



BARR BEACON NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019 FEATURING...

- AWARDS EVENING 2019
- COMPETITION WINNERS
- REMEMBRANCE EVENTS



FEATURING...

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE



WELCOME

Dear Parents,

You may have seen a new video on our website. It's called 'Beacon Values'.

For nearly a decade now, all schools have been required to promote 'British Values' such as respect and tolerance. But we have never believed these values go far enough. Why would we want our pupils to merely tolerate people who are different to them? For us, tolerance is a low bar. We want to go beyond and actively celebrate difference.

And when I say 'we', I don't just mean my staff. We have a team of pupils in charge of promoting our 'Beacon Values'. They are the ones who scripted and performed in the video on our website. The Beacon Values team are passionate about making school, their community and even the country (and dare I say, the world), a more tolerant place for everyone.

You will read about lots of individual successes in this newsletter – but you will also read about people putting others first. And people who share lots of different characteristics working together to achieve common goals.

It's what Barr Beacon is all about.

Whether you celebrate Christmas or not, have a fantastic break. See you in the new year.

Ms L Draycott
Headteacher



View the video here: www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk/beacon-values/



Attendance Information for Parents/ Carers

Please remember that if you take your child on holiday during school time you are very likely to receive a fine from Walsall Local Authority. The Local Authority may also take parents/carers to court if their child is persistently absent (below 90%). Some parents have even been arrested, taken to court and fined over £500.

Notices

If your child needs to take prescribed medication please ensure you have signed it in at reception. The forms are available under the Publications tab on the website.

We regularly conduct research in school to identify opportunities for enhancing the learning for all pupils. This includes surveys and group interviews. If you would prefer your child not to be involved, please contact Mr Lowbridge-Ellis.



'AN INSPECTOR CALLS' WORKSHOP

On Monday 25th November, Year 8 students were captivated by the 'An Inspector Calls' performance and workshop lead by Drama Impact Productions. This production allowed students to understand the play from beyond the page looking at the time and social status of these people, how they stood, looked, felt and behaved.

During the workshop session, the actors invited a number of volunteer pupils to work on stage in a specific scene while the remaining audience members were fully engaged throughout, being involved in assistant directing, developing staging ideas, general and specific discussion of the themes, stagecraft, characterisation, symbolism and language.

A particularly big well done to all the pupils that participated in the workshop:

R.KAUR 8B1
A.GIBBS 8W1
S.TWINE 8B3
L.STENSON 8B2
K.DYKE 8B2
O.HORSFIELD 8W2
G.SMITH 8B2



HOMework MODEL COMPETITION

It is a humanities tradition for Year 7 pupils to produce a model as a homework exercise for the department. The models are then put on display at Open Evening. This year, pupils were asked to produce one model from a choice of three topics:

HISTORY – Create a model around the theme of life in the medieval period.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Create a model about beliefs. This could reflect a place or form of worship, symbols of faith or what faith means to you.

GEOGRAPHY – Create a model on the theme of plate tectonics, which could include the structure of the earth, an earthquake scene, a volcano or a tsunami.

We were overwhelmed with the response and had some wonderful projects. It was a difficult to decide on the winners and runners up. We would like to say thank you to everyone who put a lot of effort in to their projects.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS WHO ARE:

HISTORY WINNERS
1ST PLACE – CAITEN IN WREKIN
2ND PLACE - SOPHIE IN CLENT
3RD PLACE – PAIGE IN MALVERN

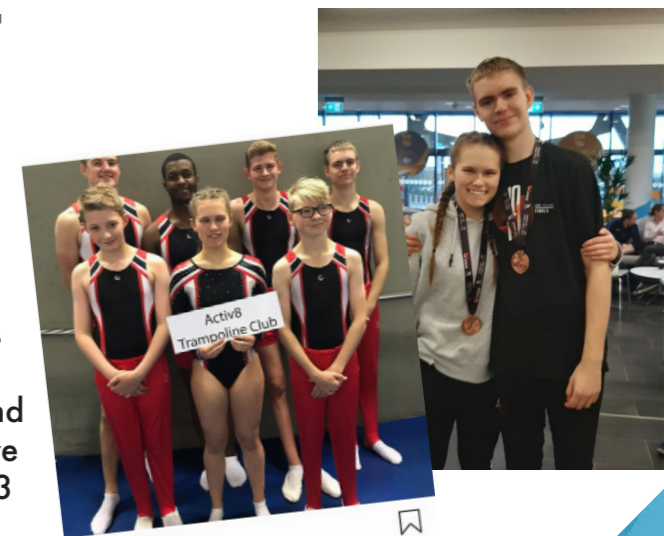
RE WINNERS:
1ST AMRETA IN CLENT
2ND KELIS IN BREDON
3RD AMAN IN CLENT

GEOGRAPHY WINNERS:
1ST: EMILIJA IN WREKIN
2ND: NEHA IN WREKIN
3RD: ISABELLA IN BREDON

TRAMPOLINE MEDALLIST

Sophie in Year 10 came third in the national Trampoline League Finals held at Derby Velodrome Stadium on Saturday and Sunday 9th/10th November.

This was her first national competition. To get there she had to compete against 86 gymnasts in the first stage where she placed 6th. Then in the next she competed against 56 gymnasts and she won Gold, which led her to the finals where she competed against 24 gymnasts in League 3 in the 15-16 age group. Sophie is still only 14! Sophie has trained hard at her sport for many years and achieved a lot of success in many competitions. We are very proud of her.



16 likes
Our Club representatives at League Finals, Derby this weekend

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK ART COMPETITION

Art and Design pupils have designed some fantastic Anti Bullying artwork for a competition. The winners will be receiving a certificate and an Art prize for their amazing contribution.

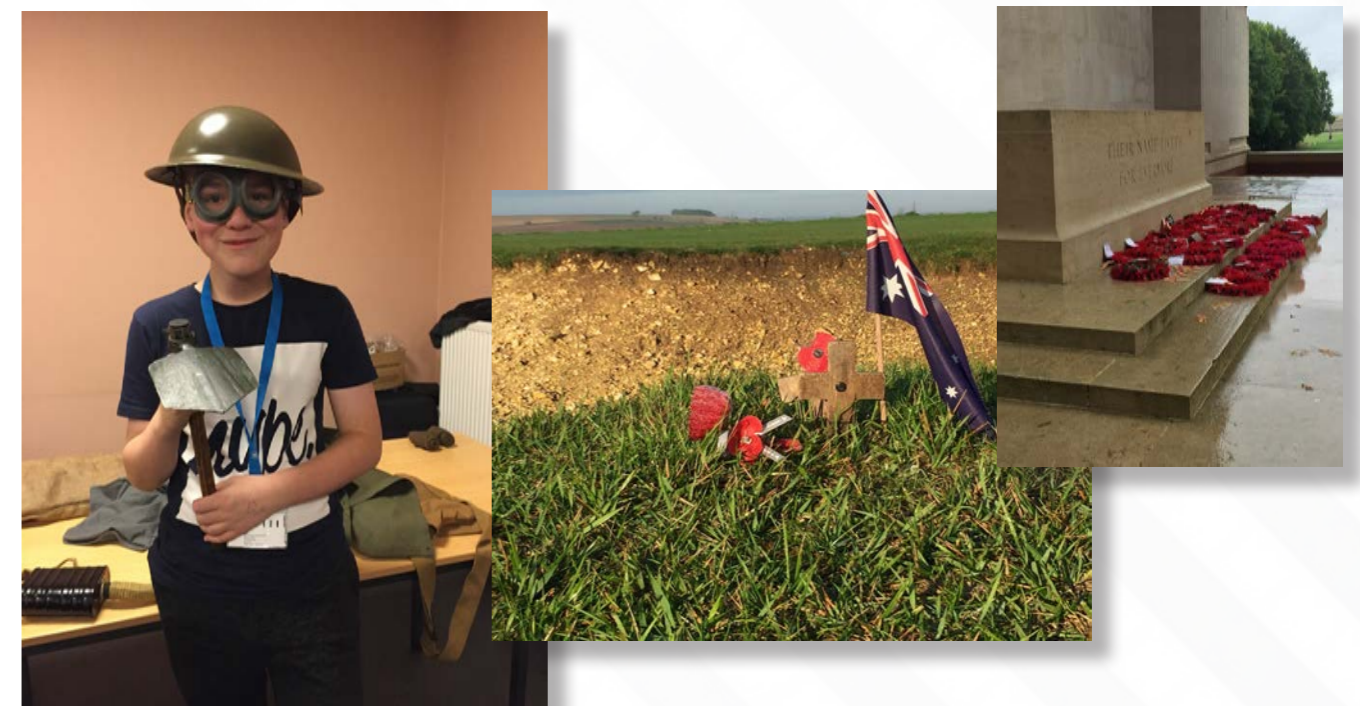
WINNERS

D. HAWKINS (Y11) C. DUGMORE (Y7) M. EDU (Y9) R. NASEEM (Y7)



BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

In October, 4 pupils and Mrs Selby of the history department were very privileged to take part in a 4 day visit to the First World War battlefields of Belgium and France in a project funded by the government to ensure the representatives from every State school in England are able to visit these sites and participate in an act of remembrance. During our time in Belgium we visited museums and both Commonwealth War Graves Cemeteries and a German War Graves cemetery, experiencing the contrast of the wide open spaces of the Tyne Cot Memorial, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in the world, to the tree-shaded Langemark German Cemetery with a communal grave of over 24,000. On our last evening in Belgium we visited the town of Ypres and Katie in Year 9 took part in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, a very emotional and humbling experience, laying a wreath on behalf of our coach party.



SPECIAL PRAISE EVENT

It has been an absolute pleasure to host the second special praise event this academic year. Form tutors nominated two pupils in their form who they believe deserve more recognition for their excellent contribution to school life, their exceptional behaviour and for being lovely pupils to teach. All nominated pupils were rewarded with a three-course breakfast and the chance to win a £10 love-to-shop voucher. Three winners were randomly selected for this prize. All pupils were unaware of being nominated and were pleasantly surprised to find they had been rewarded for their hard work and effort. It is always great to pass on the message that their exceptional standards of behaviour are not going unnoticed.

ARMISTICE DAY



POPPY VEIL



Inspired by the original artist, Paul Cummins, we decided to commemorate Armistice day with our own version of the famous 'Weeping Window'. The whole school project included every pupil and student at Barr Beacon contributing to the installation by making a grand total of 3800 poppies.

The poppy veil was formed by various pupils, including five young boys who have a parent currently serving in the forces. This was a special time for them to reflect on their parents' contribution to the welfare of our society and the boys thoroughly enjoyed being part of the creative process.



ALDRIDGE REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

We are very proud of our Head Boy Harjodh and our Deputy Head Girl Edna who represented Barr Beacon School at the Remembrance Service that was held at Aldridge War Memorial on Sunday 10th November 2019. During the service, they laid a wreath on behalf of the school.



Images from our Remembrance day service.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION COMPETITION

On the 20th November, the textiles Christmas decoration competition was launched across the school. We had many entries and it was a difficult decision to choose a first, second and third place. Congratulations to the following pupils:

1ST: RUMEEA IN WREKIN
2ND: KATIE IN BREDON
3RD: CLARA IN CLENT

150 HOUSE POINTS, CHOCOLATE PRIZE AND SEWING KIT
100 HOUSE POINTS AND CHOCOLATE PRIZE
50 HOUSE POINTS AND CHOCOLATE PRIZE

All entries received 25 house points. Well done and look out for more House competitions in textiles in the near future!



CHRISTMAS MARKETS IN COLOGNE, GERMANY

On Monday 9th December, 57 excited pupils and 6 teachers left school in the early hours to make the 14 hour coach journey to Cologne for the annual Christmas Markets Trip. We arrived at the hotel at around 7pm and spent a lovely evening relaxing into our new accommodation and unpacking.

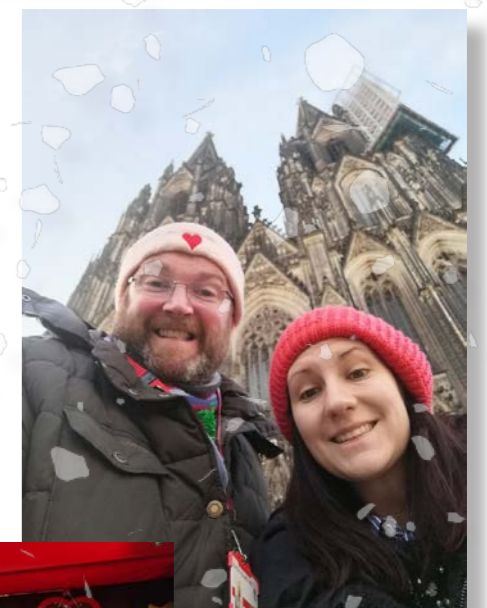
On Tuesday morning, we were up early to see Cologne for ourselves. We started off with a visit to the famous Cologne Cathedral. Construction on this amazing building started in 1248 and the spire is over 157m tall, so it was very impressive to see! It was then on to the Christmas Markets where much Christmas shopping was done by all.

Next up was a boat trip along the River Rhine - with a visit from the main man himself, Santa Claus, who came to wish us all a very happy Christmas. Barr Beacon students also proved themselves in fine voice by getting up on stage and entertaining fellow passengers with a rendition of 'Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer'. It will go down in history along with Rudolf himself!

Wednesday's grey and wet weather didn't dampen our spirits as we were off to visit to Phantasialand for a day of rollercoasters. Some even rode the formidable Black Mamba nine times! Mr Murphy summed up our experience on the coach back with a wonderful rendition of 'The Twelve Days of Cologne', which re-capped some of our fondest memories.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

On Tuesday 19th November, the charity group FSCI (Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion) collected our Christmas shoeboxes that were donated by all form groups in the school. The very generous donations by our pupils will go towards helping the charity in transforming lives in South-East Europe. The shoeboxes contained gifts for all age groups, giving the chance of those less fortunate than ourselves to open up a present on Christmas day.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY

Our Christmas assemblies are well-loved annual tradition in which our Heads of House and Assistant Heads of House put on a series of not-too-serious games. Many of them defy descriptions in words. For example, a highlight this year was the 'navigating a balloon through an airborne hoop using only a roll of wrapping paper' game. How DO they come up with these?!

Some of the competitions came with forfeits – including pies to the face. Well, it is Christmas!

In lieu of more words, enjoy this selection of photographs in which you will also see shots of our various dance groups performing their fantastically choreographed, much-rehearsed routines.





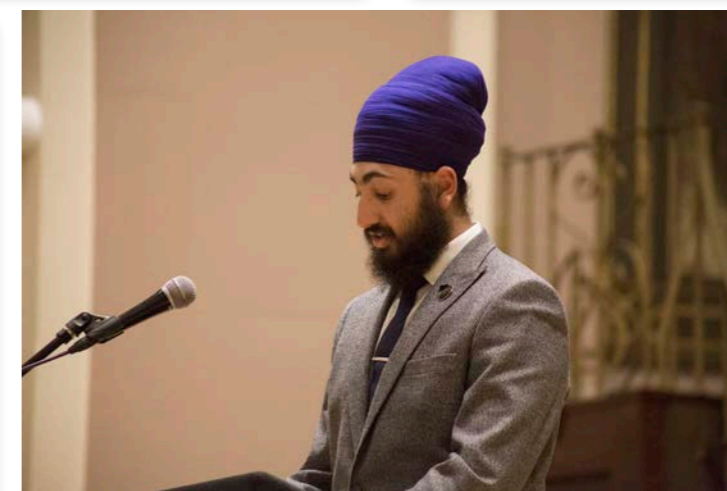
AWARDS EVENING 2019

This year's Awards Evening was a fantastic celebration of what Barr Beacon is all about. As Head Boy Harjodh made clear in his closing speech: "inspiration is nothing without perspiration". Every single award winner of the evening embodied this idea, whether they worked hard and achieved in their subjects or in extracurricular pursuits.

The guest speaker for the evening was Barr Beacon alumnus Chris Lane, who left school in 1998 to study Law at the University of Oxford, became a barrister and is now a vicar.

Presenting the sports awards was another alumnus: Jack Birch, currently playing for Aston Villa Football Club.

Chair of Governors Dr Deborah Park handed out many of the awards and we welcomed back Clive Mills, Beacon teacher of 43 years, to present the award named in his honour.



TWEET, TWEET

THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR TWITTER ACCOUNTS



Barr Beacon School
@barrbeaconsch

Have you seen our brand new Sixth Form prospectus? 😊

Check it out here! :

bit.ly/34zhYzk



Barr Beacon School @barrbeaconsch · Nov 5
Couldn't be more proud of our Year 12 student Ibrahim who was invited to speak on @bbcwm today.

Ibrahim Sohail DMYP @IbrahimSohail · Nov 5
It was awesome to be on @bbcwm today with @Emerson_jh02 speaking about why it's important for young people to be able to vote in elections, I also spoke about @YouthOfWalsall and our Knife Crime campaign. Listen here: bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/li... from about 19:36 @RakeemOmar



FOLLOW US @barrbeaconsch

Zico Futsal Club @Zicofutsalclub · Nov 18
@barrbeaconsch Year 9 pupil Aliyah won her first gold medal for 11-13 years Team Kumite at the JKS National Championships 🏆

Zico Futsal Club @Zicofutsalclub · Nov 18
Well done to our U14 Aliyah who won her first gold medal (team kumite) at the JKS National Championships in Nottingham 🏆 #walsallkaratedojo #teamkumite

Walsall Karate Dojo is feeling proud with Zafar Iqbal and 3 others at WildCats Arena. Yesterday at 15:48 · Nottingham · 📍
Gold - Team Kumite 11-13 Years Female

Barr Beacon School @barrbeaconsch
Our Cadets' first Biennial is featured here... 🌟

West Midland RFCA @WMRFCA · Nov 19
The latest edition of our e-newsletter is now available to read online.

We have some great features from the Reserve and Cadet units across our region and our employer engagement team have also been busy with fantastic events.

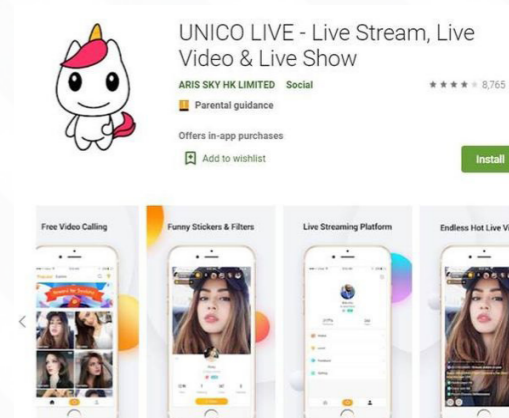
Read more here ow.ly/ZTZH50xeLGI

E-SAFETY

UNICO LIVE APP

West Midlands Police have been made aware of an App called "UNICO LIVE". The app is publicised as age restricted 12+ and designed for young people to upload videos of them performing, singing and dancing etc.; It has come to our attention that there is inappropriate content on the platform involving young people which is being investigated.

The content does not appear to be monitored and we urge you check your child's devices regularly.



MERRY TECH-MAS 🎅

If you're thinking about investing in a tablet or smartphone for your child this Christmas, there are a few things we recommend you check before gifting it to them.

The first thing you can check are the parental control settings for your broadband internet service provider. Most providers offer parental controls that affect the connection itself, rather than just individual devices – which means any device connected to your home network falls under their watchful eye. Both Android and Apple iOS have built-in parental controls that let you limit which built-in apps can be used, which third-party apps can be installed (based on age rating) and how in-app purchases are handled.

You can [CLICK HERE](#) to view our E-safety guides on our website.



Well done to Malvern for a fantastic Autumn Term. You have made me proud of all your achievements with Bronze, Silver, Gold and Headteacher's Awards. Well done to all of you. Also a huge congratulations for the many praise postcards that pupils have received this term. We have been inundated with requests from teachers to send them out. It goes to show what wonderful representatives of Malvern House you have been and you know who you are! There are some pupils who have been real stand outs this term and I would like to mention their achievements:

SPELLING BEE

The following were top scorers in their spelling bee competition. Super job all! Well done! 7M1 - E Baingana, J Choudhury, R Dhami, H Singh, J Hegney, 7M2 - P Litt, I Phillips, R Rai, 8M1 - A Smith, 8M2 - L Thorp

5K PARKRUN

Well done to S O'Mahoney in 10M2 for completing her first 5k parkrun at Sutton Park. This is amazing and keep up the fantastic running.

TALENTED FOOTBALLER

H Clarke 9M1 went to the trials for the West Midlands County football team this October. He was successful in being selected and has gone on to show his talent in a number of games these last few months. His stand out moment playing for the team was his game against Blues' junior team. They went on to win 2-0 with H Clarke scoring a goal. This was a big match for him as he supports Birmingham Football Club and regularly attends the matches. Well done H Clarke and keepy uppy the great skills!

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Malvern pupils have been competing against other houses across the school on the Bebras Challenge.

THE BEBRAS CHALLENGE

This is a competition aimed at raising awareness of Computer Science in a fun and rewarding way. The competition involves solving problems using computational thinking skills. Rewards are: A certificate for top achievers and for 'best in school' in each category, a chance to win a place in the Hall of Fame on the website and a chance to compete in finals at the University of Oxford.

Congratulations to all the pupils (and there were many in Malvern) that competed to outwit each other on the Computer Science Bebras Competition. A special congratulations goes to

J HEGNEY 7M1 - for "Best in School"
closely followed by D BAKER 7M2

DISTINCTION
N SILVER 7M3
F MIRZA 8M1
E WRANGLES 8M2
D COLEMAN 8M3.

They have all been invited to the next stage of the challenge. Excellent: keep up the amazing work!

HOUSE CUP

A HUGE congratulations to all of Malvern House for participating in House competitions, keeping attendance and punctuality high and gaining so many Bronze, Silver, Gold and Headteacher's Awards. It is because of you that we have achieved the following points:

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| MALVERN | 7005 POINTS |
| CLENT | 5020 POINTS |
| BREDON | 4630 POINTS |
| WREKIN | 4450 POINTS |

These points mean we are this year's winners of the House Cup. This is literally the icing on the Christmas Cake as we break up for this fantastic holiday. I wish all a fantastic break and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all next term.

Mrs Saunders
HEAD OF MALVERN HOUSE



Bredon House have had yet another fantastic year. I have been really impressed with all of your hard work and the ways in which you have contributed to all areas of school life. We have achieved an unbelievable amount of Commendation certificates and praise postcards. My personal highlight of 2019, was Bredon House winning the Sports Day Pentathlon Trophy! I hope that you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. You certainly deserve it!



FOOTBALL SUPER STAR: PHOEBE YEAR 7 IN HER OWN WORDS...

"I represent Rushall Olympic Football Club and I train with the team every Friday evening. I play in midfield and I have really improved this season. I am now much better at taking penalties and shooting when I am in front of goal. I now hope to make the youth team." Keep going Phoebe!

THE NEXT JACK GREALISH: RYAN YEAR 7 IN HIS OWN WORDS...

"I play Football for a team called Corlon Lions and I play centre midfield. I recently won the Club Man Trophy for my excellent performances. I was really happy with my achievement." This is outstanding Ryan Aston Villa could certainly do with a player like you!

Mr Townsend
HEAD OF BREDON HOUSE

BREDON HOUSE AWARD : LILLY YEAR 11

Lilly received the Bredon House Award in this year's fantastic KS4 Awards Evening. Lilly's great determination, outstanding work ethic and tremendous support to the House resulted in her being a worthy recipient of this prestigious award. Fantastic work!

KARATE KID : ALIYAH YEAR 9

Aliyah is a Karate black belt (2nd Dan) and recently competed in a National Karate Tournament where she successfully won Gold in the team Kumite (fighting) event. Well done Aliyah, this is a fantastic achievement and we are all really proud of you.

TERRIFIC TAI BOXER: ELIJAH YEAR 8 IN HIS OWN WORDS...

"Last week I had my grading lesson for Tai Boxing. I was really nervous as I was going for my blue belt. I am happy to say that I passed my grading with As and Bs. The owner of the club said that he was very pleased with my progress and that I will be able to participate in tournaments soon."

SUPER SWIMMER: ABBIGAIL YEAR 8 IN HER OWN WORDS...

"I represent Broadway Swimming Club and I successfully managed to knock 4 seconds off my 100m freestyle PB in a recent competition. My new PB is 1 minute and 19 seconds. I also knocked 1 second off my 50m backstroke. This made me feel incredibly proud." Well done, Abbigail!

AMAZING ACTRESS: EMILIA YEAR 7 IN HER OWN WORDS...

"On Saturdays I go to my drama school. Within my drama school I practise acting, singing and dancing. Each session lasts for three hours and we have different workshops to attend. Last week I performed a short piece to a number of patients at the Manor Hospital. I felt really proud that I was able to put a smile on people's faces". This is truly fantastic Emilia, well done!





Clent House have had a fantastic 2019. I hope that you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. You certainly deserve it!

As a House we still have 161 people on 100% attendance, which is brilliant and something to be proud of. Further to this we had several iPad winners in the draw for 100% attendance last year, so well done Clent. We have 1,550 House Points for attendance and punctuality alone, more than the other houses combined. Go Clent!

In the Creative Writing House Competition we gained 1,420 House Points. Also, a big congratulations to R. Umar (Year 9) who came 3rd out of all of the entries, writing a poem entitled 'Deforestation in Our Nation', further adding further to Clent's total.

We also gained well over 200 House Points for the Spelling Bee competition and we, amazingly, had several Year 7s and 8s who got 10/10. Well done to you all.

It was a great night celebrating at Awards Evening this year with so many awards given to Clent pupils who continually work extremely hard both in and out of school. A huge well done to V. Magadzire in Year 11 who received the Special House Award for Clent for her attitude and effort in all she does, along with her role in the RAF Cadets and events organised for Black History Month. So very deserved.

On a more individual basis, we have had some sporting and dancing achievements this half term with R. Byrne (Year 8) competing in another boxing fight and winning with the final round, being the most dominant. Further to this J. Brown (Year 11) has also won 2 competitive boxing matches this half term, so well done both.

We have also had some dancing success with O. Clarke (Year 7) who competed in a BDO world championship dancing competition held at the Telford International Centre. In the team competition, her team came second. In pairs she also came third. Brilliant news, congratulations. In the Sixth Form, K. Heath (Year 13) volunteered to help wrap presents at the Salvation Army. She very generously gave up her time to ensure that presents are wrapped for those less fortunate, attempting to make Christmas a special time for everyone. Thank you!

Finally, it is with great sadness that I must let you know that I am leaving Barr Beacon. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Head of Clent and 6 years at the school. I have been so grateful that I have had such support from everyone, including fantastic Clent pupils and their parents/carers. I am handing over to Mr Murphy, who I am certain will continue the great success of Clent House, and I look forward to keeping up to date with how everyone is getting on. I will miss everyone in Clent House and have enjoyed getting to know all of you.

Miss J Franks
HEAD OF CLENT HOUSE



WREKIN HOUSE NEWS



'Tis the half term to be jolly and the pupils in Wrekin house have plenty to be jolly about. There has been plenty of praise given to our pupils, many of whom were awarded their 100% attendance rewards, as well as a record number of Commendation certificates.

MOCK EXAMINATIONS

Our Year 11 cohort have been working hard under pressure from their recent mock examinations. I am very impressed with how conscientious they have been whilst working through their revision, lessons and exams.

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

A number of our pupils represented our House through a variety of different competitions this term. They have earned us some very valuable House points and shown some real talent. Here are some of the examples:

R Naseem Year 7 earned 50 House points for her fantastic entry for the anti-bullying competition where pupils were tasked to design a poster. She also entered a creative writing competition.

The following pupils entered a creative writing competition and produced fantastic pieces of work. They earned 20 house points each:

L Brown - Year 7, C Mayne - Year 8, A Sanghera - Year 9, H Rai - Year 9, M Gill - Year 9, S Horne - Year 9, R Cook - Year 9.

M Summersby Year 9, achieved 1st place for this and earned 100 House points. We are very proud and impressed!

The following entered and achieved the highest marks for the spelling bee competition:
Year 7: R Chand, I Islam, R Naseem
Year 8: A Dilawri, M Bowen, J McCormack, C Mayne.



HOUSE HEROES

M Griffiths in Year 9 has raised over £100 for the Barnardo's charity by her fundraising efforts. She sold wristbands to family and friends to achieve this.

M Phelps in Year 7 is currently practising for a Cinderella show where she will be performing and singing a solo.

J Bryant in Year 7 is currently practising for a dance show in March. Outside of school, Jess performs the following types of dance: Contemporary, Jazz, Lyrical and Pointe.

The following pupils played exceptionally well during their recent rugby match:

O Salter - Year 7 who demonstrated excellent ball carrying strong tackling skills, J Lutwyche - Year 7, C Neal - Year 8, Z Thursfield-Smith - Year 8, and C Gibbons - Year 8.

M Sheffield - Year 8 - played in the county netball under 13 tournament who were undefeated in the group stage and made it to the final. She has qualified for the regional league and, after weeks of qualifying matches, they have successfully qualified in the under 14 age group (a year before their official age). These matches will commence in January 2020.

There have been some excellent achievements and successes here and we are very proud to share this all with you. Wrekin House wish you all a relaxing break and look forward to seeing everyone again in the new year.

Mrs Thind
HEAD OF WREKIN HOUSE



MAKE A DIFFERENCE TRAIN TO TEACH.



Teaching 
Every Lesson Shapes a Life

*For more information about
joining our SCITT visit:
www.bbscitt.co.uk*