Handsworth
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Termly Newsletter - Spring 2016 : Issue 11

From the Headmaster

The Spring term has been as busy and hectic as ever not least as a result of the further changes imposed upon us by the Examination Boards and Department for Education. This year we have fortunately not been disrupted as a result of inclement weather. All the pertinent Mock Examinations were held as well as Exam Weeks where we check the progress and development of our students. It is absolutely vital that Year 11, 12 and 13 students utilise the Easter holiday wisely and follow a detailed and effective revision programme. It is pleasing to see the high number of students who have opted to partake in the Easter Revision Booster Classes which will be held in the second week of the holiday. Study leave begins some 4 weeks into the Summer term so all students must prepare themselves fully for the exams from now on. This is especially true in the light of changes to school funding as a Sixth Form student now is only funded for 2 years – thus there are no second chances. It is imperative to get it right the first time and not waste a brilliant opportunity.

We continue our focus upon Learning and Teaching and our Building Learning Habits programme is well established. We aim and strive hard to equip each and every HGS student with the habits and skills they will need to enter University and the world of work. In short we want them to know what to do when they don't know what to do! Please make good use of the Show My Homework portal and the Sims Learning Gateway so that you can take an active role in monitoring your child's progress.

The 2 new Astro Turf pitches and 5 Table Tennis Tables continue to be very popular as does the new covered seating area in the Quad. 100 external lockers have been installed alongside the main school site Astro in order to enable students to store their kit safely. Work is due to get underway at the playing fields when the weather improves so that the external features (including the patio area and drainage) of the Pavilion can be renovated and restored. A new fence line has been built and a parking area will be created behind the Astro pitch. A significant amount of work has been taking place to upgrade the roofs of the school in line with our Buildings Condition Survey – this should all be completed by the start of next term.

We are extending our diverse programme of Outreach work with a specific focus upon familiarization with the Admissions process and the 11+ Exam. We have invited current Year 5 students from all the Primary Schools within the Handsworth Association of Schools (of which we are a member) to attend 3 sessions at HGS next term which will be led by our staff and students. These sessions will explain what a Grammar School is, how to apply at 11+ (and beyond), provide guidance on the 11+ Exam itself and engage the students in some fun educational activities. We also continue to work with Primary Schools with Maths and Science Master Classes as well as Reading/Literacy support and our Sports Leaders help to run numerous events.

Please do visit our website at www.handsworth.bham.sch.uk and read our weekly E-Newsletter as well as follow the news updates and letters. HGS continues to be a diverse, rich, thriving and successful community and there is much to celebrate and be proud of.

Free School Meals

Did you know that registering your child for Free School Meals means that the School gets extra funding?

The Government is giving money to Schools and Academies to help children from lower income families to do their very best. This funding is called the "Pupil Premium". For every child registered we will get £900.

With this funding we can supply better resources and educational trips for your child. If you are registered for Free School Meals you could also receive clothing and travel assistance.

Fundraising Success

We raised £500 for Envision.
We raised £250 for each of our 5 House Charities:
Shelter, The British Heart Foundation, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Acorns Children's Hospice and Cancer Research UK.
We raised £1,600 for Sport Relief.

supporting Birmingham Children's Hospital
acorns CHILDREN'S HOSPICE
CANCER RESEARCH UK
British Heart Foundation

Science Faculty Activities

During the Spring Term, there have been a number of enrichment activities taking place both within and beyond the laboratories. These have included:

- A Year 9 Physics 'Big Quiz' held at Birmingham University
- A visit by Year 8 students to Thinktank for 'Chemistry at Work'
- A visit by Year 10 students to GCSE 'Science Live' at Symphony Hall
- Year 11 students sitting the demanding British Physics Olympiad GCSE Challenge paper
- A visit to the 'Big Bang' Science Fair at the NEC by Year 7 students
- Year 10 students sitting the Biology Challenge paper
- Visits by 90 Year 5 students from Grove Primary School for Science taster lessons

Look out for reports and photographs of some of these activities elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Mr Jones, Head of Science

Year 9 Physics 'Big Quiz'

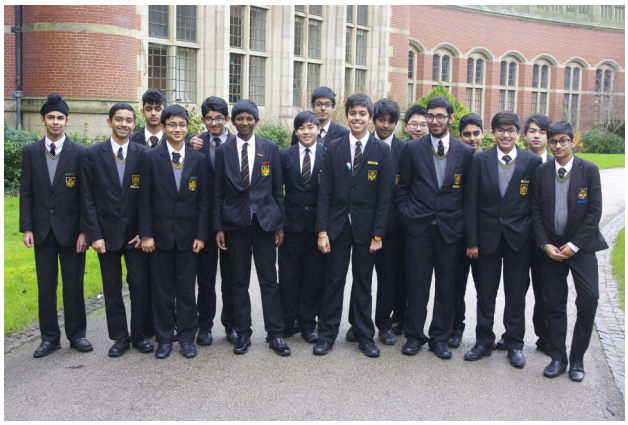
On Tuesday 26th January, 16 students were selected from Handsworth Grammar School to compete in the 11th annual Physics 'Big Quiz'. This was held at the University of Birmingham, with 90 teams taking part, representing schools from all over the West Midlands and Staffordshire, including many of our selective school 'rivals'. We arrived at the University at 9:45am with Mr Jones, Head of Science, confident that we could win this year to match the achievement of last year's HGS teams!

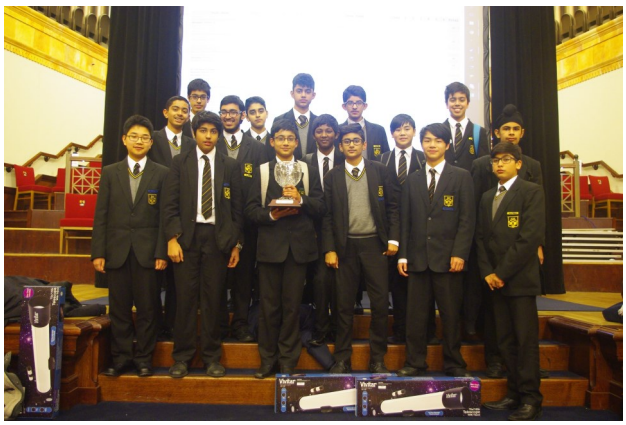
The morning began with a word search round and, after this, we were formally introduced to our hosts and made acquainted with the rules. The most important of these rules was that each team, of which we had separated into four groups of four, had access to a 'Joker', which allowed our points to be doubled for that single round. It could be used in any round apart from the final round, which we were told in advance was on 'The Physics of Einstein'.

There were 3 rounds in the morning session and 3 further rounds in the afternoon. HGS Team A (Fronz, Gyani, Ali and Edward, all miraculously in Nelson) claimed first place out of the 90 teams. Their prize was a large trophy that the school will return next year and a smaller trophy that the school will keep. The four winners also each received a medal and a telescope. HGS Team B (Godfrey, Anmol, Ismaeel Y and Matthew) came 4th. HGS Teams C and D (Nayan, Sharujan, Bobby, Ismaeel M (me), Farhaan, Vyom, Amritpal and Daanish) won the spot prize about the mass of the Sun and also came joint 5th overall. Everyone was pleased with their achievement and happy to retain the trophy from last year.

Finally, on behalf of all of us who participated, I would like to thank Mr Jones, who recruited us. I would like to wish Mr Jones good luck in finding people in the current Year 8 who will live up to the phenomenal and flabbergasting standard set by our year group and last year's Year 9!

Ismaeel Mahmood 9A





Year 7 German Spelling Bee

For the second year, all year 7 German classes have been taking part in the Foreign Language Spelling Bee, which is organised by Routes into Languages (www.flsb.co.uk). The class competitions took place in the week before the Christmas holidays and the school competition was held on 18th February. The three school winners were Rajan Aulakh, 7G (1st place), Manraaj Sidhu, 7H (2nd place) and Ibrahim Zaman, 7G (3rd place). Congratulations!

The three school winners will now compete in the regional finals at Aston University on 13th April 2015. We wish them lots of luck!

HGS Bridge Trust Society Annual Dinner

On Saturday March 5th our Senior Prefects attended the annual dinner of the Bridge Trust Society, which is the title given to the Handsworth Grammar School Old Boys' Association.

The dinner was held at Handsworth Golf Club and the Senior Prefects were accompanied by Headmaster Mr Bird and Assistant Head Teacher Mr Conway.

After being welcomed by the Society President, Mr Ashley Winters, our school Head Boy Adam Saleem made a speech to the guests which outlined the school's sporting achievements over the last twelve months. This was followed by Head Girl, Priya Badhan, who spoke about the academic success over the last year and the developments within the school.

As ever, our students were made very welcome by the guests at the dinner who included some former pupils who attended the school as far back as the nineteen forties and fifties. The former students were delighted to tell stories of their time at Handsworth Grammar School, and all were delighted to hear that we have resurrected the House system in school.

The senior team consist of Head Boy, Adam Saleem; Head Girl, Priya Badhan; Deputy Head Boy Arron Dalvair; Deputy Head Girl Jardel Robinson-Hylton, and Chair of the School Council, Josef Feiven.

Photo shows (from left to right): Adam Saleem, Jardel Robinson-Hylton, Ashely Winters, Priya Badhan, Arron Dalvair and Josef Feiven.

Mr Conway

GCSE 'Science Live'

On the 29th February 2016, some of my Year 10 colleagues and I attended a GCSE 'Science Live' event that took place in Symphony Hall, Birmingham, the event lasting from 10am-3pm. Various schools from across the country came to have the opportunity to listen to some of the World's leading scientists, and also to listen to a senior examiner who talked about what examiners tend to look for in examinations. We listened to five scientists in total. Professor Jim Al-Khalili spoke about Time travel, Professor Lord Robert Winston about Fertility and Genetics, Professor Alice Roberts about Evolution, Professor Andrea Sella about Chemical Reactions and Dr Simon Singh about The Big Bang.

I think that everyone who attended found the event very enjoyable and it was interesting to learn about things that we may not be taught in school.

Joshua Nagra

Futsal

The Under 16s Futsal team qualified for the Regional Futsal Finals at the Hockley Futsal Centre last night by winning all four of their games. Futsal is a version of 5 a side football, with a slightly heavier and smaller football.

Our team was in a group with Colmers Farm School, and Washwood Heath School. HGS played each team twice and our results were as follows:

HGS 4-1 Colmers Farm
HGS 5-0 Washwood Heath School
HGS 6-3 Colmers Farm
HGS 5-2 Washwood Heath.

The team was made up of Ettan Korpal, Shuja Mehmood, Myles Henry, Taran Gill and Franciszek Czech.

We now go into the regional finals, along with schools from Coventry and Solihull which take place on 28th April.

PTA

A new PTA has been established at Handsworth Grammar School. Watch this space for more information and details of events. Remember that the core aim of the PTA is to support our students and school through fundraising events which will provide additional resources to embellish our student's education and achievements. Please get involved and join in!

Winter Concert 2015

Old faces and very much new gathered to take part in the final event of the winter at Handsworth Grammar, to send off the year in a very musical style. Our penultimate day flourished into a magnificent gathering of young, talented musicians, whose music could warm even the coldest of hearts. (And no, it's not just the under-floor heating; music also emanates a certain aura that warms the soul)

Music was truly the main focus of night. A staple of our concerts; the guitar ensembles played as majestically as ever, under the ever watchful eye of Mr Knight. The keyboard ensembles, had such uplifting spirit with Mr Czepiel's choice of pieces, featuring I'm a believer and 'Don't stop me Now'.

We cannot forget the orchestra – with Mr Ward at helm, once again conducting – who played with spirit, embracing their inner Englishmen and playing Pomp and Circumstance marches, a well-known theme by Edward Elgar. The orchestra was not the only thing for Mr Ward to conduct however; the debut of this year's Choir, filled with the first appearance of many Year 7's. Mr Ward was certainly rapturous following their performance of Happy, having embraced Christmas with 'Away in a Manger' moments before.

The raw talent of our musicians radiated with our 'stand-alone' acts. The likes of two Renaissance pieces from the guitars, a trio by Dowland played by the Frater twins and Mr Knight, and a Spanish piece played by Brandon Masih. Our piano solos took for a far more 20th century approach, Camara Talbert playing a piece by Norton and Khanh Pham with a vicious piece by W. Carroll. We also had an array of woodwind pieces played, with the Tabla being represented by a solo and trio. The debut of the harp in the concert, played by Lydia Liburd, only just shows how much talent we have to show during our concerts.

Our concert may be great, but it is nothing without the teachers that make it happen. Thank you to them all.

Brandon Masih 10 Henry

HGS and KE Aston Joint Concert

On Thursday 10th March, 6 of our students had the pleasure of playing at King Edward VI Aston. We were greeted by a wonderful array of talent, ranging from K.E. Aston's Big Band playing Mercy Mercy Mercy, Stand by Me and Louie Louie; and a rendition of Mozart's Symphony no 40 first movement. We also heard solos from Sam Hartley who played Grieg and Peter Hartley playing a violin solo. Vivaldi was also featured - Largo and Allegro from Sonata in A minor - played on cello by Jack Keelan an AS-level music student.

We cannot forget our acts, such as the Frater twins playing Swipesy, Lydia Liburd playing Fire Dance by David Watkins for Harp, Sahibpreet Bhamra playing Teental improvisation, Balkaar Bhopal playing Fredric Chopin's Minute Waltz and I myself played Guardame las Vacas by Luys de Narvaez.

We hope that this leads to many more joint concerts, and indeed other events, and I would like to thank King Edward VI Aston for hosting us.

Brandon Masih (Year 10 Music Student)

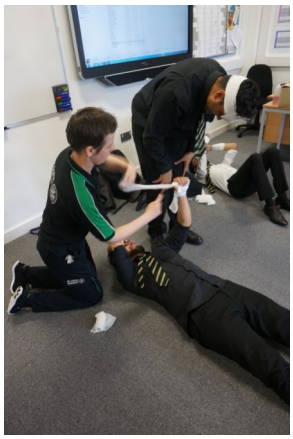
Year 9 Cultural Day

On 9th March, ten year 9 students had the opportunity to take part in a German Cultural Day at Aston University, organised by Routes into Languages. They attended presentations about a German-speaking country in the morning. In the afternoon, the ten HGS boys together with five students from another school had to prepare a presentation in German about their country to enter a competition judged by the German Goethe-Institut. We are extremely pleased with their performance as they won the competition.

The students are Nayan Dey 9A, Godfrey Leung 9A, Bobby Singh 9A, Matthew Alexander 9G, Matthew Baptiste 9G, Ajay Chohan 9G, Shofi Mohammed 9G, Ibrahim Qayyum 9H, Jude Folorunso 9N and Hasnain Sumar 9N. Well done!

Activity First Aid Course

This term 25 sixth form students have completed a 7 week "Activity First Aid" course which has been run and accredited by St Johns Ambulance service. The students have learned how to deal with serious conditions and accidents such as choking, heart attacks and a loss of consciousness. The course has covered emergency life support procedures for adults, children and infants. The students have learned how to deal with minor and deteriorating conditions such as fractures, sprains, burns and bleeding. The students will receive their certificates at the beginning of the summer term. 100 students have been trained since September 2014 and we hope to train many more.



Computer Science Masterclass

During February 2016, 20 Year 12 Computing and Multimedia students attended an app development and design workshop at Aston University. The workshop was run by Dr Jo Lumsden and Dr Lilit Hakobyan, both experts in Human Computer Interface's (HCI). The purpose of the workshop was to create a concept and then design a fitness application. Our 20 students, along with a number of external students, were split into teams of 6 where they were given an hour to create a concept and then design certain aspects of the desired application. Group 1 featured the department's star students! – creating an application named 'EZFit'. The application took advantage of a devices geometrical components such as the motion sensor, along with GPS capabilities in order to provide accurate and efficient tracking functions. The application also used an advanced formula that granted users points, taking into consideration the amount of exercise the user performed and the user's BMI. The point system provided a competitive platform where friends could collaborate, in a manner that promoted a healthy lifestyle. Wearable technology was also considered.

Group 2 took a similar approach with an application named 'iGo-uGo'. The application also considered various components of a device in order to provide similar tracking to that achieved by Group 1. Group 2 offered the ability to track the user's diet along with several aspects of fitness. Group 3 took an interesting approach with their application 'World Run'. Rather than taking a conventional approach of having a user's fitness tracking as the main aspect of the application, they instead attempted to incorporate a game like aspect into the application, in order to appeal to a market of a lower age group. The application included images of world renowned locations in order to persuade the user to interact with the game while motivating them to lead a healthy lifestyle. All three groups excelled in the workshop, providing them with valuable information and experience in the field of Human Computer Interface's (HCI). Hence, on behalf of all the students who attended, we would like to thank Dr Jo Lumsden and Dr Lilit Hakobyan along with Aston University for a valuable and memorable experience.

Donnell Burgess, Daniel Ahmed, Jason Lee and Reedwan Ali.

Water Polo Appointment

Congratulations to Vyom Patel (9Alfred), who has been promoted to the position of Junior Captain at the Handsworth Grammar School Old Boys' Water Polo Club. Vyom trains on a Tuesday evening and plays matches on a Friday evening at Handsworth Leisure Centre. He is a fine all round sportsman and also plays Basketball for the school team. If anyone else would like to get involved in Water Polo, then they can either contact the club directly, or see Mr Conway.

Hockey on the Astro Turf

The new Astro Turf on the Baker Street playground has provided the PE department with an ideal opportunity to re-introduce Hockey to the PE curriculum. 8 Galahad were the first group to have Hockey in their PE lesson on March 3rd and all of the boys enjoyed the lesson taught by our PE trainee Mr Bowles, assisted by Mr Conway.

Sports Round Up

Our Key Stage 3 Basketball team secured a comfortable victory over Aston Manor in their first match of the season with a 29 – 11 win. Mr Conway and Mr King were delighted with the boy's performance and this bodes well for the rest of the season – well done

Our Year 7 and Year 9 Indoor Cricket teams have progressed to the Finals at Edgbaston County Cricket Club having become League Winners in their age groups of the Warwickshire Cricket League. Year 7 enjoyed a comfortable win over Turves Green recently with Turves Green scoring 80 runs in their 12 overs and HGS moving to 83 off only 8 overs. Good luck to both teams.

Year 7 Fundraising Success

Mr Alex Westworth of Now Education attended a special Year 7 Assembly this morning where he presented prizes to the 5 boys who had raised the most amount of money following the Annual Sponsored Walk. Mr Mohsin (Head of Year 7) explained how well the year group are doing and what a successful and positive first term they have had at HGS. The top 3 boys also received a prize from Aspire People.

Year 7 raised a fantastic total of nearly £1, 800 and this money has been distributed between 3 charities chosen by the boys themselves: The British Heart Foundation, Acorns and HomeStart UK.

BBC Young Musician panel

Alpesh Chauhan has just been announced as a judge on this year's BBC Young Musician panel. He will judge the Semi-Final round along with Meurig Bowen, the Artistic Director of the Cheltenham Music Festival, and Huw Humphreys, Head of Music at the Barbican Centre.

Music Exams

We wish the following students success in their upcoming exams:

Charlie Vannakorn	Grade 2	Classical Guitar	Akhil Gandham	Grade 2	Piano
Cameron Amin	Grade 2	Classical Guitar	Brandon Masih	Grade 3	Piano
Salih Ahmed	Grade 2	Classical Guitar	Khanh Pham	Grade 3	Piano
Jagraj Kahlon	Grade 2	Classical Guitar			

Sixth Form Enrichment Day

February 10th saw the school have its fourth Enrichment Day of the year. Students came off timetable and either took part in house activities, or were able to hear presentations from guest speakers on a range of topics.

All of the guest speakers commented on how positive HGS students had been, and what a warm reception they had received from our students.

Under 16 Basketball

The Under 16 Basketball team continued with their unbeaten run as they defeated John Henry Newman Catholic College 56-27 last night in an away fixture.

Once again led by star player Mo Mohammed, who scored an amazing 26 points, the team played superbly in what was probably their best performance of the season.

Trussell Trust Foodbank

Handsworth Grammar School donated over 3,000 items of food to Reverend Roger Collins from the Trussell Trust Foodbank.

This donation was made possible by the hard work of Ms Elaine Brown and her form and the wider generosity of the Handsworth Grammar School Community.

Envision

Coaching Session – problem solving and resilience

On the evening of Thursday 29th January 2016, seventeen students from year 12 took part in a coaching session organized by Tim Knappett (Corporate Partnerships Executive, Envision) and Natalie Nakkas (Envision Coordinator), which brought together company directors, project managers and engineers from Intervserve to teach our students a number of essential project management skills.

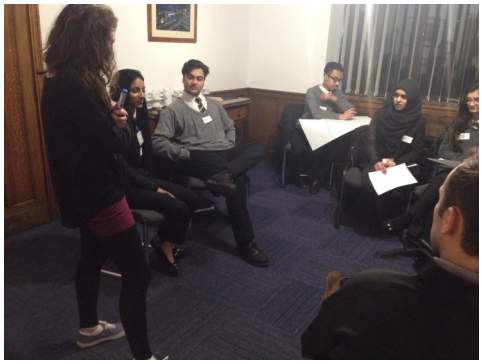
The session took place at Intervserve offices in Erdington, which served to give the students a window into the world of corporate meetings through which they experienced, however briefly, making decisions about the direction of their own projects and resolved a number of outstanding project management issues, including clash of ideas and office politics. Not only did the students benefit from the advice given freely to them by the highly experienced team from Interserve, they also voiced their own concerns about the challenges they face ahead.

In order to methodically tackle each challenge, the students collaborated with their assigned mentors from Interserve, and under the direction of Tim and Natalie (Envision) managed to identify and discuss possible solutions to the following key challenges:

1. Team cohesion
2. Making a measurable and lasting impact
3. Budget management
4. Fundraising techniques
5. Goal setting, monitoring and achievement

This highly interactive and engaging session was concluded by Ross Mather (Strategic Development Director) and Tom Martin (Project Engineer) from Interserve introducing the students to their NEW £100 million headquarters, currently under construction near Birmingham International Airport. They also invited our students to join them for a final coaching session on-site at their NEW headquarters on 17th March 2016.

Mr Ahmed



Oxbridge Success

Our congratulations go to Abdi Ige who has secured the offer of a place at Merton College, Oxford to read History and Politics and also to Manraj Dhanda who has secured a place at Queens' College, Cambridge to read Engineering. This is a wonderful achievement in what is an ever increasingly competitive arena.

NACE Membership

Handsworth Grammar School is pleased to be re-awarded its' NACE membership for showing consistent commitment to provision for more able and talented pupils in school. NACE is the National Association for Able Children in Education.

Yr 7 – 11 Enrichment Day

All staff and students were involved in a busy day of House activities, Personal Health presentations and Citizenship work.

Yr. 7- The Year 7 students were involved in a competition organized by the Civic Society of Birmingham. They had to research and deliver a presentation on what they could improve in their local areas. The Civic Society wanted the students to be aware of the issues in their local community and to come up with a solution for the issue. This takes a lot planning and excellent group work. At the end of the day each group within the form had to deliver a presentation with their idea and how they could make it sustainable. The winner of each form now has to deliver their presentation to a panel from the Civic Society who will come into school. The winner of this then represents the school in the Birmingham Finals.

Yr. 8- Year 8 enjoyed a variety of House activities along with focusing upon key issues that were discussed throughout the day. The House activities were Basketball, Table Tennis, Handball and Debating. Every student in the Form was involved in these House activities. The issues discussed were our Legal Rights and the effects of Alcohol. 8 Galahad won the House Basketball and Handball. 8 William won the Table Tennis with Salmane Nasri Elmi 8 Alfred winning the individual House Competition. 8 Nelson won the Debating competition on the issue of Capital Punishment.

Yr. 9 – Year 9 had their Annual 5 aside Competition with all students participating. After four hours of play Alfred were the eventual winners beating Galahad by one point!

Yr. 10 – Year 10 had a Personal Health Day and had some outside presenters delivering sessions. The sessions were on Sexism/ Stereotypes, Mental Health and Financial Management. There was some really useful information given and certainly the Mental Health presentation highlighted some key information that the students did not know. A young man by the name of Charlie Fogarty also came into school and told his story. This really engaged the students and they were impressed by his resilience having being hit by a car after stepping into the road and going through serious rehabilitation and his battle to overcome the disabilities that he has. It was an inspirational presentation showing that through any adversity you can come through it and have some goals to achieve that can make you have a sense of purpose.

Yr. 11- The Year 11 students were also involved in the presentations given to the Year 10 students as well as some students carrying out additional coursework to build upon the good work already undertaken.

A really busy day for all but a rewarding one with positive outcomes.

Mr Griffiths

Maths Success

The Maths department have enjoyed significant success in the recent Intermediate (Year 9 and 10) Maths Challenge. 4 boys are through to the next kangaroo round, 3 were awarded Gold, 12 Silver and 28 Bronze Certificates.

This our first ever sitting at this level and all our students who took part are to be congratulated as well as Mr Sangar who over-sees these events. Well done!

Important Dates

11 Apr	Start of Term	23 Jun	Open Evening
21 Apr	Y8 Parents' Evening	29 Jun	New Intake Day
22 Apr	Training Day	6 Jul	Enrichment Day
28 Apr	Y7 Parents' Evening	11 Jul	Y8 Careers Evening
5 May	Musician of the Year	13 Jul	Sports Day
9 May	Enrichment Day	14 Jul	Summer Concert
9 May	Whitemoor Lakes Trip	20 Jul	Last Day of Term
Half-term 30 May — 3 Jun		5 Sep	Start of Winter Term

Visit our website to keep up to date with school news, read our weekly E-Newsletters and find electronic copies of our termly newsletters