

# HILLCREST MESSENGER



**117th Edition**  
**April 2019**



## Hillcrest is in the Top 4% of Schools Nationally

We were delighted to receive the letter below from the Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP (Minister of State for School Standards) at the end of last week. He is congratulating staff and students on our GCSE results and the outstanding progress made by our students from when they join Hillcrest in Year 7 to the end of Year 11. The letter confirms that our 2018 results means Hillcrest is in the top 4% of schools nationally. I would like to thank all our parents and carers as without your support our students would not be able to achieve such excellent results.

**Ms J. Davies**  
**Headteacher**



**Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP**  
Minister of State for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 [www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus](http://www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus)

Ms Julie Ann Davies  
Headteacher  
Hillcrest School and Sixth Form Centre  
Stonehouse Lane  
Birmingham  
B32 3AE

29 March 2019

Dear Ms Davies

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and pupils on the outstanding progress your pupils are making and your school's high level of EBacc entry in 2018.

Your school's Progress 8 score of 0.84 which is well above the national average, shows that you are amongst the top 4 per cent of state-funded mainstream schools in terms of the progress your pupils make between key stage 2 and the end of key stage 4.

With 75 per cent of your pupils entering the EBacc in 2018, your school is in the top 11 per cent of all state-funded mainstream secondary schools in the country. EBacc subjects provide a sound basis for careers beyond the age of 16 and can also enrich pupils' studies, giving them a broad general knowledge that will enable them to participate in and contribute to society.

We want to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has the chance to study the EBacc at GCSE, which is why I was delighted to see your results.

Thank you for your work in continuing the drive towards higher academic standards, and congratulations again to you and your staff for your hard work and professionalism.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

**Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP**  
Minister of State for School Standards

# SCHOOL GAMES DANCE COMPETITION



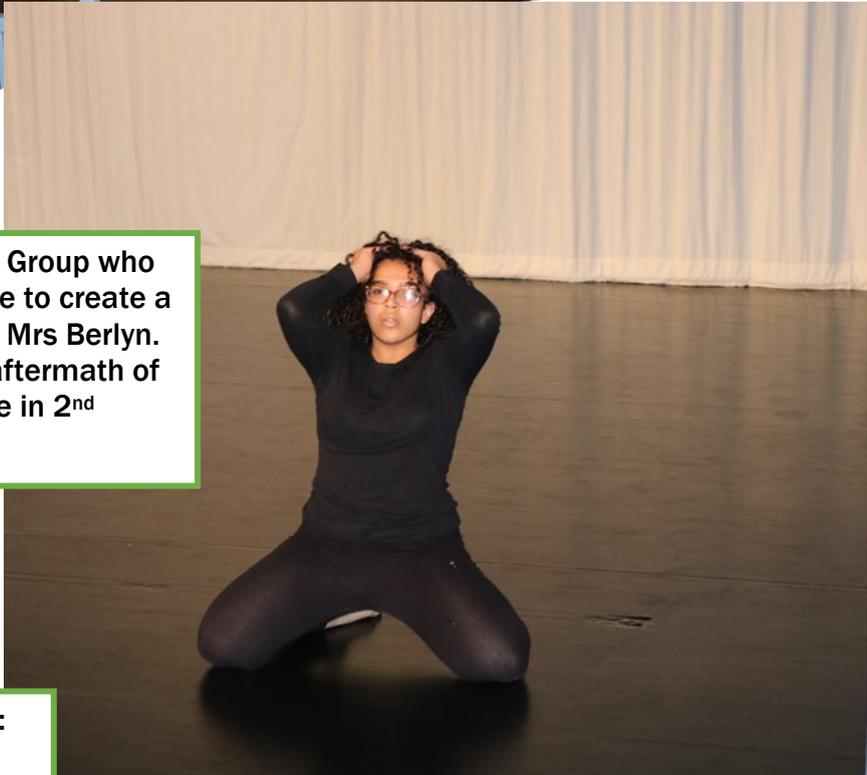
The Mini Performance Group worked incredibly hard rehearsing and creating a dance based on the Holocaust.

They performed at Shenley Academy and came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place! This was a great achievement as they were one of the youngest groups in their category. Well done!



**Mini Performance Group:**

Keira, Ebyan, Sara,  
Princess Natasha, Adeola,  
Keisha, Mosope,  
Fatoualieu, and Derica.



Well done to Performance Group who gave up their personal time to create a fantastic dance piece with Mrs Berlyn. This piece was about the aftermath of World War One. They came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place! Well done!

**Performance Group:**  
Tyanna, Shashawna, Shaznay, Sierra, and Aliyah.

**Miss E. King & Mrs G. Berlyn  
Teachers of Performing Arts**



# **Brilliant Club Graduation**

Our Brilliant Club students went for their graduation at Aston University this term. It was a wonderful experience all students had an IAG and study session, and a guided tour of the university campus. The finale of the day was the graduation ceremony, and some parents were able to be with us to join in with the celebration.

I was particularly proud when Nasir, who was the girls PHD tutor, who studies at Aston University, came down to the lecture theatre with a colleague to congratulate the girls and his colleague asked Nasir are these your Terahertz Girls?

Nasir was clearly very proud of their achievements, as we are, particularly as all 12 students completed and passed the programme, with 7 girls receiving a First Class Classification for their work projects.

Well done girls!



**Our students after their graduation ceremony.**

***Mrs M. Bunce***  
***Senior Learning Mentor***

# The Big Bang Fair

Year 8 went to the Big Bang Fair at the NEC. Pupils investigated careers in different STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics). They investigated lots of experiments including electric ink, how virtual reality is helping HS2, how attracted you are to mosquitoes, and how fast Usain Bolt could run 100m. A good time was had by all.



# The Stem Roadshow

Key Stage 3 watched a STEM roadshow (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics). This great event organised by BAE systems supported by the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, really inspired our students and promoted careers in STEM subjects. The roadshow showed how mobile phones work and the use of drones in the world, and how these are related to Maths and the other STEM subjects.



**Mr M. Gilman**  
**Teacher of Mathematics**



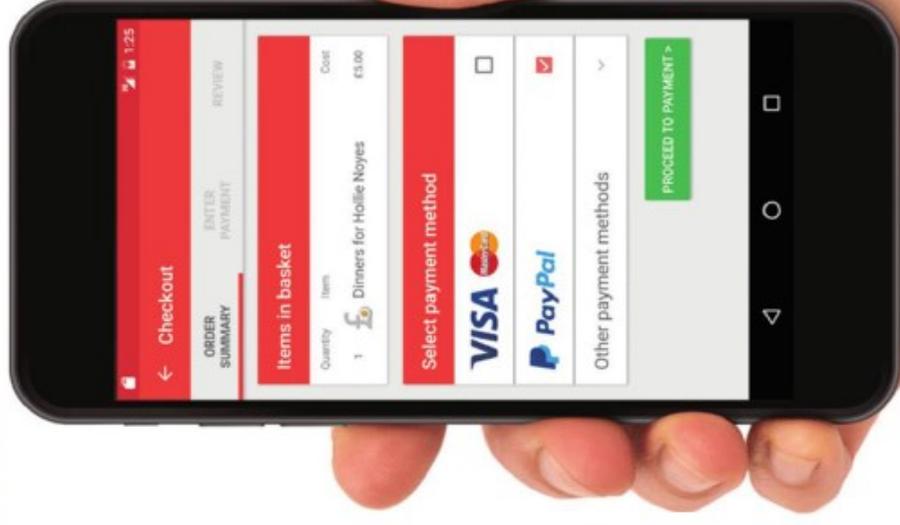
# Attention all parents!

From September 2019 Hillcrest School is going  
“cashless”

**This means that your child will not be able to bring cash into school for school dinners, school trips & other items.**

All payments will need to be made on  
[www.ParentMail.com](http://www.ParentMail.com) or via the ParentMail App  
on your mobile.

**Search for ParentMail in your App store.**



Please note: If you are not already registered, you will need to register online on the ParentMail website before trying to access the App. Please ask the school office to



# Hillcrest's Performing Arts Showcase



A big well done to the Hillcrest students who performed in the Performing Arts Showcase  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

## **Year 7**

Solen, Hoda, Noon, Leah, Eleanor Marjorie, Salem, Awa, Shadea, Eman, Nafeesa, Adeola, Derica, Mosope, Fatou, Keisha.

## **Year 8**

Ebyan, Sara, Keira, Princess Natasha, Shalom, Dania, Milena, Joelle.

## **Year 9**

Jennifer, Aliyah, Sierra, Soz, Alicja, Laqueta, Maisie, Kayana, Muska, Ashley, Emily.

## **Year 10**

Shaznay, Shashawna, Tyanna.

Another huge well done to the Primary Schools who attended:

Bellfield Junior  
Tividale Academy  
Non Such Primary  
Woodhouse Primary

And the secondary school:

Selly Park Girls

**Miss E. King**  
**Teacher of Performing Arts**





# Physical Education News

## School Games – Indoor Athletics

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Hillcrest Year 7 and Year 8 indoor athletic teams represented the Shenley Partnership at the Birmingham School Games. The standard at the competition was extremely high and our students worked incredibly hard in their events, particularly on the track. The Year 8 team finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place overall and the Year 7s finished 4<sup>th</sup> just missing the third spot by a few points.

There were some excellent individual performances. Brooklyn was the winner of the year 7 shot with a throw exceeding 7.50m with Awa also scoring valuable points. In the vertical, triple and long jumps, Shahd, Adeola, Marwa and Alyssa put in excellent performances. Mosope and Adeola finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 8 lap parlaaf and the sprint relay team of Alyssa, Adeola, Barakah and Marwa won their event.

For the Year 8 students, Kayarn worked so hard for the team competing in three track and two field events. Saba finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the triple jump which she completed following a gruelling parlaaf with Kayarn. Abrar also had a tough distance run and then pulled a super speed bounce and triple jump out of the bag. Elizabeth paced herself well in her 4 lap race earning good points for the team. Christina also scored well for the team in the shot having stepped in at the last minute and Crystal, Kiera and Natasha ran a blistering first leg in the relay.



### **School Games - Badminton**

Hillcrest students also represented the partnership in the Badminton competition. Our Senior team of Hajra (who didn't lose a match in the qualifying rounds) Melisa, Faith, Elisha and Esther won through to the Champions play-off, eventually finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place behind King Edwards Camp Hill A and B teams and King Edwards High School. It was a tremendous all round performance, congratulations to the girls involved.

Our Junior team of Iman, Chelsea, Melanie, Holly-Leigh and Fatou also performed extremely well in what was only their second competition. They finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place but had one of the most exciting doubles matches of the day against St Thomas Aquinas school which we eventually won. Well done to all girls involved.

As a result of our participation in this event we were able to speak to the area development officer for badminton and having seen the enthusiasm of the team, she is hopefully going to be able to offer some coaching in the future for our talented players.



### **Year 7 Inter-Form Netball Competition**

Congratulations to all students that participated and represented their forms. The standard of play was excellent. The results were:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place = N4
- 3<sup>RD</sup> Place = N2
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place = N1
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place = N3



Congratulations to N3 for winning every game to win the competition.

### **Hillcrest Basketball Club**

Congratulations to all students who have been attending basketball club. We are extremely fortunate to have a professional coach from City Basketball club to coach our students. The club is Tuesday 3.20pm – 4.20pm. All students are welcome.

### **Hillcrest football team**

Both Year 7 and 8 teams and year 9 and 10 football teams had a fixture against Selly Park School. The match was our first of the season and although we didn't win this time there were plenty of signs of promise. We have many more fixtures ahead and have much to build upon, exciting times!

### **Trip Opportunities**

I have two potential spaces on my watersport trip to France, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – June 29<sup>th</sup>. It is an amazing trip where students have the chance to try watersport activities, beach activities, and exploring the beautiful backdrop in the South of France. If you would like a space, please speak to Miss Taylor.

*Miss L. Taylor*

*Learning Manager for Physical Education*

# Sports Results

## Nightingale College

	Cross Country Individual	Cross Country Team	Indoor Rowing	Dance Competition	Netball	Total Points	Current Place
N1	4th	3rd	2nd		2nd	225.00	3rd
N2	3rd	4th	3rd	1st	3rd	325	2nd
N3	2nd	1st	4th	4th	1st	325	2nd
N4	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	3rd	350	1st

## Rosa Parks College

	Year 8 Cross Country Individual	Year 9 Cross Country Individual	Cross Country Team	8 and 9 Badminton Competition	Year 8 Inter-Form Rowing	Year 9 Inter-Form Rowing	Dance Competition	Total Points	Current Place
P1	3rd	2nd	5th	5th	1st	3rd	3rd	540	2nd
P2	6th	1st	1st	5th	6th	1st	3rd	700	1st
P3	7th	3rd	2nd	6th	4th	7th		310	6th
P4	5th	8th	7th	2nd	5th	4th	2nd	540	2nd
P5	1st	4th	8th	5th	6th	8th		450	3rd
P6	4th	7th	3rd	5th	2nd	5th	1st	340	5th
P7	2nd	6th	4th	4th	6th	6th		310	6th
P8	8th	5th	6th	1st	3rd	2nd		400	4th

## Malala College

	Year 10 Cross Country Individual	Year 11 Cross country Individual	Cross Country Team	10 and 11 Badminton Competition	Year 10 Rowing	Year 11 Rowing	Year 11 College Indoor Team Games Results	Indoor Team Games 2	Year 11 Kingball	Overall Points	Overall Place
M1	5th	6th	5th	5th	3rd	1st	2nd	2nd	3rd	710	3rd
M2	3rd	2nd	7th	5th	7th	2nd	6th	6th	3rd	500	8th
M3	4th	7th	1st	3rd	4th	7th	4th	8th	1st	910	2nd
M4	6th	9th	9th	1st	7th	5th	8th	4th	1st	610	4th
M5	9th	4th	3rd	2nd	5th	6th	3rd	3rd	2nd	575	6th
M6	1st	1st	6th	5th	2nd	4th	1st	1st	2nd	1130	1st
M7	7th	5th	2nd	5th	6th	8th	3rd	7th	4th	400	9th
M8	8th	3rd	1st	4th	7th	3rd	5th	8th	4th	560	7th
M9	2nd	8th	8th	5th	1st	8th	7th	7th	3rd	590	5th

# Speak Out Challenge

In March, a number of Year 10 students took part in the Speakers' Trust Workshop for the Speak Out Challenge, improving their speaking and listening skills. All the students displayed excellent presentation skills, with some students making real improvements in the way that they present themselves in front of an audience. The finalists will go on to deliver an assembly to determine who will be the overall winner for our school. Watch this space!



**Mr D. James**  
**Teacher of English**

## Duke of Edinburgh Fundraising Event

The Duke of Edinburgh group at Hillcrest School successfully organised a fundraising event to raise funds for their chosen charity Birmingham Outreach Foundation. This is part of their volunteering section of the Bronze award and they are very thankful to all of the staff and students who helped them raise an impressive £100 for the cause.

They had a sweet cart stall in the hall one lunchtime for students to purchase and enjoy whilst they could stay and watch the main event which was 'Pie The Teacher.'

Mr Harrison, Miss Guyver, Miss Samra, Miss Glendening, Miss Muncey, Mr Gregory, Mrs Piepdie-Possi and Miss Calder all received a very kind invite via the students to sit on stage and allow students to pie them in the face, how could they say no to that? The hits came thick and fast with great humour from the staff and students involved.



Well done for hosting such a successful event which certainly allowed us at Hillcrest to consider the needs of those who are supported by the Birmingham Outreach Foundation all thanks to the new Duke of Edinburgh recruits.

*Miss P. Calder*  
*Teacher of Humanities*

# DRAMA



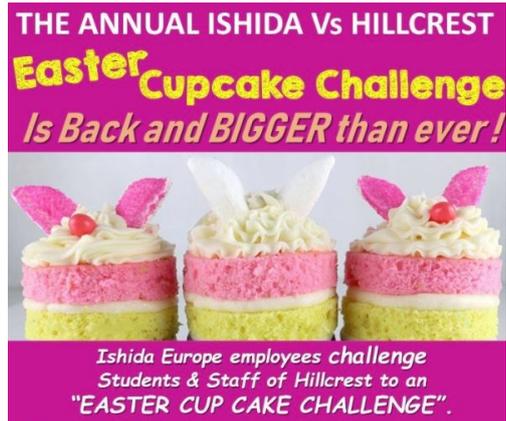
A Level Drama students came from Sandwell and Dudley College to perform their 'Theatre in Education' devised piece to the Year 10 GCSE Drama students.

They took part in several activities which linked to the performance and watched a 30 minute live performance of 'Edit Profile'.

This was a fantastic opportunity for the students to gain practical ideas and ask questions about the devised process.

*Miss E. King*  
*Teacher of Performing Arts*

# Ishida Vs Hillcrest Cupcake Challenge



The winner of the Ishida V's Hillcrest Bake Off was Sara, with Hoda, Nafeesa, Aisha, and Aminah as runners up.

Well done to everyone who entered!



## A Message from the Headteacher



It's been another busy half term at Hillcrest with students and staff working extremely hard on their preparations for external and internal examinations.

Please encourage students to keep reviewing their learning during the holiday to ensure that their hard work is rewarded when they receive their examination results. Self-testing is a key way for students to see what they know and what they still need to spend time learning. Ask your child to show you how they use the different Learning Scientists strategies and visit the website <http://www.learningscientists.org> and how they use Active Learn, Hegarty Maths and Seneca Learning.

Examinations can be a stressful time for young people and their families and it's important to make sure that the hard work is balanced with plenty of exercise, a healthy diet and periods of relaxation. Making sure work at home is in 30 minute slots with 10 minute breaks and a longer break after 2 hours is really important.

If you have any questions about how to support your child in their preparation for examinations please contact one of the people below:

Nightingale College Leader – Miss E King (Year 7)  
Parks College Leader -Ms A Adenike (Year 8 + 9)  
Malala College Leader – Mr S Kennard (Year 10 + 11)  
SENDCo– Mrs J Penn (Year 7 to 13)  
Head of Sixth Form – Miss Muncey (Years 12 +13)  
Assistant Headteacher – Miss S Khalid  
Deputy Headteacher – Mr S Connor-Hemming  
Deputy Headteacher – Mr S Abbotts

In school, we regularly remind students about keeping safe on the journey to and from school. Please can parents also emphasise these key safety messages about crossing roads carefully and only at crossing points. Students are representing the school as they travel and therefore, any reports of inappropriate behaviour will have consequences under the schools 'Getting It Right' policy.

As a school we're very lucky to have a small number of parking spaces available to parents at the end of the day. Please can I remind parents that cars must not block the entrance to the school site, as emergency vehicles would be unable to gain access. If the parking area is full, please park on the school side of Stonehouse Lane and not in the entrance to the fire station, or local businesses. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation with this, to make sure our children are safe.

Resources to support students and parents on all aspects of personal safety are available using the 'Keeping Children Safe' link on the school website.

Have a safe and restful holiday.  
Best wishes Ms Davies

## Key Dates

GCSE French Oral Examinations	-	Week Commencing 29th April
Year 7 Parents Evening	-	Thursday 2nd May 4pm - 6pm
Year 10 Geography Field Work 1 Trip	-	Friday 3rd May
Duke of Edinburgh Assessed Expedition Weekend Practice.	-	Friday 3rd - Saturday 4th May
Bank Holiday	-	Monday 6th May
Year 7 Football Competition	-	Tuesday 7th May
PSD Day 5	-	Thursday 9th May
GCSE & A Level Examinations	-	Monday 13th May - Friday 28th June
Year 7 Examinations Week	-	Week Commencing 13th May
Year 10 Geography Field Work 2 Trip	-	Monday 13th May
Year 9 Music Trip	-	Thursday 16th May
AS Biology Field Trip	-	Friday 17th May
Year 8 & 9 Football Competition	-	Thursday 23rd May
AS Biology Field Trip	-	Friday 24th May
Term Ends	-	Friday 24th May
Half Term	-	Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May
Summer Term 3b begins for all students	-	Monday 3rd June @ 08.45am

