



THE YARDLEYS NEWSLETTER

From our headteacher...



It gives me great pleasure to showcase, yet again, the wonderful range of opportunities afforded to our students in our latest edition of 'The Yardleian'.

This term has been another busy, but successful term and this edition gives just a small flavour of what makes our school such a special place in which to learn.

I would like to give a special mention to our current Year 11 students who are working extremely hard for their examinations, which are only a few weeks away. It seems a while ago now that we were all dealing with the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic, but our Year 11s did, like many students up and down the country, suffer in their education. Through their resilience and hard work, together with the tenacity and dedication of their teachers, I would like to pay testament to how well they have approached their studies and I look forward to seeing their results in the summer.

It is also important to recognise the huge role that learning beyond the classroom plays in the curriculum. At Yardleys, as well as academic excellence, we feel it is important to focus on the 'whole child' so that they are ready for life after school. In this edition of the Yardleian you will see just how many opportunities there are for students to experience, through trips, visits, external speakers, our enrichment and extra-curricular programmes and much more. We are constantly listening to feedback from students about what, and how, they would like to make their experience at Yardleys even better.

On a sad note, we have been informed of the passing of Mrs Eileen Carradine, a former teacher at Yardleys (1958 - 1984). Eileen started as a Chemistry teacher, then progressed to Deputy Headteacher and Acting Headteacher when Mr Wilfred retired. We gratefully remember her service to the school and the wider community.

I do hope you enjoy reading this latest edition. All it remains for me to say is a huge thank you to you, as parents and carers, for your ongoing support. It really is appreciated.

We look forward to seeing students back in school on **Monday 17th April 2023**.

Neil Warner

Neil Warner
Headteacher



Parental Information

Parents Evenings

Since our last edition of the Yardleian, we have had a number of Parents Evenings, both face-to-face and remote. Attendance has been impressive, averaging over 80%.

Online News

Please check our Twitter feeds on our website www.yardleys-vle.com to see the latest Yardleys news.

The image displays three Twitter feeds side-by-side. The first feed, 'School Tweets', shows two tweets from @YardleysSchool. The first tweet, dated Mar 14, mentions Year 8 students writing replies to letters from a secondary school in Zaragoza, Spain, and includes a photo of several handwritten letters. The second tweet, dated Mar 13, mentions a display board for Y9 students' creative design work. The second feed, 'Sports Tweets', shows two tweets from @Yardleys_sport. The first tweet, dated Mar 14, mentions KS3 students attending a Multisport SEND festival and includes a photo of students playing sports. The second tweet, dated Mar 13, mentions a new display board for Orienteering. The third feed, 'Personal Development Tweets', shows two tweets from @YardleysPD. The first tweet, dated Feb 27, mentions the start of Fairtrade Fortnight 2023 and includes a logo for the event. The second tweet, dated Feb 7, mentions Safer Internet Day and includes a link to online safety quizzes.

VLE Access for Parents

All parents now have login access to the VLE, where they can see the following information regarding for their child(ren):

- Achievement
- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Progress Reports (latest)
- Timetable

Passwords for access have been texted out. If any parents/carers require support with access, please contact the school office.

The image shows a screenshot of the Yardleys School website. The header features the school logo and the slogan 'WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for 'ABOUT SCHOOL', 'PARENTS', 'STUDENTS', 'SUPPORT SERVICES', 'WORKING WITH PARENTS', 'CONTACT US', and 'SPECIAL NEEDS'. Below the navigation menu is an 'ANNOUNCEMENTS' section with a link to 'See our latest news & events - HERE'. The main content area features a large image of a student in a hijab smiling while working on a colorful paper craft project. Below the image is a row of six icons representing school values: 'Cuncoery' (a magnifying glass), 'Empathy' (two people), 'Integrity' (a handshake), 'Positivity' (a checkmark), 'Reflection' (a lightbulb), and 'Resilience' (a green arrow pointing up).

Praise & Reward

UK Bebras Computing Challenge - Yardleys winner

Bebras International Contest on Informatics and Computer Literacy is organised in over 50 countries in association with the University of Oxford and Hertford College. It is designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. Each participant answers questions that focus on computational and logical thinking, with assessments completed online.

Mustafa Arsalaan (10 PRK) received a Certificate for Best in School in the Seniors category (ages 14-16) with a High Distinction graded score of 140 points. Outstanding achievement and well done Mustafa!



Brilliant Club Graduation, University of Warwick

On Wednesday 8th February, 12 students were awarded a certificate for their participation in The Scholars Programme at a special event.

Daawuud Abd-us-Samad	10 AQS
Akifah Ahmed	10 RNE
Maleehah Faisal	10 PRJ
Riyadh Hussain	10 BMH
Arsalaan Mustafa	10 PRJ
Iqra Nazir	10 PRJ
Ahmed Othman	10 CET
Mohammed Rehan	10 RNE
Safa Shafil	10 BMH
Mohammed Umar	10 BHA
Noreen Wali	10 BMH
Danyaal Zaman	10 BMH



Commendations - School Charter



Be Ready

Year 7 Parents Evening
Headteacher letters of commendation were awarded to six students for their notable support at this event, demonstrating how much

of a great ambassador they are for our school. In particular, **Tariq Alshameeri (11 PKZ)** took the initiative to support our parents with translation, enabling them to understand what teachers were saying, which was really impressive. Such acts of kindness and generosity which help others is commendable and will stand our students in good stead for their future career aspirations.

Unifrog Profile Awards were given to 76 students for completing their profile quizzes.

Subjects - 18 students (Years 9-11) were commended by the Headteacher for their sustained efforts in RE, Biology or Geography, specifically recognising their honourable ongoing effort in lessons and with homework as well as demonstrating a real commitment in preparation up to Assessment Week.

Homework - 70 students were commended for their sustained efforts with their homework consistently over the previous half term, demonstrating a brilliant commitment to their learning.



Subject Spotlight

ENGLISH

To Be Or Not To Be, That Is The Question!

Fostering a life-long love of reading is something that sits firmly at the heart of both the English curriculum and the school's priorities and aims. Great stories provide mirrors to our own world and windows to the worlds of others, promoting some of our core school values such as: curiosity, empathy and reflection.

It is this notion of what makes a great story, that we have been celebrating both within the English Department and around the school this term. Firstly, as teachers, we began teaching the

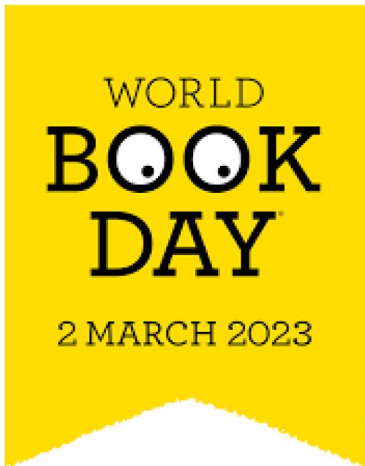
newly introduced play *'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'* to Year 9 students. The story centres around Christopher (who demonstrates traits commonly identified on the Autistic spectrum) as he begins the search for the murderer of his neighbour's dog, Wellington. This story is so much more than simply a murder mystery, with the second half of the text adhering to conventions of the bildungsroman genre as Christopher goes on his own journey of self-discovery. Year 9 have loved this story! For many students it provides a window into other worlds as they develop an appreciation for different neurological conditions, and provides opportunities to make cross-curricular links, deepening their understanding of frantic assembly and breaking of the fourth wall from Drama studies. We can't wait until this play goes back on tour as teachers and students alike are keen to see the story brought to life on stage.

This term also marked a number of key dates in the literary calendar, perhaps most notably, World Book Day. A whole day set aside to appreciate books, authors and reading. To celebrate and raise awareness for the day, Ms Arshad and the English Department ran two whole school competitions: Designing a Bookmark and the other, a Scavenger Hunt of English teachers' favourite books. Ms Keskinilinc also supported the event and ensured World Book Day vouchers were available on the day to all students via the VLE so they could use these to pick up their free books from high street retailers. Both competitions were a huge success with students hunting high and low to uncover Ms Arshad's own favourite book which had been sneakily hidden in her classroom.

The hunt also proved a useful 'warm up' for a much bigger whole school scavenger hunt planned late March to celebrate Shakespeare week. Students will need to search the whole school for some of the bard's most famous quotations and match them to his plays in order to be in with a chance of winning!

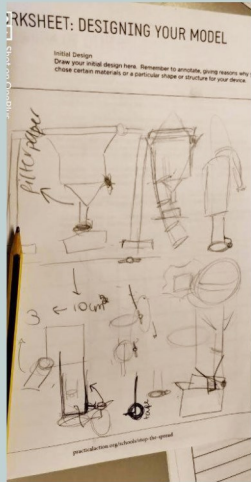
Combining our love of Shakespeare with National Poetry Day, students will also have the opportunity this term to read and study some of Shakespeare's most famous sonnets (like the one on the back page) in the hope that this will inspire our next generation of poets - look out for another whole school writing competition coming soon.

Ms B Austin, Head of English



Events & Experiences

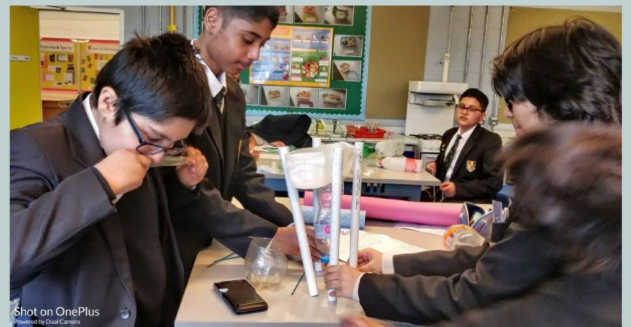
Yardleys Scholars Programme



Twelve highly able students from each year group were selected to take part in the programme, designed to help our most able students fulfil their academic potential.

A large aspect of the programme is about encouraging students to engage more in lessons and the Extra-Curricular programme, making the most of what we already offer all students here at Yardleys.

The programme was launched by students completing a Science Crest Award in March. One of the activities involved students designing, building and testing a model handwashing device, using plastic bottles, which would capture and dispense water for a village in Kenya.



Charity Skip

Ms James completed her 100 skips per day during February, raising **over £195** for Cancer Research. Ms James initiated the event in memory of our former teacher, **Ms Williams**, who sadly passed away at the age of 34.

Well done Ms James for initiating the fund raising and keeping in the present the precious memories of those gone by.



Science Club (Years 7 & 8)

The KS3 Practical Science Club held weekly on **Mondays 3:00-3.30pm**, aims to help develop the practical skills of KS3 students by engaging them in practical experiments that do not form part of the core curriculum and therefore, would not otherwise have the opportunity to do in lessons.

Students are encouraged to take part in extra-curricular science to learn how to use equipment properly and complete experiments which explain science in day-to-day life. For example, why are leaves green, why is toothpaste alkaline, how can we protect the environment and surroundings from acid rain?

Photo: KS3 Practical Science Club in action, using acids, alkalis and universal indicator solution to make a rainbow!



Attendance Matters

Yardleys wins an FFT National School Attendance Award

We are delighted to announce that Yardleys School ranked within the top 10% of all secondary schools in England for the last term, autumn 2022, by the Fischer Family Trust ("FFT"). This is what they said about our school.



FFT collects daily attendance data from over 10,500 schools....Whilst all schools do an amazing job to improve pupil attendance, we'd like to say a special 'thank-you' to your school by presenting you with an FFT National School Attendance Award.



At Yardleys School we are proud that the attendance of our students is above the national average. Excellent school attendance can only be achieved through a collaborative approach between schools and parents/carers. We recognise that this is not possible without your commitment. Thank you to parents and carers for your practical support and encouragement to ensure that your child attends school every single day.

Daily attendance is a foundation for students to achieve their academic potential at GCSE. Simply put, the more students are at school, the more opportunity there is for them to learn and retain knowledge.

Last year's Year 11 students who attained the highest grades and made the most progress, were excellent attenders, having been at school at least 97% of their time during all years 7 - 11.

Any concerns

We recognise that various circumstances and certain life events outside of school can adversely affect school attendance, even if temporarily. Therefore, should you wish to discuss any matter which may be affecting your child's attendance, please contact the relevant Head of Year in the first instance, or myself, as soon as possible. We want to do everything that we can to ensure that all of our students are in school, effectively learning each day, so that they all have every opportunity to develop and flourish.

Year	Head of Year
7	Mr S Sohal
8	Mr B Tilley
9	Mr P Buckley
10	Ms J Killarney
11	Mr E Lawrence

Mr Buckley, Whole School Attendance Lead

Careers

Our Careers Education Information & Guidance Programme runs for all school years to help students explore potential careers, consider suitable post-16 further/higher education and apprenticeships, and contemplate wider skills development, in preparation for the choices faced ahead.

Careers Interviews

Students are offered the following two careers interviews:

1. Year 9 to help support them with their GCSE options selection (15 minutes)
2. Years 10 or 11 to advise them towards their chosen career path and post-16 destination (25-30 minutes)

Year 9 Options



In preparation for students choosing their GCSE options after Easter, Year 9 careers interviews have now commenced. Students were handed a careers interview slip confirming their interview slot and which provided some useful information about how to prepare for the interview in order to get the most out of it.

A parents' information event will also be held on Tuesday 25th April.

Year 10 Work Experience Programme

The programme has been introduced back into the school again, with Year 10 students out at a one-week work experience placement during March. All students spent the week with a local employer, with over 50% of students having found their own placements, with the rest allocated based on their interests and ability to travel. To help prepare students for their work experience, so that they know what to expect and what employers' expectations of them might be generally, a series of focussed assemblies took place, supported by Learn to Work.

Completing work experience enables students to gain an understanding of the work environment and what employers expect from their workers such as reliability, good time-keeping, teamwork and honesty. It provides opportunities for students to find out more about their own strengths and weaknesses and what motivates them in a job. Students are also able to find out about other people's career paths whilst they are at their placements. Feedback from employers and the experience gained whilst at a placement also helps students with future job and course applications, including being able to demonstrate positive characteristics and broader knowledge, skills and experience within personal statements required by universities.

Gaining an insight into a career or industry can help young people with their decisions about their future career path. It also provides a good opportunity for the students to use and develop the valuable skills that they have gained at school in a different context, as well as gaining new skills.



Post-16 Applications

Year 11 students are busy making their applications to local colleges for their post-16 learning routes, with many students choosing to apply to a broad range of providers. Arrangements were made for interviews to take place in school for 76 students who had applied to Joseph Chamberlain College for a place starting September 2023. 70 of these students received a conditional offer, with 86% of the offers being for a Level 3 qualification, either as A-levels, a mixture of A-Levels and BTEC L3 Certificates, or as a L3 Extended Diploma, demonstrating great progression in the students' learning.

Ms J Price
Careers Education Adviser



Extra-Curricular Fair

Friday 27th January 2023

We held a fair in the Sports Hall to showcase to students the range of clubs available within school, particularly the activities new this term. There was a great excitement and energy in the hall, which was lovely for everyone to see.



Music was evidently popular with a few notable highlights being:

Zachariah Curry (9 SNR) - Absolutely amazing on the electric guitar and apparently, self-taught! He demonstrated a real passion and talent for music and was a perfect reminder about what we are trying to achieve as a school.

Even our very own **Ms O'Loughlin**, who has been at Yardleys for over 34 years, had a go!

Dylan Darton (8 DYP) - Pretty awesome on the drums and has now signed up for lessons.

Year 9 - Students jostling for position to play **TT Rockstars** just because it was on a big screen!

School Choir & Instrumental lessons

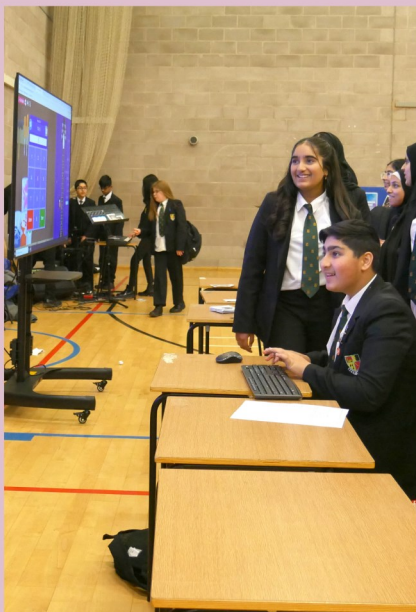
Our school choir meets on **Tuesday lunchtimes** and we now offer a range of music lessons at incredibly low prices. Just £30 for 10 x 30 minutes lessons, that's only **£3 per lesson**. Instruments include drums, guitar, bass and keyboard, as well as singing lessons. For more information or to sign up, students should ask **Mr Dodds**.



PE Ambassadors

Yardleys PE Ambassadors took the lead on demonstrating the array of sports on offer in our extra-curricular programme. The stage was set with interactive activity stations ranging from archery to the plank challenge.

Pupils (and staff) could compete for best scores on six activity areas or sign up to show interest in lunch or after school clubs. There was also the opportunity to talk to PE Ambassadors on their role in promoting PE and sign up to join the ever-growing team of leaders at Yardleys.



Sports & more

In addition to our range of sports, we have other non-sport related activities, such as, our Homework Club, Making Friends Club (with board games), Debating Society and more. We will continue to review and develop our programme here at Yardleys.



Book Club

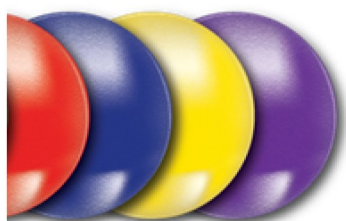
This has now started up on **Tuesday breaktimes** in the Library. Please see **Ms Keskinilinc** or just pop along!



Yardleys School Extra Curricular – Term 2 2022/23

	Lunch	After School (every day to 4pm, except Wednesday to 4.30pm)
Monday	Basketball – Sports Hall (PYE) Homework Club – Library (KCP/BAK) Homework club – 201 Yrs7-11 (RAD,PER) Art Catch up (KS4) – 105 (DSH) ICT Catch up (Yr11) – 204 (CET) Wed Design Club (Yr9) – 204 (KNS) Spanish Club (Yr7)* – 208 (HNJ) Making Friends Club – 107a (JSC, CYM, NIH)	Homework Club – Library (KCP, BAK, BSM) Basketball – Sports Hall (PYE) Art Catch-up (KS4) – 106 (SML) KS3 TT Rockstars Club – 202 (GXT & Others)
Tuesday	Badminton – Sports Hall (PYE) Table Tennis – Gym (BTJ) Choir – 118 (DSJ)	Homework Club – Library (KCP, BAK,BSM) KS3 Football – Field (BTJ) Girls Football – Field (BYA) KS4 Football – Field (SHL) Trampoline – Gym (PYE) Netball – Sports Hall (TDN) KS3 TT Rockstars Club – 202 (GXT & Others)
Wednesday	KS4 Cricket – Sports Hall (SHL) Dance – 222 (BYA) Multi-Sports* – Gym (PYE)	Homework Club – Library (KCP/BAK) Homework club – 201 Yrs7-11 (RAD,PER) Making Friends Club – 107a (JSC, CYM, NIH)
Thursday	Girls Football – Gym (BYA) Girls Only Fitness – 222 (PYE) KS3 Cricket – Sports Hall (ZKO)	Homework Club – Library (BAK) Homework club – 201 Yrs7-11 (RAD,PER) UKMT – KS3 (top sets) RYP Real World Chemistry – 204 (AQS) Electronics Club – (KNR) Year 11 Biology Hub – 308 (SNN) Music Technology Club – 101 (DSJ) Making Friends Club – 107a (JSC, CYM, NIH)
Friday	Barbell / weight training Club – 222 (SHL) Girls Indoor Cricket League – Sports Hall (PYE) Football Reward Club* – Gym (BTJ) * Invitation only	Homework Club – Library (BAK) Homework club – 201 Yrs7-11 (RAD,PER) French Club (Yr7)* – (HNJ) Science 'Curiosity Club' – (HYR) Making Friends Club – 107a (JSC, CYM, NIH)

Rewards & Recognition



A colour badge if you regularly attend an extra-curricular club



A special badge if you represent a school



Bronze = two
Silver = three
Gold = four

Viva España!

Barcelona Trip



On Wednesday 1st February we set off for the airport at 5:45am to start our first excursion in Barcelona at 2pm local time, with the first stop, lunch! We then spent the day walking around the coast and dipping our toes in the sea before sitting down for a buffet dinner.

We started Day 2 with a boat trip around the beautiful port of Barcelona, walking through the main street Las Ramblas and had lunch in the market, putting all those Spanish skills into practice. We then headed to Poble Espanyol where students made their own pendant. The day ended with a tapas dinner and an amazing flamenco show.

Day 3 was very cultural, seeing the Gothic Quarter, Picasso Museum and the Science Museum, which was absolutely amazing! We were very blessed to have fabulous weather over the three days and overall, a great time was had by all, staff included.



Ms G Cuniappen, MFL Teacher

‘Glastonbury goes global’

Friday 27th February saw six of our highest achieving Year 9 Spanish students taking part in an event held at Warwick University along with other high achieving schools. The task was to create an event similar to Glastonbury but in a Spanish setting. Students had to put their business skills into practice as well as their Spanish skills by designing the event, interviewing the Mayor and a celebrity in Spanish, as well as purchasing materials for the event, also, all in Spanish!

Our students came 2nd out of 10 teams. Well done to **Abdullah Ahmed, Marwa Ahmedzai, Mahnoor Ali, Baraa Dwimi, Alisha Kaur and Abdur Khan.**

All quiet on the Western Front!

Battlefields Trip, Belgium

To deepen students' understanding of the First World War, on Wednesday 15th February, 40 of our Year 10 and 11 students made an impressive early start to travel to Belgium. The concept of driving onto a train that goes under the sea also expanded their horizons. We visited the Passchendaele museum, Newfoundland Memorial Park and the Somme to stand in a variety of French fields. While at the Somme, we visited the impressive Thiepval memorial which bears the names of several Yardleys students. Around Ypres, we visited the Menin Gate and went chocolate shopping. The students showed a lot of respect at several memorials including the huge Tyne Cot memorial. Overall, a trip that we hope the students will remember well.



Visiting From:	Comments:
Marchuk	RIP
Yardley's School - Brum down!	eye opening experience!
Woolley school :)	first time here! will always be remembered

What some of our students thought:

- "It can't be a road, it's made of cobblestones" - **Abdul** in Ypres.
- "These are the best toilets on the trip" - Girls at Newfoundland Memorial Park.
- "I found them all!" - **Khadija**, finding the others at Thiepval Memorial.
- "Eye opening experience" - **Yusra** in the Thiepval visitor book.
- "Are they always this quiet?" - Chocolate shop worker in Ypres.
- "Damn" - **Abdur** summing up my talk on the experience of soldiers going over the top at the Somme.
- "This trip's actually fun" - **Danish**.



Round-Up

Boys' Football

The football teams have had some success in the leagues, cups and tournaments we have entered this term. Our Year 9 team made the semi-final in the Year 9 cup, so we're all hoping to put a winning trophy in the cabinet.

Cricket

We've had real success in the indoor leagues, with both our Year 7s and unbeaten Year 9s, qualifying for the regional finals held at Edgbaston. The Year 8s and Year 10s are yet to be confirmed as finalists, but we are hopeful for the future following some more recent strong wins and performances.

Mr L Smith, Acting Head of PE

Sporting Highlights



Dance Divas make their move at the Birmingham Hippodrome finals!

Some of our Year 10 girls qualified for the **All Styles Dance City** final held in January. They showed immense grit and determination following last minute changes to their routine due to illness and injury.

Shafaah Akhtar was awarded the "Stand Out Dancer" trophy at the event for her amazing leadership and choreography skills.

I was extremely proud of all of them and their behaviour and conduct whilst on the trip was impeccable. A real credit to Yardleys School.



Girls' Football

In January, Year 7 girls competed in their first football tournament held at **Waverley School**. Whilst they did not earn any medals, they did thoroughly enjoy themselves and certainly gave it their best shot!

Despite the very low temperatures, snow and howling winds, the girls played extremely well and thoroughly enjoyed the "**Biggest Ever Football Session**" held on International Women's Day, **organised by the FA**. They joined thousands of girls across the country that took part in the event. Huge thanks to King Edward VI School in Aston for hosting the event.

Ms A Bradley, PE Teacher



COUNTY CRICKET COACHING



Table Cricket continued after Christmas with many students during Wednesday lunchtimes participating in taster sessions from Warwickshire Cricket Coach, Rob. This half term 10 lucky ladies have received a 'Table Cricket' unit during their PE lessons.



Following the taster cricket day, Zak returned to run a **Girls' Cricket Coaching session on Wednesday lunchtimes**. These sessions provide increased opportunities for girls to take part in a fun, active and engaging cricket programme. All girls are welcome to attend.



H-Band -v- V-Band Football

The battle has begun, starting with Year 7 boys' football. H-Band had the upper hand scoring first, but then V-Band scored in the second-half, resulting in a 1-1 draw! Next up, comes Year 7 girls football, dodgeball and athletics.



INSIDE LEAGUES

Staff -v- Students Series (Staff 4 - Students 1)

So far the series has bought about exciting fixtures for netball, indoor football, outdoor football, basketball and cricket. The next fixture is the indoor girls' football.



PE AMBASSADORS

The PE Ambassadors have had a busy term. Here's just a few things they have been doing:

- Planned, organised and led activities for the **Extra-Curricular Fair**.
- Helped increase girls' football opportunities at the **Football Leadership** event, at the Nechells Wellbeing Centre.
- Completed the **'Active in Mind' training** leadership event, which aims to improve mental health through physical activity and sports participation. Our PE Ambassadors created an action plan that will also benefit many other students at Yardleys.
- Participated in the **Junior Squash competition** at **Birmingham University** in January, playing and watching some of the most talented young players in the world play squash.
- A team of very talented KS4 PE Ambassadors led two back-to-back school games at the **Primary Athletics Finals** at the Nechells Wellbeing Centre. Each led their own field event and track events collectively for over 200 primary pupils during the day! What a fantastic opportunity and achievement. They all fabulously well and are a credit to the school.

Upcoming events include Table Cricket training for staff and PE Ambassadors, leading the Primary Multi sports event and Comic Relief fundraising activities.

COLLEGIATE TOURNAMENTS

Badminton

Our KS3 and KS4 teams represented Yardleys at **Ark Victory** in November and December respectively. The boys played well in both singles and doubles events, with **Faizin** not losing a single game and one of our teams came in 2nd place! Well done to all, with your 2nd and 3rd places.



Boccia & Kurling Festival

In December we took two teams of pupils to **Colmers School** to compete in this annual event. Although unlucky this year in Boccia, after a valiant effort from all involved, we managed to reach the finals and secured 2nd place in Kurling. Well done everyone and especially **Adrian** and **Shakeb**. Good luck in the school games finals!



Indoor Athletics

In February, our KS3 team made the finals at the Doug Ellis Centre. The team fought well, securing a very respectable 3rd place victory! Our Year 8 athletics girls and boys squads also performed amazingly in the Sportshall Athletics event hosted by Washwood Heath School. The collegiate event was full of fun track and field events putting our teams through their pace! Well done to all of our competitors, especially the girls team who secured 1st place and a place in the School Games Finals



Well done all students who participate and represent Yardleys School.
Ms E Perry, PE Teacher

Basketball



NBA mixed basketball tournaments started with home and away tournaments with

Bromsgrove School. Yardleys hosted the **Year 8 Girls' Birmingham Basketball** league to ensure students had the opportunity to play all teams in their group. The girls won their first match against Bishop Challenor, lost to Selly Park, Bartley Green and Aston Manor and came joint 3rd place overall. **Year 11 Birmingham Basketball** at St Thomas Aquinas, like the Year 9 tournament, started with a great win, but followed by two close losses.

We also played host to both the KS3 girls and boys tournaments this season, with the boys coming 2nd place, narrowly missing out on the School Games finals. The girls brilliantly won and attended the School Games finals in February. The day before we were gifted with a timely coaching session from **City of Birmingham Rockets coach, Mr Mintoff** from Hannah Reed, School Games Organiser, which later led to a phenomenal match in the 3v3 Basketball finals at the City of Birmingham Rockets in Nechells, narrowly missing out by one point!



Trustee Update

Last edition I explained a little of our responsibilities as trustees and introduced you briefly to the individuals who make up the Yardleys Board of Trustees. This time, I would like to give you some idea of what we do as trustees.

- **Strategy** - Trustees have a strategic role. Day-to-day operational running of the school is managed by the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team ("SLT"). As trustees we are in regular contact to know what is happening and to ensure that it is in line with the law and Yardleys' ethos and School Charter.
- **Committees** - The full governing board, Audit Committee, Curriculum & Standards Committee and Finance Committee each meet between three and six times per year. We review quite a bit of paperwork online, as it is environmentally friendly. We discuss any issues arising from the paperwork, ask questions of the relevant staff or SLT and review policies to ensure they are up-to-date and fit for purpose. Helen, our Vice Chair, also chairs the Curriculum & Standards Committee. Chris said they challenged "brutally" during discussions about the Assessment Week results, including how the school was improving the achievements of our students of higher ability, Pupil Premium and SEND. Helen and Chris certainly are real critical friends of the school and were recently interviewed, alongside myself, by the Lead Ofsted Inspector, who was full of praise for how well we knew the school.
- **Safeguarding** - Together with Adil, Vice Chair, I am in regular communication with Mr Lawrence (DSL) and Ms Mukadam (DDSL). During visits we observe how any concerns are logged and followed up. I recently observed the audit of our Single Central Record and was delighted to see members of the Admin Team praised for their work.
- **SEND** - Myself and our two trustees responsible for SEND meet with Mr Thornton and Mrs Yates regularly. Suzie and I recently attended a SEND Parent Workshop and were enthralled by how much Mr Thornton knew, not just about SEND topics, but the individual students themselves and what the school is doing to support them.
- **Mental Health** - Saiqa and Pat routinely visit the school to observe how we support students, including the different counsellors, Loudmouth theatre productions and referrals for specific support.
- **Behaviour** - Bob has met with Ms Yates, Ms Hines and individual students within the Isolation Unit.
- **Finance** - Nadeem expertly chairs our Finance Committee, ensuring the school remains financially stable.
- **Education** - Peter is well known for his scrutinous reading of all documents and for asking searching questions. He also observes Loudmouth productions and talks to individual members of staff at school.
- **Facilities & Staff Trustees** - Benn Gray is our link with the on-site facilities company, Galliford Try, as well as our Health & Safety Representative, providing us with timely advice and training. Benn, together with Ed Lawrence and Tim Gordon, are able to answer and raise quite challenging questions.

We care about every student, look at the whole child and listen to ideas. A parent trustee recently suggested that the school have a recycling scheme for school uniforms; this is now in place. We see how guided reading is being managed, what opportunities there are for school trips, ie, visits to the theatre, countryside, cities etc. I am personally in school at least fortnightly, and, like other trustees, have observed lessons, assemblies, met with staff, parents and students. I love finding out what others think of the school and discretely share comments, good or bad, with Mr Warner for appropriate follow-up; one example of this led us to changing caterers.



This term, the board is being reviewed externally on whether we function effectively; we will let you know what they think of us. In the meantime, please do check the VLE regularly to see what's occurring, our sports results and a whole host of information about the curriculum, staff, school letters and useful links to access further support on a range of issues.

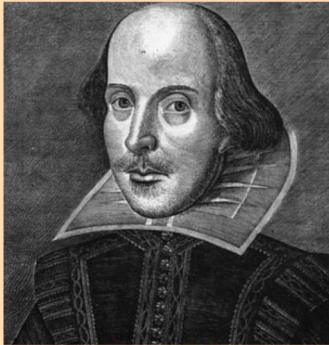
We would like to meet with more parents/carers; if you have any ideas, please do get in touch.

Jean Helme, Chair of Trustees



POETRY IN MOTION

Sonnet 130 to launch next term's Shakespeare week



*My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;
Coral is far more red than her lips' red;
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.
I have seen roses damasked, red and white,
But no such roses see I in her cheeks;
And in some perfumes is there more delight
Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.
I love to hear her speak, yet well I know
That music hath a far more pleasing sound;
I grant I never saw a goddess go;
My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground.
And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare
As any she belied with false compare.*

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Since our last meeting in November, we are pleased to have introduced our new caterers in January and are completing a review of the initial feedback from students and staff.

We are also developing some ideas around the previous suggestions raised, ie, improvements to our Fitness Suite, heating and toilet facilities, further life learning, PD and careers topics, more external visitors/assemblies, rewards & recognition, charity events and non-school uniform days. Don't forget, students can raise any suggestions or concerns through our School Council.



STUDENT EDITORIAL

We are still looking for budding journalists to run this Student Voice page in future Yardleian editions.

Why not give it a go, you never know where it may lead?!

If you're interested, please speak to Mr Sohal or Mr Ziebeck.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Since September 2022 Yardleys has welcomed many students from around the world. Our most recent arrivals have come from Spain, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sudan.

All of the new students, from Years 7 to 11, have done exceptionally well in their English intervention sessions with our EAL specialist teachers Mrs Kaur and Miss Nazarali.

A big well done and congratulations to our international students who continue to progress in their English language skills.

