



Newsletter

The White Hills Park Federation Trust

Issue 118– 20th January 2017

Year 9 Specialisms

This week, we held our Year 9 Specialisms evenings, during which we discussed with parents and students the choices that are available to them for GCSE courses. There was an excellent turnout, indicating a high level of interest, and the seriousness with which these decisions are taken.

As we explained during the evening, the system of choices is changing again this year. This is partly as a result of feedback we receive from students, parents and teachers, and partly because of significant changes at a national level to which we have to respond. As a result, we have tried to respond to a number of different pressures.

Firstly, courses at GCSE are becoming more rigorous with significantly more content to be covered over the two years of Key Stage 4. Most courses are now linear, which means that two years of study will be followed by final exams in Year 11. As a result, there are far more exams for students to sit, and a much reduced role for coursework, which has disappeared altogether from a number of courses. Although this is some way off, we have to consider the impact on students of a very intense exam season, with large amounts of content to revise, and a heavy load of booster and revision sessions after school, limiting the opportunity for twilight courses.

Secondly, there is an increasing emphasis on the importance of traditional academic subjects, in particular, English, Maths, Science, History, Geography and Languages. These are the subjects that comprise the English Baccalaureate, and it is expected that almost all students will study most, if not all, of these subjects.

Thirdly, we want to maintain breadth in the curriculum, and maintain access for all students to study subjects that don't fit in to the categories above. These include arts subjects, practical subjects, vocational courses, subjects such as Social Sciences and Business which are introduced in KS4 for the first time, and so on. We recognise the importance of offering subjects within the curriculum that allow students to develop their talents and interests, and to pursue subjects that they love, even if they are not in the traditional academic curriculum.

To meet all of these goals, we have structured the choices so that we are giving clear guidance to students and parents about the pathways they should be following, whilst ensuring that there is a place for them to make a choice of at least one subject that might not fit into that pattern. We hope we have the balance right. I would be very happy to hear feedback from Year 9 parents as we go through the process, and if parents or students from other years are interested to see how this is structured, all the information is available on our websites.

Paul Heery

Executive Headteacher

Updated Extra Curricular Timetables Published

Updated extra-curricular timetables for both The Alderman White School and The Bramcote School are now available on the respective websites. From extra lessons and supporting students taking exams this summer to activities such as Taekwondo and Archery, there is something for everybody! Remember - every club or activity counts towards Graduation at the end of the year.

Mr K Stephan

Dates for your Diary

January	FED	AWS	TBS	BC
23rd	Specialisms Taster Morning			
24th	Year 11 Reports issued			
24th	Poetry Live Day			
25th	Year 12 & 13 Mock Results Day			
26th	German Exchange Information Evening			
26th	PTA Meeting 18:00 Bramcote College			
26th - 27th	Year 11 German Speaking Exams			
27th	Holocaust Memorial Service 10:00 - 12:00 The Walled Garden, Bramcote Hills Park			
30th	Deadline For Specialisms Choices			
30th - 1st Feb	Year 11 French Speaking Exams			
February				
1st	Year 8 Sutton Scholars Campus Visit The University Of Nottingham			
2nd	UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge			
4th	Debating Competition University Of Nottingham			
6th	Careers Event at Queens Medical Centre			
6th - 10th	Geography Field Trip Portugal			
7th	Business Breakfast			
9th - 20th	German Exchange			

Please see our websites or login to our free app to view a full calendar of events and important dates.

Chinese New Year Gala

As the Alderman White Confucius Classroom starts to celebrate Chinese New Year with a range of special workshops and festivities, our colleagues at the Confucius Institute at the University of Nottingham have extended a very generous invitation to our students, parents and staff to join them for the spectacular New Year Gala at the Royal Concert Hall on Thursday 9th February (please see the accompanying poster). This is a cultural event not to be missed, featuring some stunning performances from top artistes.

Tickets can be purchased on-line (<https://trch.co.uk/whats-on/chinese-new-year-gala>) and I am delighted to say that a very generous 50% of the proceeds from tickets bought by members of our community will be returned to our schools to support forthcoming projects. The Theatre Royal has set up promotional codes: **ALDERMAN** for Alderman White and **BRAMCOTE** for Bramcote College/The Bramcote School. A 20% early bird discount also applies for tickets purchased by 25th January, i.e. £8 per adult ticket.

This is a great opportunity to support our schools and enjoy a unique cultural experience. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Mr K Stephan

NOTTINGHAM CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE PRESENTS
诺丁汉孔子学院特别呈现

Spectacular
CHINESE NEW YEAR GALA
春节联欢晚会

Featuring The China Ethnic Song and Dance Ensemble
演出单位: 中央民族歌舞团
Thursday 9 February, 19:00
Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham

A showcase of traditional Chinese minority culture, from Uyghur, Tibetan and Manchu to Mongolian, Kazakh, Korean and many more

30 professional performers, including Mongolian superstar
Teng Geer
(腾格尔)

Tickets from £5
20% early bird discount for tickets purchased by 25th Jan

BOOK EVENT TICKETS NOW
www.trch.co.uk T: 0115 989 5555

Asia Business Centre, The University of Nottingham, and other logos.

PTA News

The PTAs at Alderman White School (including Bramcote College) and The Bramcote School are in need of tombola and raffle items. If you have any unwanted Christmas gifts that you would be willing to re-gift to us we would be delighted and appreciative. Please drop off any donations at main reception on the relevant site.



Attention Alderman White parents - the PTA needs your support!

We will be meeting next on **Tuesday 7th February** at 6.30pm in the Meeting Room (behind the reception area) in school to plan the Summer Fair.

If you signed up at the Year 6 evening in the summer term please come along, even if this is the one and only meeting you can make. Those of you who have never signed up or thought about contributing before but would like to offer some input or support, please do come along. Our small team of parents have been working tirelessly to raise funds to enrich the opportunities available to your son/daughter: funding external visitors to lessons, rewards, two outdoor basketball hoops, chairs for our school hall, and much more. To show your appreciation for what we do, please help by offering your support.



The next meeting of The Bramcote School PTA is **Thursday 26th January**, at 6pm on the Bramcote College site. New members are always welcome, so feel free to come along and help us support the school.

For more information on either of the PTA groups, please contact Julie Francis (julie.francis@whpfederatoin.org)

Miss J Francis

Bramcote Youth Theatre

Over the last term students from Bramcote School, Bramcote C of E and Bramcote Hills Primary have been working together with Nottingham Playhouse to create Bramcote Youth Theatre. Their first performance will be at the Playhouse on 26th January.

On 6th February we will be reopening the Youth Theatre to new members and begin to work on a performance to mark the end of the current Bramcote School site, provisionally entitled The Last Day of School.

Bramcote Youth Theatre meets every Monday from 3:30 – 4:45 and is open to KS2 students from feeder schools and year 7s and 8s from Bramcote school.

If you fancy joining us, or for further information please email colin.morley@whpfederation.org

Mr C Morley

Support Our Choir In Waitrose

Each month, every Waitrose branch donates £1,000 between 3 local good causes chosen by shoppers. This month, the Waitrose branch in Wollaton has chosen our Federation Community Choir as one of the worthy local causes for the scheme.

At the end of your shop, you'll receive a green token to place in a box of the cause you'd most like to support. Please consider dropping your token into the slot for our Choir, which relies entirely on donations and performs throughout the year at local events.

The more tokens a cause gets, the bigger the donation they receive.

At the end of January, the choir will be replaced by another cause, so any support over the next couple of weeks would be greatly appreciated.

Student Scribes

We are currently training our post 16 Health and Social Care groups to be able to scribe and support identified students across the Federation. This in-class support is vital to foster good relationships between students, ensuring our younger cohort have fantastic role models, whilst our sixth formers develop new skills which enable them to further their career opportunities.

Ms. M Lancley

The Bramcote School
A member of The White Hills Park Federation Trust

FASHION SHOW AND CLOTHES SALE

FRIDAY 5TH MAY
SHOW STARTS 7PM
DOORS OPEN 6:30PM
LICENSED BAR | SOFT DRINKS | TOMBOLA

ADULTS	CHILDREN (UNDER 16)
£3	£2
IN ADVANCE FROM RECEPTION	
£4	£3
ON THE DOOR	

DEBENHAMS
next **White Stuff** M&S
MONSOON oasis Wollis

PURPLISH LONDON NEW LOOK DOROTHY PERKINS



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Friday 27th January, 11.00am

The Walled Garden, Bramcote Hills Park
Ilkeston Road, Bramcote, NG9 3JT

Join us to remember those affected by the crimes against humanity committed during the Holocaust and in subsequent atrocities throughout the world.

For more information, please contact Broxtowe Borough Council on 0115 917 3210, email civic@broxtowe.gov.uk or visit www.broxtowe.gov.uk



Green Rangers

at Attenborough Nature Reserve




Free Activity Day for 13-19 year olds

Join us for a day of free activities around the Nature Reserve:

- Help the ranger team manage the nature reserve
- Get up close to our amazing wildlife
- Help with our wild art installation in the Nature Garden



Refreshments and lunch provided! 

Monday 13th February
10am to 4pm

If you would like to find out more, or to book your place, please contact:

Andrew Shaw
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Tel: 0115 9721777
Email: ashaw@attenboroughnaturecentre.co.uk

Places limited, Booking essential

www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org

