

THE YARDLEIAN

THE YARDLEYS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO.1

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Record exam results...

We are particularly proud of the achievements of our pupils in their GCSE exams some of who have achieved outstanding results. For example: -

Victor Adeyemi – 5 grade 9s and 3 grade 8s

Raess Anwar – 5 grade 9s and 1 grade 8, 7 & 6

Muhammad Saad – 5 grade 9s, 2 grade 8s/A* and 2 grade 6s

Haleemah Hayter – 3 grade 9s, 3 grade 8s and 2 grade 7s

Hashim Chaudhury – 1 grade 9, 7 grade 8s and 1 grade A/7

Mohammed Rahman – 3 grade 9s, 3 grade 8s and 1 grade 6 & 7

Ruweyda Osman – 2 grade 9ss, 2 grade 8s, 3 grade 7s and 1 grade 6

Well done to our Year 11 pupils who have achieved the best ever GCSE results at Yardleys School.

67% of pupils passed their Maths and English with a grade 4 or better. This is above the national average and is a significant increase from the 56% achieved last year.

Overall in all subjects 71% grades were awarded at grade 4 or better and 60% at grade 5.

Again these are higher than the national average.

A fifth of all grades were awarded at grade 7 (A) or better.

These results are testament to the hard work of both pupils and teachers and the support from families and friends of the school.

Congratulations to all our pupils and we wish them all our best wishes in the next stage of their education and life after Yardleys.



a warm welcome from our headteacher..

Welcome to the first edition of our school newsletter, The Yardleian, which is named after the old school journal dating back to 1904.

As a school we are aiming to ensure that our pupils achieve both academic excellence as well as providing a broad education which develops them personally so they are ready for life.

This edition covers some of the many amazing achievements and experiences over the last year as well as looking forward to some of the upcoming school events and developments.

Thank you for your interest and continued support for the school, without which we would not achieve our overall aim of 'working together for a better future'.

Keep Troth.

Brynley Evans
Headteacher

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EDITORIAL.

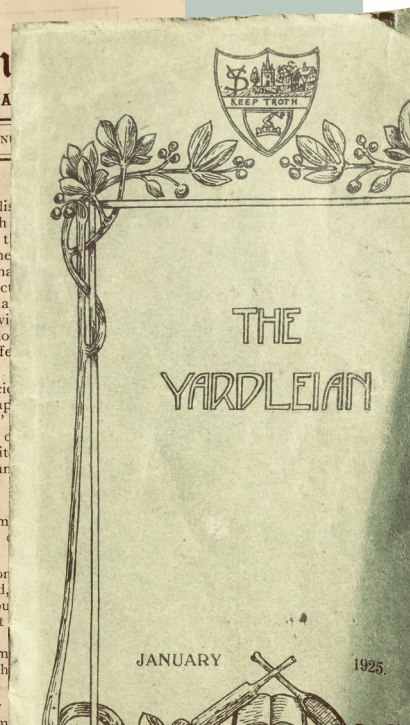
It is with mingled feelings of gratitude and disview the Editor's desk, scattered and strewn with scripts of varied shapes and sizes,—gratitude for the interest in the Yardleian manifested by the eagerness to subscribe not only shillings but articles, and dismay at deciphering the various caligraphies and of selecting suitable of these voluntary contributions for a magazine capacity is limited. So we hope our subscribers will be appointed if we have not space in this number to articles we have received. To one and all we offer thanks for their support.

The accounts of the different School societies—Natural History, Literary and Debating—which appear on pages, bear their own witness to "the joyous life" (and without) our walls; while the excellent posters of the History Society, the introduction of music into the Lit and the enthusiastic applause which greets the Grand Friday morning, testify that at Yardley, place is a cultivation of the Fine Arts.

We are glad to welcome this term two new members, Bateman and Miss Cummins, who joined the Staff last September.

We congratulate very heartily Mr. A. Baker on his appointment to the Staff at Rock Ferry Schools, Birkenhead, his success and happiness in his new sphere of labour purely selfish point of view, we are very sorry that us, for Yardley will lose an able and loyal teacher, who has contributed much to the life of the School. We remember his work during the difficult days of the war, when his heart and soul of the School Cadet Corps.

As we wish to reserve all possible space in our magazine for the contributions of our supporters, we refrain from



our new school extension...

This year will see the completion of an exciting new project at Yardleys. We are building an extension at the end of the DT corridor to provide some extra facilities which will benefit everyone.

Plans include two additional classrooms, a multi-purpose hall and toilets which can be easily accessed from the playground and playing fields which will be especially useful at lunchtime.

The hall will be slightly larger than our current canteen and about two thirds the size of our main hall. It will offer a second space for dining – following extensive feedback from students about the length of queues at lunchtime. The hall will also be suitable for lessons, exams and assemblies and, thanks to special tables which will fold back completely into the walls when not in use, the hall will also provide a wonderful space for PE and fitness activities.

We are grateful to Jill Wilson our Academy Business Manager, the school governors, AMG construction, Tweedale architects and our project managers Faithful & Gould for all their work in making sure the new extension will be ready for pupils later in the Autumn term.



excellent teaching and learning...

Curriculum changes

All schools are undergoing considerable changes in their curriculum as a result of the government's introduction of new 9-1 GCSEs. Yardleys' staff have worked tirelessly to plan new courses and prepare pupils for the new challenging exams. Staff have attended exam board courses, written new schemes of work, provided summaries of essential information ('Knowledge Organisers'), provided regular quizzes via the new online homework system and have provided plenty of opportunities to practise for the examinations in tests or mock exams.

At the same time we have been clear that the curriculum is not just about academic excellence but also the education of the 'whole child' or character education. Last year we introduced a whole school enrichment programme on Wednesday afternoons, expanded sports, arts and outdoor activities as well as supporting charitable/community projects.

We continue to look for further improvements in ensuring that our pupils receive a well-rounded education. To this end we are introducing a daily whole school reading session, a revamped careers education programme and lessons in important life skills such as first aid and personal finance.



Teacher training

We place considerable emphasis on teacher training for our staff through training days and weekly subject mastery sessions where teachers work collaboratively to improve their lessons. We also work closely with organisations – Teach First, King Edward's Consortium and University of Birmingham to train new entrants to the teaching profession.

Teacher examiners

We are very fortunate to have such dedicated and professional teaching staff, many of whom have become examiners for the new GCSEs introduced this year. Their resulting experience and expertise has proved to be invaluable in supporting pupils and driving up standards across the school.

Homework

The last year has seen the introduction of a new homework system focussing on online quizzes of the essential information that pupils need in each of their subjects which is summarised in their Knowledge Organisers. The school has used the Frog Play system for most subjects and has won an international award for its work with this organisation. Maths has been delivered through the IXL online programme and we will be working with both systems during this academic year.

Yardleys Brilliant Club

Some of our high achieving Year 10 pupils were selected to take part in the Brilliant Club which seeks to give them a taste of university study. They were allocated a post graduate research student who gave them tutorials on their specific studies – in this case Cancer Data analysis. They then produced their own university style assignment. All pupils successfully completed the assignment and then 'graduated' at a ceremony at the University of Warwick, Mr Smith who coordinated the programme felt that the pupils had had a wonderful experience and stated that their efforts throughout the programme had been outstanding.

communication faculty...

English

Under the leadership of Mr Webb as Head of Faculty and Ms Austin as Head of Department, English continues to move from strength to strength. This year 81% of pupils achieved a grade 4 pass and 65% achieved the new more demanding grade 5 pass. This success is down to the hard work of both pupils and teachers. There have been additional lessons organised throughout the year, extra resources provided for revision and high quality teacher training sessions with a focus on improving and sharing teacher expertise.

Literacy

The school has consistently identified literacy as a key part of raising academic standards in all subjects. To this end pupils have extra lessons in their early years studying grammar and vocabulary as well as reading together as a class. From September the whole school will be reading together for the first 25 minutes of the day, with each year group reading a novel in their form groups. We are grateful to Ms Wilshire and other staff for their preparatory work and also to our neighbours Ark Boulton Academy for their advice and help.

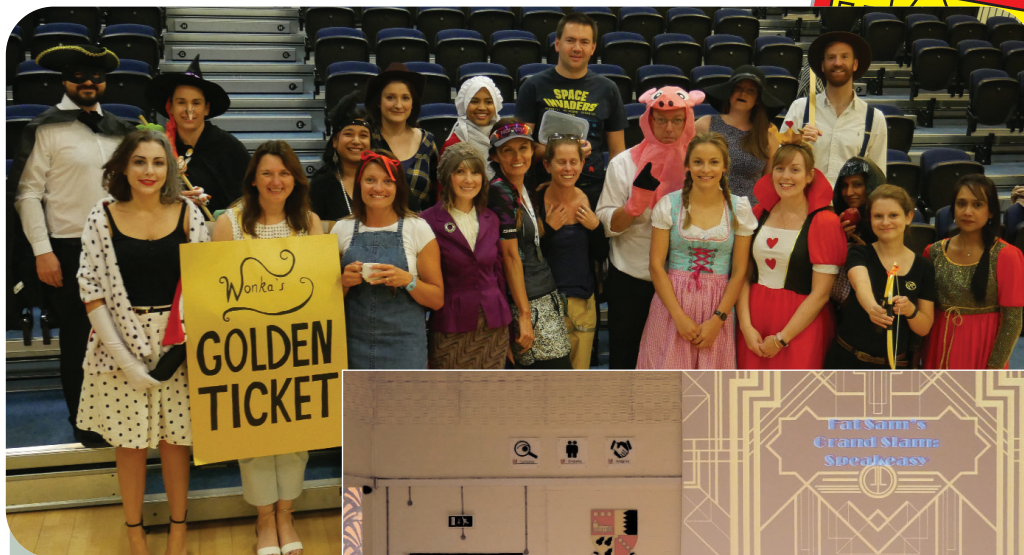
Drama

The Drama department has worked hard all year to provide pupils with wonderful theatre experiences, both externally to professional shows as well as our annual school production of Bugsy. Theatre visits have included trips to the Globe Theatre in London, The RSC in Stratford and the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton.

World Book Day

This year our World Book Day was celebrated in June rather than March as we continue to promote the importance of reading for pleasure and for academic study. As usual there were many intriguing costumes worn by members of staff with pupils eagerly participating in various competitions and challenges.

Thank you to Ms Wilshire and all other staff for the organisation of the day and the many activities that took place.



School Production of Bugsy Malone



After many months of preparation, auditions and rehearsals, our show 'Bugsy Malone' was ready.

Bugsy was really well supported by an extremely committed group of pupils and staff and the show was a huge triumph. Thanks must go to those members of staff who helped out and without

their support the show would not have been a roaring success. A particular mention goes to Ms Clarke and Mr Milgate for their organisation and leadership.

THE YARDLEIAN

mathematics faculty

The Maths Faculty team have also overseen an increase in pupils standards with 71% passing their GCSE at grade 4+. The team have worked closely under the leadership of Ms Soliman to provide pupils with revision materials, booster sessions and a new homework system (iXL). Many of the team have given up their own time to attend training during their own holidays which clearly demonstrates both their passion for their subject as well as their determination to help pupils succeed.

Maths Enrichment

The Maths Team have also provided several enrichment experiences throughout the year. In April the UK Maths Challenge took place for our top Year 7 and 8 pupils which resulted in the awarding of 22 medals in total (15 bronze and 7 silver). In the team event the school came a very creditable 12th out of 26 schools, with many of those being academically selective grammar schools.

Many of our younger pupils also engage in the Times Table Rockstars computer programme and three of our best pupils were entered in the regional competition which took place in July, where they achieved 11th place out of 50 schools.

Modern Foreign Languages

The department includes both French and Spanish GCSE courses with last year's cohort having studied Spanish and achieving an impressive 79% grade 4+ pass rate. The department has worked extensively on improving the curriculum to meet the demands of the new 9-1 GCSE. Some of the measures introduced have included a greater focus on teaching grammar, regular quizzes to embed the learning as well as training of teachers by exam boards, the nationwide PIXL club of schools and Bishop Challoner School.

The department also provided enrichment activities such as year 10 pupils attending Solihull School as part of the Business Language Champions event where they learnt to use their language skills in business & enterprise.

science faculty

The Science faculty has continued to raise standards of achievement through improved planning, regular assessments and revision activities, and this has resulted in another year of successful examination. 63% of pupils achieved at least two Science GCSEs with grade 4 or above and this is above the national average.

The faculty has also provided a range of enrichment activities including several science clubs, trips to Kew Gardens and Lapworth Geology Museum, competitions such as the Year 7 cell model making, and the Big Physics Quiz at the University of Birmingham.

From September the leadership of the faculty will move from Ms Yates to Ms Hiley who will also continue as Head of Biology.

After successfully raising academic standards and preparing for the new 9-1 GCSE Science exams Ms Yates will be focussing solely on her Assistant Headteacher role and working with the pastoral team to further improve the pupils' personal development programme.



Kew Gardens

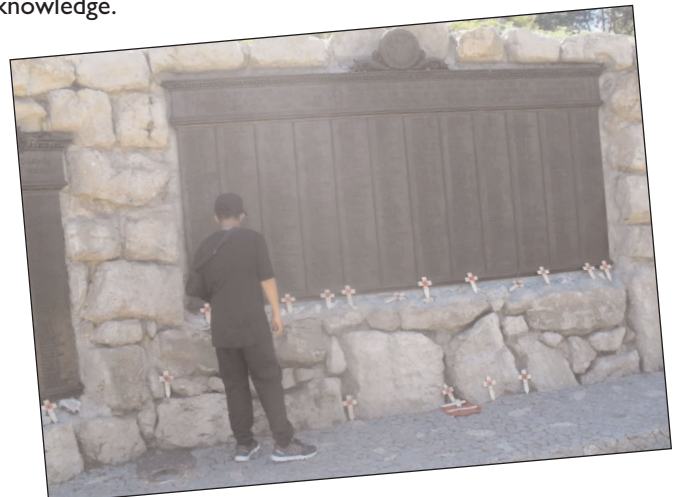
In July the science department took 45 pupils on a reward trip to Kew Gardens in London for their excellent effort throughout the year. We had specialist workshops from the experts about adaptations of plants for photosynthesis and how they had evolved to withstand extreme environments such as the arid desert or tropical rain forest. Some highlights of the trip included seeing the giant Amazonian waterlilies, scaling the treetop walkway for a view of Kew from above the treeline and marvelling at the Temperate House which is the largest Victorian glass greenhouse in the world and has just reopened after a £41 million refurbishment. The staff at Kew were very impressed with the pupils' knowledge and behaviour and said that they were a credit to the school.



humanities...

Geography Fieldwork

The Geography department continues to organise a wonderful programme of field work for pupils and this is a real strength of the department. Year 9 pupils have studied Brindley Place in Birmingham as a case study of urban regeneration. Year 10 pupils have visited Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire to investigate the Bradshaw Model of river characteristics whilst Year 11 have been to both Curzon Street, Birmingham to look at the HS2 development and Stratford upon Avon to investigate the balance between flood risks and tourism. Thank you to Mr Porter and his team for providing the pupils with so many opportunities to deepen their geographical knowledge.



History – Battlefields trip

On Thursday 28th June 2018, 104 years to the day of the assassination of Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand, the spark that ignited the First World War, Yardleys' pupils, accompanied by Ms Deakin, Ms Sumerling, Mr Vaughan and Mr Thornton, began to make their way to pay homage to the fallen on the Western Front. Our journey began at 5.15am and by the afternoon we had reached Ypres in Belgium. During the day, we were able to visit preserved German trenches and the location of the first use of gas on the Western Front. After a lovely evening meal in the centre of Ypres, we headed to our accommodation at the Messines Peace Village.

Our second day took us to the Somme, where pupils were able to follow in the footsteps of British troops as they went over the top, culminating in a visit to Thiepval which commemorates over 70,000 missing soldiers from the war. Our evening meal was eaten on the Rue De Birmingham where our pupils tasted French cuisine at its best.

To our final day, after tidying our rooms and packing our cases, saw us back in Ypres for a little 'RnR', chocolate shopping, before heading out to the Passchendaele Museum and exploring combat in the First World War. Two pupils were given the opportunity to don the uniforms of an Indian Sepoy and a Queen Alexandra Nurse. Our final stop was at Tyne Cot, the largest British cemetery in Belgium. After laying our wreath and paying homage to the fallen, we began our journey home. Thank you to Ms Deakin for organising such an amazing and important experience.

RE

Some of the school's best GCSE results were achieved in RE with 80% passing with grade 4 and above and a hugely impressive 51% achieving this pass at grade 7/A and above. As well as delivering high quality learning experiences the RE department also organised various Community Action projects including donations for local food bank, toys for children at Christmas, litter picking and supporting younger primary school children with their reading.

RE - Community Action Projects – report by pupils

During our Active Community enrichment sessions we have been doing many things to help the community. One example of this was decorating boxes for people to donate food into.

"Our first task was to decorate a box which was going to be sent to i-care food hub for the Sparkbrook area. I was team leader and led our group to victory with creativity with the theme of Ramadan." - Kirti Year 9

"These boxes were given to the local food hub which is known as a part of i-care in Sparkbrook mosque... We did this during Ramadan as a time to be thankful; reflect on what we have, be charitable and empathise with the poor. There is then a big feast celebration at Eid ul Fitr at the end of Ramadan... however not everyone gets the pleasure of doing this, therefore we provided them with the food". - Maariya Year 10

In total we were able to fill 4- 5 boxes worth of food; some extra items were bought with the £37 raised in a collection. These items went towards supporting the 37 families the hub provides for.

"I found my time during enrichment exciting as it allowed us to help the community and have fun" – Michael Year 9

character education...

Pastoral Care and Personal Development

The school places considerable emphasis on the quality of pastoral care which includes all aspects of health and safety, behaviour in and around school as well as developing the pupils personally so they are ready for life. Underpinning this work is the focus on the school values of positivity, curiosity, reflection, empathy, integrity and resilience.

This is further supported this year with the introduction of our new simplified three school rules.



Be Ready



Be Respectful



Be Responsible

Activities have included form time, assemblies and PSHE lessons on a wide range of issues. These are also supported by our external partners and visiting speakers particularly Loudmouth Theatre who continue to deliver high quality interactive drama sessions on issues ranging from puberty, bullying and sexual exploitation.

Enrichment

This last academic year has seen the launch of our new Wednesday afternoon enrichment programme. The aim is to provide all pupils with opportunities and experiences beyond the academic curriculum which would inspire them, develop them personally and prepare them for life. A wide range of activities have been organised and delivered to pupils who have in turn have provided both positive and constructive feedback on how to improve the programme still further. Below is an outline of some of the types of activities offered to pupils.

Sports and exercise activities have included Gaelic football, rugby, football, boxercise, martial arts, fitness training, yoga and Bollywood dancing. Indoor games were offered such as table tennis, board games and chess. The arts and crafts activities were popular with scrapbooking, fashion design/textiles, graffiti art, desktop publishing and knitting.

New educational and learning opportunities have included Bengali, Arabic, Japanese studies, sign language and computer coding. Other activities were organised to help develop pupils personally. For example there was a community action group engaged in charity fundraising, litter picking in the wider community and helping primary school children with their reading. Pupils also took part in gardening, survival training, school production rehearsals, jewellery making, cooking, debating, model car/engine making, swimming, photography and many more. Thank you to all our staff who have shared their hobbies, interests and skills with the pupils to ensure that this new programme was such a success.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Pupils in year 9 & 10 are given the opportunity to participate in and achieve the Duke of Edinburgh Award at bronze and silver level.

Various practise expeditions took place before pupils successfully completed their awards in the Summer term. We are grateful for Mr Meddings in leading on the programme together with the support of various members of staff who have given up their time to practise, organise and assess the pupils both in school time and after school or at weekends.

Year 8 Residential – Blackwell Court

Mr Tilley, Head of Year 8 organised a wonderful residential for pupils which included a programme of team building, personal initiative and outdoor adventure activities. We are hoping that this will prove to be valuable foundation for these pupils to take up the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh Award next year.



National Grid Lawyers visit

On June 5th, a team of National Grid in-house lawyers visited Yardleys to work with a group of 20 Year 9 students who have shown a particular interest in a potential future career in law; this time, students covered modules on police powers and the law surrounding social media. As such, students explored the law surrounding stop and search powers and citizens' rights as well as discussing ways in which the relationship between the police and local communities could be improved; the social media module delved into ideas such as 'to what extent is state monitoring of social media acceptable?', 'what happens if court orders are ignored by social media users?', the law surrounding defamation and the protection of freedom of expression; this was done through looking at relevant case law and examples. The session concluded with a series of 'moots', where students were allocated the roles of either prosecution or defence and then had to research the law and previous court judgements as the basis for their arguments.

All of our students enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to work with a team of practising lawyers provided a real insight into the breadth and complexity of the law in this country.

Pupil Voice and leadership opportunities

Pupil views and opinions are represented and communicated through form discussions, year and school council meetings. Last year the school council discussed a range of issues and these contributed to discussions and plans made by governors and school leaders.

There are many leadership opportunities given to pupils throughout the year. These include the appointment of sport leaders, form captains, library mentors, tour guides for visitors, parents and job applicants. Year 7 pupils are given the opportunity to participate in the Yardleys Edge programme which seeks to develop and recognise participation and leadership by pupils both in and out of school. 70 of these successfully achieved the 'Apprentice' award in this programme.

Charity work and fundraising

During the year staff and pupils have been involved in many charity fundraising events. Early in the year staff have raised £110 for MacMillan Cancer Nurses. At Christmas children and staff wore Christmas jumpers or T shirts for Save the Children as well as pupils donating food for Sparkhill foodbank and Sparkbrook Mosque food hub in association with iCare. We supported various national charity events including Children in Need, British Legion Poppy Appeal and Sport Relief. Thank you to everyone that has organised and participated in activities, taught lessons and assemblies and most importantly donated to these and many other good causes during the year.

vocational faculty...

Business Enterprise – ‘Dragons’ Den’

Pupils studying for the Enterprise & Marketing vocational qualification took part in a Dragons’ Den style activity in the summer term. All pupils were given a brief of designing and marketing a new hat and this had to be pitched to several potential investors (played by the headteacher and other senior staff). Although there were some early nerves pupils acquitted themselves very well and had clearly worked hard to prepare their pitches with presentations, budgets and business plans. The ‘dragons’ were very impressed and thought there was certainly some future entrepreneurs and business leaders amongst our pupils.

Design Technology

The DT department ensured there was another year of very good GCSE results with 74% achieving a pass at grade C or above. Next year pupils will be sitting the new 9-1 GCSE for which they have been very well prepared by their teachers who have worked tirelessly to set up the new course.

A new Head of Design Technology has been appointed for this year – Mr Deaves - who is very experienced and will be looking to take the department to even greater heights.

Media Studies

The Year 11 leavers were the last cohort to study for the old Media Studies GCSE and they achieved some impressive results with 77% gaining a grade 4/C pass.

The new course (Cambridge National iMedia) being studied builds on both the practical elements of working with digital media technologies as well as teaching them the essential theoretical aspects. Later this year we hope to open a refurbished media studies suite which will benefit both pupils and teachers.

ICT and Computer Science

The GCSE results saw considerable improvements in both ICT and Computer Science with 58% and 79% of pupils passing at grade 4/C and above. The results in Computer Science were even more impressive given the fact that there were last minute changes to coursework by the government. Pupils in Year 9 & 10 have embarked on a new ICT course (Cambridge National Information technologies) and again we are grateful to all the work by teachers and support staff in supporting our pupils at a time of considerable change in the curriculum and assessment procedures.



sport & arts faculty..

Sport & PE

The Yardleys School sports programme improves every year and 2017-18 was no exception with both increased participation and success in a variety of girls and boys sports. The school has been awarded the Bronze Sports Mark Award and we hope to achieve the silver award this year.

Rugby remains popular and with the generous sponsorship of the RFU we have new kit, increased specialist coaching and even one pupil representing the school at the pre match ceremony at an international match at Twickenham. The school year 10-11 rugby team claimed victories over rivals King Edwards Sheldon Heath and St George's School. The Year 9 team also won a tournament at the start of the year.

The year 7, 8 & 9 teams won the local network cricket tournament and reached the Birmingham finals. The key stage 3 girl's football team came 3rd in a local football tournament. The Year 10 boys reached the basketball finals and finished 4th overall in Birmingham.



Sports day

The school held its annual Sport day at Tudor Grange Sports Centre. The day was a huge success with all pupils competing in at least one event. House 'Discovery' won overall with 703 points with the other results being 2nd – Elements (694 pts), 3rd Odyssey (660 pts), 4th Safari (641pts) and 5th Earth (586pts).

Sport Relief

At the end of last half term Yardleys' pupils managed to raise an impressive £326 for Sport Relief. The PE Ambassadors, Mr Cross and Ms Perry organised sports competitions every lunchtime and fundraising activities such as the 'fastest mile' for all year groups, 'marathon challenge' for Year 7 pupils and a Year 8 Bench ball competition.

All activities sparked pupils enthusiasm and in many cases their resilience as they competed against their peers. Pupils donated money and many raised further funds through sponsorship. Well done to all Yardleys pupils for their efforts!

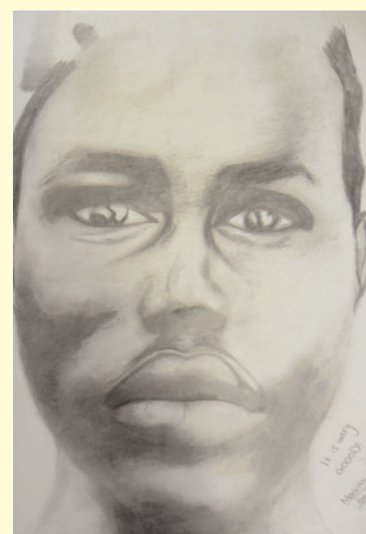
An extra special thanks goes to our PE ambassadors for their organisation of activities and for giving up so much of their time. They also sold Sports Relief badges, bands and lanyards every break time on behalf of Sainsbury's raising over £100 for such a great cause.



Art & Design

The Art department has made great strides this year in improving the new GCSE course and this was reflected in the considerable increase in pupils achieving grade 4 and above which rose from 25% to 71% in one year.

There has also been an increased focus on mastering technical skills such as drawing in years 7-8 thereby allowing their creativity to flourish in years 9-11.



By Sima Ahmadiani



THE
YARDLEIAN
look out for issue 2
coming soon...

