



Newsletter

The White Hills Park Trust

Issue 234 - 10th January 2020

Recruiting and developing our staff

Happy New Year! I trust you all had a good break over Christmas and it has been good to see everyone returning enthusiastically for the new term.

At the end of term, I mentioned the staff who had left us, or were beginning their maternity leave, at the start of term. As a result, we have had some new members of the team this week. At Alderman White, we have welcomed Mr Maxwell (English), Ms Ferris (Social Sciences) and Ms Whittaker (Maths). At Bramcote College, we have been joined by Ms Hallas (RE) and Mr Straw (Science). I am also very pleased to announce that we have appointed Mr Wedgeworth to a permanent music teacher/music enrichment role in the new school year. At a time when many schools are struggling to recruit specialist teachers, we are delighted that we continue to attract such high-quality staff, and I am sure they will make a valuable contribution to our schools.

Ensuring that we have suitably qualified, skilled and knowledgeable teaching staff is one of the most important tasks that we have. The quality of the education we provide is obviously completely dependent on the quality of the teaching our students receive. We ensure that this is as good as it can possibly be by focusing on three things – recruitment, professional development and support.

Recruiting high-quality people is the first step. We make sure that we have a rigorous system that gives us as much information as possible before we employ a new teacher. As part of the process, we watch all candidates teach a class, and we have an in-depth interview which tests not only their knowledge and understanding, but also enables us to make sure that they share the ethos and values of our Trust. Many of our teachers come to us having spent their teaching practice at our schools – as a result we know that they will be a good fit and they know that this is an organisation in which they will be happy to work. Indeed we have our latest cohort of teacher training students joining us next week.

If we cannot find the right candidate for a post, we re-advertise and start the process again – fortunately this is rare and we are usually able to attract a strong field.

Once teachers are part of our staff, we make sure that they have access to high quality professional development and training to develop and improve their skills and knowledge. Sometimes this will happen through internal training sessions led by experts in our own team in staff briefings, after-school meetings or Inset days, and sometimes it is when our staff access external training. One way we provide this is through the Professional Development partnership which we are part of, along with four other local Trusts. This gives opportunities for our teachers to access up to date training and research, and to continue to develop their skills throughout their career.

Finally, we know that to enable teachers to perform at their best, they need to be looked after. This means that we take their wellbeing into account, provide support when necessary and do our best to reduce unnecessary burdens. I also know that teachers appreciate the support they receive from our parents. We are proud that our schools are positive places to work and proud to have such a talented and dedicated staff team.

Paul Heery
Executive Principal

Dates for your Diary

January		TRUST	AWS	BC	BC6F
15th	PTA Meeting 18:30 - 19:30				
16th	A Night at the Theatre 19:00 - 20;30				
17th	Year 9 Sports Leaders Training				
20th	Auditions for School Production, ' No Strings' 18:00 - 19:30				
21st	Year 5 & 6 Auditions for School Production, ' No Strings' 18:00 - 19:30				
22nd	Year 9 Taster Morning: KS4 Specialisms				
22nd	Year 11 Reports Published				
22nd	Brilliant Book Award Year 7 Author Visit				
23rd	Year 9 Options Evening 16:00 - 18:30				
23rd	Year 7 Indoor Athletics Event Hall Park Academy 12:00 - 15:30				
28th	Specialisms Morning				
28th	Year 9 Options Evening 16:00 - 18:30				
29th	KS3 & KS4 2021 Trip to China Introductory Meeting 17:30 - 18:30				
29th	KS3 & KS4 2021 Trip to China Introductory Meeting 19:00 - 20:00				
30th	Year 8 Indoor Athletics Event Hall Park Academy 12:00 - 15:30				
February					
4th	Year 8 Hagg Farm Information Evening 18:00 - 18:30				
5th	Year 8 Hagg Farm Information Evening 18:00 - 18:30				

Please see the My Ed app or our websites for a full calendar of upcoming events and important dates.

Can we help provide a lifeline for Attenborough Nature Reserve?

It may come as a surprise to know that despite being cared for by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust for almost six decades, Attenborough Nature Reserve still belongs to aggregates company CEMEX UK. Following intensive negotiations with the company, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust have secured an opportunity to buy the reserve, but £1 million needs to be raised to safeguard its future for people and wildlife. As the fund draws ever closer to the crucial £1 million, donations can be made online via the [Nottinghamshire Wildlife Lifeline Appeal](#) website.

Should anyone wishing to donate be unable to follow the online route, both school receptions will also be accepting cash donations over the next 2 weeks (until Friday 24th January 2020) to support the cause.

We would also like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported Alderman White's non-uniform day on the last day of term - we raised a fantastic £337.68 for the Appeal. This is a local cause very close to our hearts, thank you for supporting us.

'Attenborough Nature Reserve is a symbol of hope in a challenging world. It is a natural oasis at the edge of a big city, full of remarkable and beautiful birds and other wildlife. Please give as generously as you can to help us make sure this place is forever safe in the hands of Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.' Sir David Attenborough, President Emeritus, The Wildlife Trusts.

Mrs M Holling

From Paris to Beijing

The letters for the annual trip to Paris and Disneyland Paris will be available from reception at both Alderman White and Bramcote College from break-time on Monday 13th January. This trip is expected to be very popular, so students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The trip is open to students in Years 7-10.

Next week we shall be launching the 2021 Trip to China for students in Years 7-9 in both schools - details to follow with an introductory information evening for students and parents planned for 29th January.

Mr K Stephan



We need to raise £1 million to purchase Attenborough Nature Reserve

DEADLINE 31st JANUARY

95%






£1 million

Auditions for AW Spring Production - 'No Strings'

Auditions for this term's musical production, 'No Strings' take place on Monday 20th January at 6.00 pm in the AW Hall. Geoff Liptrot will once again be directing this fast-moving show with Cameron Wedgeworth and the live band ensuring that there will be plenty of musical highlights. Actors, comedians, singers, dancers, 'newbies and old-hands' - all are welcome. Letters are available from reception. In keeping with the Spring Term tradition, we are also inviting Y5 & Y6 pupils from local primary schools to a separate audition on Tuesday 21st January at 6pm.


Mr K Stephan

Alderman White & Bramcote College
Trip to Paris and Disneyland Paris 1st — 4th April 2020



Letters available from Reception from
Morning break
Monday 13th January
Application Deadline:
Monday 27th January

- 2 nights B & B in 3* hotel
- Entrance to Disneyland Paris
- Lunch at Disneyland
- Tour of Paris (including Eiffel Tower)



"No Strings"

The AW Spring 2020 Production
A Show full of Comedy,
Music & Dance
Auditions: Monday 20th January 6.00 – 7.15 pm
AW Hall
See Mr Stephan or Reception for a letter

Healthy Lifestyle Champions

This week our healthy lifestyle champions presented an assembly with Jade Windley to all of Key Stage 3.

Jade is a British tennis player who won 3 singles and 16 doubles titles and was ranked 159 in the world doubles ranking.

Our Healthy Lifestyle Champions is a program run by the Youth Sports Trust to encourage participation in sport and raise awareness of health related issues.

Our champions have kicked off the program by running inter-form competitions on a regular basis. The first will be starting next week, which is dodgeball.

Miss G King



Helping Your Child to Succeed In Exams

We would like to invite you to an evening of workshops at Bramcote College on Thursday 16th January from 6:00 – 7:30pm, focused on helping your child to succeed in their exams. The evening is for parents and carers of all Year 11 and 13 students at Bramcote College and offers a chance to explore a range of strategies to help in ensuring exam success for your son/daughter.

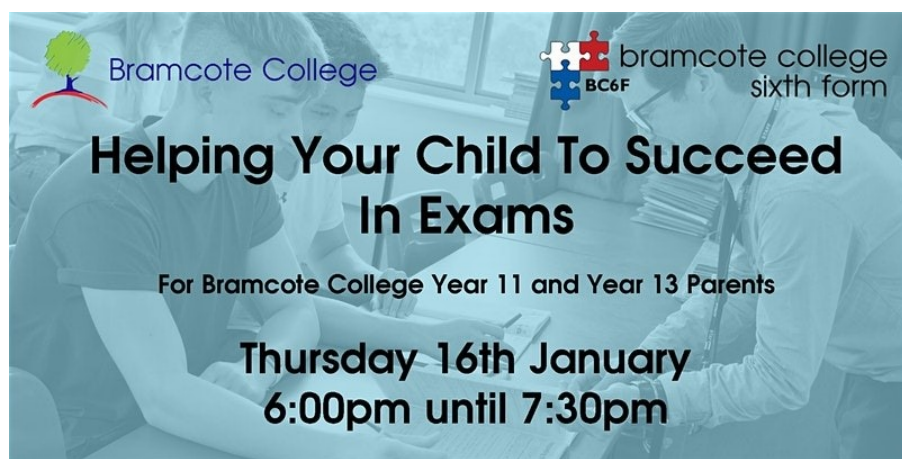
We will outline the support on offer to all students in the lead up to exams and provide some practical workshops to demonstrate ways in which you can fully support your child through their GCSE or A-Level revision and examinations.

The evening will start with a very short presentation, followed by 4 workshops, each lasting 15 minutes, which can be chosen from the following options:

- ◇ Independent and Effective Revision (How to encourage and support)
- ◇ Mindfulness
- ◇ Nutrition & Exercise
- ◇ 5 Fantastic Ways to Revise
- ◇ Revising GCSE English Language
- ◇ Revising Maths
- ◇ Revising Science
- ◇ SEN friendly revision
- ◇ Preparing for A Levels and Beyond

For more information or to book your place, please see the following link: <http://a.whptrust.org/succeed>

Miss J Cooper



Sad News

Over the Christmas break we received the very sad news of the passing of our long-standing Taekwondo teacher, Haydn Bridgeland, who had become seriously ill shortly before Christmas. Haydn has taught Taekwondo at Alderman White for many years and there will be many students present and past who will be devastated by this news. He was an outstanding instructor and colleague who went out of his way to support and help his students, enabling so many of them to achieve success in the various gradings and develop their self-confidence. He has been an important part of our extra-curricular provision at Alderman White and will be greatly missed by students and staff alike.

Our thoughts are with his family at this most difficult of times.

Mr K Stephan



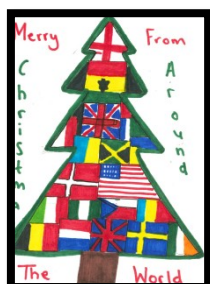
Christmas Card Competition Winners

Early in the Autumn term the Bramcote College PTA asked the students to design Christmas cards. The designs were then sent to a company who printed the Christmas cards for family and friends to buy. The money raised by the PTA has helped to buy much needed items for the school. There were many fantastic designs which made judging the competition very hard. Ms Cooper and members of the PTA had the difficult task of choosing the winning designs. There is also an overall winning design that is being used for the Christmas edition of the 'Well done' postcards that staff send home. The winners of the competition were announced in assembly this week and here are some of the winning designs! Well done to all of the students who entered the competition, we clearly have some very talented young artists in the school. You can view all of the designs on the following link: school-fundraising.co.uk/Christmas-cards-for-schools/?ID=GBJSCZTSX

Mrs M Hewitt



Overall winning design



Vacancies

The White Hills Park Trust currently has the following vacancies:

Teacher of RE, Maternity Cover

0.8 - MPR/UPR, based at Alderman White School. Closing date: 10:00am, Monday 27th January.

Cleaners

NJE Grade 1 - £9.00 to £9.18 per hour (FTE). Variable hours. Term-time only.

To see the full adverts, including job descriptions, application packs and application forms, please see the Trust's website: whptrust.org/vacancies

Year 10 Parents' Evening and Parents' Forum at Bramcote College.

We would like to invite parents and carers of Year 10 students to attend Parents' Evening on Thursday 6th February between 4:00pm and 6:30pm. Information about the evening and how to book appointments with your sons/daughters will be sent out soon. We look forward to seeing you there.

On the same evening Mrs Gale would like to invite parents / carers of all year groups to come along to our Parents' Forum from 7:00pm to 8:00pm to discuss Bramcote College life.

More information on our Parents' Forum, including notes from a previous meeting, are available [on our website](#).

Miss J Cooper

Olympian Visit

On Thursday the 19th of December four champions ran a festival for Year 7. They were joined by Claire Cashmore, an English Paralympian triathlete who won gold in the Paralympics. Claire kindly gave up her time to meet with the champions and spoke to the Year 7 students.

The leaders led a dodgeball and benchball session that was received well by the group. Their intent was to get to know the Year 7 students and see what they could offer to students as a lunchtime club. They got lots of great feedback and are now ready to offer some alternative activities.

Look out for their notice board on the PE corridor for more information.

Mr B Parker



Christmas Foodbank Donations

At Alderman White, the students in 10BUK got us thinking when they put together their Christmas Fayre hamper entry on the theme of homelessness, including simple toiletries, gloves and socks as well as useful food stuffs.

Using the Christmas 'Reverse Advent' theme we asked students to add a little something each day to a school wide collection for Beeston's local foodbank at the Hope centre on Boundary Road.

Before we broke up for Christmas, Ken Kinsley, one of our lead senior students, helped staff to deliver our collection, which was very gratefully received. Thanks again to everyone, both students and staff, that contributed!

Ms G Friend



National Science and Media Museum Trip

On Tuesday 17th December 35 year 9 pupils embarked on a trip to Bradford to experience the sights and sounds of the Science Museum. The morning started with an interactive "Bring the Thunder" show where pupils modelled sound waves, witnessed the effects of air cannon, learned how the special sound effects of Star Wars were brought to life. Pupils then had the opportunity to explore the Wonderlab with a wide variety of hands on activities. They tackled the mirror maze, listened to music through their teeth, made optical illusions from running water. In the afternoon they played retro video games in the Games Lounge, discovered the history of animation, witnessed some iconic moments from TV, and found out about the Apollo space missions. The group were thoroughly engaged in the activities and enjoyed the wide variety of experiences on offer. Well done Year 9!

Mr A Lea & Mrs R Cork

