

THE INVICTUS MAGAZINE

INVICTUS

Education Trust

WINTER 2018



AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE NO OTHER

P5

The OLYMPIAN group will follow a specialised sports programme which will advance both their physical and academic achievement.

LES MISÉRABLES

P10

For each performance, the audience was captivated by the professionalism of all who acted, sung, danced and all who supported backstage.

KINVER STUDENT TRIES SCUBA DIVING

P15

Kinver students have been given the opportunity to try scuba diving, a new sport for most of them.

BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

P25

It was a very moving experience walking amongst the graves, reading names, listening to accounts from the war and reading poems written in the trenches.

YOUNG WRITERS COMPETITION

P29

The judges were really impressed by the standard of writing, and three Ounsdale students had their work selected for the publication "Stranger Saga's, Staffordshire Authors".

TESTING OUT RIDES AT ALTON TOWERS

P35

After testing a number of rides students had an hour-long talk about how computers are used at Alton Towers.



WELCOME

It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to our first Invictus magazine.

My first term as CEO has been very busy, but it has been an exciting and rewarding time for us all.

I am very keen that in my new role we are able to promote the very best of Invictus, showcasing all of the wonderful opportunities, achievements and experiences that we have had across our six schools.

Having spent the past 6 years as Headteacher at Crestwood, I have a true belief and understanding of what is involved in developing a caring, supportive, engaging and challenging culture and ethos, to ensure success for all our students and staff within Invictus.

We will continue to further develop the possibilities and experiences our students are given.

As you will see in our magazine there have been fantastic achievements, both individually and together. Our students have shown their supportive and caring natures and their resilience in trying new things.

I am not going to mention any individual schools, as you will see all of our schools are providing excellent opportunities for our students.

I would like to thank all the students, teachers and support staff for all their hard work.



WISHING YOU ALL
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Mr T Bowles
Executive Headteacher/CEO

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TERM DATES

END OF TERM / RETURN TO SCHOOL

	END OF TERM	RETURN TO SCHOOL
CRESTWOOD	21ST DECEMBER	8TH JANUARY
ELLOWES HALL	21ST DECEMBER	8TH JANUARY
KINVER	21ST DECEMBER	8TH JANUARY
LEASOWES	21ST DECEMBER	8TH JANUARY
OUNSDALE	21ST DECEMBER	8TH JANUARY
PEDMORE	21ST DECEMBER	8TH JANUARY

A NIGHT ON BROADWAY

Crestwood are back with their critically acclaimed, showstopper productions!

Over recent years the Crestwood School Performing Arts team have been charging up through the ranks, determined to establish their place at the top with productions such as Little Shop of Horrors, A Night At The West End and their recent sold out show; We Will Rock You! This time they presented to you, A Night On Broadway on the 5th, 6th and 7th of December! A story based on Mr Hurst, a casting director who is looking for his next big star on Broadway. The show follows the story of individuals who dream of becoming the next big Broadway sensation. Will he find his star? Director Miss Canadine said the entire cast and crew have worked incredibly hard throughout rehearsals to ensure this production was the best it could have been, and what an amazing run of performances they were. Crestwood, take a bow.



“ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE”

CRESTWOOD CONQUERS SNOWDON



On October 19th twenty-nine Crestwood prefects, and five members of staff, climbed Snowdon in aid of the school's charity, Birmingham Children's Hospital.

For many it was their first time walking more than twelve miles let alone climb a mountain. The climb was long and tough and daylight was against them. All pupils put in maximum effort to ensure they made it to the top in time. During the ascent the group showed great team spirit and camaraderie. Most pupils needed a pick me up along the way and others were on hand to provide encouragement and support, it was a real team effort. Spirits were kept high by singing songs and Cole Robert's amazing harmonica playing. Getting to the summit felt amazing, aching legs and backs were soon forgotten as the achievement sunk in. Failing day light meant the group had only a few minutes

at the top before starting the decent. A quick photo and bite to eat was all that time allowed. The decent was made easier by the rush of adrenaline from making it to the top. Pupils continued helping each other on tricky slopes and more songs were sung. Daylight was fading when the group got back to the bus, their feet were sore and legs were aching. There were more than a few blisters. Looking back on their day the pupils felt a great sense of achievement, not only had they conquered Snowdon they had also raised £1700 for a charity close to the hearts of many at Crestwood. Well done to all involved.



“ The school's work to promote pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare is outstanding

OFSTED 2018

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



On Friday 16th November, Mrs Bourne (along with a super delivery team of year 7 students) had the privilege of driving out of school with a car full of shoeboxes; yes: full of shoeboxes.

This was all down to the amazing efforts of students and staff (and parents) at The Crestwood School, who donated generously towards Operation Christmas Child 2018. When we launched The Shoebox Appeal just before half term, we hoped that we would be able to donate one shoebox per tutor group – meaning we could send 34 shoeboxes—but, as usual, Team Crestwood went above and beyond; we actually donated 99 shoeboxes, jam-packed with wonderful gifts!

Every single year group in the school got involved; the winning tutor group were 7AW, who sent 14 shoeboxes, closely followed by the 6th Form team -with 13 shoeboxes. An amazing effort by all involved.

We would like to pass on our thanks to the staff at Andrew Grant Estate Agents in Stourbridge, who agreed to be our drop-off location, and helped us unload all the boxes. These shoeboxes will now be received by less fortunate children and teenagers in any of the 109 countries that Samaritan's Purse reaches out to; we are looking forward to tracking which country our shoeboxes travel to.

Finally, and most importantly, a huge "thank you!" needs to go to every single person who donated towards the appeal –you have certainly set the standard for next year, now!

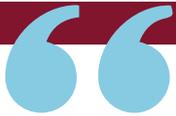


CAKES FOR A CAUSE

Creativity, curiosity, integrity, empathy, reflective, resilience and positivity, the values that Crestwood lives and breathes by and it makes us exude with pride when we see our students apply these values and act selflessly.

The 14th November saw these year 9 students bake delicious cakes in their own time, independently organise and run a cake stall during break and lunch times with the determination of raising money to help others. The girls successfully raised £80 for the Me & U Youth Club, a club which provides a place for children diagnosed with ASD to socialise and have fun.





Our primary aim is to help students gain as much experience in the spotlight as possible.



Crestwood
SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

Expectation · Achievement · Success

PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMME



The Performing Arts Programme at Crestwood School is designed to nurture a student's aptitude for Music, Drama or Dance. Students may choose to focus on one particular Art, or a mixture depending on their individual talents.

Our primary aim is to help students gain as much experience in the spotlight as possible. Students will perform at prestigious venues across the country, they will support local community events and organisations as well as taking part in all school shows and productions. Performing Arts Scholars will be the ultimate ambassadors for the Arts and will represent the faculty in local and regional competitions.

Students who become part of the programme have access to:

Music:

- Specialist one to one tuition on any instrument
- The option of studying an instrument for graded Music examinations
- Vocal Classes
- Vocal Tuition (All genres)
- A selection of Rock ensembles
- Musical Theatre Coaching (vocal)
- Lamda Examinations
- Gifted and Talented Vocal ensemble
- Regular Music Masterclasses
- Theatre pit band experience
- Group and Solo instrumental lessons

Drama:

- State of the art Drama studio and Theatre
- Professional theatre troupe workshops
- Broken Leg Theatre Company for the gifted and talented
- Technical Theatre Experience
- Trips to visit professional theatres
- Costume stores
- Whole school productions

Dance:

- Opportunity to compete in dance competitions
- Specialist training from an industry professional
- Cover all genres of dance
- Perform in the Primary Dance Festival
- Expand skills in own choreography



AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE NO OTHER

Being an oversubscribed school, we are able to select up to 10% of our intake on Sporting Aptitude, allowing us to create our very own OLYMPIAN group.

Having a strong PE department made up of specialist teachers with backgrounds in professional football, swimming, dance, netball and rugby, means that we are able to nurture the sporting stars of the future in the best sporting facilities in the Dudley area.

The OLYMPIAN group will follow a specialised sports programme which will advance both their physical and academic achievement. The sessions will take place in some PE lessons and extra-curricular sessions and opportunities and will consist of a variety of advanced physical

education sessions to cover sports psychology, physiology and skill acquisition. Experience exclusive trips, a dedicated Olympian form group, specific extracurricular programmes, gifted and talented recognition, club links with local teams, effective use of Invictus wide resources and so much more!



HIRE CRESTWOOD

Looking for a venue? Crestwood School has a vast amount of varied, professional facilities that proudly serves our students and the local and wider community.

From a state of the art theatre, to premium sporting facilities such as a swimming pool, 4G pitches, sports hall, gymnasium, and sports fields, Crestwood School provides you with premium facilities, without the premium prices. With a dedicated Crestwood CONNECT team to ensure your every need is met, and an operational timetable of 7 days a week, Crestwood School is able to provide our community with professional facilities, all year round. For more information, contact details or to simply take a look around, please visit our website: www.crestwoodschool.co.uk and see how Crestwood could transform your next event.



CRESTWOOD

CELEBRATES THE CENTENARY

The poppy project started three years ago when students made felt poppies to wear as badges on Remembrance Day and we raised funds for the British Legion by selling the poppies they made.

Two years ago we created a display out of acrylic poppies that students designed and made alongside the felt poppies, and last year saw the Year 7s make a 'poppy dress' to remember those who fought in WWI and WW2. This year, we wanted to do something bigger and better to mark the 100 year anniversary of Armistice Day.

The ambitious project started in the spring and a call went out to students and their families, staff and members of the local community to knit, crochet or sew fabric poppies to be used in

a giant display to remember those who fought in WWI and subsequent conflicts. Thanks to everyone's efforts we were successful in creating a 3m by 10m cascade of poppies. It attracted quite a lot of attention from the local community, press, and BBC WM radio even came to do a story on it!

Alongside making the poppies, we asked staff and students to do a little research into members of their families who fought or lived through WWI and subsequent conflicts. Several students and staff submitted pictures and stories related to their family members and it provided a valuable opportunity to remember what people went through and why it is so important to remember what happened. Students have reflected on how important it is to continue to talk about their experiences of war in the hope that their messages of peace are not forgotten.



Crestwood
SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

Expectation · Achievement · Success



The reason this project has been such a success is thanks to everyone coming together. It has been wonderful to promote a sense of community in this act of remembrance. Thank you to all who contributed to this project.

SECONDARY SCHOOL VISIT

A group of secondary school students were invited to attend one of the Remembrance tours held within the Cemetery grounds guided by 'The friends of Lye & Wollescote Cemetery'.

A small group of year 9 & 10 students created their own poppy designs in D & T lessons and placed their designed acrylic poppies on each of the fallen soldiers' graves they visited as a mark of respect. They learnt about the History of World War I & 2 and what some of the soldiers did for the War.

Students also wore felt poppies, which again were made by themselves. During the visit they also met Mr Ray Griffiths who is a World War 2 veteran and the students were able to ask any questions related to the World War

Mr Ray Griffiths also came into Crestwood to deliver a presentation on his experiences during World War 2 serving with the Herefordshire Regiment. Making this year 100th anniversary of World War one to remember for us all here at Crestwood.



WELCOME

TO OUR CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

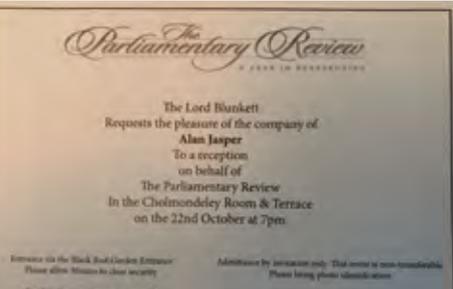
For Ellowes Hall's second Shakespeare in Schools performance, students from years 7, 8 and 10 performed an abridged version of A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Artrix Theatre in Bromsgrove.

Bringing Shakespeare's magical comedy to life, the students employed a diverse range of dramatic methods in their acting to enrich their interpretations of the characters. The experience aided in their confidence as well as their appreciation for Shakespeare.

Directing the play was a pleasure. The students themselves were rife with ideas, the majority of which they utilised in their performances. Some students were even adding to their performances during the final show! The reception of the play was incredibly positive; one person remarked that the students had 'natural comedic timing' and had a good rapport.

Thank you to the students for their exceedingly hard work and for making the school proud.

Mr Lloyd



As usual, it has been a very busy start to the academic year; welcoming our new year 7's in September who have settled into Ellowes Hall very well; to the first set of mock examinations for our year 11's in December, ahead of their all-important GCSE's in the summer.

In October I was delighted to be able to accept an invitation from the former Education Secretary, The Lord David Blunkett, to attend a celebration event recognising our achievements at Ellowes Hall Sports College, along with a number of other schools nationally. I was very proud to represent us at such a prestigious event. Guest speakers included the political analyst Andrew Neill and former Education Secretary, Michael Gove.

At the end of November we staged yet another spectacular school production and I would like to place on record my thanks to everyone involved in Les Misérables from Mr Bailey and the performing arts staff, to the main cast, the musicians and the students and staff who gave up their time to work back stage. You all worked tirelessly to deliver an amazing show.

I do hope you were able to come along and show your support of what I am sure you will agree, was a very memorable event.

Finally, thank you to all of our parents and carers for your co-operation and support so far this year. I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to welcoming all of our students back to school on Tuesday 8th January 2019.

Mr A F Jasper
Headteacher



On Monday 15th October a selection of talented dancers from Invictus Schools had the fantastic opportunity to work with a visiting dancer and musician from Birmingham Royal Ballet.

During the day's workshop the dancers were put through their paces, learning set choreography and developing their own work to learn an ensemble dance piece.

This was performed on stage at the end of the day accompanied by the professional pianist. All the dancers did a wonderful job, showing resilience and focus throughout this challenging day!



LES MISÉRABLES

Les Misérables 2018 was the sixteenth consecutive large scale production and the fourth time the school had delivered it.

The production was supposed to be Miss Saigon but the Performance Rights were withdrawn leaving the school with the decision to either postpone or start something new. Neither of these were a viable option as we did not want to be rehearsing a show closer to the GCSE Examinations in early 2019. We decided to go with Les Misérables as we knew we could deliver this in such a short time from the last days of the summer term until the first show in November. It also meant that every principal character from Miss Saigon could have a major part and students would hopefully not be disappointed.

Little did we know how many problems we would actually have to overcome to finally deliver the high quality production that everyone now expected. We have had several staff accidents and illnesses along with expensive equipment breaking down such as the mixing desk and radio mics. Two days before the first show Mr Wingate had a serious cycling accident that left him with a broken arm and the school looking for a replacement conductor. We found one, Jay Poxom, who supported the cast and orchestra through an amazing first night that received a standing ovation. The cast of Les Misérables went on to deliver six more outstanding performances and the school continues to receive an abundance of accolades from an array of people.



“ For each performance, the audience was captivated by the professionalism of all who acted, sung, danced and all who supported backstage. Both casts were magnificent and there are some very exciting young singers, dancers and actors whom we should all watch out for in the future. ”

We once more hired in a revolving stage that was built on top of our stage and provided the cast with a fantastic theatrical experience that was enhanced further through the use of period replica weapons, pyrotechnics, make-up from Helen Shinton and Ellowes Staff, and a large number of high quality costumes.

We must thank Helen Harvey for the use of the props she made for the production in 2014 and a huge debt of gratitude is owed to Phil Thomas for his usual support with lighting which also included designing and building the infamous Barricade. Other staff that do not always get a mention are Ben Wood who supported Phil Thomas and was always on hand to help repair something. Once again we sought the high ropes expertise of Dr Emms who helped fly the character Javert as he jumped from a bridge. We must also thank the Art Dept and Miss Anderson for their contribution to the Art Work. Further thanks should go to Mrs Waterfield for the excellent program, Sue Downing for her constant support in reprographics along with Anthea Southall and the rest of the Admin Staff. We also saw the return of an ex-student, Luke Millard, who came to our rescue when we lost our sound engineer. He supported some of our Y10 students in learning to be sound engineers on a production of this scale.

A final thank you needs to go to all the students in the cast and crew, the orchestra (that consisted of students, ex-students, parents and teachers) and the Performing Arts Staff who worked tirelessly in their commitment to once more produce an epic school production.

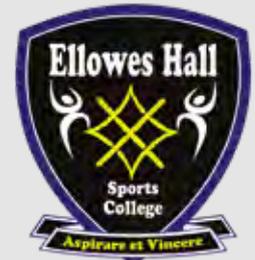
CAREERS

Career Ready and Blakemore's

As part of the Careers Education programme, some of our students have been lucky enough to participate in a Career Ready initiative. This has involved students meeting with mentors every month for the past year, workshops and visits to local businesses. Recently, the group went to Blakemore's in Willenhall, where they had a tour around the site and a talk from the Community Affairs Officer, Liz Blakemore. The students were able to experience the working world and explore career opportunities that may be available to them.

Career Ready Workshop

The final Career Ready workshop consisted of a team building challenge with two of the mentors. Students were expected to work as a team in order to build the most stable structure out of pasta and marshmallows! The aim of the workshop was to assess how their skills had developed over the course of the year's initiative. We are pleased to state that mentors were impressed with how the students had grown in confidence and their communication skills had progressed significantly. Well done year 11!



Careers Notices

- Year 10 – ensure that you have booked your work experience placement and have returned your form to Mrs Howard
- Year 11 – college applications need to be submitted

- Careers Convention on Thursday 31st January at the Year 11 parents evening – training providers and universities will be present to discuss career paths with students and parents
- Parents – don't forget to visit the Careers Education page on the school website for more information (in the 'For Parents' section)

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Work Experience Coordinator



YEAR 8
LANGUAGES
DAY AT

WOLVERHAMPTON
UNIVERSITY TRIP

Ten year 8 students were asked to attend a year 8-9 languages day at Wolverhampton University.

On Friday 19th September we arrived, registered and waited in the lecture theatre. At 10.00 - 10.15 we received a welcome, introduction of the day, an idea of what we were going to do and the point and aim of the day. After that, we were presented a motivational talk about the need for languages in business and in our world (or not) and using languages later on in life. The talk was done by Peter Spencer, Director CBM Associates Consulting Ltd; who told us about his experience of learning new languages, being able to speak five different languages and how it is enjoyable when you can communicate with people in a different language.

Furthermore, at 11.20 we were divided into language groups where French and Spanish went into different classrooms. In the Spanish class we were taught by Sandra Gonzalez. We listened to a short introduction about principles of marketing and discussed an advertising campaign in small groups-TV advert, magazine advert, web page, product or packaging design; billboard poster; internet publicity. Next, we ate a packed lunch provided by the university; at 12.35 we produced an advert on paper where we needed to create and think about logos and how they could be translated into Spanish, slogans, product name, targeted age of customers, price, where it is going to be sold and where it is going to be advertised.

After that, at 1.20, we moved back to the lecture theatre where both Spanish and French groups presented and advertised their products where we had to use the marketing skills we had learnt. A prize was given to the best idea and the best group of presenters in the French and Spanish groups. Overall, we thought it was a useful and enjoyable experience that will help us understand why speaking other languages is useful for the future and a skill that you will have forever.

Mia A, year 8



DofE
POPULARITY
GROWS

More than thirty year 10 students have signed up for the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Silver Award this year as the popularity of the scheme grows.

This is the third year that Ellowes Hall has run DofE after becoming a licensed organisation to run the youth award programme.

At a special award ceremony this term, Mr Jasper presented eleven bronze certificates and badges and one silver certificate and badge to Nick W, the first to receive the higher award at Ellowes since it was opened up to younger students.

Mr Jasper congratulated them all on achieving the awards which involve doing at least three months of volunteering, developing a skill and improving fitness as well as two hiking and camping expeditions. Participants have to carry all the equipment and food they need and walk around twenty miles over each weekend.

Mr Jasper highlighted the benefits to be gained from doing the award such as increased self-confidence and self-reliance as well as the value that universities and employers place on it. It was also a great opportunity to go away with friends, he said.

Most of those students who started bronze last year in year 9 have signed up for silver this year and their number has been swelled by fellow year 10s who are starting the award for the first time. Last year, seven students signed up for silver. Around twenty year 9 students have signed up to do bronze this year.

NEW OUTDOOR
TABLE TENNIS
AREA CREATED
THANKS TO
£4,000 GRANT

A new outdoor table tennis area is now providing students with an extra break-time activity thanks to a £4,000 grant from Tesco.

The money, which was awarded after shoppers backed the scheme at the end of last year, has paid for two concrete tables plus a planter and repairs to an existing picnic table.

Outdoor table tennis is growing in popularity nationally because players do not need to change clothes to play and no adult supervision is required. At Ellowes, students do not need to bring their own bat and ball as these are available from the nearby student hub.

Year 11 Shane P is among those making use of the new facility. "It's good to have something to do like this when you're bored," he says. Because the area is sheltered, games are not disrupted by strong winds.

The grant is the second won by Ellowes through the Tesco Bags of Help scheme which pays for community projects through money raised by the 5p charge on plastic shopping bags. This is designed to encourage people to make better use of plastic. To fit in with this aim, planks made from recycled plastic have been used to repair the picnic table and make the planter.

The first Bags of Help grant was awarded to Ellowes in 2016 and paid to develop the edge of the school playing fields as a wildlife area.



HELLO YELLOW

On the 10th October, Ellowes Hall Sixth Form participated in #helloyellow as part of World Mental Health Day.

On the day, both students and staff alike wore yellow in order to show young people they are not alone when it comes to their mental health and also raise awareness of the charity, Young Minds, who work to support young people with mental health problems. In addition, a bake sale was hosted by a group of sixth form students at both break time and lunch time who had themselves donated some wonderful sweet treats!

The day was an amazing success. Staff and students from the whole school came together to support the very worthy cause and it was an incredibly enjoyable event for all involved. Cakes sold fast, generous donations were made and we are proud to say that we managed to raise an impressive total of £165.00.

The money raised will go towards supporting and empowering young minds. Currently, 3 children in every classroom have a mental health problem and more than ever; young people are reaching out for help; however, too many times, help is much too hard to find. The charity, Young Minds, aims to change this and is fighting for improved provision of mental health services for young people so they can receive the help and support they both need and deserve.

Not only this, but the topic of mental health was discussed in tutor groups across the school during this week in order to show that mental health can and should be openly discussed in a safe and supportive environment. If this event helped at least one more young mind realise this, then the day was a success!

A massive thank you goes out to all staff and students who supported our #helloyellow event! Ellowes Sixth Form rose to the challenge and have made a massive difference to the lives of young people, but this would not have been at all possible without the contribution and support of the entire school.

MOVEMBER

Mrs Viridi-Jeer's Charity Club (which is held every Tuesday during prep) have been busy organising their first event of the year- Movember.

We have asked all male teachers in our school to grow a Mo and five of them have volunteered to grow a moustache throughout November whilst gaining sponsors. Please show Mr Evans, Mr Jeer, Mr Marsh, Mr Ming and Mr Sheppard your support. Mr Moore has agreed to shave his hair off his head if we raise £250.00. Let's get raising!

The Charity Club has been busy organising events to take place every Friday at break selling cakes and cookies and painting moustaches on students after school.

THIS WILL BE HAPPENING EVERY FRIDAY IN NOVEMBER.

Thank you to Caitlin M, Emily N, Jamie K and Ashley M for all your hard work with Movember.

We are looking forward to doing other charity work throughout the year. If you have a charity group close to your heart, let us know and we will help!

In December we will be doing hair and nails after School on Fridays. We will be selling cakes and doing a raffle.



To celebrate 100 years since the ending of WWI staff, students and cadets have been making poppies and painting displays.

During lunchtime we have been cutting, sewing, knitting and crocheting over 200 poppies. The display pays tribute to all the soldiers from both WW1 and WW2 from the local area that died in action. Poppies were also sold by students and raised £25.50 for The Royal British Legion to help ex-servicemen and women. The tribute was used our schools remembrance assembly and later in the week at Cotwall End by the Cadets and TRA. A special thank you to all the staff and students that helped make this an emotional Armistice tribute.

Don't put those knitting needles and crochet hooks away, as we are planning an even bigger display next year.



All money raised goes to help men with prostate and testicular cancer.

Please share this link with your family and friends - <https://mobro.co/13773375>

ON OUR FIRST FRIDAY, WE RAISED £53.63 JUST FROM OUR BAKE SALE!

SPORT ROUNDUP



Nasrin takes her talent to Iran

During the summer of 2018, Nasrin was invited to train with the Iranian National team. She left in July in order to acclimatise and then the hard work began! She was training daily with the women's team and gaining expert knowledge along the way. Nasrin learnt a lot from this experience and hopes to join them again next year. Congratulations Nasrin, keep up the good work!

Netball

On Tuesday 23rd October we took 7 girls to the Invictus netball trials. The girls had to participate in some challenging drills and games where they were given the opportunity to showcase their ability. The girls displayed excellent resilience and demonstrated fantastic pride to represent Ellowes. We would like to congratulate Grace B, Mikayla H and Millie B for being selected to represent the Invictus MAT for netball, this is a fantastic achievement. Well done!



School Games

During the Autumn term Ellowes Hall has hosted 2 School Games Festivals for the local secondary schools. The festivals each took place over a whole day and encompassed a range of competitions for all age groups, both boys and girls. The sports included were; swimming, handball, gymnastics, sports hall athletics, badminton, table tennis and tag rugby.

Each of the festivals began with an opening ceremony from some of our performing arts students and a speech from Mr Jasper.



Ellowes take Himley by storm once again

Another fabulous turn out at Himley Cross Country again this year with over 40 students representing Ellowes Hall. A solid performance saw us lead the borough again!

Special mentions to Alex W who won the junior girls race and Kian M who won the junior boys race and to all the students who qualified to represent Dudley in the next round at the West Mids.

Cheerleading

Shoni (pictured right) a year 11 student was lucky enough to be selected to visit Florida in April of this year; she had an amazing time with her Jazz dance team 'Supreme'. Finishing 9th in the world against very strong competitors from around the world.

Shoni was also a member of Team England All Girl Advanced Cheer Team who came away with a Silver Medal.

Next year she has been chosen to be part of the SA Supreme Jazz Team again and also their lyrical dance team.

For the first time ever England will be sending a Unified Jazz Team, which Shoni has also been selected for.

PE Gifted and Talented Students Quick to React

The Batak Reaction Wall returned to Ellowes this year and was a real hit once again! The 30 second game saw students getting into the competitive spirit to see how many lights they could hit in the time limit - some of the results were phenomenal.

The winners from each year group who participated were as follows:

- Year 8 – Scott C (38)
- Year 9 – Jasmine P (40)
- Year 10 – Demi M (35)
- Year 13 – Alex B (48)



Jai P, (pictured above right), a Year 7 student recently achieved his black belt in kickboxing and took part in his first professional fight. He won the fight and was awarded an iPhone and a trophy.

Ellowes students selected for the West Midlands County Girls Football Team

Following a competitive trial that took place at Boldmere St Michaels FC on Sunday 16th September; five of our students demonstrated outstanding technique to secure themselves a place in the West Midlands County football team.

We would like to congratulate Anya L, Lily P and Hollie M for being selected into the U14 team. Along with both Mariam M and Natasha B who retained their place in the U16 team again this year. Well done girls!

The competitions were run by local coaches, Ellowes Hall staff and supported by our excellent sports leaders. The atmosphere was fantastic with a total of around 480 students competing for their school. The winners from each competition will now progress on to either a Dudley final or a Black Country Final.

"We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2017/18 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

We have had many achievements through sport this year with hundreds of young people competing in local inter-school competitions. We are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.

"We look forward to another year filled with sport and to applying for the award again next year."

GAMBIA

CONTAINER ARRIVES



KINVER STUDENT TRIES SCUBA DIVING

Kinver students have been given the opportunity to try scuba diving, a new sport for most of them.

Invictus Education Trust have organised for one student from each of the schools within the MAT to receive one to one tuition at Dudley Leisure Centre. A different student will get the chance to try scuba diving each week.

Last week Year 9 student Jamie B was the first to try it. "I loved it. Although learning to breathe underwater was interesting. I am delighted that I was given the chance to try a new sport."

Connie and James H will be the next students to benefit from this wonderful opportunity.



After several weeks travelling across land and sea, the huge shipment of text books, furniture, projectors, whiteboards, bikes and other items donated by Kinver High School, finally arrived at Mansa Colley School in The Gambia.

On Saturday 22 September a number of volunteers, including students past and present, parents and Kinver High School staff spent the rain soaked day filling up a 40ft shipping container to send donated items to The Gambia.

The container cost £4,100 and was paid for with money raised over the past year for The Gambia appeal.

Mr Wilkes, Head of PE, said: "During the monsoon rains we managed to completely fill the 40ft container – which was a lot bigger than I thought! It took 6 hours and we really appreciated all the assistance from many of the students who will be going to The Gambia

next year. The hard work was really worth it though. The equipment we sent will mean that the school we have built will now have tables, chairs, books, white boards and basic furniture - this will allow it to function properly. I personally feel this will be amazing when we go next April.

Mansa Colley School said: "These items are gratefully received and are being distributed to a number of Gambian schools in order to best share the fantastic resources sent to us from our friends at Kinver High.

"Many thanks for the very kind donations."



ELLIE'S

SKI SUCCESS

Congratulations to Kinver High Sixth Former, Ellie J, who recently represented Kinver High School in the National Indoor Schools Ski Race.

Ellie was the fastest overall female racer, being only 0.4 seconds away from the fastest male racer:

Ellie has raced in her first full international events, at indoor slopes in both Holland and Belgium. Racers from Great Britain, Finland, Belgium, Holland, Slovenia, USA, Turkey, Portugal,

Iceland, Czech Republic and Slovakia, France and Germany all took part. In Belgium, Ellie was racing against one of their top racers who took part in the last Winter Olympics! She has achieved some amazing results, reducing her seed points from 999 to 125. It's early days yet, but based on these race results she's currently GB ranked 2nd female in slalom for her year of birth.

She recently spent 2 weeks in Austria training on the Molltaler glacier and will be heading back later this month for another set of races.

We are delighted to be supporting her dreams ... she is training hard, whilst studying with a goal in sight for next year.

Well done Ellie!

ACADEMY

RUGBY MATCH

On 14 November, Invictus post 16 rugby academy played their second match and unfortunately lost their unbeaten record, losing 37 – 8 on the day against Wrekin College.

“We travelled to Wrekin College in Telford with a squad of 20 players, many of whom had only met on the day of the match. Unfortunately, we struggled from the start. Wrekin managed to get the first points on the board by kicking a penalty over, giving them a 3 – 0 lead early on.

“From then on we were constantly put under pressure and errors started to occur which gave them multiple opportunities to score. Our biggest downfall was poor decision making in defence which came from a lack of communication and the constant decision to kick away possession giving them multiple opportunities to score.

“Our second half was a valiant effort at recovering the game, but got off to a bad start when they intercepted a pass and scored under the posts. However, from then on the Invictus team came into the game and made

a good account of themselves in the second half, having multiple opportunities to score but unfortunately we were unable to finish most of these.

“Invictus lost the second half 10 points to 5 which shows how much they progressed as the game went on. The score was not an accurate representation of the performance Invictus gave, especially during the second half. The Wrekin College team have played together for 6 years and are regarded as one of the best rugby colleges around, however the Invictus team put up a good fight. Every player stepped up and should be very proud of their performance” – Report by Jonny J (Captain) and Morgan W (Vice Captain).

Head of PE at Kinver High, Mr Wilkes, said: “The score doesn't reflect the way in which we played for a lot of the game. The Wrekin College lads were massive and incredibly well drilled as they have been playing together for the best part of 7 years...this was our 2nd game! I was so proud of the way the lads kept battling right up to the final whistle. They showed incredible spirit and supported each other throughout the game.



“A special thank you to the Year 11 students from Ellowes Hall, Leasowes High School, Summerhill School, Kinver High School and Pegasus Academy who played and performed very well for the Invictus team in what was a very physical and tough match.”

KINVER
HIGH SCHOOL



ARMY CADETS AT KINVER



Members from the Staffordshire & West Midlands (North Sector) Army Cadet Force, came into Kinver High School in October and spoke to our students with a view to setting up a Kinver Detachment.

The Kinver Detachment will be the 11th Detachment in B Company, which is based in Wolverhampton.

The Army Cadet Force is sponsored by the Ministry of Defence and follows a number of its syllabus subjects, but is in no way a recruitment ground for the Armed Forces. The motto of the ACF is 'Inspire to Achieve' which is what their instructors aim to do with the cadets through a variety of military and civilian activities. It is about fun, friendship, action and adventure. They inspire young people to challenge their limits and go further in life, whatever their goals.



THE KINVER
DETACHMENT
HAD THEIR FIRST
PARADE NIGHT IN
MID-NOVEMBER
AND PARADE EVERY
TUESDAY EVENING.



SECONDARY SCHOOL VISIT

Kinver High student, Olivia H, saw a competition on Tom Kerridge's Instagram page for Young Chef of the North during the summer holidays and was inspired to enter it.

The competition involved cooking and video editing both of which she enjoys doing.

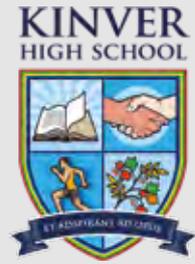
She entered with a video of her cooking Yuk Sung along with why she wanted to win the competition. She was delighted when she heard that she had won!

Olivia said: "I was so excited when I found out that I had won Young Chef of the North Competition. I enjoyed chatting to and cooking with Tom Kerridge on stage. It was an amazing experience."

On Saturday 8th September, she attended "Pub in the Park" in Knutsford, where Olivia had the opportunity to cook her dish, live on the demonstration stage, with Tom Kerridge in front of a crowd of people. The three day food fest hosted chef demonstrations, live music and festival fun.

Tom Kerridge, said: "Olivia did very well and the dish was fantastic. Well done Olivia!"

We echo those sentiments, Well done Olivia!

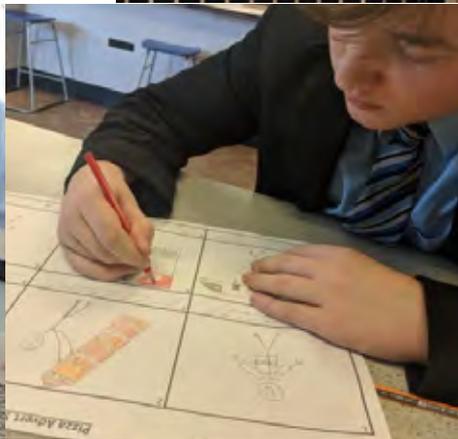


PIZZA CHALLENGE AT KINVER HIGH

Year 10 Kinver High School students took part in a Pizza Challenge before we broke up for October half term.

They were asked to think of a business name for a pizza company, design a menu, a pizza box and an advertisement to market their pizzas. Then they created a pizza.

The students all did very well and they enjoyed eating some excellent pizzas at the end of the project.



TEXTILES PUGLY DOLLS

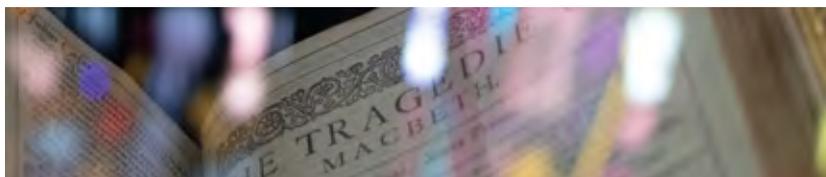
Our Year 7 Textile students at Kinver High School have recently completed a module where they created a 'Pugly'. Puglies are fun, ugly dolls which allow a student's creativity to run wild.

Textiles teacher, Mrs Barry, said: "I am delighted with the results. Many of our students have never done textiles before, even threading a needle was new to them. They should all be very proud of their Puglies."





KINVER STARS IN MACBETH



Well done to our students at Kinver High who, in collaboration with Leasowes High School, performed in 'Macbeth' last night. The show, which was held at the Artrix Arts Centre in Bromsgrove, was a sell out and our students were amazing.

They represented the school so well yesterday despite it being a long day. They were professional, supportive of each other and amazing actors! Considering they learnt the whole piece (breaking down the Shakespearean language first) in only eight weeks just shows me how ambitious and determined our students are!

Kinver High English teacher, Mrs Cheadle, said: "Lydia N in Year 7 and Sixth Former Harvey B were the stars of the show as Lady Macbeth and Macbeth, and stole the night for me! A big shout out to Joe H who had to take on the role of Banquo just hours before the performance and Melody H who I grabbed out the audience to perform as Fleance!"

Congratulations to everyone concerned.

MACMILLAN CAKE BAKE AT KINVER HIGH

Thank you to our Kinver High students who baked a selection of lovely cakes to sell at the Cake Bake sale, which was held on 5 October in aid of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Over £105 was raised by selling the delicious cakes that our students brought in. Every penny raised helps Macmillan Cancer Support look after those affected by cancer. A big thank you to those who bought cakes as well as to those who baked them!



ONE MILLION POUND SPEND



Over the past 12 months the school has had a considerable amount of money spent on its roofs and infrastructure.

There have been new roofs placed onto the sports hall, gymnasium and the main school building with finance provided by Dudley local authority and the Department for Education as part of the Conditions Improvement Fund. Despite many disruptions that the building work caused with room changes, and closures of many spaces, the work has been a great success, improving the spaces that the students and community of Leasowes can use.

With the improvement of the roof spaces the school have also been able to transform their dining space. With the school growing in numbers this has been a great addition for the students, with comments including "making it feel like a new school." This space has been extended, allowing more students to eat, as well as being brighter with natural light. Further funding has also allowed for brand new dining furniture, again making the space vibrant and exciting.

Mr M Mynott



SWIMMING STAR OF THE FUTURE

RECEIVES A LETTER FROM ELLIE SIMMONDS

Year 7 student Sophie D who swims for Halesowen Swimming Club, appears to be following in the swimming strokes of her idol Ellie Simmonds.

Sophie who has only been swimming competitively for twelve months achieved ten medals in the recent Club Championships in October and November, gaining one gold, five silver and four bronze medals in all four strokes: butterfly, backstroke, breast stroke and front crawl. She was the only competitor in her age group to compete in the 800m front crawl.

Sophie takes her inspiration from Paralympic Gold medallist Ellie Simmonds to whom she wrote recently as part of her English studies. She asked Ellie for some advice and was delighted to receive a personal two page response, signed by the star and answering all her questions. Ellie signed off by saying 'I hope in years to come I will be watching you on TV', I don't think there's much doubt about that!

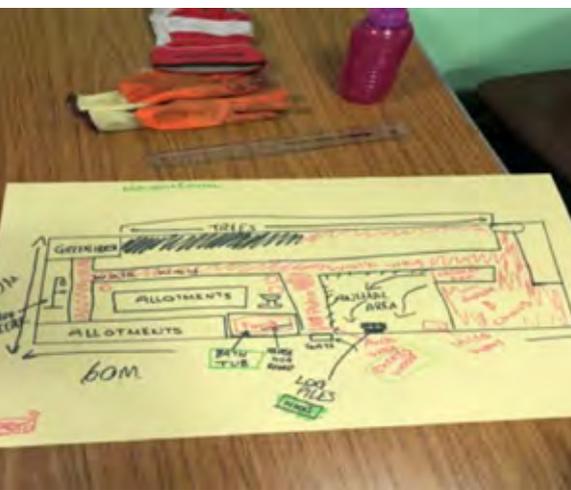




As a result of the students' hard work the school have been awarded a Bronze Award from Eco-Schools.



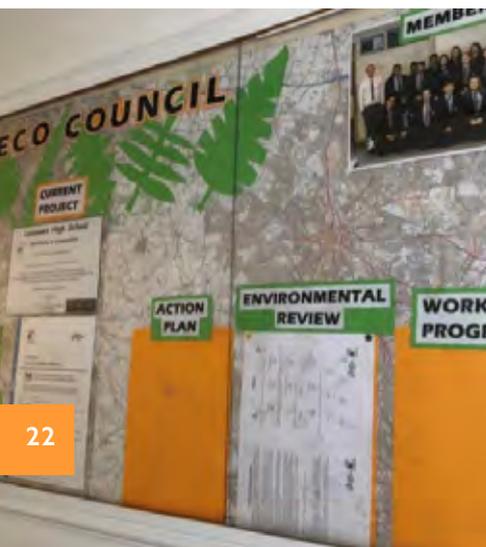
STUDENTS GAIN THE BRONZE AWARD FROM THE ECO-SCHOOLS



During the last academic year students from Leasowes High School had worked closely with the Geography department in wanting to make more of a difference to the school and set up the Eco-Council.

The students were then very busy working through a set of objectives to ensure the school becomes 'greener'. During the Enrichment Week in July, the Eco-Council spent time improving several parts of the school site. Whilst this was completed in the summer heat, the students, along with staff from the Geography and Science departments worked incredibly hard in creating a new allotment and garden space at the back of the school. This was an area that hadn't been touched for a number of years and the students worked as a unit in clearing this as well as tidying raised planting beds within the school grounds and completing a full litter pick of the whole school site.

As a result of the students' hard work the school have been awarded a Bronze Award from Eco-Schools. The Eco-Council will now maintain their existing projects and work on further ideas to make progress towards their Silver Award.





STUDENTS GAIN FROM CAREERS ADVICE ACROSS ALL YEAR GROUPS

The school are members of the Black Country Careers Hub and on 5th October, the whole of year 7 took part in a business breakfast, led by industry professionals.

The event saw 190 year 7 pupils meet 15 business professionals from across the Black Country as they talked about their jobs, what inspired them to do the job they do and participated in an open Q & A offering our students the opportunity to really understand the pathways into a range of careers.

Business representatives and local employers attended from a range of sectors including Legal, Manufacturing, Engineering Healthcare and Sales providing an awareness of the range of industries and jobs across the Black Country as well as the routes into employment.

Our students enjoyed the event and found it to be a worthwhile experience in thinking about future career opportunities.

On Wednesday 24th October, students in years 10 – 13, attended a careers fair at Leasowes High School. Parents were also invited. The purpose of this event was to provide students with opportunities to investigate a range of careers, training providers, higher education, businesses and schemes, helping our students to make an informed decision regarding their career intentions.

The event was a great success and gave our students an insight into future career opportunities and pathways.

The following exhibitors attended the careers convention:

- Invictus Sixth Form
- University of Birmingham
- University of Coventry
- Aston University
- Birmingham City University
- Nova Training
- Access to Music
- In Comm Training
- QA Apprenticeships
- National Citizen Service
- Royal Navy
- Waterman Group
- LEMA construction apprenticeships
- Connexions

TRIPLE WORLD CHAMPION

Lennon F, a student in year 11 has been competing in Kick Boxing for a number of years and recently held both British and European titles at various disciplines.

The school sponsored Lennon to attend the IFCO World Championships in Rome in October. Lennon competed in four disciplines during the competition; Ring, Mat Con, Points and Low Kick winning three gold and one silver medal against other boys from across the globe. He also stepped up a weight category to compete in this competition, dominating his opponents.

A huge congratulations to Lennon on his amazing achievements.



LEASOWES REMEMBERS

100 YEARS SINCE THE END OF THE GREAT WAR

Leasowes students commemorated this important anniversary by making their own paper poppies on which they wrote poems and messages of thanks and remembrance, these filled the wall leading up from reception and served as a fitting tribute to all of those who lost their lives.

A number of students worked with the art department and gave up their lunch breaks to make poppies out of plastic bottles, these decorated the fences outside school and brought a touch of colour and poignancy to a dark and damp November:



Year 11 students who had taken part in the History and English battlefields trip, led assemblies of remembrance for all year groups sharing poems and stories and remembering those who fought so bravely. A number of Leasowes students and staff remembered family members who fought, some who died and some who survived.

James C in year 11 remembered his great great great uncles Alfred and Tommy Osborne. Both served on the front line in the 15th Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Alfred died on 28 August 1917 aged just 20, from wounds sustained in some of the fiercest fighting at the Battle of Passchendaele. Older brother Tommy died near Sangatte in Calais on 25 April 1918 aged 25. Both men were survived by their parents and 4 siblings. Alfred and Tommy were also great great uncles to Mrs Weaver in Humanities.

Mrs Jones in the Maths department remembered her Grandfather Wilfred Leonard Hawthorne who fought in both the First and second world wars. He fought in northern Russia, near the port of Murmansk. There he received the Military Medal 'for bravery in the field'. In the Second World War Wilfred served with the Worcestershire Regiment, rising to the rank of Company Sergeant Major.

Ellie C in Year 10 remembered Elijah Chater who was wounded in France but survived. He was awarded British War and Victory medals.

Mr Smith Associate Senior Leader at Leasowes remembered his Great Grandfather Charles Griffiths Private 18922 of the 10th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment who died in the Somme in France on 3rd July 1916. He is buried within a marked grave at the Delville Wood cemetery, in the Somme, France along with a memorial to 72,337 soldiers who died with no known grave.



BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

History and English Battlefields trip to Belgium and France. Whilst there they visited a number of cemeteries and Monuments marking the lives of those killed in the Great War. It was a very moving experience walking amongst the graves, reading names, listening to accounts from the war and reading poems written in the trenches. They thought about the courage shown, how terrified the soldiers must have been and how their families back home would have felt. We saw the graves of 16 year old boys the same age as boys on the trip.

On their itinerary were: Lisenhook Cemetery, Passchendale Museum, Beaumont-Hamel Memorial Park, Ulster Tower, Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Thiepval Memorial, Menin Gate, Essex Farm Cemetery, Langemjark German Cemetery and Tyne Cot Military Cemetery.



Year 10 and 11 Students at Vimy Ridge – a Monument to fallen Canadian soldiers of World War I



Oliver W and Harrison A laid a wreath at the Menin Gate on behalf of Leasowes staff and students

Staff and students visiting one of many cemeteries where the fallen of WWI rest



LEASOWES AND KINVER STUDENTS PERFORM A WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE CLASSIC

In the classroom, Shakespeare is an ambitious undertaking for most pupils. More challenging is taking the bard's words from page to stage. Since the rehearsals commenced, this undertaking was performed with verve, enthusiasm and a professional outlook by students from both Leasowes and Kinver in November.

A combined cast of students - comprised of students from years 7 to 13 - worked tirelessly to deliver a dramatic, powerful and moving performance of Macbeth at the Artrix Theatre, Bromsgrove. Their participation in the Shakespeare in Schools Festival has established a renewed enthusiasm for theatre, alongside building resilience and a positive attitude towards collaboration.

Mr M Abley

“ Each cast member deserves a standing ovation for their commitment, hard work and for the individual flair they brought to the production. This collaborative endeavour is surely the further development of strong links between Invictus schools regarding the Arts; all involved enjoyed the process and will remember it until Birnam wood comes to Dunsinane. ”





MACMILLAN CAKE BAKE

AT OUNSDALE HIGH SCHOOL

Thank you to our Ounsdale staff who baked or brought in a selection of lovely cakes to sell at the Macmillan Cake Bake sale, which was held on 28th September in aid of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Ounsdale raised £458.16 from the cake sale.

Every penny raised is donated to Macmillan Cancer Support to care for those affected by cancer.

A massive thank you to everyone who brought in cakes along with those that baked cakes themselves. Well done!

FUNDRAISING AT OUNSDALE



Ounsdale once again joined the annual Operation Christmas Child Appeal run by Samaritan's Purse. 'Operation Christmas Child' has the power to change lives.

Every year, people of all ages fill shoe boxes with Christmas toys, games, toiletries etc. and these are distributed to needy children around the world. Last year, with the help of thousands of volunteers, boxes from the U.K. were delivered to 13 countries and nearly 1.3 million children received a shoe box filled with gifts – in most cases the only present these children will ever receive!

CHILDREN IN NEED

AT OUNSDALE HIGH SCHOOL

Well done to everyone who helped to raise £512.68 for this year's Children in Need held on the 16th November 2018.

A great effort made by all.



On the 3rd October we welcomed Graham Rowley from the Sedgley & Wombourne Rotary Club to our school as they very kindly presented our Headteacher, Dr Gemma Smith, with a donation of £700 for our Music department! Thank you very much.

ABOUT OUNSDALE

OPEN EVENING JUST WOW!

We had an absolutely fantastic and busy night showing off Ounsdale to prospective students and parents! Brilliant presentations by Gemma Smith, Headteacher and Tony Bowles, Invictus CEO and students that packed out the Ounsdale Theatre 3 times!



Inspiring students to be the very best they can be





YOUNG WRITER'S COMPETITION

During 'Enrichment Week' last July, a group of students took part in a writing workshop, where they explored the skills which go into writing fiction and developed their own short stories.

As part of this workshop, the students had the opportunity to submit an entry to the Young Writers short story competition, "Stranger Saga's".

The judges were really impressed by the standard of writing and three Ounsdale students had their work selected for the publication

"Stranger Saga's, Staffordshire Authors".

A Ghost's Story, by Samuel B (Year 8)

Trapped, by Xanthe L (Year 9)

Rescue, by Charlotte A (Year 9)

The book is due to be published by 31st December 2018 and all three students are also in with a chance of winning the short story competition.

We have such talented students in our school – congratulations!

INVICTUS SAILING DAY

Three of our Ounsdale Year 9 students represented the Invictus Sailing Day on the 18th October 2018 on Himley Lake.

A great time was had by all, resulting in one of the students joining a sailing club.

Well done to Niamh C, Milly G and Will L.

SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL



On November 12th Year 8 and 9 students performed an abridged version of Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton.

This was part of the Shakespeare School Festival which gives students the chance to perform in a professional theatre and work with professional directors. Ounsdale set their scene in a Venetian carnival so there was lots of colour, dancing, music and fun as well as some superb and convincing acting. There was even a surprise visit by the 'Bee Gees' played by 3 Year 9 boys. Lighting and sound was provided by Jack T and Tom H.

All of this goes to show what a talented bunch we are here at Ounsdale. Miss Adams is very proud of everyone involved.



YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL PGL

In the summer term Year 7 will be invited to attend a residential trip to Boreatton Park with the organisation PGL.

This is an amazing opportunity to try out new activities, such as giant swings, zip wires and raft building. It is an opportunity for Year 7 to grow in confidence and enjoy time with friends they have made this year and to build new friendships.



GREASE IS THE WORD!!!

So the hard work has started as the Grease rehearsals are underway!

This features outstanding talent in a cast of 120 students, the largest we have ever had! Get yourselves geared up for an unforgettable experience – on stage 5-8 February 2019

ACHIEVEMENTS AT OUNSDALE

Ounsdale student amongst best in the country

Alex J of Ounsdale High School celebrates today after receiving GCSE results that place him amongst the top 200 -900 students in the country.

Alex achieved the top Grade 9 in English Language, English Literature, Maths, Physics, Chemistry, French, Computing along with an A* in Business Studies and an A* with Distinction in Further Maths.

A fantastic achievement – well done Alex!

(Pictured below)

On 21st July Luke travelled to Snowdonia to take part in a charity trek up Snowdon!

He smashed the gruelling 10 mile trek up Miners Track to the summit and then down the Llanberis path on the return leg!

Luke raised a grand total of £350 for Birmingham Children's Hospital!!

(Pictured below)



FREDDIE M



ALEX J



LUKE

Congratulations to our Year 8 student, Freddie M, who competed and represented Ounsdale in a GB Pentathlon at William Brookes School in Much Wenlock on Wednesday 24th October.

Freddie beat the set times and qualified for the final where he will also represent our school at a National Level at The British Modern Biathlon Championships.

The competition was particularly tough and considering Freddie was competing against students a year older than himself this is pretty remarkable! He gained a County qualifying swimming time, ran very quickly and secured a position above the top swimmer for Shropshire County.

Well done Freddie, good luck for the final and we look forward to hearing about your future achievements!

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

OUNSDALE'S REPORT FROM THE INVICTUS GAMES HELD ON THURSDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2018.

The Invictus games, held at Leasowes High School displayed some great sporting achievements from Ounsdale students. The year 8 & 9 boys Cricket team consisting of William H, Sam T, Cam J, Joel H, Max J, Jake M and Tyler N were masters of the cricket pitch. Undeclared against Crestwood, Ellowes Hall, Kinver High school, Leasowes and Pedmore High School, they won the competition. Fantastic batting performances were backed up with accurate bowling and precise fielding skills to win each match comfortably.

The year 8 & 9 girls Netball team started the competition with an uphill task as they began with only 6 players due to illness. This did not deter the team of Ebba B, Ava C, Elle W, Poppy B, Katie H and Ruby H from playing some good fast paced netball. The girls were successful beating Pedmore 3-0 and drawing with Kinver 2-2. Ounsdale lost two games by only one point, Leasowes 2-3, and Ellowes Hall 2-3. The advantage of having an extra player playing their part in these close games. The girls played with great spirit and determination to compete and found success finishing 4th in the competition.



OUNSDALE'S REPORT FROM THE ELLOWES SCHOOL GAMES HELD ON 9TH NOVEMBER 2018.

Numerous sporting events took place at the games including badminton, table tennis, indoor athletics and tag rugby. A large contingent of Ounsdale students participated in the games and represented the school with great credit.

The first events were the year 9 Boys and Girls indoor athletics competitions. The teams consisted of Tom F, Noah S, Noah B, Brandon B, Jacob S, Jack B, Ava C, Caitlin W, Demi B, Ruby M, Beth B and Beth F. The boys team won all but one of their track events. With good performances in the field events backing up the fantastic track results the boys won their competition. The girls began with consistent results in the field events and won several of their track events. The girls managed to win their competition by a single point. A very close finish but all their hard work had paid off.

The next events were the under 14 Boys and under 16 Girls badminton and the under 16 Boys table tennis.

The under 14s boys team consisted of Billy C, Corey B, Max C and Tyler N. The boys played some good badminton, but were up against some good opposition. The boys scored plenty of points but were unable to convert these to match winning performances. The boys finished 5th in their competition.

The under 16 girls badminton team consisting of Fran F, Esme W, Georgia L and Sophie G had more success. They were able to win all but one of their matches, losing only to the eventual winners, meaning that they finished in second place in their competition.

The under 16s boys table tennis team consisting of Taylor S, Jack C, Harry C and Jack B dominated both the A class and B class competitions, winning all of their matches, most of them comfortably. Their combined scores meant that they won the overall table tennis competition for their age. Well done boys.

At the half way point, the year 7 boys played in the mixed year 7 & 8 tough rugby. The boys were playing in their first rugby fixtures as a team, they played well and scored some wonderful tries. The team showed vast improvements by the end of the round robin tournament. The boys finished 5th, but enjoyed themselves tremendously and are keen to develop their rugby skills further. The team consisted of James L, Oliver T, Sam P, Charlie G, Oli S, Joe C, George S, Brendon N, Louis F and Jack H.

The final events were the under 16s boys Badminton, under 14 girls badminton and the under 13s boys table tennis.

The under 16s boys badminton team consisting of Jamie C, Jack C, Harry C and Joe F, had a very successful badminton competition.

The boys won all of their games, undefeated winning the competition with ease. None of the opposition put them under any pressure.

The under 14 girls badminton team played well in all of their games winning most of them and only losing one match 3 games to 2. The competition was very close with the girls finishing in a hard fought 2nd place. The team consisted of Ava C, Beth B, Caitlin W, Poppy S and Ruby M.

The under 13 boys table tennis was a very good competition with most matches being close. The team consisted of Billy C, Cory B, Max C and Tyler N. The A and B teams played well and beat most of their opposition, only losing one match. The overall result was of 2nd place.

The whole day was a great experience for all the students who were involved and the staff present were impressed with the behaviour and sportsmanship of all of the students. Well done everyone.



A wealth of opportunities to enjoy learning and be successful

ENRICHMENT AT OUNSDALE

Our weeks are absolutely packed with fun enrichment clubs for our students to get involved in! Take a look at our UPDATED lunch time and after school enrichment time table!

Also our PE extra-curricular clubs – why not try something new!

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
YEAR 7-9	Grease Rehearsals - Hall	Germany Vocal Group - Room 34	HWK Club - Library	Grease Rehearsals - Hall	Music Tech Club - Room 34
	Netball (y8-10) - PE	Art Club - Room 37		Football (y9) - PE	
	Football (y7) - PE	HWK Club - Library		Football (y8) - PE (WEEK 1 ONO)	
	Football (y8) - PE (WEEK 2 ONO)	Girls Football (Y7,8) - PE		HWK Club - Library	
	HWK Club - Library				
YEAR 10-11	GCSE music support - Room 34	Germany Vocal Group - Room 34	HWK Club - Library	Grease Rehearsals - Hall	Art Club - Room 37
	Grease Rehearsals - Hall	GCSE History - Room 18		Art Club - Room 37	Music Tech Club - Room 35
	Netball (y8-10)	GCSE Geography - Room 5		HWK Club - Library	
	Football (10)	HWK Club - Library			
	HWK Club - Library	Funfair Matrix (Y11 invite only)			

PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

	LUNCHTIME	AFTER SCHOOL
MONDAY	Y10 & 11 Badminton	Y8-10 Netball Y7 & 10 Football Y8 Football (week 2)
TUESDAY	Y7-9 Table Tennis	Football & Netball matches
WEDNESDAY	Y7-9 Badminton	Football & Netball matches
THURSDAY	Y10 & 11 Table Tennis	Y9 Football Netball Matches
FRIDAY	BTEC Badminton	



YEAR 11'S

TRY OUT SUBJECTS AT THE INVICTUS SIXTH FORM

On 23rd November, 39 Year 11's, Mr Greenwood (Head of Year 11) and Mrs Turner (Careers Lead) attended an Invictus Open Morning where they had the opportunity to try taster lessons in a range of A-level subjects at two different campuses: Kinver High School and Ounsdale High School and Sixth Form Wombourne.

The morning began at Kinver where Jane Kendrick (Director of Invictus Sixth Form) and Ashley Fox (Head of Sixth Form at Kinver)

met our group to tell them about Invictus and what the morning sessions involved. After Sociology and Media Studies, the group caught the coach to Ounsdale and had a tour around the sixth form centre, met current sixth form students and sampled a Digital Media class and a Chemistry lesson. Mr Greenwood said, "Attending taster sessions at our other Invictus Schools is a good way of letting our students explore the wide range of courses available to them if they stay on at our sixth form and get a feel of the culture at our other campuses".



BIG THANK YOU TO ROBERTS FARM

PEDMORE HAS A CHRISTMAS TREE

We want to say a big thank you to Roberts Farm in Wall Heath for their donation of a fabulous Christmas tree for our school. Many, many thanks for making Christmas special for our staff and students.



FINDING OUT ABOUT PUBLIC SERVICES COURSES

On 6th November a group of Year 11 students accompanied by Mrs Turner, visited Dudley College to sample typical tasks and lesson content that the Public Services course offered.

We began the morning with a classroom exercise set by the course leader, a former member of the RAF. The group had to imagine their aeroplane had crashed in the Antarctic and what they would choose to take from the aeroplane for survival purposes.

Our students then took part in practical exercises in the gym which developed problem solving skills and teamwork.

Mrs Turner said, "It was a great opportunity for our students to experience the sorts of areas covered in this course, to be able meet the teachers and ask questions about career paths etc. The teachers were also impressed with how well our students worked together on the tasks – great Pedmore teamwork!"



FOCUS ON ENGLISH

There is always something happening in all our academic departments and in this edition, we are focussing on our English Department. Here is just some of the activities that are happening this year:

- Wolverhampton Grand "Macbeth" theatre trip - Years 9-11 will attend a matinee performance on 14th March 2019.
- Year 9 watched Royal Shakespeare Company's live streaming of "Romeo and Juliet" on Wednesday 21st November 2018 with students taking part in the live question and answer session that took place with the actors and directors following the performance via Skype, asking "Do you believe 'star-cross'd lovers' exist and if so, what would your advice be to them?"; "By playing the role of ____, has it affected your own personality in any way?" and "Do you believe love can be victorious over hate and why?"
- The Fred Theatre is booked for an in school performance to Years 10 and 11 of "A Christmas Carol", in December 2018.
- Years 7 – 10 entered the October 2018 Poetry Escape competition, when students had to write under a particular theme or restriction, for example not using a particular letter in their work. We are currently awaiting results, fingers crossed!
- Whole School Literacy project from Years 7-10 was completed during tutor time November - December to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War I.
- "Who Put Bella in the Wych-Elm" musical adaptation written and by performed by students following last year's whole school literacy project.
- We displayed Year 11 quotation walls and registers to support their learning of key quotations.
- Year 11 masterclasses take place every Wednesday after school to support revision and exam preparation.
- Collins Snap! Revision Guides for all English Language and English Literature exam components have been offered to all of Year 11 at a discounted price of £7.50 for the set of 7 revision guides.
- This year's Rotary Youth Speaks competition in February 2019 will be hosted at Pedmore High School.
- Our weekly Debate Club at lunch time supports the Rotary Youth Speaks competition preparation.
- We take part in the Lightwoods Literacy Intervention project, for targeted students in Year 7-8.
- Reading mentors – Year 9 and 10 students support struggling readers in Year 7 during morning registration in the ILC.



HANDS ON SCIENCE

EXPLORING "CHEMISTRY AT WORK" AT THE BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM (BCLM)

Our Year 9's attended Chemistry at Work hosted at the Black Country Living Museum, organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The Chemistry at Work event offers school students the opportunity to appreciate the place of chemistry in everyday life and the world of work, with particular emphasis on what is happening in their local area.

Students watched a demonstration of energy changes in reactions and how this has an effect and assisted with demonstrations using dry ice, liquid nitrogen and steam. The Newcomen steam engine was the first in the world. The engine model is at the BCLM.

Students then learnt how coal was extracted and how brass was cast in our local industries. They also saw the lime kilns and learnt about the chemical process involved.

After a lunch at the famous BCLM chip shop they saw how plastics are being developed to be more environmentally friendly, either being able to decompose after two years or being able to be broken down by processing. They took part in modelling a polymer, showing how strong they are.

They made an enamel name plaque in a workshop, bonding glass onto copper.

Their last activity was extracting copper from copper core, then seeing gunpowder made and ignited.

All students contributed to all of the sessions and in particular Ethan P (year 8) wowed presenters with his knowledge of science.

INSPIRING OUR STUDENTS



**Pedmore
High School**
Aspire, Persevere, Succeed

Political Editor for the Guardian shares his experiences with Year 9,10 and 11.

We have been very fortunate to secure a visiting speaker from the 'Speakers for Schools' project in which influential people give their free time to inspire young people.

On Wednesday 21st November our guest was Michael White, the retired political editor from the Guardian Newspaper, who currently writes a column for a European journal.

Michael White was born at the end of World War II in 1945 and grew up in Cornwall. Like many Cornish people his father was a sea captain and his grandfather a tin miner. He was the third of four children - two boys and two girls. Michael went to a small grammar school in Bodmin and then read History at London University. Coming from Wadebridge, a small town (2,000 people) in Cornwall, that was "a bit scary". He applied for jobs in industry, but was unsuccessful.

He then decided he wanted to become a journalist and applied for lots of jobs but was again unsuccessful but didn't give up and kept applying. He was eventually lucky and secured a position for the Reading Evening Post - 40 miles west of London.

After 3 years of training Michael became a reporter on the London Evening Standard in 1970. The following year he moved to the Guardian where he remained until he retired in 2016 - just before his 71st birthday. During those years he did a variety of roles including: arts sub-editor and writer; diary column writer; political reporter and parliamentary sketch writer; Washington correspondent; foreign correspondent; political editor (1990-2016); columnist and blogger.

Michael still writes freelance columns for The New European newspaper and other publications. He also writes on Twitter.

Mrs Ward, Science Teacher at Pedmore said, "Our students were fascinated to learn about Michael's career path and particularly interested in his meetings with Princess Diana and Nelson Mandela. His experiences in Panama when he had to hide under the piano during an attempted coup was also a great favourite! Many thanks to Michael for sharing his life with us and inspiring our students."

STUDENTS TEST OUT THE RIDES AT ALTON TOWERS

In October, a group of year 9 Computer Science students attended an educational trip to Alton Towers. After testing a number of rides they had an hour's talk about how computers are used at Alton Towers.

When their talk was over they then tested further rides, looking out for sensors and control devices they had heard about during the talk.

A number of the students hadn't appreciated that computers are not only used for the obvious roles (payroll etc), but are also used in ride design etc. The talk also covered the very important topic of testing.

The trip was wholly funded by a grant from Aspire to HE programme, of which Pedmore is an identified school. As a direct result of this experience some of the students are considering future careers in the computing/IT industry.



YEAR 7 AND 8 VISIT WEST MIDLANDS SAFARI PARK

Mrs Evans (Head of Year 7 and 8 – Non Teaching) and Miss Mason (Head of Year 7 and 8 – Teaching) organised a rewards trip for their year groups who met the 'Pupil Privilege' criteria.



Many students qualified and 117 students took part in this trip. Mrs Evans said, "We visited the Safari Park in Bewdley on the 26 October 2018 and drove around the animal enclosure by coach. The students were really excited when they saw the animals and some stated that they had never seen some of the animals before. After we had driven around the enclosures and had seen lions, tigers, giraffes and many more animals, students were allowed to explore the park in small groups. They enjoyed the 'Ice Age' experience but most of all used their wrist bands to go on the rides. At the end of the day it did start to rain heavily but the students didn't let the weather spoil their day. A great time was had by all".

The Pupil Privilege criteria is

- Attendance of 97% or above
- No late detentions
- No internal/external exclusions
- Consistent high standard of behaviour in and out of school
- Consistent positive attitude to learning
- Consistent high standard of uniform

FINDING OUT ABOUT A CAREER IN TELEVISION AND BROADCASTING

PEDMORE COLLECTS FOR FOODBANK

Helping to feed our local community.

Students and staff at Pedmore High School have been busy donating food to support the Black Country Food Bank collection as part of a Harvest Appeal. Stocks had become very low over the summer and students, their families and staff at Pedmore have donated a wide variety of food products to help many local families who have struggled during the summer holidays. Mrs Woods, Head of Humanities at Pedmore and co-ordinator of the collection said, "This has been a really successful collection and we were amazed by the amount of donations from everyone here at Pedmore. It has been a whole school effort and the collection has raised awareness of the plight of many families in our region who rely on the Food Bank to help their family in difficult times".

For more information about the Black Country Foodbank go to www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk



On Tuesday 16th October, a group of year 9-11 students had the rare opportunity to find out all about a career in television and broadcasting by attending a Careers Fair held at Edgbaston Stadium by the Royal Television Society.

This was the first RTS Careers Fair held outside London. Students could attend workshops, have a go at presenting, meet TV and broadcasting professionals from the BBC and other channels, learn how to take great photos on their phones and make great content to create broadcast quality sound and video and much more.

Mrs Turner, Career Lead at Pedmore said, "This was a great opportunity for our students to explore this fascinating occupational sector and get to meet experts and practitioners in the industry. The day kicked off with the BBC Sports department panel session where Richard Wilford (BBC WM Sport) hosted the panellists, Michael Jackson (Deputy Editor SPOTY); Jo McCusker (Editor BBC Sport and maker of sporting documentaries) and Natalie Pirks (BBC Sports News Correspondent) told us secrets behind working in Sport and shared

their career stories and tips for getting into the industry. We then attended another workshop, "How to get ahead in Entertainment Television", where we joined host Trish Adudu as she talked to Charlie Irwin (BAFTA winner Executive Producer of Britain's Got Talent); Francesca Palmer (Series/Senior Producer of Let it Shine and The Voice UK Series 1-5) and Mark Sidaway (BAFTA award winning Entertainment Executive Producer who produced 10 series of The X Factor and developed Pop Idol). They gave top tips on how to break into this highly competitive, yet incredibly rewarding field.

In the exhibition area, students talked to exhibitors including recruitment teams from Channel 4, ITV and the BBC to find out what recruiters in the industry are looking for, the value of getting work experience and which subjects to take at A level/Level 3 and higher to strengthen their chances of getting into the industry. It was a good opportunity to network and make useful contacts. Also BBC engineers were on hand as we tried out a magic carpet ride on the green screen, learning a few tricks of the TV trade and some of our students came away from the special effects make up stand with some very convincing looking cuts and grazes! All agreed it was a great day.



FINDING OUT ALL ABOUT HAIR AND BEAUTY COURSES

Year 8 have a Pamper Morning at Halesowen College

Mrs Evans, joint Head of Year 7 and 8 has took 2 groups of Year 8 students to Halesowen College's Hair and Beauty Centre to learn all about the courses and also experience what it is like to be a client in the facilities!

Our students met Halesowen College students on the existing BTEC Hair and Beauty Course and tutors who explained all about the course and qualifications and the career paths it would open for them. Our students were also treated to hairstyle makeovers to experience the use of the facilities and the client experience. Mrs Evans said, "This is a great opportunity to not only have a taster of the course but to meet and discuss the course with existing students and tutors and also get to use the facilities first hand. In addition to this, we all enjoyed being hair models and helping the Halesowen students practice their techniques".



LITTER CHALLENGE

YEAR 7 AND 8 GET PICKING!

Mrs Mason challenged Years 7 and 8 to help keep our school clean and tidy with a Litter Challenge.

Forms patrolled the school during form time armed with litter pickers. The litter was weighed and weight recorded. The form group who had collected the most litter were treated to a lesson off in the canteen with hot chocolate and cookies! Well done to Mrs Zulfkar's form!

Date	Form	KG
W/C 17/09/18	8KHR	65KG
W/C 24/09/18	7JKT	58KG
W/C 1/10/18	8SHY	37KG
W/C 8/10/18	7PLS	24KG
W/C 15/10/18	8ZLF	11KG
W/C 22/10/18	7JJS	11KG
W/C 5/11/18	8SZR	8KG
W/C 12/11/18	7DTN	7KG

Check out the litter-o-meter display in A right!

LANGUAGES DAY

In aid of The Shoebox Appeal 2018, we will be holding a Languages day on the 25th October - celebrating all languages, from all cultures.

On the 25th October - Beth, Regan & Nate in Year 9 will ONLY speak French for the day! No English is to be spoken by them.

Three students in Year 9 have taken on the challenge of speaking only in French for the day, but they can only accomplish this with your help!

We need sponsors (please.) A sponsor form will be handed to your Form Tutor (minimum sponsor amount 50p), all money must be handed to your Form Tutor by 26/10/18. *All proceeds will go to the purchasing of items for The Shoebox Appeal 2018.

ENTERPRISING STUDENTS RAISE FUNDS FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our Year 9 GCSE Enterprise and Marketing students have been busy with their first major project – raising funds to take part in Operation Christmas Child.

Students are encouraged take responsibility for real projects in school to encourage them to learn all about enterprise and business. Pedmore has been taking part in this charitable venture for several years and it has grown more successful every year.

Operation Christmas Child collects wrapped shoe boxes filled with gifts and co-ordinates deliveries all over the world to the most needy children. Our students take responsibility for wrapping the boxes and filling them with donated gifts from our generous staff and fellow students.

The teams fundraising efforts then pay for the shipping costs of the boxes as they are sent all over the world.

This year students have done a range of fundraising activities including holding a Year 7 and 8 Halloween Disco, a sponsored "Speak only in French Day", and a film night.

Mrs Hunter, Head of Design Technology and Enterprise Studies said, "Our new Year 9 GCSE Enterprise and Marketing students get a great insight very early into their course with this not-for-profit project and have their first taste of working as an effective team with a tight deadline to deliver a product. We believe that our Enterprise students should also consider the possibility of Social Enterprise ventures and what a difference they can make to our society today".



WE REMEMBER

Hub Staff and Students Create a Beautiful Poppy Display

Pedmore's teaching assistants based in our "Hub" wanted to highlight the celebration of 100 years since the end of the WWI and decided to work with our SEND students to create poppy displays in the corridors close to the Hub.

The team also displayed a poster that was designed by borough artist, Steve Field, which was made to be put in the windows of the houses where soldiers did not return. This was designed for the old quarter in Stourbridge and the posters were displayed in the homes of the unfortunate soldiers. The team felt this poster would help students understand the impact of WWI on our local community.

“

Mrs Morris,
teaching assistant
said,
“Many pupils from
different forms
contributed and
pupils commented
on how thought
provoking it was”.

”

YOUNG ENTERPRISE TEAMS

PREPARE FOR THEIR FIRST TRADE FAIR AT STOURBRIDGE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

Our Year 10 Young Enterprise teams are busy preparing for their first trade fair on Saturday 1st December at Stourbridge Ryemarket as part of the town's Christmas Lights Switch On celebrations.

Our two teams started this September on the Young Enterprise Company Programme. This is our second year of working with Young Enterprise as two teams entered last year's competition and did amazingly well. Two members from last year's teams (Anna S and Louis G) have been helping our new teams to get to grips with starting their businesses.

Young Enterprise is an enterprise and financial education charity reaching over 250,000 young people every year. The Company Programme enables participants to experience what it's like to set up and run a student company. The project kicked off with Young Enterprise representatives introducing the project and setting an enterprise challenge to Year 9 on our PSHE day last July.

Running throughout one academic year, students make all the decisions about their enterprise, from deciding on the name and

product to creating a business plan, managing the student company finances and selling to the public at trade fairs. All this takes place with the support of a volunteer Business Adviser who brings a wealth of business knowledge and expertise. A range of resources are provided to help manage the company and the teams track their progress using self-assessment tools and compete against other schools in local, regional and national competitions.

Our teams will take part in other trade fairs and sales opportunities over the next few months, running the businesses and will submit full company reports to a tight deadline, leading up to the Black Country Young Enterprise Regional Finals in May. Here our teams set out their stalls and battle against other competing schools in the region showcasing their businesses in the hope of winning the regional heat.



STUDENTS MEET EMPLOYERS AND COLLEGES AT

PEDMORE'S CAREERS FAIR

Students from Year 9-11 and their parents were invited to attend Pedmore's annual Careers Fair on 23rd October.

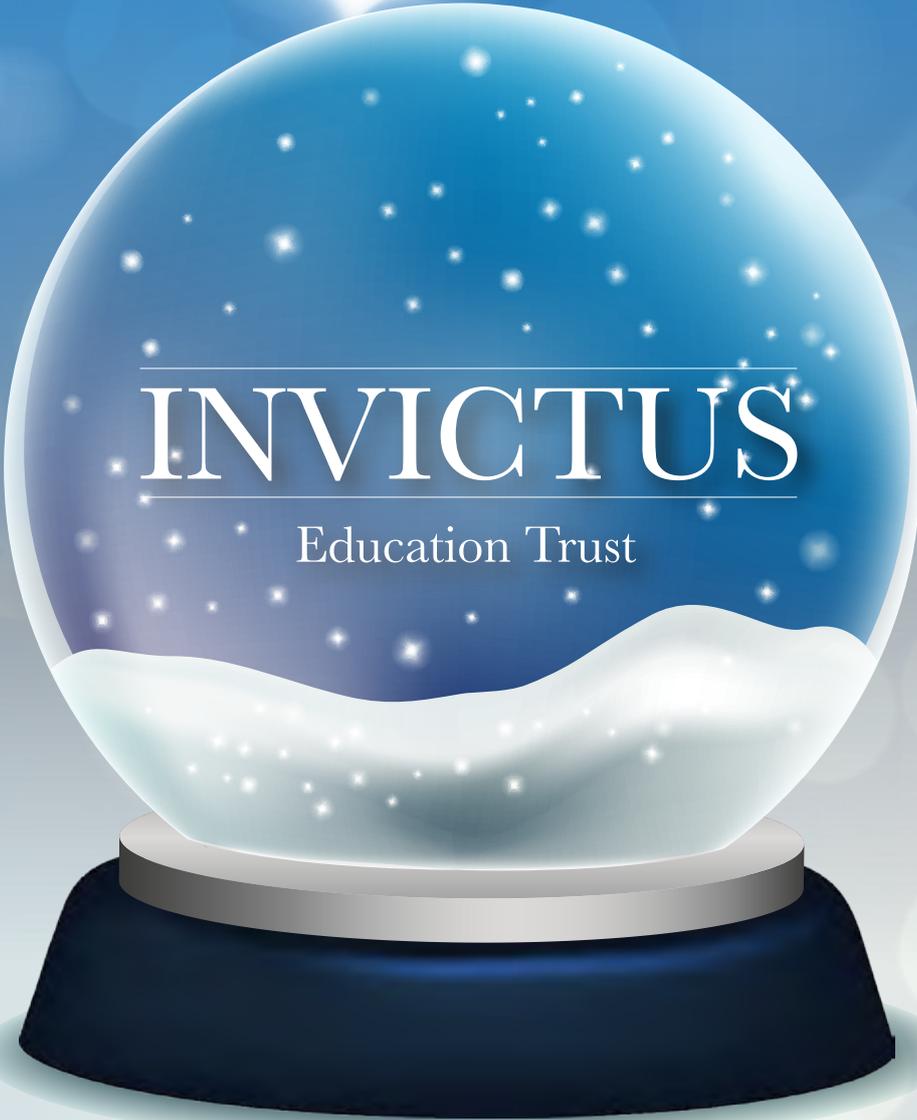
A wide range of employers, Further Education colleges and specialist training providers were on hand in the school's main hall to meet and discuss options at 16+ with families. In addition to the exhibitors (which included Balfour Beatty Vinci, the Army, Kidderminster College, Dudley College, Halesowen College and Stourbridge, a specialist Arts College "Access Creative" in Birmingham, UCB etc), workshops were held throughout the evening for families and students to attend, delivered by the National Apprenticeship Service and other exhibitors. Mrs Turner, Careers Lead and fair organiser said, "We are delighted at the wide variety of employers and training providers that were able to attend our Careers Fair this year and the student turnout has been extremely good. This fair allows our families to explore their choices at 16+ all under one roof".

Pedmore also host a wide range of Careers related activities throughout the academic year and welcome employers and training providers into school to meet and work with their students at events and in the classroom.



WITH BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

from
The Invictus Team at Ward House



INVICTUS
Education Trust

