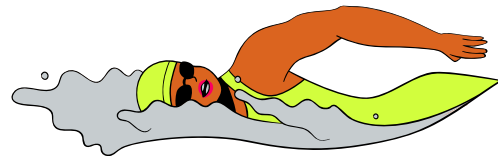




Swimming News

Minchin Cup

by Lauren Walker, Year 10



On 21st February a team of eight (including three students who were drafted in at short notice) travelled to the KES pool. Here we took part in the Minchin Cup which is a swimming gala for all the King Edwards Foundation schools. This year there were five schools taking part: Handsworth, Five Ways, KEHS, Camp Hill and Northfield. There were a series of individual races consisting of 100m breaststroke (represented by Isobel Mountford and Lauren Walker), 100m freestyle (Yasmin Sutcliffe and Dhyana Nanwa), 100m backstroke (Annie He and Vannessa Tran) and finally 50 fly (Mia Lowry and Nadia Sutcliffe). There was also a series of relays consisting of two medley relays and two freestyle relays and everyone swam amazingly.

The hosts, KEHS, gained the victory this year - followed shortly by Camp Hill in second. Vanessa Tran and Lauren Walker deserve a special mention as they had to step in on the morning itself and borrow kit to compete for our school. Despite coming second, all of the races were swam excellently and all the swimmers should be very proud of the overall outcome and their performance. From everyone involved we want to say a big thank you to Miss Chapman, Mrs O'Grady and the team captain, Mia Lowry, who worked hard to ensure the success of the event.



ESSA Secondary School Swimming Championships

by Mia Lowry, Year 10

On 29th September a group of students travelled to Bromsgrove School for the afternoon to take part in the ESSA Secondary School Swimming Championships. This competition is a team relay event, and in groups of four we raced against other local schools in varying age groups. At this competition, there were three age divisions: Junior, Inter, and Senior.

The first race we competed in was the front crawl, where each swimmer swam two lengths of front crawl each. Competition from the other schools was very tough, yet this allowed the younger, Junior team to get an introduction to this style of competition whilst the Inter, and Senior Teams both placed within the top four fastest teams.

The next race we competed in was the medley relay, where each swimmer swims a different stroke in the order of backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and front crawl. There was lots of support for all teams - from both Camp Hill Boys and Girls - and the day ended with a top three finish from the Inter Team, and great results from both the Junior and Senior Teams.

Overall, Camp Hill Girls finished fifth overall out of the entire round at the competition.

Well done to all the swimmers who took part in this opportunity: Mia Lowry, Isobel Mountford, Nadia Sutcliffe, Yasmin Sutcliffe, Risha Mitra, Myra Kumar, Liang Zi Zhao, Ava Mihaichuk, Askin Tenekeci, Molly Egan, Melina Davoudzadeh, Clara Hilton-Widdows, and Riya Mitra. And thank you to Mrs O'Grady who arranged for us to participate in this!



Your Time Leader's Dodgeball Event

by Mia Lowry, Year 10

In September, a group of students from Years 9-11 began the Your Time Leadership Course, which is an opportunity for girls to learn about how to be a leader, and take the opportunity to encourage other girls to take part in sports.

We learnt about all of the different skills which being a leader requires, including problem solving, time management, communication, and teamwork by taking part in a section of learning which happened via an online platform.

After we had gained lots of knowledge about leadership, we began to put it to action and plan our very own sporting event aimed at Year 7 and 8 students. The sport we settled on was dodgeball, and we decided to carry out a round robin style tournament, where all of the teams in each round got to play each other.

On 29th January, the first round of the tournament took place. Lots of Year 7 students got involved and, after around an hour of intense but enjoyable dodgeball match play, the top two teams were Team Jammy Dodgers, and Team Elite 8, who progressed to the finals. As leaders, we gained experience from this first section of our event, and learnt a lot about what it takes to successfully lead sessions. From this, we were able to improve the following parts of the tournament.

Shortly after, on 31st January, the second round of the tournament happened, involving Year 8 students. Lots of dodgeball expertise could be found on every team, and each match was filled with excitement. At the end of the session, the top two teams were Team Dodgeball and Team Nacho.

Finally, on 19th February the final round took place, where Year 7 and 8 students competed against each other. The first section of the tournament involved the top two teams from each year group going against the other, and then the top team from each year would play the last match to determine the overall champion. There was lots of support from all players, as well as adrenaline and competitive spirit! In the final match Team Nacho (Year 8) beat Team Elite 8 (Year 7) to win the entire tournament.

Congratulations to all of the players involved in the tournament, and thank you to everyone who helped it take place and run smoothly!



Teachers VS Sixth Form Dodgeball Match

by Birle Tenekeci, Year 11

For the first time in Camp Hill history, at lunchtime on Wednesday 13th March there was an epic clash between teachers and Sixth Form students in the noble sport of dodgeball. This timeless battle put age and wisdom against youthful exuberance, experience against agility, as both sides vied for victory and bragging rights.

It was an extremely tough and competitive match where students, with their boundless energy and lightning-fast reflexes were up against the wily tactics and cunning strategies of the seasoned teachers who have honed their skills over years of imparting knowledge. The Sports Hall was full of excitement and tension as the teachers ran in to face the students, brimming with enthusiasm, ready to take on their teachers in a battle for supremacy.

Seeing the players on both sides dodge, duck, dip, and dive, in a display of agility and athleticism was extremely entertaining. As both teams threw balls - attempting to hit and therefore eliminate players from the opposition, albeit with varying levels of accuracy - the students managed to take the win, 3 quarters to 1, even eliminating all of the teachers twice!

Both teams displayed great camaraderie and competitiveness, overall making it a marvellous match to watch.

Well done to the KS4 Sports Captains - Annika Sinha, Shakthi Sreevats, and Birle Tenekeci - for organising and running the event and to the Year 10s and 11s that helped with it; further thanks go to all the staff and students that participated in the match. It was a wonderful lunchtime which we all enjoyed. We look forward to running more events and integrating everyone (including teachers!) into sports at Camp Hill.



County Netball

by Jaish Soni, Year 9

On Friday 1st March, after school, I had the very thrilling opportunity to play for Staffordshire U15 (my county team) in a friendly match against Denstone College U17. Excitingly, our match was going to be filmed, commentated and put on YouTube. Being my first time playing in front of the camera, I could not wait but naturally I was a bit nervous.

As soon as the whistle blew to start the match, I was hit with adrenaline by my teammates cheering me on from the sidelines and hearing the enthusiastic commentator. I played Wing Attack (WA) during the first three quarters and Centre (C) at the end. The entire sports hall was buzzing with energy. Our attack was fast and dynamic with our shooters shooting almost every shot in. In defence, we were challenging ball and got some great interceptions. It was a really high level match with great play and competition. Even though the other team were older, we were definitely the stronger side and we ended up winning the match 41-19. Everyone played amazingly (I think it was the magic of being filmed) and we even got special mentions from the commentator.

The best bit of being on camera was that my family in India and all my friends got to watch me play and they were all really proud of me so it was a very special moment. It was honestly one of the coolest experiences of my life and I really hope I get more opportunities like this in the future.

You can watch the match [here](#). It is the second of the two matches and begins about an hour and 25 mins into the video.



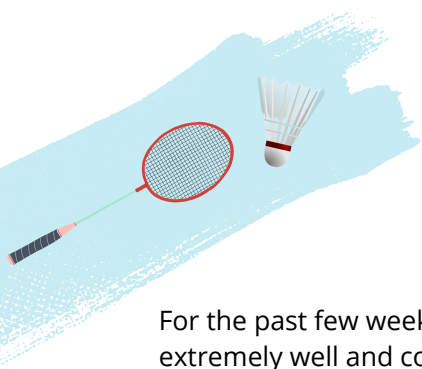
Year 10 Netball Tournament

by Marriam Javed, Year 10

Recently, the Year 10 netball team took part in the Senior District Netball Tournament. Upon our arrival, we discovered that the competition was scheduled to begin one and a half hours later than we had anticipated. Thankfully, our team was able to get in practice prior to the tournament, which was a great advantage. In the first game, we performed fairly well and defeated Five Ways 4-3. Considering that we had lost to them earlier in the year, this was a fantastic result.

Overall, we were able to win four out of six games. Unfortunately we lost to Kings Norton in our second match; on the other hand, matches 3, 4, and 5 were a success. Sadly, we conceded a couple too many goals to Swanshurst due to fatigue in the final game. All in all, we had a great afternoon and came in joint second place.

Well done to all those who participated, and a special thank you to Mrs O'Grady for coaching us and providing us with this great opportunity.



Badminton

by Sherry Liu, Year 11

For the past few weeks, the badminton team has been training extremely well and consistently at lunchtimes. Jess deserves a special mention and congratulations for improving so much. We're all so proud of you!

After passing through the Warwickshire county round in the National Schools Badminton Tournament and beating KEHS - arguably our most significant win - the KS4 badminton team advanced to regionals. Our regionals took place on Monday 18th March and we are delighted that our success continued there, earning us a place at the nationals on 20th April!

In the meantime, the KS3 team practise in preparation for their next competition next year and the younger years (7 and 8) continue to learn and train for future competitions too.

We hope to get more people interested in learning and playing badminton!



Tennis Leadership

by Shae Chew, Year 10

This half term ten students have started a tennis leaders programme. The tennis leaders programme is a leadership programme by the LTA where students learn core leadership skills such as communication, self-belief, teamwork, self-management, and problem solving through learning coaching skills for tennis. After completing the course, it will enable them to support coaches, volunteers and teachers deliver tennis sessions and support the running of a venue or event. As well as this they can help off the court where they can help with club management and ensure tennis is relevant, rewarding and enjoyable for everyone.

This half term the tennis leaders have finished the theory needed in order to complete the course and following the Easter break they will begin to coach a small group of students during lunch on how to play tennis; this will later progress to matchplay later on in the summer term. After the Easter break, do come along to our sessions during lunchtime and support the leaders whilst learning some fun tennis skills.





Active Travel Ambassadors

by Anokhi Yeluguri (Year 10), Aroush Haider (Year 9) and Anna Faux (Year 10)

On Thursday 29th February, the five Active Travel Ambassadors travelled by bus to Birmingham City Council House. We used public transport to prove we are on board with our pitch idea of more sustainable travel. After meeting in front of the school with Mrs Royall we walked up to Kings Heath High Street, and just like magic the 50 appeared right when we arrived! After a short bus ride and a walk through the city centre we arrived in front of the Council House where we marvelled at the beautiful architecture before being escorted to the Council Chamber.

Before the event we had meetings to prepare a campaign to promote active travel in school and make a pitch presentation to persuade a panel of experts to give us funding for our campaign. Our pitch came third in the running order just before the break. We are focusing on promoting park and stride which is where people get dropped off a five minute walk away from the school. This minimises congestion and gives people the benefits of walking to school, even if they live far away. We will be having various events in Walk to School Week (20 - 24th May) so keep your eyes peeled for updates!

Obviously, there were other schools from different regions of Birmingham attending to share their pitches too. The schools at the event were Arena Academy, Bishop Vesey, Bishop Challoner, King's Norton Boys, and Ninestiles. All of the schools had fantastic ideas for their pitches and how to promote active travel, with campaigns focusing on cycling, train travel and safety while travelling, as well as park and stride (or "drop and thrive"). Their pitches were very engaging and enjoyable to listen to. We were able to discuss and share ideas with them. Although it was a bit daunting being the smallest group there, our nerves eased and we enjoyed ourselves while presenting, answering the questions we were asked at the end with confidence.

Once all the pitches were finished we had a well deserved refreshment break and even took a nice stroll around the council house, taking lots of photos with the beautiful banqueting suite and main staircase. At last, we were called back in for the panel of experts to tell us how much money we earned for our pitch. It was amazing to hear that we have been awarded £200! We are very proud of what we accomplished and it was lovely to hear that the experts enjoyed our pitch ideas, powerpoint and overall presentation. It was a wonderful experience going up to take a photo with our cheque with the biggest smiles on our faces.

Now, of course, we couldn't leave after doing all that hard work without a reward. After we finished our pitches, Mrs Royall took us to the gorgeous, plant-filled Medicine bakery with lots of delicious delicacies and tasty treats. Most of us ordered cruffins (a cross between a croissant and muffin if you couldn't guess). Following this was a short walk into town where, once again, the 50 appeared at the bus stop right when we arrived. Talk about great timing! On the way back we indulged in our amazing pastries - a successful morning to remember.



EcoSoc's Thought of the half term

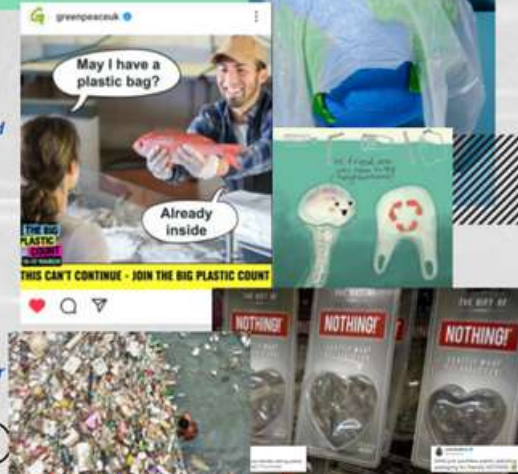
by Janani Anand, Year 12

Last half term, Veganuary inspired us to focus on eating less meat and dairy to help the planet. As The Big Plastic Count took place this half term (11th-17th March) and 18th March was Global Recycling Day, this half term EcoSoc has been encouraging everyone in school to reduce our use of plastics.

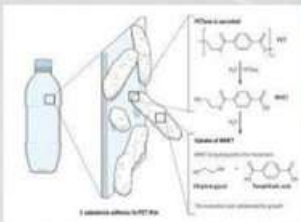


DID YOU KNOW?

1. *Only 9% of all plastic produced is recycled*
2. A whopping 2 million plastic bags are used every minute worldwide
3. *Single-use plastics are illegal in some parts of the world*
4. Every minute of every day a truckload of plastic is dumped into the ocean
5. 73% of beach litter worldwide is plastic
6. One million plastic bottles are bought every minute
7. *There could be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050*
8. *Up to 95% of plastic polluting oceans is carried by 10 rivers*
9. *99% of seabirds will be eating plastic by 2050*
10. *The average person eats 70,000 microplastics each year*
11. On average, a plastic bag is used for just 12 minutes



Goodness Shines Upon Us



New plastic-eating worms just dropped!



Ideonella sakaiensis

What can you do?

- Join The Big Plastic Count!
- Cut down on single use plastic
 - perhaps try shopping at a zero waste supermarket
- Pressure manufacturers
- Purchase second hand
- Recycle your plastic pens with the chem dept
- Reduce, Reuse and Upcycle - and recycle (duh)
- **IMAGINE WHAT YOU CAN DO!**

PLASTIC PLASTIC

BAE Systems Roadshow

by Harshita Singh, Year 7

This year's Science Roadshow took place on Tuesday 5th March and all Year 7 and 8 students got to take part. This event was hosted by BAE systems, the Royal Navy and the RAF and we learnt a bit more about electricity!

To begin with they taught us what exactly electricity is and they showed us some of the basics of it. They showed different types of electricity (such as renewable and non-renewable) and their sources. This was very fun and interactive because some students were given the chance to come up and try things out.

Secondly, there were heaps of fun experiments such as a Van-de-Graaff generator to show static electricity, a very enlarged version of a simple circuit and more! This was so fun because some students were called up to take part in the experiments.

Lastly, we were informed about many types of different job opportunities in the STEM field of work. This included mathematicians, engineers (there are a lot of types of engineer) and even geologists.

BAE SYSTEMS



CyberFirst 2024

by Mr Frost



I was really pleased with the response to this year's Year 8 CyberFirst Girls competition. Not only did we have lots of teams taking part, across all the forms, but we had some serious competition going on until the end. The Skyhawks 2.0 team scored the highest in the West Midlands and were invited to a celebration day at Oxford University on Saturday March 2nd.



I thoroughly enjoyed my day out - and think the girls did too!. We got to meet a Boston Dynamics 'big dog' robot (the look on everybody's faces when the demonstrator accidentally switched it off and it 'died' in front of us was really interesting to behold), shook hands with a 'soft' robot (i.e. one covered with tactile sensors) and learned about how deformable robots are designed like worms in order to be able to access small spaces. Away from the robots we looked at how different languages are related and even learned how to speak a bit of Scots!

In the evening we had a formal dinner, sitting at a table with one of the sponsors (and a spy known only as 'Amy') and found out that each of the team had won a bumper pack of stuff including a Microsoft Surface laptop. Fully loaded up with prizes (and also with multiple hot chocolates in one student's case), we had a quick walk across Oxford and made the train home just in time (and without her being sick!).

I'd like to thank the Skyhawks 2.0 for a great day out and being good company throughout.

Hopefully we can have at least as many taking part in next year's competition! Skyhawks 3.0?



Charity at KECHG

by Ms Maginnis

(on behalf of all the incredible hard work the Camp Hill community has put in to raise money for charities this term)

Students and staff at Camp Hill continue to impress with their commitment to charity work. Whether this is to support a local community, national disaster or conflict around the world, the money raised this year already reflects their generosity and commitment to supporting those in need. In the Autumn term we saw students and staff raise £4445 in their charity work, including charities such as Young Minds, UNICEF, Let's Feed Brum, Great Ormond Street Hospital and Kings Heath Food Bank to name but a few.

This term, students and staff have continued in their endeavours to raise money and have raised over £5515, bringing our year to date efforts to over £9960!!

Charities that have been supported this term include, but aren't all of the charities:



House Fair

by Ms Maginnis

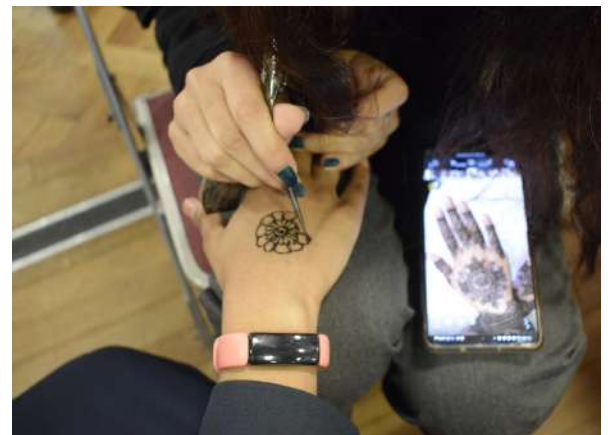
Congratulations to all of Year 12 for their incredible hard work to raise £3315.83 during House Fair on Wednesday 20th March. Totals raised by each House were:

Cartland - £547.43
Lichfield - £611.64
Meriden - £428.24
Priory - £713.96
Stratford - £485.85
Warwick - £528.71

The overall winner of House Fair was Priory - well done to all Houses for their tremendous efforts!

A selection of photos are on the next couple of pages.





HSBC Apprenticeship Open Evening

by Maryam Mohamed, Albany Wainwright and Niamh Fenton, Year 12

On Monday 5th February, we attended an HSBC Apprenticeship Event Open Evening which excitingly took place in the UK HSBC headquarters in Centenary Square. This event was put on by HSBC as part of their Skills for Life Event during National Apprenticeship Week 2024.



HSBC is currently ranked as the eighth highest grossing bank in the world, but we believe that the bank is remarkable for so much more than just their financial achievements. For example, current HSBC apprentices were eager to convey to us that HSBC has joined up with World Resources Institute and the World Wildlife Fund to ensure they are stepping up and playing an active role in finding climate solutions. Another example would be the Technovation Girls programme, which aims to make the technology sector more accessible for women. Even more excitingly, one apprentice spoke about how for one year during his apprenticeship programme he was working on a project which involved opening bank accounts for homeless people who would otherwise be unable to do so. Essentially, we believe HSBC is able to fulfil the academically rigorous and reputable career aspirations of many of us at Camp Hill, without compromising on our desire to make a difference in the world and improve the lives of those around us.

We were lucky enough to hear about HSBC and all of the Post-18 opportunities they have to offer. With the various Level 7 apprenticeship schemes available, it's really important to consider this route as an alternative to a traditional university education. Although it may be perceived as less academically strenuous, balancing a career and studying for a degree is inevitably just as demanding. It is vital to notice the amazing benefits that an apprenticeship opportunity can hold too. Being able to earn a competitive salary and gain invaluable work experience in a prestigious organisation whilst still gaining a degree qualification demonstrates the advantages of the many apprenticeship routes.

The HSBC apprentices had so many positive things to say about their roles at the company, and the opportunities they had to move around several departments had allowed them to gain a practical insight into what each area entails, before making any final job role choices. Furthermore, they made sure to mention the social side of their careers, and how the downside of not being able to receive 'The Uni experience' is ultimately a misconception. Being able to network among employees across the company and having a secure job at the end which allows you to work your way up the corporate ladder is definitely advantageous.



After the insightful talk, we managed to secure an exclusive tour around the 11 storey building. The work place was not what we expected of an office building as it has lots of social and recreational spaces such as the gym and multiple cafes. However, working at HSBC does not mean being restricted to the Birmingham office. There are opportunities to work in different offices across the UK, and even the chance to work on projects internationally. The overall work environment at HSBC seemed inclusive and positive, with employees that are supportive of each other. Our experience of visiting the site was very inspiring and informative; it provided us with a strong insight into working for HSBC or similar companies. To find more information about the company, or similar opportunities to this one, visit the [careers page](#) on the HSBC website, as it gives useful information on upcoming events and application processes.

Irwin Mitchell Webinar

by Albany Wainwright, Year 12

During National Apprenticeship Week in February I attended a one-hour webinar at Irwin Mitchell Solicitors, an international law firm with clients in over 200 countries. The purpose of the session, which took place 6-7pm, was to share with us about some of the different routes into Law.

The firm's personal apprenticeship manager spoke proudly about their achievements, such as achieving a Gold Award for being amongst the UK's top 100 employers in 2023 and ranking 36th in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index. Notably, it also consistently ranks highly in gender equality areas such as coming 10th in the Super Large Organisations category of their Best Workplaces for Women. If you wish to stay in this area, it is good to note that they have a Birmingham office.

The webinar mainly focused on different apprenticeship opportunities. For A Level alternative qualifications, there are Accounting (ATT Level 4 - Tax Technician), Assistant Accountant Level 3 Apprenticeship and Business Administration apprenticeships, so current Year 10 students could start looking into these as Post-16 options. The benefits are that you would receive vocational based qualifications as well as earn a salary and enjoy the thrill of the working environment. There is also clear career progression available for apprentices, so this alleviates the stress of breaking into the career market later on in life.

For university alternatives, they offer apprenticeships in IT and Paralegal, as well as a 6-year solicitor degree apprenticeship. For law, degree apprenticeships are particularly appealing as in order to become a qualified solicitor, it is mandatory to have at least two years of work experience and so the apprenticeship may fast track your route to becoming fully qualified. Furthermore, I learned there are roughly 50,000 qualifying solicitors each year but only 5,000 get training contracts, furthering the incentive to do a degree apprenticeship because they, for the most part, ensure a job upon completion. A common downside to degree apprenticeships is that they are extremely hard work as you are essentially balancing a full time job with a degree. However, Irwin Mitchell was awarded Best Workplaces for Wellbeing 2022, and this, as well as their dedicated apprenticeship manager, ensures that the workload is manageable and enjoyable. Certainly, all the apprentices on the webinar seemed genuinely passionate about their jobs and happy and comfortable within their roles.



Work Experience

by Dr Rose, Assistant Headteacher (Careers Lead)

As part of our Careers Education programme we value the role that Work Experience plays in supporting our students to choose appropriate post-16 and post-18 pathways. However, we also value the need for our students to have high attendance to support their learning and progression to securing excellent GCSE and A level subject grades.

Our students have the opportunity to undertake Work Experience in the Summer of Year 11; once their GCSE's are completed and also in Year 12 during our Enrichment Week which takes place at the end of June.

Whilst I do promote Work Experience Opportunities at other times, many of which are in the holidays and we would encourage your child to participate in these opportunities. Sometimes the same message also contains information about other opportunities which may be within the school day during term time; please do not allow your child in Year 10 or below to apply for these as we will be unable to agree to the absence.

Please remember to look at our website - <https://www.kechg.org.uk/page/?title=Work+Experience&pid=107> to find out more information about our Work Experience Programme.

Year 11 and Year 12 students should be finalizing their plans for the summer – the deadline for Year 11 to submit their plans onto the placements section of Unifrog is 8th April (the first day of term), with Year 12 having the deadline of 7th May. At present we only have 18 students in Year 11 and 10 in Year 12 with placements recorded on the system – hopefully many more are about to arrive!

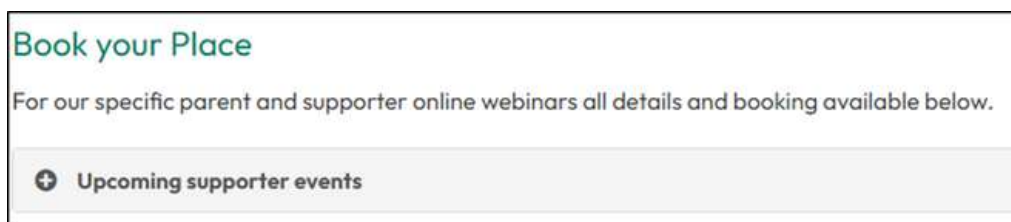


The University of Exeter is running a series of free online webinars designed for parents and carers wanting to help their child choose and apply for university.

- Degree Apprenticeships (17th April 2024)
- Supporting an Application to University (22nd May 2024)
- Preparation for University (17th July 2024)
- Applying to the University of Exeter (25th September 2024)
- Thinking of Exeter Q&A (16th October 2024)

The sessions are designed to give a broad overview of making an application, researching courses and student finance. They will be led by the university's Schools and Colleges Team, often joined by current students, with the opportunity to ask questions and find out more.

To register, please click [here](#) and choose the Upcoming Supporter Events section (as shown below).



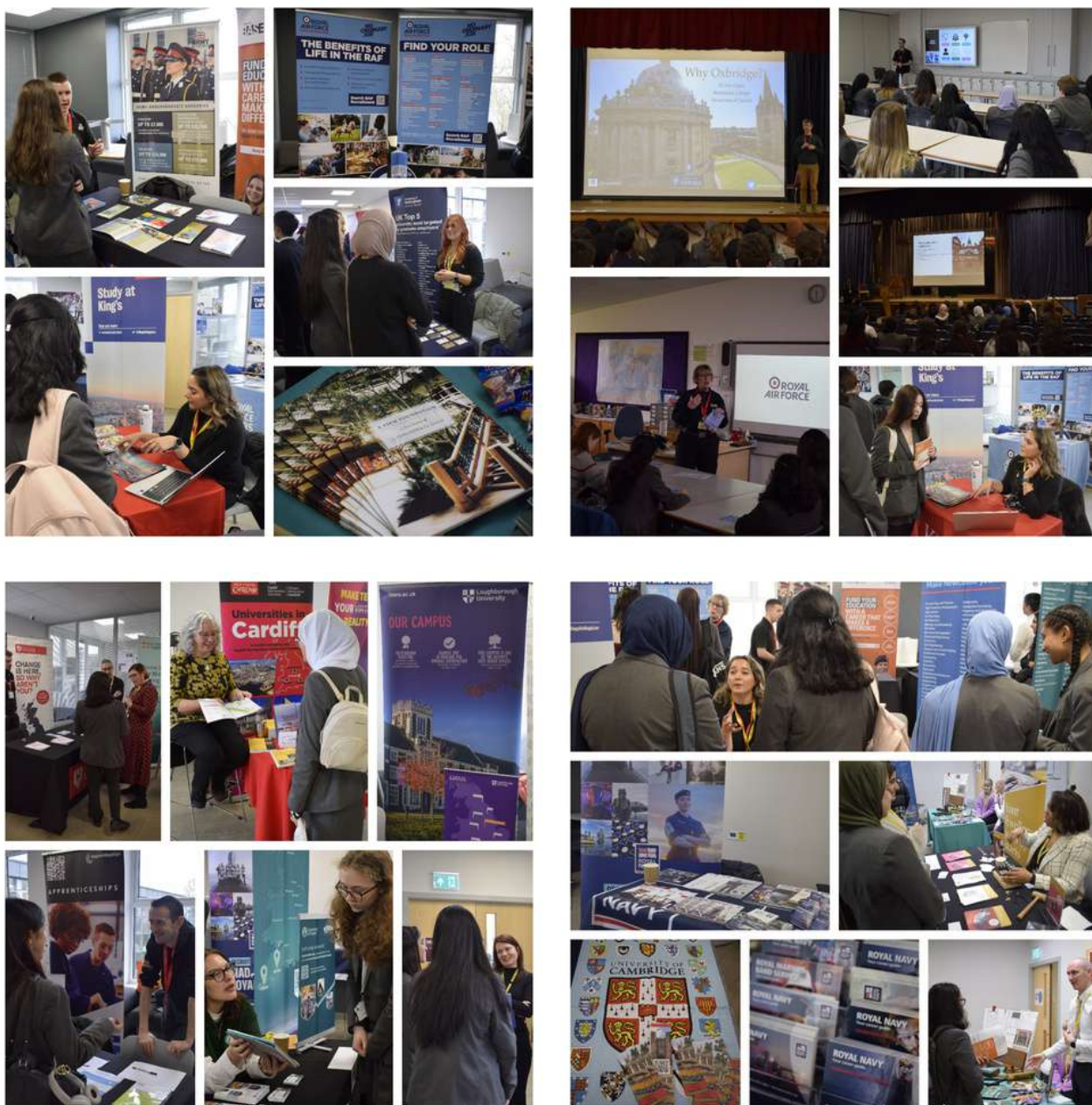
Post-18 Careers Conference - March 6th

by Mr Revitt, Head of Sixth Form

As part of National Careers Week, the 6th Annual Post-18 Careers Conference took place at Camp Hill Girls, organised jointly between us and Camp Hill Boys' School. Year 12 students spent the day off timetable and had the choice of 40 different presentations, workshops and seminars which focused on a broad range of careers, courses and future pathways.







We were overwhelmed by the support of UK universities, businesses and our alumni who gave their time so generously to inspire our students on the day. In addition to the seminars and workshops, students from Years 11 and 12 were also able to explore our Careers Fair which ran alongside the event.

This event marks the beginning of an exciting journey for our students as they begin to consider their options for study and the world of work after Sixth Form. The students were, as ever, excellent ambassadors for our school and hopefully gained a great deal from the day.



Current House Points

Here are the House Point totals (correct as of 21st March 2024).

	House	Current Total
	Cartland	7797
	Lichfield	6913
	Meriden	7640
	Priory	7401
	Stratford	7248
	Warwick	8575

- Mr Bettison (Maths) - *The Adventures of a Curious Cat* by Curious Zelda
- Dr Borg (Biology) - *Dune* by Frank Herbert
- Mr Clements (Chemistry) - *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See
- Dr Dewes (Physics) - *Back Story* by David Mitchell
- Miss Jones (RS) - *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang
- Dr Kerr (Latin) - *The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage* by Sydney Padua
- Mr Khan (IT) - *Leading* by Alex Ferguson and Michael Moritz
- Mrs Kinnard (History) - *Ultra-Processed People: Why Do We All Eat Stuff That Isn't Food ... and Why Can't We Stop?* by Chris van Tulleken
- Frau Smith (MFL) - *Kitchen* by Banana Yoshimoto
- Mrs Tromans (English) - *What You Are Looking for is in the Library* by Michiko Aoyama

Local Family Activities for the Easter Holidays





**AUTISM-FRIENDLY
'RELAXED' SCREENING**

Thurs 4 April 2pm
 St Bede's Church Hall,
 Bryndale Ave, B14 6NQ

TICKETS
 £2 per child/teen
 £1 per accompanying adult
 £2.50 adult

Book: www.ticketsource.co.uk/our-scene/
 07726 230798 (if can't book online)

BILLESLEY'S BIRD & BUTTERFLY TRAILS

4 parks. 40 pieces of hidden art to find



There are birds and butterflies all over Billesley ward! Can you help us find them? Have some family fun and enjoy the area's beautiful parks over the school holidays. Artists from Swanshurst School and Wheelers Lane Technology College.

23 March - 8 April



**Birds of a feather, our flock of 10 is not together!
Hiding in the trees, will you find us all please?**

SWANSHURST PARK

Swanshurst Lane, Kings Heath, B13 0DH



**If you look up high towards the leafy skies, you might
just find 10 butterflies!**

BILLESLEY COMMON

Yardley Wood Road, Kings Heath, B13 0PT



**10 is the number of colourful owls that can be found,
hanging about in Chinn Brook Recreation Ground.**

CHINN BROOK RECREATION GROUND

372 Highfield Rd, Yardley Wood, B14 4DU



**Hidden in the trees and far from the ground,
Trittiford Mill Park has 10 ducks to be found.**

TRITTIFORD MILL PARK

Priory Road, Yardley Wood, B28 0TB

VISIT GALLERY: WWW.OURSCENE.ORG/BILLESLEY-ART



Birmingham
City Council



Blossomfest

in Swanshurst Park

Free

Sat 6 April, 12-2pm

Join us in Swanshurst Park for a family-friendly event inspired by the Japanese tradition of 'Hanami', where people of all ages get together to enjoy the transient beauty of cherry blossom.

Why not bring a picnic to enjoy together in our wonderful park. Free lunch provided on a first come, first served basis.

- Children's games
- Enjoy two activity trails around the park
- Make origami swans for an artwork
- Colouring activity
- Photo competition
- Traditional Japanese garments on display.

This event is part of The National Trust's celebration of Blossom. They gifted Swanshurst Park an avenue of Cherry Blossom trees, some of 500 planted along the number 11 bus route.

There are no toilet facilities provided at this event.



Dates for Your Diary



Back to school
Week B



**KS5 CBSO A Level
concert**



GCSE Drama practicals start
Year 8 Progress Evening
(online)



**Year 12 'Insight into
Artchitecture' trip**



Post-18 Evening



**A Level
Art exam**



Culture Day



**Year 13 Drama
practical assessment**



**Year 8
HPV vaccinations**



Year 10 Progress Evening



**Chamber Choir
Birmingham Cathedral
Recital**



GCSE language orals start



Senior Concert
@ CHB

Dates for Your Diary



**Year 6 Parents'
Welcome Evening**



**A / AS Level
Music Recitals**



**Year 11
Stand down**



GCSE exams start



Year 13 Stand down



Old Girls event

Year 12 Study Leave starts



**A Level language orals start
Year 12 school/AS exams start
Years 7-10 school exams start**



**Year 12
UCAT Course**



Half Term