



HODGE HILL GIRLS' SCHOOL

SPRING TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

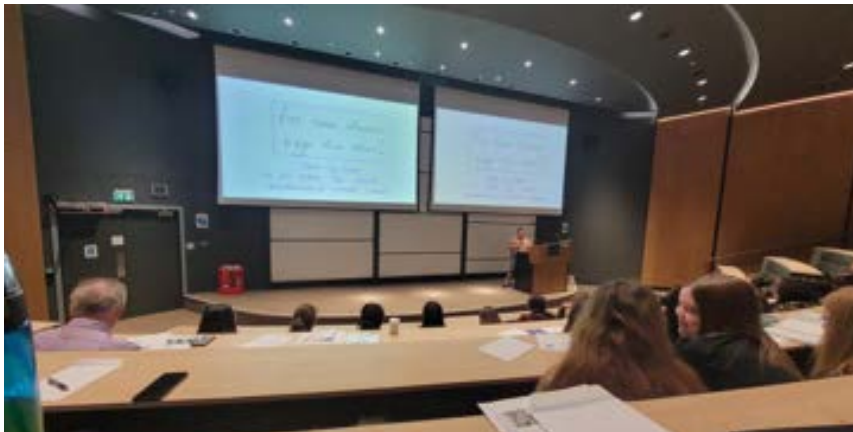
EDUCATING TOMORROW'S WOMEN TODAY



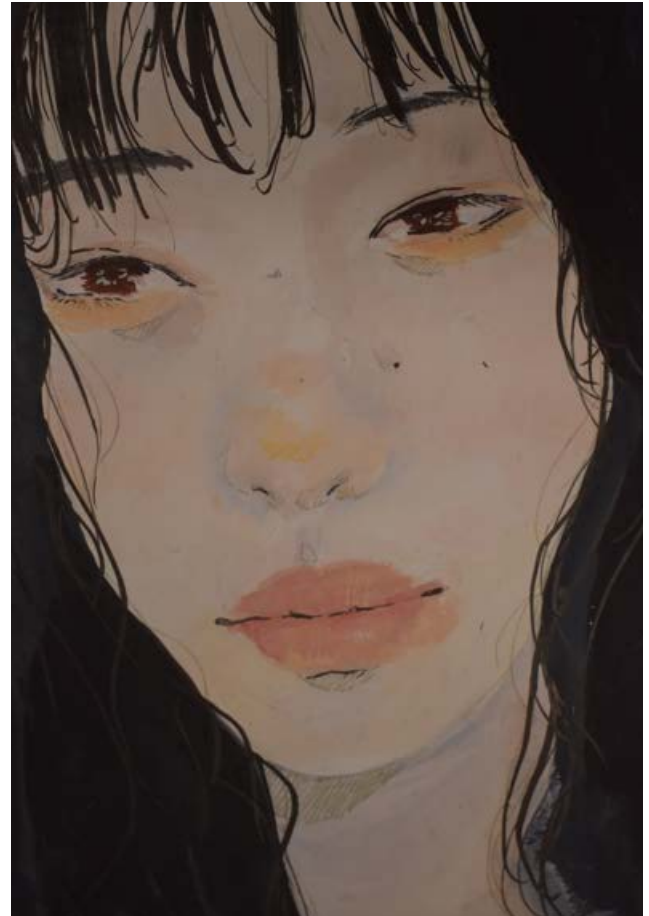
CAREERS FAIR MILLENNIUM POINT - THE PIONEER PROJECT



ONATTI PRODUCTIONS - THE SPANISH PLAY - MI PERSONALIDAD



YEAR 9 MATHS TRIP TO OXFORD UNIVERSITY



YEAR 11 GCSE FINE ART

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HODGEHILLGIRLS



HODGEHILLGIRLS

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the spring term edition of our newsletter. I am delighted to share with you some of the many quality learning opportunities that take place in school and further afield.

Our pupils have benefited from opportunities linked to national initiatives this half term such as Internet Safety, Children's Mental Health Week and the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. It is always rewarding to see our young people grow in terms of their learning and maturity. Pupils take on extra leadership responsibilities in all year groups leading assemblies, helping other pupils and staff throughout the school in their nominated roles. We look forward to expanding these opportunities throughout the year.

A key aspect of school life is celebrating the many successes of our pupils. Pupils are awarded achievement points for good work and positive contributions in and beyond the classroom. So far, this academic year over 14,000 points have been awarded. This is a huge credit to the work of our pupils.

All year groups have been working diligently towards relevant assessments. Year 11 are embedding their revision and study skills as they prepare for their mock exams on our return to school. The GCSE exams are weeks away and we know that hard work and focus at this time will be beneficial in the long term. Year 11 parents evening held in January was a crucial event with teachers able to offer critical feedback on pupil performance.

Further parent evenings will take place for Year 9 pupils and parents next half term as they prepare to select their GCSE options.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support of the school and wish you a pleasant half-term break.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S Adu
Headteacher

WELLBEING AMBASSADORS

MRS S BARRON

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

During this half term we celebrated Mental Health Week in school, this year the theme was 'Let's Connect'.

Our Wellbeing Ambassadors led assemblies throughout the week to all year groups, encouraging all pupils to make new connections and to show the importance of connecting with other people.

The Wellbeing Ambassador's also led activities with the Year 7 pupils at lunch time and created a 'Tree of Dreams'.



Stronger mental health for students means they can learn better and be more likely to realise the full potential of their abilities.

Students' mental health in school is a crucial part of the educational experience.

Ultimately, students with positive mental health can build relationships more effectively, make decisions, and work together. These positive affects support the individual student and their larger community as they enter adulthood.

WELLBEING AMBASSADORS

MRS S BARRON

MENTAL HEALTH POEM

UNDER "HER" MASK...

At night I'll cry, under her mask I'll lie
I'll play with people's minds
In hope to make them blind
So they don't see, such a perfect disguise
With the glitter and the gold
Hiding my teary eyes
In a world that's controlled,

A broken girl falling apart
Hear my heart shatter
I'll wear her disguise so well
Because in this world feelings don't matter
Under her mask, there's a little girl
So frightened, so scared, so unprepared
Once so happy with everything in place
Now I wear a mask to hide my case
Under her mask

They'll wish upon my perfect life
I'll show no sign of weakness at all
They'll finally see there's no paradise
My smile hides my tears
My laugh hides my screams
It's been this way for years
Things are not as what they seem
Feeling low when all around are so high
Smiles surround me but I want to cry
I'll take a breath, and I'll try to change
I'll speak aloud and say "I'm fine"
I'll leave the crowd, and begin to roam
Time flickers by, and I'll make it home
I'll remove my mask and the tears slowly
flow
When will it get better? How will I know?

This goes on repeat, for months on ends
Just need to chat but who is my friend
Tired of deep breaths and wiping tears
Show courage and I'll take on my fears
The mind can make all feel like gloom
The walls close in on a darkened room
Night turns to day, from light to dark
Dig deep with strength and always fight

You may feel scared, and all alone
Share your feelings even if your blue
Talk to a friend, pick up your phone
People care and are here for you...

By Fatima. A



MATHS DEPARTMENT - OXFORD TRIP

MR M ZAMAL & MS M AINGE



MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT TRIP TO OXFORD UNIVERSITY

On Wednesday 11 January 2023, a group of Year 9 pupils were selected to attend Oxford University for a day of maths lectures and activities. The day was designed to inspire young women to pursue Mathematics beyond GCSE and featured workshops, lectures, problem sessions and meeting with some of the university's undergraduate students.

The pupils had a chance to experience lectures which were different to what they have in a normal classroom environment. They were given a lecture on 'Careers in Mathematics' and told about the level of Mathematics required for each career path. In addition, various lectures on the 'Spread on Disease/Information' and on the concept of 'Different Infinities' took place.

Our pupils successfully solved challenging problems during the workshops and demonstrated great enthusiasm, impressing staff from other schools.

The university student panel gave an insight into student life at Oxford including; entry requirements advice, extra-curricular activities and how demanding university life can be.

The day was enjoyed by all, pupils performed confidently and represented themselves and the school superbly.

THOUGHTS FROM PUPILS ABOUT THE DAY:

"The trip was very exciting and informative, and we learned a lot about maths and the jobs you can get involving maths." - Zahra

"My love and passion for Maths has just increased further." - Tasnim

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

MRS E BOLD

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

This year for Holocaust Memorial Day pupils across all year groups were invited to engage in collective reflection on past and current genocides.

On Thursday 27th January 2023, teachers were given the opportunity to display a 20 minute documentary following the stories of a Jewish man, who as a child survived the Holocaust, and the life of a woman who has escaped the genocide in Darfur.

Pupils were invited to reflect on the theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day which is ordinary people. Ordinary people were indoctrinated by the Nazi propaganda machine, ordinary people watched helplessly as their Jewish friends and neighbours were rounded up and sent to squalid ghettos. Ordinary people turned a blind eye as their Jewish colleagues got fired from their jobs and did not attend university.

Ordinary people did not call out prejudice and discrimination as they walked down the street, pretending not to see. Ordinary people claimed to 'just be doing their job' as they supported the efforts of the Nazi's to round up and send Jewish people to extermination camps; railway workers, dentists, doctors.

Ordinary people also hid Jewish people from the Gestapo and shielded them from persecution. Ordinary people also risked their own lives to rescue Jewish people from their fate. Ordinary people showed extraordinary courage and grit in the face of unprecedented cruelty.

As educators, part of our responsibility to our pupils is to encourage the same courage and resolve to call out discrimination when it appears.



In form time, pupils were asked to draw around their own hand and write a pledge in their palm; a pledge to make the world a better place. Our pupils 'hands' have been made into a display in the foyer; a candle which is the symbol of Holocaust Memorial Day.

The 'hands' all overlapping each other to show that we all have a 'hand' in making real change to the prejudice and discrimination present within our communities.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

MS F MOHAMMAD



PREPARATIONS FOR WORLD BOOK DAY

Preparations for World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March 2023 have played a crucial role this term. We are part of a worldwide celebration of books and reading, participated by over a 100 countries around the world.

The school's aim is to promote reading for pleasure by providing every pupil in Years 7-9, with the opportunity of choosing a book of their own choice to keep at home – for free! The reading programme Book Buzz provides our pupils with 17 books to choose from.

In addition, pupils from Years 7-10 have been selected to receive certificates, prizes and celebratory badges to reward their reading efforts this term.

So far, pupils in Years 7-8 have read over 76 million words. A buoyant and competitive reading culture is promoted via Renaissance Reading.

Congratulations to 7H1 and 7G1 as their combined reading exceeds over 19 million words and a pass rate of 66%.

Likewise, 8H3 have made significant strides and improvements in their reading habits by reading over 13 million words, taking more than 650 quizzes with a pass rate of 62%.

However, 8G1 takes first place in the leaderboard with a tremendous effort of over 15 million words read and a pass rate of 74%.

Mi Personalidad

Play in Spanish
for Teenagers



MI PERSONALIDAD (MY PERSONALITY)

The Spanish play is an excellent opportunity for our pupils learning Spanish in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 to boost their confidence by applying their knowledge in a fun way. It is performed by native Spanish actors, who speak slowly and clearly using familiar vocabulary so that learners can follow the story.

This is a play about identity. Fernando is a teenager looking for his own identity. He has started college and is worried about being unable to make new friends.

Helped by several mysterious new acquaintances, he tries out many different personalities.

Sadly, all attempts to reinvent himself end up just frustrating him - but greatly amusing his fellow students!

PUPIL FEEDBACK:

"It was fun to watch the Spanish language come to life."

"The actors were really friendly and fun to watch."



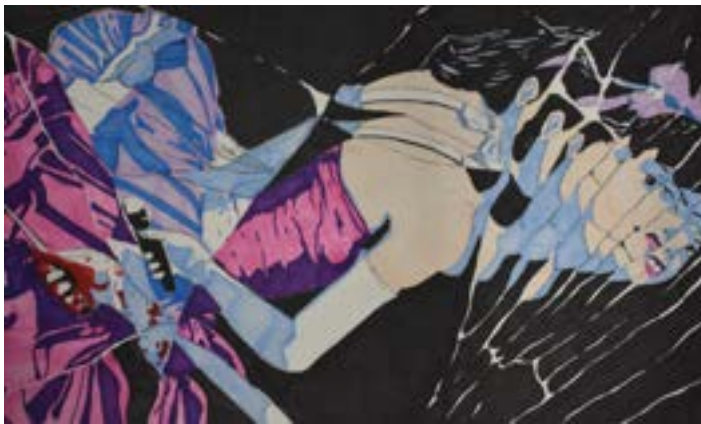
ART DEPARTMENT

MRS R CORSER

GCSE FINE ART

GCSE Fine Art students who completed their GCSEs in 2022, returned to collect the coursework. The Art Department would like to share a selection of their work with you to celebrate their fantastic achievements with 81% of the group gaining a grade 4 or above.

What talent we have at Hodge Hill Girls' School!



P.E DEPARTMENT

MRS S WALKER/MRS S BARRON



LUNCHTIME SPORTS ACTIVITIES

This term the P.E department has arranged for pupils to be able to access sporting equipment at lunchtimes.

The Wellbeing Ambassadors have started strong and have been supervising and leading fun, physical activities for all pupils to participate in if they wish. The sporting equipment is there for "free play" too, so some pupils may choose to do some skipping or throwing and catching with their friends.

It is so lovely to see so many pupils taking part at lunchtimes and having fun.

This also supports the PE department and the whole school's mission to give opportunities for all pupils to be active for 60 minutes a day. Every minute counts to becoming more healthy and active which should improve physical and mental wellbeing.

There will be more challenges and fun activities for the pupils to participate in starting in March.

We hope to see many more pupils joining in after half term.



CAREERS & WORK RELATED LEARNING



This half term has been an exciting time for careers and work-related learning.

'LEARN TO WORK'

Year 10 pupils have been working hard to find their own work experience placements. 'Learn to Work' have visited the school and met Year 10 pupils in assemblies to encourage, and give advice on how to find placements.

PIONEER PROJECT

A select group of Year 11 pupils have been working with the Pioneer Project. They have regular sessions on a Monday evening in which pupils learn about careers paths and how to achieve their career goals.

The group went on a trip to Millennium Point this term in which they listened to inspiring talks from a number of employers and had opportunities to talk to employers and hand in their CV's which they prepared in advance.

The school had very positive feedback from pupils who attended and said that they found the experience very useful. Pupils have also been having one to one interviews with the employers from the Pioneer Project, giving them feedback on their interview skills and supported pupils when they apply for post-16 education.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

It was National Apprenticeship Week this term. There were a number of virtual workshops which pupils took part in.

Pupils had various form time activities and had opportunities to listen to different employers and apprentices. They also learned about what apprenticeships are, where you can find them and what T Levels are. It was a busy schedule with at least two workshops taking place everyday. Feedback from pupils indicated that they felt more confident about what apprenticeships are and how to access them.

PIONEER PROJECT TRIP

PIONEER PROJECT EDUCATIONAL VISIT- FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY 2023

On Friday 20th January 2023, it was a pleasure to take a group of Year 11 pupils to a Careers Fair at Millennium Point as part of the Pioneer Project.

The Pioneer Project is aimed at providing an insight into a wide range of careers and opportunities available post-16, as well as coming together with employers to voice their need for change when looking for work.

In return employers listen and adapt their outreach and way of working to reflect the needs of young people.

The day was hosted by Satnam Rana, a former BBC news presenter who talked about her career pathway and making her dreams a reality even when her choices were not deemed achievable back then. Pupils then took part in a workshop that investigated what barriers are faced by young people and presented their ideas to a wide range of businesses in the hope of them taking action.

"Talking to businesses and challenging them about what we as students feel they should be offering to us to make applying easier was super helpful today and I hope they left with ideas how to reach out to young people in the future when they have vacancies." (K.A, Year 11).

Pupils had the honour of meeting the inspiring, influential, social media star Elfried Samba who took them on a journey of hope and that making meaningful connections lead to successful outcomes.

Pupils left the exhibition area on a positive note, with many aspects to consider in the future with their post-16 choices.



CHILLAX - LUNCHTIME CLUB

CHILLAX

The Chillax Lunchtime Club has remained very popular for pupils during lunch times.

This half term, pupils have explored new activities which aid positive mental health and wellbeing such as crocheting and knitting.

The school is always evaluating different ways pupils can unwind and relax with friends by encouraging and introducing new activities and skills to learn.

PUPIL FEEDBACK:

"The Learning Hub is nice to go to. We have different activities to play games or knitting/crochet. We also have access to laptops."

"Chillax is the most fun experience because it allows students to relax, enjoy, eat, and play with others. Chillax provides many activities that are good for mental wellbeing and provide relaxation."

"Chillax is a comfortable place where we can relax and have fun. There are loads of activities and games to play and one of the best experiences."

"Chillax is an extraordinary, fun experience that helps people be free to be who they are and you can do many activities and enjoy time with you friends."





HODGE HILL GIRLS' SCHOOL

EDUCATING TOMORROW'S WOMEN TODAY

SPRING TERM

Half Term: Monday 20th February 2023 to Friday 24th February 2023

Final Term begins: Monday 27th February 2023

End of Spring Term: Friday 31st March 2023

SUMMER TERM

Summer Term starts: Monday 17th April 2023

Bank Holiday - Monday 1st May 2023

Bank Holiday (King Charles III Coronation) - Monday 8th May 2023

Half Term: Monday 29th May 2023 to Friday 2nd June 2023

Final Term starts Monday 5th June 2023

Teacher Training Day - Monday 26th June 2023

End of Summer Term: Tuesday 25th July

HAPPY
Holidays

CONTACT US

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