

THE YARDLEIAN



JUNE 2025 EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

This has been a short half-term, and it has been a busy one with Year 11 examinations. With the main summer exam season now underway, this is a very important time for Year 11, and we will do everything we can to support them during the examination period.

Staff and students have been working extremely hard in preparation for these exams. We are proud of the effort, determination and resilience they are showing, and we would like to wish all our students the very best of luck.

Other year groups have also been productive and are preparing for the upcoming summer assessments this half-term.

It hasn't all been about examinations, though – this edition also highlights a range of exciting achievements and events from across the school.

GCSE EXAMS BEGIN

The GCSE examinations are now well underway, marking a crucial period for our Year 11 students. They have shown real dedication, working hard both in lessons and in their own time to prepare thoroughly. Our staff have been supporting them, running booster sessions, providing targeted revision, and offering encouragement every step of the way.

We have also been impressed by the excellent behaviour demonstrated across the school, with students showing maturity, focus and respect during this important time. It's been a real team effort, and we're proud of how our students are rising to the challenge.



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YEAR 10 GET CREATIVE IN THE DARK ROOM



Some of our Year 10 photography students recently had the opportunity to experience the darkroom at Joseph Chamberlain College. They learnt how to develop film and create photograms using traditional darkroom materials and techniques.

As part of their visit, they also experimented with gel printing to produce physical pieces linked to their current 'Urban Texture' project. It was a fantastic chance to explore hands-on processes and enhance their creative practice.

UK MATHS SUCCESS

Students in Years 7 and 8 have achieved outstanding results in this year's UK Maths Challenge, with a record-breaking seven pupils receiving Gold awards – the highest number the school has ever seen.

The competition, designed to stretch and inspire mathematical thinking in high-achieving students nationwide, saw many of our pupils also awarded Silver and Bronze certificates. The results reflect the hard work and determination shown by students across both year groups.



LANGUAGENUTS!

We are delighted to share that Yardleys has finished 15th in the Languagenut nationwide competition – out of approximately 2,000 secondary schools across the UK!

Our students worked incredibly hard, earning a remarkable 32,785,600 points in total. This fantastic result reflects their dedication, teamwork and enthusiasm for language learning.

A huge congratulations to Yakeen in Year 9, who finished 19th out of around 300,000 students nationally, with an outstanding score of 6,284,800 points. An exceptional individual achievement and a real inspiration to others!

Languagenut is an online language system with interactive resources.

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KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

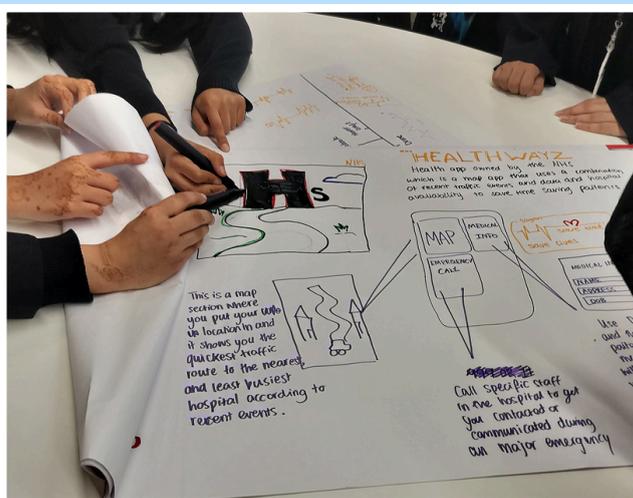
Yardleys School, alongside other local schools, has been working closely with West Midlands Police to address a range of safeguarding concerns, including knife crime, vaping, and anti-social behaviour.

These important issues have been explored through a variety of activities and educational sessions within school. We supported the police in delivering the Knife/Vape Arch initiative – a collaborative operation taking place across local schools to raise awareness of the dangers associated with carrying knives and the health risks linked to vaping.

We are proud to play our part in promoting safety and wellbeing, both in school and in the wider community.



YEAR 10 STUDENTS INNOVATE AT KPMG



Our Year 10 students had an inspiring and insightful day at KPMG as part of the *Opening Doors to Opportunity* careers workshop.

Twenty pupils took part in a dynamic challenge, working as consultants to design a tech solution to support paramedics treating stroke patients. From naming their product to delivering a 60-second pitch, students demonstrated excellent teamwork, creativity and problem-solving throughout the day. It was a fantastic opportunity to experience the world of work and gain valuable skills for the future.

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GEOGRAPHERS IN THE WILD

Our Year 10 students took their Geography learning beyond the classroom on a fantastic field trip to Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Throughout the day, students explored the physical characteristics, adaptations, and biodiversity challenges of hot desert and tropical rainforest environments. They also created a food web based on a freshwater pond ecosystem and learned the differences between a field sketch and a landscape drawing to sharpen their fieldwork techniques.



WALKING THE WAY

During half term, Ms. Lewandowska walked the old pilgrim trail from Vigo to Santiago de Compostela. This scenic route, part of the Camino Portugués, winds along the coast before heading inland, covering just over 100 km.

A beautiful and reflective journey through historic towns, tranquil forests, and peaceful countryside – a truly memorable experience.



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TECH-SAVY FUTURES

Year 8 students had an inspiring visit to Birmingham City University, exploring the world of tech with Cisco.

They programmed Raspberry Pis, pitched AI ideas in a Dragons' Den challenge, and learned about cybersecurity – all while building teamwork and communication skills.

A brilliant day connecting with industry experts and gaining insight into future tech careers.



YARDLEYS CAREERS FAIR

This year's Yardleys Careers Fair was a fantastic opportunity for students to explore a wide range of careers and connect with professionals from diverse industries.

Volunteers from across sectors gave their time to speak with pupils, sharing insights into their roles, pathways into their professions, and advice for the future. Students engaged in meaningful conversations, asked questions, and came away with a greater sense of direction and possibility.

Events like this are vital in helping young people make informed choices about their next steps – whether that's further education, apprenticeships or future careers.



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SPORTS

FA – DISCOVER MY TALENT

Some of our talented female footballers were recently invited to take part in the FA's *Discover My Talent* initiative – a programme designed to identify emerging talent and provide pathways for players to progress.

The event was a fantastic experience, giving the girls a chance to showcase their skills, build confidence, and gain insight into future opportunities in the sport.



HEARTBREAK ON PENALTIES



Our Year 11 boys gave a determined and spirited performance in the Collegiate Cup final against St Albans.

Goals from Amaan and Zubeir secured a 2-2 draw in a tightly contested match, taking the game to penalties. Despite their best efforts, the boys were narrowly defeated 5-4 in the shootout.

A tough result, but a performance full of pride, resilience and teamwork – well done to all involved.

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KEY DATES



Thursday 19th June- Year 11 Leavers Assembly & Year 11 Prom

Monday 23rd June – Year 10 Exams start

Tuesday 24th June – New Year 7 (Year 6) Induction Evening

Monday 30th June– Thursday 3rd July – Assessment Week

Wednesday 2nd July – New Year 7 Induction Day

Friday 4th July – School closed to students

Tuesday 8th July – Celebration/Prize Giving Evening

Thursday 10th July – Year 7-10 Rewards Trip Day

Friday 11th July – Sports Day (8:45am-12:15pm)

Friday 18th July – Last day of the academic year.

SAFEGUARDING

At Yardleys School, the health, safety and well-being of children is of paramount concern to us.

Our Safeguarding Leads are:

Named Designated Lead

Mental Health Lead

Dep. Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr S Sohal

Ms C James

Ms S Mukadam

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