



THE YARDLEIAN

inside:

Development & Achievements
Perfect Prom
The Yardleys Charter Sports award

THE YARDLEYS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO.3

SEPTEMBER 2019

The pupils of the 2019 Year 11 cohort have achieved another set of impressive exam results. 47% of pupils have passed the new more challenging grade 5 in both English and maths (against a national average of 43% and up from 45% in 2018).

There were also some excellent results in other subjects with an overall figure of 73% at grade 4 (C) or better – against a national average of 70%.

We are proud of all our students and the hard work, perseverance and teamwork that they demonstrated not just in Year 11 but during their whole five years at Yardleys. We wish them every success in the next stage of their education and in their lives generally.

There are some pupils we would like to highlight for their achievements including:

Aalyan Zaheer

two 9s, five 8s and one grade 6

Mohammed Ismail Mahroof

three 9s, three 8s and two grade 7s

Umair Khan

three 9s, five 8s and one grade 6

Sadia Jawed

three 9s, two 8s, two 7s and one grade 6

Zachariah Winnicott

four 9s, two 8s and two grade 6s

Mohamed Firouz

three 9s, two 8s and three grade 7s

Ramiz Ahmed

one 9, six 8s and one grade 7

Mohammed Adnan

one 9, five 8s and two grade 7s

Muhammad Hasan

two 9s, three 8s and three grade 7s

Naida Dautovic

two 9s, four 8s and two grade 6s

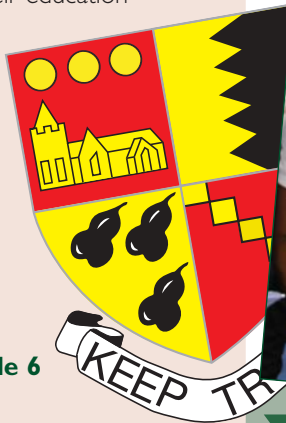
As well as these high attaining pupils we would also like to highlight the following pupils for the tremendous progress they have made from primary school to their GCSEs. Many of these have achieved three grades higher than national levels of progress.

Muqaddas Saeed, Hashim Amin, Ahmed Karpous, Zulekha Begum, Anwar Haq, Anisa Kausar, Danish Khan, Hussain Mubashir and Wajaahat Ali.

We would also like to thank all the teachers and staff who have worked so hard to teach and support the pupils. Similarly the tremendous support we have received from parents and families who have worked with the school to help pupils.

Well done to everyone and we look forward to seeing our next Year 11 cohort achieving and exceeding these high academic standards.

excellent GCSE exam results...



Yardleys staff saying hello and goodbye...

At the end of the summer term we said goodbye to several members of staff including Ms Burge and Ms Green who are both retiring after many years of service; Mr Bate who was appointed as the new headteacher at Moseley school; Ms Maginnis, promoted to Deputy Headteacher at Blue Coat School, Coventry; Mr Khan (computing) and Ms Jones (RE) are also moving on to other schools.

We would like to welcome Ms Stringer (Geography), Mr Khan (Science), Ms Khan (RE) and Ms Sydenham (Head of Art) to Yardleys from September 2019.



whole school development and achievement...

Yardleys School Charter



Staff & Students believe everyone at Yardleys School should:

Be Ready

- show **positivity** and enthusiasm;
- be motivated & have high expectations of ourselves & others;
- be **curious** and ready to learn new things;
- be fully prepared for all activities with everything you need;
- communicate with others regularly and effectively;
- have excellent attendance and punctuality;
- be well presented and smartly dressed;
- show **resilience** when faced with challenges

Be Respectful

- recognise that we are all equal individuals;
- have regard for each other's personal space and privacy;
- take care of the building, equipment and the environment;
- be polite, considerate and kind to everyone;
- communicate in a calm and polite manner;
- actively listen to others;
- appreciate others' beliefs, opinions & cultures;
- show **empathy** and maturity when dealing with sensitive issues

Be Responsible

- be safe and look after each other;
- complete work on time and to a high standard;
- behave well with **integrity**; even when no-one is watching;
- be a positive role model and representative of the school;
- recognise that we are responsible for our own actions;
- be fair in your treatment of others;
- give our full effort to everything you do;
- **reflect** on all that we do and learn from our mistakes

Leading to Academic Excellence and Personal Development

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE



new head boy & girl...

During the summer term interviews took place for the posts of Head Boy and Girl. All candidates had to deliver a presentation on the school values and how they uphold them followed by questions from the panel. We are delighted to announce that Mohammed Dean and Farah Hanif were appointed as Head Boy and Girl respectively together with Muhammad Darwish Faiz and Millie Dodd as their deputies. We would like to thank all candidates that applied. The interview panel were extremely impressed with the quality of presentations and the mature way pupils handled themselves in the interview process.

This is also an opportunity to thank Mohammed Ismail Mahroof and Sadia Jawed our outgoing head boy and girl and all of the year 11 prefects who were the first to be appointed to these new pupil leadership roles.



Last academic year saw the consultation, design and launch of the Yardleys Charter. This is an agreement between all staff and pupils as to how we will all uphold our school rules and values as well as our ethos of 'working together'. We are now looking to embed this into everything we do both in and out of the classroom and outside of school as we look to prepare our pupils for wider life beyond education.

introducing the Yardleys School Charter...



celebration prize giving

On 11th July 2019 the school held its annual Celebration Evening to recognise the achievements and successes of students over the past year. Awards included subject attainment, effort, progress, 100% attendance, student of the year for each year group, the Mark Prever Cup awarded for the school values and the new addition this year of the Robert Johnson Cup. This Cup was introduced by governors in recognition of being the longest serving member of staff with 41 years' service. It is to be awarded for sporting achievement and Mr Johnson was in attendance on the evening to present it. This was a wonderful evening and a great opportunity to reflect on our students' successes alongside parents.

introducing our governors...

Our Governing Body is made up of individuals with a variety of backgrounds and experience. They work together to further raise standards here at Yardleys for students, being responsible for setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction; holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and overseeing the finances of the school and making sure its money is well spent. We have a number of long serving governors alongside newer members. These include the following: Jean Helme, Chair of Governors; John Gardner, Vice Chair of Governors; Emma Arnott, Adill Hadi; Peter Lee and Gary Neal. Mohideen Mohamed Ismail and Suzie Bennett our parent governors and Mr Gray, Mr Sohal and Mr Tilley our staff governors. We appreciate the time they give and the work and support they provide the school.

teaching & learning...

guided reading

Every morning at Yardleys begins with a 25 minute class reading session led by a form tutor. All pupils and staff read the same book in each year group focussing on vocabulary, the plot or narrative and of course developing a love of reading. In the new academic year we are also looking to improve pupils' oracy skills by ensuring they read clearly and loudly so that everyone in the room can hear every word.



assessment week June 2019

All pupils in years 7-10 sat practice exams in all their subjects during our second assessment week of the year. During the week normal lessons are cancelled and pupils sit exams or focus on their revision using study skills and techniques they have learnt all year.

curriculum development in subjects

During the summer term, once Year 11 have finished their exams, Heads of Subjects and their teams focussed on planning their curricula for the new academic year. The school supported this with extra CPD days and other time for subject teams to really consider and plan out a coherent five year programme for all pupils.

CPD and new lead practitioner

Training for all teachers and staff is a key priority for the school. To this end we have appointed Ms Deakin as a second lead practitioner to help develop our training and support programme. We will continue to provide as much time as possible for subject based training on Thursday afternoon as well as many staff working as GCSE examiners, collaborating or sharing ideas with other schools both locally and nationally.

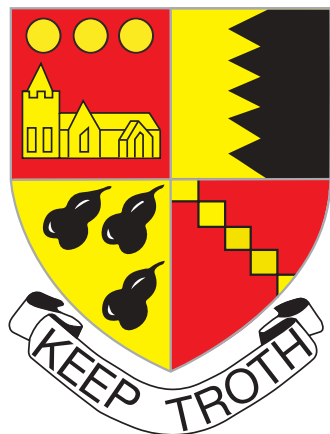
year 11 revision and GCSE pod

One of the ways we endeavour to help pupils in their revision and preparation for their GCSE exams is through the online programme GCSE pod which is freely available to all pupils via the school VLE & website. This programme has hundreds of mini lessons of 3-5 minutes duration on nearly every subject and topic studied by pupils. This helps to provide alternative explanations where pupils have struggled to understand something in the lesson or to refresh or consolidate their learning.



room changes

The school has made several changes to the building and internal organisation of the school over the last year. The new extension has provided extra classrooms for the English team, thereby allowing all teachers to have their own room. The accompanying Cooper Hall now allows extra hall space for lunchtime, merged classes or assemblies as required. The school has also refurbished the old textile room to provide a new multimedia suite. Finally the school has reorganised the special needs and pastoral areas so they can work closer together to support our pupils.



homework system

The school homework system continues to focus on pupils revising and learning the essential knowledge in each subject in the summary booklets (Knowledge Organisers) that they are given. They are then tested on their learning via the school's online quiz system – Frog Play.

To support this pupils also receive weekly sessions which teach them the techniques of revision and study.



THE YARDLEIAN

look out for issue 4 coming soon...

pastoral care & personal development...

attendance

Pupils' attendance improved last year, rising from 95% to 95.5%. The percentage of pupils whose attendance was a serious cause for concern (below 90%) also fell significantly from over 11% to 8%. Thank you to the pastoral team, pupils themselves and all of our parents who have supported the school in this area. We would also like to congratulate all those pupils who had 100% attendance all year – a tremendous achievement!

year 7 induction

In early July our new year 7 pupils came to school for their induction programme with Ms Kilarney, their new head of year, and her team. As well as a wide variety of taster lessons and activities (such as an introduction to Yardleys values, school lunches and a tug of war competition) it was also an opportunity to meet some of their peers and teachers. It was lovely to see so many happy faces at the end of the day and we look forward to seeing them all in school in September.

careers education & guidance

The school provides extensive guidance and advice on education, training and employment after school. To this end the school organises various taster days to both sixth form colleges as well as universities. This includes attending a day at Joseph Chamberlain College, personal interviews for all pupils, careers roadshows and various visiting speakers. One such speaker was Mr David Farnsworth from the school accountants who visited the school to give a talk to pupils about careers in accountancy and financial services. Pupils were given insights into the skills and qualifications required, the many varied opportunities in the sector and some of the day to day activities carried out.

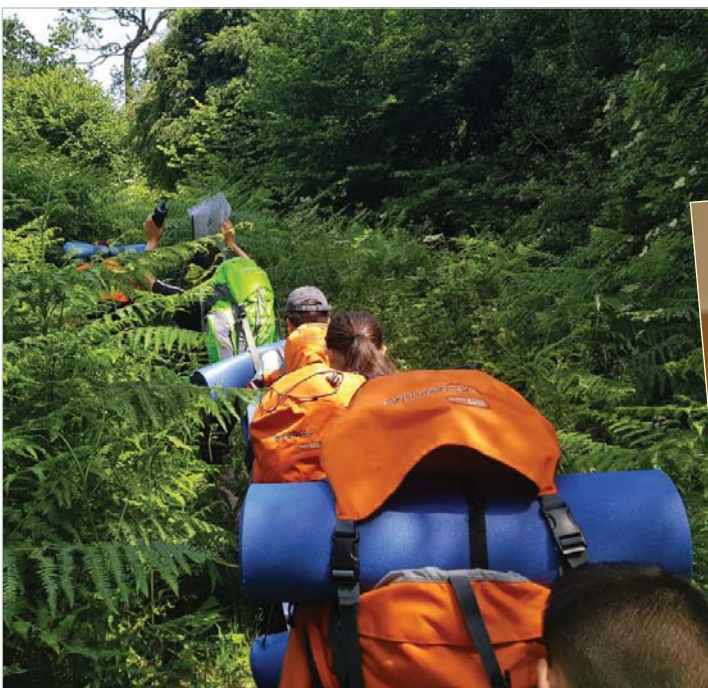
general studies course

This year we are introducing a new course called General Studies for all year 9 pupils where we will look at the origins of the universe, our planet and the development of human civilisations, ideas and inventions. The aim is for pupils to see the bigger picture and make connections between all of the subjects they study.



duke of edinburgh award

2019 saw our largest ever cohort of Duke of Edinburgh participants. Pupils had fulfilled the community volunteering aspect of the award during the year as well as training for expeditions during Wednesday enrichment sessions. 34 pupils then took part in a practice and assessed expedition in the summer term in Worcester. Well done to all who were successful and achieved the bronze award. A huge thank you to all the staff who led, managed or participated in the training and expeditions.



charity work



Your local children's hospice

At the end of term Mr Thornton and his team of volunteers organised the traditional end of term breakfast for staff. As well as enjoying a nutritious start to the final day of the year, staff raised over £100 for the Acorns Children's Hospice. Thank you to everyone who helped and contributed to the event.



Both staff and pupils have been engaged in a variety of charity activities and fundraising during the year. One of the most significant during both Christmas and Eid has been the generous donations of food by pupils for a local foodbank run by several community faith organisations. In recognition of this work the school, represented by Ms Jones and other staff members, was given an award, (left) which we are very proud to receive and display in school.

SEND

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) team have made several changes and improvements to the way in which support is provided to pupils. As well as helping pupils in lessons teaching assistants (TAs) also carry out targeted interventions (e.g. handwriting sessions) during form time or after school. The SEND team also now provide teachers with details, advice and guidance on working with specific pupils via the school IT management systems making it much easier to access and update as required. Some pupils have been given support via alternative qualifications such as every day, functional English & Maths and life skills courses. The SEND team have provided extensive support before and during exams which has led to improvement in their progress in GCSE exams this year. Pupils have also been given post 16 and employment and careers advice both in school and on taster days to colleges such as South & City FE College, and Bournville College.

enrichment

We have had another fantastic year of enrichment sessions held every Wednesday afternoon during the extended form time from 2.40-3.30pm.

Pupils have experienced, often for the first time, an amazing variety of activities including a wide range of sports; performing arts such as drama, dancing and singing; arts & craft activities such as knitting, origami, car model making, jewellery making, and scrapbooks; board games (e.g. chess and war hammer) and many more such as performing monologues, gardening, computer coding, current affairs discussions and exploring Birmingham. We believe that this benefits the pupils by providing personal confidence and cultural capital which helps to prepare them for wider life. As ever we are grateful to our staff who make this such an exciting and novel part of the wider curriculum at Yardleys School.



personal development course and reports

This September we will be launching our new personal development programme incorporating six themes or topics for each cohort of pupils. These include physical and mental health, careers & enterprise, relationships, democracy & British values and sex education.

We have worked with a variety of agencies and organisations to help support this important part of the school curriculum. For example we invited local police officers to talk to pupils about the dangers of knife crime. We continue to welcome our longstanding friends from Loudmouth Theatre into school to perform various thought provoking plays on a variety of personal safety and wellbeing issues.

In July we issued the first personal development reports to pupils and their parents & carers. These were summaries of individual pupils' achievements, activities and skills that had taken place outside of lessons. Features of the reports included attendance & punctuality, books read, enrichment activities attended, homework, school values demonstrated, prizes attained, participation in charity, sports or extra-curricular activities as well as careers & employment guidance and any personal achievements.

We are very grateful to Ms Yates for her hard work and leadership of this aspect of the curriculum together with all those members of staff who are supporting with ideas, resources and activities.

year 11 prom

One of the highlights of the school year is the school prom held for the year 11 leavers. This year the venue was once again the Manor Hotel, Meriden. As always it was a delightful evening with the stylishly dressed pupils and staff members celebrating their time at Yardleys with food, music and dancing. Thank you to Ms Kilarney for organising the event together with all the staff who attended or assisted.



modern foreign languages (MFL)- Spanish and French

In January a selected group of Year 8 pupils took part in a French cultural event organised by Routes into Languages at Aston University. Pupils were mixed with other schools and joined different workshops, where they learned about French speaking festivals. At the end of the day, they delivered a short presentation in French about one of the festivals.



religious education (RE)

Ms Waldron has been appointed the new Head of RE from September and we would like to thank Ms Jones for all her wonderful work not only in achieving such high academic standards in RE but also for her charity and community work.

In terms of enrichment in RE we hosted a visit by the Gideons charity. Similarly 'Solutions not Sides' visited with speakers from both sides of the Israel-Palestine conflict. It is so important for pupils to hear diverse views and opinions on a range of issues. All of the visitors were very impressed with the pupils' behaviour and their positive attitude to learning.

This year we launched an Empathy Appeal during Ramadan and RE worked with a member of the English team, Ms Abdul-Karim, to create blessing bags with food and pupils' 'empathy' poems inside. These were then taken and distributed to some of the homeless in the city centre. Food was also collected for the local food bank. Our empathy poem winners were Roohan Rashid Year 7; Amina Younis Year 8; Amirah Khalid Year 10; Sima Ahmediyani Year 10. Well done all of these pupils and to everyone involved in the project.



book bus

On Wednesday 19th June, Yardleys School was visited by the 'Browns for Books' Book Bus.

Two groups of Year 7 students and one group of Year 8 students visited the bus, and were able to browse an array of hundreds of books: they had everything, from manga to modern art. The pupils enjoyed 'zapping' the books they were interested in reading, and they also enjoyed reading and discussing books with each other and staff. The 'zapped' books will form a student wish list for the library. The students were a credit to the school: they were polite, well-behaved and well-mannered. Special thanks to our librarian, Ms Keskinilinc, for organising the visit.

the UKMT maths challenges took place in February

These aim to challenge our high ability students and we were successful with 44 awards, with 1 gold, 13 silver, 30 bronze. The best in school at Junior level (KS3) was Zahid Elboshra and at intermediate level (KS4) was Safeer Mohammed.

media studies

Media Studies continues to be a popular choice among pupils and they have produced some exceptional practical work such as professional DVD covers and magazine adverts. The head of department, Mr Armstead, was also pleased to take possession of the new media studies room (below) with pupils and teachers alike enjoying the great facilities in there.

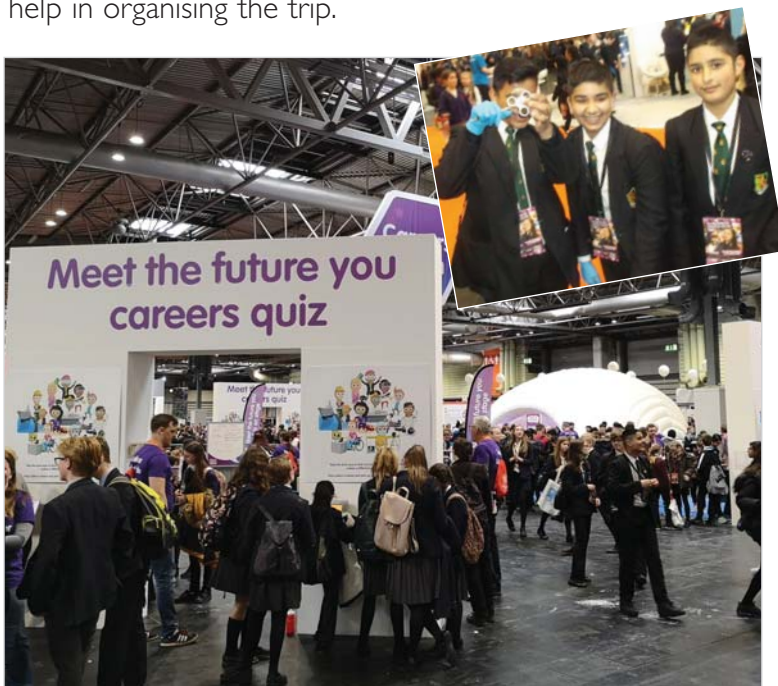


science trip to GCSE live!



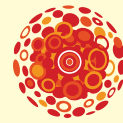
In February Mrs Hiley, Mrs Hackett and Mrs Price took 40 budding Year 10 scientists to the GCSE Live! event at Birmingham Symphony Hall where they were treated to guest lectures from famous scientists.

A personal highlight from the pupils was Robert Winston's lecture about fertility and also Jim Al-Khalili's lecture about time travel! Pupils were also able to hear from the head examiner from last summer's GCSE exams, who gave them useful tips on how to be better at answering questions in the exams. A special thanks as always to Ms O'Donovan for her help in organising the trip.



biology quiz

Some of our Year 10 scientists went to the University of Birmingham to participate in the annual Big Biology Quiz. Over 300 pupils from schools in the West Midlands demonstrated their knowledge of various topics including microbiology, cancer, and adaptations of plants and animals. Dr Jess Blair also delivered a lecture on superbugs, which was both fascinating and terrifying in equal measure. Thank you to Mrs Hiley and Mrs Price for organising and managing this trip.



The Big Bang
UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair

science...the big bang fair

The UK's largest STEM fair was attended by our Year 9 cohort, all of whom are now studying triple science. Pupils interacted with scientists and professionals from a wide range of STEM careers. There were practical workshops using medical equipment such as an ultrasound machine and an ECG. They also participated in dance workshops, slime making, Lego robot construction and drone flying as well as watching the live stage shows with many LOUD explosions and stunning science on display.

healthcare aspiration

Mrs Ashfaq, head of chemistry, took year 10 pupils to Aston University to explore Healthcare Aspiration Courses. They were provided with information on healthcare careers such as medicine, surgery, pharmacy, nursing, optometry, biomedical sciences and many more including first aid and ambulance services. Pupils also experienced real lectures on neuroscience, optometry as well as advice on the requirements to get onto a medicine course in the New Medical School.

sport & arts...

art

Year 11 students completed their GCSE art course with just over half achieving a standard pass.

We are extremely grateful to Ms Davies who took over responsibility for both groups during the year and worked tirelessly with the pupils. There were lots of diverse final pieces produced in the exam with graffiti art, water colours, large furniture decoration, photo-realism and pencil skills all featuring. We would like to welcome Ms Sydenham as the new Head of Art for September 2019 following Ms Burge's well deserved retirement after many years of service to the school.



sports day

Sports Day was held at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre and it is always a highlight for pupils as they experience the professional sporting environment and enjoy a whole school event that brings the social benefits of mixed ages teams.

Some outstanding performances came from the following: Mica Ming 8ANB 0.95m high jump; Abdul Basit 8AMT 19.95m javelin; Harjinder Singh 9BEJ 16.10m discus; Vanisha Parmar 9GNM 200m; Yaw Tenkamenin 10RYA 1.30m high jump; Laibia Wajid 10RYA 14.80m Discus; Hamza Awad 4.81m long jump and Amal El Younossi 11 SML 1.15M high jump. As always a huge thank you to Ms Townsend and Mr Cross, the PE dept, and all other staff who organised and managed the day.

Staff relay teams



sports teams training

During Wednesday enrichment sessions sport was organised differently this year as students were selected for team or squad training. We had found that some pupils were struggling to attend training after school due to other commitments. As a result improvement was very evident in girls' netball and basketball as well as Year 7 and 8 rugby.



singing

Last academic year saw the start of a new singing programme for all pupils in year 7 and 8.

The programme has been led and delivered by the Birmingham Music Service. Pupils have been taught some of the basics of singing and music whilst at the same time learning the lyrics and melodies of a range of songs in a variety of genres. The programme continues this year where we hope to see more pupils joining the school choir and more performances.

Services
For Education
Music Service

sports award

We have been awarded the School Games Mark Bronze Award for all our efforts in developing PE and sport. Congratulations to the PE department and all those who help to provide sporting opportunities to our children.



THE
YARDLEIAN

look out for
issue 4
coming
soon...