

Aston and Nechells Foodbank

We are very pleased to announce that as an academy we are supporting the Aston and Nechells foodbank with their Harvest Appeal. This charity helps families who are in crisis, they literally can't afford to feed themselves or their children. Many families, who are referred to a food bank, often haven't eaten for days. Since April of this year our food bank has fed 563 adults and 345 children.

Our students and their families are being asked to donate a minimum of one food item (packet and tinned items only with a good sell by date), we are also asking for toiletries/nappies.

We are hoping to create over 100 food boxes!

Mrs L Soden



Achievement

Welcome to my first contribution to the WHA Newsletter. This newsletter is to be used as a celebration of success and to inform of key events happening regarding achievement. In striving towards achieving outstanding, academic achievement is taken extremely seriously.

To this end, intervention has already started for Year 11 and Year 10 students. This currently takes place in morning sessions 8.30 -9.05 and after school sessions. Students have been informed of these sessions. There were also intervention lessons that took place during the half term holiday and next half term Saturday classes will be starting; students will be informed if they are required to attend and parents/carers will be informed via text every week.

Attendance at these intervention classes is vital in order for the students to achieve their target grades. Studies show that students who attend such classes are far more likely to achieve their target grades and above, in their exams. I would like to commend the following students who have attended all of their intervention lessons:

Misbah Khan - Ben3, 100% English and Maths

Sidra Saghir - Ben7, 100% English and Maths

Afshaa Shareen - Ben8, 100% English and Maths

Hasan Ali - Har2, 100% English and Maths

Elvina Josephs - H5, 100% English and Science

Mohammed Miah - H13, 100% English and Science

Rohail Saleem - CH1, 100% English and Science

Ameena Bi - CH4, 100% English and Maths

Ali Khan - CHA9, 100% English and Maths

Junaid Khalid - CHA11, 100% English and Maths

Habiba Hussain - CHA12, 100% English and Maths

Rizwan Shaheen - Zeph4, 100% English and Maths

Areeba Ali - Zeph5, 100% English and Maths

Alaa Askri - Zeph9, 100% English and Science

Mahamed Haid - CHA8, 100% Science and Maths

Mohammed Hafeez - Ben4, 100% Science and Maths

Muhammed Hayam - Ben02, 100% Science and Maths

If you have any concerns regarding achievement at Washwood Heath Academy, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mrs Petrie, Deputy Headteacher.

Mr R Gifford
Achievement Leader

Poem

It's A Relief

It's all about this soft soul that grew into my life
not long ago,
It's all about this soppy sob story that pecks at
me like a hungry crow,
Death hasn't taken this soul from me so along
the river of life we row,
It's all about my beloved companion whom has
my dedication – and so.

The spectrum of light and the essence of time
regulate our conversational abyss,
She swallows my words and eats my eyes as my
hand cuddles the warmth beneath her wrist.

Often she meanders through my mind when I'm
learning my language and when I venture towards
near-blasphemous queries,
What mystical ideas and words can I use in my shoe
lace-earphone theories?

And now I've come to realise that hunting solemnly
for happiness bring weakly game,
Over-complicating your rhyming couplets does exactly
the same.
Shooting an arrow blindly into the forest of pheromone
fame,
Might just capture a beastly plagued creature that's far
from tame.

Hence the imagery I project to you, the reader, may make
you think of me as a disobeyer,
Maybe I'm one of them people in their own planet with an
indestructible diamond ozone layer.
And as for this cotton spirit I speak of like a '20s player,
To me she is the whole world and to my Heartville she is the
mayor.

Don't you think its repetitive how my sentences adopt one
topic and the kidnap another?
To my agony she is the aunt, and to my nature she is the mother.

I've done it again haven't I?
Said I to her when we were caught by her oldest brother.

I still stumble at the fact that both sides of my occupied heart
have yet to experience a hiccup in our bond,
She shuts my eyes, blocks my heart, tears my spine away,
introduces our lips,
But yet I still feel – that's how I grow more fond.

And that's why she makes me want to force people to find such
a magical soul like hers,
But it'd take them a hundred thousand weeks,
Five hundred thousand months,
And more likely a hundred million years.

Oh but I still remember that day we met at the old launder,
She was 43p short so I went up and paid the bill for her,
Now she's a whole heart short so I'm building it with mortar,
The correct amount of sand and the correct amount of water.

Her aura and mood are gorgeously constant unlike the lover
gone by,
Her love for me is a celebrity and she's never afraid to show how
and why.
What was I thinking in the winter of last year when I gave my
glove and
heart to the wrong spy?
Why didn't I walk to the old launder and rely on this white angel
to
change the way I looked at the sky?
'Why' is straight up that road and infinity to the right.

But it's a relief, it's a blessing, it's a one tonne golden nugget wait-
ing
for me in the road,
'Twas a soppy sob story promised I not long ago.

Anon

Who says Girls Can't Box? WHA Girls Certainly Can...

After the great success of the boys boxing club last year it was
time for the girls to show what they could do. So at the end of
last half term Mr Akbar passed on his boxing wisdom and we
were able to start our first girls boxing class with great success.
There was a great turnout for the first few sessions and the box-
ing talent is really starting to shine through. Girls from all years
are participating and confidence levels are building among
the camp.

Massive Thanks to Mr Akbar and for the support around the
school from the houses

All that needs to be said now is don't knock it until you've
tried it...come on girls give it a try, every Monday from 3pm to
4pm, Boys Gym. Girl Power right Ms Pugh?

Miss Majothi

Lunchtime Clubs

Days: Every Mondays,
Wednesday, Fridays

Times: Lunchtimes

Where it takes place: LS1

Open to: Years 7 and 8



Homework Club

Days: Wednesdays

Time: 3.00pm—3.45pm

Take place in: Information
Centre

Open to: Key stage 3 (Years
7 and 8)



Events

Friday 12 December
Christmas/Winter Fayre

Thursday 18 December
Concert

Friday 19 December
End of Term

Monday 5 January
Start of Term

Anti Bullying Week in School 17th—21st November

How do I stop bullying on social networks?

There are [lots of ways to stop cyber bullying and some of the best first steps include:](#)

- Reporting the person who is bullying you
- Blocking the person who is bullying you
- Taking a screenshot of the bullying
- Talking to an adult you trust

Each social network is different and it's not always easy to know how to deal with online bullying on different sites. Some of these sites are also aimed at those aged 13 and above to help protect young people.

How we can help

- Online chat on our website or email us at parentsupport@familylives.org.uk
- Free helpline 0808 800 2222
- Twitter: @BullyingUK
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/bullinguk
- DFE #stopbullying

iRead

iRead has been a huge success again this year and an impressive amount of progress has been made thanks to iRead and other reading programmes across school. 78% of pupils have improved their reading ages from September to May by at least 18 months. We have also been able to increase the reading age of student leaders from 12 to 14.

We would like parents to continue reading with their children at home as reading is one of the few skills that can lead to an improvement in pupil's grades across all subjects and it is a life skill that is essential for pupils in everyday life.

To continue to improve iRead, during 2014/15 we will be trialling the following:

- Magazines – e.g. Match, Shoot etc
- iPads – will be trailed with selected groups
- RM Nimbus – enables pupils to read books from home
- Visits from authors and poets
- Setting up an iRead student council group

Miss C Bradley

Trip to Cornwall

The Geography department took 48 GCSE pupils on a fabulous trip to Cornwall during September 2014 for pupils to experience first-hand, many key themes and topics learnt during the GCSE Geography course.

On day one the trip took us to the famous Eden Project where pupils discovered the Tropical Rainforest and Mediterranean biomes to experience global climates and ecosystems, and learnt how to better protect our planet. After a good night's sleep we spent the following morning walking along the highly impressive coastal path of the Trevoze Head Heritage Coast whilst observing the great variety of headlands and bays formed due to coastal erosion processes. In the afternoon we visited Newquay where pupils will spend time exploring a tourist town in an idyllic location, whilst considering the impact that tourism has had upon this small coastal town. During the final morning we visited Padstow to explore a quieter tourist town, and observe the sand deposits typical of a river mouth location along with getting in some much needed souvenir shopping.

As the Head of Geography I was extremely proud of everyone who attended the trip as they were all a credit to Washwood Heath Academy.

Mr Barnes

AS Media Studies Student's Visit ITV News Central

On Thursday 16th October Mr Griffiths and Ms Shabbir took the AS Media Studies group: Ibrar Gul, Sabrina Hussain, Ruksar Hussain, Marya Kausar, Amreen Khan and Haleema Sultana on an exclusive visit to the ITV News Studios on Gas Street, Birmingham. On the day the students took part in workshops and discussions and were literally able to find out what really happens behind the scenes in a working News Studio.



The group had first hand access to a busy working newsroom and engaged with journalists who are out creating the stories that we watch in the evening or read on the ITV news website. The group observed a briefing between the news editors and journalists discussing the main stories of the day and how they would be delivered on the programme. They sat back stage in the shooting gallery and observed aspects of the ITV news website being updated. They also participated in a conference call with the Nottingham branch of ITV central news who had delivered a special broadcast that evening on the boxer Carl Froch who had received the keys to the city.

The highlight for the students was meeting the ITV Central evening news presenters Steve Clamp and Sameena Ali-Khan who they asked several questions about their jobs as newsreaders/presenters and posed for photographs with on the set of the evening news.

Both students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it has sparked a genuine interest amongst the students to pursue a career in the Media industry and some of the students wish to work in the Television news itself.

Mr J Griffiths



Duke of Edinburgh

Last year nine outgoing 6th form students from Washwood Heath Academy embarked on a new endeavour, the Duke of Edinburgh Award. They have spent the year volunteering in various ways to help others, learning new skills, participating in physical activity and finally completing a two day expedition including an overnight camp. The Duke of Edinburgh award is a nationally recognised qualification that offers pupils the opportunity to develop themselves in ways other than academia including their self confidence and independence. All nine pupils have now successfully completed the award and can use it to enhance their chances of gaining a college place or securing a job. We have 21 new students signed up for this year who are excited and rearing to go.



Year 8 Cricket Kings!!

Last years U13 cricket team had a phenomenal year which will go down in Washwood Heaths sporting history.

It started with the winter programme in which they competed in the group stages of the indoor cricket league. They saw off some good opposition from Hodge Hill, Park View, Moseley and Salfley to name a few schools.

They reached the finals at Edgbaston's Indoor Cricket school where all the top test nations in the world have practised. The Year 8's didn't disappoint as they won all their games and came home defending their title from last year.

The summer hardball season started with some straightforward wins in the district league notably against Hodge Hill & Park View to name a few. So they secured another district title quite comfortably and played some games without their best players, showing their strength in depth.

They were invited to Warwickshire CC again to play in an invitational tournament "Chance To Shine". If they won this tournament they would represent our district in the All Midland Counties Final. Guess what they won that tournament undefeated

again and then had a chance to represent Birmingham in an all midlands competition held at semi professional outfits home ground Moseley Cricket Club.

The all Midlands final had teams from Rugby, Warwickshire, Coventry, and Leicestershire and as far as Shropshire. They played in group games and were victorious playing some grammar schools and good cricketing schools earning the right to represent the Midlands in a national final.

The national final was held at Northampton CC on the first team pitch. The finals consisted of teams from four areas; Gloucestershire, Yorkshire, Midlands and Surrey. The format consisted of two semi finals and concluded with a 3rd place play off and Final. The Washwood team were given brand new kits with their name on and provided with a coach to and from the game courtesy of the organisers.

Our boys names were also highlighted on the scoreboard at Northampton CC which was a great honour. We played the Gloucestershire champions in the semi final. Washwood bowled first in their seven over game and made light work of the

Gloucestershire batting, bowling them out for 34 runs. The Washwood Heath team made light work of this total knocking the runs off quickly and thus making the national final.

In the final they played Belverdere School from the affluent area of Surrey, so it was going to be a tough game. We lost the toss and had to bat first. Washwood tried to hard to put runs on the board quickly and paid for that error by scoring a low total. It unfortunately wasn't enough to stop Belverdere winning the tournament. A bit more caution and concentration to their batting could've paid dividends but a great achievement overall by our boys; an inner city school playing against their more affluent opponents throughout the whole process.

Well done boys were proud of you!!!

