

SUMMERHILL TIMES

February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

It has been an incredibly busy half term. Year 11 have begun revision sessions in earnest and the countdown to the next round of 'mocks' and the final summer examinations has begun. These are now less than 10 weeks away. As part of our Year 11 strategy, a slight shuffle of responsibilities has seen Mr Quirke assume responsibility for Year 11 until the end of the year. They will remain in their existing Houses but will have a bespoke programme of revision and exam preparation.

It has been a genuine pleasure to meet so many parents over the last few weeks. I hope that we have begun to resolve many of the issues raised and I will continue to do all I can to ensure we provide the best opportunities for all of our students. I want Summerhill to be a school where we work together to ensure every student is supported to maximise their potential and no one is left behind. As part of this, we will be reviewing our working practices as we move through the summer term.

We have continued to be relentless in our drive to ensure students adhere to our non-negotiables and I am indebted to parents for their support with this. The number of students receiving uniform letters has fallen significantly over the last few weeks. Regular uniform checks will continue as students enter school each day and during regular assemblies. We still have an issue with 'skirt creep' which sees skirts getting shorter as the day goes on. We will continue to tackle this, not just based on our policy but also just based on simple decency and modesty.

Our attendance has improved significantly since Christmas and we need to continue our focus on this to ensure we are giving our students the best future life chances. We have sent out a number of letters to parents where attendance of students has fallen. These letters are in line with standard legislative processes in relation to expected attendance in school so please continue to support us with this. All medical appointments must have an appointment card or letter attached and should, wherever possible, be made outside of the normal school day.

As part of our first aid processes, can I please remind you that any medication must be signed into school at the start of the day and held in the first aid office. This is so that we can keep track of any treatment needed for individual students. We have a number of 'repeat' students who are arriving at first aid throughout the day with headaches and general weariness. It appears that much of this is due to potential dehydration due to lack of fluid intake. I would actively encourage all students to bring a water bottle into school every day. These can be refilled in the dining space. Please do not allow students to bring high energy or fizzy drinks.

Over the past few weeks, I have had the privilege of visiting all of our partner schools in the local area. We are beginning to build good relationships with our primary and secondary colleagues which will hopefully create a far more joined up approach to education across the Kingswinford area.

In addition to the ever successful sporting fixtures and events which have taken place this half term, there have been a number of highly successful trips and visits. These include two careers education trips for some students in Years 9 and 10 to Newman University and to the Hawthorns for the Real Apprenticeship Roadshow. In addition, our steel band were honoured to perform at Birmingham's Symphony Hall as part of the National Music for Youth Primary Proms.

Our half term has ended with a simply fantastic school production of Little Shop of Horrors. The students who were part of the show were absolutely brilliant and we received so many wonderful comments from the sell-out audiences. We offer grateful thanks to Mr Reynolds, Mr Bibby, Miss Robinson, Miss Williams and Miss Smith for their hours of work to make this possible; another great reason for us to be proud of Summerhill!

Finally, a reminder that we begin our new timings of the school day after half term on Monday 24 February 2020. School will start at 8.45am every day (students should be on site at 8.40am for the warning bell) and finish at 3.00pm. Thank you again to all parents who have been so supportive of this change.

Have a lovely half term!

Yours sincerely



Martyn Palfreyman
Headteacher

New Timings Of The School Day

8.40	Warning bell
8.45	Form Time/Assembly
9.05	Period 1
9.55	Period 2
10.45	Break
11.05	Period 3
11.55	Period 4
12.45	Lunch
13.20	Period 5
14.10	Period 6
15.00	End of the School Day

Starting Monday
24th February

Students May Remain On Site

in the Learning Centre
beyond 3pm if they so wish

Mon to Thurs till 4.30 pm
Fri till 4pm



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OXFORD



Summerhill School would like to offer the warmest congratulations to former student Joseph Edwards who has gained a much prized place at the University of Oxford to study Computer Science. Whilst at Summerhill Joseph coped with personal adversity to excel in his studies and has continued to progress since leaving school. We would like to wish him best wishes for the future and hope he enjoys his time at Oxford. We are very proud of your continued success Joseph.

Mr K Quirke

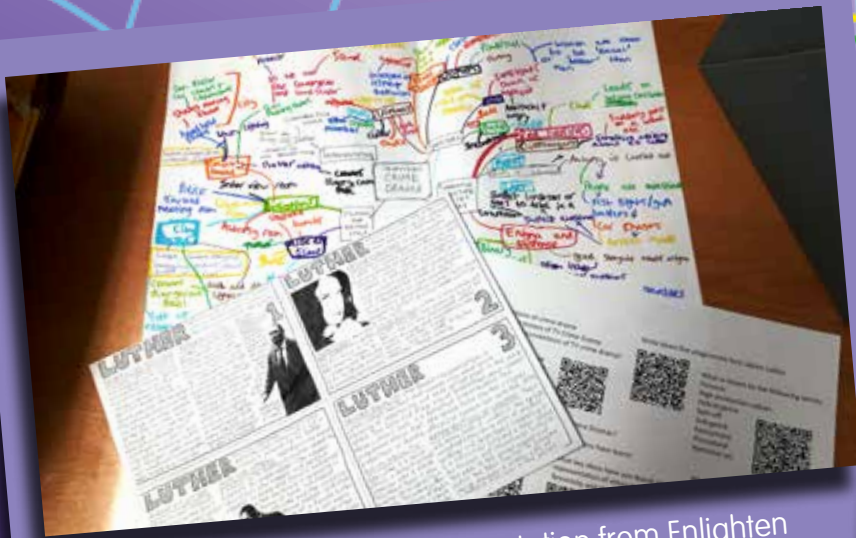


Summerhill students at the CHADD central office (Churches Housing Association Dudley and District), delivering donations from our students and staff.



In December, the MFL Department were inundated with fabulous entries to the Routes into Languages National Christmas Card Design Competition, showing the traditions of another country. There were an incredible 2,502 entries from 92 schools and the winning entries were to be displayed in and around Aston University & featured on their website. Unfortunately no student from Summerhill was pronounced winner, though the Summerhill Language staff were dazzled by some exceptional entries. Well done & thank you for your creative efforts!

Mme Harris



Following this term's revision presentation from Enlighten Education, Year 11 Media students have been using a range of strategies to improve their learning. Pictured is a great example of a range of strategies used to explore television crime drama.



Lots of enthusiasm in English with Year 7 this week, deciding on heroes and villains in famous myths; whether Odysseus was brave and cunning against the Cyclops or Loki was a help for Thor. Creation of 3D mythological animals and inspiration for favourite myths as films were just some of the tasks whilst avoiding Mare and his act of suffocating you whilst sleeping!



Collaborative poetry responses from Year 11. Students spent 5 minutes in small groups answering an exam response. Once their time was up, they moved to the next "station" and built on the answer left by the last team.





Portrait by Joe Roberts Year 9



David Hockney drawing by Ryan Marston Year 7

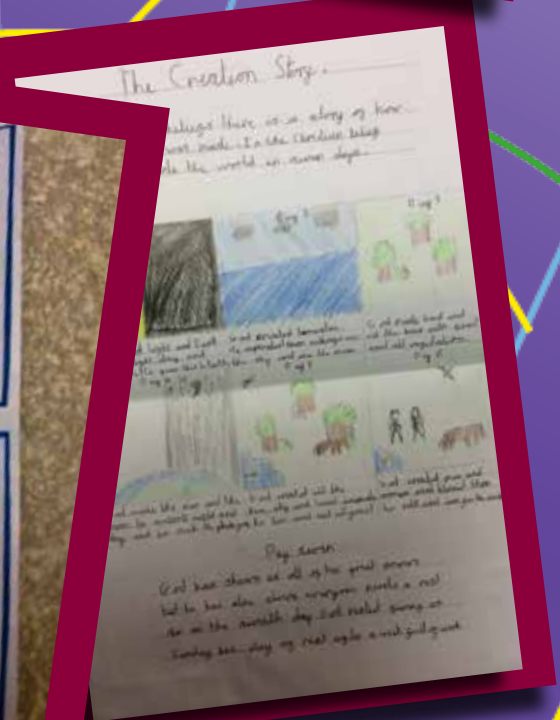
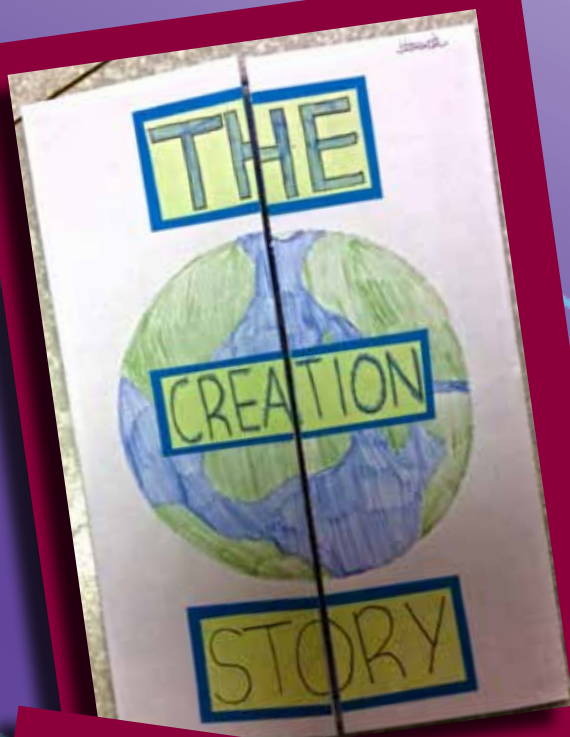


Sweet painting by Evie Penn Year 8



This term in RS, Year 9 have been looking at Prejudice and Discrimination. After focusing on the case study studies of Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and Gandhi. They were asked to case study their own civil rights activist and explain the impact that they had had on the modern world. Well Done Year 9!





This is Year 7 'Searching for the Origins of the World', evaluating the validity of the creation story according to the Bible and comparing it with other theories of creation, such as Evolution.





We have recently replaced our old school minibuses with two sparkling white ones which each have disabled access for one wheelchair, allowing us much more flexibility when transporting our students. We will look very smart and professional (much like Mr Bratt as seen below) when out and about representing the school.





Congratulations in earning bronze position with your team in Nottingham where you represented the County playing Futsal.



The Year 11 boys team have reached the final 16, from 5000, of the Football National Cup competition. Featured is a team photo from their 4-0 win over Caroline Chisholme school in Northampton. Well done lads!



Gifted and talented, Amplify dancers, attended a fantastic Cheerleading session run by the University of Worcester and Sport England.

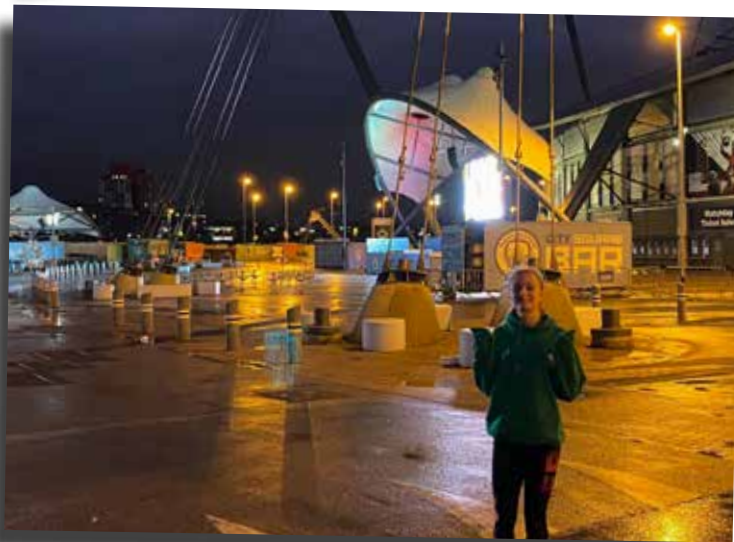


Our students performed exceptionally well in the Bromsgrove Invitational Swimming Relays Gala in Worcester. Brilliant effort girls!





School staff treated KS4 students to a charity netball match in aid of Draco's house charity, Winston's Wish.



A Year 8 student in DSN has smashed 2 PB's and qualified for Nationals in the Indoor Athletics Meet.

Our U16 Girls, U14 Girls & U14 Boys competed in the Level 3 Badminton competition held at Hagley RC School. All students performed well, with the U14 Boys progressing to the next round in Walsall.

The Year 9 boys have made it through to the Quarter Finals of the West Midlands' Cup after their win against Cardinal Newman.



KS3 Girls' Football team have reached the semi-finals of the West Midlands Cup with a 4-0 victory over Sandwell Academy.



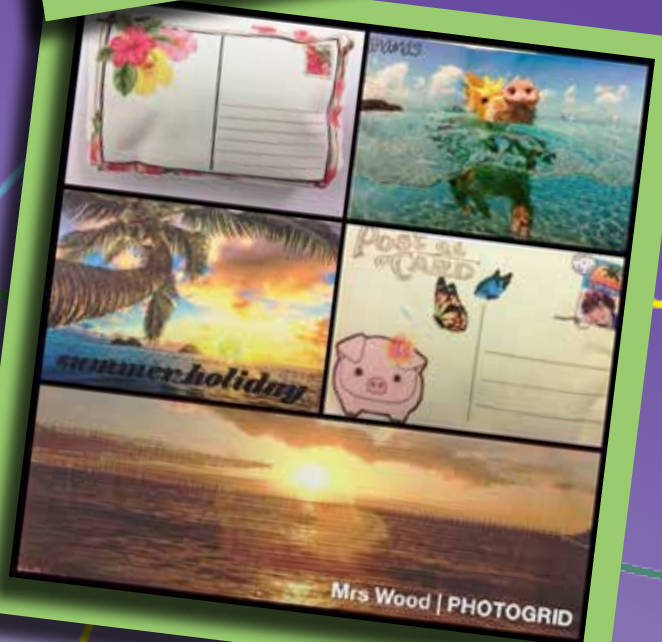
Year 7 Introduction to Textiles included tie-dyeing, stencil printing, embroidery stitching and learning how to use the sewing machine ready to start the Worry Monsters!



Year 9 Textiles have made Pyjama Shorts and are moving onto hoodies!



Year 10 have been developing their practical skills and produced decorative postcards using CAD/CAM. Images were designed on 2D design and printed with the sublimation printer, stitched into by hand and machine and then backed





Year 9 Raising Agents –
Biological and Physical



Year 9 "Veganuary" dishes –
Vegetarian meals beautifully
presented!



Year 7 have been looking at healthy
eating and nutrition this term and
have made some very colourful
wedges with salad.



Library News

It's fabulous to see how many students are borrowing books from our school library and we are constantly developing the range of books that we have available. We've recently taken a delivery of over £200-worth of new books. Unfortunately, some students aren't quite so good at returning the books 😊, so we thought it would be worth making the rules clear:

- Books are loaned for a two-week period. If a student requires the book for longer they can renew the loan once (but they must show the book to the librarian when they are renewing it).
- Books are to be returned as promptly as possible so others can enjoy them.
- If a book is not returned within 3 days of the due date, a reminder will be delivered to the student and they will receive a C1 behaviour point.
- If the book is not returned 3 days after the reminder letter is given, a second reminder will be delivered along with another behaviour point.
- We will continue this process until we receive the book or a notification that the book has been lost.
- If the book is lost or damaged, we will ask for a replacement or the value of the book so that we can replace it ourselves.

We want all of our students to be reading as much as possible and so it is important to maintain a good range of books for our students. We are always pleased to receive donations of modern books in good condition, especially of teen fiction. Thank you for your support.



MUSIC:

Scan the QR code to see:

Summerhill Steel Band performing at
Symphony Hall for the Music for Youth
Primary Proms



House News



At the end of the autumn term Ursa won the 640 House Point competition for Best Overall Attitude! The "Bears" were over the moon with their victory and it meant that they moved to second in the Summerhill House Championship.



In January we saw the launch of a number of different House competitions. The big 500 HP whole school House competition was going to be on Most Improved attendance between this half term and last (with a particular focus on improvement within each year group) and a 200 House Point competition for Best Punctuality.



Retro Gaming Competition (50 HP)

On 17th January, one KS3 and one KS4 student took part in the competition for their House. The contestants had to play a game of Pac-Man and Space Invaders. The atmosphere in the hall was electric with audience members cheering on participants in their House!

Results:

1st – Ursa	3rd – Pegasus
2nd – Draco	4th – Orion

Year 11 Parents evening (80 HP)

On 17th and 24th January, we welcomed Year 11 parents into school for parents evening. There was a competition for the highest parental attendance, congratulations to Ursa for winning this competition!

Results:

1st – Ursa	2nd – Draco	3rd – Pegasus	4th – Orion
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House News



Y7 Girls			
Draco	0	2	Orion
Pegasus	3	0	Draco
Draco	0	6	Ursa
Ursa	6	0	Pegasus
Orion	0	6	Ursa
Pegasus	3	0	Orion

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PT
Orion	18	12	0	6	44	21	23	36
Pegasus	18	12	0	6	41	29	12	36
Ursa	18	9	0	9	40	30	10	27
Draco	18	3	0	15	13	58	-45	9



House Dodgeball (100 HP)

For three weeks during this half term, "dodgeballers" from each House took part in the competition in the sports hall during lunchtimes on a Tuesday and Thursday. It came down to the very last round of Year 7 matches where Orion, won on goal difference!

Results:

1st – Orion

2nd – Pegasus

3rd – Ursa

4th - Draco

Staff Dodgeball (50 HP)

On 7th February the House staff took to the Dodgeball court to represent their Houses. It was an amazing atmosphere with lots of students supporting their House and was a hotly fought competition! Orion won Staff Dodgeball for the first time in the three years that the competition ran!



Results:

1st – Orion

2nd – Pegasus

3rd – Ursa

4th - Draco

Thank you all once again for your continued support of the Summerhill House Championship. You can follow all the latest results and keep up to date with our House competitions by following the Summerhill House Championship Twitter - @SH_housechamp.



Dates & Reminders

Friday 14th February 2020

Saturday 15th February 2020 -
Tuesday 18th February

Monday 24th February 2020

Wednesday 26th February 2020

Thursday 27th February 2020

Wednesday 4th March 2020

Thursday 5th March 2020

Friday 6th March 2020

Monday 9th March 2020

Friday 13th March 2020

Thursday 19th March 2020

Friday 20th March 2020

Monday 23rd March 2020 -
Friday 27th March

Thursday 26th March 2020

Friday 3rd April 2020

Friday 3rd April 2020 -
Friday 10th April 2020

Monday 20th April 2020

Monday 20th April 2020 -
Friday 24th April 2020

Thursday 23rd April 2020

Monday 27th April 2020

Monday 4th May 2020-
8th May 2020

Thursday 7th May

Friday 8th May 2020

Monday 18th May 2020-
Friday 22nd May

Friday 22nd May 2020

Monday 1st June 2020

Friday 26th June 2020

Friday 17th July 2020

Last day of half term

Germany trip

Start of half term

Start of Year 11 Mock Exams

Launch of Junior Leadership Team applications

Year 9 Options Evening

Year 10 Geography trip (1) to the Library of
Birmingham

World Book Day

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Year 10 Geography trip (2) to the Library of
Birmingham

End of Year 11 Mock Exams

Deadline for Junior Leadership applications

Sport Relief

Year 8 Options Evening 6pm

Year 9 trip to Halesowen College

Orion Charity Week

Year 8 Parents' Evening

End of term 12.30 pm finish
Year 11 Photographs

Ski Trip

Start of term

Pegasus Charity Week

Spring Concert

Year 10 Exams start

Year 10s Work Experience Week

Local Elections (School Closed to students -
except Year 11)

Early May Bank Holiday (VE day)

Ursa Charity Week

Last day of half term

Start of half term

Staff Training Day - school closed to students
Year 11 Prom

End of term 12.30 pm finish