

SUMMERHILL TIMES

October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

October has continued to be a busy, busy month at Summerhill, with lots of fantastic news and events taking place inside and outside school.

The provisional school performance tables for 2019 have now been published and I'm delighted that Summerhill's Progress 8 figure of +0.20 is a new record for the school. We are now statistically "above average" - we've actually been above the national average for the last 2 years, but +0.20 is far enough above the average that statisticians are confident that this isn't just due to normal variation. Searching online for "school performance tables" will let you see more details and compare with other schools.

It has been particularly pleasing to see the continuing efforts of students to make a good impression in lessons and the wider community. At the time of writing, we still have a couple of days left before half-term and our students have racked up well over 20,000 positive points during October.


10th July 2020 will be a Rewards Day for Years 7-10 students who have shown a consistently positive attitude towards school. We have shared the criteria with students, so that they know what they have to achieve to earn their place on Rewards Day: at least 250 positive points and less than 100 negative points on ClassCharts by 1st May 2020; no unauthorised absences from now until 1st May 2020 and no exclusions between now and the Rewards Day. 10th July 2020 will be a normal school day for any student who has not met the criteria for Rewards Day.

We look forward to sharing with you some of the options for students to take part in on Rewards Day. From listening to student representatives, it is clear that they are keen for many of the options to be carried forward from Activities Week (which is not taking place separately) but they also came up with some additional ideas which we are currently trying to organise. We will be using similar criteria to the above to determine whether Year 11 students are invited to Prom. You can continue to track your child's attendance and behaviour using ClassCharts – if you need help setting up the app please contact reception.

Right at the end of September, we welcomed pupils from local primary schools as they competed for the Sunshine Cup across a range of academic, sporting and teamwork disciplines, assisted by Year 8 Summerhill students who used to attend the same primary school. Congratulations must go to Church of the Ascension Primary School who were presented with the Sunshine Cup but, most importantly, all the young people involved seemed to enjoy working together, with a lovely friendly competition.

Continuing the weather theme, a personal highlight of October was the Fun Run, conceived and organised by a group of students from our Junior Leadership Team to raise awareness of mental health issues and raise funds for MIND. Despite heavy rain earlier in the day, there was a good turn-out of staff and students running/ supporting whose positivity was not dampened in the slightest by the weather.

I was again wowed by the standard of work displayed in our KS4 Art Exhibition. It was impossible not to be blown away by the GCSE portfolios of our former students. The atmosphere was relaxed and friendly so I would strongly encourage anyone to come and have a look at future exhibitions, regardless of whether you consider yourself to be an art connoisseur or just someone who'd like to look at some pictures!



To continue building stronger links between the school and community, we hope to establish a "Friends of Summerhill" group (similar to a PTA, but including a wider range of family members and supporters), possibly putting on a first event in the run-up to Christmas. The initial step will be to establish a group who can then guide further developments. If you have time, energy, talents and contacts (or more than one of these) that you can contribute, or you know someone else who might be interested, please drop an email to fos@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk.

Tickets are now on sale for "Little Shop of Horrors" via ParentPay or direct from reception (priced at £8). Performances aren't until 6-8 February 2020, but please book early to avoid disappointment! The catchy tunes are already becoming a part of our collective consciousness. They can be heard around school as they are hummed or sung by cast members and also by others who have been infected by their enthusiasm for the show!

A few organisational matters:

While it's lovely that many students feel so at home at Summerhill that they want to arrive early, I'd like to make sure parents are aware that we do not have staff on duty to supervise students until 8am, so students should not arrive before that time. From 8am, students are welcome in the café or in pre-arranged revision sessions. From 8.30am, students can move to other areas of the school in preparation for a prompt registration at 8.55am. At the end of the day, the Learning Centre is supervised until 5pm Monday-Thursday and 4.30pm on Friday. Please make arrangements for your child to be on their way home by these times unless they are participating in planned activities.

Please could I ask you to check your child's uniform and equipment over the half term break, to make sure it's still suitable and serviceable. I am conscious that some students have grown substantially since the start of term and we have contacted a number of parents asking them to address issues with particular items. The school shop continues to offer items such as pens, pencils, rulers at low cost. The Parent Information Pack has details of uniform suppliers, or the House Team may be able to help with certain items. Thank you for your support.

We have recently welcomed Mr Day, who will be taking over from Mrs Plant in Maths: we wish her well with her maternity leave. We are pleased that Mrs Hammond, Mrs Allen and Miss Jacques have joined the team as lunchtime supervisors and Mrs Sarsari is our new Art Technician. We also look forward to welcoming Mr Palfreyman who will be joining us as Headteacher after the half term break. Mr Palfreyman has already spent considerable time in school meeting staff/students and generally getting to know Summerhill.

And finally, I'd like to thank parents/carers, students and staff for your efforts and hope to see all members of our school community at the normal time on 4th November as we return fully refreshed after half term.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Cresswell
Acting Headteacher



GCSE art work from Isabelle Hackett



GCSE art work from Larissa Burke



Seen here, promoting 'World Mental Health Day' is our new school nurse, Julie Price. #talkingmatters



KS4 students celebrating with their certificates from the UK Maths Challenge. Well done to all!

Pupils bang drum for NHS staff



Summerhill School pupils Ethan and Grace with deputy chief nurse Carol Love-Mecrow at Russells Hall

Music from a steel band helped staff at a Black Country hospital kick off their celebrations for Black History Month.

Pupils at Summerhill School, in Kingswinford, performed as Summerhill School Steel Pan Band setting the mood for celebrations in Russells Hall Hospital's main reception.

While staff from the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust enjoyed a taste of Jamaican spiced bun, traditionally served with cheese. The Dudley trust has put on a month-long display

Report by Dayna Farrington
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highlighting the key role the black and minority ethnic community has played in the history of the NHS, alongside the stories of some of the trust's own staff and volunteers.

These include deputy chief nurse, Carol Love-Mecrow, who said: "I am proud to have had a very successful and enjoyable career here in Dudley.

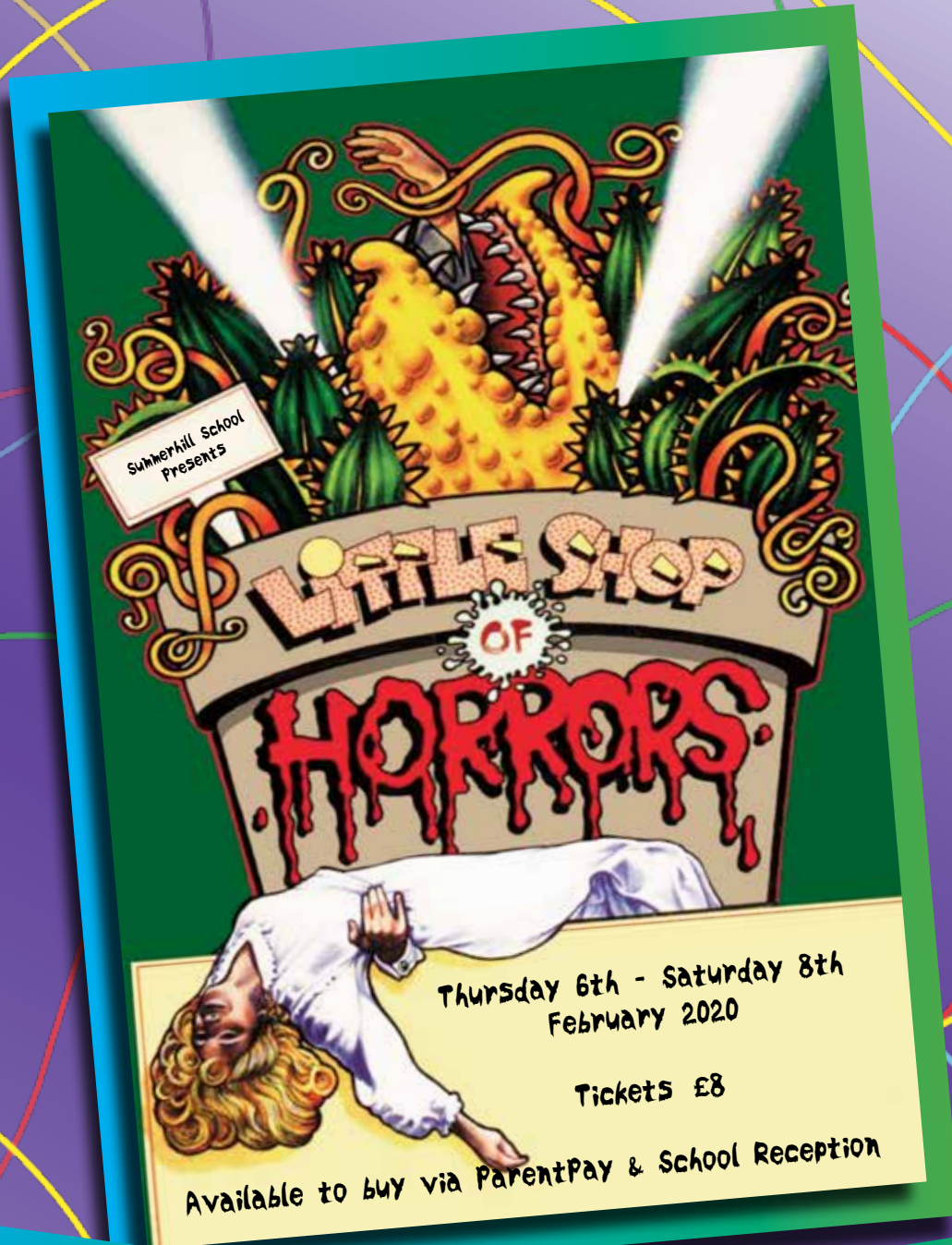
I feel very privileged to be the first black deputy chief nurse here and I have made the most of every opportunity that has come my way.

Interserve, which provides catering services at Russells Hall, is serving up Caribbean dishes during October, including jerk chicken and escovitch fish, plus puddings such as toto cake for people to try.

Black History Month has been officially celebrated in the UK since 1987.



A great turn out for Choir to start the year!



Lovely to see new faces at Drama Club!





Open Evening 2019 saw the Media department launch its very first live Summerhill Radio event. It proved very popular with visitors, including these keen History students. A historic occasion!



This half term, GCSE RS students have had the opportunity to delve into debates on a range of aspects concerning matters of life and death. The topic has had students arguing for and against abortion, whether the UK should legalise euthanasia and consider what might happen after death. We have also quizzed a representative of 'LIFE', which is a charity that raises awareness of the benefits of palliative care as an alternative to euthanasia.



KS3 English pupils have written some amazing poetry from the point of view of somebody else as part of the Through Their Eyes competition. Fantastic work was produced from everyone that entered and we cannot wait to see if any of our poets will win the £100 prize.



U14 Girls football team have made it into round 3 of the National Cup and are currently top of the Dudley 9-a-side league.



Amplify Dancers have had a brilliant start to the year and are excited to be working on new pieces of choreography for the Christmas Cracker.



GCSE Dance students have been deep in thought discussing lighting in performance pieces.



Alex Johnson took part in the Welsh Taekwondo Open in Cardiff and successfully won medals in the following events:
Patterns - Gold
Sparring - Silver
Special Technique: Gold



KS3 Netballers have been sharing in each other's knowledge at training.

Three boys in Year 8 have successfully made it through to the West Midlands County Football Squad.

Well done to Rhys Priest, Zak Poskitt and Kian Mulcahy.



House News



A brilliant end to Term 1 in the Summerhill House Championship. Staff and students have done brilliantly well in representing their respective Houses in a range of competitions this term.

We have lots coming up in Term 2 and a special competition launch over the half term holiday on Twitter – so make sure that you are following us at @SH_housechamp!



European Day of Languages competition winners: Ursa House

On Friday 27th September, we welcomed Year 5/6 students from local primary schools into Summerhill School to take part in the Sunshine Cup. Whilst in school they had the opportunity to watch a Summerhill House competition in the Main Hall to celebrate the end of a brilliant week which commemorated the European Day of languages. We had a quiz in the Main Hall and "The Bears" fought hard to become the victors in this 40 HP competition.



Triathlon competition winners: Orion

We saw the end of an amazing Triathlon competition run by the PE department on Tuesday 15th October with the Year 7s taking part in their first House competition.

A super effort from all, especially Orion who led from a very early stage of the competition and held fast to win this 160 HP competition.



House News



Summerhill does MASTERMIND

Order of play:

- 1) Mr Harrold - Orion
- 2) Harry B - Ursa
- 3) Mr Findon - Draco
- 4) Amelie M - Pegasus
- 5) Joe D - Orion
- 6) Mr Wollerton - Ursa
- 7) Zac P - Draco
- 8) Mrs Ryan - Pegasus



#represent | 40 House Points



Mastermind competition winners: Pegasus

Friday 18th October saw eight brains from the four Houses take part in the Mastermind competition. We had a vast range of specialised subjects from Pigeon Racing to Paramore. Well done to Amelie and Mrs Ryan who stormed the competition and achieved 1st place by nearly ten points!

Best Attendance competition?
(Big reveal on Friday)

At breaktime on Friday 26th October, we will be revealing the results of the first 640 HP competition in the Main Hall which is for Best House Attendance for Term 1 and revealing the totaliser for the end of this term going into the Half Term holiday.

BEST HOUSE ATTENDANCE

The House with the Best Attendance for Term 1 wins the competition.
Results announced Friday 25th October, Main Hall, Lunchtime.



Dates & Reminders

Monday 4 th November 2019	Start of half term for staff and students
Monday 4 th - Friday 8 th November	Remembrance Assemblies all week
Thursday 7 th November	Remembrance Event
Sunday 10 th November	Remembrance Parade
Monday 11 th - Friday 15 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Friday 15 th November	Children in Need
Friday 22 nd November	Year 10 Skills Show at Birmingham NEC Steel Band at Church of the Ascension Primary School Fayre
Saturday 23 rd November	Steel Band at Kidderminster Christmas Light Switch On, Weavers Wharf
Wednesday 27 th November	GCSE Presentation Evening at Cophorne Hotel, Brierley Hill
Thursday 28 th November	Year 11 Mock Exams begin
Friday 29 th November	Steel Band & Choir at Townsend Place, Kingswinford for Christmas Lights Switch On
Friday 6 th December	Year 11 Mock Exams end
Saturday 7 th December	Steel Band at Telford Town Centre
Sunday 15 th December	Steel Band at Guildhall, Worcester
Tuesday 17 th December	Christmas Cracker
Wednesday 18 th December	House Christmas Community Celebration
Friday 20 th December 2019	End of Term 12.30 pm finish
Sunday 22 nd December	Steel Band at Wolverley Christmas Festival
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Monday 6 th January 2020	Staff Training Day - school closed to students
Tuesday 7 th January 2020	Start of term for students
Wednesday 8 th January 2020	Year 11 Mock GCSE Results Day
Tuesday 14 th January 2020	Year 11 first Parents' Evening
Thursday 23 rd January	Year 11 second Parents' Evening
Monday 27 th January	Holocaust Memorial Day
Friday 14 th February 2020	End of half term
Monday 24 th February 2020	Start of half term
Friday 3 rd April 2020	End of term 12.30 pm finish
Monday 20 th April 2020	Start of term
Friday 8 th May 2020	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 22 nd May 2020	End of half term
Monday 1 st June 2020	Start of half term
Friday 26 th June 2020	Staff Training Day - school closed to students