

Hillcrest Messenger

122nd Edition

February 2020



A message from the Headteacher

A huge 'thank you' to all students and staff for your hard work this half-term and to parents and carers for your continued support.

Looking ahead, the examination period for Year 11 and 13 students is almost here and everyone is working hard in preparation for GCSE, BTEC and A level examinations in May and June. It's important that they use the half term holiday to catch-up with revision (and some relaxation and sleep!)

As I write this, there are 45 school days until the first GCSE and A level external written examinations, and many of the external practical examinations are already underway. Year 8 will have examinations in March, Year 7 and Year 9 in April and Year 10 and 12 in June.

Revision is an extremely important skill that all students, in all year groups, need to practise and make part of their everyday approach to study. When revising, students need a quiet environment without disturbances, plenty of sleep, regular breaks, plenty of water, and lots and lots of encouragement.

The work of the Learning Scientists is key to successful revision and staff at Hillcrest help students to develop their use of these effective learning strategies from Year 7 onwards. Ask your child to show you how they use the different strategies and for more information visit the website: <http://www.learningscientists.org>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding revision, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Learning Co-ordinator.

Have a safe and restful holiday.

Best wishes, Ms J. Davies

**REMINDER SCHOOL RE-OPENS FOR STUDENTS ON
MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2020.**

REGISTRATION IS AT 08.45AM.



Australian School Visit - Winmalee High

In January we hosted a two day visit from Winmalee High School, an Australian school from the blue mountains. 34 students and staff experienced life in an English school and made some excellent friendships and connections with Hillcrest students. The visit was an amazing insight into school life and culture for both schools across the globe and it was fantastic to see all students engaging and making the most of the two day experience. Our Australian friends took part in a range of 'English' activities and completed the visit with an afternoon tea party. We learnt about Winmalee High School during assemblies and we were presented with gifts.



Prior to the visit, there had been the worst ever recorded bush fires in Australia. We therefore held a non school uniform day and a staff raffle and subsequently raised £550 for the school to take back to Australia and donate to the local communities affected by the fires.

The Headteacher from Winmalee stated:

'I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the entire school community for their extremely generous fundraising efforts. The money raised will be used to assist students and schools coping with the impacts of the recent bushfires across much of Australia, including the Blue Mountains. Our school community is enormously grateful and humbled by your donation'.

Thank you to all students and staff for making our guests feel extremely welcome, it will be an experience both schools will remember.

Miss L. Taylor
Learning Manager for Performing Arts

My Experience with Winmalee High By Faith, Year 11

Since the announcement of Winmalee High School from Australia coming to Hillcrest School it caused a buzz and excitement around school. Being an Australian buddy to one of the students has been an amazing experience and an honour. I was buddied with a Year 9 boy called Lucas. Lucas was an amazing student to host and was full of jokes and enthusiasm, so too were the rest of the students from Australia. As soon as Lucas spoke I was intrigued by his accent 'G'day' (which is hello).

As Hillcrest and Winmalee joined together, our Australian buddies were greeted with a traditional English breakfast. During our English breakfast together, my Australian buddy Lucas and his friend offered me their popular spread 'Vegemite'. Myself, being opened to anything, I tried their Vegemite. Unfortunately, I did not like the taste but it was fun to have a go and try it. While talking to Lucas he had noticed that our school was very diverse compared to his school which he found amazing.

After the English breakfast we gave them a tour around a school, and they said it was very different to their school. Spending the whole of the day with Lucas, he made me realise that many countries operate differently and their school system is very different to ours. It was lovely that Winmalee High School delivered their assembly to our school community. In their assembly they shared how they have a broad curriculum, such as canoeing, snowboarding and touch ball. They also mentioned how the juniors, which consists of Year 7,8,9,10, wear yellow shirts and the seniors, which consists of Year 11, 12 and 13, wear white shirts. Hearing this definitely sounded interesting, as in the UK in secondary school we all wear the same uniform. Also, what shocked us was when they mentioned about the bushfires, which all got the school thinking about how people in Australia are losing their homes and their schools because of the devastation. Winmalee High School spent 2 days in our school. On day 1 they spent time in lessons with us to experience our school and curriculum, then they also spent some time in individual lessons with our teachers such as cooking and art.

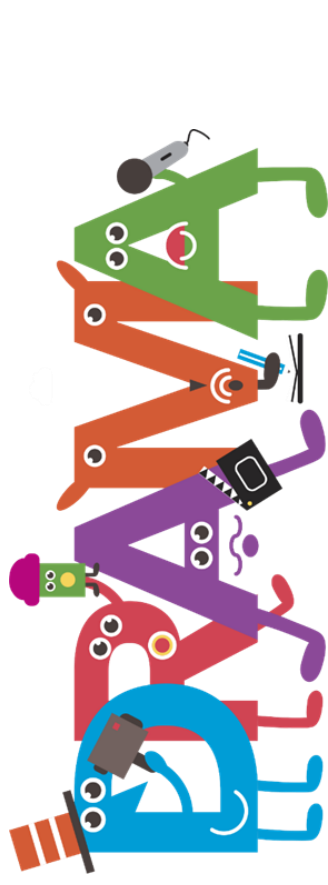
On day 2 we had a number of sport activities with Winmalee High School. We had an England V Australia King Ball Match. Playing sports games showed how competitive Australians were and they were aiming to beat us. This definitely was a whole lot of fun. As it was the last day for Winmalee High School before leaving the UK, it was emotional to see them go which was why we had a goodbye tea party. During the tea party, Winmalee High School shared scones with us which they had made during their cooking session - they tasted amazing! It was our time to talk to our buddies even more and say our goodbyes. It was hard for them to leave and go back to Australia which is why we wanted to stay in contact with them. The atmosphere around the school was lovely and they are always welcome back.

Each and every one of them were the nicest and kindest people we have ever met. Thank you for this experience.





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Dance & Drama Clubs

After School

Tuesday & Thursday (3:30-4:30)

Wednesday (2:20-3:20)

Tuesday

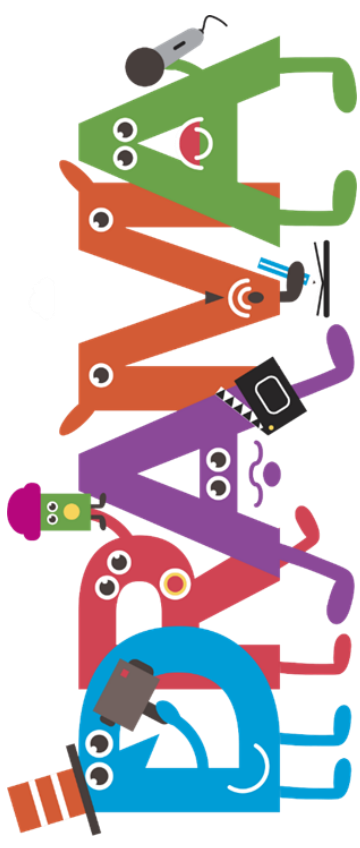
Performance Group & Mini Performance
Group (Invite ONLY)

Wednesday

Drama Club (All years)

Thursday

Year 7 Dance Club
Year 8 Dance Club



Thursday 23rd January, the Drama department had 'The Directors Charitable Foundation' in school to work with GCSE Drama students, Finley worked closely on developing devising skills of students.

Students came up with some brilliant ideas! Finley allowed students to ask questions in regards to performing and careers within the Performing Arts. A great morning in the Drama department.

Miss E. King
Teacher of Performing Arts



Chinese Club

During Chinese Club, the students have been celebrating and learning about Chinese New Year. They have made some 'Hong Bao' which are red good luck Chinese envelopes. In Chinese tradition these are gifted to each other, and inside they contain either money or chocolate.

Students practiced Chinese writing using the Chinese lucky colour red card!



新年快樂
Happy Chinese New Year



Mrs S. Erdogan
Teacher of History

Physical Education Information

Sport England Project Update

The project is now in its implementation stage to promote and improve student and staff physical activity and well-being levels. During this half term we have created a new Hillcrest Physical Fitness and Well Being School Magazine. This will be a termly magazine available to all students, staff and parents/carers. We have Sixth Form students leading extra badminton sessions at lunch time and we are on course to start a new walking club, improve our current fitness room and create a mile walk course on the school's grounds. Watch this space for further updates.

Birmingham Connect Update

I am pleased to announce that after a joint planning session with the University of Birmingham school, we submitted our plan of four events to connect students and communities together with the UOB school through sport and have received extra funding based on the quality of our plans. Our first connect event, run by Hillcrest Year 9 connectors is on Friday 28th February, and will involve Year 10 students in a range of team building activities.

Year 7 and 8 Indoor Athletics

Year 7 and 8 indoor athletics teams competed in the school Games Level 2 Competition. I am pleased to say both the Year 7 and Year 8 teams won their team events, in both cases by over 30 points. There were some excellent performances and it would be difficult not to include everyone, but, Brooklyn threw over 8 metres in the shot and Mammy Year 7 threw 7 metres. Adeola and Mosope, Year 8, won the triple and long jump as did Rhoda and Kiara, Year 7. Sidra and Tilly ran very well in the 6 lap race and our girls won both of the relays.

The most exciting event was the Year 8 relay. Shenley Academy were leading after the first two legs and then Adeola took over and, after dropping the baton, put in a brilliant leg to hand over to Awa with a lead, for the final leg and yet another win. It was lovely to see the girls supporting each other and both teams will now represent the Shenley Partnership at the Birmingham School Games.

Congratulations to the following students:

Year 7: Rhoda, Mammy, Kiara, Praise, Dinyka, Tilly, Morenike

Year 8: Adeola, Mosope, Shahd, Awa, Brooklyn, Sidra, Barakah

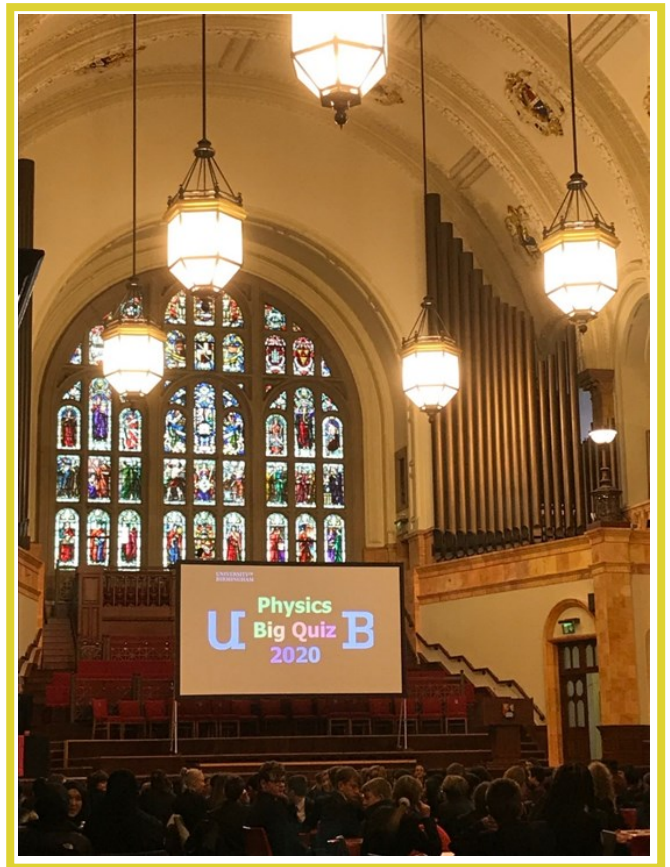
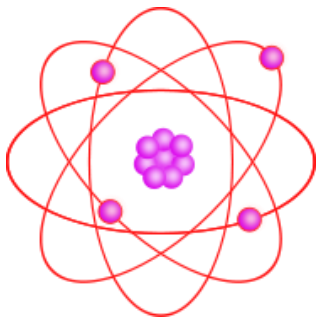


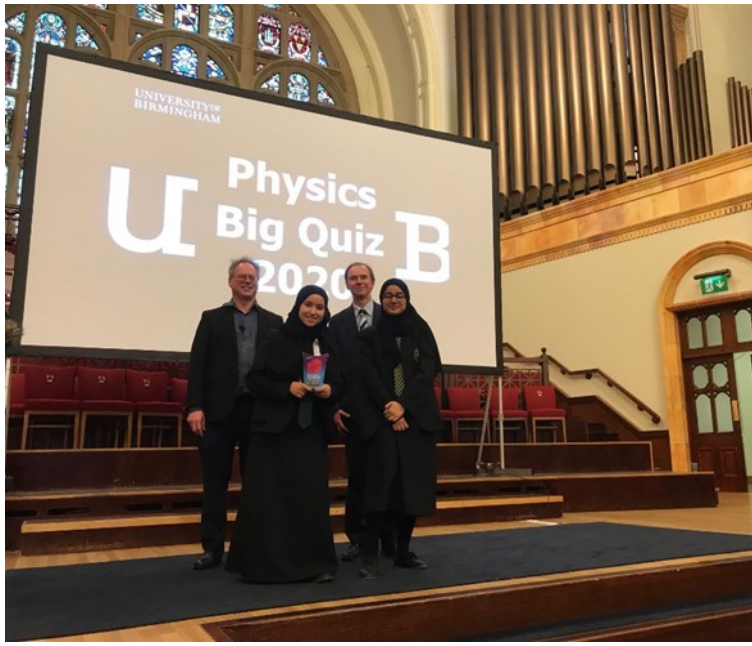
Year 9 Physics BIG QUIZ

On Tuesday 21st January, twelve Year 9 students accompanied Mr Squires and Mr Goodall to the University of Birmingham's Physics Big Quiz 2020.

With our reliance on technology, energy, space and physical medicine ever increasing; there has never been a greater need to teach and inspire our next generation of physicists!

There has also never been a better time to study Physics to an advanced or undergraduate level, with over 20,000 specialist technological, medical, engineering and research career opportunities requiring Physics qualifications expected to need filling by 2025.



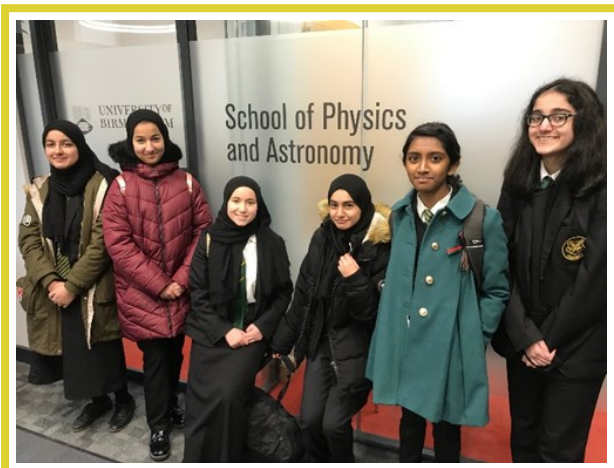


The day proved very fruitful in allowing our students to practice applying their physical knowledge in an applied setting, as well as offering the opportunity for our students to meet with University of Birmingham academics and students.

It was a pleasure to hear the keynote lecture delivered by Dr Jonathan Goldwin about "The Physics of Hot and Cold". Students were particularly overjoyed with the physical demonstration which included levitation, liquid nitrogen and extremes of thermal conductivity.

With over 150 teams competing this year from comprehensive and independent schools across the West Midlands and around the UK, competition was even more fierce this year.

Despite this, I am absolutely delighted to announce that one of our teams scored very well, placing within the top 10. I am also incredibly proud to reveal that Hillcrest Team A won a spot prize and were invited to the stage to meet and greet the academics during the prestigious prize giving ceremony.



Their entire group's determination, positive attitude and collaboration was a pleasure to observe. Well done girls, you were a credit to Hillcrest School and you should feel very proud of your success!

Mr T. Squires
Assistant Head of Science

KEY DATES

Spring Term 2b Begins	Monday 24th February - Term starts at 08.45am
Year 10 Speak Out Workshop - Lingua	Monday 24th February
University of Law Workshop - Year 12	Tuesday 25th February
Year 10 Parents Evening	Tuesday 25th February 4pm - 6pm
Hillcrest Maths Feast	Thursday 27th February
'What Next' Careers Show - Year 10 (50 students) NEC	Friday 28th February
Birmingham Connect Event Periods 4 & 5	Friday 28th February
Year 8 Examinations	W/C 2nd March
A Level English Visit to Carrs Lane Conference Centre - KS5	Tuesday 3rd March
Year 10 Visit to The Big Maths Quiz at University of Birmingham	Wednesday 4th March
World Book Day	Thursday 5th March
Event at Millennium Point - Year 9 & 10	Friday 6th March
Year 8 Big Health Quiz Visit to University of Birmingham	Friday 6th March
PSD Day 4	Monday 9th March
Year 9 Parents Evening	Tuesday 10th March 4pm - 6pm
Year 8 & 9 Spanish Onatti Theatre Visit (Lordswood School) AM	Wednesday 11th March
A Level English Visit to Carrs Lane Conference Centre - Year 12	Friday 13th March
Big Bang Visit to the NEC - Year 8	Friday 13th March
Careers Fayre	Monday 16th March
A Level English Visit to Carrs Lane Conference Centre - Year 12/13	Wednesday 18th March
Year 10 Examinations Week 2	W/C 23rd March
UK Mathematics Trust Team Challenge at Wolverhampton Girls High School	Monday 23rd March
Parent Workshop on Apprenticeships	Thursday 26th March 3.30pm - 4.30pm

KEY DATES

Year 10 Apprenticeships Show at the ICC	Friday 27th March
The Woman in Black performance at the New Alexandra Theatre	Wednesday 1st April 1.20pm - 5pm
GCSE Geography Trip	Thursday 2nd April
End of Term	Friday 3rd April - Term finishes at 12.30pm for students
Easter Holidays	Monday 6th April - Friday 17th April
Summer Term 3a Begins	Monday 20th April - Registration starts at 08.45am for students