

Camp Hill Girls' Chronicle

Summer First Half Term 2024

Senior Prefect Team Updates

by Mr Revitt, Head of Sixth Form

As we wish all our Year 13 students well as they embark on the next steps of their educational journeys, I wanted to thank our outgoing Senior Prefect Team for all that they have given to the school over the past twelve months, not least their energy, enthusiasm and commitment. Particular thanks go to Charlotte, our outgoing Head Prefect, and the Deputy Head Prefects Arya, Ciara, Iona and Lara. They have been stalwart members of the student body and have led the Prefect Team incredibly – thank you!



Our outgoing Senior Prefect Team for 2023-2024

And so it's now time to introduce our new Senior Prefect Team for 2024-2025. Bahar has accepted the role of Head Prefect, and she will be supported by Bethan, Dorothy, Razanne and Shavi as Deputies. They are excited to be leading the student body going forward and I really look forward to working alongside them in the coming year. Congratulations to all of our new Prefects!



Our new Senior Prefect Team for 2024-2025

Year 11's Final School Days!

by Mrs Strong, Head of Year 11



Year 11 Wellbeing Week

We all know it's important to prepare and revise for exams, but here at Camp Hill we also emphasise the importance of looking after ourselves, to make sure that we stay physically and mentally well, even at busy and stressful times.

We have looked at a range of strategies for this in our PSHE curriculum, in assemblies and in Form Time, but we also wanted to put these ideas into practice... so during the week of 22nd - 26th April, Year 11 students were given the opportunity, at lunchtime, to get involved in activities that were soothing to body and mind.



Among the activities on offer were mindful origami and Earth Day crafts, yoga, relaxation and breathing, as well as a dog walk around our beautiful school grounds with Dr White's dog Pippa! A hugely successful choice was Just Dance, where Year 11 showed off their best dance moves. Hopefully they will be able to use these strategies during the coming weeks, and into their future.



Year 11 Stand Down

Year 11 'Stood Down' from lessons on Tuesday 7th May. It was a lovely morning, when students had the chance to share time (and food!) with their form tutors and each other, and to enjoy an assembly to remember their time in main school at Camp Hill.

As they are now in the middle of their GCSE exams, we continue to wish them well with these, and look forward to positive outcomes when their results are published on 22nd August.



WMCTC Chemistry Quiz

by Ishita Mahesh, Year 11

On Tuesday 19th March, a team of two Y11 and two Y10 students competed in the West Midlands Chemistry Quiz at the University of Birmingham, putting their chemistry knowledge to the test against ten schools across the region.

The quiz was hosted at the Haworth Chemistry building, and consisted of ten rounds - from molar calculations and lab skills to the history of chemical science, the rounds became more difficult. We progressed through the rounds with a Camp Hillian sense of competitiveness, the most memorable part being when we racked our brains for the real-world application of sodium tetrafluoride in a particularly tight round drawing with the Boys' school!

At the end of the quiz, we were thrilled to be awarded 2nd place overall, but above all were grateful for the stimulating experience that truly opened our minds.

A huge thank you to Mr Clements for organising this enriching opportunity, and for leading us with his expertise!



Biology Olympiad Results

by Mrs Stone

In February 2024, three A Level Biology students took part in the prestigious UK Biology competition, Biology Olympiad. The Olympiad is an advanced problem solving competition for A Level students and entry point for the International Biology Olympiad. All three of the students achieved a medal. Maria Antoun achieved a bronze, Lara Rowe achieved a silver and Anika Mitra achieved a gold. Anika then went on to take part in the selection process for the International Biology Olympiad team, to go forward to Kazakhstan.

A huge well done from all of the Biology department for your hard work, commitment and enthusiasm towards the subject. We are very proud of you and your achievements.



KS3 Art Club - Spring Term

by Miss Irving

The term started with a series of workshops looking at how we can resource and recycle materials for use creatively. Iris, in Year 12, led a fantastic quill making session in which we were able to draw with our own hand made quills using ink Iris had made from foraged natural materials. Students then had a go at making their own paper, into which they added seeds, petals and leaves: a messy process with some great outcomes!



Following on from the workshops, students were invited to work on ideas for a sculpture for a competition called 'Material World' launched by the Crafts Council and the Eden Project.

The brief was to make a piece of work using found or recycled materials that celebrates or highlights issues around our natural environment.

The range of work produced and the ideas students had are incredible to see. It has been a busy, problem solving, fun challenge. Well done to all students involved and good luck with your entries. Prizewinners will be announced on 26th June.



eden
project



Ruqayya A



Sathviga G



Mina and Manha



Aisha A



Jaza and Umaaya



Nabeeha R



Sophie and Eva



Adithi and Rawan



Leena B

Royal Academy Young Artists Summer Show

by Miss Irving

Every year the Royal Academy of Arts invites students to submit their work for consideration for their summer show. This year, four Year 12 artists sent their work. Sadly, they were not shortlisted from the 21,000+ entries but they deserve recognition for their high quality technical skills and original ideas.



Maryna S



Jeya S

RA | Young Artists' Summer Show



Jade O



Amelie V

3600 Frogs and 4 Camp Hillians.....

by Mrs Neal, Deputy Headteacher

Four Year 12 students are waiting to hear if they are officially world record holders!

Karima Pathan, Saffran Sangra, Jenny John and Samia Islam made and displayed 3600 mini origami frogs as part of their fundraising work for the charity WOHA.A.

WOHA.A encourages secondary school students to work in small teams to run fundraising projects for the Wings of Hope Children's Charity which helps children in India and Malawi to have access to a free education.

Our four Camp Hillians, who have raised over **£800** for WOHA.A throughout the year, decided a world record attempt would be the perfect way to bring in sponsorship.

Samia, a keen origamist, persuaded her teammates to undertake the origami frog challenge and set about teaching them the art.

Over four months, the group worked on adding to their paper frog mountain, which they stored in bags both at home and at school. Research into the intricacies of the world record criteria told them that the frogs had to be a certain measurement, with specific folds, and be made out of official origami paper. Karima says: 'At first, our plan was to use recycled paper from school, but we then realised that this would invalidate the record. We also had to ensure that we were getting the folds right on every single frog.'

The team got in touch with David Raynor, Treasurer of the British Origami Society, who also serves as a Specialist Witness for Origami-based record attempts. He agreed to come to school on 24th April to assess their work.

That afternoon, the students had the back-breaking task of laying out all 3600 frogs on the floor of the Hall so that they could be counted and assessed by David for quality in terms of their origami skill. Local business owner, Katie Fisher (of Harvest Skincare, Kings Heath), also came in to be an impartial witness, along with Nirjit who works for WOHA.A.

Eventually, after several hours, all frogs were positioned to make the initials of WOHA.A and it made a colourful spectacle. David was happy with the quality of the origami and there were more than enough frogs to smash the current record!

The team are now just waiting for official confirmation that they are indeed world record holders! And, they are also in with a firm chance of progressing to the WOHA.A awards event in London. Watch this space.

But, what of the frogs? Well, Katie kindly took a few bags to sell in her shop, and the rest were sold in school for 20 pence each to boost the fundraising total.

It was a 'frogstastic' effort from Karima, Saffran, Jenny and Samia. But, unsurprisingly, they are all in agreement that they 'never want to see another origami frog again!'



Classics Texts and Topics Sixth Form Conference University of Birmingham

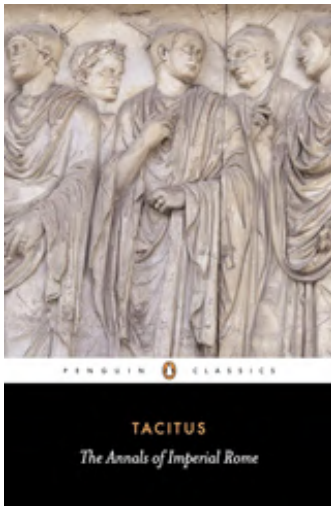
by Arianna Hamilton and Raya Shah, Year 12

On the 13th March, our Year 12 Latin class navigated the lively atmosphere of the 76 bus to the University of Birmingham for the "Texts and Topics Sixth Form Conference," organised by the BMCA (Birmingham and Midlands Classics Association). While we were waiting for the talk to begin, those of us who were not fasting ate lunch and we all had a quiet sit down before turning our brains on for the lectures to come.

The first talk we attended was on Virgil where we looked at his fame and the Augustan appropriation of Virgil's epic poem the Aeneid. The exploration of Virgil's legacy and the nuances of ancient literature emphasised the enduring relevance and profound insights offered by this timeless text. The focus was on Virgil's modesty and reluctance to be involved with the "glitterati" of ancient Rome contrasting with his fame and the legacy he left behind with his works.



Next we had a workshop where we looked at lines 40-249 of Book 2 of the Aeneid - our set text for A Level - which covers the very end of the Trojan War when the Trojans discover the horse outside their city gates. We delved into the context and history which unveiled layers of meaning and depth, especially with the mention of the "Palladium", which was a very sacred statue of Athena, and there was a prophecy that Troy would not be conquered if the Palladium was within the walls... Unfortunately Odysseus and Diomedes stole it!



Our final workshop allowed us to engage in insightful discussions surrounding the portrayal by the writer Tacitus of Agrippina, empress of Rome and the mother of the future emperor Nero. We dissected the contrasts between historical narratives and dramatic interpretations, and the workshop was presented by Dr Elena Theodorakopoulos, who is a senior lecturer of Classics at the University of Birmingham. Dr Theodorakopoulos showed Agrippina from many different perspectives, enhancing our knowledge and understanding, which will be very useful for another one of our A Level units.

The experience not only enriched our understanding of the classical literature that we are studying for our Latin A Level, but also deepened our appreciation for its enduring significance in shaping our perspectives and understanding of the world.

Year 13 Art Trip to London

by Miss Irving and Mrs Rank

In the spring term, to help inspire their practical exam preparation, we took some Year 13 students to London. We took the train early on Saturday and braved the busy London Underground as we made our way through Picadilly to the Royal Academy of Art. An exhibition of Impressionist drawings was the focus of this first visit and students were suitably impressed by the art work and indeed the architecture of the Royal Academy itself.



After experiencing the sensory delights of Borough Market we then spent the afternoon at Tate Modern, taking in their extensive permanent collection of paintings, sculpture, photography and installation. There really was something for everyone.

Our Year 13 artists were great company and a delight to take out for the day.



A Level French Trip to Provence Easter Holidays 2024

by Sreyaa Sunjay and Cara Hanratty, Year 12

At the end of the Easter term, 20 French A Level students set off for a four day trip to Provence, in the south-eastern region of France. We flew from Gatwick to Montpellier airport, and took a coach into the centre of Avignon and started our trip at Les Palais des Papes which is located next to Le Pont d'Avignon (another famous landmark). After some impromptu Wikipedia tour guiding from Mr Bristow, we were given histopads and allowed to explore the palace for ourselves. We could use the histopads to see what the main rooms were like at the time, looking at their decor, furniture and the significance of different art pieces. This was really fascinating and gave us a glimpse into mediaeval France and religion. We ended our visit by looking over the city of Avignon during the sunset, appreciating the lovely weather and fantastic start to the trip. We had some time before dinner which we spent exploring the cobbled streets in the city before heading towards a small, candle-lit restaurant for some fantastic lasagne. During meal times we spoke in our best French: a really lovely opportunity to practise conversational speaking!



Excited for day 2 in Avignon, we started off by going to a local language school in the centre of Avignon. The group was split into AS and A Level and we had an amazing morning of learning French phrases and about French geography, ending the session with Heads Up (in French, of course). We then had lunchtime to explore Les Halles, a covered French market with a bunch of stalls selling all sorts of food, like cheese, fruit, bread and pastries. We had the chance to communicate and practise our French, taking some time to appreciate the beautiful city we were in. Then, in the afternoon, we set off for Arles, a beautiful city full of Ancient Roman influence. Our tour guide led us around the city explaining the history of the amphitheatre, the Roman baths and how this city heavily influenced Van Gogh. The sun was out all afternoon, and I think we all loved the history of the city, made even better by the entire thing being told in French. That evening we went to a buffet for dinner, everyone tired and ready for the next day ahead.



For day 3 we set off to Orange, we were welcomed into the city by an Arc de Triomphe, and we walked through the quaint streets that were full of character. We visited another amphitheatre, and we had little talking guide devices which were synced up with the different locations around the amphitheatre. We learnt a lot about the history of the city of Orange (including interesting links to the Netherlands) whilst also appreciating the Ancient Roman world even more and understanding its influence on France. Nearly all of us ended up buying lunch from a small bakery and we appreciated the city for a bit longer before heading back to the coach.



We then visited a beautiful abbey, tucked away in the Avignon countryside and surrounded by incredible amounts of greenery and lavender fields. Our guide allowed us to appreciate what life was like for monks living there, telling us about their daily routines, interactions with the wider world and how monks continue to live there today. It was incredible to listen to and we all appreciated how passionate and knowledgeable our tour guide was, ensuring we understood the importance of the abbey. We ended the day by visiting a chocolate factory where we got to decorate our own ladybirds using different coloured melted white chocolate. It was really fun, having some time to chat and debrief with everyone whilst also admiring our creations. Dinner was a visit to a creperie and it was a bittersweet moment as we reflected on the incredible trip, realising this was our last dinner as a group.

Monday morning was back to Montpellier Airport for our flight back home - we were all exhausted from the trip but thoroughly missing (already!) the immersion in French culture we had experienced. We all enjoyed being surrounded by the language so much, having our tours in French, dealing with market vendors in French, and seeing and learning about the history of these incredible places. It is truly an amazing opportunity to visit the country of the language you are studying; everything suddenly becomes real and you are amazed by your own capabilities. We'd like to give a huge thank you to Mr Bristow and Mrs Price for taking us!



Pastoral Updates

by Ms Maginnis, Deputy Headteacher



Parent/Carer Survey

Thank you for your feedback in the spring term to our parent/carers survey about your child's education here at Camp Hill Girls (CHG). We had a really high response rate to our 47 question survey and appreciate all of your feedback, comments and engagement with the CHG community. We want to share our successes with you and what our next steps will look like.

The survey was overwhelmingly positive to all of the questions. Responses shared that, as parents/carers your child feels safe, is encouraged to work hard, gains skills to help them in the future as they become mature and independent and that they are well supported. Equally your responses reflected your recognition of the high quality learning opportunities in school and almost all of the responses shared that your child is making good progress. We are proud of the provision we provide and your responses reflect that you are too.

As with all feedback there are some areas we would like to develop further, so our next steps will include being able to ensure that we find better ways to use our website to share what we do and engage parents/carers with all aspects of school as well as being able to access details of the curriculum areas by subject and year group. Alongside this, we felt it was important to share how the opinions of our students influence decision making. Our Student Council recently shared with all students in school the work that they have done this academic year with their "you said, we did" assembly.

We will share with you our plans to continue to provide the very best provision and support at CHG and we are committed to working more closely with our parents/carers.

Well-being at CHG

We have recently announced our new Wellbeing Prefects for 2024-25 in school which coincides with the launch of the new Wellbeing and safeguarding website at the Academy Trust (found [here](#)). Please take some time to have a browse around the site and all the support that it has to offer. In school, The Wellbeing Google Classroom will be updated regularly by the new Wellbeing Prefects too - students, watch this space!

Alongside this, the Wellbeing Student Council has been working with Ms Parker this half term on "the teenage brain" and ideas will be shared in PSHE lessons after half term in our efforts to embed TIAAS principles at CHG. Feedback from the Student Council reps has been hugely positive and they really enjoyed learning and understanding about how their brain changes and grows - we hope all students will enjoy this!

In previous editions of The Chronicle we shared with you our first steps in embedding Emotion Coaching at CHG. Birmingham City Council has shared [these](#) resources for you to use these at home and continue to develop emotional regulation strategies with your child at home.



Looking after yourself and your child: Self-Regulation

Helping children with their emotions isn't always easy, especially if we are having difficulty managing our own emotions. For example, it is difficult to help children to feel calmer if we are feeling stressed and overwhelmed ourselves. In order to help your child, you need to help yourself first by making sure you are keeping yourself physically and mentally healthy.

What is Self-Regulation?

Self-regulation is our ability to understand and manage our big feelings in response to things happening around us. If we are feeling calmer, we are more able to help our children to manage their big feelings, which is called co-regulation.

Ways to Self-Regulate...

There are different ways to help yourself to feel calmer. Repetitive, rhythmic and rewarding activities are particularly useful. You might want to try carrying out mini rituals throughout the day from the options below.

A breathing exercise, breathe in for 5 and out for 7 and repeat until you feel calmer.

Phone someone for a chat.

Do some colouring.

Look outside at nature.

Give yourself a hand massage using scented lotion.

Tidy or sort something.

Do some cooking

Do what works for you!

Have a stretch.

Listen, sing or dance to a favourite song.

Write your thoughts down and throw them away in the bin to clear your mind.

Play a game.

Give someone a hug.

Do some reading.

Go for a walk or run.



Reporting absence

As we have recently shared with parents/carers, we have a new, more efficient system for reporting absence due to illness - Studybugs!

In the first fortnight that this has been live with parents/carers we have had over 50% sign up to Studybugs but we are keen to make this 100%! If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child is ill and unable to attend school.

A link to StudyBugs can be found on the school website www.kechg.org.uk or scan the QR code:

Please note: The current way to report absence (via absence@kechg.org.uk and calling the Main Reception) will remain in place for a short period until all parents/carers have accessed the app. From July 2024 you will no longer be able to report absence using these methods.

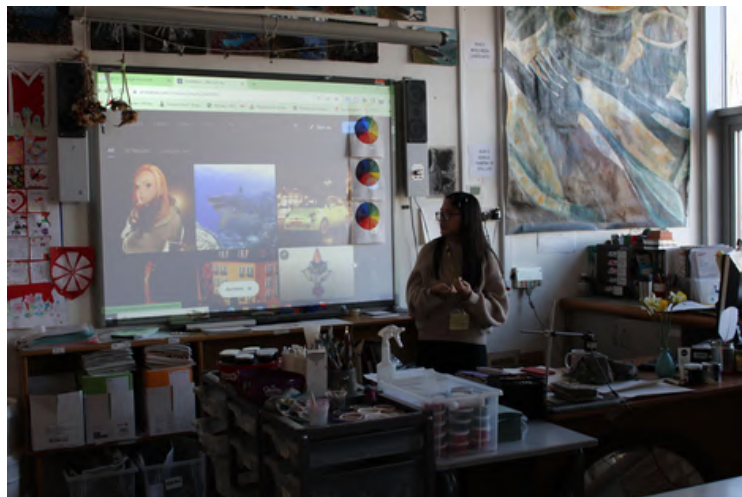
Any requests for planned term-time leave need to be submitted in writing in advance to head@kechg.org.uk.



Visiting Artist - Mai Linh

by Miss Irving

It was really lovely to welcome Mai Linh back to talk about her work studying animation and games design at university. She gave an excellent talk and we were really inspired by the standard of her portfolio in year 1 of her degree course. We would encourage all students to look out for announcements regarding our visiting artists. They give a brilliant first hand insight into the demands and rewards of life as a creative undergraduate.



KES Year 9 Enterprise Day

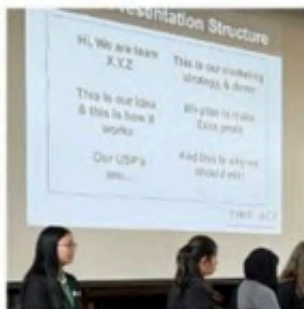
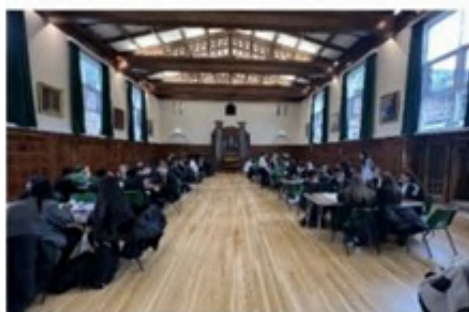
by Miss Tidd

This April, seven Year 9 students were selected to take part in the third year of Enterprise Day at King Edward VI High School for Girls. This brought together Year 9 students from across a number of the Foundation Schools to help them develop their employability skills.

The day highlighted the importance of enterprise skills which are becoming more important than ever in today's working environment. These include problem-solving, adaptability, resilience, creativity, empathy and leadership.

Students first listened to a talk from an inspirational entrepreneur **John Morse-Brown**, creative self-employed inventor behind a local start-up called 'Pigeon'. An engineer by training, John has run a successful Graphic Design Business for 25 years. In conjunction with that, he has run a number of 'side hustles' and, while some were not successful, in 2019 he came up with the idea of 'Pigeon' (an illustrated folding letter), and started selling it direct to the public, followed by wholesale selling to shops. It's now stocked in over 400 shops in the UK, Europe, USA, Canada and Australia. The product was shortlisted as Gift of the Year 2024. He shared with us his story of how a product can go from hobby to design concept to a successful business, and what skills are required along the way.

Students then split into teams and worked with other students in the Foundation to take part in an exciting Dragons' Den-inspired activity, led by entrepreneur and actor **James Merry**, which tested their business acumen. They had a limited amount of time to plan and design a product, alongside developing effective advertising campaigns. They then created a pitch to present to a panel of experts, who challenged their funding model, product and teamwork before a winner was ultimately declared. Our students were in the runner up teams - so a big well done!!!



King Edward's Model United Nations Conference

by Maria Kamar & Audrey Yuen, Year 12

In April, the CHG Model United Nations Society was invited to the King Edward's Model United Nations Conference (KEMUN), an event hosted by the KES foundation. We were delighted to be able to take fourteen students representing the countries Germany, Pakistan and Mauritius. After many hours of research and preparation, finally we set off to embark on two days of discussions, negotiations and debate.

Day 1

When arriving at KES we were warmly greeted and given our placards, badges and flags. Once everyone had arrived and had time to settle down, the opening ceremony began with speeches from the board followed by some insightful prompts established by the guest speakers. It was then time for ambassador speeches (the main event) and Cuba's enthusiastic opening set the standard. Some highlights included the fun endings like 'VIVA CUBA!' as well as the few expected yet entertaining controversial statements.

Once the excitement of the speeches was over, we moved on to lobbying. In the ECOFIN (Economic & Financial) committee, we discussed the topic of cryptocurrency and the inherent need for regulation. Although it was a seemingly innocuous topic, there were still many debates. There was a particular divide between Russia and Western nations such as the US, the UK and France. However, most countries did agree on the importance of regulation and it would later become an integral component of the final draft resolution for the ECOFIN committee. Later on in the day we finally moved on to the much anticipated unmoderated caucus. After many flying accusations and heated debates, both sides managed to complete their draft resolutions. Day 1 was complete leaving many of us in anticipation of the following day of events.



Day 2

Day 2 began with lobbying and we resumed our fruitful debate from Day 1. In the SOCHUM (Social, Humanitarian & Cultural) committee, we continued our heated discussion on the issues of trans rights including access to hormones for trans youth. Similar to Day 1, our committee was filled with unexpected and thrilling drama, especially on the topic of equality and trans individuals in sports. With the clear division caused by the significant role religion played in regards to trans issues, we spent most of our time powerfully trying to persuade and gain a majority for our resolution. Despite the result of the two resolutions being close, our resolution gained the majority and was presented in the General Assembly.

We then moved onto the General Assembly, beginning with each committee presenting their winning resolution with delegates speaking for and against. It goes without saying that the highlight of the Assembly was the iconic slogan: 'LONG LIVE MOTHER RUSSIA' from the Russian ambassador as well as the speech of the Iran delegate against our SOCHUM resolution that lightened up the room. Through the General Assembly, we were able to gain an insightful understanding of the issues of other committees such as the controversial case of Roe v Wade in the Legal committee, as well as enjoying and contributing to their lively debate. The Assembly was then closed, with resolutions of each committee being voted on to decide whether it was successfully passed or not. Day 2 was completed with the closing ceremony: the best delegation of each committee and the best country was chosen, alongside inspiring speeches from former KEMUN participants, the lovely organisers and the board that made this event possible.

KEMUN was undoubtedly a precious and valuable experience for us to learn, to broaden our horizons and to sharpen our skills. It was also an irreplaceable opportunity that allowed us to interact with students from other schools who share Model United Nations as a common interest, bringing us together for the exchange of ideas and new approaches.

Staff Swimathon

by Ms Woodward

After school on Monday 29th April, eight members of our staff took to a slightly chilly school pool to see how many lengths we could swim in an hour as part of the Swimathon. Mrs Royall was the pool side official, in charge of the stop watch and counting the laps whilst hits of the early 2000s blared out to keep us all going.

At the end of the hour, the total number of lengths swam was an amazing 504 which is equivalent to 12.6km. We are thrilled that we raised a grand total of **£849** for Cancer Research UK, Marie Curie & The Swimathon Foundation.

I would like to thank all the staff members who willingly gave up their time to swim - Ms Irving, Ms Smith, Mrs Bicknell, Mrs Strong, Ms Lamb, Toby Kerry and James Derrington. A further thanks to Mrs Royall for keeping us all in check, Ms Stait and Ms Irving for making us post swim flapjacks and Mr Ratcliffe for letting us use the pool.



Culture Day

by Mehreen Khan, Year 12

On Friday 19th April, Camp Hill Girls held our second annual celebration in honour of World Culture Day. This is an opportunity for all members of our school community to shine a light on their heritage and celebrate the rich diversity of cultures represented. Students and staff were encouraged to dress in clothes that reflected their heritage, with some fascinating and often wonderful results. As well as brightening up the school for the day, this sparked many conversations around school as students asked each other about their outfits, the meaning behind items of clothing or jewellery, and took the opportunity to learn about each other's cultures and history.



In order to appreciate our school's beautiful diversity, the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Student Council organised a lunchtime showcase, opening up the stage to students who wanted to perform a song or dance, play an instrument or read a poem - anything that represented their culture. There was such a huge response that more than enough acts for two showcases applied, meaning that these could take place on the Thursday and Friday lunchtimes. Performances spanned the world, including Moldova, Turkey, South Asia, North Africa and beyond. Whilst there were so many spectacular performances, a couple of particular highlights were Bella Chapman's beautiful solo rendition of a song from the Philippines and the incredibly energetic and precise dancers representing Palestine as the final act. All students had the chance to witness these shows, with packed audiences creating a joyful and celebratory atmosphere that continued throughout the afternoon.



Creative writing competition successes!

by Mrs Royall

I'm delighted to share that three of our students have had success in national writing competitions in recent weeks.

Hannah Hoque (Year 7) and Jialin Dai (Year 8) each won a £50 Amazon voucher for their entries into the Sustainable Homes Poetry Competition. The task was to imagine what a sustainable home will look like in the future and you can read their winning poems below. Their poems are also being considered for animation by students at the University of Salford and, if chosen, Hannah and Jialin will be invited to attend a poetry/animation festival "My Future Home in Words and Pictures," at the University of Salford.

A New Life by Hannah Hoque

Vivid light creeps through the window this morning,
Violet curtains filtered with kaleidoscopic colours.

Ambling down the corridor,
My hands skim the azure-tinged glass bricks,
Orangeade, Cola, Cherry, crushed to build homes,
The texture polished and glossy against my calloused hands.

I step out onto the rooftop garden- lush, verdant.
The air smells fresh and balmy,
The floral and amber scent reminds me of our beaches now:
Full of glittering gemstones and studded starfish,
Each species thriving without a plastic bag strangling them,
Each grain of sand soft between your toes
No glass shards to pierce our dreams...

Snapping out of my musings
I make my way through the house,
The warm wood smooth beneath my feet,
The sun refracting through the sky light,
A thousand tiny rainbows,
Bouncing off the solar panels

I brush my teeth with my bamboo toothbrush,
The powder flecked with fresh mint,
A glass of filtered rainwater sat next to the sink.

As I pick out the outfit of the day,
I marvel at the fabric-22 plastic bottles recycled,
Creating an iconic item
Fast fashion into sustainable slow fashion

Downstairs, the lab-made wooden table gleams,
Centred in the middle of the table, a ceramic fruit bowl full-
Ruby red apples and ochre, tawney oranges,
Periwinkle plums and succulent mangoes,
Straight from our underground garden

I look out the window
Gazing at the lush, green, eco friendly streets;
Apartments and houses with rooftop gardens,
The quiet hum of electric buses,
The trill of a bell from passing bikes
I can see the streets of a new planet
A new life

Where I would like to live By Jialin Dai

Early birds chitter and chirp and cheep
They dance around the deciduous tree
You see, we built our house surrounding the sapling
And soon, its copper leaves will rustle mellifluously

Then as rain pitter-patters through a funnel in the roof
We collect it and use filters
To reuse the water for the washing machine
Nothing is new, not even the bricks used by the builders.

Alexa rings and I wake
Groaning in bed about another early date
But I peer outside and see the wildlife bridge
Where birds and butterflies are preparing to migrate...

Jumping down the stairs in threes,
Waltzing into the bathroom like a bee,
Flushing down the toilet, which replies,
"I am treating your water for the trees!"

On my walk I greet some mint
And lavender and sage in the bakery
Where I trade some homemade apple and plum jam
For some beetle-brownies and muffins that are savoury

Then hovering across the road
A safety bot that keeps streets safe
Makes sure my friends are good to go
There is no better place than where I live.



This year I also received a large number of entries in the Wicked Writers: Be The Change competition, organised every year by the National Literacy Trust. Students were asked to write a piece of persuasive writing about any environmental issue that is important to them, for example the climate crisis, pollution or endangered species. The competition's popularity was largely due to the prize on offer: tickets for your whole class to see the musical 'Wicked' in London! This was an especially appealing prize because songs from 'Wicked' were performed by Show Choir in this year's Songs From the Shows.

9Y deserve praise for working together as a form to send as many entries as possible, giving them the best chance of a trip to the West End! This paid off and Jewel Odulio's piece was shortlisted from the 1,600 entries from across the UK to go to the judging panel. Unfortunately Jewel's entry was not chosen as a winner or runner up but she received the feedback that the judges thought it was a really remarkable piece of work, and were delighted to have it on the shortlist. The competition was incredibly tough, and the judges were blown away by the creativity, originality and persuasiveness of the shortlisted writing. As a shortlisted entry, it has been published in the Wicked Writers: Be the Change 2024 anthology and the school will also receive a bundle of environmental books.

You can read Jewel's Climate Change speech on page 62 of [this online pdf of the Anthology](#), along with all of the other winning and shortlisted entries. Well done Jewel!

If you are interested in creative writing competitions and other extracurricular opportunities, details of these are shared on the English department's KS3 and KS4 Google classrooms. Make sure you are a member and use these codes to join them:

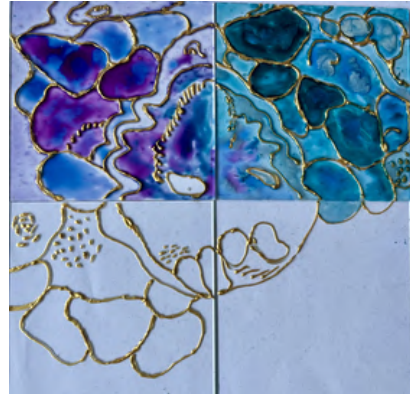
Years 7-9: [m5jz2ov](#)

Years 10 and 11: [bjcb4s3](#)



Glass Painting Club - Year 8

Back in January Mrs Rank launched Glass Painting Club to a group of year eight students. Keen to share her experiences of her own glass painting business, the group explored Art and Craft businesses and market places such as Etsy. They then began to experiment with the paints; as they are solvent based they work quite differently to those used in Art lessons. There are also outliners for definition and students decided using these was like drawing with a small toothpaste tube!



We practised using jam jars - these were great gifts for Mother's Day and useful desk organisers.

As confidence and skills grew, we looked at some artists for inspiration with a cross-curricular link to Biology and looking at cells through microscopes. Painting onto glass slides, students created some stunning abstract pieces.



Well done to all those students involved!

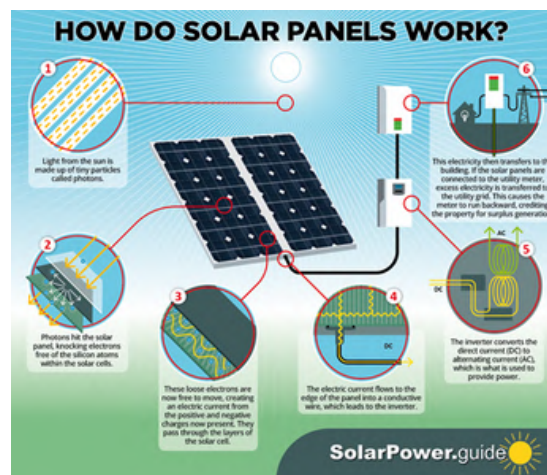
Sustainability News

By Mrs Royall

Joint CHG and CHB meeting with the Foundation's Sustainability Lead

The Foundation Sustainability Strategy and supporting documentation is currently being reviewed and we were delighted to have the chance to share what we have been doing and discuss what we would like to see done to make Camp Hill more sustainable. On Wednesday 17th April we hosted a meeting for student representatives from both CHG and CHB Eco Societies to talk to Martin Hathaway, Sustainability Lead for the Foundation. Let's Go Zero's climate action advisors to schools (West Midlands) also participated and added their experience and knowledge of next steps we should be taking.

It was great to reflect on what we have achieved as well as find out more about what Martin is doing. We are especially excited about the project to install solar panels across the Foundation schools. We examined the current plans for our joint site and are impressed that the estimated school's electricity demand to be supplied by solarPV is 30% per year. Roof maintenance and building work needs to take place before our panels are installed, but installation at all of the remaining Academy Trust schools is being planned for early summer with completion due by the end of August 2024. The solarPV installation programme has been completed at King Edward VI Aston, along with final testing and commissioning, the legal document required for the PV installation to connect to the National Grid was received and the system is now live and supplying the school.



Martin also shared the impact of the installation of LED lights which have been noticed by staff and students at the school as they are much brighter! Significantly, they are also much more energy efficient, helping us to lower our carbon footprint, as you can see from the table below:

School	Lighting Power Consumption BEFORE	Lighting Power Consumption AFTER	% Energy saving
Camp Hill Boys & Girls School	606,480 kWh per year	187,068 kWh per year	69%



Celebrating Earth Day

EcoSoc were keen to remind everyone in school of the importance of looking after our planet on Earth Day: Monday 22nd April. They invited everyone to celebrate Earth Day with them at lunchtime and students from across the school came, including Year 11 as this was the activity that kicked off their well being week. Amazing signs were painted on reused cardboard to celebrate our planet and remind us what is needed to look after the Earth. We are hoping to display as many as possible of the impressive signs on the school railings - if there is a spell of dry weather!



Walk to School Week

The last week of this half term has been Walk to School Week and we've joined schools throughout the country, taking part in this annual event organised by Living Street. We're reminding and encouraging everyone to be more active in their travel to school, with a particular focus on 'Park and Stride' as we know walking the whole way for some students is unrealistic. Our online assembly has been focussing on the benefits of cycling, Year 7 students have been invited to join a walking bus and everyone has been sending in Walk to School Selfies. We'll share more about the week in the next edition. Well done to the Active Travel Ambassadors (Anokhi, Anna, Ayla and Aroush) for the hard work they have put into organising Walk to School Week and to Janani for recording the online assembly - and for her endless enthusiasm for all of our sustainability initiatives! Thanks also to the staff who have supervised ("driven") the walking bus or disguised themselves in Kings Heath park to be spotted by students. Everyone's help is very much appreciated!



WINNER

AFS Prize Draw

The AFS Prize Draw took place on 20th March 2024. Once again, there were two cash prizes up for grabs. The first prize was won by India Bellavitti, parent of a student in Year 7. The second prize was won by David Kelly, parent of a student in Year 8.

The next Prize Draw will take place on Wednesday 17th July so get your membership forms completed and emailed in to be part of the next draw and have the chance to win cash prizes. The more entries we have, the greater the value of the cash prizes and the more money we raise for AFS funds to support the students at school! Up to four numbers can be purchased per household so you can boost your chance of winning by entering multiple times.

How does it work?

Complete and sign the membership form and set up a standing order for a minimum of £1 a month per number (or £12 annually) or pay by annual cheque. The draw will take place at the end of each term (three times per year). The prize money will be 40% of the membership fee taken that term. The remaining 60% goes to the school to help fund equipment, resources and opportunities for pupils. Remember, the more participants involved, the more money we can raise and the larger the cash prize, so please encourage your friends and family to sign up too.




Please visit <https://www.kechg.org.uk/our-school/afs> and scroll to the bottom of the page to find the Prize Draw Application Form and the Prize Draw rules.




Any queries, please contact Katherine Brown, Prize Draw Officer by email: afs@kechg.org.uk.

Join our Prize Draw today and you could be our next winner!

Current House Points

*correct as of 16th May 2024

	House	Current Total
	Cartland	9135
	Lichfield	7916
	Meriden	8943

	House	Current Total
	Priory	8641
	Stratford	8302
	Warwick	9724



Hall Green
Communities

Please click the logo above to view the Hall Green and Selly Oak Families Early Help Newsletter for May 2024.

The newsletter includes information on Family Hubs, free courses, free activities and more from community partners across Hall Green and Selly Oak localities. It also includes SEND information, asylum and refugee, sleep hygiene, various food events and much more.

The Police Race Action Plan and Elevated Minds Seminar

by Mrs Kinnaird

On Wednesday 17th April a group of 20 intrepid Year 8 and 9 students took part in a seminar about The Police Race Action Plan (PRAP). This Plan is a national plan of action which recognises that we need policing to be an actively anti-racist organisation.

A group of our students were chosen to be representatives of the youth voice. They were involved in complex and high level discussions about how to improve diversity in the police force with both members of the police force and a partner organisation called Elevated Minds. The students were given an insight about what the PRAP involves and were invited to provide feedback which will be used to help shape and develop the PRAP in future.

The session was fantastic and our students were impressive ambassadors for the youth voice. The students spoke eloquently and both the police force representatives and Elevated Minds were blown away by their maturity and perceptive ideas. The students came up with interesting and thought provoking questions, reflective and pragmatic answers and put their new ideas across in exciting and original ways, including a brilliant drama piece. In fact the organisers of the seminar were so impressed they are keen to work with our students again so watch this space for further involvement!

Very well done to all those who took part - I was so proud of you all!



Dates for Your Diary

June



Staff Training Day 5



**Back to school
Week A**



**KS5
Duke of Edinburgh
(Bronze)**



**Year 10 Latin
Bath Trip**

GCSE/AS/A Levels:
students to come in for
timetabled exams



Summer Soiree



**Year 12 Psychology
Shrewsbury Prison Trip
Year 6
Induction Evening
& Uniform Sale**



**KS5
Duke of Edinburgh
(Bronze)**



**Year 12
Hi Theatre Trip**



**Y7 Progress
Evening (Virtual)**



**Year 10 German
Exchange Trip**



**Y10 RS
Amsterdam Trip**



**Year 12 Work
Experience Week**



Sports Day



Enrichment Week



GCSE Art Exam



Alumni Event

Leavers Prom

Dates for Your Diary



Fry Cup Tennis



**New Year 7
Induction Day
A Level Art Exhibition**



**National Rounders Final
Open Afternoon**



**KS4 & KS5
Duke of Edinburgh
(Bronze)**



**New Y12
Induction Day**



**Years 10 & 12
Art Trip**



Summer Celebration



**Year 10
House Matches**



House Festival



End of Term