

# Newsletter

The White Hills Park Trust

Issue 226 - 8th November 2019

## Welcome Back!

This week, we welcomed students back after a two-week half term break. This has been the first time we have had this holiday pattern in our area, following its introduction in Nottingham City a few years ago. Although as an Academy Trust, we are not required to follow the pattern of other schools in the Local Authority, we have always taken the view that it is most convenient for parents who have children in feeder primary schools or who might work in schools in the local area, if we keep in step whenever possible. However, we always keep the holiday pattern under continual review.

As you may know, schools are open for students on 190 days a year. In addition, there are five extra days allocated for professional development of staff (Inset Days) which brings the total to 195 days or 39 full weeks. In order to accommodate the two-week half term, we came back to school a little earlier than in previous years and will break up a little later in July, and this year, we only have one Bank Holiday which falls in term time (May 8th).

We have noticed some advantages in the change. Firstly, it means that the half terms are more equal in length, which makes curriculum planning easier. Last year, the Autumn term lasted 15 weeks (8 and 7) whereas the Spring term was less than 12 weeks. It makes sense to break the curriculum year down into the 6 half terms, so the more consistent they are in length, the better.

Secondly, this is often the time of year when we have higher levels of absence through illness. We know that very long half terms, with a relatively short break in the middle, can contribute to tiredness among students and staff, which then makes them vulnerable to bugs and colds, especially as we enter the winter months. So far this year, our attendance levels have been very good – of course, this may change, or be entirely coincidental, but indications are positive so far. We provided additional support for staff in this respect by offering them the flu jab, an offer which was taken up by a large proportion.

There are of course, some potential disadvantages which we will watch very carefully as we go through the years. In particular, we want to ensure that there is no interruption to students' learning as a result of having an extended period away from lessons so early in the year. This is especially important for Year 11s and Year 13s, for whom curriculum time is precious in the run up to their exams. We're also aware that many of the things that are available for students to do in the longer breaks – holiday clubs, organized activities etc – were not so available during the break, and at this time of year, with unreliable weather and dark evenings, that can be a headache for parents. Perhaps as this becomes established, more options will become available.

I am sure parents have views about this change, and I would be very interested to hear them, either by emailing directly or by coming along to a Parents' Forum to let us know. We always want to work with you to make sure changes have a positive impact.

*Paul Heery*  
Executive Principal

## Dates for your Diary

November	TRUST	AWS	BC	BC6F
11th - 26th	Year 11 Progress Exams			
11th - 22nd	Year 11 Mock Exams			
11th	Year 13 Reports Published			
14th	Year 7 Parents / Tutor Meeting 16:00 - 19:00			
14th	Cologne Trip Information Evening 19:00 - 19:45 Alderman White School Hall			
14th	German Exchange Information Evening 20:00 - 20:45 Alderman White School Hall			
15th	BBC Children In Need			
20th	Parents' Forum 19:00 - 20:00			
20th	Y12 / Y13 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 18:30			
21st	PTA Meeting 18:00			
21st	World Skills Event NEC			
22nd	PTA Christmas Fayre 18:00 - 20:00			
26th	BC6F Open Evening 18:00 - 20:30			
27th	GCSE Certificate Collection (Last year's Year 11 students) 16:00 - 17:00			
28th - 1st Dec	Trip to Cologne Christmas Markets and Phantasialand			
29th	A Level Business Trip Birmingham			

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

## Reduced Alderman White Swing Band perform at Oxjam Beeston

It was a great privilege for representatives of the Alderman White Swing Band to perform at Oxjam Beeston on Saturday 19th October, as over one hundred acts took to the stage across more than twenty venues in the town. The evening's entertainment at the Royal British Legion got into full 'swing' as representatives of the Alderman White Swingband opened the night, performing a diverse range of instrumental and vocal numbers from The Skaters' Waltz to Nat King Cole's 'L-O-V-E' and Elvis Presley's 'Can't Help



ALDERMAN WHITE  
**SWING BAND**

Best of  
**2018-2019**

**NOW ON SALE!**

**CD £6**  
**Download £4**

Purchase forms available from AW reception.

Falling in Love', exquisitely sung by Finn Clemmet and Orla Dex respectively. The band were very positively received by a large audience of friends, family, teachers and many others. Amazingly the night, the largest such event in the country, raised over £25,000 for Oxfam which is an unbelievable total. A massive well done to everyone who performed - you made us feel so proud- and all the family members, friends and members of the local community who came along to support them.

**Mr K Stephan & Mr C Wedgworth**

## Art Trip to The National Portrait Gallery, London

On Friday 18th October GCSE & A level Art students from Bramcote College and Alderman White School headed down to the National Portrait Gallery in London. We went specifically to see the BP Portrait Award exhibition as well as view the gallery's permanent collection. All 42 Year 10,11 and 12 students enjoyed the gallery spaces and a chance to see art works up close and 'real size' instead of poor reproductions on the internet. The students found it inspiring and have now got some good ideas for their own portrait work. After visiting the gallery, we had time to explore Trafalgar Square and Covent Garden. Thankfully the weather was very kind to us for most of the day until there was a downpour just as we were meeting the coach for our return journey.



**NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY**

The students were impeccably behaved throughout the day and were a real credit to our schools. Thank you to Ms Cooper and Ms Friend for their support during the trip and to Al our very friendly driver who managed to get us back ahead of time!

**Mrs M Hewitt**

## BC6F Open Evening - Tuesday 26th November

The staff and students of BC6F would like to invite you to our Open Evening on Tuesday, 26th November. The evening will be an opportunity to meet staff and current students, discuss Post-16 subject and career choices, see the work students complete in their time with us, see our facilities, and hear about future plans.

We offer a full range of A Level subjects as well as Level 3 applied and vocational options across multiple subject areas to meet the learning needs of a variety of student profiles. We pride ourselves in knowing every student as an individual as well as the importance we place on inclusion through our robust pastoral system.

We are proud of the efforts of our staff and students who make BC6F a fantastic place to be a part of.

**Mrs F Parker Dennis**

**bramcote college**  
sixth form  
A member of the White Hills Park Trust

**Open Evening**  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>  
November  
6:00pm-8:30pm

**BC 6F**

## Dodgeball

It's Thursday the 7th of November and Alderman White is proud to host the [Broxtowe Active Schools](#) Dodgeball Event where 5 primary schools would take part in a dodgeball competition.

When they arrived they were split into three groups, paired with a couple of fabulous Y9&10 sports leaders. One group focused on catching, one on throwing, and the other on blocking. The blocking group did a great job to defend themselves, and as each person took their turn it's clear to see everyone is having loads of fun. A cacophony of laughter and noise filled the sports hall, along with enthusiastic shouts. The second group, which focused on throwing, split into small circles passing the dodgeball around, with each turn being more challenging. Some people even span around before they caught and threw the ball again! The last group (catching) was also in circles, but one of the teammates would stand in the middle, passing the dodgeball back and forth. After each mini training session, the teams swapped over and learnt the other skills and were taught how to use them best in the game. Once everyone had learnt the basic skills it was match time! Schools lined up against each other discussing tactics and motivating each other; you could feel the tension in the air. 3...2...1 they were off like rockets racing towards the centre line to grab their chance at getting a dodgeball. Balls flew in all directions: bouncing off the walls and rolling across the three separate courts. Amazingly, no one got hurt and at the end of the matches everyone was proud whether they had won or not. Just before the schools left they all gathered together for the announcement of some special certificates, given out to people who showed (amongst other things) passion, determination and teamwork. It was a lovely event and a great way to encourage young people to become more active, grow in confidence and learn how to work as a team.



### Abbie, Sports Leader, Year 9

On Friday, the same group of leaders attended their first Leadership academy training. Being part of the academy will allow them to further develop their leadership skills, working with other students from across the district. Eventually the students will take on the responsibility of organising inter form competitions. In addition they will have opportunities to work in the community working on various primary sports festivals throughout the year.

### Mrs A Kilbane

**2020 German Exchange**  
13<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
(Years 9 & 10 Alderman White & Bramcote College)



- It is more than a trip – it is a new way of life!
- Experience school & family-life in Germany
- Make new friends & network internationally
- Knowledge of German not essential
- 3-4 weeks in total including 2 residential trips as part of the programme

Collect a letter and application form today.  
For further details, please contact Mr Stephan  
[karsten.stephan@whptrust.org](mailto:karsten.stephan@whptrust.org)  
Information Evening: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November,  
8.00 pm Alderman White Hall



**Christmas Carol Service**  
Orchestra ★ Choir ★ Carols  
Readings ★ Soloists  
CrossTeach

at Beeston Methodist Church,  
Chilwell Road

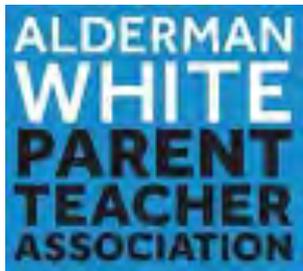
**Tuesday 10th December, 7pm**  
Suggested entrance donation: £2.50

ALDERMAN WHITE  
**SWING BAND**  
presents...



**A Festive Celebration**  
Mince pies, mulled wine and music.  
Thursday 19th December, 7pm, School Hall  
Suggested entrance donation: £2.50

## Alderman White School Christmas Fayre



Join the Alderman White PTA for our Christmas Fayre on Friday 22 November from 6-8.00pm.

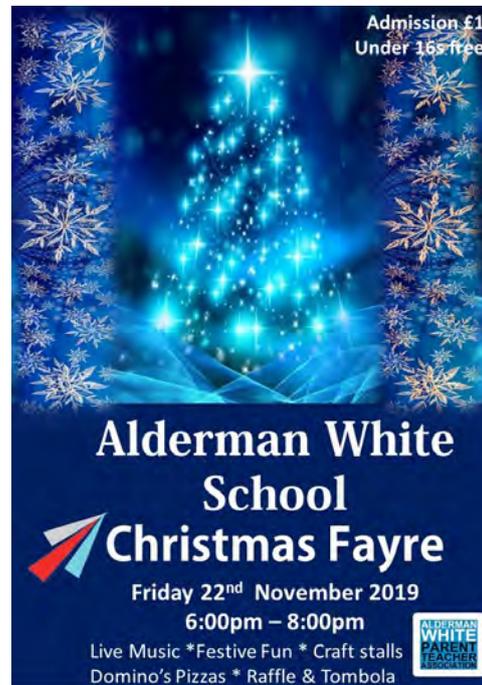
We have many exciting craft, jewellery, gift and food stalls to inspire you for Christmas as well as student-led activities. Following the success of the Summer Raffle, form groups are creating fun and festive prizes themed as crackers or stockings, so come and see what they have made and see if you can win a fabulous prize. There will also be a Staff Department Bake Off Competition to judge and their bakes will be on sale. Drinks, doughnuts and Domino's Pizzas will be there also. Entertainment will be provided by members of the Swing Band and dance groups.

If you can help with donations for the Bottle Tombola – unopened and unused bottles of 'pop', wine, bubble-bath, shampoo, shower gel etc or you are able to help us on the night please email us at the PTA: [pta@aldermanwhite.school](mailto:pta@aldermanwhite.school)

Donations for tombola to be sent into school by Wednesday 20th November.

Many thanks,

**Alderman White School PTA**



## BBC Children In Need at Bramcote College

Friday 15th November is BBC Children In Need, and Bramcote College will be taking part in a variety of different ways. We'll have non-uniform for all students, a cake sale at break, and the 'Bramcote Mile': a walk for Years 7 & 8 during Periods 3 & 4.

**Mrs D Crouch**

## Broxtowe Community Celebration: The Season of Lights

Saturday 30th November 2019 | 2:00pm – 4:00pm | Beeston Methodist Church, Chilwell Road, Beeston, NG9 1EH  
Lots of FREE activities for all ages!

Local community choirs and performances | Festive foods from around the world | Hanukkah, Advent, Eid-ul-Milad and more  
Performances and activities will take place throughout the event

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult

For further information email Saj at [sajada.akbar@broxtowe.gov.uk](mailto:sajada.akbar@broxtowe.gov.uk)

**Broxtowe Community Celebration Group**

## Vacancies

We currently have a number of vacancies within the Trust:



### Exams Assistant

Annualised hours contract: 690 hours, equivalent to 18 hours per week. Term Time Only + 2 Weeks (41 Weeks)  
**Closing Date - 10:00 am on Monday, 18th November 2019**



### Maternity Cover (3 Posts: Teacher of English | Teacher of MFL | Teacher of Drama)

Full time, from January 2020 until July 2020  
**Closing Date - 10:00 am on Monday, 18th November 2019**



### Maternity Cover: Teacher of RE (Social Sciences and Humanities)

From January 2020  
**Closing Date - 10:00 am on Monday, 18th November**

Please see [whptrust.org/vacancies](http://whptrust.org/vacancies) for more information and application details.