



THE YARDLEYAN



ISSUED MONTHLY - JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

It has been a really positive start to 2025. It has been wonderful to see everyone again after a well-deserved break. We have had a very busy start to the new term. This month's edition contains some of the key highlights and achievements. I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers who support the school by ensuring their child arrives on time, in full school uniform (including a school bag) and fully equipped. This really does set them up for a positive start to the day.

Please can parents and carers also ensure that students have the correct school PE kit. You will find information below including a link to the uniform and attendance page for more detailed guidance. Also in this edition, we have included our usual key dates and upcoming events for your reference.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

1. Black school blazer with Yardleys School badge. Blazer sleeves should not be rolled up or folded over.
2. Plain black skirt or trousers (not black jeans, skin-tight trousers, hipsters etc.). Please note that skirts should be of an appropriate length (not significantly above the knee or below the ankle) and should not be skin tight. If a skirt is worn, trousers/leggings should not be worn underneath. Belts should be plain black with no logo on the buckle.
3. Plain white blouse or shirt. T-Shirts of any description are not acceptable.
4. Clip on Yardleys School tie. NB The clip must be attached; ties with clips removed must be replaced.
5. Plain knit black v-neck pullover with Yardleys School badge, this is optional. Cardigans or alternative pullovers are not permitted.
6. Plain black leather shoes - not boots, high heels, canvas shoes or trainers (plain black trainers are not allowed).
7. Headscarves should be the official Yardleys School headscarf.
8. School bags should be the official Yardleys School school bag.
9. Jewellery should be minimal and plain. Facial piercings are not allowed and the only earrings permitted are studs/sleepers.
10. Fashion belts/brightly coloured belts are not permitted.
11. Socks should be plain black, grey or white.
12. Hairstyles must not be extreme and hair should be a natural colour.
13. Makeup is not allowed, students who are found to be wearing makeup will be asked to remove it.
14. Baseball caps and hooded tops/training tops should not be worn at school, or on the journey to or from school.
15. Coats/jackets should be plain in design and should not be tracksuit tops/training tops



CLICK BELOW FOR
IMPORTANT LINKS AND LETTERS



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A DAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



Fifteen GCSE Statistics pupils recently attended an Economics lecture taster day at the University of Birmingham with Associate Professor Dr MacDonald. They learned about nudge theory, which explores how small changes can encourage better choices for individuals and the environment. After a campus tour, pupils enjoyed a behind-the-scenes visit to the Lapworth Geology Museum, where they handled real dinosaur fossils and 300-million-year-old Digbeth trilobite fossils. A fascinating day of learning and discovery.

GCSE SCIENCE LIVE: INSPIRING MINDS AT SYMPHONY HALL

Twenty Year 11 pupils attended the GCSE Science Live event at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, where they heard from world-renowned scientists. Guest speakers included Professor Robert Winston on fertility and Professor Jim Al-Khalili on time travel, alongside fascinating talks on space weather and the aurora, smart materials, and the beauty of maths in nature. A truly inspiring day of science in action.





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EXPLORING THE WORLD OF HOSPITALITY: OUR YEAR 10 AND 11 STUDENTS VISIT MALMAISON

This January, our Year 10 and 11 catering students had an incredible opportunity to step into the vibrant world of hospitality with a visit to Malmaison in the city centre. This engaging experience allowed them to gain first-hand insight into the various roles that exist within a hotel environment.

During their visit, students participated in hands-on recruitment-style activities that provided them with a taste of the skills and responsibilities required in the industry. They discovered everything from front desk operations to event management, all while engaging in practical exercises designed to simulate real-world scenarios.

One particularly enjoyable and educational highlight was learning how to make a hotel bed to perfection. Our students quickly realised that there is an art to it, and they took pride in their newfound skills!

This unforgettable experience not only broadened their understanding of the hospitality sector but also inspired them to consider future career paths. A huge thank you to Malmaison for hosting us and for their commitment to inspiring the next generation of hospitality professionals. We look forward to more opportunities like this in the future!





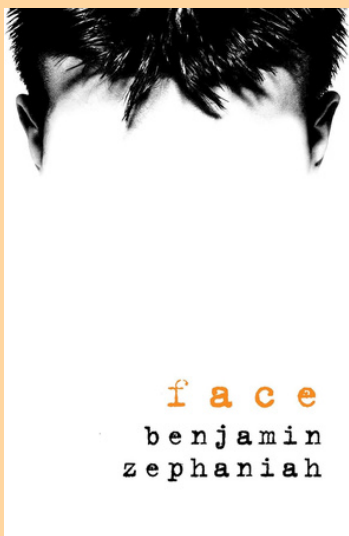
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MASTERING MOCK INTERVIEWS: PATH TO SUCCESS

A big thank you goes out to all the dedicated volunteers and the fantastic Learn 2 Work team for their invaluable support during our mock interview sessions. The Year 10 students truly benefited from this experience, receiving constructive feedback that will undoubtedly aid them in their future career journeys. The insights gained were immensely useful, helping to build their confidence and prepare them for the real-world challenges ahead. It's initiatives like these that make a significant difference in our students' lives, and we are grateful for the time and effort contributed by everyone involved.



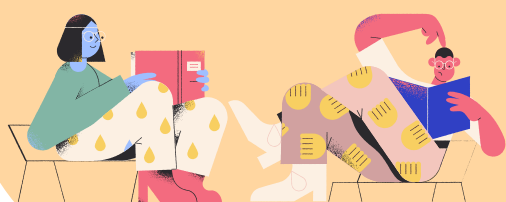
BOOK OF THE MONTH

To celebrate Mental Health Awareness and 'Time to Talk Day' which is on 6th February, our book of the month is 'Face' by Benjamin Zephaniah.

Martin is feeling on top of the world, with his credibility established and his partner Natalie proud of him. However, he soon realizes that unexpected challenges await. After a terrible incident leaves his face scarred in a joyriding accident, Martin's life is changed forever.

This story shows the different ways in which the society/world reacts to huge physical changes and how difficult it can be to cope with them. It also shows us a strong young protagonist who is able to deal with the situation maturely and learn as he lives through this.

AVAILABLE IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY NOW!





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SPORTS

PEDALLING WITH MIDLAND MENCAP



Our pupils joyfully cycled, raising awareness of Midland Mencap's vital work, while enjoying teamwork and creating friendships. They learned about inclusivity and the importance of community support, leaving with a sense of accomplishment and a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by those with learning disabilities. We are grateful to Midland Mencap for this experience and look forward to future collaborations to promote inclusivity. Together, we can pedal towards a better world!



KS4 BASKETBALL DREAMS

Our KS4 team competed in a multi-school competition hosted by Holyhead School. We achieved impressive results, beating both Selly Park and STAC School, and securing a draw against Bartley Green! Well done, ladies!



VICTORY IN STYLE



Our Year 11 football team achieved a fantastic victory in the collegiate cup semi-final against Holy Trinity. With a solid team effort, we finished the match with a 3-1 win. The goals were scored by Zubeir and Rehan. We are now set to take on St Albans in the final.



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KEY DATES



- Monday 10th – Friday 14th February 2025 – Celebration Assembly Week
- Friday 14th February 2025 – Last day of half term
- Monday 17th – Friday 21st February 2025 – Half Term Holidays
- Monday 24th February 2025 – School reopens to all students as normal
- Monday 24th – Friday 28th February 2025 – Year 11 Core Mock Examination Week
- Thursday 27th February 2025 – Year 9 Parents' Evening (remote) 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm
- Monday 3rd March – Friday 28th March 2025 – Ramadan (*Please see section below indicating changes to school finish times during this period)
- Monday 31st March – Staff Training Day. School closed to students.
- Tuesday 8th April – Year 9 Options Event
- Thursday 10th April – Year 11 Alton Towers Trip
- Friday 11th April – Last day of term
- Monday 14th – Friday 25th April – Easter Holidays
- Monday 28th April – School reopens to all students as normal.

RAMADAN

As usual, during Ramadan the school has taken the decision to reduce lunchtime to 30 minutes. This means the school day for students will finish at the following times:

Starting Monday 3rd March

Monday and Tuesday – 3:00pm

Wednesday – 3:30pm

Thursday and Friday – 2:35pm

Detentions and the library will continue to operate. The normal school day will resume on Tuesday 1st April.