Wishing you a Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!

In this Newsletter:
Message from the Headteacher | Big Ideas Day | PE Enrichment | Aston Villa vs Nottingham Forest | Sports Leadership Level One | Sports Captains | Year 11 Have Got Talent | Year 9 (Careers) Speed Dating | Year 8 Pupils Inspired to Take Up Careers in the NHS | Year 10 Take on the BT Work Skills Bootcamp | Careerometer | Year 11 Pupil Visits the Palace of Westminster | Fundraising
MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents & Carers,

The long, dark autumn term is drawing to a close and it is good for us all to celebrate some of the highlights of this year. We continue to work hard on improving attainment and provision for all year groups. Pupils have taken part in a range of activities to include:

- Outward bound visits for Year 7 to the Long Mynd
- KS4 Pupils have completed the Duke of Edinburgh expedition and have now started their public service section.
- STEM Workshops and Visits
- Solutions for the Planet Workshops
- Sculpture Workshops
- Career Fair

Our big focus for the whole college is to get pupils reading widely and often. We want them to read, novels, non-fiction books and newspaper articles. Research has shown that the pupils with the largest vocabulary range are the most successful in their qualification outcomes. We want the best for all our pupils therefore we would like all parents to support this. Year 7-9 now have a reading book which they must take home and read weekly. The college library is open daily and pupils can borrow additional books to read which reflect their interests.

All Year 11 pupils should now have now begun revising for their mock examinations which will take place in the first two weeks of January. If you are a year 11 parent please check that your child is revising every day. All pupils have been given revision guides for every subject. In addition, the school website hosts further revision materials for your child to use to supplement their guides and notes. Please make sure your child is completing at least three hours of revision each day during the winter break.

At this time of year many cultures are celebrating the festival of lights and we again have all joined in this celebration as a school community. In addition this year we have put on a traditional pantomime and all year groups have been provided an opportunity to attend.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform all parents once more that term time holidays cannot be authorised and the local authority will fine parents who take their children on holiday during term time.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful and relaxing winter holiday.

Mrs A Andersen
Headteacher

IMPORTANT DATES

8th January 2019
Pupils Return to School & Start of Year 11 Mocks

16th January 2019
Year 9 Parents’ Evening

17th January 2019
End of Year 11 Mocks

18th January 2019
Year 11 SMSC - Working for Marcus by Loudmouth Drama

6th February 2019
Year 11 JCC Interview Day & Year 7 Parents’ Evening

7th February 2019
Year 7 Walking Trip

14th February 2019
Hodge Hill’s Got Talent

18th February 2019
Start of Half-Term

22nd February 2019
End of Half-Term

25th February 2019
Pupils Return to School
SOLUTIONS FOR THE PLANET - BIG IDEAS DAY

On 13th November 2018, 80 Year 8 pupils took part in ‘Big Ideas Day’, organised by Solutions for the Planet. Those taking part spent the day discussing issues of sustainability, with input from three mentors from local business, Tarmac.

By the end of the day, pupils were working in groups to create their own ‘big idea’ to solve a global sustainability problem, which they then presented to their peers. Solar-powered cars, an ocean vacuum cleaner for plastic pollution and an environmentally-conscious youth club were just some of the ideas created on the day, and many pupils have continued to work on these during our development sessions in order to enter Solutions for the Planet’s national ‘Big Ideas’ competition in March.

Hodge Hill College were the overall winners of last year’s competition, with Sea Savers claiming first prize – let’s see if we can do it again!

Miss C Ambler
Teacher of Geography

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**PE ENRICHMENT TIMETABLE**

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<th>Lunch 1</th>
<th>Lunch 2</th>
<th>After School</th>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>Girls Multi Games Lunch 1 (Green)</td>
<td>Cricket Year 9 – Mr Knight (Blue)</td>
<td>Badminton - Mr Brown (Blue)</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Girls 7/8 – Basketball Lunch 1 (Green)</td>
<td>Girls Benchball/Dodgeball – Mrs Edgley</td>
<td>KS4 Basketball – Mr Brown (Green)</td>
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<td>Prefects</td>
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<td>Football Year 8 – Mr Knight (3G)</td>
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<td>Year 7 football – Cage Lunch 1</td>
<td>Cricket Drills – Lunch 2 (Blue)</td>
<td>Football Year 7 – Mr Stewart (3G)</td>
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<td>Sports Captains</td>
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<td>Cricket Year 10 – Mr Morgan (Blue)</td>
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<td>Dodgeball KS3 – Dodgeball Mr Knight (Blue)</td>
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<td>KS4 Basketball – Mr Brown (Green)</td>
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<td>Girls 7/8 – Basketball Lunch 1 (Green)</td>
<td>Girls Dance Lunch 2 – Mrs Edgley (Blue)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>BTCEC Catch up – Mrs Edgley E354</td>
<td>BTCEC Catch up – Mr Knight/Mr</td>
<td>Sports Leader Level 1 – Mrs Edgley</td>
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<td>Table Tennis Games</td>
<td>Stewart E354</td>
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<td>Cricket Year 8 - Mr Stewart (Blue)</td>
<td>Girls Badminton – Mrs Edgley (Blue)</td>
<td>Girls Football – Miss Palfrey</td>
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<td>Girls 7/8 – Basketball Lunch 1 (Green)</td>
<td>Year 9 Football – Courts Lunch 2</td>
<td>Football Year 9 – Mr Brown</td>
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<td>Prefects</td>
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<td>Year 7 Football – Cage Lunch 1 sports</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Multi Skills – Courts Lunch 1 sports</td>
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ASTON VILLA VS NOTTINGHAM FOREST

On 28th November 2018, 40 pupils ranging from Years 7-11 and 6 staff went to watch Aston Villa play Nottingham Forest at the Aston Villa Football Club. This was an absolutely fantastic game to watch ending in a 5-5 draw, with pupils seeing a penalty, two other goals from Aston Villa being disallowed in the last 10 minutes and a player from Nottingham Forest being sent off. Apparently some of us were seen on television.

Some pupils had never experienced a professional sporting environment before so they were lucky to see such a good game and get involved with cheering for Villa with the crowd.

The pupils taken represented Hodge Hill College perfectly throughout the whole evening and are already asking when we are going again!

Mrs S Edgley
Teacher of PE

SPORTS LEADERSHIP LEVEL ONE

Sport4Life UK have been coming into school every Thursday for the past five weeks to work with 15 pupils from year 7-9 who have been put forward by their PE teachers as demonstrating good leadership qualities. These Pupils are completing a recognised qualification called Sports Leadership Level One, the course has been teaching them how to run sessions with children and adults in a sporting environment and the qualities needed to be a good leader in all environments.

Well done to; Yannick Kuemkong, Mahek Saleem, Sabah Nabi, Aayan Ali, Faizaan Shafiq, Yagou Marong, Simon Spinks, Mohammed Ali Naveed, Mohammed Gaber, Owen Dicken Smith, Yusaf Riaz, Ahmed Mirza, Haris Aijaz, Ziad Gaber and Leo Jaf who have completed the course so far.

We will be running further course in the New Year.

Mrs S Edgley
Teacher of PE

SPORTS CAPTAINS

Pupils have either nominated themselves to become a sports captain or staff have nominated them due to their commitment, maturity and leaderships skills on the school sports teams or in PE lessons.

Sports Captains have added sports session they wish to support with to the PE enrichment timetable and have started to run these at break times. They are running activities such as Table Tennis, Dance, Football and Multi skills. Well done to those who have shown a commitment already.

Mrs S Edgley
Teacher of PE
YEAR 11 HAVE GOT TALENT

In November 2018, a selected group of Year 11 students had the amazing opportunity to visit the World Skills Show taking place at the NEC. This gave them the chance to experience the UK’s largest skills, apprenticeship and careers event.

The show allows the pupils to explore different sectors and expand their knowledge about careers they may not have previously considered. It also encourages the visitors to have a go at some of the skills on offer.

During this event the NEC is extremely busy and our pupils ensured that they experienced the numerous avenues available to them on that day. We hope that the day played a fundamental part in helping the pupils become more confident about the choices they will make for life after Hodge Hill.

All of the pupils came out of the event positively buzzing about the amount of information and the advice on offer with one saying he was going to take his family on the upcoming weekend. Thank you to Mr Kiembe and Mr Wood for attending.

Mr J Patel
Teacher of MFL & Aspiring Leader: CEIAG

YEAR 9 TRY (CAREERS) SPEED DATING

On Wednesday 21st November 2018, all of Year 9 took part in the annual Careers Speed Networking/Dating event at Hodge Hill College. The six companies represented in the event were Lloyds Banking Group, HS2, The Belfry, Capgemini, Mercer & Braun.

The pupils were in small groups of 7 or 8 and had a set time with each company within the hour. Once that time was up the pupils then had to move around the next company and the process continues. Pupils were told about the visiting businesses previously so some had done previous research on what questions to ask however it was always upon the students to keep up the conversation and find out as much as they could within the time limit.

The objective of this event was to broaden the career horizons of our Year 9 pupils and with the range of companies who visited and the employees they brought along our pupils had and took the opportunity to do just this. This information will all be very beneficial when they make their Guided Choices for GCSE subjects but also regarding further and higher education as well as the world of work.
The visitors came away extremely positive about our Year 9 pupils who were all impeccably behaved and enthusiastic within the event. A big thank you to all of the visitors who volunteered their time and effort to take part in this event.

AA: “I thought about my career route from GCSEs to a job which I had not done before”.

IH: “I enjoyed learning about the day to day jobs that people have to do in their jobs”.

AS: “I now want to work for HS2 as they will be in the local area and have lots of jobs within engineering”.

Mr J Patel  
*Teacher of MFL & Aspiring Leader: CEIAG*

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**YEAR 8 PUPILS INSPIRED TO TAKE UP CAREERS IN THE NHS**

On Thursday 6th December 2018, Year 8 pupils were lucky enough to have two guest speakers from the NHS as part of the institute’s 70th birthday celebrations. The visitors were Dr Jonathan Leach who is a GP and his daughter Dr Helen Leach who is a junior doctor and is also currently completing a PGCE so that she can teach medicine.

Dad and daughter spoke to all 240 pupils in Year 8 about the vast range of jobs within the NHS including doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, dentists and many more. Dr Jonathan Leach is the Joint Honorary Secretary of the Royal College of General Practitioners.
Dr Jonathan Leach was able to speak about his vast experience within several strands of healthcare including his time within the army. Dr Helen Leach was able to talk about the route she took to Medical School including her GCSE subjects which was very relatable for our Year 8 students. The doctors had very infectious (no pun intended!) enthusiasm and spoke for 30 minutes before it was the audience’s turn to ask questions. Some very curious questions included about cures for cancer, the common cold and as Mr Read asked, yes man-flu does exist according to a recent article from the British Medical Journal.

Dr Jonathan spoke about the need to remain active, keep warm and eat healthily and well during this cold period in particular to try and stay as fit and healthy as possible.

Our Year 8 pupils came away thinking about jobs in the NHS they may not have previously considered with information about salaries and the skills required provided by the speakers. The NHS is the country’s largest employer offering more than 350 types of profession, many requiring STEM qualifications. A very big thank you to Dr Jonathan Leach and Dr Helen Leach for giving up time from their busy schedules to hopefully inspire our pupils to consider careers within healthcare.

Mr J Patel
Teacher of MFL & Aspiring Leader: CEIAG

YEAR 10 TAKE ON THE BT WORK SKILLS BOOTCAMP

In early December 2018, 40 selected Year 10 pupils were taken to the BT Midland ATE building in central Birmingham where they had the chance to test their employment readiness in the BT Work Skills Bootcamp. Hosted by volunteers who currently work for BT the pupils had to complete a number of tasks throughout the day in order to develop and improve their work skills.

Amongst the many tasks were for pupils to think about their dream jobs, the skills that they currently have and how they can be transferred to the world of work and deliberating over their short and long term goals. The students were also able to debate the pro’s and con’s over social media and how any statements made now by the pupils could well be bought up by any potential employers in an interview situation therefore the need to remain professional at all times upon all social media channels. The students had the opportunity to go on a tour of the building hence saw the offices where people work as well as the exchange, viewing the broadband and fibre connections in place that keep Birmingham online.
The final task of the day was to consolidate everything the pupils had learnt as they were split into five teams and provided with an ordinary household item and tasked with adding technology to this item and selling it to the volunteers. The five items were a coat, garden chair, toothbrush and wardrobe. All of the teams created an excellent item and sold it well but the volunteers decided that Team Coat were the winners.

All in all, the pupils had a great day and learnt valuable skills which will be useful not only for the future but also for the rest of their time within Hodge Hill College.

Mr J Patel
Teacher of MFL & Aspiring Leader: CEIAG

HAVE YOU TRIED THE CAREEROMETER YET?

Ever thought about how much someone doing a certain job would earn on average?

Ever wondered how many hours a week a person doing this job would do on average?

Ever considered whether a job you want to do will still exist in the near future?

If the answer to any of the above is yes, then try the Careerometer! Utilising active data from various reliable sources such as the Employer Skills Survey you can use the Careerometer to inform your choices about potential careers. It allows you to compare two different jobs at the same time and provides information about salaries, hours worked and workforce changes all in one handy and easy to use format.
Over the past year, I have taken part in a Mental Health Project called MH:ZK. As a group, we have attended many workshops in which we chose five topics to improve about mental health. We went to many roadshows and delivered presentations to different youth clubs, schools, colleges and 100 decision makers who would report our findings to the government. For our final presentation took place at the Palace of Westminster where we already noticed changes being made.

Shakira Ahmed
Year 11

FUNDRAISING

Poppy Appeal
£157
November 2018

Walk a Mile
£445
November 2018

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!