

WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER



WINTER NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017



A few words from Mrs Darwood... our New Head Teacher



As the Christmas break approaches we have reached the end of another busy and successful term at Selly Park. The term started extremely well as we welcomed our new Year 7 pupils. It is hard to believe that they have only been with us since September as I watch them walk confidently around the school.

I would like to thank staff, students, parents/carers and governors for their hard work and support this term in making a difference to so many young lives. Our teachers have excelled in delivering a creative curriculum, which has led to a sense of awe and wonder for our pu-

pils. Our pupils have continued to excel and we continue to celebrate outstanding achievement.

We are extremely pleased to be welcoming a number of new staff in January:

Mr Clinton will be taking on the role of Deputy Head with responsibility for the curriculum and data. He will also be leading KS4, working alongside Miss Craig and Mr Quinton.

Mr Gibson will also be joining us as an Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for Interventions and Saturday School.

Mrs Donna Thomas who will be a Lead Teacher in English for KS3.

Mr Dermot Short as Assistant Building Site Supervisor (Weekends).

Mr Mohammed Ali as a D&T Technician.

Miss Mehvish Shah as a Part-time Receptionist/ Administrator.

Mr Smith our Science Technician will be taking flexible retirement and reducing his hours and Mr Manning will be extending his hours in the science department.



Note from the Head Teacher contd...

I am pleased to inform you that our ITT student teacher Miss Biggs has also been appointed as Science Teacher and will start with us on a permanent basis after her teaching training.

We also welcome Miss Davies who has been appointed as Exams Officer. She comes with varied experiences, including working at Bournville College previously.

Miss Hoffman has started with us as a Learning Mentor, supporting pupils that have additional needs.

We also welcome back Mrs Bowker our SENCO and Assistant Head Teacher from maternity leave.

We say goodbye to Miss Grant and Mrs Davies our Lunchtime Supervisor. We wish you both a fond farewell.

As we say goodbye to 2017 and embark on 2018, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support. I would also like to remind you that my door is always open, you can make an appointment to see me and we continue to have a coffee morning once a term.

There has, as always, been a huge number of opportunities for our pupils to extend their school life, at lunchtimes and after school. Looking back over the past term, I have noticed how well your daughters have matured emotionally and academically and it has been a real joy to watch them learn and grow. I would like to thank all the staff who continually go above and beyond their roles to provide extra curricula opportunities.

We will be holding a non-uniform day on the last day of term with pupils paying $\mathcal{L}1$ to take part. The money raised will be go to the Children's Hospital who continue to do a wonderful job in caring for the children in Birmingham and beyond and some of our pupils at Selly Park.

School will be finishing on Friday 22 December at 12.15pm. To assist in forward planning, I have enclosed a copy of the term dates for the next academic year. This is printed on the last page of this newsletter.

I hope you all enjoy a peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year and look forward to seeing all our students return refreshed and ready for a new school term on Monday 8th January 2018.





Events this term....

<u>Science Club</u> - The Science Dept. have partnered with STEM ambassadors from Birmingham University to host a science club which will run every Thursday from 3:15 - 4:00pm. The main aim of the club is to ignite intellectual curiosity in science and to also help pupils understand the role of science in a social and industrial context.

Each week (depending on the specialism / club focus) 1-2 ambassadors will come to school and share their knowledge and expertise, they will also provide all the necessary equipment to run the club, with the added bonus that we get to keep the equipment they buy.

The first session of science club organised in partnership with the University of Birmingham's WISE (Women in Science and Engineering society) was fantastic.

Picture below: Pupils extracting DNA from strawberries.





Year 11 Introductory Night- Parents, pupils and representatives from Joseph Chamberlain and Cadbury Colleges came in to discuss their colleges and courses. Mrs Phelan also delivered a PowerPoint presentation about colleges, apprenticeships, revision techniques and guides, and gave out information about the course content of subjects we deliver here. There was also a meet and greet with the parents to chat about the year ahead.

<u>The Brilliant Club Graduation Trip to the University of Warwick</u> - All our students passed their assignments, and one of our students in year 11 received the incredible score of 76 - an outstanding First!





<u>Year 9 Book Club</u> - Pupils have been reading Stargirl and The Woman in Black for Book Club which they have really enjoyed.

<u>Choir</u> – Pupils have been meeting every Thursday, with about 50 girls attend each week. They are due to do a performance at Stirchley Baths, Co-op Stirchley and a school concert in December 2017.

<u>National Youth Orchestra Young Ambassadors</u> - Madeleine Seager and Ivaana Stevens attended Symphony Hall in the summer holidays and gave a pre-concert talk.

<u>Music Tuition</u> - Over 100 girls attend musical instrument lessons per week.

<u>Wear Pink Day & Macmillan Cake Sale</u> - Two fundraising events were held to raise money for Macmillan and Cancer Research.

<u>Year 9 Netball Team</u> played St Thomas Aquinas in their first competitive league match on Monday 6th November. They lost the match 15-8. However, the score does not reflect the balance of play or the effort the girls put in. They were fantastic!

<u>'Let's Get Cooking Club'</u> - For the year 7 pupils, 12 pupils have attended after school sessions to develop their skills in the kitchen. Next half term the club will run again and be available to a different group of girls.

<u>Open Evening in September</u> – The Science Department put on a number of experiments for all the potential new Year 7s and their parents. It's a long day but great fun!

<u>House Competitions</u> - We have held house competitions at lunch times, twice every half term, involving many students from different year groups.

<u>Mural</u> - Pupils have created a range of designs for the main hall mural that focus on the elements of the House groups. Artist Mohammed Ali is going to assist and share his expertise with us.



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Trips

<u>Art Department</u> - The art department ran an offsite visit for the year 10 GCSE pupils to visit 3 galleries in Birmingham; The RBSA, The Ikon Gallery and The Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. The research carried out during this visit will contribute towards the pupils' GCSE art portfolios.

For the first time the Art department will be visiting the Pitt Rivers Museum, Museum of Natural History and the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford. The visit has been organised for the year 11 GCSE art exam project which will start in January. The exam component is worth 40% of the overall GCSE grade.

Birmingham REP Theatre Trip - 30 GCSE Drama pupils from across Year

10 and 11 attended the Birmingham REP Theatre in September, 2017 to see the live theatre production of Jane Eyre.

For many this was their first visit to a professional theatre and the exciting range of skills and performances on stage will go on to inform and inspire their future written exam work and group performances.



Elevate Education Visit worked with Year 11 to introduce them to key study skills which will aid them throughout this year. They focussed on note taking, note formatting, learning files, mind mapping and how to stand out in exams. They will be back twice more this year to assist the students. 127/127 students said they would recommend them to their peers and that their time was well spent.

<u>Council House Visit</u> – Pupils took part in an event at the Council House, run by Never Such Innocence, a national arts project who give young people the opportunity to be inspired, informed and included in the WWI centenary activities across the UK. Pupils performed a song they has co-created with a professional song writer.







Selly Park students at Council House Birmingham shortly after their performance

Events

<u>Summer School</u> followed up this year with the Never Such Innocence Project by visiting the Town Hall to meet veterans (not of WW1 of course), led by Louise Mackuin.

<u>Year 7 Introductory Evening</u> this was well attended & parents very positive about the start their daughters have made.

KS3 Intervention

Due to rigorous monitoring we have had nearly 100% attendance at our interventions for Year 8 and 9. These lunchtime and after school sessions have been run by all staff members within the department and those that failed to attend support sessions have received text messages home to encourage them, which has meant that they have not missed the subsequent sessions.

Rights Respecting Schools and PSHEE

ARTICLE 4 - Every child has the right to know and enjoy their rights.

2017 has been an important year for Selly Park as we were awarded a Level 1 Rights Respecting Schools Award by UNICEF. Our award confirms we have made good progress into embedding **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child** into everything we do in school.

Year 11 students have been developing their understanding of Children's Rights in **PSHE** lessons. They have learnt that everyone has rights, no matter who they are or where they are from. However, not everyone across the world is always able to access their rights for various reasons.

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In September 2015, The United Nations created the Global Goals for Sustainable Development to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all in the hope more people can access their rights to a healthy life. Selly Park are taking an active role in aiding the success of the Global Goals and our year 11 have already begun educating the school

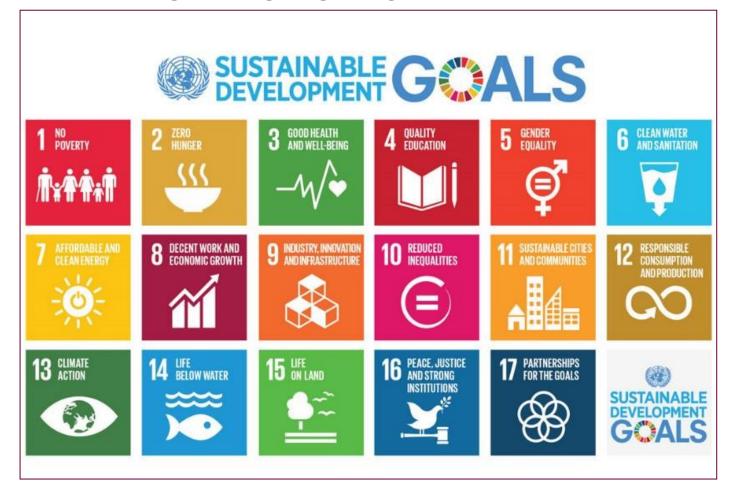
community about the Goals in assembly. This term we have elected new Key Stage 3 House Reps. Our new Reps, along with our Prefects and Year 11 students, will become our Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors. The group will work directly on projects they feel will be beneficial to achieving the Global Goals and ultimately help others access their rights.

Should you be interested in taking an active role in our Rights Respecting Schools Award Group as a Parent or Carer please contact the School on 0121 472 1238 and ask for Mrs Mackuin.

To learn more please visit the websites below: www.UNICEF.org/rightsrespectingschools.

http://www.globalgoals.org/

http://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/





Dynamic Youth Awards





Nisha was nominated by the PE department for the Dynamic Youth Awards. This is a project in Balsall Health that has been running for the last seven years that recognises the contribution that young people have made to either PE, Sport or the Community. Nisha actually picked up one of the main awards of the evening and it was great to see her parents who were proud and very complimentary of the school. A massive pat on the back, as it is well deserved!

Art News...

Year 10 GCSE Art Students had an amazing day at the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, IKON Gallery and Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. They gathered important research for their GCSE projects as well as having opportunity to meet artists, David Walton and Mohammed Ali, artist and Curator of the current exhibition Knights of the Raj.









Wednesday, 13 December 2017

Balsall Heath: Dynamic Youth Awards 2017

This year marked 10 years since I first visited Balsall Heath and stayed with Abdullah Rehman and his wonderful family.

During that initial trip, and subsequent visits, I have had the pleasure of seeing first-hand the inspiring work carried out by local residents, led by Abdullah and Dick Atkinson.

So much has changed over the past decade; the neighbourhood has been transformed. But this has not been achieved by central or local government, or by politicians forcing change from far away; it has been achieved locally, by the people who live and work in your own community.

The work of the Balsall Heath Forum has helped empower local citizens to change the neighbourhood themselves and to deliver local services. It really is the Big Society in action and there are few more inspiring examples to be found than Balsall Heath.

As part of that work, this evening's 7th Dynamic Youth Awards celebrate the many achievements by younger people in Balsall Heath and the wider Birmingham area. I am delighted that you are recognising local youth achievement in this way – this year focusing on the power of sport, something that unites us all.

When we look at the British sportsmen and women who have achieved so much on a national and international level – whether playing football, cricket, tennis, or at the Olympics and Commonwealth Games – so many grew up in neighbourhoods like your own. They worked hard, helped others, volunteered in their spare time and dedicated themselves to their passion until they reached the highest level.

With the strong community partnerships and the encouragement that exists in Balsall Heath, I am in no doubt that tomorrow's sporting stars could be among you this evening.

So on this special night, this message comes with my heartfelt congratulations to you all for everything you have achieved over the past decade: for turning your neighbourhood around and making it such a shining example of what local residents can achieve by working together. And to the young people being recognised this evening, very well done! Keep up the good work and keep working towards your goals, whether sporting or otherwise. You can be very proud of all you have achieved.

Have a wonderful evening and I look forward to hopefully visiting Balsall Heath again soon.

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Half Price Scholastic Book Fair Monday 4th to Friday 10th Dec 2017



Our students enjoyed a Scholastic Book Fair offering over 200 books with a huge 50% price reduction. Everyone had the chance to browse and buy, with prices from \pounds 1.49 suitable for pocket money budgets.

The Book Fair was open during break times and after school until 3.30 pm for most of the week. The girls responded enthusiastically to this event and many came to have a look at the new and exciting book titles on offer. The sales exceeded $\pounds 600$ and the school benefitted by receiving $\pounds 60$'s worth of free books in return.



Accelerated Reader 11 pupils attended Peter's book store in Birmingham and chose some new books for the library. This was a fabulous opportunity for pupils to contribute to the selection of books in the library. Pupils were selected for outstanding commitment to Accelerated Reader.



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Sports Awards Evening...

The PE department organised a Sports Awards evening to celebrate the sporting achievements for the last academic Year 2016-17, both students and parents were invited to attend.

The awards included; Player of the Year and an Endeavour Award in a variety of sports. Year 7s who managed to swim 50m + gained a certificate and badge. Year 10 students who performed particularly well and passed their Sports Leaders Award also gained certificates. The winning House for Sports Day was Earth. To complete the evening their was a Sports Personality of the year Award for both KS3&KS4, the winners being Nisha and Amerah.







French Year 9 Quiz

On the 22nd of November, eight Year 9 students went to Lordswood Girls' School to represent Selly Park in a French Quiz. They did exceedingly well, with one team coming in 3rd, and another coming in 5th out of the 15 competing teams.

These are some of the things they had to say about the experience;

"It was a really nice experience going to a different school and meeting new people. It was really exciting and fun. Especially because we came in 3rd place and we worked together. It would be nice to go on another trip because you learn from it; it was a memorable experience."

Anan 9 Derwent

"I really enjoyed the competition, I gained lots of extra knowledge by taking part in this competition. It was extremely fun and I think that Selly Park did amazingly well, even though we came third and didn't receive a prize. In the future, it would be better if more people were allowed to come with us."

Haniah 9 Bourne

"I really enjoyed the French competition at Lordswood Girls School. It was great and fun as well as competitive. I think Selly Park did really well and got a really high score. I would love for more people from each class to come next time."

Khadeejah 9 Bourne

"I enjoyed being part of this competition since I got to compete against other schools and see what it was like. Yet, I also learnt new vocabulary and had a lot of fun with my classmates, even though it was quite nerve-racking being in the competition."

Lamia 9 Bourne



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This term, the science department has started an exciting new club for girls in Years 7-10 in partnership with the University of Birmingham. Each week science students from the university come in to deliver fun workshops. So far we have extracted DNA from strawberries and made bath bombs, lava lamps and joined in with 2017's messiest craze... slime!

Next term we plan to hold plenty more wonderful and weird sessions including building rockets, making soaps and performing dissections. The club runs on Thursday's after school from 3:15 to 4:00pm.







Come enjoy a lesson in Science with your daughter Due to weather this week this has been postponed to Thursday 18th January 2018 enquire from your teacher today.

Year 7 Parent Pupil Workshops.







Come enjoy the flame test experiment find different





Reminisce in experiments that you have enjoyed in the past.

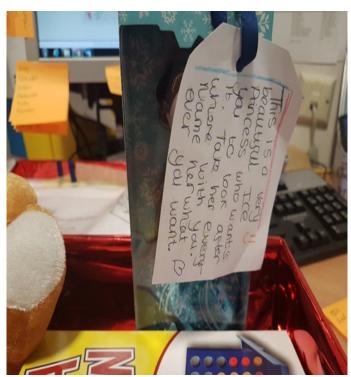




Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Box appeal, we had a wonderful turnout with many creative boxes, which will put smiles on many children's faces thanks to your hard work. A huge thank you to **8DE**, **9AR**, **10TA**, **8CO**, **11BO**, **10DE**, **9DE** and **Miss Amphlett** for their lovely and thoughtful boxes which will go to children that will really appreciate them.





PE Sporting Fixtures

This past half term the Year 7 and Year 9 Netball teams have being playing in a league against other schools. Both teams have displayed both commitment and hard work during training the games that they have played in so far this year. Their remaining fixtures are to be played after the Christmas holidays. To follow next half term:

Football and Basketball fixtures
Indoor Athletics Competition
British Athlete Visit
Wheelchair Basketball competition







Music Departent News...

Choir Performance at Stirchley Co-op, Thursday 8th December

Sixty members of the choir went to the Co-p on Stirchley to sing a selection of Christmas and pop songs. Half the choir sang in the morning and then the other half in the afternoon and both groups gave vibrant and confident performances, between them they collected $\pounds 263$ for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Charity. Members of the public really enjoyed seeing and hearing them and one person even called the school to say how impressed he was. Well done to all involved.

School Concert, Monday 18th December:

The school concert took place on Monday 18th December after school. The concert was led by school choir, who sang brilliantly. They sang a selection of songs, with highlights including 'Sing', with a brilliant solo by Leeyana and lots of lively Christmas songs. There were also performances from violin, dhol and flute players and it was great to see the progress they have made in their instrumental lessons. Ella ably sang 'My Grown up Christmas list', Reem stood in at the last minute and gave an excellent performance of Dusk Till Dawn. Ayesha and Shakila also gave a great performance of the Cup song. One of the highlights of the evening was the teachers' choir singing Merry Christmas Everyone accompanied by our excellent band and school choir. It was a very enjoyable evening, and well done to all involved.

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Partnership with Selly Park Technology College

Selly Park has been selected as one of ten schools in the Midlands region to work in partnership with the Birmingham Conservatoire. This means there are many opportunities for the girls to listen to excellent performances and perform in the brand new £57 million Conservatoire Builiding. We are very excited to begin this exciting project in the new year.



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New Staff Joining Selly Park



A very warm welcome once again to the new starters:

Mr Ciaran Clinton—Deputy Head Teacher

Mr John Gibson—Assistant Head Teacher (Interventions)

Ms Donna Thomas—Lead Teacher of English (KS3)

Mr David Robinson—Teacher of Science (Fixed term Contract)

Ms Marianne Biggs—Teacher of Science

Miss Kelly Davies—Examinations Officer

Mr Mohammed Ali—Design and Technology Technician

Miss Mehvish Shah—Part-time Receptionist/ Administrator

Mr Dermot Short—Assistant Building Site Supervisor (Weekends)

School Term Dates...

Spring Term 2018

Term Starts: Monday 8 January 2018

Half Term: Monday 19 February 2018 to Friday 23 February 2018

Term Ends: Thursday 29 March 2018

Summer Term 2018

Term Starts: Monday 16 April 2018

Half Term: Monday 28 May 2018 to Friday 1 June 2018

Term Ends: Tuesday 24 July 2018

HAPPY HOLIDAYS...... FROM ALL STAFF AT SELLY PARK

