

Gifted & Talented Newsletter: Third Term update

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been another really busy term in school! There have been some excellent trips and activities taking place aimed at Gifted and Talented students. I have provided a summary of these below.

Events and activities this term:

Art and Design Year 8 Gifted and Talented workshop, 21st June 2018.

The workshop was organised by Mrs Hill and was aimed at Year 8 students who are identified as Gifted and Talented in Art.

During the workshop we had many opportunities that we wouldn't usually be able to have during our regular art lessons. To start the day, we were introduced to Mrs. Pilkington: She is a Graphic Designer that gave us an insight into the work she does. Our aim for the day was to re-design the Art department postcard. These are posted home to celebrate achievements in lessons.



During the day we were given freedom to create our postcards, we used techniques such as monoprinting, painting, watercolour and photography. We created a 'library' of images that would be used later in the ICT suite. We also explored artistic words using stencils, paint and materials. After lunch we used Photoshop Elements in the ICT room to layer our imagery to complete a design. We were asked to explore scale and composition.

Overall, we had an amazing experience and learnt so much about Graphic Design. It was great to have the whole day to focus on a design brief. –
Ayeesha Rajaratnam (Year 8)



RE Department- Yoga Workshop

On Thursday 21st June Michelle Gifford, a Yoga teacher, came in to speak to year **10 GCSE students** about Yoga within Hinduism. This is a topic which is identified on the new GCSE specification and is an important part of their study. Pupils gained a deeper insight into the different paths of yoga and

where it originated. In addition, they had the chance to ask questions and find out more about the spiritual and religious significance of this practice.

Pupils enjoyed the talk and this helped them to recap some of the key beliefs and teachings we have covered in the Hinduism unit of work so far.

Gifted and Talented Club

We have been watching a number of films this term and completing activities based around them. We watched **Matilda**, then completed some work on writing an excellent film review and what is needed to really reflect the essence of the film on paper. Martha Skerry (year 8) was awarded with **Review of the Week** for her review on the IntoFilm website, this is a **national competition** and Martha received a prize for her excellent review (see below). Martha has secured her position on the **Into Film's Youth Advisory Council** for the second year running. Again, this is a national initiative in which young people make decisions about how IntoFilm plans its work alongside schools, Martha acts as a voice representing pupils in the West Midlands on the council. **Well done Martha!**



This film is an absolute classic family, feel-good movie. It is based on the book by Roald Dahl about a young, but extremely clever girl named Matilda. Matilda is born into a family (the Wormwood's) where her Dad is a money-mad criminal and her mum is a beauty-crazy woman who is constantly on a whim. All in all, nobody loves Matilda and she is left to fend for herself, but this setback leads her to the library, her haven of books. By the time she goes to Crunchem Elementary school, the school of her Father's client, she knows almost all there is to know. The evil head-teacher, Miss Trunchbull, may be the most horrible villain of all but her kindly teacher, Miss Honey is where Matilda finds refuge. As you go deeper into the movie, you find out more about Miss Honey's childhood and this new information leads to Matilda's greatest scrapes. In the movie there is a scene where the whole of Matilda's family goes to a restaurant, in the book, this doesn't feature. Also the movie is set in the USA and the book is set in the UK. Although, this is where I think the differences end. Mara Wilson plays Matilda in the 1996 movie, she is an American writer who was also in Mrs Doubtfire and Miracle on 34th street. Roald Dahl is a British writer who wrote Matilda as well as many greats like Danny the Champion of the world and the Twits. If you enjoyed this movie, you may enjoy Fantastic Mr Fox, another adaptation of one of Dahl's books. Matilda won 3 awards and had 7 nominations at various different ceremonies throughout 1996 and 1997 so you can see why it is such a hit with many and one that most people watch more than once. I enjoyed this film but I found it a little too young for me and I would recommend it to those under 11 but it is really a film for all ages.

In addition, we watched the **Kings Speech**, which the club enjoyed, and then we did some research work into some legendary speeches throughout history. Niamh Iliff (year 9) was also awarded with **Review of the Week** for her excellent film review on the IntoFilm website. Please do contact Mrs Giles if your son/daughter would like to start attending our club on Wednesdays 3:35-5pm in H1.

Children's University



Year 7 pupils have been collecting extracurricular hours since November in a bid to gain a certificate from the Children's University scheme. Pupils needed to gain 30 hours minimum to receive a certificate. In total, **17 students** received a Bronze certificate for their efforts

this year. They have worked really hard to gain as many hours as possible, visiting places like the Think Tank and other museums in Birmingham, the National Memorial Arboretum and taking part in clubs in school. Well done year 7!

LRC: Year 9 Gifted and Talented trip to the British Library

15 Year 9 Gifted and Talented pupils went to the British Library in London for the day on Thursday 12th July. The British Library offer free workshops to schools which enables them to access treasured texts in their collection. Our group of pupils spent the day exploring the library and developing their research skills. We attended a **'Research Matters' skills session**, which aimed at providing students with an insight into how to research properly and to ultimately equip



them with the skills needed to be a successful independent learner. Here is what some of them said...

"It taught me to ask questions, not just accept what I read"

"I learnt to evaluate information and to always question sources"

"It made me think in abstract ways"

ICT and Computing

The ICT and Computing Department has been championing The Duke of York Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award, known as iDEA. The award aims to equip people with digital and enterprise skills. Inspired by The Duke of Edinburgh Award (which has supported 8 million young people since its inception), iDEA helps young people learn how to make, create, build and shine in the digital world. Many of year 8, 9, 10 and 12 students are now enrolled. Congratulations go to **Aaron Cusack, Charlotte Whitworth, Jamie Evans, Nat Murphy** and **Theo Fryer** who have achieved their Bronze Awards with recognition from Buckingham Palace!



There have also been successes for Year 10 with the Microsoft Office Specialist qualification. 9 students have gained accreditation in either Excel or PowerPoint. A special well done to **Ben Fox** and **Kai Polos** who have passed 2 each!

We would like to wish good luck and best wishes to **Rhiannon Stone** this summer as she embarks on a **CyberFirst Defenders** residential course at Warwick University to hone her cyber security skills. Places on this course are designed for students with an interest in computing. Designed by cyber security experts from the UK's National Cyber Security Centre, the course will be delivered by experienced training partner QA, and The Smallpiece Trust. This five-day residential course will provide Rhiannon and other students with the opportunity to explore modern security technology whilst working with the latest cyber security tools. The courses will use presentations, team exercises and hands-on experience to develop the next generation of cyber security experts, or cyberists.



PE Department

It has been another fantastic year from all of our students across the different sports and year groups. The talents of our students never fail to impress us. This year we have participated in many different sports, leagues and tournaments. We have competed in **14 sports** and have been **champions in over 35 of the competitions** we have entered across the year groups which is just an amazing outcome. Well done to all of the students that have taken part and those that attend training without playing for a team.

I hope this has provided an insight into what pupils have been involved in this term. I hope you have a fantastic summer holiday; I will send another newsletter at the end of the first term.

Best Wishes,

Abi Giles

Lead Teacher for Gifted and Talented

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