

Hillcrest Messenger

121st Edition

December 2019



A message from the Headteacher

Well done to everyone, this has been a long and very busy term. The hard work of all students and staff has continued to impress everyone who visits the school. Well done to Year 11 and Year 13 who have recently completed their mock examinations.

Enjoy the holiday, but please remember to keep safe. I wish you all a restful holiday and a peaceful New Year.

REMINDER SCHOOL RE-OPENS FOR STUDENTS ON TUESDAY 7th JANUARY 2020. Registration is at 8.45 am.

Reminder: Emergency Closure of School :

In extreme weather conditions or other emergencies when it is necessary to close the school, details will be posted on the school website, sent via twitter and ParentMail text and email messages. The school will always try to give as much notice as possible.

If, for any reason, we were unable to re-open as announced because of secondary factors e.g. burst pipes, heating failure, this will be communicated as above. Please do ensure that students have an alternative place of safety should it become necessary to close the school early in an emergency.

Safety around the school premises :

We would be grateful if you could take care not to block the driveway to the Fire Station, Den Caney Coaches or Swallow Foods. Please consider the safety of students when parking on the school grounds and do not block pavements and walkways. At the end of the school day please take care not to block the entrance to the drop off car park as this causes danger for students using the crossing and other motorists and prevents access for emergency vehicles. We are lucky to have off road parking as many schools do not have this facility.

As always, we advise that if the car park is full, the safest place to park is on Stonehouse Lane beyond the school bus stop or on another nearby street or car park.

Best Wishes Ms J. Davies



Hillcrest Christmas Card Competition

A big thank you to all the students who entered our annual Christmas card competition, there were many wonderful entries and it was a very difficult choice.

Congratulations to the winners who received certificates, vouchers and copies of their cards that will be sent out on behalf of the school at Christmas.

The winning card was drawn by Alishba in Year 7. Runner-up cards were drawn by Andreea- in Year 11 and Maja in Year 7.



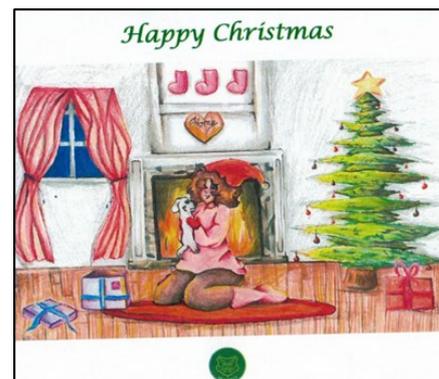
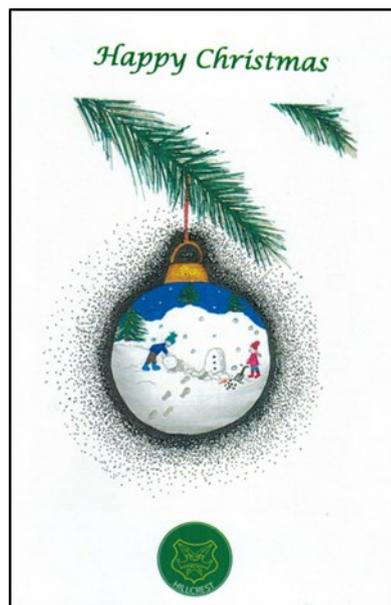
Alishba



Andreea



Maya



**Ms J. Davies
Headteacher**

Friends of Hillcrest PTA Christmas Market

On the afternoon of Friday 13th December, the Friends of Hillcrest PTA Christmas Market took place in the Theatre Hall. There were a variety of stalls selling lots of items, including the PTA tombola stall, and lots of tasty food and drinks. There were also stalls where you could take part in games including, 'Pin the Nose on the Reindeer', 'Drop the Coin on the Reindeer in Water', 'Guess the Teacher Baby Photos', 'Donut Pong' and 'Lucky Dip'

The PTA Tombola raised £274.55 and the student's stalls raised £443.46 making a total of £718.01 which will be used towards extra-curricular activities and events for students at Hillcrest.

The winning form group this year, is P2, for raising a total of 398.64. The form group in second place is P7, for raising a total of £81.40.

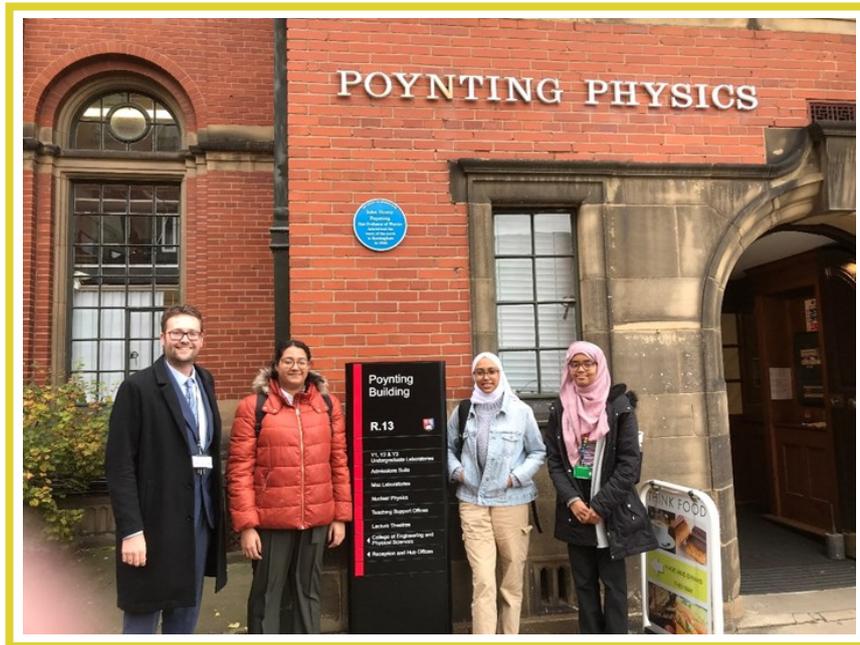
Thank you to everyone for all the kind donations we received for our tombola stall.



Mrs L. Fowler
Chairperson of the Friends of Hillcrest PTA

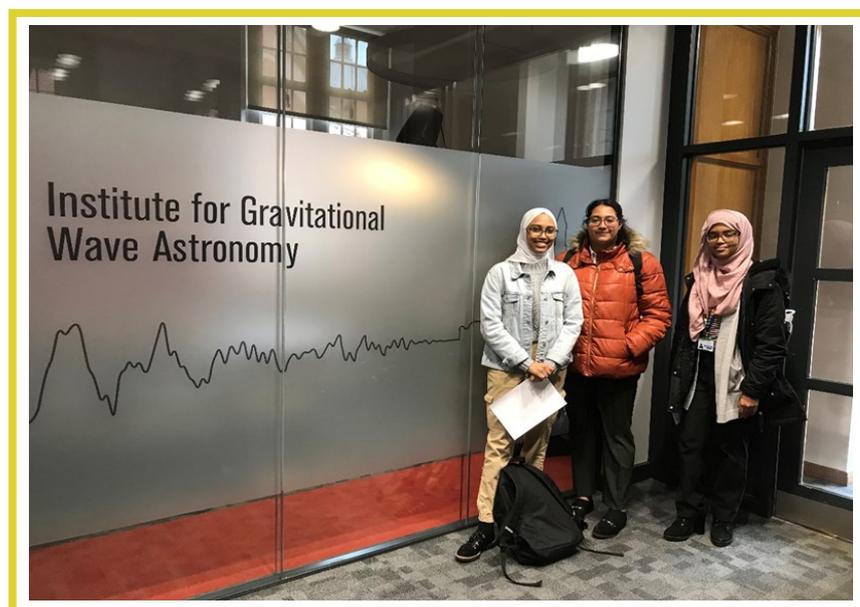
Particle Physics A Level Masterclass

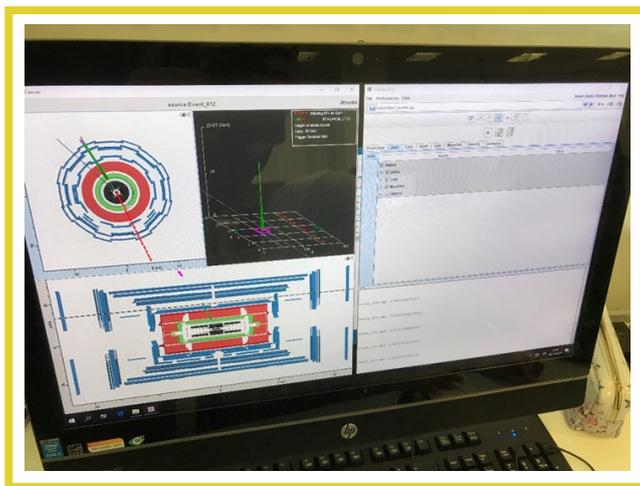
On 6th November, our A Level Physics students accompanied Mr Squires to the University of Birmingham for a particle physics masterclass.



During the masterclass, students learnt about how the standard model was built from first principles, how CERN functions to discover the universe's mysteries and how the Higg's boson was discovered. Students were fascinated by the software used at CERN on the ATLAS project, which allows physicists to sort particle interactions from one another and from background noise.

The software also replicated the signals received when the Higg's (the boson which gives other particles mass) was discovered. From this, they were able to extrapolate the data and discover the particle for themselves. The students also worked on statistical modelling which allowed them to yield the rest mass of the W boson to be $80.379 \pm 0.012 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ – rather impressive considering the lower than expected uncertainty.





Physics is the most fundamental of the sciences, with its ultimate goal being to understand any and all aspects of how our universe, from the apparently simple (e.g. the motion of a dropped object) to the highly complex (e.g. the search for the Higgs Boson at CERN) works.

Year 11 students considering studying Physics at an advanced level should see Mr Squires.

The Physics A Level course is for those who want to know just how and why the natural world works as it does, and covers a wide range of physics topics from the tiniest scale of sub-atomic particles to the evolution of the cosmos. Students should see the subject as an exciting academic discipline, allowing them to adopt an enquiring, critical and mathematical approach to the study of the world around them.

Mr T. Squires
Assistant Head of Science

Friends of Hillcrest PTA Table Top Sale

The Friends of Hillcrest Table Top Sale was very well attended by stall holders.

Lots of beautiful hand crafted gifts were on show. Lots of bargains were to be had too, and everyone who bought on the day were more than pleased with their purchases.

Mrs Lin Fowler
Chairperson of Friends of Hillcrest PTA



Friends of Hillcrest PTA Quiz

Congratulations go to.....

FRIENDS OF HILLCREST QUIZ WINNERS 2019



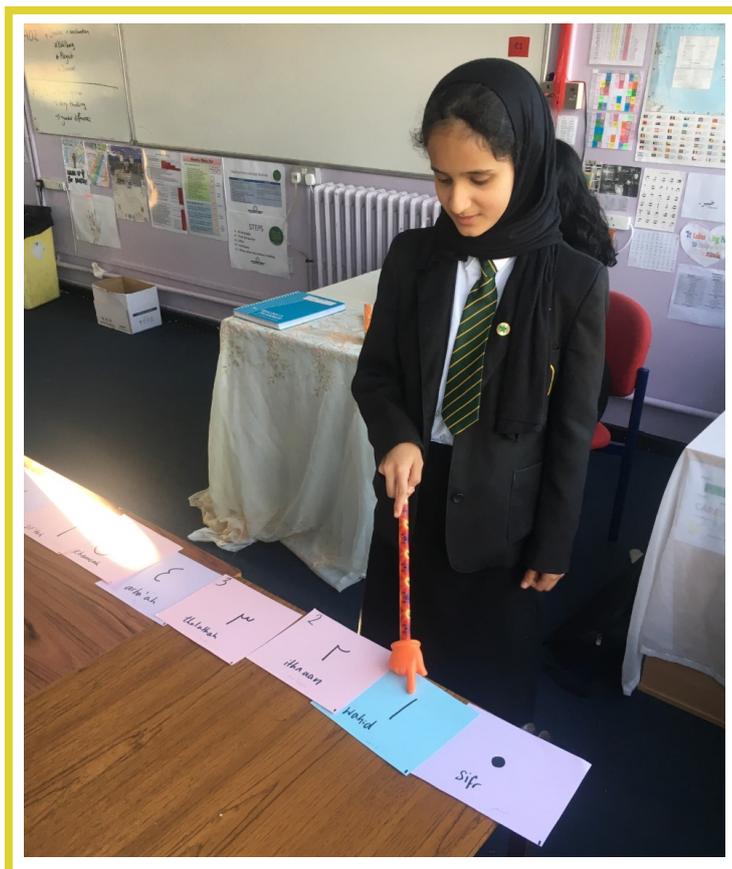
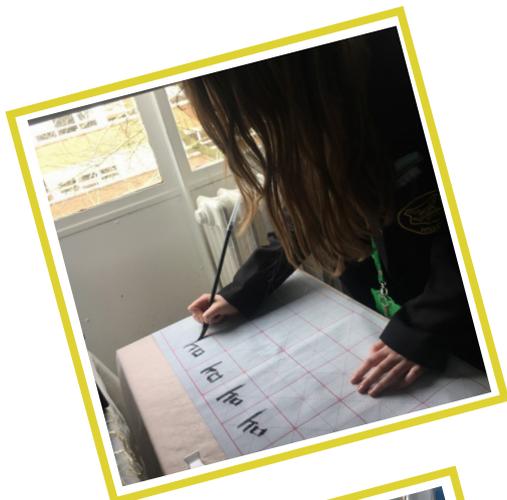
Our annual Friends of Hillcrest Quiz was very well received by all who attended. Numbers were down on last year, but we hope by word of mouth that next year will be back to it's usually high attendance.

This year's contest was very fiercely fought, with the winners, 'The Science Team' just two points ahead of their nearest rivals!

Mrs Lin Fowler
Chairperson of Friends of Hillcrest PTA



Arabic Club & Chinese Club



Year 9 MFL Quiz

On Wednesday, 11th December, 2019, eight Year 9 students represented Hillcrest in the Oaks Consortium annual MFL Quiz at Lordswood Girls School. Students taking part included Maryah, Aisha, Pangiota, Sara, Sanoujha, Joelle, Abrar and Nina.

The students competed in a series of rounds which tested their language knowledge of French, and even some German and Spanish, as well as their general knowledge. After a round of identifying a range of famous faces and landmarks from around the world, students were tested on their knowledge of French verbs. Here, the students showed impressive accuracy through their exceptional marks. The following rounds required the students to draw on their knowledge of vocabulary and I was particularly impressed with the girls' ability to understand a tricky translation round that required them to apply their language-learning skills to understand German and Spanish, despite not having studied these languages previously.

Although the girls faced strong competition, they did fantastically well, only just missing out on second place. A very big congratulation to all students who took part and represented both the school and the MFL department splendidly.

Mr B. Harrison-Webster
Teacher of French

Hot and Cold GCSE Physics Masterclass



On 20th November, five of our GCSE Physics students accompanied Mr Squires to the University of Birmingham for a Hot and Cold Physics Masterclass.



Mr Squires and students enjoyed exploring the University of Birmingham's Edgbaston campus and Physics department.



Ruchika impressed Dr Pavlidou with her functioning thermostat.

The session was wonderful, beginning with a lecture by Dr Pavlidou about the differences between temperature and heat. Students were then able to explore the extremes of temperature from absolute zero through to the hottest temperatures created artificially within the universe. Students particularly enjoyed the interactive demonstrations involving liquid nitrogen where superconductivity, Lenz's law and induced buoyancy were displayed. Students also created their own thermostats, using complex electrical circuit diagrams. This was particularly enjoyable for students as it allowed them to reinforce their GCSE studies with real world experience of how the Physics that they have learnt is applied within industry and our everyday lives.

We were also very lucky to be invited into the nuclear radiation laboratory where Dr Tungate showed our students several experiments that third year Physics undergraduate students were working on. This insight allowed us to explore the laboratory requirements of a Physics undergraduate degree and all were able to appreciate the technical skill required to explore the nuclei of hadronic matter.



Our students encountered a little resistance completing their electrical circuits.



Souhar and Dr Pavlidou worked collaboratively.

Dr Pavlidou commented how impressed she was with our students, particularly their resilience, determination and willingness to immerse themselves with the activities.

They were a credit to Hillcrest School and female scientists – well done girls!

Mr T. Squires
Assistant Head of Science

Parks Inter-Form Competition - Creativity with Bread Dough

On the 26th November two representatives from each of the Parkes forms assembled in the Food Room to commence the first 'Creativity with Bread Dough' competition.

Each student was provided with the ingredients to make 500g of bread dough. They were given two and a half hours to make their dough and create their design. They were allowed to include additional ingredients and non-edible items for decoration.

We were amazed by the outcomes and it was difficult for the judges, Mrs Davies and Ms Adenike to make a final decision.

The winners were Abrar from P1 with a skilfully weaved basket full of chickens and Joella and Tabussum from P6 with a creative Peacock.

The images below are of all the creations. The standard was high and there were some very creative results. I particularly liked the Mona Lisa!



The next competition will be in the summer and the theme will be 'Creativity with Fruit'. I am looking forward to see the design and practical skills of the students.

Mrs Kirsz
Learning Manager Art and Design Technology

Our school is raising money by collecting reusable clothes.

Please help us by donating your unwanted reusable clothes and accessories.
Donated items become affordable clothing and accessories.

Items that **CAN** go in the bags

- ✓ Adult's clothes and children's clothes
- ✓ Paired shoes and footwear
- ✓ Soft toys and unwanted gifts
- ✓ Bath and hand towels
- ✓ Belts and handbags
- ✓ Jewellery and accessories
- ✓ Bedding and household linen



Items that **CAN'T** go in the bags

- ✗ SCHOOL UNIFORM
- ✗ SCHOOL SPORTS KIT
- ✗ CURTAINS, PILLOWS OR DUVETS
- ✗ BRIC-A-BRAC OR BOOKS

If you are unsure what to put in the bags

STOP AND THINK
WOULD YOU WEAR IT?

Please use the clothing bag provided.
You can also use any additional bag if required.

Collection Date:

Please bring in your reusable clothes by 9am on Friday
14th February 2020- thank you

Please remember - NO UNIFORM



Our school is raising money by collecting reusable clothes.

Please help us by donating your unwanted reusable clothes and accessories.

Donated clothes/accessories needed in school by:

9am Friday 14th February 2020



Anti-Bullying Week 2019



Week commencing 11th November 2019 saw Hillcrest School participating in the Anti-Bullying Alliance's Anti-Bullying Week. Whilst bullying is an ongoing challenge all year round, the week provides an opportunity for further reflection and consideration of actions that students and staff can take to eliminate bullying from our school and society.

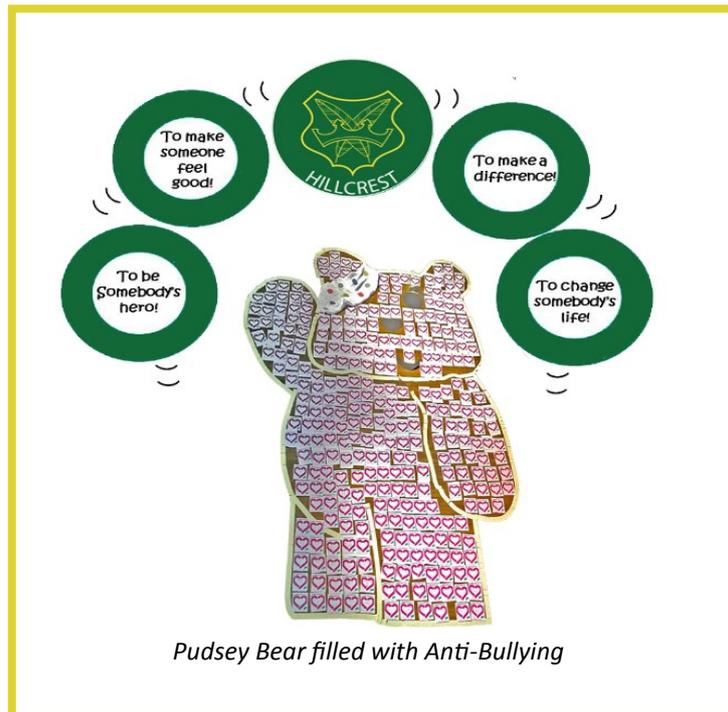
This year the theme was “change starts with us” and students focussed on what small changes they could take to make a big difference towards reducing and eliminating bullying. During the week, students participated in a wide range of anti-bullying activities across their academic subject lessons. During English lessons students considered antagonists in books that they were currently reading and how their bullying behaviours shaped other characters. Within Mathematics lessons students analysed bullying statistics to consider the impact that bullying has on society. Within Science lessons students considered the psychology of changing people's behaviour and how they could alter their own behaviour to encourage positive changes. Within History students considered cases of bullying throughout periods of time and their consequences whilst in Geography students evaluated whether press portrayals of differing demographics were an example of bullying. Whilst in Art and Design students discussed how they support and cooperate with each other during practical activities and how it contributes to their mutual successes.

Alongside curriculum activities, students considered the question “do you think it is possible to reduce bullying in our school?” within form periods. Nightingale and Parks colleges discussed how by making small, simple changes, we can break the cycle of bullying and create a safe environment for everyone. Malala College and Sixth Form focused on online platforms including Instagram and Snap and considered whether online banter was bullying and how social media bullying can lead to mental health concerns, anxiety, self-harm and suicide.

The week culminated in a non-school uniform day on Friday to raise money for BBC Children In Need where students wore blue and white items of clothing. These colours were selected by our anti-bullying ambassadors as they represent the colours of the Diana Award, which celebrates and champions anti-bullying campaigns. Thanks to students' generosity we managed to raise an amazing £387.53 for BBC Children In Need.

At lunchtime students came up with their pledges on actions they could take to eliminate bullying. The response was fantastic and we managed to completely fill our Pudsey Bear.

Thank you to all staff, students, parents and carers for their support with Anti-Bullying Week 2019.



Mr Squires, Ms Guyver and Ms Muncey at the conclusion of the Pudsey pledges



Thank you to Ms Cox and Mr Lakin for giving up their time to create our fantastic Pudsey Bear!

Mr T. Squires
Assistant Head of Science

Maths Week England 2019

In November, Hillcrest students participated in Maths Week England. Over 200,000 students Nationally participated from all around England.

It was an opportunity for the students to tackle mathematical problems that are different to the National Curriculum, and to solve them using logical processes. This involved several challenges for each year group.

Congratulations to all of the students who participated.



Mr M. Gilman
Assistant Learning Manager for Maths

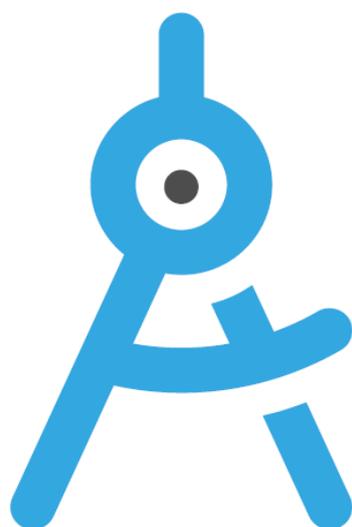
Memri & Fix up 5 on Hegarty Maths

On Hegarty Maths, there are two programmes to practice your skills.

Memri is a retrieval practice quiz that is made up of ten questions that you answered correctly previously. Each day you do a Memri quiz, you will earn a stamp towards a goal your teachers set. It is not necessarily easy, the questions will be slightly different each time you see them and will appear at greater time intervals. The absolute best way to learn any topic is to do a little bit very often. This is called retrieval practice. Do one Memri quiz every day and you will master Maths. Students can access Memri from the navigation bar at the top of the screen.

The other programme is called Fix Up 5. The quickest way to improve in a topic is to practice the things you're not good at. For example, if a golfer is better at putting than driving, they should practice their drive first. This is called deliberate practice. In Hegarty Maths, students can revisit topics where they previously got questions wrong. It only asks five questions at a time because this is hard work. Students should re-watch the video to help them with the question and then try it again. Students can access Fix Up 5 from the navigation bar at the top of the screen.

If students have any further questions, please speak to one of the maths teachers.



hegarty**maths**

Mr M. Gilman
Assistant Learning Manager for Maths

Physical Education News

Year 8 and 9 Inter-Form Badminton Competition

Students played with great spirit and fought really hard to get to the finals, but the results were:

1st place - Sara and Sabah P7

2nd place - Risha and Salem P4

3rd place - Aicha and Emilia P8 and Nikita and Kaydon P4

Exciting new Physical Education Clubs

Football Club – Year 7 and 8 Monday and Year 9, 10 and 11 on Thursday.

Handball Club – All years Tuesday lunch time.

Just Dance Club - Before school each morning and Wednesday lunchtime, which will be run by sixth form students.

Badminton Club – All years Wednesday lunch

Walking Club – We will be starting a walking club each lunchtime.

Physical Education Fact

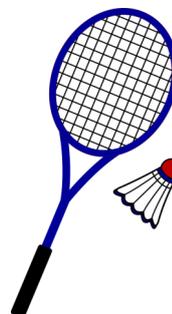
Guidelines from the Department of Health and Human Services say that children and adolescents age 6 and older need at least an hour a day of physical activity. Most of the hour should be either moderate or vigorous aerobic activity. Vigorous activity should be included at least three days a week.

New Student Opportunity

We are looking for a team of students to start a new active lifestyles/healthy living and well-being magazine. If you are interested, please speak to Miss Taylor.

Glow Cricket Competition

Students participated in a glow cricket competition, students had to dress up and paint themselves in glow in the dark materials and then play cricket in the dark against other schools. It was a great competition and Hillcrest finished in third place! At the end of the event we also got the privilege of seeing the cricket World Cup trophy.

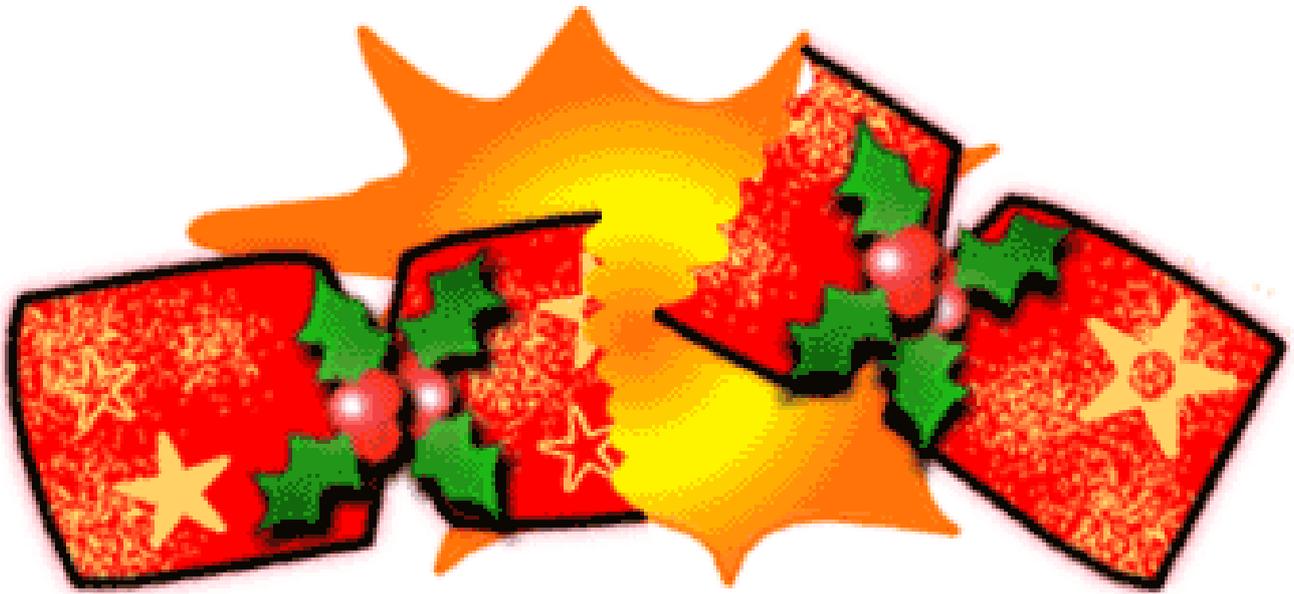


Christmas Cracker Concert

On Thursday, the 12th of December, our school had celebrated the season of giving with a cheerful Christmas show. There were several talented acts performing during the evening: The choir, the performance group and we also had different musicians playing. The choir had sung several Christmas songs which were immensely enjoyed by the audience, and the dances, which were performed by different year groups, had also given the audience a reason to remember our show.

Furthermore, the amusing drama piece had made the audience laugh and appreciate the show even more. It was very clear that the students, who had performed, had worked exceptionally hard to put such an admirable show together.

By Melanie, Year 10



I would like to thank all students who participated, performed or helped out or supported the Christmas Cracker Concert.

The talent in our school is fantastic and all students should be proud of the performances on the night. An enjoyable night was had by all.

Miss L. Taylor
Learning Manager for Physical Education

KEY DATES

Inset Day 3	Monday 6th January 2020
Spring Term 2a Begins	Tuesday 7th January - school starts at 08.45am
University of Law Workshop - Year 12	Tuesday 7th January
Year 7 Coffee Morning	Wednesday 8th January
Year 12 Maths Mock Exam	Wednesday 8th January - Afternoon only
Sixth Form Parents Evening	Thursday 9th January 4pm - 6pm
Year 7 Spelling Bee at Bartley Green School	Monday 13th January
Year 12 Maths Mock Exam	Wednesday 15th January - Afternoon only
Year 9 Big Physics Quiz	Tuesday 21st January
English Literature Mock Exam	Monday 27th January
Year 8 Parents Evening	Thursday 30th January 4pm - 6pm
Year 8 & 9 Netball Competition	Wednesday 5th February
PSD Day 3	Thursday 6th February
French Theatre Productions - Years 8 & 9	Thursday 13th February
Year 7 & 10 Handball	Thursday 13th February
Rags2Riches Clothes Donations - by 9am	Friday 14th February
End of Term	Friday 14th February - school finishes at 3.15pm
Half-Term Week	Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February
Spring Term 2b Begins	Monday 24th February - school starts at 08.45am