



Newsletter

The White Hills Park Trust

Issue 236 - 24th January 2020

Choices and Specialisms

It's the time of year in school when our Year 9s are focused on choosing the subjects that they will study for their GCSEs. It's an important choice, one where they need to balance the subjects they most enjoy alongside the ones they may need to follow a particular path. In addition, there are new subjects that can be studied at KS4, and specific pathways to career choices to consider. There has been a great deal of work that has prepared the students for these choices, as well as opportunities to try out new disciplines, such as psychology or business studies.

Our KS4 curriculum is built upon the following aims:

All of our students have access to a challenging and stimulating core curriculum – confidence and fluency in English, Maths and Science are essential skills in the modern world. We make sure that all students are taught to master the key skills in these subjects and that they are given due priority within our curriculum structure.

All of our students have access to a broad, rich curriculum throughout key stage 3 – there is a temptation to start the process of specialisation at an earlier stage, usually by shortening Key Stage 3, and there is some evidence that this approach can benefit the school's league table performance. However, this can often be at a cost for individual students. We believe that a broad curriculum including music, art, dramas, technology and languages is of great benefit to young people and maintain this until the end of Year 9.

Our curriculum is challenging, with a strong academic focus to meet students' aspirations – one of the most striking aspects of the rise in our results in recent years has been the remarkable proportion of students achieving the highest grade of 9. We have also had significant success in helping students on the path to high-quality university courses, including Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, and higher-level apprenticeships. We want to make sure our students have the opportunity to excel, and that their choices at KS4 give them as many options as possible later on.

The curriculum must be flexible enough to meet the needs of all of our students – a 'one-size fits all' model does not work well for a diverse group of students. We need to ensure that there are suitable routes and appropriate qualifications for all students. We make sure that there is advice for parents of students who have additional needs, and we ensure that we do not overload the curriculum. We allow flexibility where this might benefit a student – for example, doing a GCSE in a home language.

The curriculum is not just delivered through the formal timetable – enrichment is a feature of our schools. We are very proud of the plays and concerts our students produce and the opportunities to represent the school in sport. We also encourage students to go on trips and residential visits, and access careers education. Likewise, we encourage our students to develop strong values and positive attributes through the culture and character education we provide. These aspects of school life co-exist alongside formal subjects to provide a well-rounded and holistic curriculum offer.

Both schools run Options Evenings to set out the process, Alderman White's took place this week and Bramcote College's will be held next week. This allows parents to understand the process in detail and to work with their children to make their subject choices. Please talk to staff in school if you would like further advice and support.

Good luck to all our Year 9s – I know they will be well-supported in making the right choice, and I look forward to seeing them progress on their GCSE courses.

Paul Heery
Executive Principal

Dates for your Diary

January	TRUST	AWS	BC	BC6F
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	2020 German Exchange Information Meeting Alderman White School Hall 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			
4th	Year 11 & Year 13 Apprenticeship Fair 09:00 - 11:00			
5th	BC6F China Trip Information Evening 17:30 - 16:30			
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.

Trip to China, and Happy New Year!



Happy New Year to all our Chinese friends here and in China. 2020 is the Year of the Rat, the first of all the Chinese zodiac animals which is associated with prosperity and success. The Nottingham Chinese School will be celebrating New Year with a special event at Alderman White on Saturday 1st February. The Confucius Classroom will also be arranging special New Year events over the next couple of weeks.

We are about to launch a new KS3 & KS4 Trip to China for Spring 2021. After our first highly successful KS3/KS4 trip to China last year, we are planning a second visit which is expected to take in Shanghai, Ningbo (the location of our partner-school) and Beijing. Introductory meetings about this trip of a lifetime will be held on Wednesday 29th January at 5.30pm at Bramcote College and at 7.00 pm at Alderman White. Letters about the trip are available from reception in each school.

Mr K Stephan



Sport

Row Row Row your Boat

This week, at Alderman White, it was the Year 8 tutor groups that went head to head in the inter form rowing competition. The competition, similar to the Year 7 one we ran last term, was organised in full by the Year 9 Sports Leaders. The Alderman White PE department's vision is to give increased responsibility to students to plan, organise and deliver their own sports events. The impact will be increased leadership opportunities for students but also increasing the competitive experience that our students have in school. One of the Sports Leaders said, 'these experiences will enable me to sell myself when it comes to job interviews'. We also have sports leaders running our cricket, netball, football and dance clubs.

Sports Hall Athletics

Both PE Departments took Year 7 teams to Hall Park this Thursday afternoon, to compete in the annual Broxtowe Indoor Sports Hall Athletics event. Events included speed bounce, standing long and triple jump, shot put as well as the track events.

Noteworthy performances include Oliver Pasqual and Grace Tideswell from Bramcote who won their middle distance events, and Tom Porter and Bea Hughes who won the sprint and long distance races respectively. Well done to both teams whose team spirit and camaraderie was commendable.

The overall results were released at the time of publication so we will announce next week!

Ms G King and Mrs A Kilbane



Supporting your child with Apprenticeships

Over the last few years apprenticeships have changed dramatically, with some amazing opportunities being available for the right candidate. If you want to find out more about apprenticeships and help your child to become the 'right candidate' then a great place to start is by downloading and reading the January Parent Pack produced by the National Apprenticeship Service:

<http://vcl.whptrust.org/data/uploads/documents/parent-pack-January-2020.pdf>

Ms C Welch

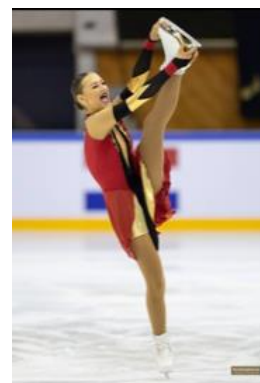
Well done Amelia!

Amelia Wright in Year 11 is a Synchronised Ice Skater for Team GB and her squad is based in Nottingham, called Icicles Junior.

Last weekend, her and the team competed in the Britannia Cup held in Nottingham. They got a gold medal and are now again the British Champions!

Next week she is competing in Rouen in France.

Rachel Wright



Tom Palmer - Brilliant Book Award Author

Earlier this week we took a group of Year 7 students from each school to see Tom Palmer, one of the authors nominated for this year's Brilliant Book Award. The BBA is a local book award aimed at students in KS3 and is voted for by the students who read the books. The event was solely for students who are reading the nominated books, including Tom's book, *Armistice Runner*.

Tom's talk was very thought provoking. He writes lots of sport stories, but has recently branched out into historical fiction. He talked about how important the settings and the characters were to get right. Tom does lots of research for his historical books before he writes them. He showed us his notebook for his next novel and explained how his research encompassed not just reading, but also visiting museums and the settings for his books. This weekend he is off to Auschwitz as part of his research. There was an audible gasp when he showed us his plan for his next novel - it was a long strip of paper, covered in post-it notes.

He likes to base his characters on real people: in *Armistice Runner* Ernest is based on a real fell runner called Ernest Dalzell who was a champion fell runner in the Edwardian period and who died in the first world war. Lily is based on his daughter, who is fell runner today and the grandmother was based on his wife's grandmother who developed dementia. Tom feels that by basing them on real people he has a better picture of who they are and is more emotionally connected to them.

It was reading other authors that inspired Tom to write himself. He started writing when he was twenty, but did not have his first book published until he was forty. The message was definitely to keep going and not give up if it is something you are passionate about doing. He paid tribute to his wife who supported him in working part-time so that he could put more time in to writing.

We would like to thank the Inspire Education Library Service for organising the event and Lisa at George Spencer Academy for hosting.

Ms C Welch



FASHION SHOW

ALDERMAN WHITE PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Alderman White School, Chilwell, Nottingham

and clothes sale

Thursday 12 March 2020
6.30pm for 7pm start
Finish at 9pm

BRANDS MAY INCLUDE:

DEBENHAMS DOROTHY PERKINS oasis W Monsoon next PURPLISH LONDON White Stuff

Advance tickets:
£2 Children & £3 Adults
Available through Parent Pay

On the door: £3 Children & £4 Adults

Risley Fashion House.
Charity shop with a difference.



THURSDAY 5TH MARCH
SHOW STARTS AT 7:00PM

AN EVENING OF FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT
TOMBOLA ☆ REFRESHMENTS
£2 ADULTS ☆ UNDER 18'S FREE



Year 12 Engineering Residential Trip to Loughborough University

Earlier this week, the team of 5 Year 12 students, working with some of the engineers from ARUP went on a residential course at Loughborough University as part of the Engineering Education Scheme. They have been



redesigning the path from Nottingham Railway Station alongside the canal and over the Trent to the sports grounds in West Bridgford. Whilst at Loughborough University they built some model bridges which they did some stress tests on and also began to build a model of the final design of their bridge. This will form part of a presentation that they will make to Engineers from across the UK as part of the Graduation Day at the end of the scheme in May.

The course is a fantastic opportunity for students to gain experience of what it may be like to work as an Engineer and understand the requirements to gain access to an Engineering degree course as well as the many different types of Engineering courses that are available. We are now looking forward to organising a trip to the ARUP offices in Nottingham before writing up the final presentation to make in May.

Mrs G Colley

Emmanuel Church

Pointless? – Wednesday 29 January

If you enjoy the BBC quiz Pointless then do come along to our Pointless Evening this Wednesday at Bramcote College from 8.00-9.30.

There'll be 20 'Pointless style' questions covering a range of different topics. Bring a team or come on your own. Can you find the pointless answers?

There'll be a 10-minute talk in the middle on 'Is the bible pointless?'

With thanks and best wishes

Richard Hopkins

Senior Minister of Emmanuel Church Bramcote



Pointless?

Wed 29 January 8.00-9.30pm
Bramcote College, Moor Lane, Bramcote, NG9 3GA



Vacancies



The White Hills Park Trust
A Culture of Excellence

There are currently a number of vacancies within the Trust and our schools.

Cleaners

Exam invigilators

Teacher of RE, Maternity Cover
Closing date: 10am, Mon 27th Jan

See [our website](#) for more information and details on how to apply.

OPEN EVENING

*Free 'Try It' Session
*10% Off Beginners Course
*Fencing Demonstrations

Wednesday 5th February

Chilwell Olympia Sports Centre, Beeston, Nottingham

7.30 - 9.30pm

www.chilwellblades.co.uk

CHILWELL BLADES
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Raise funds for
FREE to help Bramcote College PTA
every time you shop online

Find us on easyfundraising to start:
Search 'Bramcote College PTA' on easyfundraising.org.uk

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