



The Summerhill Times

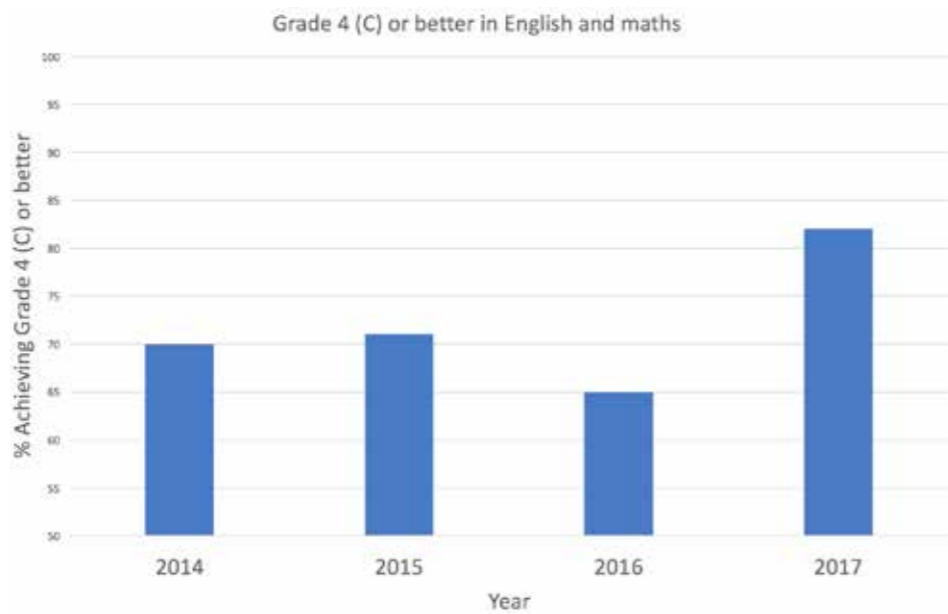
December
success through
giving
2017

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

We had planned that shortly we would issue the Summerhill Times electronically for efficiency, convenience and economy. The recent snow closure days coincided with the print deadlines and hence we have decided to trial an electronic edition this term, earlier than anticipated. Please give us feedback if you like this method or if you preferred a printed version. You will find a copy available in pdf format on our new website. The new website has now launched and we are working through the snagging issues where some items have not copied over from our old website. Please inform us if you find things missing, or if there is something that you would like to see on the website.

It has been a very busy and interesting term and it is lovely to have seen so many students taking part in such a diverse range of performances and activities. The House System, Vertical Tutoring, House Championship and numerous areas across the school are blossoming into an exciting new, supportive and vibrant culture. Thank you to all students and staff who are giving so much of their time to enrich both themselves and our community. Student leadership has grown considerably this year. We now have students in positions of responsibility across the school, including: Head and Deputy Head boys and girls; Junior Leadership team positions; House Captain and Deputy House Captain boys and girls; House Year Leader boys and girls, totalling around 100 students exercising and developing their leadership skills, helping to drive our community forwards. Thank you to all of these students who are having a dramatic impact.

Presentation evening was an uplifting experience at the Copthorne Hotel and it was lovely to see our Year 11 students from last year celebrating their record breaking results. Very well done to the staff and our supportive parents for helping them to receive by far the best results that Summerhill students have ever achieved. Thank you also to our wonderful new choir and show band who entertained on the evening and added a lovely warm and celebratory atmosphere - all student led. Our current Year 11 students are on track, having just completed their Mocks (well done for all of the hard work which will pay dividends in the summer) to beat last year's record results. Provision for, and attendance at revision sessions for Year 11 has grown considerably; well done staff and students.



There are many highlights from this term, including: the wonderfully moving Remembrance occasion arranged by Mr. Glattback and numerous students, with thanks to members of the Kingswinford Royal British Legion who attended; the superbly organised Anti-Bullying week organised by our JLT students and Mrs. Sprouting; charitable events such as Children in Need and Movember; our choir performing at the Christmas Lights switch on in Kingswinford; the wonderful Christmas Tree created by our students for Wordsley Church and the embryonic growth of our Summerhill Radio station.

It is wonderful to see that so many of you have joined to follow our Twitter feed @SummerhillSch. Most areas of the school and staff have now also launched Twitter accounts for communicating the wonderful work that is going on at Summerhill, and to efficiently convey announcements and information. The main @SummerhillSch account is following most of the Summerhill Twitter accounts to make it easier for you to find them. Please bear in mind that these accounts are predominantly a broadcast medium, since we cannot expect staff to be available to respond to queries 24/7. If you have queries, these are best addressed through more conventional means, by email, telephone, by post or in person. We see great benefit in the Twitter medium when used positively by our community and we would encourage our community to celebrate and retweet successes and information whilst remembering that we teach our children that negativity on Social Media is counter-productive for any community; positivity is what makes wonderful communities blossom.

The school is improving dramatically and quickly. Thank you to the many, many students, parents and staff who have found the time to give us feedback about the positive culture change from this September. We are aiming to go beyond Ofsted Outstanding judgments, since this would cap our aspiration. We have started a very quick improvement curve but we are not blind to the fact that we have many areas where we need to improve. We have had a small number of prolonged staff illness and absence issues which have unfortunately affected some classes, but we have replacement staffing arriving from January (a new Head of Computing and English teacher); our apologies for the issues that this caused. We are certainly not setting ourselves up as perfect, however, we are aiming to close upon being as perfect as we can be. Please continue to give us feedback, whilst please also recognising that dramatic improvement takes some time; this will help us to focus where we next need to improve. A reminder is perhaps due that there is a parental contacts flowchart on our website to assist in knowing who to talk to, dependent upon what type of issue you need to raise; staff email addresses are on the school website. Staff are routinely being allowed to visit the best schools in the country to learn from national best practice, the ideas from which are being implemented here.

Finally, may I please wish your families a very Happy Christmas holidays, and we hope that you stay safe and find peace and joy.

James Bowkett
Executive Headteacher

Science

Science is awesome. I don't just think that, I KNOW it. In which other subject do you get to observe small lumps of metal fizz and burst into coloured flame when dropped in water, learn how bacterial and fungal cells reproduce and use the physics of pressure to explain why blobfish look so weird and bloated when brought to the surface, all in ONE week?

What have our Summerhill Scientists been up to this term?

Our Scientists have been busy this term, preparing for Mock examinations, developing and expanding their knowledge of the best subject in the curriculum, and carrying out engaging and exciting practical investigations. Here's just a snapshot . . .

Students used their knowledge of metal structure and properties to demonstrate how Silversmiths shape and colour metals:

- Made slow motion, time lapse videos documenting the effect of surface area on the rate of diffusion.
- Carried out flame tests to identify the mystery metal:
- Observed the structure and arrangement in an onion, using a microscope.
- Grown their own copper sulphate crystals:



Mock week begins 4th December. Well done to those who have been attending revision sessions. The time and effort you are putting in to dedicate your free time after school to revise will pay off. A reminder to those who have not yet found their way to a session: Mondays are Biology, Tuesday Physics and Thursdays are Chemistry. See the notice board in Science, ask any of the Science staff or see the school website for further details.

Science News, Competitions and Challenges.

We will be launching a two weekly Scientific Writing

competition in collaboration with the English department. Students can collect a scientific text and use it to produce a piece of critical and analytical writing, an article for a Science or nature magazine or a newspaper. Winners and other commended articles will be printed and displayed in the Science corridor.

Look out for the Nature News board in the Science corridor that is currently being put together and will feature facts, new discoveries in the world of Science and Nature News. We encourage students to contribute articles, facts and

news from their area of interest of expertise. Have a Science related hobby or interest? Share it. Are you going or have you been anywhere of Scientific interest or importance? Take pictures, write it up and share it with the Science Community.

Science of Superheroes. Which is better Marvel or DC!? Justice League or The Avengers? Science can tell you the answer with the Science behind some of the powers, skills and abilities of your favourite comic characters. Look out for answers in a Science corridor near you . . . coming soon.

Art

Artist in Residence

We are very proud and grateful to have Mr Laird working with us in the Art department this year. He is our new and very talented Artist in Residence. Mr Laird has spent many years in the creative industry and he has a wealth of knowledge and skills to share with the students.

He is currently busy transforming the school and making it one of the most inspiring places to teach and learn. His contribution to competitions and school branding are outstanding. In addition to this he supports, guides and inspires our GCSE students. We all look forward to seeing what he does next.....



Art

Art



Year 10

Year 10 are coming to the end of their Skills project where we have looked at the formal elements of Art. The most successful and visually dramatic work was when they created colour wheels based on their own photography. Work will soon be added to a permanent display in the Art corridor by our Artist in residence.

In addition to this they have created sculptures based on the concept of form. This work was then photographed and developed into acrylic paintings. We have some very talented artists, watch this space.



Year 9

One half of our Year 9 cohort are currently studying the very challenging skill of Graffiti. The sketchbook plans are already looking fantastic. Keep up the good work Year 9.

The other half of the year have been looking at the work of James De Rosso, a ceramics artist. They have been developing design ideas based on sea monsters. They are now in the process of creating their own functional clay pieces.



Year 11

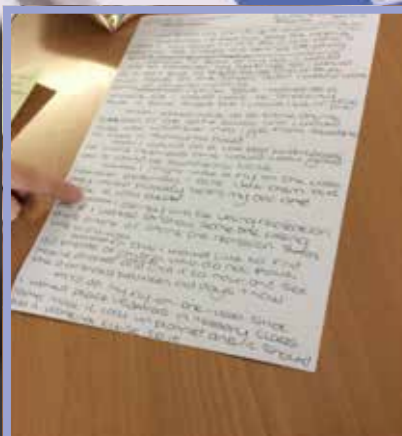
The Year 11 are well into completing their final pieces for the coursework element of their Art GCSE. We are very lucky to have such a talented and brave group of students this year. The end of year exhibition is going to be the biggest and the best the school has ever seen.....

Media Department Diary -

October 13th 2017 - A Decent Proposal

Year 11 Media students made great progress with their documentaries this week. In addition to completing their establishing shots, they experimented with a range of documentary proposals. This involved writing a convincing synopsis and drawing on their ever-growing knowledge of documentary conventions.

Two students in particular stepped up this week: well done to Jack and Finlay who did a great job acting as quality control inspectors!



October 13th 2017 - A Quality Lesson

Year 10 Media students should be proud of themselves this week after tackling their first end of unit assessment. It was a tough test, but they did a great job of exploring media language, representation and social context in a 1950s 'Quality Street' advertisement. Well done Year Ten!



October 17th 2017 - A Meeting of Minds

Year 11 Media students set the agenda for some fantastic work today, when they held formal production meetings to discuss documentary ideas.

Starting with a review of their ideas so far, they distilled their ideas into a master plan. Each group kept detailed minutes and demonstrated professional skills in negotiating and collaborating.

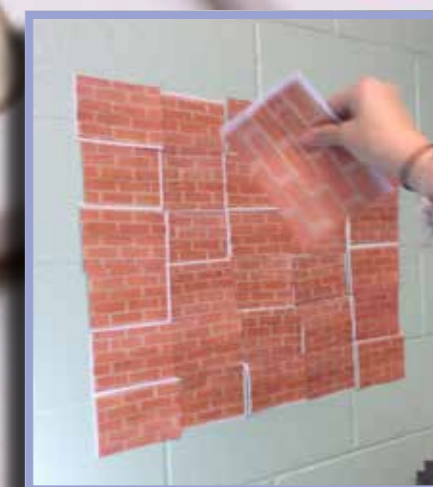
The result was a clear action plan for progress and some great ideas for documentary production work. Now it's time to put those plans into action!

October 30th 2017 - Another Brick in the Wall

Year 11 Media students built up a good understanding of documentaries today, by literally building a wall of learning.

Each group had the task of researching different documentary types and turning their findings into learning bricks, which were then used to build their 'wall' display.

Prizes were available for the most detailed (and the straightest) but the real prizes will be awarded tomorrow to the students who have the best recall of today's learning!



October 30th 2017 - Summerhill Radio is Here!

Today saw the official launch of our school station 'Summerhill Radio'! And what better way to launch it than with a spooktacular Halloween special?

Students got a very special treat with the surprise broadcast of the radio show across every corner of the school (not to mention outside too). The response was fantastic and we already have lots of students wanting to get involved.

If you would like to be a presenter, researcher, technician or producer for Summerhill Radio, just pop into English 3 and have a word with Mr Holden.



October 31st 2017 - A War of Words

The two Year 11 Media groups entered into a war of words today- specifically the words 'Media' and 'Documentary'.

It started when 11A spotted the Word Wall' their rival group had created yesterday. 'We can do better than that', they claimed, and proceeded to create giant 'learning letters' that explored documentary conventions. The resulting 'Media' display was pretty impressive.

But that wasn't the end of it. 11C retaliated with an even bigger 'Documentaries' display that stretched across most of the English corridor!

It is a matter of opinion which one is best but it is clear that both groups are really confident in their understanding of documentaries now. The real competition will be who can produce the best film!



October 31st 2017 - 'The Call'

Year 10 Media students tried out their skills in filmmaking today, when they were given a 'five shot' challenge and armed with video cameras. This required them to storyboard, direct, operate cameras, act, edit and produce! And in Ben's case, there was even time for a little keyboard practice too!

Later this year, the class will be required to produce a short film as coursework for their GCSE. On today's evidence there is some really promising work on it's way!



November 14th 2017 - Past, Present and Future

One of the most interesting Year 11 documentary ideas this year is the 'Past, present and future' documentary being worked on by Amelia, Ryan and Tom.

This group is exploring students who have, are or will be attending Summerhill. It's an ambitious undertaking but the group have made a good start. Today they reviewed archive interviews with past students who have gone on to achieve great things in their chosen area.

They will follow this up with interviews of current students and are even exploring ways in which future students could be involved in the production. This is definitely one to watch!



November 24th 2017 - This Class Can

Year Ten Media students took to the streets (of Summerhill) today to discover teachers' views of the Media. Armed with copies of a 'This Girl Can' magazine advertisement, they asked staff their views on the use of stereotypes, the representation of gender, the reinforcement of ideologies and the role of the media in shaping perceptions.

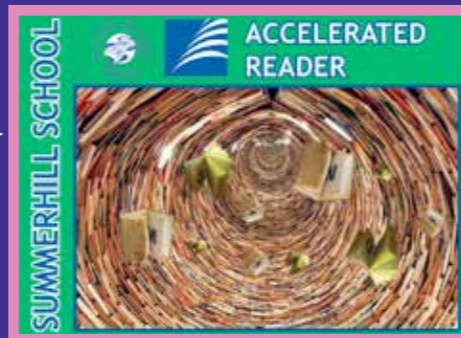
Without exception, the students were mature and professional in their roles as interviewers and were able to elicit some fantastic responses and engage in informative conversation. The buzz in the room when they returned was fantastic and the activity had clearly broadened their understanding of the topic.

Thanks to everyone who contributed answers and helped support learning.



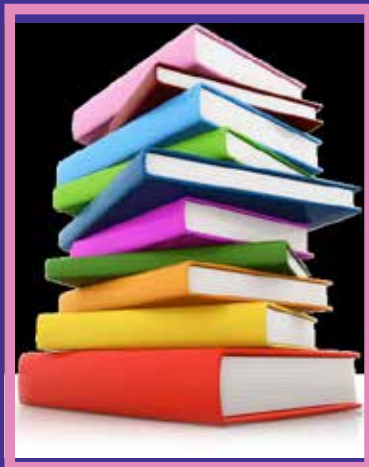
Literacy

Reading at Summerhill has been taken to a whole new level with all Key Stage 3 students starting the Accelerated Reader Scheme. In the last 3 weeks, over 600 books have been checked out of the library. Each Key Stage 3 student now has a designated literacy lesson on their timetable and are registered with the AR reading scheme. Pupils have taken a reading test which has given them a range of books suitable for their reading level. Students are expected to read a book every 2 weeks, take a short quiz on their understanding, log their results and then progress through the programme.



Students with an average of 85% quiz scoring tend to make the most reading progress so if you are getting 100% results, that's great, but maybe you should challenge yourself with more difficult books. Quizzes can be taken at home and the link is on the literacy page of Firefly. Can't find a book in the library that you like? There is an AR book finder tool on the Firefly literacy webpage where you can search books you have at home to check their reading level. If they are within your ZPD, go for it!

Remember, the government suggest students should be reading for 20 minutes every day. Are you?



Some students are blasting through the scheme already and achieving great things! The highest word count so far is awarded to Megan Gwinnell with 677, 501 words read! Furthermore, only three weeks into the system and Isabelle Hincks has done 9 quizzes, passing with an average of 92%, Elizabeth Tranter has read 6 books, passing with an average of 95%, Darmini Mehan has completed 4 quizzes all at 100% and Emelia Henley has taken 6 quizzes, averaging at 90%. A massive well done to these students!

Key Stage 4 has not been forgotten. One tutor period each week is designated to literacy where both KS3 and KS4 students will read for 20 minutes. Whilst KS3 students have their AR books, KS4 students have been supplied with a range of fiction and non-fiction reading material which will further their studies not just in English, but across the curriculum. The

material has been differentiated so there is something for all reading levels and interest. Reading a book at home? Bring it in and read for 20 minutes during tutor time each week!

Finally, every two weeks there is a whole school literacy focus. This term students have learned about commas, apostrophes, speech marks, capital letters, full stops and question marks. SPAG marks are awarded in exams across most subjects now so remember the rules and keep standards of literacy high in every lesson!



Geography

We are pleased to report another successful and active term for the Geography department...

Year 7 students have been producing their own weather forecasts as part of the 'Weather and Climate' topic. Having learnt about Britain's climate and different ways to describe weather, such as using the Beaufort scale and assessing the degree of cloud coverage, we put the students' new-found knowledge to the test!



Year 8 students have been studying the continent of Africa and the country of Kenya as a case study. Recent lessons have seen students examine Kibera, the shanty town on the outskirts of Nairobi. After students described and explained the impoverished conditions for residents, they undertook a decision-making activity to suggest appropriate and sustainable improvements for people living in the area.



Year 9 students have been introduced to the explosive and earth-shattering topic of volcanoes and earthquakes! The students became the experts for a lesson when studying the eruption of the Soufrière Hills volcano on Montserrat. They had to work in groups to respond to a sequence of helicopter reports and choose appropriate actions to take to keep the islanders safe. The photos show some deep concentration while making important decisions!

Year 10 students have spent this term studying tectonic hazards, such as the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull that erupted in 2010. As well as understanding the course content, we have been trying to find effective ways of remembering how to spell the volcano. The best mnemonic for the volcano's name so far is 'Every year jaffacakes are found joking and laughing loudly. All jaffacakes ooze ketchup under lemony layers!' Students have created revision resources that can be used repeatedly through Years 10 and 11 to help retain information in the long-term memory. The photographs show Lucy and Mya creating mind maps, Megan and Oliver creating packs of revision cards and Charlie designing 'chatter boxes' full of key facts and information. These clever ideas should help them ace the next exam!



Year 11 students have been finishing the GCSE course content and revising hard for their mock exams. We have been very impressed to see large numbers of students attending the 8 am revision sessions each Friday. The photo shows over 50 hard-working students with a little chocolate motivation



Year 8 student Ross Gwillam wrote this fantastic narrative as his assessment piece in English this term. The department were impressed by his imaginative view of the future, his understanding of the dystopian genre and his wide vocabulary.

They stewed up ideas like a witch stirring up a new potion in her cauldron. They sent brainstormed messages to one another as they gargled about their strategies. Suddenly, it clicked. Messenger A40123-845B shared what had come to his head. The others agreed. Tomorrow it would be put into action.

"What's for tea mom?" Tom shouted as he rushed into his games room. "Dad's going down the chippy on his way home," his mom replied. He plunged onto the sofa and his Playstation 77 flickered on.



It was 9:30 pm and dad still wasn't home. Tom leapt of his chair and bundled down the stairs. "Where's dad?" he pondered under his breath. He stood lonely in the kitchen. Bzzzzzz. The fridge opened. Tom's heart jumped out of his skin. Repugnantly, a robotic voice scowled all around the house. What was happening? It boomed menacingly, "We are coming. See you tomorrow." It bleeped ear-piercingly and Tom panicked; he remembered the time he lost his iPhone 49x – this time his panic struck him like it was a cricket bat. Mom wobbled into the room. "Love you." She wept and dissolved spookily before his eyes. Panic-stricken, Tom ran back up to his games room.

It was dawn. Tom eased himself up off the sofa he must have been sleeping on. The wind howled like a blood sucking werewolf and torrential sleet and snow poured down like pieces of bricks – terrorising everything in its path. It was a monster ripping objects apart to tiny shreds. The roof was pounded upon. The sun hung lifelessly in the sky as the carbon dioxide supply was shortened due to the howling sleet.

"Humans breathe carbon dioxide but there's none left. What can we do?" Tom's logic was surrounded with probing questions surrounding his brain like Muhammed Ali did to his opponents. They were sharks, tearing everything in their path, causing harm and problems. Gingerly, he peeped out of the window. The trees swayed eerily to the harmful tune of the hailstorm. The sun sat pale just above them. It was... it was... Were Tom's eyes deceiving him? No. The sun was slipping. It was falling. Was this what that person said about? It can't be. It was falling at an alarming rate. Tom cursed himself and everything in the world he could think of with language that he never realised he knew. Swirling in the powerful typhoon-like wind Tom spotted a blue plant pot. As it swooped closer towards the ground, it had an image of a giant blue bird of prey like an eagle viciously hunting its prey. It had landed and some sort of content streamed out like water when the plug is taken out.

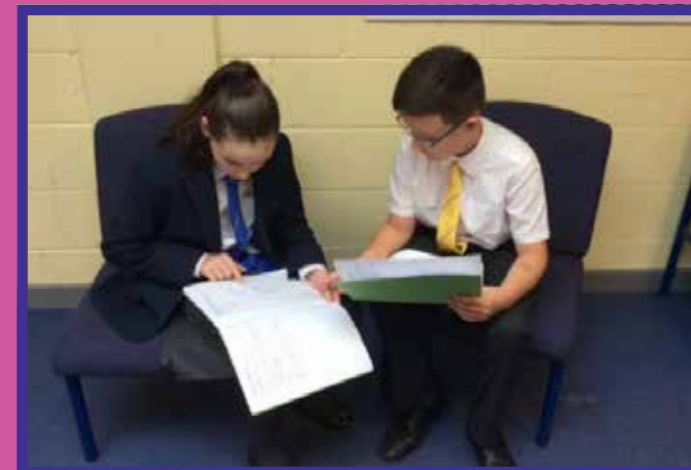
Eyesight hindered Tom from identifying who these creatures were exactly. Suddenly it clicked. Tom exclaimed what had come to his head. He knew what it was but not what to do about it. He knew the reality would hit him like a big bully if he ever actually got his head around what was going on. He knew he had to hide. He knew he had to spring behind a desk. He knew it was his only hope because he knew it was the end of the world.

English Star Student

Year 8 Student Lily Holt (UCB) is our 'English Star Student' for term 2. Her creative writing this term has been engaging, highly creative and original. Her flair for descriptive and narrative writing has impressed her teachers a great deal, as has her diligent approach and hard-working attitude. Well done Lily, keep up the good work!



Year 7 students demonstrating excellent peer support skills in their journey to beyond outstanding.



A Year 9 English class preparing for their second key assessment.

Through the use of discussion, sharing ideas and challenging concepts, students are seen here working in groups, creating interesting, detailed and engaging responses to questions from English Language Paper One.



Junior Leadership



Junior Leadership



Anti-Bullying Week

13th – 17th November, saw the whole of Summerhill School taking part in Anti-Bullying Week. This national event shines a spotlight on bullying and encourages all children, teachers and parents to take action against bullying throughout the year.

This year's theme, 'All Different, All Equal', was shared by the Junior Leadership Team in House assemblies. Their message to all students was that we are all different in many ways and none of these differences makes any one of us better or worse than anyone else. They simply make us the person we are – valuable, distinct and unique.



Around school lots of departments got involved in sharing the Anti-bullying theme. Miss Bentley held a discussion group about how to treat a bully. Mr Holden held a film showing of 'Zootopia', and the drama club produced their own pieces reflecting the effects of bullying in schools.

In addition to this, lessons had anti-bullying themes and staff and students took to twitter to share their anti-bullying messages.

This week-long event let the whole school celebrate our differences and work together to stop bullying and to help those who have suffered from it in the past.

Draco House Leaders

In leadership meetings we have discussed about all of the House Championships and how to improve them, make them more fun and to help the school be more uplifting.

We have been in individual groups and have been given a specific task to focus on that will hopefully make the school brighter. In my group we have been focusing on all of the noticeboards around school. We are developing and working on how to improve them and catch student's eyes around school. We have discussed that we are going to produce artwork to help the boards look more inviting in Draco tutor rooms.

Pegasus JLT

Since the House System has been introduced, we all wondered if it would be successful and whether it would work out as planned. We are glad to say that everyone has settled in well within the House System and seem to be enjoying themselves. We feel as though the forms have been a huge success with the older students being able to bond and support the younger students. As House Captains, we are all very proud of what Pegasus House is achieving and we aim to be at the top by the end of the academic year. We are very proud to be a part of this House.

Pegasus Junior Leadership Team



Tabitha Simmonds (PBK)
House Captain



Dylan Pugh (PHW)
House Captain



Katherine Silvers (PLB)
Deputy House Captain



Krishi Ramkhelawon (PJC)
Deputy House Captain

Year leaders

A big thank you to our fantastic year leaders. Pegasus meetings are always lively events and the leaders and deputy leaders are helping to push our House forward.

Year 7 - Brad Milligan and Lydia Evans
Year 8 - Fanni Polgar and Harry Bedworth
Year 9 - Max Lee and Scarlett McHenry
Year 10 - Triena Hutchinson and Leo Cox



Christmas Tree Festival

Summerhill School were delighted to participate in the Holy Trinity Church Christmas Tree Festival. The Junior Leadership Team decorated the tree with red, blue, yellow and green baubles were scattered to represent the House colours while stars were added to represent the constellations. Members of the community were invited to view the trees over the weekend of the 1st – 3rd December.



Year 9 & 10 House Leaders Decorate the Tree





Draco

Over the past couple months, our House leadership team has been working hard to improve the school in various different ways, taking into account many aspects of school life, including working on future competitions, developing charity ideas for our House and improving the atmosphere of the school in general.

So far, we have managed to organise teams for the football competition, and to support students and staff in many other competitions, allowing us to make a slow but steady advancement on the House leader board. 225 of our dedicated students all wore spots during Children in Need and this lead to the first of what we hope will be many victories for Draco!

Jack Brookes has been high-fiving people before assemblies with a big green foam hand, encouraging and engaging with students before the school day, and our House leaders have set up a 'selfie table' for even more smiles too!

We as Junior Leaders have split into small teams and have been allocated an aspect of the school to dedicate towards improving along with raising money for charity. We plan to sell hats and hoodies for charity. We also have a media team, who are always keeping spirits up via social media, tweeting about current and future events, as well as thanking students for their hard work!

We are trying to make a big push towards gaining points for the major competitions, such as attendance and effort based competitions, scoring us a potential 256 points each towards the grand total, so make sure you give it your all, and make your best effort to get a high attendance and attitude.

In December, we have many different Christmas based competitions, such as a Christmas tree decorating competition, a House carol singing competition and a Christmas dinner competition, so get your tinsel ready and clear your throat for a month of yule tide joy!

Overall, we have been trying our hardest working with all members of staff as well as students to make Draco House the best it can possibly be!

Hannah Wilkes and Harvey Dalloway,
Year 10 Draco Leaders DDH



Orion

Happy holidays to all. As another exciting term comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and peaceful break over the festive period.

Students in Orion House have continued to prove how each and every one is working hard for their House, and the commitment has been staggering.

There have been so many wonderful House events this term, but it would be remiss of me to not mention the highly competitive effort from our netball teams in the House Competition on the final day of last term, most notably the KS3 who fought back from being 3-0 down to draw their match 3-3 and ensure that Orion were unbeaten in the whole tournament. Winning this tournament ensured that we maintained our lead at the top of the House Championship going into the half term holidays.

This term we saw over 25 pumpkins carved in such wonderful and creative ways but a special mention to Amy Flavell who carved the Halloween Orion Logo into her pumpkin and took 80 points for Orion - well done Amy and thank you to all students, parents and family members who contributed.

Thank you and well done to all of our football teams who are putting in such wonderful performances, as we enter the final rounds of the tournament it is still all to play for. Thank you especially to Callum & Tyler who have supported every team from year 7 -10, you've been absolute stars!!

It is important to keep working hard and ensure we put maximum effort into all that we do. Good luck to year 11s who will be receiving their mock exam results on Wednesday 20th December.

Have a well-deserved break. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.



Pegasus

House competitions so far:

Limbo - The first House competition, limbo gave our House the boost we needed to make an exceptional start to a fantastic year.

Pictionary - This competition was lots of fun but unfortunately we came last.

Spelling Bee - the spelling be was a fun filled competition that concluded in flying results as Pegasus won! Well done Arzoo Arshad, Lucy McLaughlan and Mr Morgan.

Netball - symbolising our teamwork and sporty spirit, showing true passion and having fun. We did pretty well and the key stage 4 team were unbeaten.

Pumpkin carving - some amazing pumpkins were entered by Draco, but the standards were high and we came third.

Spooktacular - bizarre but exciting the competition ranged from apple bobbing to mummifying Mr Quirke!

Football - along with netball, showcased our teamwork. Girls and boys all participated working together and trying our best. We did exceptionally well and it was great to see Pegasus students supporting Pegasus teams.

Attendance

Pegasus House was not at its best at the start of the year. Since we spoke to the students in our House, however, our attendance has dramatically shot up to a very high and admirable level. This resulted in Pegasus winning the attendance competition three times in a row and we could potentially go on to win again which as a House, we feel extremely confident about.

We would like to mention the following students for showing amazing effort and showing great confidence when presenting to the House- Emma Neve, Ria Ashworth, Alex Banyard, Lucy McLaughlin, Kieran Osbourne, Jacob Cassidy. They are really helping us to drive the House forward.

In our next newsletter we will give you information regarding our House charity that we will be supporting this year. The presentations from students were fantastic which shows how caring and thoughtful our students are.

On behalf of Pegasus House we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We are looking forward to 2018 with you all.



Ursa

During the first term of this academic school year Ursa House, 'The Bear' appointed a strong leadership team across the year groups. The process of becoming this was gruelling, but enjoyable. Each had to present an assembly to demonstrate their leadership qualities and their vision for how the House would look. We are very proud to be able to introduce the Senior Leadership team to you.

Hi, my name is Alex Hodgkiss and I am your House Captain. I have a great vision of what our House will become, my vision of our House is to become a competitive House, like the example shown by our marvellous footballers, but also more competitive in every single sporting competition.

Hey, my name is Demi Bennett and I am your House Captain. I am very enthusiastic about this role and after winning the behaviour competition I believe that everyone in our House can continue to be a House that others students admire and look up to as an example of what an Outstanding Summerhill student looks like, to be successful and achieve great things.

Hello, my name is Rhys Harper and I am your Deputy House Captain. I believe that our House with the help of other aspects of school life including our sporting achievement and academic success we will thrive to be the best that we can be. Our hard work and charitable nature sets us apart from the other Houses.

Hi, I am Faye Hyde and I am your Deputy House Captain. Throughout this first half term, we have participated and succeeded in House competitions such as the football, Spooktacular and the behaviour competitions. As a Deputy House Captain, I want to make sure that together we succeed in every possible way. Something that has really impressed me this term is how we support other members of our House, everybody has been really kind and caring. I am also proud of how we did not gloat about our success, when we won the behaviour competition but shared our success with others. We have also not taken it for granted - we have continued working hard, knowing that our behaviour and progress can only continue to be better.

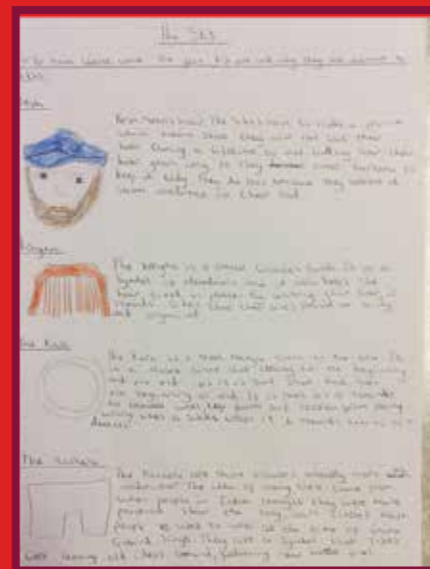
On behalf of Ursa House, we would like to wish all staff and students a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to growing as a House when we return.

Alex Hodgkiss, Demi Bennett, Rhys Harper and Faye Hyde

Religious Studies

Religious Studies

It has been an exciting half term for students of RS at Summerhill School. Year 7 have been reflecting on the importance of community. They have evaluated the reasons for and against being part of a community and researched the way in which people choose to show their identity and belonging. Students have learnt about the Khalsa and how Sikhs who are baptised into the Khalsa identify themselves by wearing the Five K's. Students were able to compare this to secular communities, such as the Summerhill community that students are a part of. Here is an example of the investigative work that took place into finding out how and why the Khalsa was created in 1699.



Students in Year 8 have been getting into the festive mood through the study of religious celebrations, including Hanukkah, Diwali, Christmas and many more. Students have analysed the significance of these religious festivals in light of a growing secular country/world in which we live. Students were asked to present their findings on whether they thought these festivals hold the same meaning as they did when the festival(s) first originated.

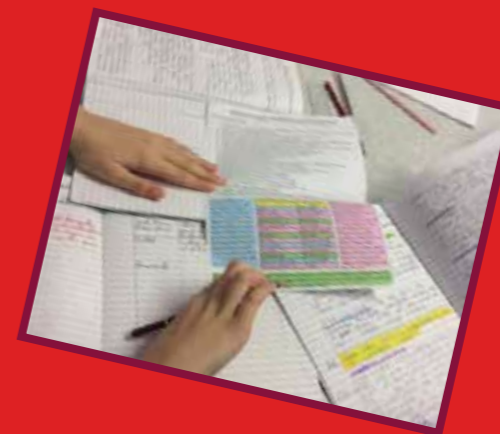
Lily Catello (UMH) said:
"I enjoyed learning about Diwali and finding out all the facts about why this festival is celebrated by Hindus across the world. The best thing about this festival in my opinion, is the moral of the story of Rama and Sita. It was interesting to have analysed the similarities and differences between religious festivals. I now know that Diwali and Hannukah are both known as 'the festival of lights'".

Katherine Barnett (DBT) said:
"I've enjoyed researching and finding out all about how religious people celebrate festivals as part of their commitment to their chosen faith. It has helped me understand that although religions have different festivals, some of their beliefs and teachings can overlap".

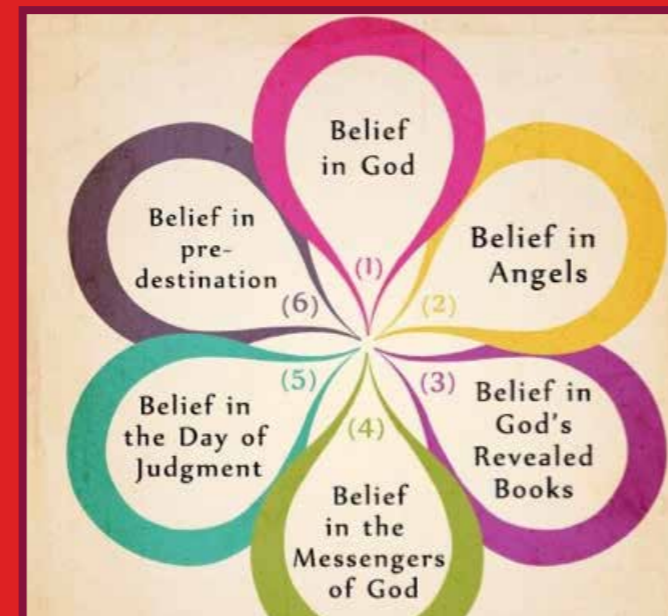
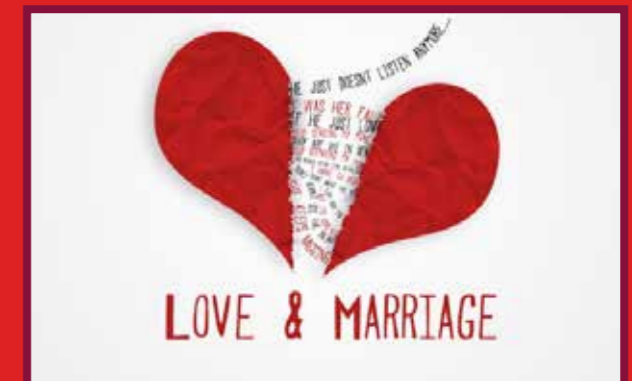
Don't forget to follow us:



This half term, Year 9 students have been applying the subject knowledge they acquired from last terms' topic on Jewish beliefs to the horrific treatment of the Jewish community during the Holocaust. We have assessed the ways in which Jews were affected and the reasons behind the treatment they were made to endure. As part of their assessed work, students compared what they had learnt to the ways in which other communities were penalised and treated at the same time, including groups of people who were disabled, homosexuals, the travelling community and many others. Ultimately, students were asked to judge who they thought was affected the most during the Holocaust, providing reasons why they thought this through evidence they had collated. Students were encouraged to consider reasons why others may disagree with their opinion to show that they had thought of more than one view point.



Year 10 students have been investigating the change in attitudes towards marriage and family life. Students have enjoyed developing their own opinion on various areas of this topic, including marriage, divorce, remarriage, equality of men and women in the family and gender prejudice and discrimination through debates and exam practice questions.



Year 11 students have been working hard in preparation for their Religious Studies mock exam. They have been focussing on two topics; 'Muslim Belief', which looks at the fundamental beliefs and how these differ between Shi'a and Sunni denominations within Islam. The second topic 'Living the Muslim life' encourages students to apply their subject knowledge and understanding of the Muslim faith to analyse the Five Pillars of Islam and the importance of these beliefs on Muslims today.

Textiles

Textiles

GCSE Textiles

Fashion Illustration and Design Proposals

The Y11 Textiles students are taking a break from their Controlled Task while Mocks are underway. So this is a perfect opportunity for you to have a look at what they have been up to. The students have created a range of design proposals that are influenced by their chosen theme. These include Steam Punk, The 1960s, Chinese Culture and Street Wear. Their next step is to create the textile garment. As you can see from the standard of work produced the students have a bright future ahead of them in the world of design.



*Lauren Wild
inspired by the swinging 60's*



*Sophie Jackson
Inspired by the
English designer
Alexander
McQueen*



*Maisie Bowerman
inspired by the
Italian designer
Emilio Pucci*



*Imogen Lemm
Inspired by
Chinese Culture*



Dylan Tomkins Year 7 ONS



Tom Burrows Year 7 ONS

Year 7 Textiles

Soft sculpture

As Year 7 Design Technology students complete their first rotation we are discovering bucket fulls of talent. Dylan and Tom are the first students to complete the Textile Soft Sculpture Project and are so proud of their achievements we couldn't resist sharing their work with you.



D&T

A massive congratulations to Alice Thynne of Orion House for winning the Red Nose Day Design competition hosted on the @SH_DesTech Twitter account.

The organisers of Comic Relief have an open competition to design a new red nose which will be made and used in the 2019 Red Nose Day fund raiser.

Twitter Followers picked Alice's nose (pun intended!) over all of the other entries to win some chocolate goodies.

Follow the Summerhill D&T department on twitter for future competitions.



As part of the new Design & Technology qualification, the Year 10s have been using discarded recyclable packaging to create functioning prototypes.

The task was to use the gathered materials to create a passive speaker; a device that amplifies and improves sound from mobile devices.

We tested the end products using a sound level meter to see which design increased and improved the mobile phone's volume the most.

As you can see from the end results it was a fun, and successful learning experience.



Follow the Summerhill D&T department on twitter for future competitions.



History



As the end of another busy half term approaches, the History Department is finally taking time to catch its breath.

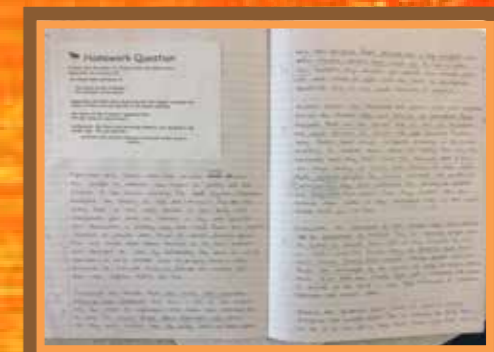
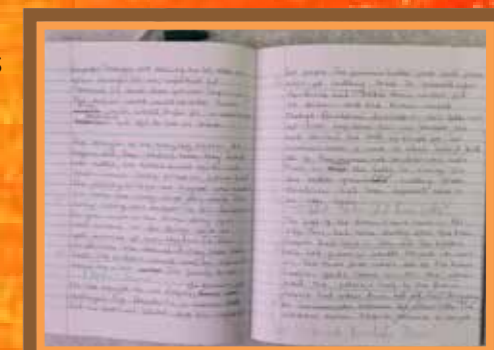
Mr Hall recently took a group of Year 11 students to the University of Warwick for their annual 'History in Action' event. Students were given the opportunity to experience lectures from some of the top academics in the field of Nazi German History. Students fitted seamlessly into the sophisticated and rigorous environment of higher education and really enjoyed the opportunity to deepen and widen their understanding of such a key issue.

It has been a busy start for Year 10. Mr Hall and Ms Stevens are hugely impressed with the enthusiasm and aptitude they have exhibited in GCSE History lessons. They have already completed a series of short knowledge tests and exam questions; Amy Flavell, Holly Richards, Niamh Chambers, Katie Bodenham, Grace Martin and Rosie Collins have all had exemplar work shared on Twitter as proof that Summerhill students are grasping what grade 8s and 9s look like in the subject. Well done!

Year 9 has been a real whirlwind! Students have been studying the rise of Hitler in Germany and they are already drawing comparisons to various political developments all over the world. The whole year recently completed a key competency on the sinking of the Titanic – some absolutely wonderful analytical essays were written. The next generation of Summerhill GCSE historians looks bright!

Year 8 are adapting to having less History than in Year 7. They have been investigating the conspiracy surrounding the Gunpowder Plot and evaluating the evidence that Robert Cecil was the driving force behind the plot.

And finally, some thanks are to be given. Year 7 have put in a monumental effort this term – some outstanding historical heroes work from Olivia Fairfax, Amy Beale and Charlie Osbourne amongst many others and sensational Roman recruitment posters from Josh Pougher and Billy Willmoth. All the hard work is really appreciated. Follow us at: summerhill_history1!



Maths

Maths

It's Not What You Know, It's How You Knew It That Counts

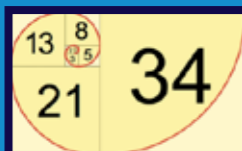
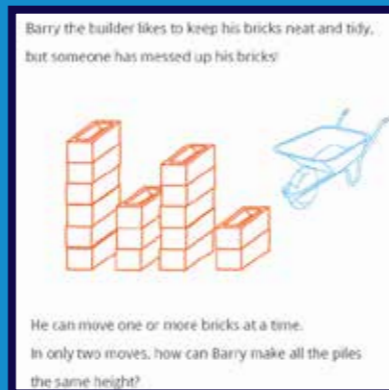
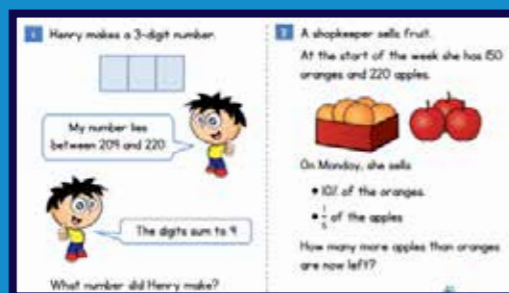
Welcome to the Summerhill Maths Department's edition of the Newsletter for Term 2.

In this newsletter we would like to share how we (Summerhill Maths Department) make the extra step to teach not only the process of finding the answer, but also the process of finding the right process (!?!)

As mentioned in last newsletter, every Maths lessons starts with a problem solving question. Students are supported to develop the skills they need to tackle problems by the classroom culture. Questioning and deep thinking are valued, mistakes are seen as useful, all students are encouraged to contribute and their suggestions are valued, being stuck is seen as honourable and students learn from shared discussion with the teacher, Teaching Assistant (if present) and peers.

Here are some of the examples of problems solved since September.

twitter
@Maths_SH



A recent article in Science news from Cornell University explained how new research has utilised mathematical sequences to compare mating cycles of the Japanese Tree Frog.

When Mr. Harris read this, it got him thinking that his Year 7 and 8 students had done similar work when investigating real world sequence problems. The students were pleased to know that not only were they answering higher level questions, securing their knowledge but they were doing the same type of calculations as the top scientists!

We would also like to share the success that our Year 8s had while solving the Maths 'Murder Mystery' during this term. Miss Barnett is really proud of the great team skills the class showed to solve the clues and catch the suspect.



Community Maths Question

We would now like to invite all parents, grandparents, friends and family of the Summerhill community to get involved in answering this problem!



The problem is about Percy Cod and Patsy Eel who are both shepherds. They keep sheep in adjacent fields near the source of the river mint. Can you work out how many sheep each person owns from the following clues?

- If Percy sold seven sheep to Patsy, both shepherds would have the same number of sheep.
- If Patsy sold seven sheep to Percy then Percy would have exactly twice as many sheep as Patsy.



To answer this problem, all you have to do is follow us at @Maths_SH and answer this problem. The names of the first five correct answers will be announced in our next newsletter! So get as many entries as you can.....

The newest word I've added to my vocabulary:
dactylconomy
n. the art of counting on one's fingers



Performing Arts

Performing Arts

What a term! Once again we have been amazed by students performing in assembly and around school at impromptu concerts. Not only have students performed in School, the Choir and Show Band have performed at Kingswinford Christmas Lights Switch On and at Presentation Evening supported by Lizzie Bradshaw, Marta Klinska and Emma Pryce who did an excellent acoustic set and Polina Diakov who performed an outstanding solo on Oboe.

We would also like to celebrate Will Ferrier and Maxim Diakov for both recording The Last Post to be played on Remembrance Day. The Choir also performed an excellent rendition of Fix You by the Military Wives in Remembrance Assembly to the Royal British Legion, Mr Bowkett and Year 7.

Students have also been busy rehearsing for our Christmas Cracker on Thursday 14th December and we look forward to sharing pictures with you on the next Newsletter.

There are far too many people to mention individually but we would like to celebrate everyone who has contributed to the continued success of the Music Department. Well done!

To keep up to date with the latest news and activities with the music department please follow use on twitter, @Music_at_SH. You can also follow Mr Bibby on SH_MrB and Mr Reynolds on @MrReynoldsSUM.

Mr Bibby
Head of Music

Mr Reynolds
Expressive Arts and
Extra-Curricular
Support

Mr. M Reynolds @MrReynoldsSUM · 17h
Brilliant Choir rehearsal tonight. All ready for the Kingswinford Lights Switch on tomorrow. Be there in Townsend Place from 4pm to join the festivities! 🎵🎶🎸

Summerhill Music @Music_at_SH · 12h
@SummerhillSch Music Department will be supporting our community tomorrow evening. The Choir and Show Band will be performing at the Kingswinford Christmas Lights Switch On from 3:30pm. Come along, enjoy the Music, Food and Christmas Stalls and support our community 💖

K'FORD LIGHT SWITCH ON



Summerhill Music @Music_at_SH · 1d
I'm so proud of all the students who performed at Presentation Evening! You're an amazing group of talented musicians. It's a privilege to support you on your musical journey. You should be extremely proud of what you have achieved in such a small amount of time! #ProudTeacher 🎵

A massive thank you to all students in the school choir who kicked off Christmas at the 'Kingswinford Christmas Light Switch On'. Your performance was magnificent. Well done!

Summerhill Music @Music_at_SH · 21/11/2017
Brilliant revision notes about the development of the Orchestra from the Baroque to the Romantic Periods.

Mr. M Reynolds @MrReynoldsSUM · 10/11/2017
These guys have made me so proud this week. I may have said this a lot this week but they truly deserve a huge well done! 🎵

Draco House @SH_DracoHouse · 14/11/2017
Well done Ella it was superb! 🎵🎶🎸

Summerhill Music @Music_at_SH · 6d
Another excellent performer in House assemblies this week. Well done Bella! 🎵

Drama

We have been super impressed with how hard KS3 have been working towards Term 2 assessments. We have seen such wonderful team work, creativity and lots of drama techniques being used to create some outstanding pieces of Drama.

Year 7 have followed the story of friends who have been given the chance to stay at 'Darkwood Manor' for 2 nights, for a whopping £5000 reward. However, the house has some dark and eerie rumours attached to it and the group have to debate whether the money is worth risking their lives and friendships for!

Year 8 are working towards a performance of 'Kingshaw and Hooper'. We have explored themes, such as social class and sensitive issues regarding bereavement and how this can impact behaviour. I have to say, I have been super impressed with the maturity and sensitivity year 8 have shown.

Year 9 have thrown themselves in to an extract from 'Blood Brothers'. They have had to take themselves far out of their comfort zones to re-enact this scene, as it requires high energy and captures the playful nature of 7 year old children. Year 9 have impressed me since the very first lesson of Drama back in September and continue to find ways to remind me as to why I love teaching Drama!



Drama Club

Week by week I enjoy the drama pieces produced by the students, however, I was blown away by the club's effort during Anti-bullying week. The students were given the task of creating a piece of drama which highlights the effects of bullying. We discussed possible outcomes and the groups went off to create and WOW; I struggled to hold back tears with the performances as they were so powerful, empathetic and thought-provoking. The students also showed each other such wonderful support. I left Drama club speechless, which doesn't happen often!



The club are now working on a very original performance piece to add to the Christmas Cracker. So watch this space...

Languages

Year 10 Languages Masterclass Birmingham University 8th November

Mrs Bennett was delighted to receive an invitation for a small group of our year 10 linguists to participate in a languages masterclass held by Birmingham University.

Summerhill students were welcomed by languages undergraduates and treated to an afternoon of Russian and Italian classes led by university lecturers. Despite being in unfamiliar surroundings and studying brand new languages our students fully immersed themselves in the experience. By the end of the afternoon, all students were confident in the languages studied, and performed role plays in front of the other delegates. An excellent afternoon.

Summerhill Sign language club

Numbers have doubled this half term at the Summerhill Sign Language Club. Lily Holt and Hannah Forrest have prepared and delivered some excellent sessions covering the basic greetings, alphabet, colours, months, days, and as we go to press we're getting seasonal with some festive signing. Hannah and Lily have also been sharing some insight into some of the key issues surrounding the struggles in day to day life that people hard of hearing face, and have given us all a great deal to think about. Sign Language Club will continue after Christmas in LG2 1.25 pm.



Revision Sessions

Year 11 have been making the most of the Revision classes on offer most days in the languages corridor, and they have reaped the benefits in their speaking exams. Keep an eye on Twitter and the school website for the detailed revision timetable for languages next term.

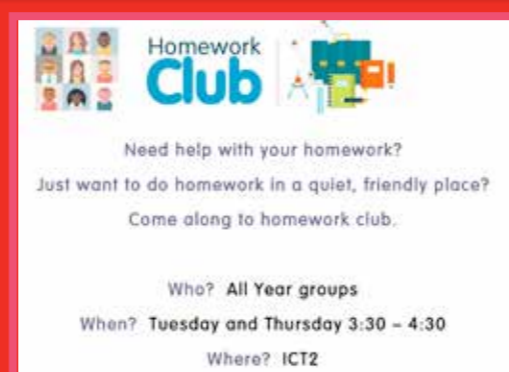
SEN



Friday 1st December saw the launch of the updated Local Offer from Dudley MBC. Dudley's Local Offer is a one stop shop of information and services available to children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities under the age of

25, who live in Dudley Borough, along with parents, carers and family members. Using the link below you will find a whole host of information and resources to help you live a happy and fulfilled life.

http://fis.dudley.gov.uk/LocalOffer/PublicEnquiry_Live/SynergyHomepage.aspx



Rewards Concert



On the 27th November, Summerhill students were surprised at lunchtime by the first Reward Concert of the new school year. Austinn, a Luxembourg-based indie-pop band were invited to play for the students in the hall, ahead of their upcoming tour with The Script. Around 400 students were invited to the show during lunch, celebrating their excellent behaviour and attitude towards their education.

The students joined in with enthusiastic singing and cheering. One student remarked, "the group were very energetic which made us really want to get up, sing and dance. It was great!"

The band stayed behind to sign autographs and listen to some students sing and play the guitar. Band member David said, "The kids were amazing, I think this idea is a really good way to show students that hard work pays off. It also makes those who weren't allowed to go in a little jealous, so that in the future they will work harder so they can come to shows later in the year."

The reward concerts are announced on the day of the show to keep everything a surprise. Students are given a special invite during morning registration, entitling them to an early lunch and access to the show.



Christmas Tree Festival

Law

SERVICES & EVENTS AT HOLY TRINITY WORDSLEY

Christmas Tree Festival
1st December to
3rd December

&
Christmas Fayre
Saturday 2nd December
10.00am - 1pm

~
Sunday Afternoon Organ
Music
Sunday 3rd December at 3.00pm

~
Wordsley Choral Society
Performance
Saturday 9th December at
7.30pm

~
Christingle Service
Sunday 10th December at 3.30pm

~
Carols at the Lawnswood
Thursday 14th December at
7.30pm

~
Holy Trinity Carol Service
Sunday 17th December at 6.30pm

~
Crib Service - Christmas Eve
24th December 4.00pm

~
First Holy Communion of
Christmas
(Midnight Mass)
24th December - Christmas Eve
11.30pm

~
Holy Communion - Christmas
Morning
25th December
8.00am & 10.00am

USUAL SERVICE TIMES

Holy Trinity
Holy Communion
Sunday 8am & 10am
Thursday 10am
Saturday 10am

St Mary & St Francis
10am Holy Communion at
Belle Vue Primary School
Lawnswood Road
Wordsley

St Clare
11am Holy Communion at
The Dingle Community Primary
School
Madeley Road
Kingswinford

Parish Office
High Street
Wordsley
DY8 5RU
01384 273221
office@wordsley-parish.co.uk

Year Eleven are currently preparing for their Law Mock Examination. They will be asked a variety of questions about the legal system in England and Wales.

What follows is a simple (!) true or false quiz based on the content of some of these questions.

How well do you know the principles that underpin our justice system?

For fun, take the quiz below. Answers will be available in the next newsletter!

True or False

1. An even number of magistrates sit on the bench.
2. Magistrates are volunteers who are not obliged to hold any legal qualifications.
3. Jury service is compulsory if you are called to attend.
4. Thirteen jurors sit and hear a case.
5. All offences, even those of murder, begin their process in the Magistrate's Court.
6. Solicitors are self-employed and work in chambers.
7. As part of their training, barristers must complete two six month pupillages.
8. There is a presumption that bail will be granted to an accused person.
9. Murder carries a mandatory life sentence.
10. Parliament consists of the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the House of Legislation.
11. Most bills start in the House of Commons
12. For a bill to become an Act of Parliament it must receive Royal Assent
13. A District Judge is the lowest level of full time judge.
14. Ratio decidendi translates to reasons for the decision.

And finally...

15. Binding precedent means a judge does not have to follow decisions in previous cases.



Here are our Law students in action:

Murder? Manslaughter?

Express or implied malice
aforethought?

Let's investigate!

PE

PE

News from PE

Mr Bowler

This term has been jam-packed with fixtures, practices, clubs and GCSE mock preparation. Staff have been working very hard to maintain a wide range of sports in our extra-curricular programme. We've had pupils competing in more sports than ever from Boccia to Hockey, Badminton to Football and even a Dodgeball team on the horizon! We want to say a massive thank you to all the students for representing the school; here are some of the highlights from the term so far...



The boys are on a cup run again with the progression and development of our Year 11 football team, who have reached the 6th Round of the national cup, seeing off strong opposition such as Shrewsbury School and Thomas Telford to name two. As I write this, tomorrow sees the boys travel to Shrewsbury Academy; where a win would see them in to the last 32. Fingers crossed for a victory again tomorrow!



A special mention should go to Mya, Tom, Matt and Grace (pictured) for competing at the West Midlands Cross Country trials and doing fantastically well. We thank you (and your folks at home!) for giving up your weekends to represent the school, it does not go unnoticed and is very much appreciated. Well done again to all of you.

In other individual success, a huge well done goes to Ella, who is now double national show jumping champion!

Well done Ella, a magnificent achievement and we are all very proud of you. For further details on Ella's success please visit us on twitter @PE_Summerhill.



Ms Brothwell

Girls PE has really flourished over the past month with the new Netball Academy launching on Tuesday evenings 3.30 pm till 4.45 pm. We have a weekly turnout of over 40 students, which has been absolutely brilliant.

Dance club is working on several pieces of dance and are looking forward to taking part in the schools Christmas Cracker, The Great Big Dance Off at the New Alexander in Birmingham and Kidderminster Colleges DanceFest.



Mrs Holt

On Thursday 23rd November six students represented Summerhill School in the Dudley Schools Boccia Competition at David Lloyd Fitness Centre.

The competition was fierce amongst the competing schools and after three rounds Summerhill's A-team secured a place in the semi-finals against Ellowes Hall.

With the B-team cheering them on Summerhill took an early lead. It looked like certain victory until the very last ball was bowled, knocking the jack close to an opponent's ball and giving Ellowes the victory. Well done and thank you to all those involved, it was an exciting afternoon.



Mr Bartlett

The extra-curricular activities have been extremely popular at Summerhill so far this year; it is amazing to see the amount of students opting to take part in sport during their lunchtimes and after school.

One sport in particular that has seen mass participation in terms of attendance has been basketball. With over 50 students attending weekly, the sports hall is often packed with students socialising, having fun and working hard to improve their personal development in basketball.

Furthermore, it has been brilliant to see students spark a passion and continue to strive towards excellence by attending team practices with the desire to represent Summerhill against other schools.

This is culminated by the achievements of the Year 9 basketball team (pictured) who won their first ever game for Summerhill against Dormston, winning twenty points to sixteen, having gone the entirety of Year 8 without a victory.

Mr Barnbrook

Well done to the U16 rugby team who were unfortunately knocked out of the Staffordshire County Cup. The first round fixture was won convincingly by a margin of almost 50 points with a number of stand-out performances and although the latest performance was equally impressive, the opposition were far more up to the task. The second round fixture was a hard-fought and close contest which saw Summerhill winning for the vast majority of the game, but a few clumsy penalties and a capable and well-drilled opposition saw the boys sadly lose the game in the last 10 minutes, 22-17.

We've seen an increase in boys' rugby participation this year, so well done to all of the students who have represented Summerhill in any of the Dudley schools' tournaments – the second halves of which are coming after February half term!

To stay up to date on everything going on in the PE department, please follow us on Twitter @PE_Summerhill or Instagram Summerhill_pe





BBC

Children in Need

This year Summerhill once again supported Children in Need with a Mufti-Day on Friday 17th November. Staff and students were asked to wear spots as House competition points were awarded for the most students and staff participation. Draco were spotted with the most spots and therefore bagged first prize. Well done Draco!

Well Done!
We raised
£840.88

Snow Closures



If the decision is made to close the school overnight, after everyone has left the previous day, parents and students will be informed DAILY on our website and via a text message/email set through ParentPay. Please ensure that your details on ParentPay are kept up to date, in particular your mobile phone number and email address.

Local Radio stations may also broadcast information from 7.00 am

Christmas Spirit

We are very proud of a student in school who acted with integrity last week by helping a gentleman in our local community. He found a wallet with a considerable amount of money in it and handed it in to Reception after phoning the gentleman to let him know he had found it and it was safe.

The gentleman was utterly grateful for this act of human kindness. Harry Shaw you are a wonderful role model for all of our students and all of the staff are immensely proud of you.

SO
PROUD

SUMMERHILL SCHOOL

Lodge Lane, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 9XE

Tel: 01384 816165 E-mail: info@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk

Twitter: @SummerhillSch