

HILLCREST MESSENGER

115th Edition
December 2018

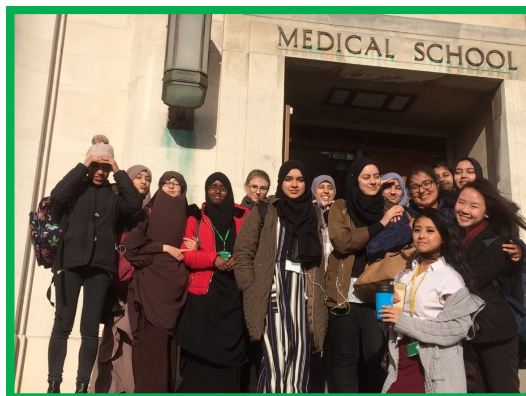


'The Eye Fact or Fiction?' Workshop

A visit to the School of Life Sciences at Birmingham University was arranged for Year 13 students on Wednesday 21st November. The visit enabled students to experience learning in a Russell Group Institution, and was aimed at students learning about the eye and visual system by separating “fact” from “fiction”.

The title of the workshop (The Eye: fact or Fiction?) answered questions like: Can you really lose a contact lens behind your eyeball? Is sitting close to the television screen really bad for your eyes? Do babies see the world in black and white? Is it dangerous to sneeze with your eyes open? This was an opportunity for students to learn about one of the most fascinating and important organs in the human body, and why they shouldn't always believe what they see on television!

The Year 12 and Year 13 biology group had a fantastic time and represented their school admirably. We are all looking forward to our trip to see Sir Robert Winston at the Town Hall in January 2019.



A workshop was also organised by Birmingham University on the theme of Monoclonal Antibodies as anti-cancer drugs. In this session, sixth form students were introduced to the idea around vaccination of mice with human proteins or tissues. They learned about selecting lymphocyte clones, producing mouse monoclonal antibodies specific for selected targets, and how to engineer mouse/human antibodies as therapeutic drugs.

Students learned about how these drugs work, and their mechanisms of action. Very good preparation for their future university courses.

Mrs A. Johnson
Teacher of Science



Hillcrest Christmas Show

On Thursday 13th December, the PEPA department organised and hosted 'Music and Mince Pies'. The evening was a huge success full of mince pies, music and festivities.

Students worked tirelessly preceding the concert practicing in break times, lunchtimes, after school and at home to ensure quality acts. Some of the students had only been studying their instrument a matter of months before the concert. Others battled nerves to produce a solo performance, a brave step for even the most accomplished musician.

Some students learned to operate sound and lighting, whilst others compered and provided backstage support. All their hard work payed off. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the evening and even joined in with some singing towards the end.

As a department we are very proud of our students, and celebrate in all their success. As Mr Harris, Peripatetic Teacher, eloquently writes:

"I am so proud this evening of each performance, however big or small. It was an absolute pleasure to hear and work with you all, in a department which is going from strength to strength."

Have a wonderful Christmas,

Mr D. Nock
Music Teacher

Merry
Christmas



Friends of Hillcrest PTA Christmas Market

On the afternoon of Friday 14th December, the PTA Friends of Hillcrest Christmas Market took place in the Theatre Hall. There were a variety of stalls selling lots of items, including the PTA tombola stall, drinks, food, and pin the nose on the reindeer.

The total raised was £754.41 which will be used towards extra curricular activities and events for students at Hillcrest.

Thank you to everyone for all of the kind donations we received for our tombola stall.

Mrs L. Fowler
Friends of Hillcrest PTA Chairperson



M8 and SEND Department Enter a Charity Christmas Tree Decoration Competition

In support of local charities, Miss Taylor and M8 and Mrs Penn and the SEND department all entered a Christmas Decoration Competition to raise money for local food banks and homeless charities.

M8 decided to keep a school theme and decorated the tree in stationary, whereas Mrs Penn and her team of students made their decorations from scratch.



The trees were showcased at Aldridge Methodist Church, and looked fantastic!

Miss L. Taylor
Learning Manager for Performing Arts

Year 8 Maths Day at Birmingham University

A group of Year 8 students went on a trip to Birmingham University to look at Mathematics. This was an excellent opportunity for them to test their mathematical skills in a range of opportunities across the STEM curriculum (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).



The whole experience was designed to extend and enrich students' mathematical reasoning and inspire and motivate them by giving them an insight into higher education. The pupils did several tasks including making a hexaflexagon, a tour of the university, ice cream flavours and careers.



The pupils had an enjoyable and good day.

Mr M. Gilman
Teacher of Mathematics

Year 10 Masterclass Lecture: **Accident and Emergency Engineering**

A visit to the School of Life Sciences was arranged for fifteen Year 10 biology students on Wednesday 28th November. The visit enabled students to experience learning in a Russell Group Institution, and was aimed at enabling students to learn about biomedical engineering.



The title of the workshop (Accident and Emergency Engineering) gave students a taste of what it is like to be a biomedical engineer. They were presented with a patient with a broken femur in one of their legs and they designed and built a device to hold the bone together while it healed. Students discovered the science behind implants and how biomedical scientists help patients.



Mrs A. Johnson
Teacher of Science

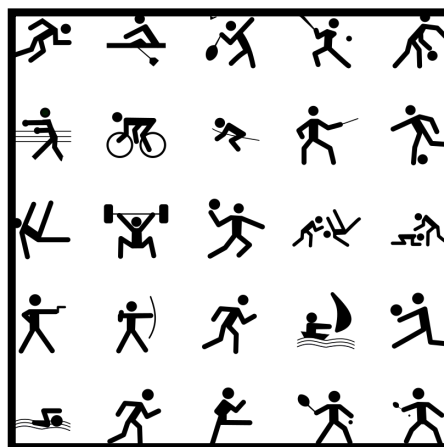
Physical Education Opportunities

International Trip to the South of France

The trip is a water sports activity trip around the fresh water lakes in the beautiful Aquitaine region. The travel company and host provider of the trip is the very reputable Rockley adventure accompanied by Hillcrest Staff.

The date of the trip is Saturday 22nd June 2019 – Saturday 29th June 2019. The overall cost of the trip is £560, this includes transport, accommodation, meals and all activities. Activities include a selection of water sports activities such as sailing, kayaking, snorkelling, canoeing, raft building, wind surfing, paddle boarding, catamaran sailing, as well as land and beach based activities in the evening. Included is also a day where we visit the Dune du Pyla, the highest dune in Europe reaching a height of 107m where the view is spectacular and we will enjoy a taste of French culture when we visit the seaside town of Mimizan Plage.

Places are very limited, if you are interested in this trip please bring £100 deposit to the finance office in the first week back in January 2019.



Blackwell Adventure

The adventure trip will run from 12th June 2019 – 14th June 2019. We would arrive at the centre on Wednesday afternoon and commence activities. Hillcrest staff will accompany the group and the staff from the centre will direct the activities (all staff from the centre are fully qualified in leading outdoor and adventurous activities). The centre is extremely secure and the facilities are excellent.

The visit involves the girls taking part in a range of activities, which include: abseiling, rock climbing, zip wires, orienteering, Jacobs ladder, go karting, tree climbing, caving, archery, grass sledging, giant swing, plus swimming and a campfire. The visit includes a two night stay at the centre in the tented village. Each tent contains two sets of bunk beds. All meals are provided (three meals a day) including a vegetarian menu and fresh drinking water and squash available throughout the day.

The cost of the visit is £139 per student. This covers transport to and from the centre, transport throughout the trip, accommodation, all activities, travel insurance, meals and the use of all equipment.

If you are interested, please bring a £30 deposit and hand to the finance office at the start of January 2019.

Indoor Rowing Inter-Form Competition Results

Year 7

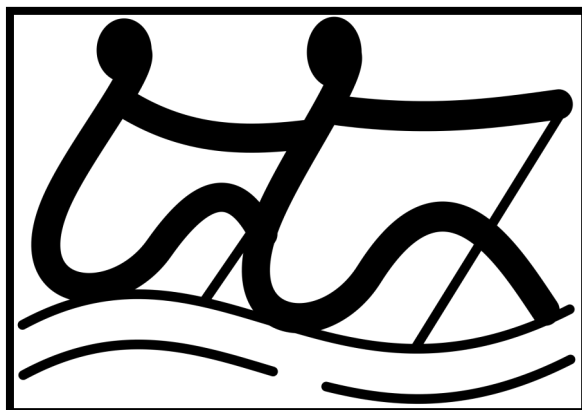
Brooklyn	Nightingale4	662
Shahd	Nightingale1	636
Adeola	Nightingale2	624
Alyssa	Nightingale2	623
Zeynep	Nightingale2	620
Sidra	Nightingale4	616
Duha	Nightingale1	615
Awa	Nightingale4	610
Billie-Jo	Nightingale1	605
Hajira	Nightingale1	605

Year 8

Kayarn	Parks 1	849
Keira	Parks 2	846
Tishauny	Parks 2	844
Amani	Parks 2	828
Joelle	Parks 6	825
Emilia	Parks 8	818
Seerit	Parks 3	798
Niamh	Parks 7	794
Nina	Parks 3	794
Crystal	Parks 7	789

Year 9

Iman Karma	Parks 2	911
Melanie	Parks 8	883
Unathi	Parks 1	880
Sara	Parks 2	872
Demi-Lea	Parks 4	851
Aissa	Parks 2	846
Keilidh-Jade	Parks 8	833
Muska	Parks 6	828
Hana	Parks 7	815
Huda	parks 2	803

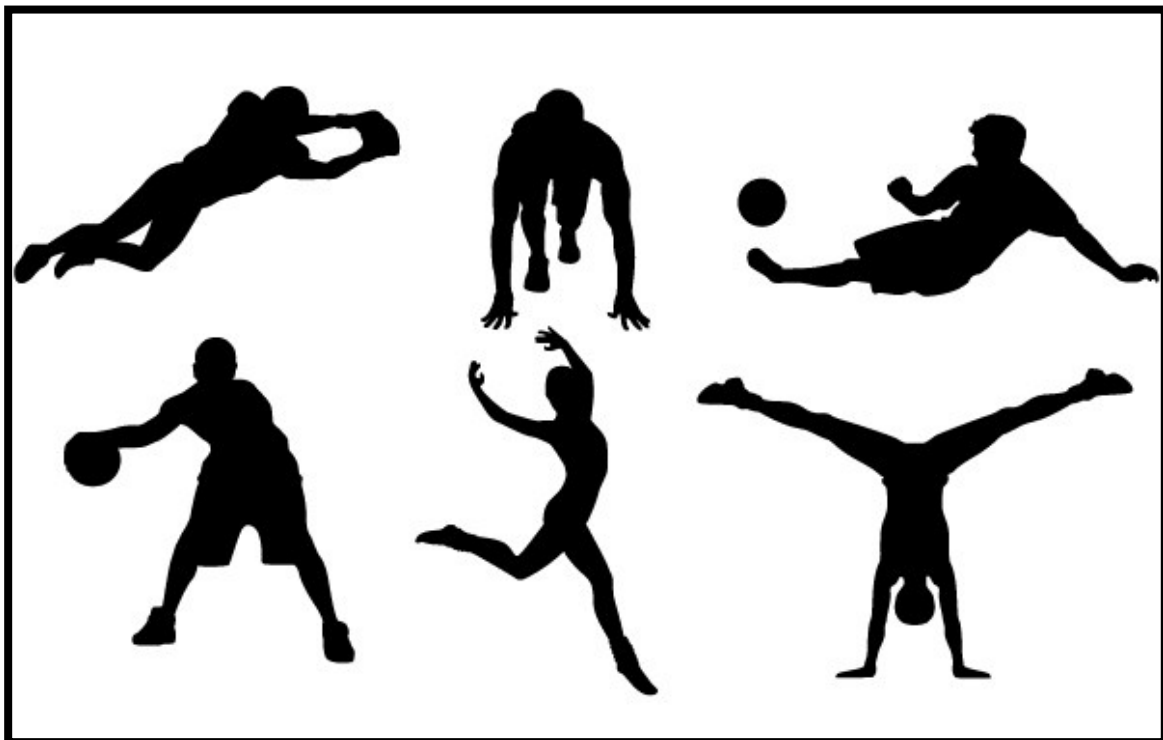


Year 10

Marcia	Malala 9	1070
Tyanna	Malala 6	1060
Chardnna	Malala 1	1055
Hana	Malala 3	1044
Tahlia	Malala 5	1029
Mollie-Mae	Malala 6	1024
Chelsea	Malala 7	1016
Melisa	Malala 1	994
Gomana	Malala 5	986

Year 11

Shakia	Malala 1	1271
Ahleysa	Malala 2	1251
Afnan	Malala 8	1222
Zekra	Malala 6	1194
Hafsah	Malala 4	1182
Hafsa	Malala 5	1156
Ndeye Dieyla	Malala 3	1154
Sumaya	Malala 6	1150
Hiyam	Malala 5	1139
Esther	Malala 5	1136



College Sports Results

Nightingale College

	Cross Country Individual	Cross Country Team	Indoor Rowing	Total Points	Current place
N1	4th	3rd	2nd	150.00	3rd
N2	3rd	4th	3rd	125	4th
N3	2nd	1st	4th	200	2nd
N4	1st	2nd	1st	275	1st

Rosa Parks College

	Year 8 Cross Country Individual	Year 9 Cross Country Individual	Cross Country Team	8 and 9 Badminton Competition	Year 8 Inter Rowing	Year 9 Inter Form Rowing	Total Points	Current Place
P1	3rd	2nd	5th	5th	1st	3rd	540	2nd
P2	6th	1st	1st	5th	6th	1st	700	1st
P3	7th	3rd	2nd	6th	4th	7th	310	7th
P4	5th	8th	7th	2nd	5th	4th	540	3rd
P5	1st	4th	8th	5th	6th	8th	450	4th
P6	4th	7th	3rd	5th	2nd	5th	340	6th
P7	2nd	6th	4th	4th	6th	6th	310	7th
P8	8th	5th	6th	1st	3rd	2nd	400	5th

Malala College

	Year 10 Cross Country Individual	Year 11 Cross Country Individual	Cross Country Team	10 and 11 Badminton Competition	Year 10 Rowing	Year 11 Rowing	Overall Points	Overall Place
M1	5th	6th	5th	5th	3rd	1st	430	3rd
M2	3rd	2nd	7th	5th	7th	2nd	360	6th
M3	4th	7th	1st	3rd	4th	7th	410	4th
M4	6th	9th	9th	1st	7th	5th	300	8th
M5	9th	4th	3rd	2nd	5th	6th	315	7th
M6	1st	1st	6th	5th	2nd	4th	700	1st
M7	7th	5th	2nd	5th	6th	8th	240	9th
M8	8th	3rd	1st	4th	7th	3rd	450	2nd
M9	2nd	8th	8th	5th	1st	8th	370	5th

Miss L. Taylor
Learning Manager for Performing Arts

Writing Workshop at The University of Birmingham

A group of Year 11 students went to the University of Birmingham on the 5th December 2018.

They learnt how to write using themselves as key characters and drawing on their citizenship as a prompt for excellent creative writing pieces. The students enjoyed the experience of being in a university lecture and creating original writing pieces.



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Mr D. James
Teacher of English

Hillcrest Shoebox Appeal

On behalf of the Religious Education department we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal by donating items during our British Values week. Hillcrest School proudly presented the charity with 32 care packages for impoverished families and the elderly in destitute areas of Eastern Europe.

Students were incredibly generous at volunteering their free time to organise the items, wrap the boxes and then very helpfully carry them to the car. We appreciate each and everyone of you who donated in some way, the charity Link to Hope were incredibly touched by our efforts. It is with great pleasure to know that our shoeboxes are currently in transit to reach their destinations in time for Christmas.



Miss P. Calder
Teacher of Religious Education

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS



On Tuesday 11th December, forty seven Year 7 and 8 students attended the Sleeping Beauty Pantomime at The Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. It was an incredible showing which everyone enjoyed. The staff and students left filled with Christmas cheer.



On Wednesday 12th December, the Year 9 & 10 BTEC dancers were fortunate to have a lecturer from Kiddermminster College lead an hour long jazz workshop. They focused on skills such as control, flexibility and movement memory, all aiding their course. The students left feeling inspired and creative. Well done to the dancers who attended this workshop.

Miss E. King
Teacher of Performing Arts

Hillcrest's Fantastic Francophiles' Success **at MFL Quiz**

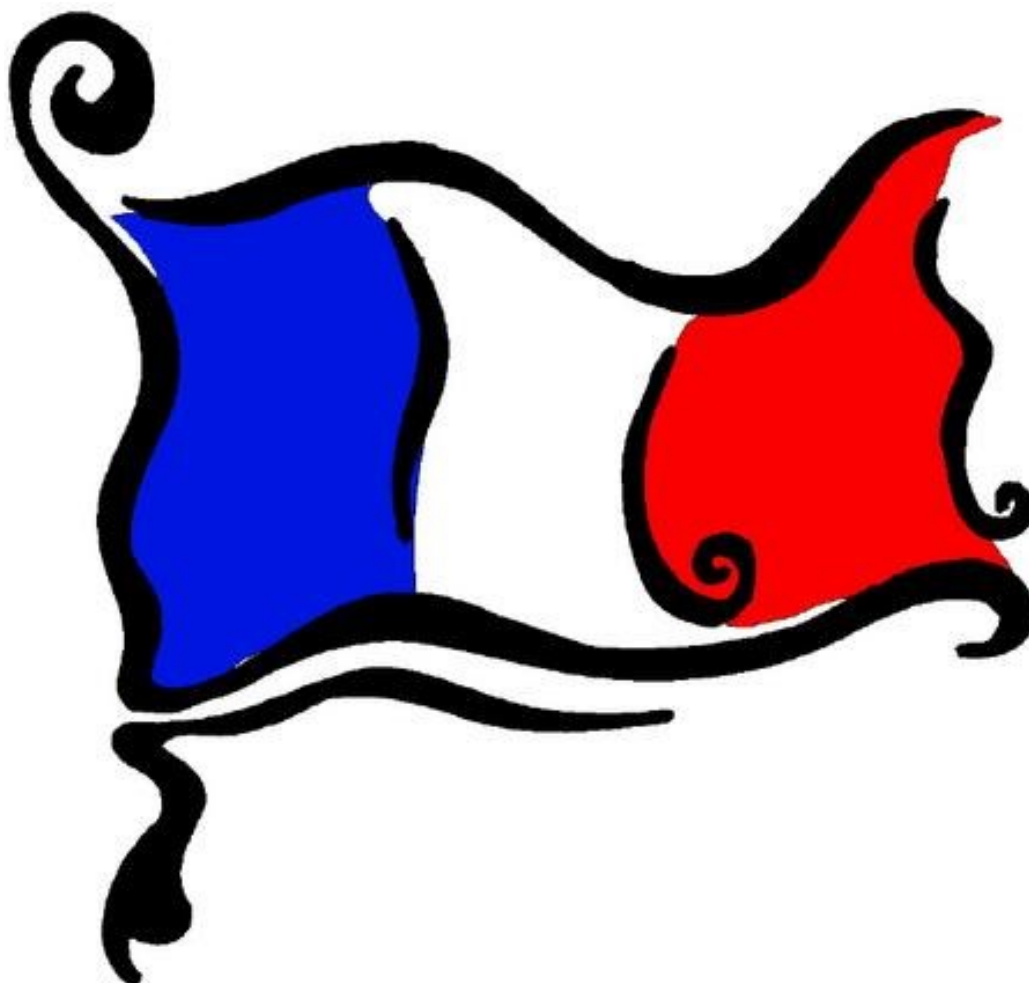
On Wednesday 12th December, 2018, eight Year 9 students represented Hillcrest in the Oaks Consortium annual MFL Quiz at Lordswood Girls School. Students taking part included Alicja, Aya, Emily, Hana, Maisie, Malak, Ramsha and Reanna.

The students competed in a series of rounds which tested their language knowledge of French, and even some German and Spanish, as well as their general knowledge. After a round of identifying a range of famous faces and landmarks from around the world, students were tested on their knowledge of French verbs. Here, the students showed impressive accuracy gaining a 100% of the marks.

The following rounds required the students to draw on their knowledge of vocabulary and I was particularly impressed with the girls' ability to understand a tricky translation round that required them to apply their language-learning skills to understand German and Spanish, despite not having studied these languages previously.

Although the girls faced strong competition, they were delighted when one of the two teams achieved a well-deserved second place. A very big congratulations to all students who took part and represented both the school and the MFL department splendidly.

Mr B. Harrison
Teacher of French



A Message from the Headteacher



Well done to everyone, this has been a long term and the hard work of all students and staff has continued to impress everyone who visits the school. Well done to Year 11 and Year 13 who have just completed their mock examinations.

Enjoy the holiday, but please remember to keep safe. I wish you all a restful holiday and a peaceful New Year.

REMINDER SCHOOL RE-OPENS FOR STUDENTS ON TUESDAY 8th JANUARY 2019. Registration is at 8.45 am.

Hillcrest Christmas Card Completion

A big thank you to all the students who entered our annual Christmas card completion, there were many wonderful entries and it was a very difficult choice.

Congratulations to the winners who received certificates, vouchers and copies of their cards that will be sent out on behalf of the school at Christmas.

Winning card drawn by Romeesa- Year 8

Runner-up cards drawn by Anam- Year 8, Muskan- Year 10, Milena- Year 8 and Elisha- Year 10.

Reminder: Emergency Closure of School

In extreme weather conditions or other emergencies when it is necessary to close the school, details will be posted on the school website, sent via twitter and text message. The school will always try to give as much notice as possible.

If, for any reason, we were unable to re-open as announced because of secondary factors e.g. burst pipes, heating failure, this will be communicated as above. Please do ensure that students have an alternative place of safety should it become necessary to close the school early in an emergency.

Safety around the school premises

We would be grateful if you could take care not to block the driveway to the Fire Station, Den Caney Coaches or Swallow Foods.

Please consider the safety of students when parking on the school grounds and do not block pavements and walkways. At the end of the school day please take care not to block the entrance to the drop off car park as this causes danger for students using the crossing and other motorists. We are lucky to have off road parking as many schools do not have this facility.

As always, we advise that if the car park is full, the safest place to park is on Stonehouse Lane beyond the school bus stop.

**Best Wishes
Ms J. Davies**

Key Dates

Inset Day 3	-	Monday 7th January
Spring Term 2a begins for all students	-	Tuesday 8th January @ 08.45am
Sixth Form Parents Evening	-	Thursday 10th January
Year 11 & Year 13 A Level Science Live Conference at Birmingham Town Hall	-	Wednesday 16th January @ 4.30pm - 6.30pm
Year 8 Botanical Gardens Visit	-	Friday 18th January
Year 10 Drama Conference in London	-	Friday 18th January
National Challenge Promotional Event	-	Monday 21st January in the Theatre Hall
University of Birmingham Physics Big Quiz Visit	-	Tuesday 22nd January
Year 9 Parents Evening	-	Tuesday 22nd January @ 4pm- 6pm
English Literature Mock Examination	-	Monday 28th January
PSD Day 3	-	Tuesday 5th February
Half-Term	-	Monday 18th - Friday 22nd February
Spring Term 2b begins for all students	-	Monday 25th February @ 08.45am

