

AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER

NEWS, HIGHLIGHTS AND UPDATES FOR PARENTS/CARERS



YEAR 11 MADE REVISION WORKSHOP



BUSINESS STUDIES TRIP TO COLMORE ROW



NHS SURGEON WORKSHOP



BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS TRIP



ENTERPRISE CHARITY FUNDRAISING

Message from the Headteacher

MRS S ADU

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very busy Autumn term here at Hodge Hill Girls' School. We have welcomed a range of visitors to the school as well as enjoying trips and reward events. Our end of term newsletter highlights some of the many enriching and positive activities that our pupils have experienced. Hodge Hill Girls' School provides an exciting place to learn, and it is always lovely to see our pupils flourish and thrive.

Our Year 7 pupils have settled into the routines of secondary school, proudly wearing our school uniform, and forming new friendships. The Year 11 pupils have been involved in their preparation for life after Hodge Hill Girls' School and have recently received their mock exam results. Pupils in all year groups are aiming high and so many pupils have been rewarded for excellent standards of work, behaviour, effort, and attendance. Congratulations to Maryam in Year 10, who represented England in the World Kick Boxing Championship, winning several medals and being an excellent role model to our school community. We have been so impressed with her dedication to the sport and ability to juggle her studies. We look forward to following her future success.

I am incredibly grateful to our dedicated staff who are fully committed to 'Educating Tomorrow's Women Today', always going the extra mile to support our pupils and enrich their lives. At the end of term, we will wish Miss Murray a 'Happy Retirement'. Miss Murray is a Hodge Hill Girl through and through. She attended the school as a pupil and spent her working days as an employee of the school. She has dedicated 48 years of her life to her role as Laboratory Technician and her commitment and love for the school and our pupils has shone through every day. We will miss her positive attitude and enthusiasm as we wish her all the very best in her retirement. We also say goodbye and good luck to Mrs Qureshi our longstanding Exams Officer as she moves to pastures new. We are sure that she will be successful in her new role and thank her for her hard work during her 17 years here.

I hope that you and your families have a wonderful break and wish you peace, joy and kindness.

We look forward to welcoming our pupils back on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Merry Christmas from all of us at Hodge Hill Girls' School.

Mrs S Adu
Headteacher

Working in Partnership with Parents

DR N MALIK

Year 6 Open Evening

We were thrilled to host our 'Open Evening' on the 2nd of October 2023, offering an invaluable opportunity for Year 6 families to explore our school site. During this event, pupils were actively engaged in various enlightening activities, including hands-on science experiments, crafting personalised keyrings and badges in our Design and Technology workshop.

Our visitors had the privilege to gain a deeper understanding of our comprehensive curriculum offer and meet our teaching staff. This interaction provided a platform for open discussions and inquiries, ensuring that families were well-informed about the journey our school offers.

The 'Open Evening' was an enriching experience for both prospective pupils and their families, giving them a glimpse into the vibrant and engaging learning environment that our school provides. We look forward to welcoming these enthusiastic future pupils into our school community.

Year 7 Virtual Parent Settling in Evening

On the 2nd of October 2023, our Year 7 form tutors held a virtual settling in meeting with the families of our Year 7 pupils. These meetings served as a valuable platform for fostering a strong home-school partnership and ensuring a smooth transition for our new pupils into secondary school life. During these meetings, our form tutors shared valuable feedback with parents, offering insights into how their daughters were adapting to their new environment and the challenges and opportunities that secondary school life brings.

This communication helped parents gain a deeper understanding of their child's initial experiences, friendships, and overall well-being within the school community. Additionally, parents were encouraged to share any further information or insights about their children that could assist in providing tailored support.

By engaging in this collaborative dialogue, we aimed to create a supportive and nurturing atmosphere where both parents and the school work together to ensure the best possible educational experience for each student.

Working in Partnership with Parents

MRS N MALIK

Learning Performance:

Our ongoing partnership with Learning Performance has extended its impact across multiple year groups. Year 11, 10, 9, and 8 pupils have participated in 'Growth Mindset' workshops. These workshops were designed to not only inspire and motivate pupils but also to empower them with essential skills for maximising their learning potential, ultimately enabling them to attain their best possible academic results.

Furthermore, we extended our outreach to Year 7 and 8 parents, who had the opportunity to attend workshops alongside their daughters. These parent workshops covered key topics, including 'Supporting your daughter with learning at home,' 'Supporting your daughter with numeracy at home,' and 'Supporting your daughter with literacy at home.' The feedback from both parents and their daughters has been overwhelmingly positive. They expressed their intention to put into practice the knowledge and skills they gained, emphasising the importance of effective planning, goal setting, and memory techniques to facilitate substantial academic progress.

This collaborative effort between pupils, parents, and the school community is fostering a supportive and enriching learning environment for all involved.





WKO Kickboxing Champion

PARENT OF MARYAM . S (Y10)

Maryam has been training at her kickboxing gym for 5 years now. She began when she was only 9 years of age , training more than 18 hours a week. Maryam has juggled school work, mosque studies, and her sports training. Kickboxing is a big part of her life, it has taught her discipline and perseverance.

Maryam decided to start competing to fight in open competitions the beginning of 2023. She has gone from strength to strength by competing with fighters who are much more experienced than her. With losses and triumphs she trained to compete in both the WKO world championships in July 2023 where she was awarded 2 gold medals.

She later trained as part of the England ICO team to compete in the ICO championships in Hull, England. She trained inside and outside the gym putting in 18 + hours a week. Maryam represented her country and came back from Hull in October 2023 with 1 Gold and 2 Silver medals.



Year 11 MADE Revision Workshop

DR N MALIK

At the beginning of the term, our Year 11 pupils participated in an interactive MADE workshop. During this session, they gained valuable insights, acquired practical tools, and learned effective strategies aimed at equipping them with a diverse set of revision skills. These skills encompass the ability to comprehend, analyse, and simplify complex information, as well as developing memory techniques.

Additionally, they received guidance on proficiently organising and optimising their time, placing themselves in a better position for their mock exams and in the long term their external GCSE exams.

Online Learning Platforms

As a school we subscribe to various learning platforms to support pupil progress: GCSE pod, Tassomai and Sparx Maths. Independent evidence shows on average using online platform's helps users achieve one grade higher on average than non-users. Pupil usage of these platforms is closely monitored, and top pupil users are rewarded for accessing and using the platforms to support their learning. Since the beginning of term, pupils have accessed 1814 GCSE pods, Year 9 pupils are currently the highest users having accessed 855 GCSE pods. The top four popular subjects are Maths, History, English Literature and Geography.



Breast Cancer Awareness: Pamper Hampers

MRS S BARRON

To mark Breast Cancer Awareness month, we brought back our popular pamper hampers and raised over £300.00 in 4 days, which is an amazing achievement.

The school house leaders worked hard to not only make the hampers but then to give up their free time to sell raffle tickets. We would like to say a big thank you to all pupils and staff who not only bought in items to create the hampers, but also to those they help support raising money for breast cancer.

A big congratulations to all the winners and we hope you enjoyed pampering yourself with the winnings.

Thank you for showing your PRIDE values and helping the school to make a big difference in the community.

Look out for more charity events in 2024!

"Fundraising is the gentle art of teaching the joy of giving." – Hank Rosso.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

MR J DEPREZ

On September 25th, Year 10 GCSE Three-Dimensional Design, Photography and Fine Art pupils visited the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham in support of their GCSE Component 1 coursework project.

Pupils were given various tasks in which they observed and recorded all aspects of the gardens. They used cameras and sketching to capture their experiences that will be used to inform projects relating to natural forms, architecture, botanical studies, repeat pattern and jewellery design.

PUPIL FEEDBACK

The botanical gardens trip was an amazing opportunity for those who chose ADC subjects for their GCSEs, as it had a lot to offer. Whilst we were at the botanical gardens, I felt as though I had travelled all over the world in just one day- this just proves how great my experience had been. We had the opportunity to explore the unique and fascinating glass houses, showcasing the atmosphere of a typical tropical rainforest- that was where I enjoyed it the most as we got to see koi fish. Throughout the visit, we had managed to capture pictures of the topical, arid, subtropical and Mediterranean house; allowing us to photograph a wide range of observational images to utilise within our coursework.

Tasnim. S - Year 10



Year 7/8 Arts & Crafts Club

MS B ASLAM

After conducting a pupil voice questionnaire, we discovered there was a demand for an after school club where pupils can take part in art, crafts and well-being activities. The arts and crafts club was established in November 2023 and has been enjoyed by many pupils and staff! From creating art with fresh flower petals and leaves, to designing Christmas wishes for display in our foyer area. Pupils also take part in fun ice breaker activities and we end each session with affirmations and reflection. Art club is open to Year 7 and 8 and runs every Thursday from 14:45-15:45. We hope to see you there!

PUPIL FEEDBACK

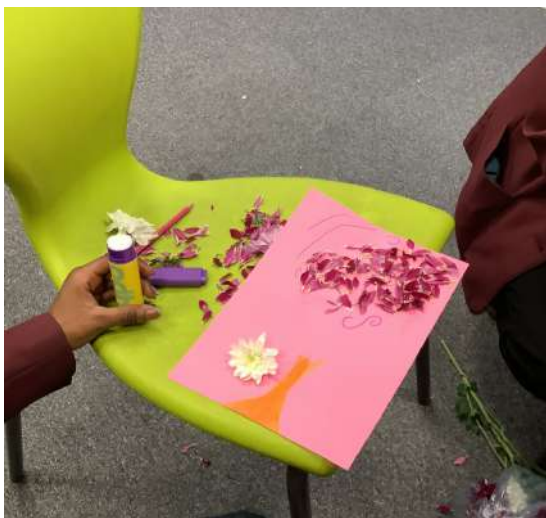
"I love being in school after all my normal lessons to relax with Ms Aslam and my friends."

"Ms Aslam encourages us to make new friends."

"I have made friends in different year groups because of Arts & Crafts club."

"Ms Aslam encouraged me to express myself using art."

"It's nice to relax after school and do something different to normal lessons."



Magistrate Court Judges

MRS S BARRON

For part of our Year 11 GCSE Citizenship learning pupils were visited by a range of Judges, including a magistrate judge, county judge and immigration judges.



The judges began their session by getting pupils involved in performing a mock trial of a real-life case that would go to magistrates court. The judges shared more details about their roles with pupils, and the experience they have gained from them. Pupils were given the opportunity to ask any questions and find out how the legal system works, which helped them to link their classroom learning to real life situations.

It was a great opportunity to welcome our visitors and we will be inviting more judges back in future to speak to current Year 10 pupils to really help bring their learning to life. We thank the judges for an informative morning and look forward to welcoming them back.



Wellbeing Ambassadors

MRS S BARRON

On 21st September 2023, our Year 10 Well Being Ambassadors had the opportunity to attend a training session with NHS asthma nurse specialist. As part of this training they learnt all about asthma and how the living environment can have an impact on it. The aim of the session was for the Wellbeing Ambassadors to become asthma champions and for Hodge Hill Girls School to become an asthma friendly school. We are hoping to ensure that any present or future pupils who have asthma will feel safe and cared for in our school.

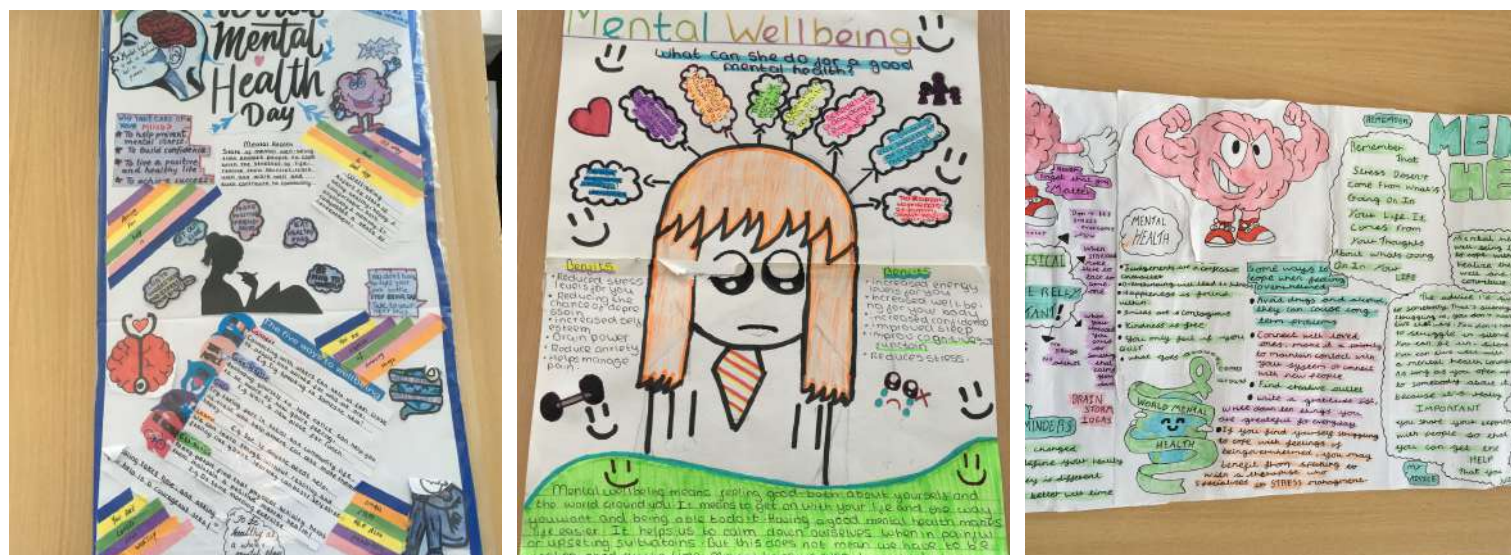
Our Well Being Ambassadors will now be able to not only create an assembly and workshop in HHGS, but will also have the opportunity to attend local primary schools and present all the important information they have learned.

Feedback from NHS staff was extremely positive. Visitors said that the pupils at HHGS were some of the best they have ever worked with and would love to return soon.

Well done to those involved!



“Wellness is the compete integration of body, mind, and spirit - the realisation that everything we do, think, feel, and believe has an effect on our state of well-being.”- Greg Anderson



World Mental Health Day: Poster Competition Winners

MRS S BARRON

To celebrate World Mental Health Day 2023, we asked all pupils to take part in a poster competition to illustrate what Mental Health means to them. After careful deliberation, we reached our winners. Winning pupils were asked to detail why they believe Mental Health is so important:

"The reason why I have created a poster about Mental health is to raise awareness and to visually communicate key messages about mental health. And to even promote the understanding of the importance of mental health issues which others could be struggling with and help them by explaining that mental health is a vital aspect of overall well-being. My aim and the importance of mental health day is to contribute to a more supportive and empathetic community, where individuals feel comfortable seeking help and where we all prioritise mental health as an integral part of our daily lives. Together, we can foster an environment that encourages open conversations, reduces stigma and promotes the well-being of everyone."

Abieha . F - Year 10

"I created this poster to spread awareness about world mental health day as few people prioritise their mental health which can have a negative impact in everything they do."

Hafsa . N - Year 9

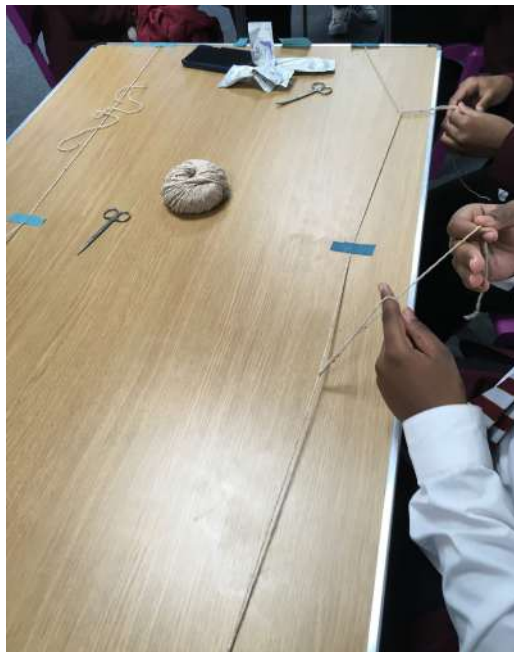
"Anything that's human is mentionable, and anything that is mentionable can be more manageable. When we can talk about our feelings, they become less overwhelming, less upsetting, and less scary." - Fred Rogers

NHS Surgeon Workshop



MRS S BARRON

Twenty pupils were selected from KS3 and KS4 to be involved in an informative workshop led by two NHS surgeons. The workshop covered details about hand injuries, and how some people who cannot control their emotions can possibly create lasting damage to their hands. Pupils were then split into groups and learned how to stitch and suture as if they were real surgeons! All pupils did a great job during the workshop and enjoyed learning a new skill. We extend our thanks to the NHS surgeons for taking time out of their busy schedule to help support HHGS pupils.



DLP Project

MRS D LODGE

We are proud to be part of the DLP Project (Developing Local Provision) in Birmingham.

What is DLP?

Developing Local Provision (DLP) is a key part of the SEND improvement programme in Birmingham. It is a two-year project which aims to support and improve progress and outcomes for children and young people with additional needs or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in schools across the city.

As part of the project, we will be working with a number of external school support partners specialising in the following areas; increasing children's self-esteem, confidence and managing emotions, building positive behaviour and relationships, social, emotional and wellbeing strategies, how to cope with stress and anxiety and developing skills to enhance concentration to positively impact on learning and achievement.

At Hodge Hill Girls' School the wellbeing, happiness and success of our pupils is at the heart of all we do. While the focus is on SEND pupils, our aim is to ensure that all our pupils benefit from the strategies and skills that the DLP Project will promote and embed. All pupils will also take part in a Performance Learning questionnaire enabling them to self-reflect and gain an in depth understanding into how they can improve their wellbeing and reach their full personal and academic potential.

We are very much looking forward to working with our partners and pupils on this exciting project and will keep you updated with any further information and developments.



Aspirations Day

DR N MALIK

Aspirations Day took place on Thursday 23rd November 2023. This a drop-down day, where pupils follow a special timetable. A range of activities were organised for each year group which were facilitated by both school staff and outside providers.

Year 7 and 8

A range of activities were organised for Year 7 and 8 pupils which included a Learning Performance workshop. The workshop covered a range of topics centred around goal setting and developing a growth mindset for a successful future.

Year 7 and 8 pupils also participated in a range of workshops facilitated by their teachers: careers in languages, what does a Biomedical Scientist, Archaeologist and Meteorologist do? These workshops aimed to raise awareness and improve understanding of careers using Modern Foreign Languages, Science, History, and Geography.

Some Year 8 pupils participated in the National Health Service (NHS) Careers Competition which is designed to help raise career aspirations and awareness of the breadth of 350 careers available in the NHS.

Other Year 7 pupils attended the 'Careers Connect' workshop which raised awareness of the range of different career sectors.



Aspirations Day

DR N MALIK

Year 9

The primary focus for Year 9 pupils on Aspirations Day was to begin to consider a range of different career options which may support them to make informed GCSE option choices.

Pupils began their day by attending a talk provided by NHS professionals, this included a NHS board director, a Doctor, a Pharmacist and a Psychologist who spoke in depth about their role and responsibilities.

Year 9 pupils also participated in the Careers Convention where several different colleges, universities and apprenticeship providers showcased their courses and entry requirements.

In addition, Year 9 pupils attended a motivating and inspiring workshop ran by Learning Performance which aimed to give Year 9 the skill-set to reach their full potential.

Year 9 pupils were also involved in a range of activities run by their teachers across the Art and Design Faculty which supported raising awareness of careers in this field, and providing pupils with the opportunity to consider the course as a potential option choice.

Some pupils finished the day by participating the NHS Careers Competition which is designed to help raise career aspirations and awareness of the breadth of 350 careers available in the NHS.



Aspirations Day

DR N MALIK

Year 10

Year 10 started Aspirations Day by focusing on work experience. Mr Marshall from 'Learn to Work' discussed the opportunity, necessary requirements, and expectations to support finding a successful placement.

All Year 10 pupils attended the careers convention using the opportunity to research and find out about the types of courses run by colleges and universities. They also attended a session run by 'University of Birmingham' where the primary purpose was to inform pupils about 'life at university' and the elevated opportunities offered by completing a degree course.

In addition, pupils listened to a speaker from The Severn Trent Water who ran workshop on careers and the science of sewage, this formed part of their GCSE Science course.

Year 10 completed the day with their English teachers who ran a workshop on the importance of high aspirations, even when facing adversity.



Aspirations Day

DR N MALIK

Year 11

As Year 11 pupils progress through their final year at our school their priority for Aspirations Day was to consider their next steps and plan for their future.

Pupils attended the Careers Convention where several different colleges, universities and apprenticeship providers showcased their courses and entry requirements.

A large proportion of the day was given to pupils to either begin, or complete their college applications. Pupils were supported with the process by their Form group tutors.

In addition, the pupils Maths teachers ran a workshop on budgeting with the aim of improving financial literacy. An example of this was reading bank statements, understanding terms such as deposit, credit, debt, bank transfer and transaction. This was well received by all pupils.

A small group of Year 11 attended Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College to introduce them to the dynamic world of higher education. This provided the opportunity to explore the diverse range of post 16- courses, and the opportunity to witness a different setting to support their next transition.



Careers

MS N NAZISH

Post-16 Evening

At the beginning of the academic year, we held Post-16 evening. All Year 11 pupils and parents were invited to listen to various colleges and apprenticeship providers. Each provider spent time informing parents about the post-16 options available to them, and then had an opportunity to speak to individual providers at their stands.

Black History Month

October was black history month. Staff were sent links for virtual workshops about inspirational black people, to watch with their classes.

Green Careers Week

6-11 November 2023 was Green Careers Week, links for virtual workshops for staff to watch with classes about sustainable careers, to inspire them to go into Careers which will help our planet.

Year 11 Post-16 Options

- Job of the week goes out every Monday to Year 11 pupils and is part of our weekly bulletin.
- Regular emails are sent to Year 11 pupils and parents about open days to colleges.
- Year 11 pupils have one to one interviews with an independent careers adviser, in which time they can speak to the adviser about possible post-16 options.

Pioneer Project

We are currently working with Pioneer Project to reduce the numbers of NEET pupils. The school was visited by a member of the Pioneer Project on Aspirations Day to introduce the project which will begin after the Christmas break.



Aim Higher: Aston University

MRS N MALIK

The school is very fortunate to be working alongside the Aim Higher University outreach programme run by Aston University.

Aim Higher West Midlands is a partnership of universities working to support learners who face a number of challenges to broaden their horizons and make informed decisions about their future educational and career choices.

Several Year 9 pupils are being mentored by Aston University students. Mentoring sessions emphasise and focus on aspiring, raising awareness, linking attainment and successful applications to access University





House Groups

MRS S BARRON

This term has been busy for our House Group leaders and captains. We have had a fantastic term for charity events and the annual Aston and Nechells Food Bank collection didn't miss the mark! We'd like to thank all pupils, parents and staff for donating a staggering 230kg worth of food and toiletries to those in need. Winners from the food bank competition, these form groups collected the most amount of food for each year group:

- 7W
- 8W
- 9W
- 10C
- 11C

A message from Aston and Nechells Food Bank :

"Dear Pupils, Staff and Parents,

On behalf of Aston & Nechells Foodbank I would like to thank you all for the wonderful donations recently received. They weighed 231.30kg.

Since the onset of the economic crisis 12 months ago, the numbers asking for emergency food parcels have nearly doubled and sadly show no sign of reducing. So everything received is very much appreciated and in due course will be given out to families and individuals in crisis need.

Wishing everyone at Hodge Hill Girls School a Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year"

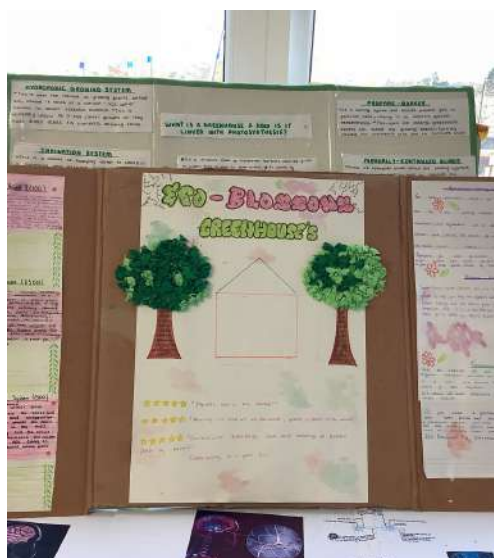


English Department

MRS N ARSHAD

We are excited to share with you the highlights of our recent Aspirations Day, where our pupils had the opportunity to design and construct their very own hot air balloons. Throughout the day, our pupils demonstrated their creativity and problem-solving abilities as they carefully crafted their balloon designs. They employed various techniques such as measuring, cutting, and assembling materials to construct the framework of their balloons. Additionally, they utilised their artistic skills to decorate their balloons with vibrant colours and patterns, making each one unique and eye-catching.

Pupils were encouraged to think deeply about how they would achieve their goals and had the chance to share and discuss their aspirations with each other. The enthusiasm and determination displayed by our pupils throughout the day were truly remarkable. They embraced the challenge of designing and constructing their hot air balloons with great enthusiasm, and their hard work paid off as they witnessed their creations take flight. We believe that activities like the Aspirations Day not only foster creativity and problem-solving but also inspire our pupils to dream big and reach for the sky.



Science Department

MS N EGEH

Inspiring Talks from Engineering and Construction Experts:

The Science Department was honoured to host esteemed speakers from the fields of engineering and construction, providing pupils with valuable insights into these dynamic industries. The talks aimed not only to broaden scientific horizons but also to raise aspirations, encouraging pupils to consider exciting career paths in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The sessions left our pupils sparking conversations about the possibilities within future STEM careers.

Whole School 3D Cell Model Competition:

The Science Department organised a Whole School Competition for pupils in Year 7 to Year 11. The challenge was to produce a 3D model of a human cell, showcasing not only scientific accuracy but also artistic flair. The response was overwhelming, with entries pouring in that reflected the dedication and ingenuity of our students.

Celebrating Creativity and Knowledge:

After much anticipation, the competition winners were announced, and their exceptional efforts were celebrated. Prizes, including gift vouchers of up to £25, were awarded to those whose 3D cell models stood out for their innovation, attention to detail, and overall excellence. Well done!

Science Department: Tassomai

MS N EGEH



What is Tassomai?

Tassomai isn't just any old learning tool; it's your secret weapon to mastering science in the coolest way possible. Imagine a place where science is as fun as your favorite game, and you're getting pretty close to Tassomai!





How Does It Work?

Picture this: tiny quizzes, big knowledge gains. Tassomai serves up bite-sized questions that fit your style, adapting to what you need to learn. It's like having a personal science wizard, but way more fun.

Why is it Important?

Because Tassomai is your ticket to being a science rockstar! You get to learn at your own pace, understand tricky concepts with ease, and boost your confidence – all while having a blast.

Cool Features:

1.  **Adaptive Learning:** Tassomai knows you inside out, focusing on what you need to ace.
2.  **Microlearning Magic:** Short quizzes, big brainpower. Learn a little every day, and watch the magic happen.
3.  **Feedback Fun:** Instant feedback on your quizzes means you know what's up. It's like having a high-tech science coach cheering you on.
4.  **Anytime, Anywhere Access:** Tassomai is your 24/7 science sidekick.

Top 10 Users Autumn 2023:

Liba . S - (Y8)

Iqra . S - (Y7)

Sawera . J - (Y8)

Yasmeen . B - (Y8)

Fathima . A - (Y7)

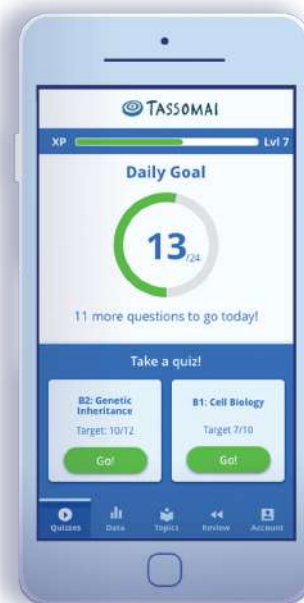
Aqsa . N - (Y7)

Sahar . J - (Y8)

Khadija . H - (Y7)

Areeba . M - (Y8)

Jessica . R - (Y7)



Maths Department: Sparx

MISS M AINGE



Sparx Maths is an online Mathematics program that improves pupils' progress in maths through personalised learning.

Pupils receive individualised homework which is challenging but achievable for them, improving their progress and attainment in maths. They can also use Sparx to extend their knowledge through independent learning. All work completed earns them XP points.

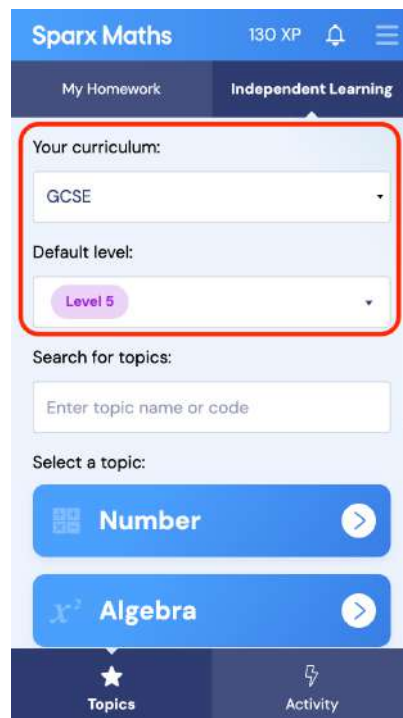
Homework is aligned to the scheme of learning (SOL) the school is following and is automatically set and marked every week. Sparx provides detailed lesson outlines, supported by thousands of carefully crafted questions and video tutorials – covering the KS3 and GCSE curricula – that encourage independent learning.

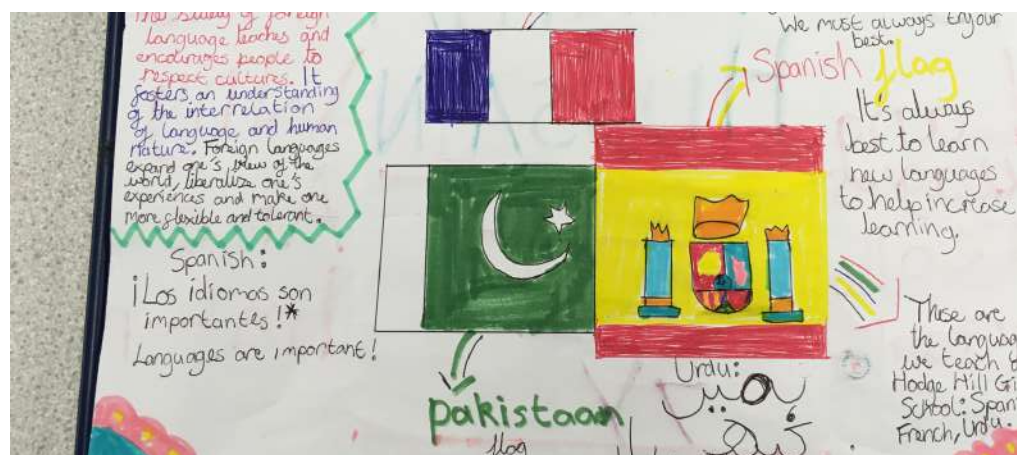
Highlights

- Since September 343 pupils have completed all homework set with 100% of questions set answered correctly.
- Over 800000 questions have been answered correctly.
- HHGS is in the top 10% of users globally.

Top 10 Users Autumn 2023:

Faiza . S - (Y7)
Hafsah . A - (Y8)
Fathima . A - (Y7)
Umm-Ayman . A - (Y9)
Zulaykha . A - (Y8)
Maryam . A - (Y7)
Lyba . A - (Y10)
Hafsa . N - (Y9)
Azrah . A - (Y7)
Ameera . S - (Y7)





MFL Department

MISS L BALLARD

As always, it has been a busy term in the MFL faculty. We have welcomed a new cohort of Year 7 pupils who are settling in well in French, Spanish and Urdu lessons, and they are now able to greet people and write full sentences in their chosen languages describing themselves and their families.

On 26th September 2023, we celebrated European Day of Languages. In our assemblies and form time, we raised awareness of the importance of learning languages in today's world and we celebrated our linguistic diversity as a community.

We ran a poster competition, and the winner was Izzah A (Y9), and runners-up were Laiba S (Y8) and Maria H (Y7). Well done to all pupils involved!

MFL Department

MISS L BALLARD

For Aspirations Day 2023, we delivered sessions for Year 8 pupils about careers using languages. We looked at linguistic and cultural diversity across the world, and different career paths where languages are useful and provide a competitive edge when applying for jobs, even if your language skills are only conversational (GCSE level).

In December 2023, we ran a Christmas Card competition in MFL, where pupils in all year groups were invited to submit entries in any language (other than English!). We received entries in French, Russian, Spanish, German, Arabic, Korean, Vietnamese, Portuguese, Urdu, and Albanian! It was wonderful to see our pupils' designs in such a wide variety of languages, and it was very difficult for staff in the MFL faculty to choose the winners.

The winning entry was from Mame S (Y9). The runner ups were Maryum A (Y10) and Abieha F (Y10). See their creative designs below:



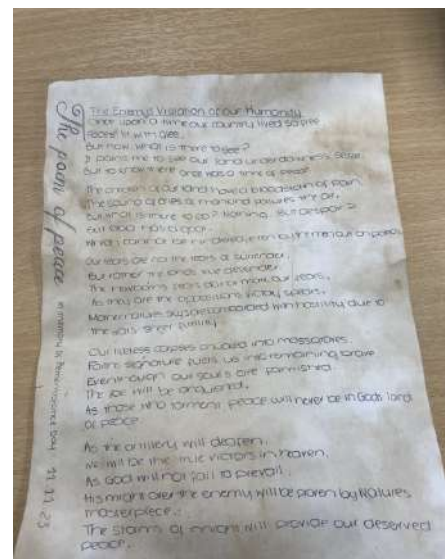
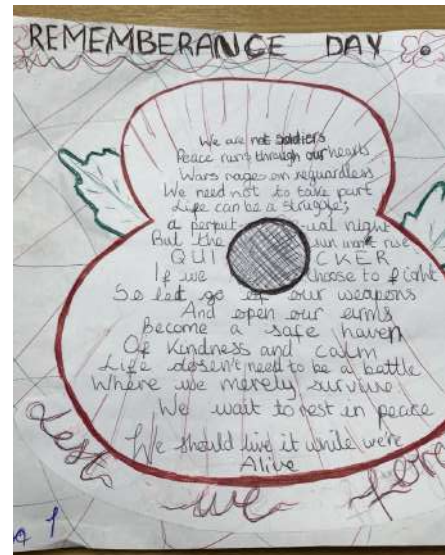
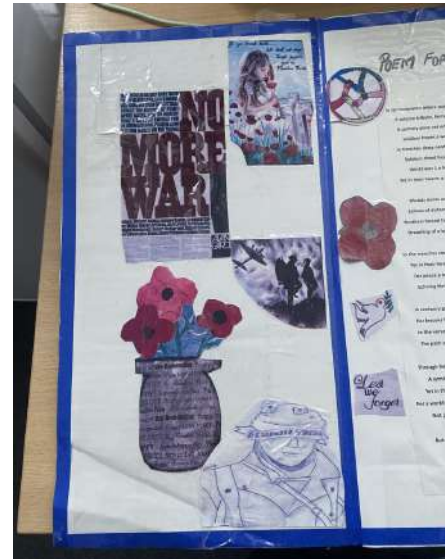
MRS E BOLD

The soldiers of World War One wrote about their desire for peace and harmony and their poetry is still studied over 100 years on from the event. Throughout history people have always used poetry as a powerful vehicle to make the world a better place by bringing important issues into view.

From the 40 entries it was narrowed down to 12 shortlisted. However, there could only be 5 winners who would receive a £10 voucher each.

Our winners for the Poetry Competition 2023 were:

- Halimah . H - (Y9)
- Mishel . M - (Y10)
- Mahek . H - (Y8)
- Haniyyah . I - (Y8)
- Rumaisa . S - (Y7)



Business Studies Department

MRS C BROOKS

It was a privilege for HHGS to arrange a local business opportunity for Year 11 Business Studies pupils to visit a prestigious City Centre business office and experience what it is like to work for well-known businesses.

The aim was to enable pupils to not only hear the theory of business in the classroom, but before they leave school to see it in operation. The three businesses that opened their doors to us at Hodge Hill Girls School were RSM UK, Knight Frank & Handelsbanken all based within the beautiful building at 103 Colmore Row, Birmingham.

When we arrived, the pupils signed in and were taken to the 10th floor where they had a warm welcome from all businesses and ran through the activities for the day.

Pupils were split into three groups and each spent 40 mins with each business where they learnt about what they do in their day-to-day roles, and how important it is for the business world.

Most importantly, Year 11 pupils were told about what they would need to acquire in their GCSE's in order to enter any one of the industries – Accountancy, Property Management and Banking. Within the Business curriculum pupils learn about Operations, Human Resources, and Business Finance - this tied in nicely to practically see how they use it in business studies.

During their break for lunch, pupils sat down to eat overlooking Birmingham skyscrapers. The day came to an end and the businesses kindly gifted all pupils a bag of goodies to take away with them. The businesses hope to forge a relationship with HHGS pupils and facilitate a career in the business world.



Art Department

MS R CORSER

Year 7

Year 7 pupils have focused on the introduction to developing observational skills using a range of materials & techniques. The project then develops to use their observations for designing and creating their own fantastic beast inspired by nature, using three-dimensional skills gained with clay.



Year 7 pupils use the technique Exquisite Corpse a collaborative drawing approach first used by surrealist artists to create bizarre and intuitive drawings which supported the idea of combining observations together to create a new creature. Pictured above and below are the imaginative and quirky beasts created by Year 7 pupils!



This project makes links to a range of creative careers, such as Model Makers, Botanical Illustrator, Colour Technologist, VFX Artist, Potter, Illustrator hopefully highlighting the diverse career opportunities Art and Design supports.

Art Department

MS R CORSER

Year 8

Year 8 pupils have been looking at landscapes and mark making with the project starting off with some observational drawings, followed by a mark making session where pupils experiment with different tools & materials to see what marks they can create. These marks can then be used to develop a landscape later in the project.



Following on from mark making Year 8 pupils have studied the colour wheel and colour mixing. Pupils moved on to paint an imaginary landscape making sure that the background is the lightest colour and the colours get darker, ensuring that the foreground uses the darkest tone to represent depth in the landscape.



Throughout this project, Year 8 are introduced to further links to creative careers, such as Landscape architects, Architect & Fine Artist. Inspired by a range of artists and mark making, Year 8 pupils concluded the project by creating their own landscapes.

Art Department

MS R CORSER

Year 9

Year 9 pupils have been studying Vanitas. Beginning in the 16th century, Vanitas is still life artwork which includes various symbolic objects designed to remind the viewer of their mortality, and of the worthlessness of worldly goods and pleasures.

During the project, Year 9 pupils created a collage of images which they then observed, divided their drawing into sections to test a range of materials on, and demonstrated great skill. As the project developed pupils were encouraged to bring in their own objects which they feel represents their life, to photograph them, and then change the image using Photoshop, ready to complete a painting using the hardedge technique. This project offered an introduction to a range of skills used in GCSE Fine Art.



Pupils continue to be introduced to a range of creative careers including Photographer, Medical Illustrator, Critic, Social Media Manager, & Graphic Designer throughout the project to highlight the breadth of possibilities studying Art can offer.

Year 9 have also studied Cubism, a style of painting that was developed in the early 1900s. Cubist paintings show objects from many angles at once. Below we can see some excellent work copying traditional work by Pablo Picasso, or a more realistic face by Spanish street artist Miguel Ángel Belinchón.



Art Department

MS R CORSER

On Aspirations Day the Art Department worked with Year 9 pupils developing a mixed media piece of art celebrating one of the Hodge Hill Girls' School houses; Parks, Williams, Dench, Yousafzai, Curie - all named after inspirational women.

Working with some new techniques, pupils first traced the outline of one of the inspirational women onto clear acetate to enable a background to be developed separately. Pupils then selected areas to paint onto the back of the acetate. Pupils then developed a background using the appropriate house group colours and the techniques of gelli printing (a relatively new form of mono printing that uses flexible printing plates to create textures and layers of colour) and collage.

The day was linked to a range of creative careers such as Surface Designer, Graphic Designer, Portrait Artist, Magazine Designer, Album Cover Designer, Fine Artist, Colour Technologist, Illustrator, Social Media Manager highlighting just some of the career opportunities available if pupils follow a creative path.

It was also interesting to see how some of the inspirational women our houses are named after have developed their careers more creatively e.g. Malala Yousafzai now runs a production company, whilst Serena Williams designs her own clothing line and has developed a new performance recovery line of products for everyday athletes.

“Creativity in the workplace has become a “must have”. Today we operate in a highly competitive, global environment, making creativity crucial.”



Art Department: Summer Postcard Competition

MS R CORSER

The Art Department set a summer break task for pupils to engage with, which was to create a postcard of a view, or scene, which had been interesting during their holidays. Well done to all pupils who participated, and thank you for your creative responses!



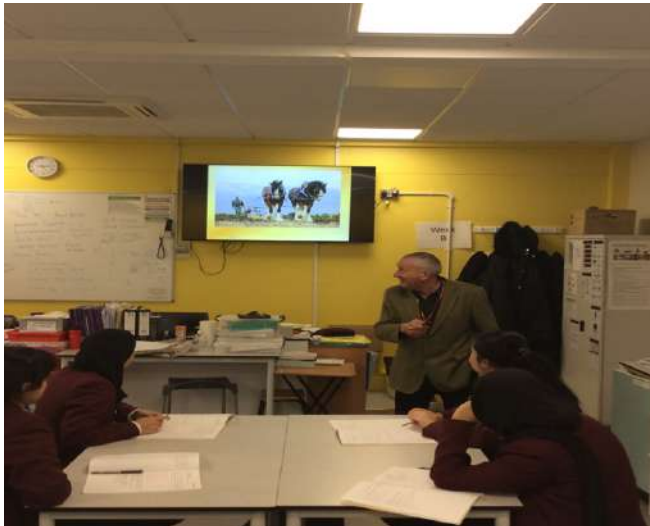
Maira in Year 8 with her view of Porthcurno Beach in Cornwall.



Amy in Year 8 illustrating the fun she had with friends kayaking.



Tasnim in Year 10 highlighting her view of Sylhet in Bangladesh.



Food and Nutrition Department - Farmer's Visit

MISS A MERRIGAN

Farmer John visited HHGS to teach pupils more about British agriculture – the three main goals of the farmers visit were to :

- To start an open conversation with your students about British agriculture and answer their questions about the industry.
- To introduce your students to some of the diverse career paths available in agriculture and briefly share their personal journeys.
- To challenge your students to question the information they are exposed to about where their food comes from.

PUPIL FEEDBACK

- "It was fun and I learnt something new."
- "I learnt that animals have multiple babies and how 3 or more babies are dangerous this was very interesting to me."
- "I learnt about the job and how the farm is ran."
- "I learnt how long wheat takes to harvest."
- "I learnt how many horses you need to match the power of a tractor ... you need 150 horses."
- "I learnt how some ground birds lay nests on the ground.. Also how the farmer works in the cold weather."
- "I learnt how important farming is and I learnt about the animals."
- "I learnt how robots milk cows and drive tractors."
- "I learnt how hard farming is."
- "I learnt that farmers are normally born into farming – family take over from their parents."

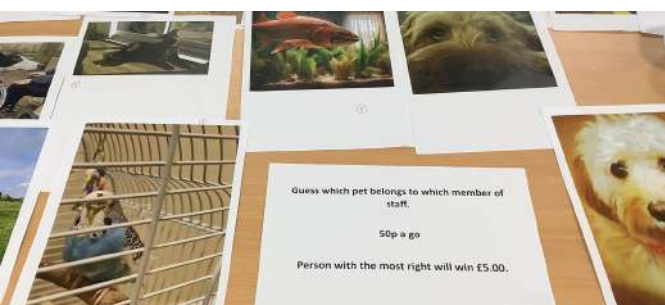


Food and Nutrition Department - Christmas Baking

MISS A MERRIGAN

This term saw KS3 and KS4 get into the Christmas spirit by baking some delicious Christmas bakes!





House Leaders Enterprise Challenge Event

MRS S BARRON

On Wednesday 6th December 2023, we held our House Leaders Enterprise Challenge Event. This is where the House leaders got into groups and were given £5.00 each to buy, make or create anything they wanted to sell to make as much money as possible for charity. The leaders did an amazing job creating sweet cones, bracelets and a whole host of other treats. Over lunch time pupils were then given the opportunity to come and buy the items to help raise money.

The event was a great success, all of the house leaders showed their PRIDE values and more, we also want to thank everyone that came and bought something and supported the event. We raised an amazing £875 in one day, which just shows the generosity of the pupils and families in HHGS. We will also be doing one more charity event to add to our fund by having a non-uniform day on Friday 22nd December, where pupils will be invited to bring in a donation for for wearing there own clothes. The money raised from both events will benefit humanitarian aid in Palestine.

Thank you for your support and a big well done to everyone involved.