



January 2024

Dear parent/carer/student

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits as we embark on a new year full of possibilities here at Wood Green Academy.

Well done to our Rights Respecting Student Ambassadors for organising a variety of fund-raising events for UNICEF on our recent Step up 4 Life Day. Our Rights Respecting Ambassadors delivered several sessions to our Sixth Form Students teaching them about their rights in accordance with the UNCRC (United Nations Children Rights Charter). In line with Article 31 (Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a range of artistic and cultural activities), our Rights Respecting Ambassadors hosted a Talent Show and entertained several visitors from the Shrubbery Care Home in Wednesbury with an afternoon packed with Christmas entertainment and refreshments. Our Rights Respecting Ambassadors recognise every child's right to the best possible health (Article 24) -to promote this, they helped distribute free toothpaste to their peers as part of the Colgate 'Smile for Life' campaign. Excellent work!!

We look forward to reporting on the work of our Rights Respecting Ambassadors in future newsletters.

Miss School, Miss Out

Attending school on a regular basis is the key to your child doing well and will set them up with good habits for later life. It will also give your child the opportunity to:

- Make friends and improve social skills.
- Learn new things and develop skills.
- Increase confidence and self-esteem.
- Achieve their potential and fulfil their aspiration

If you need any help or support, please do get in touch with us by speaking to your child's year team in the first instance

Parents on school site

Please can I ask parents to ensure that they only attend the school site if they have a booked appointment with a member of staff. This can be done by calling the school on 0121 556 4131. Parents with appointments must enter the site via the visitors' car park and report to reception straight away. Parents without appointments must not enter the school site in order to safeguard the students and staff.

Parking and Road Safety

We would like to remind all parents/carers to please respect our neighbours by not parking or collecting your children from St. Paul's Rd, Sparrow Close, or the surrounding area. I have had a number of complaints from local residents and the LA have once again been contacted in order for traffic cameras to be in operation around the school. It is essential that we avoid traffic congestion on St. Paul's Rd in particular - traffic problems are a nuisance to our neighbours and pose a real health and safety risk to our children. A particular problem for our students are when cars park on the pavement. This then forces students into the road. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

At the end of the school day

When students are leaving school to go home, they should be going straight home or straight to wherever it is they need to be. If they are waiting for friends to walk home with, please can they do so **INSIDE** the school grounds.

On their way home, unless they are accompanied by an adult (someone aged 18 or over), they should not be going to any of the fast food outlets near school - in particular KFC and Burger King.

Media Literacy Ambassadors

Why is media literacy important?

Media literacy skills, knowledge and confidence are fundamental in being able to navigate our fast-paced digital world. Young people need to be inspired and supported to engage with the news and media they consume, understand how it is produced and develop the critical analysis skills to recognise mis and disinformation.

The Media Literacy Ambassador Programme

Following a formal application process, a cohort of students across Year 9 and Year 10 received training from the Guardian to act as Media Literacy Ambassadors for our school, with funding from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The project is cross-curricular involving students who study a range of GCSEs.

In October journalists from the Guardian Foundation visited Wood Green Academy and delivered a full day of workshops to students on identifying fake news and how to educate their peers on the matter. It has been an amazing opportunity for our students to work so closely with such a well-established news organisation and they have received nothing but praise from the Guardian team. Those who excelled on the programme were invited to a celebratory event at Manchester University where they were able to speak to journalists and develop strategies for continuing to improve media literacy in the future.

The Media Literacy Ambassadors then went on to teach students in Year 8 about fake news, misinformation and disinformation, horizontal research and how to critically evaluate news stories from a range of sources, enhancing media literacy skills across year groups.

It can be very challenging for students to deliver to their peers, but they did an amazing job and thrived in this leadership role; they should be as proud of themselves as we are. The impact on the students involved has been very positive; through peer learning both the ambassadors and Year 8 developed their critical thinking and evaluation skills. The ambassadors showed excellence in leadership and teamwork, and their confidence has increased immensely.

'Speak Out' button

If you are worried or anxious about anything or anyone, in or out of school, and you wish to speak to someone please use the 'Speak Out' button on the website.



The website has a large section on Safeguarding for you and your family with useful links to support for mental health and on-line safety.

Please contact Mrs Wood, Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Mrs Smith, Assistant Head and Deputy DSL if you have any concerns, questions or in need of any support.

School Production – A Christmas Carol

Thank you to all the pupils and parents who supported the school production. I hope you enjoyed the performance as much as the cast did rehearsing it and I have already had plenty of 'what are we doing next year Miss?' or 'Can we do ... next year Miss?'; so looks like I'd better start planning the next one!

I'd like to publicly thank all the students involved for their hard work in developing the performance, those who were there from the first audition and the one or two that took on roles or joined the ensemble or backstage crew later into the production. You were all a pleasure to work with. I would like to give a special mention to Myah Lee (Ali) for some great work making costumes and Issac Millichap (Ali) who took on the role of Scrooge. It is a huge undertaking with an immense amount of lines, and a demanding character to play, not least because it is so well known. Issac was superb all the way through the process and gave it his all. Well done and thank you to Issac and all the cast and crew!

Mrs O. Smith

Christmas Concert

On Monday 18th December the Music Department put on the annual Christmas Concert to a packed audience of parents, carers, relatives and friends. It was a fantastic evening of Christmas Music where students from KS3, 4 and 5 performed. There was Harry Mullen (Shakespeare) and James Lloyd (Da Vinci) performing their rendition of Walking in the Air, Brandon Gill (Da Vinci) singing 'O Holy Night' and accompanying himself on piano and Tami Ajayi (Einstein) singing 'Hallelujah'. The Year 9 Music GCSE group treated us to a class performance of 'Rockin' around the Christmas Tree', Year 8 performed 'Last Christmas' and the choir gave the audience a treat with 'All I want for Christmas' and 'Merry Christmas'.

Mr Bowers entertained the audience with his jokes in-between performances, and the audience did themselves proud performing '12 days of Christmas'. The finale of 'I Wish it Could be Christmas Everyday' was performed by the whole cast, with Esme Walsgrove (Da Vinci) singing the solo, and was a fitting end to a really special evening. All the performers did a fantastic job, and we are very proud of them all.

Ms J. Newman

Careers Information

Websites for Students

1. [Oxbridge Launchpad](#) - Our favourite free resource for students considering an Oxbridge application. They can apply for a mentor or make use of the application walkthrough support.
2. [Panjango Online](#) - Fabulous resource for KS3, SEN or "unsure" young people. Students can explore the online panjango world and learn about what jobs work in what buildings, the skills they need and even take part in challenges to see if they'd enjoy the job role.
3. [UCAS Hub](#) - "The UCAS Hub provides students with all the tools and information they need – in one place – and for free. So when it comes to exploring subjects, considering apprenticeships, shortlisting their final five, and writing a killer personal statement or CV, we've got it covered."
4. [Amazing Apprenticeships](#) - Students can filter to their age and see apprenticeship resources that suit them; from guides to video resources, there's something to suit every learning style.

5. [NGTU Advice Library](#) – (Not going to uni) Our favourite thing about the NGTU advice blog is that the majority of posts have been submitted by current apprentices or employers, meaning they're up to date, relevant and honest. The apprentice [case studies](#) are also really useful.
6. [English Taster Sessions by University of South Wales](#) - Learn about where it's come from, where it's going, how it's made, and what you can do about it. This interactive session from a practising journalist and lecturer includes a lively talk with a group exercise to test your ability to tell truth from lies - and a discussion about how you can help fight the fakes.
7. [Be Inspired - Lincoln School of Computer Science by University of Lincoln](#) - In this activity, the students will be able to program their own game! They will start with a predefined template game that they will have to fill in order to make the character move, collect coins, fight with enemies, etc. No programming knowledge is required, you will find plenty of snippet examples to integrate in your game!
8. [Creating narrative by Arts University Plymouth](#) - Behind every piece of creative work is a story. This masterclass will teach you how to use storytelling as the basis for your work, by creating a short story using mixed media and processes. This workshop is relevant to disciplines including fashion, illustration, graphic design, photography and costume.
9. [Journey Through The Screens: Media Tourism Uncovered by University of Sunderland](#) - Imagine being able to step into your favourite movie scenes, explore the locations of iconic TV shows or even venture into the worlds of your most beloved video games – all from the comfort of our brand-new Simulation Suite. Our innovative workshop takes you on a thrilling adventure through the captivating realm of Media Tourism, using cutting-edge VR headsets.
10. [Discover Manufacturing Engineering - How is your mobile phone manufactured? by Coventry University](#) - It can be difficult for students to understand the foundations and principles underpinning lean and agile manufacturing without first-hand experience. In this session, students will have the chance to experience the principles by themselves to get a feeling for how it all works. By playing the LEGO Kanban (JIT) game, students have the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and experience without physically entering a workshop. The fun of the game will focus on the material flow in a pre-defined timeframe and system. This will show how to get from an existing process to a Kanban streamline system, along with visualisation and modifying working under time constraints.
11. [Taste Test Challenge by CU Scarborough](#) - A fun introduction to budgeting, where students can try own brand and high-end brands and see if they can tell the difference!
12. [Paradise Park Business Game Accounting in a theme park by Birmingham City University](#) - OIn this CIMA business game you will develop your decision-making skills and commercial awareness. Working together in small groups, you will use of a range of financial and non-financial data to make decisions on the design and build of a new theme park ride.
13. [Stepping into Study by Lancaster University](#) - This session helps students develop key skills and expertise that they will find of use both in Sixth Form/College or at university.
14. [Study abroad and placement opportunities by University of East Anglia](#) - University degrees have lots to offer beyond the standard three-year course. In this session,

we'll discuss what it's like to study abroad or take a work placement year, where students could go, the benefits of both and the support that's available.

Apprenticeship News

Year 13

[Causeway Education](#) are working with law firm [Wedlake Bell](#) to host an application masterclass for Y13 students interested in applying to solicitor degree apprenticeships. This information will be useful for students considering applying to any firms, although there will be colleagues from Wedlake Bell able to answer questions specific to their application process. The webinar will show students the steps in an apprenticeship application, the reason why certain methods are used e.g. assessment centres and tips and tricks to prepare for this process. We will look at key themes such as showing an understanding of a firm, the apprenticeship route, and developing commercial awareness.

The webinar will take place on Tuesday 30th January 4.30-6pm. Students can sign up for the webinar here: <https://forms.office.com/e/GxQGpPZ8eE>. Please share this with any Y13 students who would be interested.

ASK Apprenticeships

December Parents and Carers Pack

The December Parents & Carers Pack is now available to download [here](#). The pack explores apprenticeships in events, new 'This Is My Story' apprentice films, National Apprenticeship Week, case studies from apprentices at E.ON and Willis Towers Watson and more.

Year 12 – Ever thought about studying abroad?

US programme applications are open until the middle of January, so if you are interested in learning more about university options abroad do have a look and apply.

<https://us.suttontrust.com/>

The UK Summer School and brand new Access Apprenticeships Programmes will be opening their applications in early January, so do watch this space for more information on that. <https://www.suttontrust.com/our-programmes/>

School Rules and Behaviour

One of the reasons, aside from excellent teaching, that ensures we get excellent outcomes for our students, is the high expectations that we have at Wood Green in terms of student behaviour. Can I thank parents/carers for supporting us with this.

Mobile Phones

Once again please can I thank the vast majority of parents/carers that ensure that their child does not bring their mobile phone to school, however there have been a number of incidents in the last half term that we have had to deal with, therefore for clarity, students in years 7 – 11 **MUST NOT** bring mobile phones onto the school site. If there is an emergency safeguarding reason for a student to have a mobile phone on them on the journey to and from school, that parents **MUST** request temporary permission from Mrs Wood in writing with the understanding that the phone **MUST** be handed in to YL/SSM each day for the period of time that the emergency safeguarding reason is in place.

Students should not use their mobile phone as their bus pass/ticket as mobile phones are not permitted on the school site. If a student brings a phone onto the school site and it is confiscated, parents will need to either purchase an additional bus pass/ticket or will have to make alternative arrangements for their child's transport.

If students are found to be in possession of a mobile phone it will be confiscated and placed in the school safe. Mobile phones confiscated on a Monday or Tuesday will be held in the school safe until the end of the school week where they can only be collected by parents/carers between 2.40-3.00pm (in the event of school finishing early, phones due to be collected, can be picked up between from the end of school and the following 20 minutes e.g. 12.00 and 12.20pm.). Phones confiscated on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday will be confiscated until the end of the following school week where they can only be collected by parents/carers between 2.40-3.00pm. If, however, the return of the mobile phone falls in a school holiday, the phone can be collected on the first day back to school by parents/carers between 2.40 - 3.00pm with the exception of the summer holiday, in which case the phone can be collected by parents/carers on the first Friday of the holidays between 2.40 -3.00pm. **So, if a phone is confiscated on Wed 7th Feb, Thurs 8th Feb or Fri 9th Feb, it will not be returned until Monday 19th February 2023 (between 2.40 – 3.00pm) as per our policy. EXCEPTIONS to this policy will not be made and ANY student that refuses to hand in their mobile phone when asked to, will be issued with a Permanent Exclusion. This sanction has been consistently applied where in the rare occasions this has happened in the past.**

Student Achievements

This half term, some Year 9 GCSE German students had the chance to participate in a small piece of Austrian culture and did some Christmas baking with Miss Schroer. They made 'Weihnachts-Vanillekipferl' (vanilla Christmas cookies)- which originate from Vienna in Austria- and spent a long time perfecting their designs. We hope some of their cookies actually made it home...

Furthermore, both Year 9 and Year 11 GCSE German students all got to enjoy a cultural visit to Birmingham's German Christmas market with its array of stalls, with gifts and decorations available to buy; as well as food, drinks and entertainment. Many students enjoyed trying new foods and some commented on the differences between English and German Christmas decorations and traditions; some German was spoken too!

U14 Netball

Another great season for our U14 netball team, who are progressing into a great team and are enthusiastic and excited to progress with this sport.

We are also excited to be doing a netball tour with the team in the New Year where we shall see some super league netball at Manchester Thunder, and get some training from a professional team.

Results

Stuart Bathurst – WIN

Sandwell Academy – WIN

Gospel Oak- DRAW

Phoenix - LOSS

U16s Netball

Since September the U16s Netball team have been training for what will be their last competitive league game representing Wood Green Academy. They have shown great dedication in training and have made huge progress in their individual skills and their team game play. All of their hard work paid off which saw them lift the trophy as the U16s Sandwell Schools Netball League Winners.

Results

Stuart Bathurst- WIN

Sandwell Academy -WIN

Gospel Oak- WIN

Phoenix- WIN

Black Country Table Tennis Schools Championships

U13 Boys

Ethan Logan (Da Vinci)

Daniel Tyas (Parks)

Hayden Adams (Parks)

U16 Boys

Romairo Joe (Parks)

Danila Luciaz (Da Vinci)

Ethan Bunce (Da Vinci)

Harry Causer (Parks)

All represented Wood Green Academy in the Black Country Schools Table Tennis Championships on the 22nd November. All students performed extremely well and showed resilience whilst playing.

U13 Girls Football Girls tournament

Game 1: Phoenix v Woodgreen 0-3

Goals scorers : Caitlin Skeldon (Parks), Umaizaah Uddin (Ali) and Peyton Birch (Da Vinci)

Game 2: Holly Head v Woodgreen 1-0

Game 3 : Holly lodge v Woodgreen 0-8

Umaizaah Uddin (Ali), Peyton Birch 2 (Da Vinci), Caitlin Skeldon 4 (Parks), Shaan Daly (Einstein).

Game 4: Bishop Milner v Woodgreen 0-0

Came 3rd In the group stage, got the best goal difference

6th Form Football

6th form students played and lost a cup game, against a very good school in Solihull a few weeks ago. Training will recommence in the new year (probably after Feb half term) on Thursday's. It would be good to see some year 13's attend as well as the year 12's.

Sponsors for Teams

We are currently looking for sponsors from local businesses for our Sports Teams. If you have a business and would like to talk to us about being a sponsor for either a netball or a football team – we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Mrs Thomas (PE Department).

Birmingham NEC Superweekender Dance Convention

On Friday 1st December BTEC Dance students attended a dance trip to Birmingham NEC. The students were able to participate in workshops delivered by professional choreographers and view professional performers including companies such as The Royal Family. As always, the students conducted themselves in an outstanding manner and had a super time.

Student Leadership Success

Well done to Khiyan Morkar (Parks) and Owen Corbett (Parks) student ambassadors who are part of the Eco-Committee and delivered assemblies to all students from year 7-11 in November, as part of the Eco-Schools Cut Your Carbon Campaign. The assemblies informed students on the importance of reducing our carbon footprint and launched the competition to cut back on carbon-based activities in the month of November. The overall winner was

selected from those students who entered and was Sonia Begum (Nightingale), congratulations Sonia.

On Step Up 4 Life Day, November 30th the students who are part of the Change Your Mind Programme in the 6th form delivered their first sessions, a 40 minute lesson on Relationships to our Year 9 students. The feedback from staff in the sessions included praise such as the 6th formers 'were really engaging.' 'They were brilliant' and all staff commented on how hard they tried. Well done, what a way to represent the school and develop your skills. For your first session you all did amazingly.

The following students took part:

Priya Siple (Parks), Lucy Nelson (Parks), Keira Drummond (Parks), Sanjula Sapkota (Da Vinci), Phoebe Cooper (Da Vinci), Cassey Clews (Parks), Shima Begum (Parks), Grace Humphries (Nightingale), Sophie Kagla (Nightingale), Abdul Samee Ahmed (Shakespeare), Srrah Abdullah (Da Vinci), Jaskirat Chauhan (Shakespeare), Hafizaah Uddin (Da Vinci), Ayza Ali (Nightingale), Habeebat Quadri (Ali), Eshel Amar (Parks), Ikjot Bhuller (Nightingale), Nadirah Begum (Ali), Keeleigh Maxwell (Parks), Imaan Guernah (Nightingale), Nafisa Nadim (Shakespeare), Simah Abdullah (Ali), Asia Begum (Einstein), Analeigh Halford (Einstein), Elisabeth Halford (Ali), Umaima Arshad (Ali) and Lauren Mahay (Parks)

The last week of November saw ambassadors working hard to inform students across the school of the opportunity to complete the Student Voice Listening Ear Survey. This survey goes out to all students to get their opinions on the school. Around 30 ambassadors went to form groups to explain the survey to students, and a large number of students across the school took the time to complete it.

Special thanks to the following students for their role in analysing the results and feedback back the major issues to SLT. Maddison Clews (Parks), Mohammed Raihan Islam (Parks), Mya Ruby (Shakespeare), Olivia Stevens (Einstein), Kian Russell (Parks), Joe Bird (Shakespeare), Cian Hadley (Nightingale), Tami Ajayi (Einstein), Sanjula Sapkota (Da Vinci) and Cassey Clews (Parks).

Student Leadership dates for your diary

Dates for Ambassadors:

Peer Support Committee Meeting 15th January 2:40-4pm N002

Eco Committee Meeting 29th January 2:40-4pm N002

If your child is in Year 7 they are able to attend meeting instead of enrichment, but please note later finish time.

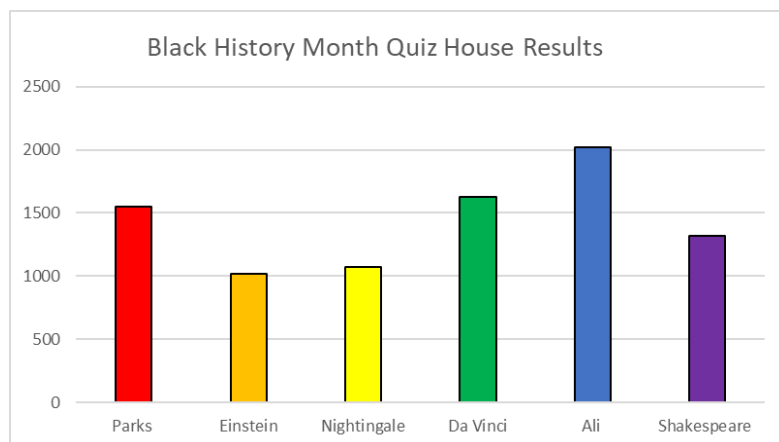
House Competition Results

Black History Quiz - we had 151 entries for this competition well done and thank you to everyone for contributing points towards your house!

Top Point Scorers for each house - scoring 90 points!

Brooke Crumpton (Parks), Owen Corbett (Parks), Mariyah Bham (Parks), Maddison Burns (Parks), Kian Wilson (Parks), Oluwadademimu Abimbola (Parks), Cassey Clews (Parks), Leon Parker (Parks), Bryonie-Lea Brazier (Einstein), Samiya Ahmed (Einstein), Fariha Yasmin (Einstein), Robert Da Silva (Einstein), Isharat Thaman (Nightingale), Numaan Mohammed (Nightingale), Hiqmot Quadri (Nightingale), Daisy Burrows (Nightingale), Mason Ross (Da Vinci),

Robert Henslok (Da Vinci), Taylor Humphreys (Da Vinci), Harrison Clews (Da Vinci), Muhammad Ali Muhyiddeen (Da Vinci), Aaron Lawley (Da Vinci), Lauren Whitehouse (Da Vinci), George Carter (Ail), Khloe Wiley (Ail), Kayla Adams (Ail), Amy-Leigh Tilley (Ail), Suhan Ahmed (Ail), Alex Wall (Ail), Olivia Price (Ail), Dolcie Mae Dowling (Ail), Umaizaah Uddin (Ail), Nataliah Johnson (Shakespeare), Tiah Rogers (Shakespeare) and Thomas Hind (Shakespeare).



Pumpkin Carving Competition

We had some amazing creative entries for this competition well done to everyone that participated you have all earnt vital points for your house. The winning designs have all earnt bonus points for their house. Look at these!!!!



Beau Callaway (Einstein)



Robert Henslok (Da Vinci)



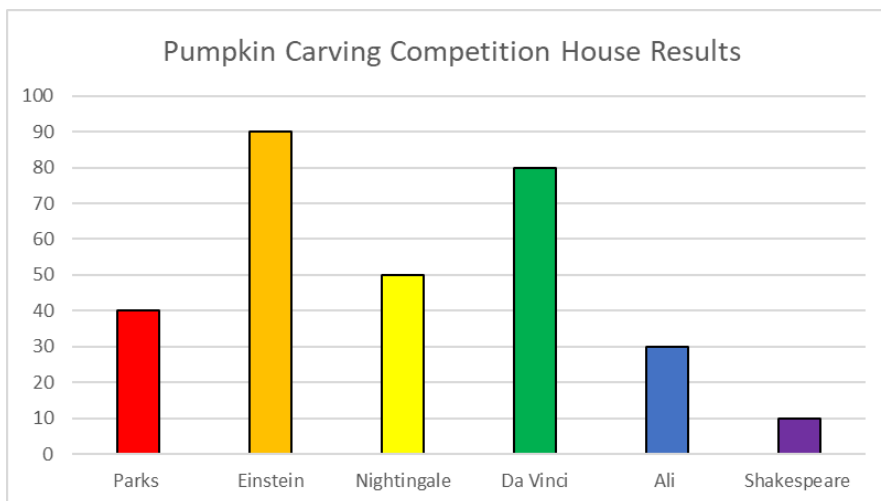
Grace Churchill (Einstein)



Phoebe Russell (Da Vinci)



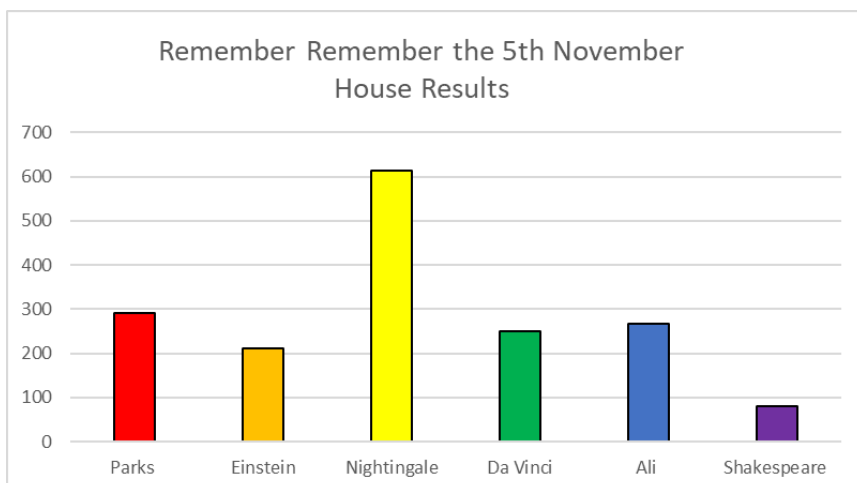
Aryan Patel (Einstein)



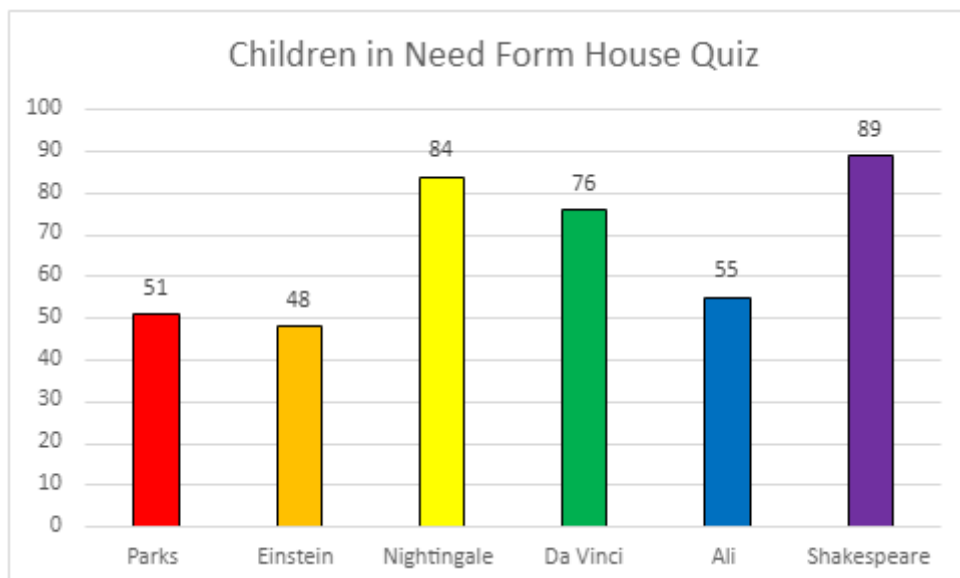
Remember, Remember the 5th November

We had 63 entries for this competition well done and thank you to everyone for contributing points towards your house!

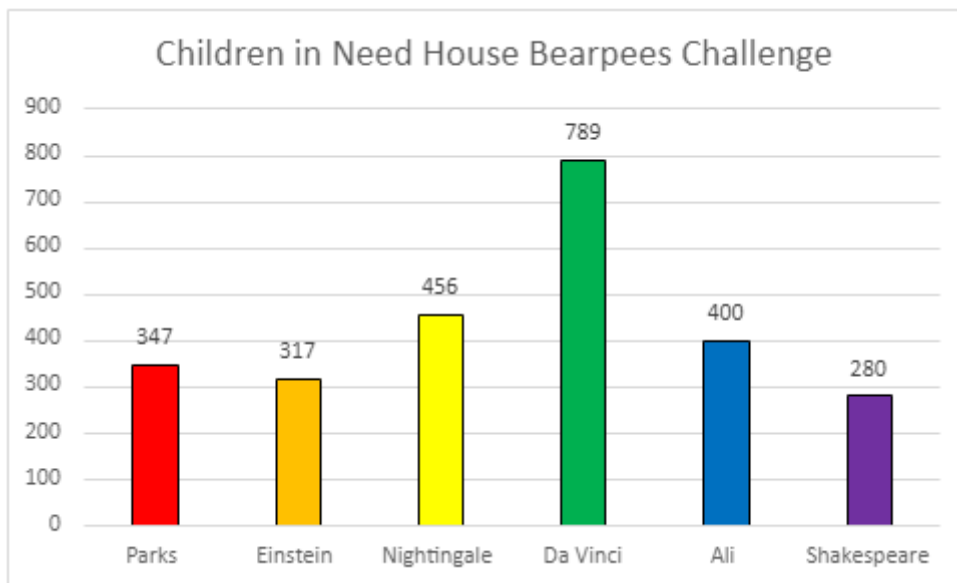
Top Scorers 😊 scoring 38 points the same as Miss Hindle and Miss Ford are Erin Collins (Nightingale) and Tadeas Balazik (Parks) well done both extra bonus points have been added to your house.



34 form groups participated in the Children in Need quiz! Well done and thank you to all participants! The top scoring form was 8N1 Miss Ford! Well done!



Who managed to complete the most amount of Bearpees.....? Da Vinci absolutely smashed it well done!



Christmas Parcel Collection



A huge thank you to everyone that donated to the Christmas Parcel Collection. Support for this was incredible and we were overwhelmed by the amount students and staff brought into school. Thank you to Wednesbury 2000 for their hard work organising all our donations into wonderful parcels for those less fortunate within our community.



We have also raised £70 for the Red Cross Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territory Appeal. Thank you to everyone for their contributions towards this and their purchases at the samosa sale.



Christmas Decoration Competition – results to follow.

Geography competitions – Yr7 Flag Design and Yr8 Biome in a Box results to follow.

Competitions coming up next term

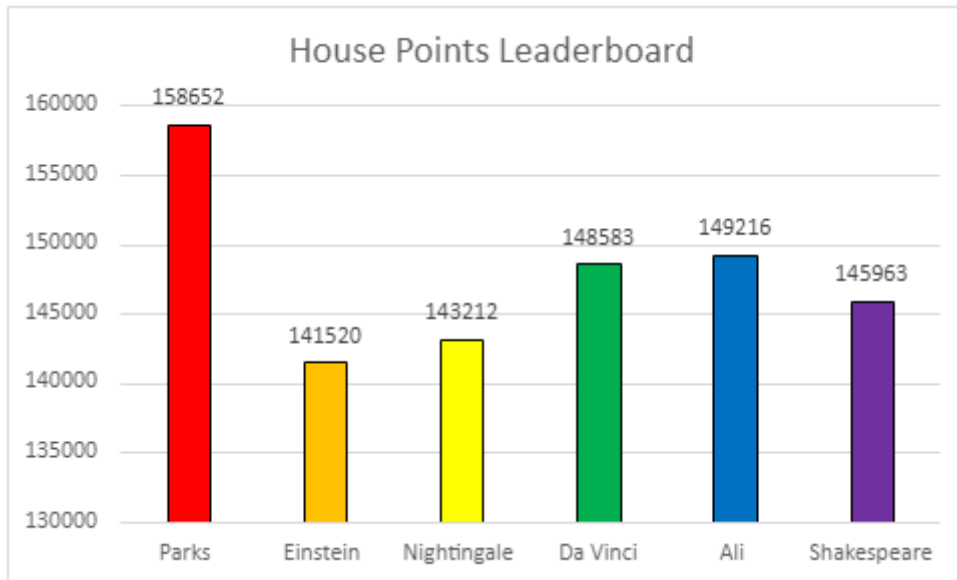
Table tennis

Just Dance

Valentines Activities – Jump rope for heart and gift a rose.

Art Competition

Current house champion leader board....



School Calendar

Just a reminder that the school calendar is on the school website and has all the Academy's key dates and activities listed: <https://www.woodgreenacademy.co.uk/school-calendar/>

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our entire school community—students, parents, carers, governors, and staff—for your unwavering support and collaboration. Together, we continue to create a nurturing and enriching environment for our students to thrive.

Let us embrace this new year with optimism, determination, and a commitment to excellence. I look forward to the continued growth and success of each student.

Many thanks

Mr J Topham
Headteacher