

Hillcrest Messenger

120th Edition

October 2019



A message from the Headteacher

Welcome to the first edition of the Hillcrest Messenger for 2019-20. You will see in the pages that follow just some of the fantastic opportunities and activities that have taken place so far this year. I hope you enjoy reading about them. I am also delighted to report that we had another amazing set of examination results in the summer. Our GCSE Progress 8 score puts in the top 2% of schools nationally in terms of the progress students make from their end of Year 6 SATs to their Year 11 GCSE results. We have had very positive Progress 8 scores since the measure was introduced and this year the provisional score of +0.82 puts us in the 'well above average' category' again.

At A level I am delighted to say we had a 100% pass rate for the 8th consecutive year with a progress score of +0.49. Congratulations to our hard-working students, staff and governors for such a fantastic achievement and to you as parents and carers for your continued support.



This school's score is

0.82

Confidence interval
0.51 to 1.13

Well above average

I'm also pleased to see how well Year 7 have settled in and quickly become part of the Hillcrest community and how caring and supportive our older students are when helping them find their way around.

Have a happy and safe half term holiday.

Best wishes
Ms Davies





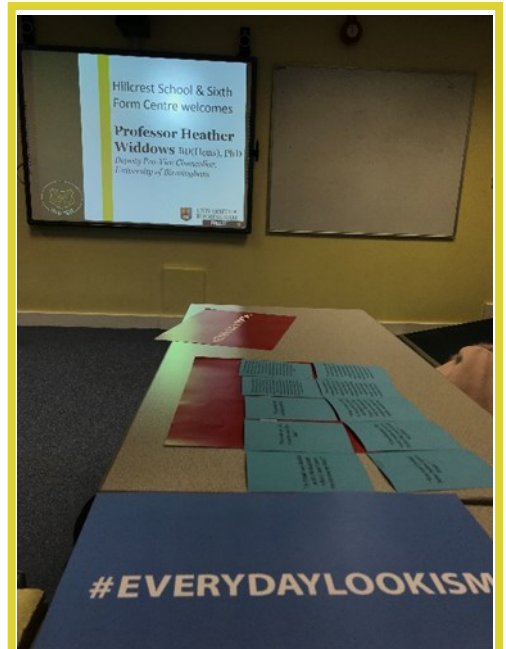
Hillcrest School & Sixth
Form Centre welcomes

**Professor Heather
Widdows** BD(Hons), PhD
*Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor,
University of Birmingham*



On Monday 7th October, we were delighted to welcome Professor Heather Widdows (Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Birmingham) to Hillcrest School. She spoke to students in Malala college (Year 10 & 11), and sixth form about her research surrounding body image, as well as running a body positivity session for a select group of Year 11, 12 and 13 students. Professor Widdows was also joined by an entourage from University of Warwick, including Associate Professor Fiona MacCallum who specialises in children's social and emotional development.

Professor Heather Widdows is the John Ferguson Professor of Global Ethics in the Department of Philosophy and Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research (Impact) at the University of Birmingham. She is a member of the Nuffield Council on bioethics and Deputy Chair of the Philosophy sub-panel for REF 2021. She previously served on the UK Biobank Ethics and Governance Council (2007-2013) and on the Philosophy REF sub-panel in 2014. Heather's research is in the areas of global ethics, feminist philosophy, and bioethics.



She discussed her current research with students – the need to address the harms of a dominant beauty ideal and the need to recognise the complex and ethical nature of the beauty ideal and the changing concept of the self under the ideal.

During the roundtable discussion she also shared her newly launched campaign around #everydaylookism. Professor Heather Widdows has started this campaign to address the impact of lookism. Heather's work suggests that if we continue to elevate appearance and strive for the "Perfect Me" it leads to an epidemic of body image anxiety. Heather shared her ideas with students that to address this body image anxiety, we need to act collectively, as a society. The students found this a very rewarding and honest session, allowing a good opportunity to reflect.

We are very grateful to Professor Widdows for giving up her time.

Search for #everydaylookism for more information.



Mr T. Squires
Assistant Head of Science

GCSE Drama Trip



Miss King, Mrs Preston, and Ms Meggitt took 50 students to Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre to watch the production of Blood Brothers. This was a great chance for GCSE Drama students to get a thorough understanding of the storyline, set design, lighting, sound, and costume design. Students need this level of detail to apply to the written examination paper.

Good luck to Year 10 & 11 in applying all of this information to the written paper, and also to Year 9 for when they practically perform Blood Brothers.



Miss E. King
Nightingale College Leader



Year 7 Blackwell Adventure Trip



This half term 90 Year 7 students visited Blackwell adventure for the day.

Students took part in a range of activities from Zip wire, crate stack, ab sailing, rocking climbing and team building activities.

All students worked extremely hard, overcame their fears and learnt many new skills.

All students gained a valuable experience in working in a team and communicating effectively with each other.

Miss L. Taylor
Learning Manager for
PE & Performing Arts

Student Parliament 2019 - 2020



Rosie, Dinyka, Keisha, Nafeesa, Sara, Ebyan, Emily, Alicja, Nutwara, Grace, and Francine.

Meetings for the new Hillcrest School Parliament for 2019-2020 are now well under way, and we have already discussed some important issues. The Parliament is made up of two students from each year group, and we meet every week to discuss a range of issues that affect the school, its students, and its staff.

The parliament is actively involved in encouraging the rights of all students to be involved in decisions that affect them and their education. It is envisaged that the school parliament will have many successes in positively influencing school policy. Some of the areas that are discussed weekly are teaching and learning, the school environment, community and fundraising, and health.

We look forward to our future meetings and to making a difference to the school community.

Mrs J. Abbotts
Head of Religious Studies

Nightingale College (Year 7)



A special congratulations to Nightingale College Prefects:

Tearie, Sharon, Anita, Millie,
Naemi, Leah, Deasia,
Pavneet, Dinyka, and Rosie.



Congratulations also to Rosie and Dinyka, who were voted to represent Year 7 at the School Parliament.

Finally, congratulations to all Nightingale College students for a great start to secondary school - keep it up!



Miss E. King
Nightingale College Leader

New Drama Club!

On Wednesday 6th November, we are very excited to be launching our new Drama Club, which will be led by a Newman University Drama student. The club will be taking place every Wednesday from 2.10pm - 3.10pm.

Please can students register their interest with your Drama teacher.



Forward Thinking Programme

The Forward Thinking Programme is a progressive programme for students from Year 8 through to Year 11, run by the University of Birmingham. In September, in order to raise awareness of higher education, students on the Forward Thinking Programme in Year 9 attended university style subject taster sessions run by a variety of speakers.

We had a really interesting day and attended a session on English Literature which focussed on the language used during the civil rights movement. We also attended a session on Chemical Engineering, where the students had to create hydrogen gas in teams using the materials provided. After a lovely lunch, we returned to school.

This was a valuable experience for these students, as they were given an insight into the different types of courses available at the University of Birmingham.

We look forward to visiting again later in the year to experience student living.



Miss A. Guyver
Forward Thinking Coordinator

Student Safety Reminders

In school we regularly remind students about keeping safe on the journey to and from school. Please can parents also emphasise the key safety messages about crossing roads only at crossing points and looking and listening carefully. As we move into the second half term the mornings and evenings become darker, it is therefore important that students remember to make sure they are 'visible' to drivers and that they are not distracted by listening to music or checking their phones.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation with this, to make sure our children are safe. Resources to support students and parents on all aspects of personal safety are available using the 'Keeping Children Safe' link on the school website.

**Keeping
Children Safe**



CANCER RESEARCH UK

Hillcrest's Cancer Research UK's Fundraising Committee organised a fantastic family fun day in school on Saturday 19th October 2019.

A Krispy Kreme sale organised by brilliant Year 8 students; Madeeha, Nida and Saron, completely sold out of doughnuts two hours into the event!



Henna tattoos were applied by Marram, and glitter tattoos by Elisha. Elisha also organised some Diwali (Sunday 27th October) themed rangoli colouring pages for the younger visitors. Visitors were able to experience scenes from around the world on a VR headset, thanks to Reanna.



Sanoujha sold raffle tickets to students in the weeks leading up to the event, she also planned a quiz catering for older and younger audiences on the day! A big thanks to Mrs Zahoor for organising a doctor to be present for the event and also for organising a family cricket competition.

Cake sale and toxic waste challenge hosted by Amisha and Anisha, Salma, Hifza, and Madeeha, was a complete success, with the cake sale selling out! A massive congratulations to Miss Glendening for winning the staff toxic waste challenge!

Many thanks to Miss Glendening and Mr Squires who ran the tombola!



Many thanks to Mrs Penn, Miss Reeves and Miss King for setting up the Race for Life – everyone did brilliantly!



Congratulations to Mrs Kaur – the winner of the first prize in the raffle!



The event would not have been possible with all the help of the student and staff volunteers – thank you so much!



Mrs S. Koasha
Teacher of Science

Sports News

Our sporting competitions have already started with teams from Year 7 and 8 taking part in the South Birmingham Cross Country Competition. There were some very good performances on a course that was extremely muddy in places. Danyah finished in 18th place, and Dinyka was close behind in 2nd position. Shahd finished in 8th place and was selected to compete for the South Birmingham team and Mosope who found one of the muddiest parts of the course, literally slid into 2nd place. There were between 50 and 60 runners in each race.

Congratulations to all of the team.

Year 7: Danyah, Tilly, Dinyka, and Praise. Year 8: Mosope, Shahd, Sidra and Awa.

Birmingham Connect

The Youth Sport Trust in partnership with Commonwealth Games (CGE) England are working with 22 Birmingham schools in an exclusive programme closely linked to the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham 2022.

Birmingham Connect (the programme) aims to use the power of sport, and the excitement of Birmingham 2022 to promote social integration across the city driven by young people aged 11 – 13 years. Our five connectors from Hillcrest School are working in partnership with the University of Birmingham School to plan four activity sessions to achieve the aims of the programme.

This term our connectors have had a practice session where they planned an activity at the University of Birmingham School and delivered the session to volunteers at the University of Birmingham. It was a great learning opportunity in leadership. Our connectors will now be planning four further events to use sport to promote social integration across the city.



Sport England

We are currently embarking on an exciting project run by Sport England to improve PE outcomes for students and staff within the local area, we are currently at the research and planning stage of the project but exciting times are ahead with new exciting opportunities gained from this project.

Please watch this space!!



British Values in Physical Education

As part of British values week, all students in PE lessons experienced a range of Paralympics activities from Sit down volleyball, goal ball to modified activities of table tennis and netball.

The experience showed students the inclusive nature of sport and how activities can be adapted to suit every individual need.

Well done to all our students for showing respect and tolerance towards para-athletes and para-activities.

British Values Dance

During lunchtime, many students performed a mash up 'just dance' dance of different countries and cultures to celebrate British values week. Well done to everyone who came along!

*Miss L. Taylor
Learning Manager for
PE & Performing Arts*

KEY DATES

Autumn Term 1b Begins	Monday 4th November school starts at 08.45am
Year 8 & 9 Badminton Competition	Tuesday 5th November
PTA Friends of Hillcrest Annual General Meeting	Wednesday 6th November
Post 16 Open Evening	Thursday 7th November 6-8pm
Year 11 (2018-2019) Awards Evening	Thursday 14th November 7pm (Refreshments from 6.30pm)
Friends of Hillcrest Annual Quiz Night	Friday 15th November 6.30pm onwards
Year 11 French Mock Orals	W/C Monday 18th November
Year 11 Parents Evening	Tuesday 19th November 4-6pm
Year 10 Visit to The Skills Show at The NEC	Thursday 21st November
Oaks Inset Day 2	Friday 22nd November
Year 11 & Year 13 Mock Exam Week 1	W/C 25th November
KS3 Pantomime Trip (Aladdin)	Thursday 28th November
Year 11 & Year 13 Mock Exam Week 2	W/C 2nd December
'Solutions Not Sides' Workshops for Years 10, 12, & 13	Wednesday 4th December
Year 7, 8 & 9 Inter-Form Dance Competition	Thursday 5th December
University of Law Workshop - Year 12	Tuesday 10th December
Year 9 French Quiz at Lordswood School	Wednesday 11th December
Christmas Show	Thursday 12th December 7pm
Friends of Hillcrest Christmas Market	Friday 13th December at lunchtime
PSD Day 2	Tuesday 17th December
Year 11 Art Mock Examination	Tuesday 17th December
End of Term	Friday 20th December school finishes at 12.30pm