



THE YARDLEYS NEWSLETTER

From our headteacher...



I am delighted to be able to bring you another edition of the Yardleian, our school newsletter.

When reflecting on some key events within school this term, there have been so many opportunities for learning beyond the classroom. These have included, most recently, the geography residential to Snowdonia, the Year 11 'National School and College Leavers Festival' trip to the NEC and the Year 10 work experience launch with Learn 2 Work.

We continue to welcome outside organisations into our school assemblies and for events. In December, The Royal Institution delivered live science sessions and Loudmouth Theatre have been back in school. Food technology lessons have provided an opportunity for students to develop their cookery skills and we are encouraged by the exceptional skills shown by the students in their cake baking.

We have also facilitated many sports events, tournaments, extra-curricular clubs and enrichment opportunities.

This newsletter gives just a small flavour of the many wonderful activities our students and staff are involved in. We feel this is very important and fulfils one of our key aims "to educate the whole child so they are ready for life".

We have welcomed 12 new members of staff to our school at the start of this academic year. We have appointed teachers in drama, food technology, music, languages, as well as science and English. We have also provided a number of teaching placements for trainee teachers. We also welcome our new HR manager, Science Technician plus Executive Assistant to Headteacher, who have joined our support staff team.

We also continue to welcome a number of parents into our school for workshops, such as ADHD, dyslexia, homework and year 11 revision.

I do hope you enjoy reading this edition. All it remains for me to say, and from all the staff and trustees at Yardleys School, we hope that you have a peaceful break and all our best wishes for the new year. We look forward to seeing students back in school on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Je Wadner



Enrichment



This term has seen another array of fantastic enrichment activities offered to students including:

- Spoken word
- Combat sports
- Bollyfit
- Jewellery Making
- Extra Curricular Fair
- Collegiate Events
- Warwickshire Indoor Cricket league
- Netball
- Basketball
- Visits SEND
- Multi-sports

Enrichment@Yardleys 2023-2024

Physically active

- Combat Sports
- Table Tennis
- Body Balance - Similar to yoga
- Resistance Training - HIIT/Weights
- Table Tennis
- Table cricket
- Boccia
- Bolly Fit - Bollywood dancing
- Badminton
- Girls/Boys Football
- Zumba
- Girls/ Boys Basketball
- Archery
- Female Empowerment
- Board Games
- Chess
- Japan
- Card Games
- Word Puzzles
- Coding
- Sudoku
- Meditation
- Lego Mas
- German
- Reading for pleas
- BSL- Sign language

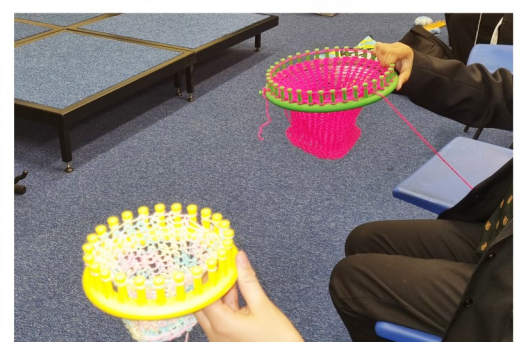
Creative

- Media Skills
- Drama Club
- Therapy/Painting
- Card Making
- Scrapbooks
- Cooking
- Knitting
- Circus skills
- Origami
- Jewellery Making
- D&T woodwork skills
- Film Club
- Karaoke

Mentally Stimulating

- Local Citizens - Eco warriors
- Yoga
- Yoga
- Girls/Boys Football
- Zumba
- Girls/ Boys Basketball
- Archery
- Female Empowerment
- Board Games
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Yardleys School
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE



Subject Spotlight

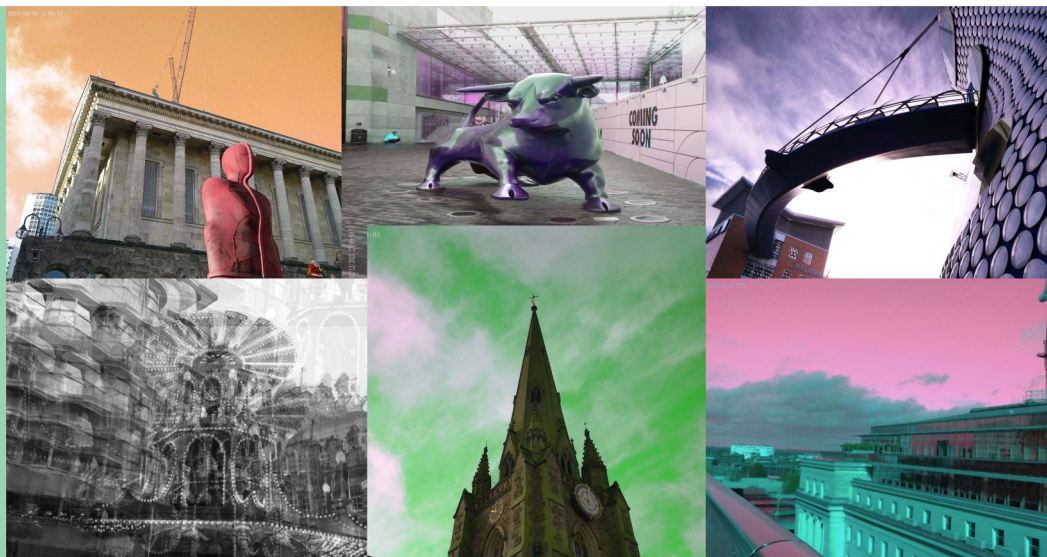
Year 10 Fine Art Portrait Assessments December 2023

On 11th December year 10 Fine Art GCSE students completed an acrylic paint self-portrait for their assessment. They had 5 hours to complete the painting and it will be included in their portfolio for component 1. The standard of work this year is phenomenal and the department are incredibly proud of the hard work and resilience demonstrated by students who have been learning acrylic paint techniques since November.



Photography Students Trip to Birmingham City Centre

Here are some of the amazing photographs taken by year 10 photography students from their trip to Birmingham City Centre. They have captured the city brilliantly, editing some in the style of photographers Idris Khan and Ross Jukes. The students have demonstrated their creativity and initiative by editing their photographs on Photoshop to enhance the sky and apply abstract colours by adjusting the hue and saturation.



Computing Challenge

Bebras Computing Challenge

Year 9, 10 and 11 Computer Science students took part in the Bebras Computing Challenge. This challenge introduces computational thinking to students. It is organised in over 50 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. Each participant answered questions that focused on computational and logical thinking. The aim of the challenge is to answer

as many problems as you can in 40 minutes. 408,339 students took part this year which is an increase of 11% on last year!

Congratulations to the following students for achieving the Gold Award– Top 10% in their age group.

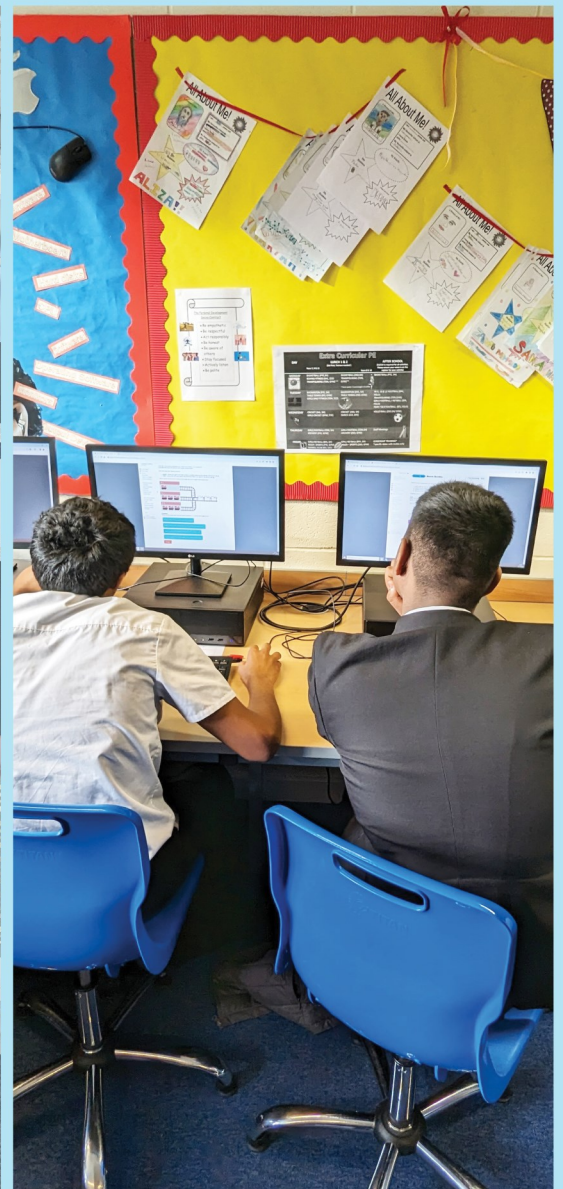
Sangida BABLI

Sahil SULEMAN

Issam AHMED

These students will be invited to compete in the 2024 Oxford University Computing Challenge in January.

Congratulations to Daawuud ABD-US-SAMAD who achieved the highest KS4 score and narrowly missed the Gold Award.



Attendance Matters

Yardleys wins an FFT National School Attendance Award

Last academic year, Yardleys School received two national attendance awards, as we were consistently ranked within the top 10% of Secondary Schools in England for attendance. I am pleased to say that this academic year, we have continued to significantly surpass the national average attendance figures.

We know that every year, our highest GCSE attainers, as well as those students who make the most academic progress, are those that are in school everyday, on time. This internal data has recently been supported by the Children’s Commissioner, who in a recent report stated:

- “Children who attend school less regularly are less likely to get the GCSEs that they need”.
- “When pupils’ attendance improves, the likelihood of achieving qualifications at the end of school massively increases.”
- “The benefits of school go beyond academic results. They can also be places of social and emotional development.”

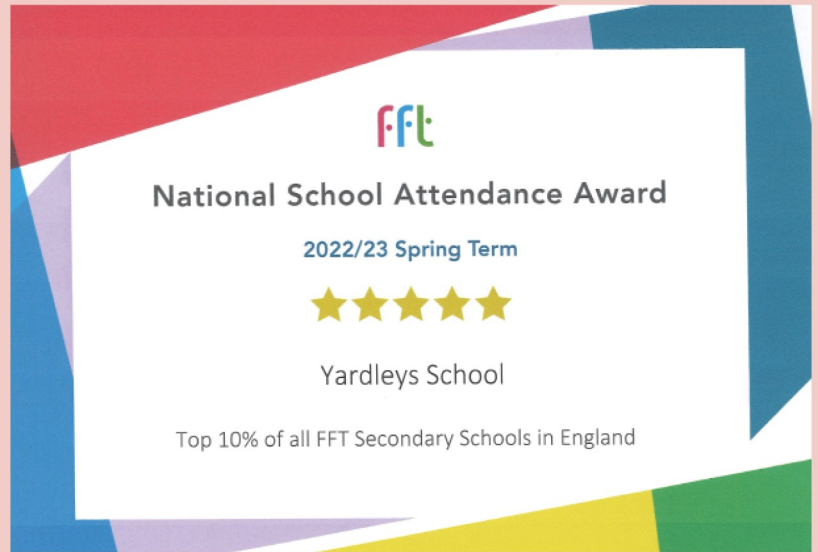
Any concerns

I would like to thank all of the parents and carers who ensure that their child attends school regularly and are only rarely absent, if at all – this absolutely gives your child the best chance of succeeding at GCSE and in securing their first-choice post-16 course.

We always want to help parents and carers who are struggling to ensure that their child is in school everyday; if you ever find yourself in this situation, please contact your child’s Head of Year or our Attendance and Welfare Officer, Ms Akhtar, at the earliest opportunity.

Mr Buckley, Whole School Attendance Lead

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



The table below highlights the total number of lessons as well as the number of Maths and English lessons missed at different attendance percentages for an academic year – it clearly explains why our attendance target is 97%!

Attendance at Yardleys			
5 school days (30 lessons) missed per year	100%	Outstanding	← Yardleys School minimum attendance target
	97%	Good	
10 school days (50 lessons) missed per year including 8 lessons of English and 8 lessons of Maths.	95%	Almost there	← Your child's attendance this academic year
20 school days (100 lessons) missed per year including 16 lessons of English and 16 lessons of Maths.	90%	Improvement needed	
29 school days (145 lessons) missed per year including 24 lessons of English and 24 lessons of Maths.	85%	Very concerned.	
40 school days (200 lessons) missed per year including 32 lessons of English and 32 lessons of Maths.	80%	Extremely concerned.	



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.

Careers

National School and College Leavers Event

Year 11 students attended the National School and College Leavers Event at the NEC, Birmingham in November. This event provided the perfect opportunity for the students to discover more about post-school and post-college opportunities.

The event was attended by a wide range of employers, education providers and apprenticeship training providers, and students had plenty of opportunity to engage with them on a one-to-one basis to gather information about different careers and qualification pathways.

In addition to being able to visit the stands, there was also a range of 'have a go' activities linked to different careers that students could take part in, including a climbing wall, laser quest, a timed assembly of a kitchen unit, practising resuscitation on a dummy, and having their photograph taken whilst sitting in an Aston Martin sports car! It was great to see the number of students taking part.

Feedback after the event from the students has been very positive. They really appreciated having the opportunity to engage directly with representatives from a range of organisations, and felt that the event will help them with their post-16 decisions.



Events & Experiences

Year 11 Design and Technology Trip to Allgood Manufacturing

In support of National Manufacturing week 25th -29th September, a small group of Year 11 Design and Technology students were invited by Allgood Manufacturing, a company based in Birmingham that has been manufacturing architectural ironmongery for over 70 years, to attend a 'Manufacturing Day'.

During the day, the students were able to experience many aspects of the business from the design of products all the way through to the finished items being packed ready for despatch to the customer. It was great to see how the students were able to link some of these processes to what they had learnt in their Design and Technology lessons.

A tour of the factory enabled the group to learn about all the different processes that have to be completed to produce taps. They were able to witness the manufacturing process from the start when the products are in the

form of sheets of metal, all the different processes that are carried out to change the sheets of metal into taps, and finally the finished products being quality checked before being expertly packed into boxes. Machine operators were on-hand as the students moved round the factory to talk about their job roles and career journeys, including apprenticeships.

The day finished off with students, and staff(!) taking part in an interactive exercise which involved assembling a cardboard box, and packing a tap along with various information sheets correctly in the box. The challenge was to see who could do this correctly in the quickest time. This was achieved by one of the students.

The day provided an excellent opportunity for the students to find out about how a manufacturing company operates, and to see how some of the knowledge and skills that they had learnt about as part of the Design and Technology curriculum are used in the world of work.



Yardleys' Bake Off

Congratulations to our Year 10 pupils who participated in the Yardleys bake off this term. The theme for this year's bake off was Nature.

Pupils made a sponge cake and assemble the cake using butter icing and fondant icing .

Pupils excelled at this task demonstrating excellent creative skills.



Chefs of the Week

The 'Chef of the week' has been introduced to celebrate students' achievement in cooking. It is awarded for great final products following a recipe and demonstrating Health and Safety compliance in the food room.

Here are three pupils showcasing bread plaits.



Events & Experiences



Yardleys Got Talent!

The 'Yardleys Got Talent!' show was held on the 7th of December, featuring some of the most talented actors, musicians, artists and performers in the school. 27 students from years 7 to 11 got up on stage to share their talent with Years 7,8 and 9 in the audience over three 45 minute shows. Each show had a winning act (who will receive an Amazon voucher) voted for by the students and staff in the audience. The winners were:

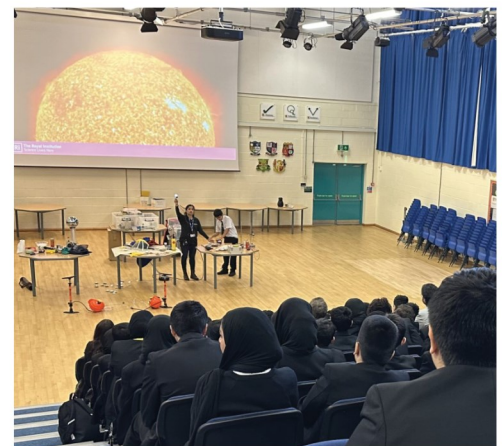
Hafsa Khan 9DYP - Piano
 Eimaan Saghir 9ARA - Dance
 Farhaan Hussein 8CNG, Yusuf Abarook 8CNG,
 Abdullah Qadir 8BLA, Saeed Rehman 8MEM - Drama

The Talent Show team are so proud of all the performers, and look forward to seeing them and other students take part in more creative and performing arts opportunities this year!



Royal Institution Interactive Science Show

On Thursday 23rd November the Royal Institution delivered an interactive science show to pupils in Year 7, Year 8 and a twilight show to the local community. Energy LIVE was an exciting audience-led show, delving into the different stores of energy and how they affect our lives. Through lively, fire-based demonstrations the audience left not only knowing their elastic from their gravitational, but also fired up about energy and with a newly-enthused approach to science! It was lovely to see so many enthusiastic families, including younger children, volunteer to take part in the shows.

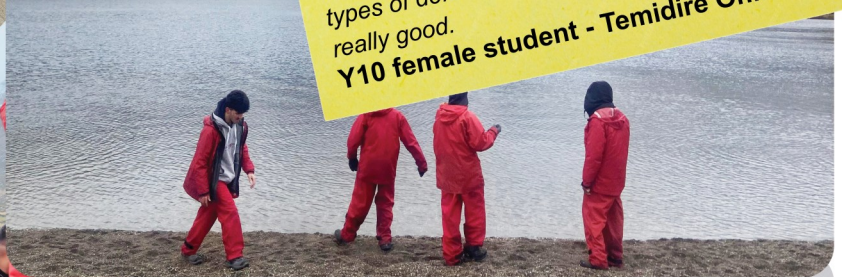
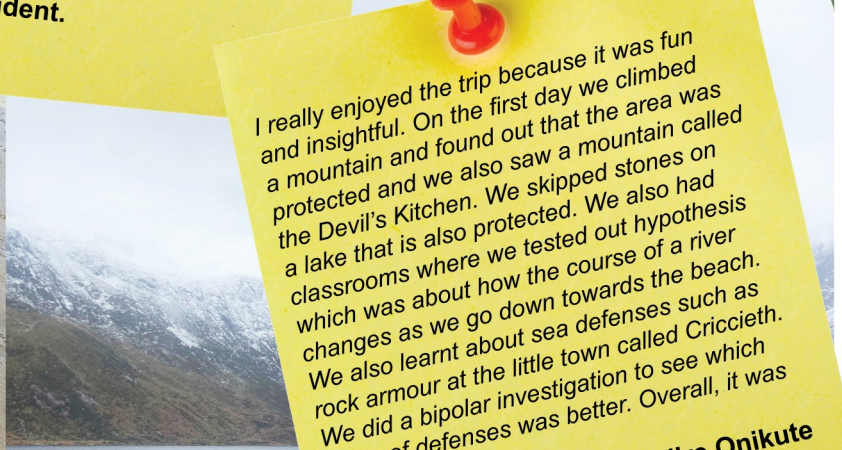
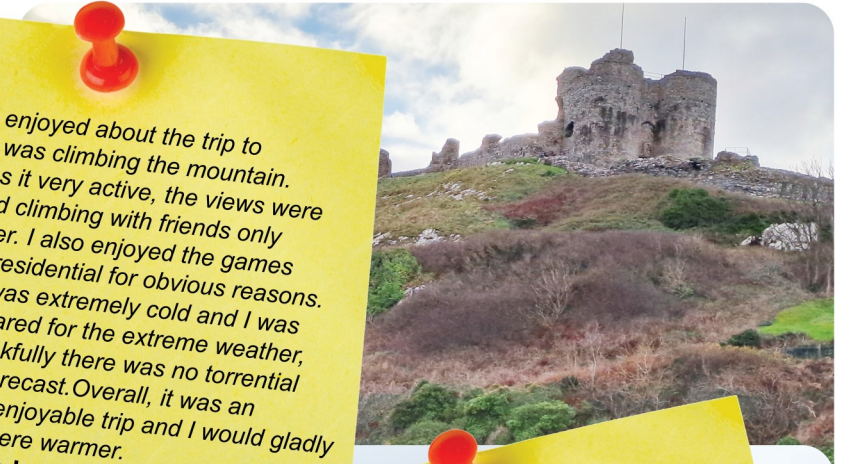


Trip to Snowdonia

In the first week of December 29 KS4 Geography students and 4 teachers went off to the mountains of Snowdonia for a Geography residential. Staying in the middle of the National park at Rhyd-y-Creiau, the students climbed the mountains around Cwm Idwal, spent a day investigating the coastline around Cricciath and researched river flooding on the Conwy. A huge thanks to Ms McGonigle, Mr Minshall, Ms Rana and Mr Thornton for taking the students on such an amazing adventure.

One thing I enjoyed about the trip to Snowdonia was climbing the mountain. Not only was it very active, the views were amazing and climbing with friends only made it better. I also enjoyed the games room at the residential for obvious reasons. However, it was extremely cold and I was often unprepared for the extreme weather, although thankfully there was no torrential rain as was forecast. Overall, it was an amazing and enjoyable trip and I would gladly go again if it were warmer.
Y10 Male student.

I really enjoyed the trip because it was fun and insightful. On the first day we climbed a mountain and found out that the area was protected and we also saw a mountain called the Devil's Kitchen. We skipped stones on a lake that is also protected. We also had classrooms where we tested out hypothesis which was about how the course of a river changes as we go down towards the beach. We also learnt about sea defenses such as rock armour at the little town called Criccieth. We did a bipolar investigation to see which types of defenses was better. Overall, it was really good.
Y10 female student - Temidire Onikute



Trip to Carding Mill Valley

On Monday 25th and Wednesday the 27th of September the Y10 Geographers headed out to Carding Mill Valley. A part of the Long Mynd in Shropshire, this area of outstanding natural beauty was the site for their first GCSE fieldwork. They were studying the river and checking if the characteristics of a real river, the Ashbrook, matched the theory they learnt in the classroom, the Bradshaw Model. The hypothesis for investigation was "The cross profile of the Ashbrook changes with distance".

The weather for both days was excellent and the National Trust Ranger Team complimented the students on both their knowledge and their manners.

Some comments from the students just after we got back include:

What did you enjoy most about the trip?

- Being out with a group of friends when working.
- Following the big metal pipe along the hill and seeing the amazing view from the top.
- I loved seeing the wild horses!
- The mountains!

What did you learn that will help you in your Geography class?

- How to use a clinometer to measure the river gradient.
- There is something called a ford that is not a car.
- I would see the Bradshaw Model is real.

What did you find challenging?

- Trying to catch the cork - its slippery.
- Walking up the hills.
- Trying to stroke a sheep, they are fast.

What advice would you give next years Geographers to get the most out of their day?

- Bring two pairs of shoes and socks because they will get wet. Wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty because there is mud everywhere.
- If you don't walk fast, you won't get to see the waterfall.
- Bring lots of food, the cafe is expensive.
- Ask the rangers geographical questions and they will help you.



#Take10ToRead Campaign

Reading is valued by staff and students alike at Yardleys; pupils are encouraged to not only engage with subject specific reading materials in lessons but also read in their form groups throughout the week, exploring both fiction and non-fiction texts from a range of genres. But, how many of our students read for pleasure? How many recognise the positive impact reading can have on your mental health? Reading isn't just the single best thing you can do to improve your attainment across all your school subjects, it also boosts your mood helping you to relax and unwind; creates an escape from the pressures of life; reduces stress levels and improves memory and concentration and it is the wellbeing benefits of reading that we, as a school, hoped to promote by joining the National Literacy Trust's '#Take10ToRead' campaign earlier this year. The National Literacy Trust's September 2023 report found that just 2 in 5 children and young people aged between 8-19 enjoyed reading in their own time and so the aim of their campaign – and our work in school – is to try and encourage more students to read widely, not just inside but also outside of school.

On Tuesday 10th October, World Mental Health Day, Guided Reading in school looked a little different this year. Students and staff were asked to bring in reading material of their choice (be it a novel, newspaper or magazine) and time was given over to them to read silently. Many form tutors also made time for students to share synopses of their books with peers and the library noticed a surge in books issued! Lots of students loved the opportunity to discuss and take autonomy over their reading; so much so that we hope to make this more than just a one off and give students time each term to #take10toread!



Trustee Update



It has been another very busy term, starting with amazing exam results - congratulations from trustees and members to all staff, students, and parents/carers!

Hopefully everyone has accessed our VLE and kept in touch with what is going on. I am always amazed by the breadth and diversity of what our students participate in.

Another big thank you to trustees and members, who have as always given tremendous support to the senior leadership team (SLT). I have met regularly with Mr Warner or other members of the SLT, and trustees have made link visits to many areas including to see a maths lesson where I learnt a lot about how to measure vectors!; there have been SEND workshops, safeguarding updates and more.

Across the year, Trustees receive reports about attendance, achievements, Pupil Premium, rewards, successes, safeguarding, finance, assessment, homework, behaviour, reviews of individual subjects, and so much more. Recently together with the SLT, trustees discussed the next 3-year strategic plan. This was an excellent session, and the plan is being finalised for next term. An important part of that plan is our total commitment to the Equality Act 2010, and the right of all protected characteristics to be treated fairly and with respect.

Sadly, we are losing two trustees this year, Ed Lawrence and Tim Gordon, from our teaching staff, both have been very involved members of the trust board for 4 years now, and we will really miss their participation and commitment. We look forward to new staff joining us shortly. Another long serving trustee whose term of office recently ended was Adill Hadi, but happily he has agreed to come back as a member and therefore will remain involved with Yardleys.

Finally, while Mr Warner, our wonderful Head Teacher is leaving, we are very sad, but also grateful that he has made such a positive difference in the nearly 3 years he has been with us. I believe he leaves Yardleys, a happier more confident school, about whom Ofsted was so very positive.

Fortunately, we have time for a proper goodbye. Also, we will have in place by the beginning of January a Head of School, who will become Acting Headteacher when Mr Warner leaves at the beginning of the Summer term.

Jean Helme
Chair of Trustees