

Newsletter

The White Hills Park Trust

Issue 203– 15th March 2019

School Funding

Over the last few weeks, there has been a great deal in the news about school funding. Last week there was a special parliamentary debate about the whole issue, and there was general agreement from MPs of all parties that many schools are in a state of financial crisis. There have been stories of schools which are reducing timetables, moving to very large class sizes or cutting 6th Form courses to save money. Many schools have written to parents asking for voluntary contributions to prop up the school budget, or have cut back on resources such as books and stationery. This is not limited to one particular sector of the education system. Earlier this week nursery school staff and supporters marched on Westminster to protest about the level of funding for early years settings.

There are a couple of factors that have had a huge impact. Firstly, the cumulative impact of the measures taken to tighten public finances over the last few years have eaten into education budgets. Although in many cases direct budgets to schools have been maintained, the impact of a loss of services provided from elsewhere, such as the Local Authority, and some very large increases in costs, for example employers' pension and national insurance contributions, have combined to make the overall situation substantially worse.

Secondly, the way that provision for students with special educational needs is funded has had a significant impact both on overall funding and on the financial support available for individual students. As a result of a very sharp increase in demand, the amount of funding allocated for Higher Level Needs support in Nottinghamshire, in common with many areas across the country, has risen dramatically and this money ultimately comes from the pot available for schools. As a Trust that is committed to inclusion, we absolutely support the principle that students should receive the support they need and deserve, and that this should be funded but funding this from general school budgets leaves us with some unenviable choices.

In our Trust, we have obviously not been immune to these pressures. Indeed, over the last few years, we have had to manage a very challenging budget situation. We have done this by being prudent with all of our spending, through the goodwill of staff and support of parents, and by ensuring that we have had a level of staffing and leadership that we can sustain within our budget. Our ethos as a Trust also helps us to ensure that we get value for money. Working together as a staff team has meant that we can control costs for things like supply cover or internal exam invigilation and our values as a Trust mean that we do not pay excessive executive salaries or operate an 'expenses culture'.

I am happy to reassure you that we continue to manage our finances well, and that we maintain a healthy position. As part of their monitoring of schools, our financial position is regularly reviewed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). This process confirms our positive outlook, and the fact that our systems and procedures are sound. To quote the officer who deals with our schools: 'Our review demonstrates that the trust's financial position is in agreement with the Academies Financial Handbook (AFH) 2018. It also shows that the trust's future reserve position will remain positive for the next 5 years.'

Our position has been further strengthened by Indicative numbers for next year's Year 7, which show a substantial increase in the number of students who will be attending both schools in September. This is in addition to a steady increase during the year. Given that the core of our funding is linked to student numbers, the growing popularity of our schools puts us in a very positive position regarding future funding. We also know that the new building for Bramcote College will have a significant beneficial impact on our costs, as well as the difference it will make to curriculum delivery.

We wait to see what the overall situation will be in the future. There are indications that school budgets may be given a greater priority in the coming years, and I would encourage any parents who have the opportunity to raise this with politicians or people with influence. There is so much we could do with an increase in funding, for example, increasing the quality of the IT equipment and infrastructure, or providing more individual intervention support for students. However, we will continue to act prudently, and make every penny count in delivering the best possible quality of education.

Paul Heery
Executive Principal

Dates for your Diary

March	TRUST	AWS	BC	BC6F
19th	Year 7 Parents' Evening			
20th	Year 8 Reports Published			
21st	Year 7 Parents' Evening			
21st 22nd 23rd	Spring Production: 'Around The World in 80 Minutes'			
27th	Breakfast Seminar: Sport			
28th	Meet The Marines Event			
28th	PTA Fashion Show			

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

Examinations Guidance

No phones, digital watches, notes, books, calculator lids/cases/instructions are allowed into the examination room.

We practice an empty pocket policy for exams, only bringing into the room the equipment that is needed for the exam. Belongings need to be stored in your bags and left as directed by the invigilator. Please do not bring valuables with you when you are sitting examinations. The school accepts no responsibility for items of value left in bags.

MOBILE PHONES Mobile telephones and other types of web enabled sources of information ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE EXAMINATION ROOM. Outside each exam room there will be a notice reminding you that phones, iPods, mp3/4 players and smartwatches are NOT allowed in the exam room. If you are found to have an unauthorised item on you during an exam (even if it is turned off) it will be taken from you and you will be reported to the examination board. There are NO exceptions on this rule.

Advice:

Don't bring your mobile to school on an exam day

Hand your phone to student services BEFORE you enter the room

WATCHES With the emergence of web enabled watches/smartwatches, **no digital watches will be allowed in exam rooms.** There are large working clocks in all exam rooms. Digital watches MUST be left in student bags. If you are found to have anything in the exam room that is not allowed, even if you did not intend to use it, the school is required to report it to the Examination Board. The normal sanction in these circumstances is to disqualify candidates from the whole subject.

DRINKS No food (including chewing gum) or drink is allowed in the examination rooms except one bottle of water (up to 500ml in a transparent plastic bottle with a leak proof spout). There must be no label on the bottle. Bottles not complying with these conditions will be confiscated.

CALCULATORS Make sure that your calculators conform to the examination regulations - if in doubt, check with your Maths teacher. **Remove the cover** and instructions before going into the exam room and make sure that the batteries (if required) are new. In addition, you must ensure that the calculator's memory has been cleared prior to the exam.

EQUIPMENT Then school provides you with the equipment you need for the exams. If you wish to use your own pen for your answers, then you must bring a BLACK PEN, no gel pens, highlighters or erasable pens. This is because exam answer scripts are now scanned into a computer for marking.

Mr J Macdonald

Champion School!

Alderman White School has been awarded champion school status for their involvement in National Citizen Service (NCS), a government-backed youth programme for teenagers.

The school received the status in recognition of the continued support given to the scheme, encouraging more than 40 students in 2018 to take part in NCS, which helps young people develop a broad range of skills that have life-long value, such as leadership, team working, confidence, independent thinking and community responsibility.

Paul Foster was awarded the certificate, signed by the Prime Minister, from the NCS team at a special ceremony to mark the achievements of each champion school in the region. Former graduates, who hosted the event throughout, enthusiastically outlined the positive impact that NCS had on them and what they had gained by taking part.

This year the school is aiming to increase the amount of participants and encouraging Year 11 students to sign up to this great initiative and opportunity.

NCS is open to all 16 and 17 year olds across England. Over the course of four weeks, participants spend time away from home experiencing outdoor life to its full, working with local business and charities to build new skills, and putting those new skills to good use to create a project that will help others better enjoy the local community.

To date, over 500,000 young people across the UK have taken part in NCS, which is delivered regionally by Ingeus, in partnership with local youth organisations.

To find out more visit NCSYES.co.uk

Mr P Foster



Football

The Bramcote College Year 11 team travelled away to Chilwell on Thursday evening in a local derby. In tough conditions and with a bare 11 the team would have to be on form to get something from the game.

In a very even first half there was plenty of quality from both sides with many of the team showing moments of class and desire to keep Chilwell at bay. In a team that had made very few changes from way back in Y7 it was great to see two debutants in Natalie and Georgia who both put in strong performances.

The game opened up more in the second half and Bramcote took a deserved lead when Rocco's corner made its way directly into the Chilwell net (via the goalkeepers fist) unfortunately the lead did not last long with Chilwell scoring a good equaliser. Bramcote had two fantastic chances to take the win but unfortunately they were off target.

With the scores 1-1 at full time the game went to extra time. Chilwell scored almost immediately with Bramcote unable to get back into the game. The game ended 2-1 to Chilwell. It was one of the best performances from the Y11 in a few years in what could be their final school game.

National Indoor Athletics Championships

Year 11 Bramcote College student Alex Cooper recently participated in the National Indoor Athletics Championships. Competing in the U17 age group 400m, Alex eased his way to the final by winning his heat. In the final Alex came third overall.

Alex's time of 50.7 was well inside the English Schools qualifying time and has him currently ranked 5th in the Country and 1st in the East Midlands in the event. Alex hopes to go sub 50 seconds when he competes in the outdoor track season and with some hard work in training hopes to qualify for the SIAAB Champs on the international stage. We are incredibly proud of Alex's accomplishments and he is certainly one to keep an eye on in the future. Well done Alex!



Mr K Warner

Alderman White Theatre Company Primary Production

Avalanches. Earthquakes. Floods. Fires. Bandits. Cannibals.
What can possibly go wrong?!

Geoff Liptrot's

AROUND THE WORLD in 80 Minutes

Thurs 21st, Fri 22nd, Saturday 23rd March, 7pm, School Hall

Tickets now on sale!
£5 each - see Mr Stephan or reception for a letter

W Alderman White School
A member of The White Hills Park Federation Trust

Fashion Show and Clothes Sale

DEBENHAMS PURPLISH LONDON Monsoon
Waffle Stuff DOROTHY PERKINS oasis next M&S NEW LOOK

Thursday 28th March @ 7.00pm
Doors Open 6.30pm

Alderman White School Chilwell Nottingham

Tickets in Advance	£3 Adults	£2 Children
Tickets on the Door	£4 Adults	£3 Children

ALDERMAN WHITE PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Risley Fashion House

More Trees at Bramcote College

They might not look like much at the moment, but one day future generations of Bramcote College students will enjoy the shade offered by these cherry, rowan and willow trees which have been donated by the Woodland Trust. These young trees will be planted out in the summer when they are stronger and when we find a patch that won't be disturbed when the new building starts to go up.

Thanks to Mr Lowe for looking after them in the mean time.

Ms J Cooper



Ambition Nottingham - Sutton Scholars

On Wednesday 13th March the next stage of the Sutton Scholars Ambition Programme saw our year 10 students participate in a study skills workshop. The session was based on the latest scientific research into how we learn best from universities across the world. The session allowed Year 10 students to focus on preparing for their upcoming mock and GCSE exams through learning and practising revision strategies linked to successful memory retention. Students worked with staff and students from the University of Nottingham in a series of activities throughout the session to understand why study skills, memory techniques and time management strategies are important. Students also reflected on their own individual strengths in regards to revision as well as areas for development, such as minimising distractions.




Mrs S Anderson

Primary Science Week at St John's

Bramcote College Students and staff were fortunate enough to be invited to join in with St John's Primary School's Science week last week. Miss Vizard and a group of Year 9 Science students kicked the week off with an assembly at St John's looking at real x-ray images and working out which body parts go where - image a scientific version of pin the tail on the donkey! Then our PE team with Mr Warner and more Bramcote College students rounded the week off with St John's children helping with a range of healthy living workshops. Thanks to St John's for inviting us, and many thanks to Miss Vizard, Mr Warner and the Bramcote students who were such great ambassadors for our school.



Ms J Cooper



Bramcote College
A member of The White Hills Park Federation Trust

GCSE

Thought For The Week



A lovely calm thing to look at to relax you.

Get organised for the Easter holidays ... **write a revision timetable**. Make sure that you **balance** work with time to relax. **Get some exam papers** if you don't have any.

8
▶ weeks to go until the exams start

15
▶ weeks to go until the exams FINISH !!!

Work Hard. Be Well. Do Well.

SEVENTIES GALA

ALDERMAN WHITE EASTER MUSIC CONCERT

SWING BAND

FRI 29TH MARCH 7PM SCHOOL HALL

SINGERS & SOLOISTS



ABBA • Village People • Queen • Beatles • Paul Simon • David Bowie

Debate Mate Urban Debate League Round 2

On Thursday 14th March Bramcote College hosted the second round of Debate Mate's Urban Debate League. 10 teams from Bramcote College and visiting local schools participated in a series of debates. The motion of the first debate was "This House believes that Proportional Representation is a better voting system than First Past the Post." Students had a week to prepare for the motion, and have been working hard completing independent research and questioning which system gives a greater voice to areas that need it. After a short break it was time for the second motion, "This house will not allow sports teams or tournaments to be sponsored by companies which promote unhealthy behaviour." This was an 'unseen' motion and students only had 15 minutes in which to prepare their arguments. A range of arguments and issues were covered which students using examples from fast food companies to betting and gambling organisations. Our students' enjoyed a number of successes and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship. We eagerly await the publication of the leader board in the next coming weeks to see where we placed among schools nationwide.

Mrs S Anderson

The Sun WILL come out... in April!

Thanks to Mrs Agius and her team of Annie cast members and excellent bakers, two fantastic things happened at break and lunch time on Wednesday this week. Firstly, there was an AMAZING cake sale with banana muffins and millionaires' shortbread and flap jacks ... and secondly, they were sold to raise funds for the amazing production of Annie which will be taking place at Bramcote College on April 2nd, 3rd and 4th ... tickets are selling like hot cakes!



Ms J Cooper

Vacancy: Finance Assistant

We are seeking to appoint for an enthusiastic, confident and committed individual to join our successful, positive and experienced Finance department based at Bramcote College. See our website for details: whptrust.org/index.php/vacancies

Grade 2 Pts 2-4 - £14,914 to £15,516 (actual salary) - 37 hours per week Term Time Only

(Part-time would be considered – minimum 30 hours - £12,092 to £12,580 – actual salary)

Closing Date: 10:00am, Wednesday 3rd April 2019



Fix, Track & Road

A safer cycling activity day
Tuesday 09th April 09.15 - 15.30



£8 per person, bring a packed lunch
Ages 10 – 14 year olds
At Harvey Hadden Sports Village, Bilborough

Booking essential. Telephone: 0115 8042151 / 0115 8042114

You will need to bring a bike and helmet (let us know if you need one provided)
All participants will receive a 'Goody Bag'

For further information please email autumn.rose@viaem.co.uk

BRAMCOTE COLLEGE PRESENTS

Annie

THE MUSICAL

2nd, 3rd & 4th April
BC School Hall

Show time at 6.45
Doors open at 6.30
Refreshments from 6.00

Tickets on sale now!
£4 each

