

HILLCREST MESSENGER

118th Edition

May 2019



Our Newly Refurbished School Gym

Last year we were successful in obtaining funding via the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) to refurbish our school gym which was over 50 years old and was in need of repair.

The refurbishment has now been completed and the gym has a new roof, windows, ceiling, LED lighting and a projector and speakers.

Our students and staff will now benefit from a gym that is fit for purpose, enabling them to have lessons in a warm and bright environment. They will also be able to participate in additional sporting activities that they were previously unable to do in the gym and hold more extra-curricular activities before and after school.

It is hoped that the new gym environment will further inspire students to engage in school sports activities and achieve their best possible results in PE lessons. The new gym was officially opened on 14th May 2019.



Ms J. Davies
Headteacher

&

Mrs S. Johnson
Strategic Business Manager

Friends of Hillcrest PTA Table Top Sale

Saturday 6th April saw "Friends of Hillcrest PTA" hold a very successful Table Top Sale. We sold 29 tables with 5 more tables being sponsored by Ishida Europe Ltd for worthy charities. I am pleased to report that all the charities made a decent amount of money for their good causes.

"Friends of Hillcrest" also had their own store aimed mostly at the younger child, where we were selling light up balloons/punch balls with guess the amount of sweets and/win a meal for 4 raffle, also featuring on our table. We dabbled in a little bit of "Coco Magic" where children could do magic tricks to win chocolate (which proved very popular). All proceeds from this table went straight to Friends of Hillcrest PTA charity.



Not forgetting the PTA's very profitable refreshments in the canteen, where we set up a "mini" pop-up shop for stall holders and patrons alike to enjoy a light refreshment in between making/spending their money on the stalls. A big thank you must go to Asda, Barnes Hill, for sponsoring our refreshments, by way of providing tea, coffee, juice and biscuits. We are very grateful to them. Again, all proceeds made from selling refreshments went straight to Friends of Hillcrest PTA charity.

On the day we made, in total, a very respectable £332 profit, which we are all delighted with.

Mrs Lin Fowler
Chair of Friends of Hillcrest PTA



Sudden Productions



Climate Change

Year 9 Drama students watched a great performance led by Sudden Productions team, who were raising awareness about the concerns of climate change, but also ways in which we can help make a difference.

The students thoroughly enjoyed this performance and were able to ask questions regarding careers in the Performing Arts sector.

Student Comments:

“An interesting way to learn about an important topic”

“Was a funny production but I still learnt the importance of Climate Change”

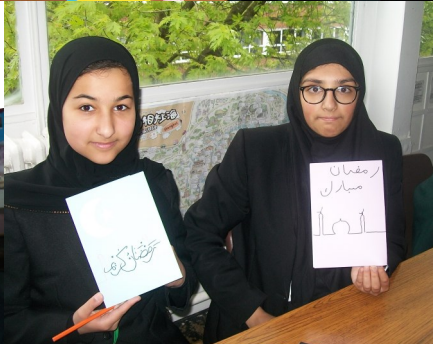
Miss E. King
Teacher of Performing Arts

Arabic Club

Over the past fortnight in Arabic Club, the girls have been very creative making their own lanterns and handmade cards to give to friends and family commemorating the holy month of Ramadan.

A big well done to all the girls that took part especially Haidy, who demonstrated to the girls how to make their own lantern, and Tobassum, for being artistic and producing a line drawing of a lantern.

Miss S. Samra & Miss S. El-Haffar





In school we regularly remind students about keeping safe on the journey to and from school. Please can parents/carers 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 school's 'Getting It Right' policy.

As a school we are very lucky to have a small number of parking spaces available to parents at the end of the day. Please can I remind parents/carers 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/carers on all aspects of personal safety are available using the 'Keeping Children Safe' link on the school website.

Year 12 trip to The University of Law

On Wednesday the 22nd May a group of Year 12 students enjoyed a trip to the University of Law, which signalled the end a five session 'Steps to University' course.

The course has enabled students to develop the core skills needed to navigate university applications, student finance and explore work experience opportunities in the area of Law. During the visit to the university, students studied the real criminal case of Oscar Pistorius. Students were provided with the details of the murder case and had to work in groups to formulate questions for the defendant and witnesses. By the end of the session they had to decide whether or not they believed Oscar was guilty or not. The day finished with a tour of the campus, including a look inside the mock court rooms where students were able to practice their interrogation skills as a lawyer. It was a fantastic programme and no doubt helped to shape the future decisions of the Year 12 students.

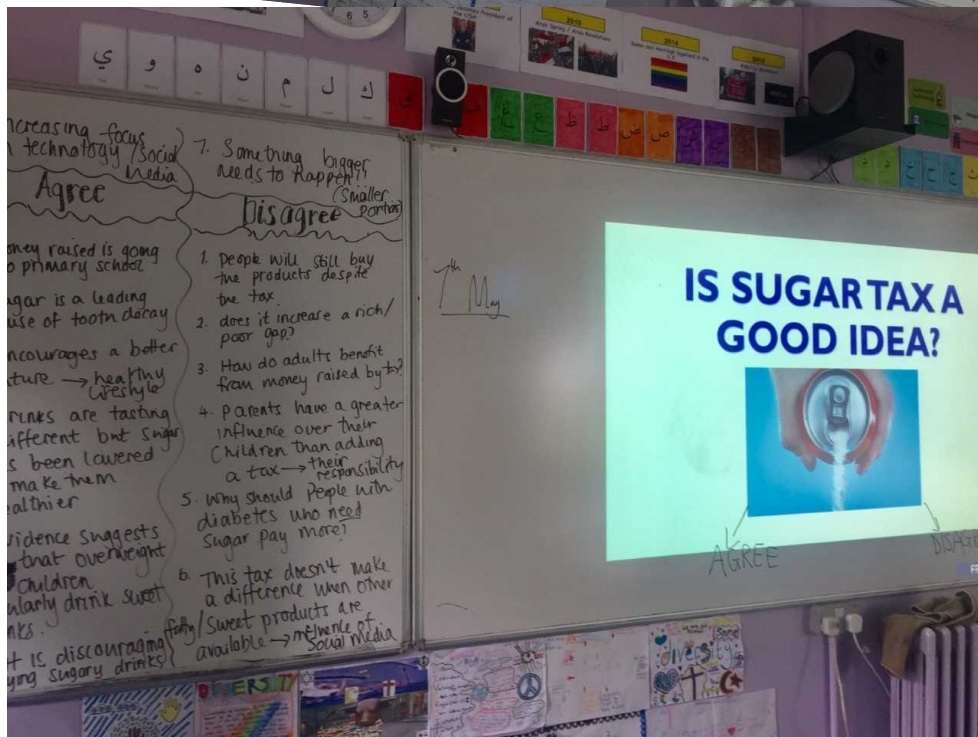
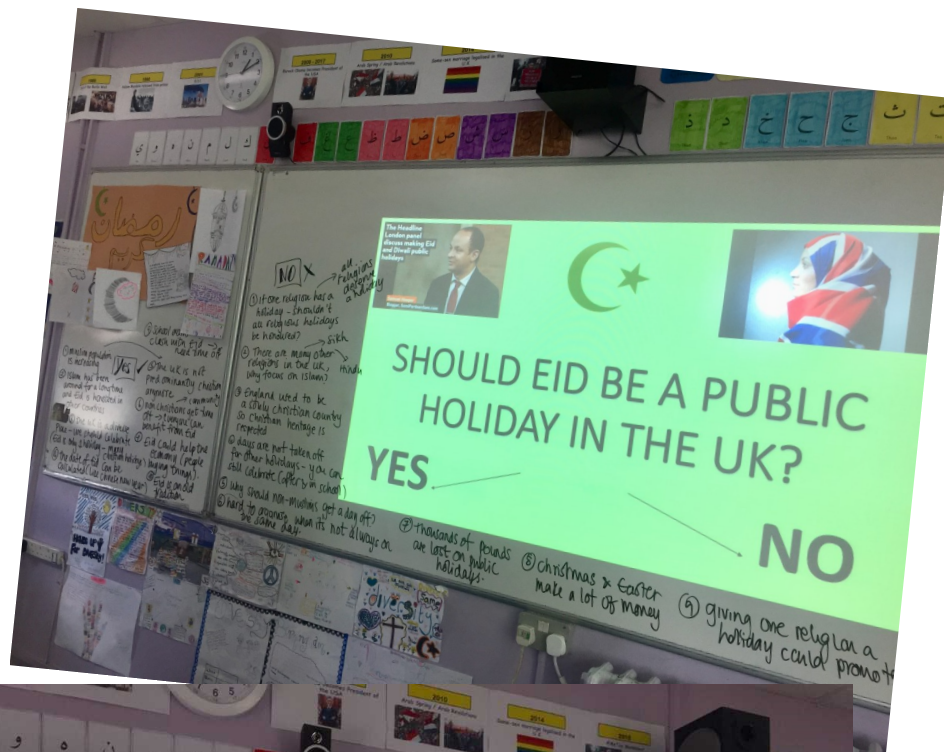
Mrs J. Abbotts
Learning Manager for PSD &
Work Related Learning



Debate Club

This year students have been attending debate club on a Tuesday lunchtime with Miss Samra and Miss Guyver and have taken part in some brilliant debates and shared some fantastic ideas. We have focused on a variety of issues such as whether there should be a second Brexit referendum, if the school day should be made shorter, and whether the sugar tax a good idea.

Debate club is open to all year groups. If you would like to take part in debate club, then bring your lunch and come along to room 22 on Tuesday (week B) lunchtime. If you have any particular ideas for a debate topic then let Miss Guyver or Miss Samra know!



Miss A. Guyver
Teacher of Humanities

A Message from the Headteacher

We are now two weeks into the external GCSE, BTEC and A level examination period and I would firstly like to congratulate all of our students on their approach to their studies and completing their examinations. You've all demonstrated your hard work, preparation and consideration for others during this busy and often stressful time. After half term the external examinations continue until Wednesday 19th June. If you need to check any details the full timetable can be found on the school website.



Year 10 internal examinations will take place the weeks beginning 10th June and 17th June and Year 9 the week beginning 1st July. Year 7 and 8 have recently completed their internal examinations and we are very proud of the way that they prepared for their examinations and conducted themselves during the examination weeks.

Being successful in exams and tests is a two-step process – believe in yourself and back it up with plain old hard work.

If you have any questions about how to support your child in their examinations or any other aspect of their studies, health or wellbeing 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 A Muncey (Years 12 +13)
Assistant Headteacher – Miss S Khalid
Deputy Headteacher – Mr S Connor-Hemming
Deputy Headteacher – Mr S Abbotts

Have a safe and restful half term holiday.

Best wishes

Ms Davies

Save the Date

Year 9+10 Awards Morning

Thursday 11th July at 9am

Year 7+8 Awards Morning

Tuesday 16th July at 9am

Year 11 Awards Evening

Thursday 14th November

Fire Safety Improvements

At Hillcrest we are constantly looking at ways to improve the school building and surrounding environment. We will be starting a new project in August 2019 through to December 2019 to upgrade the fire safety systems throughout the whole school site.

The works will include:

- Upgrading the fire alarm system.
- Replacing all the main school corridor double doors with oak panelled fire doors on magnetic locks that automatically release the doors to open if the fire alarm signals.
- Upgrading the emergency lighting system.
- Installing new fire safety directional signage.



These improvement works will ensure the school building has the latest fire safety systems. We have been successful in gaining Condition Improvement Funding (CIF) from the Department for Education to fund this project and will update you once the work has been fully completed.

Hillcrest School & 6th Form, Stonehouse Lane, Birmingham B32 3AE

SATURDAY 13th
JULY 2019

CAR BOOT SALE

Contact
Lin Fowler
linfowlerpta@gmail.com
to book your
pitch

1PM
4PM
£8
per pitch



Hillcrest
Circle
Friends

together we can achieve
so much more

Key Dates

Summer Term 3b Begins	-	Monday 3rd June @ 08.45am
Parent Meeting for French Trip @ 6pm	-	Wednesday 5th June
Year 9 Visit to University of Birmingham	-	Thursday 6th June
Year 10 Examinations Week 1	-	Monday 10th June - Friday 14th June
Blackwell Residential Trip	-	Wednesday 12th - Friday 14th June
Year 7 Rounders Competition	-	Wednesday 12th June
Year 8 & 9 Theatre Visit	-	Tuesday 18th June
Year 11 Leavers Assembly	-	Wednesday 19th June @ 09.30am
Year 9 & 10 Halesowen College Trip	-	Thursday 20th June
Year 11 Prom	-	Thursday 20th June 6.30pm
Year 10 Examination Week 2	-	Monday 17th June - Friday 21st June
South of France Trip	-	22nd - 29th June
Year 10 S&L Examination	-	Week Commencing 24th June
Year 12 Internal Examinations	-	Week Commencing 24th June
Year 9 Business Walk, Birmingham City Centre	-	24th, 25th, and 26th June
Year 8 & 9 Rounders Competition	-	Tuesday 25th June
Year 4 & 5 Taster Day	-	Thursday 27th June
Inset Day 4	-	Friday 28th June
Year 9 Examination Week	-	Week Commencing 1st July
Year 12 Work Experience (2 weeks)	-	Week Commencing 1st & 8th July
Year 10 Sixth Form Taster Day	-	Tuesday 2nd July
Year 6 Induction Day	-	Wednesday 3rd July
Primary Olympics	-	Thursday 4th July
Year 12 Induction Day	-	Thursday 4th July
Year 7 French & Year 8 Spanish Role Play Final at Birmingham Repertory Theatre	-	Monday 8th July
Summer Show	-	Monday 8th July @ 7pm

Key Dates

Year 10 Careers Workshops - Business Enterprise	-	Tuesday 9th July
Year 8 Writing Workshop	-	Tuesday 9th July
Year 9 & 10 Awards Morning	-	Thursday 11th July
Sports Day Track Events (Years 7-9)	-	Friday 12th July
Year 10 Work Experience Induction Day	-	Friday 12th July
Year 10 Work Experience Week	-	Monday 15th - Thursday 18th July
Sports Day Field Event (Years 7-9)	-	Monday 15th July
Year 12 UCAS Week	-	W/C 15th July
Year 7 & 8 Awards Morning	-	Tuesday 16th July
PSD Day 6	-	Wednesday 17th July
Summer Term Ends for students	-	Friday 19th July @ 12.30pm
Inset Day 5	-	Monday 22nd July

