



Hodge Hill Girls' School Newsletter

Summer Term 2022



Our Key Values are:

- Partnerships
- Respect
- Inspiration
- Determination
- Excellence

Educating Tomorrow's Women Today

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

A big thank you to students, parents, staff and governors for making the Spring term so successful. It has been full of interesting learning opportunities and there has been lots to smile about. World Book Day, Careers Week, 3 performances- including one in French, fundraising for Comic Relief, NSPCC and Mind, Steam workshops and our usual extra-curricular offer to all year groups. Such experiences enhance our school curriculum and enable our students to build their confidence, develop and grow in character and as individuals.

In March we welcomed Ofsted to our school. As you may be aware the Ofsted framework has changed since our previous inspection in 2017, with a greater focus on the curriculum. We were happy to receive the final report in May, which highlighted the many positive aspects of school life at Hodge Hill Girls' School.

Our students have been working well throughout the term with Year 10 and Year 11 more recently taking part in their GCSE exams. We have been encouraged by the positive attitude and determination shown by so many of our KS4 students as they prepare and sit their exams.

We wish you all a relaxing half-term break and look forward to starting the final summer half- term on Monday 6th June.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely,

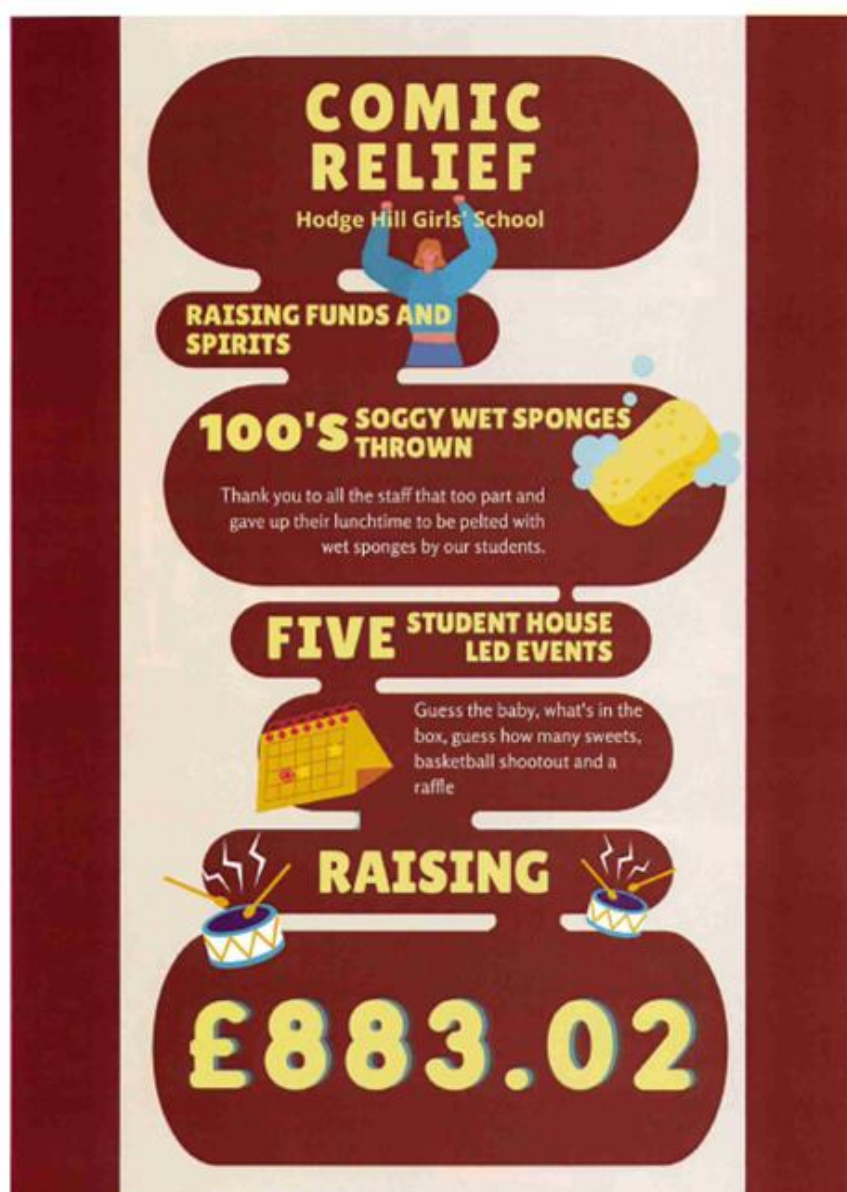


Mrs S Adu
Head Teacher



COMIC RELIEF

18th March 2022



For Comic Relief the house leadership team organised a range of different events for students to take part in these events included a basketball hoop challenge and What's in the box? Students from all houses were excited to take part every lunch time and raise money for Comic Relief. Then on Friday 18th March all the leaders worked together to organise a very special event where we asked some teachers to volunteer to have wet sponges thrown at them. We had an amazing turn out from staff willing to be soaked and the students turned out in their numbers to support and raise money.

We raised over **£890** throughout the week. The leaders and staff volunteers were amazing. All the students who helped raise money by taking part really showed the Pride values of the school.

Well done everyone and we cannot wait for our next big charity event.





On Friday 8th April the students had a non-uniform day while Mrs Malik (Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages) had a uniform day! All this helped to raise £269.62 for NSPCC.



Raising Mental Health Awareness Week 9th – 15th May.

On Friday 13th May Mrs Barron arranged a staff v student netball match. A team of Year 9,10 and 11 students took on the challenge. We played two games and staff won both matches with a score of **7 – 1** and **4 – 1**.

I think the students were amazed how high staff could jump, how fast we could move and the fact that we could score!

Fun was had by all and we managed to raise approx. **£230.00** to go towards our chosen charity



<https://www.mind.org.uk/>



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Mrs S Clews – SENCO The Inclusion Department

This term has been an extremely busy one for the students from across all year groups who access Chillax at lunchtimes. They have enjoyed using this time to catch up with work by accessing support and using the laptops. They have also enjoyed engaging with all the resources provided by school including traditional crafts such as bracelet/necklace making, painting and games. This term they have thoroughly enjoyed taking part designing and decorating ceramic tiles using Posca Pens both kindly donated by Ms S Clews, Director of Inclusion (SENCO). Some students took their lovely tiles home to give as a present for Mother's Day or to someone they wanted to show appreciation to. This has proved extremely popular with the students, and we hope to continue with this activity next term.

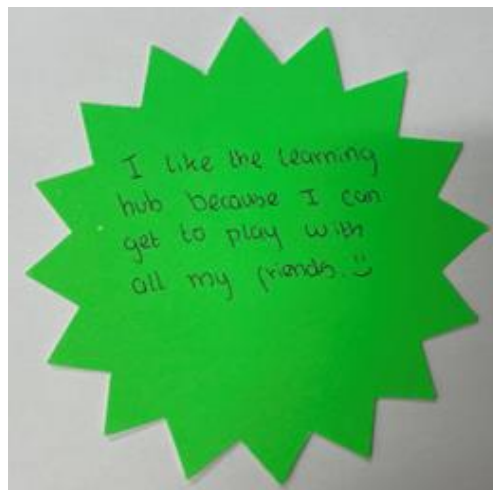
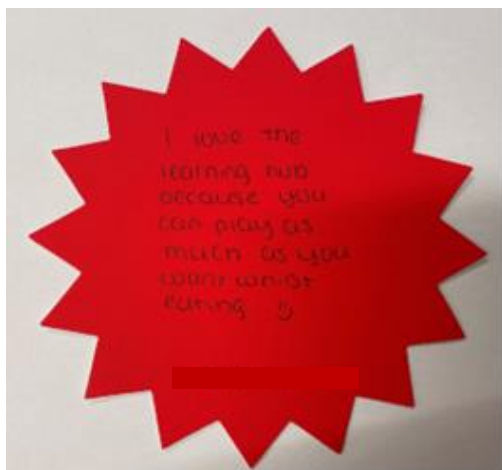


Students have continued to be supportive of each other by sharing ideas, encouraging their peers to take part in activities and demonstrating empathy towards others who may not be having the best day. Chillax promotes an inclusive environment for students to use throughout the year with the benefit of having a wide range of activities available to them. Students are encouraged to take ownership of the Chillax areas by suggesting crafts or activities they would like to take part in, looking after resources provided and tidying away quickly so they can get to lessons on time. Several students have written down some of the reasons why they enjoy attending Chillax, as you can see below.



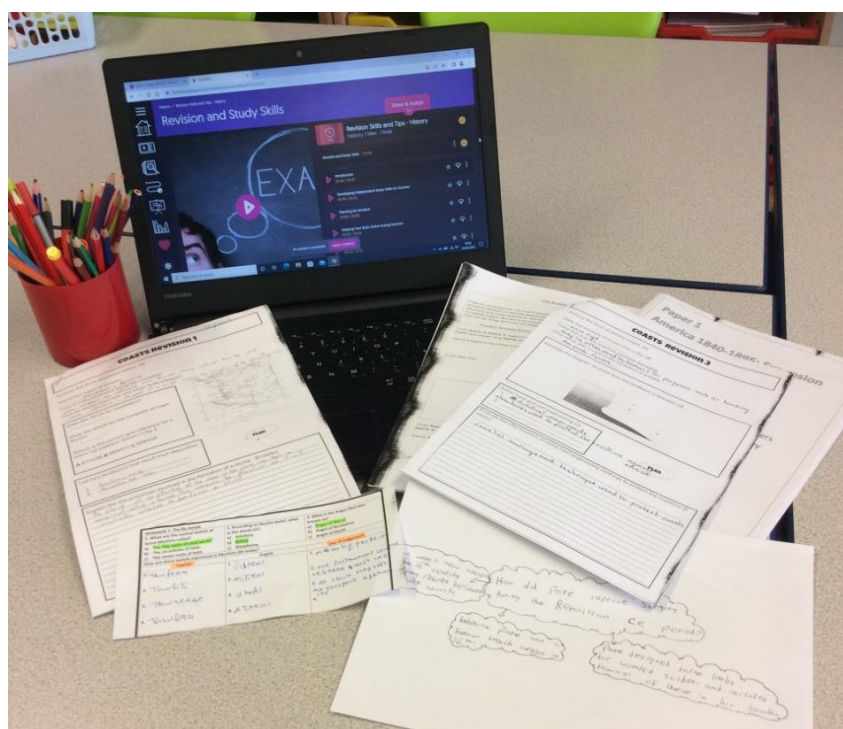
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Miss H Mullins - EAL Humanities Club

A group of Year 10/11 EAL students have been attending an after school session to work on improving their knowledge and revision techniques for humanities subjects they study. Our main focus this term has been analysis of sources and case studies. Their engagement with these sessions have added to positive outcomes in their end of term assessments so well done.



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Well done to all students that have, this term, read and completed the First News weekly quizzes. Our numbers of participants seem to be growing which is fantastic to see.

The house with the highest participants this term goes to Parkes. A special mention to Ruqayyah Year 11 for attempting all quizzes and scoring above 90% on them all, can anyone beat her to the top next term?

First News weekly e-copies are sent to your school email address every Monday, these newspapers are a great resource to support you with homework and current affairs across the curriculum.

Miss Mullins



EAL/Newly Arrived students

As part of wellbeing week, KS4 newly arrived students have had short wellbeing support plan talks to discuss their next steps in their school life/post 16. The students have been supported with finding suitable college courses and information about revising for end of term/GCSE examinations, a friendly face and a welcoming environment to express their feelings in moving forward. Alongside this, students have been set Flash Academy e-learning tasks to complement these talks which can be found on their personal log in portal at

- flashacademy.com

Well done to Amal A for gaining a gold award on Flash Academy for her dedication and time spent completing tasks set. Suhamo H for gaining silver and Stefania for gaining bronze.

Miss Mullins



In March the school launched a new initiative to challenge students to develop and extend their vocabulary through using specific words in context both verbally and written. Staff were asked to listen out for use of the word and reward students a WoW point on ClassCharts when the Word of the Week was used.

Mrs Miles



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Art & Design Department

Throughout the year KS3 students have been rotating within the art department to establish key skills within Art and Design Technology. During their time in Art Year 7 students have been looking at the 5 British Values; Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect, and Tolerance. We have focused on the history of masks, understanding their purpose and origins. Students have been looking at the infamous artist's Pablo Picasso and Braque, incorporating their unique cubist style into their own work by looking at multiple images from different perspectives and collating them into one image.

Year 8 students have been looking at the theme of sustainability and the environment. They have been recreating architectural building with the influence of several artists; Patrick Heron, George Seurat & Stephen Wiltshire to name a few. Year 9 students have been looking at how they can provoke change in society on a chosen social issue through their artwork. Each student has selected a topic that they feel passionate about to enable them to create a thought-provoking piece of work.

Highlight of the Term

"It has been amazing to see the artistic vision the girls have. Every student has been given the same brief but the way in which each of them interpret it is unique to them."

Miss C Jackson-Lee



Arts ambassadors support making Mother's day cards

The Arts ambassadors have once again stepped up to support the Art Department and the Learning Hub in lunch times so students can pop in to make their Mother's Day cards. Mother's Day honors the mother of the family, as well as motherhood and the influence of mothers in our society. It is celebrated on different days across the world with the UK celebrating it in March. Thank you to all the Arts Ambassadors who helped out.

Ms Corser

Raising Aspirations – Dr Malik Assistant Headteacher



GCSEPod Winners!

We are very proud to announce that we won the November to February Regional Pod Games for the Middleweight league! This clearly demonstrates that as a school our students are leading the way for GCSE Pod nationwide!

As winners the school received £150 reward alongside the coveted GCSE Pod Games winners' shield. Well done to our students who engage with GCSE pod to support their learning, the prize was distributed between the top three users, in addition our top user Duaa was awarded the GCSE Ambassador accolade, Duaa will be further promoting GCSE pod with students across the school.



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STAR PODFORMER STATUS



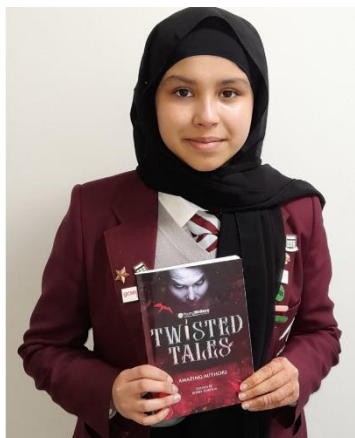
Our school has now been automatically entered into the GCSE Pod Grand Finals competition. This competition started on 1st March and finishes on 30th June 2022. Our school will now compete against schools all around the world for glory! Keep the momentum going!

Learning performance workshops:

Over the course of this half-term Learning performance ran a number of workshops with students from Years 7-10. The workshops supported students in reflecting and developing a wide range of skills, ranging from SMART goal setting, steps to take to achieve goals, successful memory, and revision techniques, as well as understanding responsibility, respect, teamwork and raising aspiration.

Impact reports for the workshops, demonstrate positive feedback from students and there were great comments from each year groups, indicating that the workshops were really well received. In addition, both presenters Vivienne and Guy really enjoyed their time at Hodge Hill Girls' School.

Wow! Exciting News from



Tasnim Year 8

Tasnim was awarded 'Talent for Writing' for an original piece of creative writing that was selected for publication in a Young Writers' Anthology. This year they received more than 19,000 entries for Young Writers' *Twisted Tales* – *Amazing Authors* competition.

Tasnim's work 'The Desert's Lost Soul' was chosen for publication earlier this year.

Keep an eye on this budding young author for future publications! **Well Done!**



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This half term was a busy one in terms of careers and work related learning. Students took part in National Careers week from 7th-11th March. Students listened to a special assembly about National Careers week. They also took part in different form time activities such as quizzes and games. All students were given a post it note and asked to write down what they would like to do for their future career, which they stuck on boards in the foyer for everyone to see. Teachers put door signs on their door showing students their previous employment and the skills that they gained. Every morning during careers week students listened to a virtual assembly from a different employer. Feedback was very positive. Students were also asked to complete the employability skills sheet in their planners and write an example of how they showed these skills and ask teachers to sign them as evidence. Teachers would also spend time in each lesson showing students a video about the careers they could go into in their subject area. Year 9 and 10 took part in a virtual presentation in which they learned about the different Post 16 options available to them. Parents were also sent information to inform them of careers week and Post 16 options.

Students in Year 8 were also lucky enough to take part in a STEM workshop. They learnt about the wonders of magnets, and how they are used in real life and the careers they could go into linked to this. The show was very loud and lively with a touch of magic/science. Feedback from students and teachers was very positive.



Year 10 are still in the process of preparing for work experience. We have had several assemblies to help students prepare for work experience.

Year 11 have all had careers interviews now and the majority of students have got a Post 16 place.

Some students in Year 9 and 10 took part in the Capital One virtual work experience. Students have now received certificates and merchandise.

Textiles and Product Design – Mrs Walsh and Mr Deprez

The Year 7 and 8 project was to create a piece of jewellery that was inspired by the British culture. They produced a design on 2D CAD software to manufacture their product.



We have been really impressed with the creative designs and skills shown.



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Textiles

The Year 7 and 8 project was to create a bow.



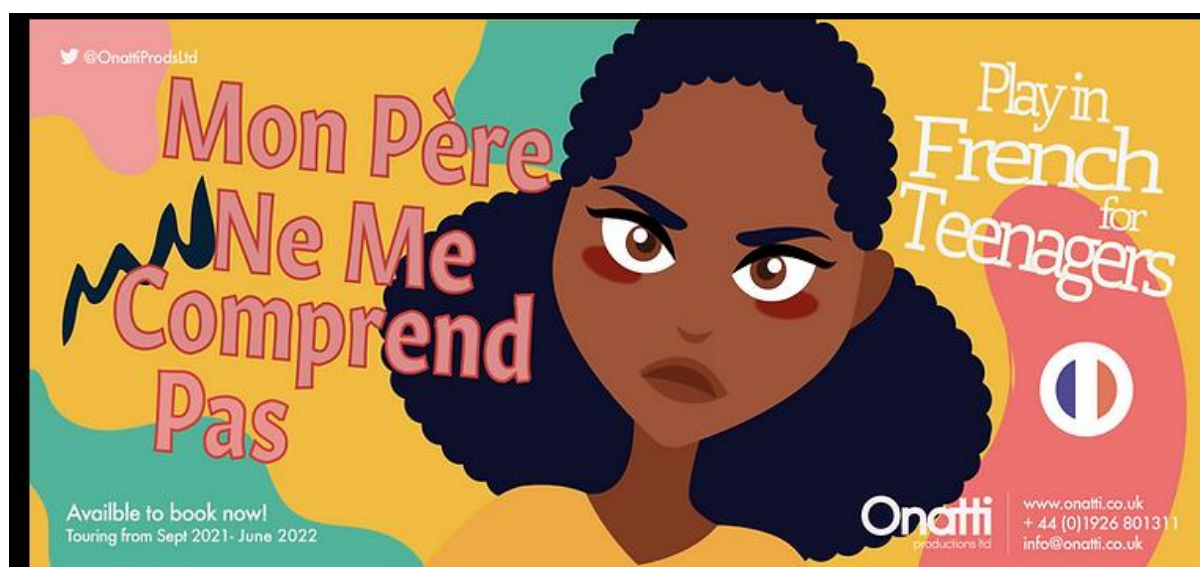
The Year 9 project was to create a drawstring bag.

Each year group is looking at different techniques on how to stitch and ways to fasten/ close products together.



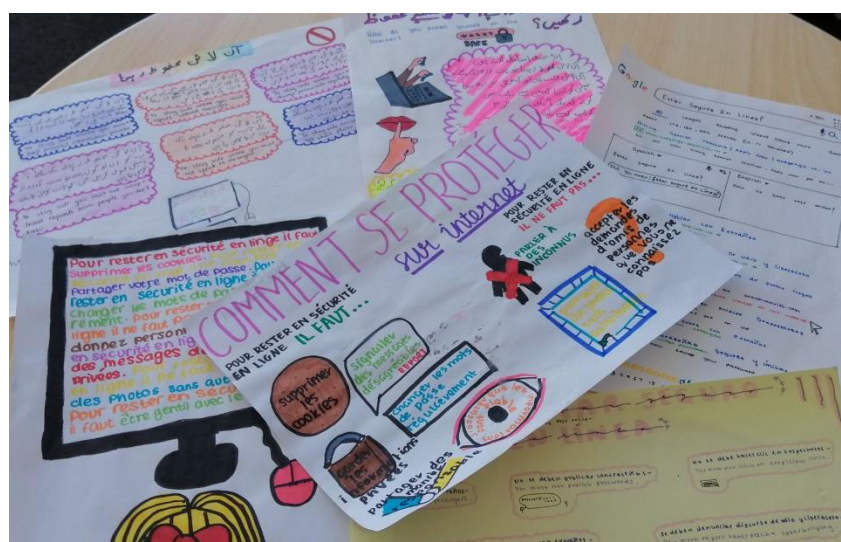
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On 2nd March our Year 8,9 and 10 students who are studying French had the opportunity to watch a play in our school. We welcomed **Baptiste Semin & Julie Ghallab** from **Onatti production** who delivered an extremely funny performance in French. Our students were very delighted to hear and understand the different characters and plots. The play was followed up by question time where students asked questions about acting and languages in performing arts.

Miss Carriere – French and Spanish



The students were taught about Internet Safety in their lessons and then they had to design a poster in their chosen language of French, Spanish or Urdu.

Mrs Malik – Modern Foreign Languages

Posters created by Year 9 students.



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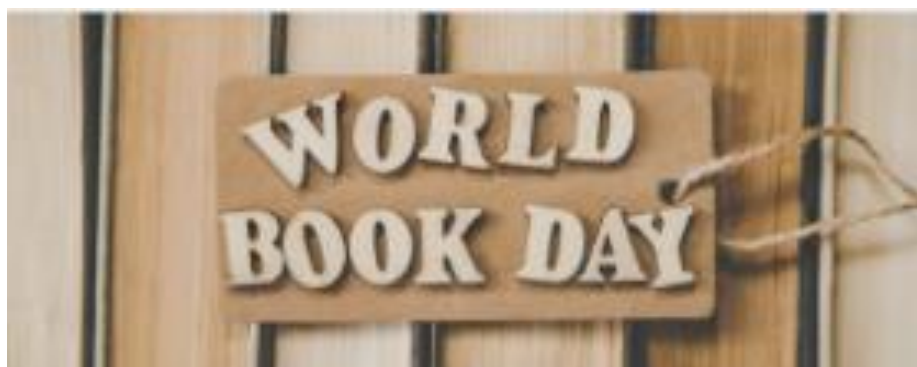
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During the Spring term, Year 9 and 10 students watched two in-house productions of 'Macbeth' and 'An Inspector Calls', performed by K22 Theatre Company.

Students gained a perceptive insight into the contextual background of these two plays. Experiencing live theatre allowed our students to gain a deeper understanding of the themes and complex nature of characterisation. Watching the plays being performed consolidated their understanding of these texts and enhanced their preparation and revision

for GCSE. The versatility of the actors, costumes and set design captivated students, who talked about the performances throughout the day. Live theatre is a great revision tool, so close to the examinations. A thoroughly enjoyable day and we look forward to many more.



Global reading Challenge

We aimed to change the lives of our students by promoting books and a love of reading. To celebrate this all Year 7 – 8 students took part in a Global Reading Challenge. Students were given Reading Passports and for every 15-20 minutes of reading they collected 500 airmiles. Our students have over 10 million words, that is 33,000 airmiles per child. In addition we will be extending this initiative to all Year 9 students.

Book Buzz and World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March and gave each student in Year 7 – 9 the opportunity to own their own book to keep from a choice of 17 book titles. We promote reading for pleasure with the help from Book Trust and Book Buzz.



Ms Mohammed - English



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Pastoral Team

Parents Evening

On Monday 28th March Year 8 and 9th April Year 10 we welcomed the parents/carers to talk with subject teachers about their daughter's progress and achievements. We would like to thank all parents/carers for respecting the rule of one person per child. The evenings were a great success and it was lovely to meet with our parents/carers face to face again.

Year 10 – Ms O'Hagan

It has been a very busy half term with Year 10 preparing for their work experience placements. They have been working with Mr. Marshall and his team.

We have continued to award and celebrate 'Star of the week' with students receiving a small reward in assembly.

Well done to Year 10 students who took part in the charity netball match, students v Staff. Everyone involved had fun and raised lots of money for the charity MIND.

Year 10 have sat their GCSE English Literature exam. This gives them a taste of what is to come next year.

I look forward to the next half term when Year 10 will start their work experience on the 4th of July giving them a fantastic opportunity to learning new skills and grow in confidence within a workplace setting.

The Headteacher led an assembly "Preparing for Success" and our Awards Assembly reflected on our Pride Values.

School Trip to Aston Conference Centre – Mrs S Amin - DSL



East Birmingham Social Emotional Mental Health Student Conference – 23/05/22

A small group of Year 9 students went to Aston University and joined another 8 schools from the East Birmingham constituency. Over 100 students and staff spent the day together engaging with materials and discussions around Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties.

The conference was held at Aston University Conference Suite, a stylish city centre hotel based on the Aston University campus. It offered beautiful space and provided

refreshments throughout the day and a stunning dining experience for all the students.

The day was full of fun, engaging and interactive with a variety of activities using communication and relationships gained through the programme to provide mentoring.

Students had the pleasure of meeting Lindani Nije who is a Leadership Development Coach with a background in Business Development and Business Partnerships. He is also a poet, writer and a motivational/keynote speaker.



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The Wellbeing Crew also offered interactive, fun and relaxing ways, to empower and improve wellbeing. Students had first-hand experience of learning calming techniques using mindfulness tools and self-worth recognition to manage worries and boost self-esteem in a variety of ways. Students developed awareness of how this can have a positive impact on their social, emotional and mental health.

Malaikah said "Lindani told us about his story and how everyone is unique. He also told us about the three B's, Believe, Behave and Become, believing and following the 3 B's, you will be able to achieve anything you put your mind to".

"The venue was astonishing and professional and the restaurant area where we had lunch was amazing. Overall, it was a great opportunity and a fun, educational day and I wish to have more opportunities like this".



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Year 7, 8 and 9 had their first netball fixture of the season playing against Erdington Academy. We have not played any fixtures since before COVID so the students were very excited to be able to play.

The Year 7 and 8 team lost 5-2, player of the match was Iona.

Year 9 lost 5-0, players of the match were Zeenat and Boluwatife.

Although we lost both games, students represented themselves and the school with pride and tried really hard. We are looking forward to playing more fixtures moving forward and hoping to get some wins.

School Trip: Commonwealth Games Taster Event – Doug Ellis Sports Centre, 7th April 2022

We were delighted to be offered the opportunity to take a small group of our students from KS3 to attend a Commonwealth Games taster event. The aim of the event was to give students a taste of the variety of sports that will be competed in the Commonwealth Games held in Birmingham. The students spent the day taking part in a wide range of fun, innovative and competitive sporting activities they were nominated as “Canada” one of the Commonwealth countries.

The students took part in Lawn Green Bowls and personal challenges, Squash, Badminton, Hockey, Netball, Cricket and Rugby 7s. Within this sporting taster sessions there were opportunities to win prizes such as free lessons for the school, t-shirts, and water bottles.

Hodge Hill Girls' School students had an amazing day and really benefited from interacting with other students from other schools in the area whilst experiencing different sports and activities.



Doug Ellis Centre



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Warwickshire Cricket Club

The PE department have worked closely with Warwickshire Cricket Board, Edgbaston, this Summer term to provide cricket coaching from one of Warwickshire Cricketers - Minahil Zahoor.

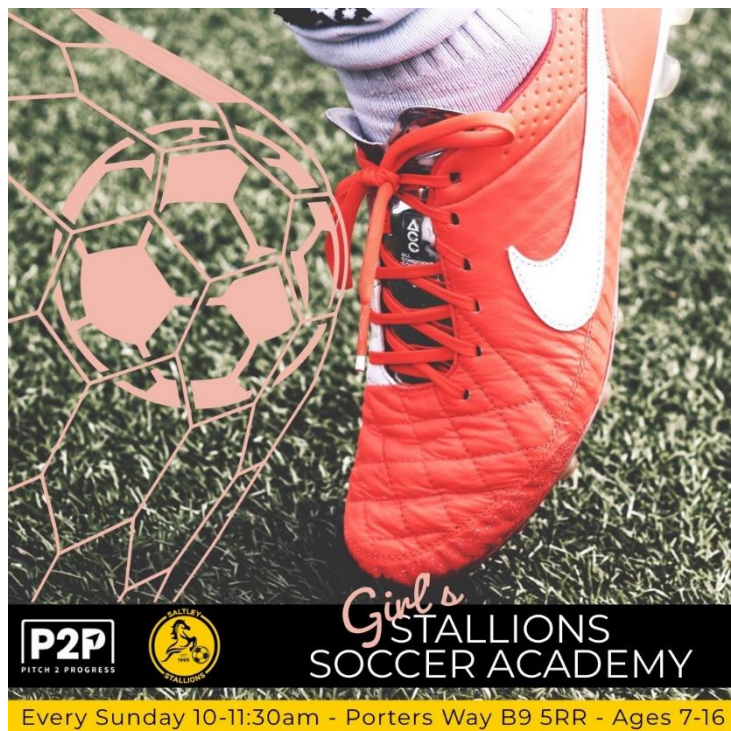
Minahil has been coaching an after-school Cricket Club for our students. The students have been having so much fun working with an expert helping them to improve their cricket skills. Minahil will be continuing her support with coaching cricket at Hodge Hill Girls' School throughout the rest of the Summer term and will also be providing taster cricket sessions within our wellbeing and mindfulness day in July.

The PE department has also signed up the school for "Six4Schools" which is an initiative run by Warwickshire Cricket. This allowed our students and their families to gain access to cricket tickets at Edgbaston at a discounted price. This has been a fantastic opportunity and there are still tickets available in June at a discounted price.



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Pitch2Progress Football club

The PE department have been working closely with Pitch2Progress to provide football opportunities for students. This has kindly been funded by Sport Birmingham for the spring and summer term where we have had football coaches coming into school to coach an after-school football session. We had students from Year 7 to Year 10 joining in and having fun whilst learning new skills at the same time.

Pitch2Progress have also been offering our students the chance to join in their community girls only football session which was held on Sunday mornings where our students had been attending regularly and obtaining extra coaching and support for their football interest. The link within the local community is a fantastic opportunity for our students to be involved in as Pitch2Progress have also offered spaces for their holiday club sessions and opportunities throughout the last few months.



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The Queen's Platinum Jubilee



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations takes place from 2nd - 5th June. On 6th February this year, our Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

When Britain celebrates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with four days of festivities at the beginning of June, it will be an unprecedented event in British history. Never before in these islands has a monarch lived long enough to mark 70 years on the throne. This will be the fourth jubilee that the Queen has celebrated. There will be a service at St Paul's Cathedral in London, a concert outside Buckingham Palace and a pageant. As well as the hundreds of smaller public events taking place, people all around the country will be celebrating in their own special way.

At Hodge Hill Girls' School we have marked this important occasion by decorating our school with jubilee bunting and a special commemorative flag inside our main school foyer. The main dining room has also been decorated with Union flags and our catering team has prepared indoor barbecue style menu choices for our students to enjoy. A special jubilee assembly has also been shared with students to raise awareness and commemorate our Queen's remarkable journey during her time on the throne.



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Holiday Dates

We close for May half term holidays on **Friday 27th May 2022.**

Whole school re-opens to all year groups Monday 6th June 2022.



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