

A Time of Change

It has been a bit bitter-sweet watching our old West Block being demolished. Thousands of children have been taught French, Maths, Music and Computing in the block as decades have past. Dozens of teachers have given the best years of the professional life in the building, spending untold hours teaching, marking and planning. Exams were taken in West Hall, and qualifications achieved.

On the other hand, drafty rooms had been almost impossible to adequately heat, the ancient flat roofs leaked despite constant repairs and the boiler and pipes seemed to be in constant competition for what would break first each winter. On balance, while we say good bye with some happy memories, we look ahead to our £22 million beautiful new building with excitement. Of course, this transitional time throws up some challenges, but our pupils and staff have risen to the occasion magnificently. Corridors are certainly more crowded, but orderly as students show each other courtesy and demonstrate patience.

Exam Results

In the now distant summer our Year 11 Leavers sat their exams and produced an excellent set of results. The percentage of our pupils achieving 5+ in both Maths and English was more than double that of some other schools in our constituency and the Graphics, History, English, Sports, Dance, RE and Health and Social Care results were particularly outstanding.

Educational Visits and Breakfasts

Our hard-working staff and student volunteers have continued to prepare free healthy bagels for breakfast for every pupil who wants one (almost 60% of students take advantage of the offer), and we have now started our enrichment strategy that provides thirteen educational visits or experiences for all of our pupils free of charge. The first day of trips in October saw successful visits to London, Oxford, Nottingham, a countryside walk and sports coaching experiences take place. We await a second day of visits next term with anticipation.

Mr Jones
Headteacher



British gymnast at World Age Group Tumbling Championships

Jaeda-Lei in Year 8 competed at the Worlds Age Group Tumbling Championships in Russia this week and secured herself a gold medal. Britain's junior tumbling gymnasts produced sensational results at the 2019 Trampoline, Tumbling & DMT World Age Group Championships to conclude a fantastic four days in Tokyo. The opening two days of competition saw GB claim five medals, with the final

two days bringing eight more, showcasing the strength in depth across the disciplines. The 11-12 age group was the youngest on show at the Championships, but it was where GB's tumbling gymnasts shone. In the women's final, British gymnasts incredibly claimed the top four places. Jaeda-Lei secured gold with 32.200, Lottie silver with 31.500, Alicia won bronze (placing behind Lottie on

execution score) scoring 31.500 and Sophie finished just outside the medals in fourth with 31.00.



hairspray

• THE BROADWAY MUSICAL •

On October 17th we performed a fabulous, fun afro-tastic production of Hairspray Jr. Over months and months of rehearsals students from across all year groups came together to form new friendships and in a culmination of the arts learnt that 'You Can't Stop the Beat'! It was truly a school-wide effort where both students and teachers came together (even in singing - Mr Allen!). We can honestly say we were incredibly proud to be a part of it. On that night we welcomed everyone to the 60s! Thank you to

everyone who took part and came to watch.

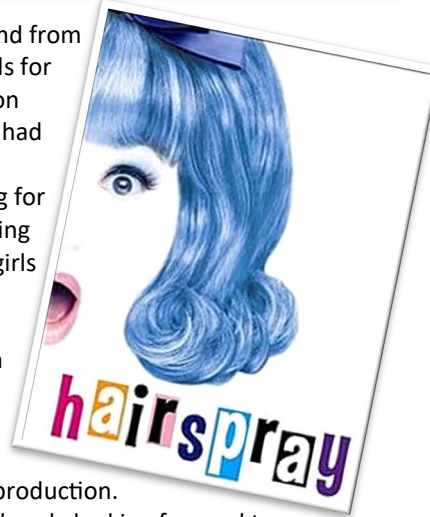
Written by Clarrie (Edna) and Lauren (Props and Backstage)

A note from Mrs Wilding:

The girls' production of Hairspray Jr. was absolutely amazing and we are incredibly proud of them. They were professional, confident and the

enjoyment just oozed out of them. They managed to make the audience laugh and cry and ended up with a standing ovation from 200 people! I would like to say a huge thank you to all the members of staff who helped with the performance with a special mention to Miss Adey and Mr Allen. I would also like to thank the Lickey Hills Rotary Club who very kindly donated some funds for us to be able to hire some set and costumes. A big thank you also needs to go to parents and carers who ferried the

girls to and from rehearsals for months on end! We had such fun preparing for the evening and the girls worked tirelessly to put on a polished and exciting production. We are already looking forward to the next one!



Music Mark Members 2019/20

We are very pleased and proud to have received our Music Mark Membership for this academic year. We have been nominated and supported by Birmingham Music Service as they have recognised the value that we place on music as a school. It celebrates our dedication to offering a high quality music education and means that we meet the following criteria:



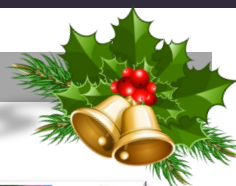
- Evidence of a willingness to engage in development conversations related to improving music provision
- Recognition of the value of music education as part of a broad and balanced curriculum
- A strategy for music in place which provides for all children.

SNOW....

It is that time of year again when the weather can be unpredictable (as can our heating pipes!) and in the event of snow or heating issues it is really important that we can contact you as quickly as possible. With this in mind, please ensure that your contact details are up to date with school and on ParentMail.



CAREERS



Hello, I am, Anna Perry, the independent careers adviser working in school, term time, on a Wednesday. I am also in school on a Tuesday this term. I have been qualified and working as a careers adviser, in Birmingham schools, for eighteen years. This term I have seen all the pupils in Year 11 for an initial careers meeting to enable them to talk about their future ideas and plans. The pupils may have action plans that will have suggested tasks to carry out and resources to use. I will continue to work with individuals after the mock exams. This term the pupils should be researching ideas, visiting learning provider open events, making applications and attending interviews. A list of local open events can be found on the school website - Welcome, Careers, click on the **HERE** in point 2 What

parents can do:

A starting point for finding out what career subjects are useful for, use the A level Explorer, it can work for BTEC subjects too.

<https://university.which.co.uk/a-level-explorer>

The site has a lot of other useful information and advice too.

The National Careers Service has labour market information and links to professional bodies for careers.

www.nationalcareers.service.org.uk/job-profiles

Pupils may also like to consider an apprenticeship and can research and make applications via a link on www.amazingapprenticeships.com

Visit resources for a monthly parent's pack. Links to vacancies. *NOTE:-* apprenticeships may not be advertised until a month before the start date so do



not panic! To make an appointment please see your Year Head, Mr Keylock or drop in Tuesday or Wednesday lunchtime to see myself.

AIM HIGHER

Hello, I'm Shannen Carter, the Aimhigher Plus representative for Turves Green Girls' School. I work together with Mr Keylock, the in-school Aimhigher Coordinator, to raise pupils' aspirations and support them in making informed decisions about their future. I offer a variety of enriching activities and workshops, in addition to educational off-site trips and one-to-one mentoring sessions, to support your child with their pathway after leaving school.

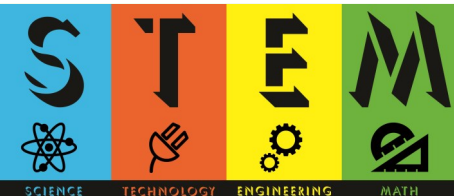


OSTEO *live*

During November 8JS and 9B History groups took part in "Osteo Live". During these sessions the pupils took part in a Skype lecture and question and answer session with an archaeologist working on the HS2 site in Birmingham. In recent moves several thousand skeletal remains have been excavated and studied. Archaeologists have been learning about the lives of the people who lived in Birmingham and the pupils learned how to estimate the



height of a person from their femur, how to estimate age, how to identify whether a skeleton is male or female and also other clues about health and diet.



answer session with several people working in a variety of engineering careers. The session allows the pupils to consider the advantages and realities of these careers.

Engineering is a very varied career path and has links to many (if not all) areas of interest. There are many companies supporting people (especially young

Year 9 recently took part in the "Big Assembly", run by Shell. Pupils took part in a nationwide question and

women) interested in these careers and pupils are encouraged to research this more - there are links on Moodle and pupils can speak to their Science and Technology teachers as well as our careers advisor, Anna Perry, in school about this.



Community Spirit

Longbridge Village Concerts

Some of our Year 8 pupils have been busy preparing and visiting Longbridge Village on a monthly basis to provide the residents with some musical entertainment. Ruby, Faith and Lucy have, in their own time, been working hard on learning new songs and rehearsing ready to perform on Friday evenings after school to the people who reside at the retirement village. The girls have done this completely on their own (with support from their parents!) and have shown real independence and dedication to put on these musical events. These have been very well received by their audiences who look forward to their visits to hear their talent and see their smiling faces! A huge well done girls – this is a great achievement and shows a real sense of community!

Mrs Wilding

Ruby said...

Once a month Lucy, Faith and I (Ruby) go to Longbridge Village retirement home to perform. Lucy and Faith sing whilst I play the piano. We have been doing this for the past six months, this has been a welcoming and most enjoyable experience for us all.

It has not only helped us to grow as a group but enabled us to gain some valuable experience whilst giving something back to the community. The residents certainly do light up when we come along to perform.



Dance your heart out!

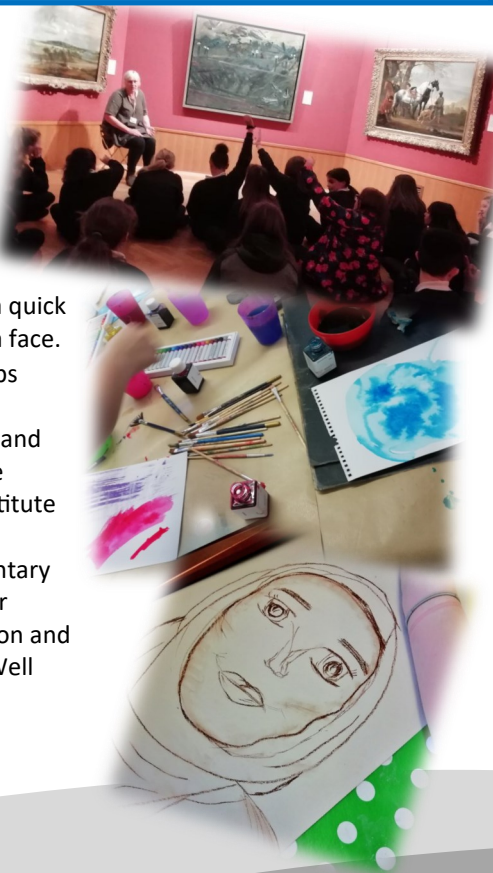
On Tuesday 3rd December we held our annual Winter Dance Sharing, where all dance groups across school had the opportunity to perform on stage to an audience. We had girls across all year groups. It is really important that girls who take dance at KS4 have this opportunity as they are graded as part of the qualification. Year 11 girls Laura, Safa, Ame, Chloe and Megan helped as leaders to run the show. This is a valuable experience for pupils as it helps to boost their confidence and self esteem as well as giving them performance opportunity. Jorja, one pupil who watched the show said "I really enjoyed the show and can't wait to take dance as one of my subjects in KS4."



Visit to the Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Some of our Year 9 and Year 10 GCSE Art students have been lucky enough to visit the beautiful Barber Institute of Fine Arts (at the University of Birmingham) this term, thanks to funding from Aim Higher. The Barber has a wonderful collection of art and is free to visit, however the funding paid for coach transport and the additional cost of a tour and workshop. Year 9 enjoyed a session all about materials and experimental techniques, including making paint with an egg yolk and mixing sand in with acrylics to make gorgeous abstract paintings. Year 10 explored the theme of

portrait and identity, and had a go at using chalk pastels to create a quick sketch of a face. Both groups behaved brilliantly, and staff at the Barber Institute were complimentary about their participation and attitude. Well done girls!



Nos actualités françaises...

29 girls from Year 9 went to Aston University last week for a Language Immersion Day. They were thrown in at the deep end, having to cope in a French market place scenario, buying goods and sampled some café snacks in return for fake euros! Afterwards they had a workshop about the importance of language study. They entered a prize draw along with three other schools and our very own Tia won an Amazon voucher! Well done to Tia and to everyone else who took part.

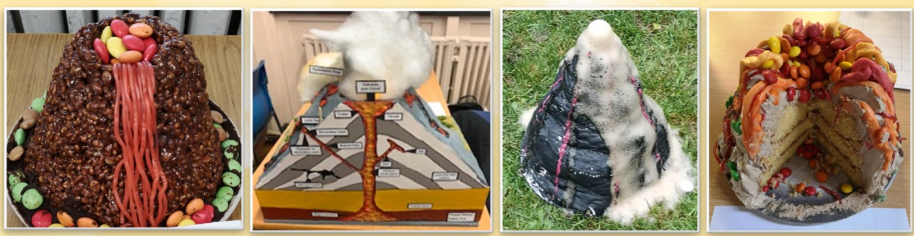




Year 7's Volcanoes Erupt!

The Geography department were mightily impressed this half term with Year 7's fabulous display of volcano models. From cross sectional, intricately detailed ones, to exploding and edible ones the girls worked really hard and

produced models to be very proud of! Well Done to all of them from Mrs Howes and Miss Hufton.



Library News



Well done to Hannah and Lavayah in Year 7 who have both achieved their Platinum reading award. Both students have already read over one million words, which is extremely impressive so early on in the school year. Congratulations to both of you on your hard work and effort.



BREAKFAST BAGEL

We continue to offer a free, healthy bagel breakfast to every pupil in the school, delivered warm and fresh to form rooms and will continue to do so for the rest of the academic year. Over half of our pupils at TGGs take a bagel every morning but we would like to see even more pupils taking advantage of this great start to the day. The benefits of a healthy breakfast are numerous but include

increased brainpower, more energy and maintaining a healthy weight. Thank you to our fantastic bagel preparation team of Mrs Peters, Shobia, Chloe, Hannah, Lucy, Abi, Alannah and Hannah without whom it would not be possible to provide pupils with breakfast every day.

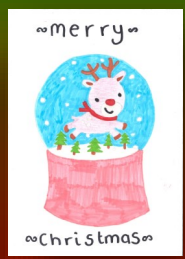


Christmas Card Competition

A competition was held for all pupils to design a Christmas card, which will be used as our official 2019 Christmas card. The winning card will be sent out to local primary/secondary schools, designed by Grace 7G. Grace receives a voucher along with Chloe 10G and Rosie 8G who were runners up. Over 50 entrants received a certificate and small prize. Thank you to all pupils who took the time to enter.



Winning card designed by Grace 7G



Chloe 10G



Rosie 8G

Message from Pupil Reception

Could we please ask that if your daughter has to leave school during the day for any reason, could you please write a note in her planner and ask her to get it signed by her Year Head before leaving.

Lost Property - We have numerous items of lost property in pupil reception. Please feel free to pop in and have a look if your daughter has lost her coat/sweatshirt/glasses/bottles etc.

Parentmail - is proving to be very successful could we please remind parents to keep the account topped up for lunches or alternatively provide a packed lunch.





Stay Active!

The PE department, along with our Sports Ambassadors have launched the 'Stay Active' Scheme which rewards pupils for their commitment to our extra-curricular clubs and teams. We know our pupils are aware of the many benefits of sport and exercise but we want to encourage them to try to commit to attending regularly so they can see those benefits. We have tried to accommodate a range of different activities so that all pupils feel they have an option of a club they would enjoy.

Using their 'Stay Active' booklet,

students collect a stamp or signature each time they attend a club and when they have collected 5 of these, they are entered into our prize draw. These draws take place every half term and include up to 20 prizes each time ranging from sports vouchers and bowling tickets, to a golden lunch ticket and a seat at a movie afternoon. Each draw also has a top prize of a free place on a trip to Drayton Manor in the summer term. The first draw will take place on Monday the 16th of December.

It's not too late to start attending and claiming your 'Stay Active' stamps. The range of clubs on offer include, Trampolining, Fitness, Dance, Basketball, Fun4all, Yoga as well as netball and athletics practices and competitions. Pupils should check the PE noticeboards and their form notice boards as a reminder when each club is on for their year group.



Stay Active!

HOW DO STAMPS GIVE YOU PRIZES?
 5 stamps collected, your name will be entered into a prize draw which takes place every half term. You could win prizes such as a golden lunch ticket or a seat at a movie afternoon!

PRIZES YOU COULD WIN:
 A Golden Lunch Ticket
 A Movie Afternoon
 Tickets to TSGS Movie afternoon
 Trip to Bowling
 Archery Session... A lots more!

and don't forget our Grand Prize!
 PLUS the first 8 people to collect 50 STAMPS will have a guaranteed ticket to Drayton Manor!

NAME: _____

'STAY ACTIVE!' Stamp Collection

Each time you attend an extra-curricular sports club, ask the teacher to sign and date each stamp. Remember, stamps mean prizes!

	5 Stamps Achieved		30 Stamps Achieved
	10 Stamps Achieved		35 Stamps Achieved
	15 Stamps Achieved		40 Stamps Achieved
	20 Stamps Achieved		45 Stamps Achieved
	25 Stamps Achieved		50 Stamps Achieved

Understanding other cultures event Arabic

Some of our Year 7 and Year 8 students took part in a lunchtime session to explore another culture on Wednesday 4th December. Students learned all about the fascinating and complex language and culture of Arabic. One of our Year 10 students, Zainab, kindly came to share what Arabic is, where the language is spoken and in which countries it originates from. Students also got to sample some Arabic food in the form of a Lebanese Mezze.



TEXTILES

Pupils from Textiles club who don't currently study textiles in school time have been coming along on Wednesday afternoons to learn how to use a sewing machine. They have also learnt 5 decorative techniques (space dye, tie & dye, batik, block printing & patchwork), learnt about construction methods & inserted a zip to create a functional cushion cover.

Well done girls!
 Mrs Preston



Pupils tried Middle Eastern treats such as Turkish Delight and a fig pastry called Mammoul. The students were delighted to learn some basics of the language, guided by Ms Walker, an Arabic interpreter. To end the session on a high note, Ms Everill demonstrated some Arabian dancing with lots of students having a go at some of the moves.



Next Generation Awards

On Monday, 7th October, Turves Green Girls' School hosted our second afternoon Tea-Dance, organised by our outstanding Next Generation Award participants. The project, which was an undeniable success, saw our girls as the first to run a project through to its successful conclusion. Chloe, Megan



welcome."

Special thanks must be given to Jade Morgan, who has mentored Chloe, Megan and Maya since they won the award and helped them organise the logistics and financing of the event. Also special thanks to Tanya Jones from Selly Oak Live at Home Scheme for generating interest and organizing transport for the visitors.

The girls have been invited back to this year's Next Generation Award finals to speak about their project and the journey they've been on. We aim to host two more similar events during this academic year.

You can access the video of the celebration via the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=uviXumlg3k4&feature=emb_logo



and Maya (all in Year 9) took responsibility for organising every aspect of the event: they prepared refreshments, entertainment and prizes for the all-important bingo game, where they were supported by a team of students from other year groups. The project was conceived by the girls to break down barriers between the generations. It gave the girls an opportunity to give something back to

the older generation and at the same time do the essential work of combatting loneliness and social isolation in older people. In an interview about the event, one of the students explained "I was speaking to a woman and she said she had no friends in the retirement home, so this is obviously why we're doing this, so they can make friends and also socialise with us." Feedback from everyone involved was overwhelmingly positive, with one of the visitors saying "We had such a laugh, so much fun...everybody was so friendly and the food was lovely and the girls had made all that themselves. I think it's good for the children and then it's good for older people to mix with the children. They made us feel very



Year 9

Good News

I would like to celebrate the wonderful work that our pupils do outside of school and so every term there will be an article in the newsletter celebrating their achievements.

This term I would like to highlight two girls in the Year 9 Btec Dance group that had the most amazing opportunity to dance in America over October half term. Kaianne and Jada dance for Victoria's School of Dance in Rubery and have been training in a range of dance styles for a number of years. The dance school selected a group of dancers to audition to be part of a Disney performance team. The team were successful in their audition and had the opportunity to train for a week in LA at some of the most famous and prestigious dance

studios in the world and train with some amazing choreographers. They then had the



opportunity to dance live on stage in Disneyland Adventure Park California. Both girls loved the experience, made some fabulous memories and gained valuable insight into a possible future career in this industry. We are very proud of them.

Also a big well done to the following Year 9 pupils for their achievements this term;

Year 9 Netball team for winning the league - Hannah, Keziah, Lily and Poppy (see back page)

Mali for competing successfully in an athletics competition

Paige – competed in a horse riding competition

Lucy - performed with the choir in Bournville Christmas Fayre

Leah – successfully attended a dance audition and took part in a dance show.

Hannah is a member of Stirchley Youth Theatre which put on performances of Cinderella at the weekend. Because she is a new member - of about a year - she had a small part but she was still in it!

Mrs Simcox



Cross Country

We had some outstanding results at the District Cross Country Championships on the 9th October 2019. Four of our pupils were selected to compete for the District at the County Championships (Amelia, Lauren, Katie and Aine).

We had 2 teams competing, Year 7 (Under 12) and Years 8 & 9 combined team (Under 14). The results of the team competitions will follow in the next newsletter.

Also, thank you to Miss Parkinson, who took the girls to the competition.



Year 7 (U12)



Year 8&9 (U14)

Netball

With a new rebuild of the school taking place, temporary classrooms have been built on the courts, therefore we were allowed to use the outdoor courts at Turves Green Boys' School for the first half term. With there being no floodlights on the courts from the end of October we have used the boys school sports hall once a week, to try and fit in training sessions and matches. Most of the matches have been at other schools, which has meant a lot of travelling. Despite all this, we have had some amazing Netball results, with both school teams becoming District League Champions!

Kings Norton District Netball League

Year 7 League

DISTRICT LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

The Year 7 team are undefeated, having won all their games and they are now District champions. This is a great achievement for their first year at Turves Green Girls' School.



Year 7 (U12) Netball Squad 2019-20

Year 9 League

(Combined Year 8 & 9 team)

DISTRICT LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

A number of girls from Year 8 & 9 this year were unable to play in the league matches this season for their individual year groups, so a team was entered into the Year 9 league, with a combination of Year 8 & 9 players (plus one from Year 7). After some very difficult and close fought games, they managed to win every game and are now District League champions. This is a great achievement as there were only 3 players from Year 9, that played regularly in every game.

A more detailed report will follow next term, along with a report on tournaments played.

Well done to all the girls

WASPS NETBALL SUPER LEAGUE SCHOOLS COACHING DAY

I took the Year 7 Netball squad to the Community Schools Netball Coaching day at the Ricoh Arena on the 14th November 2019. This was run by the players and coaches from the Wasps, Super League squad.

It was a fantastic day, with the girls meeting and having photos with Mel Mansfield, the Wasps coach. They also had a question and answer session and photos, with England international Jade Clarke who plays for the Wasps. She is the most capped player ever, having

played for her country over 170 times! She has also captained the team in the past.

Jade allowed the girls to wear her Commonwealth Gold medal and her World Championship Bronze medal and also have photos taken with it.

Bit of a longer journey back (nearly three hours) due to the floods, however, it was still a day the girls will always remember.



Year 7 Netball Squad with Jade Clarke (6th from left) England's most capped player.



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