



THE H

July 2018

SPECTACULAR PROM NIGHT
SEND-OFF - PAGE 3



TWO MUSICALS SET TO WOW AUDIENCES IN 2019

Highfields is to stage two huge musical productions next year, for the first time, in a bid to give hundreds of students from all age groups the chance to perform.

Highfields' annual musical showcase has become a popular fixture on the school's calendar, with students wowing sell-out audiences with their performances in a number of musical classics, including Hairspray, High School Musical and Grease.

The school's Head of Performance, Ms S Bishop, has now announced that two musical productions will be staged next year to allow even more students to get involved.

The first will be musical classic, The Wizard of Oz, before a performance of Little Shop of Horrors.

Ms Bishop said: "Our annual musical productions have gained an excellent reputation for their quality and as a result now feature more than 100 students. Due to the huge number of students involved I felt that not all of them were given as much of the spotlight as they deserved.

"Because of this we will be staging two musicals next year for the first time, with The Wizard of Oz aimed at our younger students in Years 7 and 8, and Little Shop of Horrors more focused on our older students.

"A lot of hard work and effort goes into putting on our musical productions but they are always a spectacular success and I am looking forward to the challenge of staging two so more of our students can get the chance to perform on stage."

AWARDS SUCCESS AT CITY-WIDE FESTIVAL



Students celebrate winning accolades for their films during an Awards Evening staged as part of Highfields' first ever Young Wolf Film Festival

Budding young directors were honoured for their film-making skills as part of Highfields' first ever Young Wolf Film Festival.

A glittering awards ceremony was just one of the many highlights of the week-

long event, which brought together movie lovers from across the city.

The event also featured quizzes, professional workshops, trips and an outdoor movie screening.

-Full story pages 8 & 9

ANTI-KNIFE CRIME DRIVE BY CITY POLICE

Highfields welcomed a Police Community Support Officer to deliver assemblies to students about the dangers of carrying knives as part of the school's support for a new anti-knife crime campaign by West Midlands Police. The visits came after West Midlands Police released an awareness-raising poster campaign as they pleaded with parents to 'have a conversation' with their children about the dangers of carrying knives.

The school has shared numerous Police and Home Office resources regarding knife crime on the school's website.

-View from The H - Pg 5

DATES SET FOR EXAM RESULTS

Students who recently sat their GCSE and A-Levels are invited into school to pick up their results in August. A-Level results will be released on Thursday, August 16th and then GCSE results a week later on Thursday, August 23rd. School will be open from 9.30am on August 16th and 10.30am on August 23rd.

-Good luck, page 2

'UNBELIEVABLE' DAY AS KAMMY VISITS HIGHFIELDS - PAGE 4

A word from the Editor:



Wondering if there are any school events that you've missed? Want to catch up on all of the latest news, success stories and biggest issues facing students? Well, The H is the place for you! Read on for another edition packed with stories and features from across the board.

This is the last edition of The H from the Year 10 team, so we have worked tirelessly to produce a new newspaper that consists of the best features from across the school. Articles range from sports to extra-curricular achievements and activities, performance news, prom night celebrations and much more... Since this is the last edition of The H for the year, The H team would like to thank everyone who has supported us from the beginning. We are proud of our work as we've drastically improved our grammar, reporting skills and the way we structure articles. Without a doubt, I think that the next group of aspiring journalists who become part of The H will carry on our legacy and build on the foundations we have created for a fantastic school newspaper. Thank you to all students and staff who have put forward story suggestions, taken part in interviews and provided information and photographs.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish the very best of luck to all Year 11 students picking up their GCSE results and all Sixth Form students picking up their AS and A-Level results, on behalf of the whole team.

So, that's it from me for another edition! Wishing you all happy reading and a wonderful summer break.

Yasmin Powell
Editor

Do you want to join The H?

Our core editorial team are now preparing to move into Year 11 after the summer break, when their schedules will soon be filled with revision and study sessions ahead of their GCSEs. Although they will remain involved with The H, we are now on the lookout for budding journalists and writers to take over the reins. Could that be you? If you would like to be part of The H, please email vnash@hswv.co.uk or tbanks01@hswv.co.uk



Members of The H Team (l-r): Joe Regan, Dan O'Hara, Anika Patel, Cameron Wilcox, Louise Saul-Braddock, Will Hyatt, Yasmin Powell, Ella Birch and Charis Ukaeze

The team is always on the lookout for stories from around school! Make sure to get in touch so we can give your news article or achievement the coverage it deserves by emailing theeditorial@hswv.co.uk. The views in this newspaper are those of the author and not necessarily those of Highfields School.

Spectacular send-off for students at Prom

From tuxedos to tiaras, top-of-the-range sports cars and gorgeous gowns, leaving proms provided a spectacular send-off for Highfields' Year 11 and Sixth Form students.

Year 11 students turned on the style for their celebration at the Grand Station, in Wolverhampton City Centre, on June 27th. Sixth Form students enjoyed their prom at the same venue on July 11th, where a big screen was set up to allow prom-goers to watch England's World Cup semi-final clash with Croatia.

Mrs N Clifton, Head of Upper School at Highfields, said: "The Year 11 prom was a wonderful celebration of the end of the school year for our students who have worked so hard towards their GCSEs.

"The event gave our Year 11 students the chance to let their hair down and enjoy themselves in style after all of the hard work they have put into their exams.

"There were some wonderful outfits and modes of transport on the night. It was the spectacular send-off the students deserved."

The proms marked the end of the school year for students, who are now awaiting the results of their GCSE and A-Level exams before moving on to the next chapter of their lives.

Following the prom celebrations, all Year 11 students returned to school for their emotional Leavers' Assembly, where awards were handed out to honour special achievements or particular events.

Mrs Clifton added: "I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our students on the incredibly mature way in which they approached their GCSEs. It has been a pleasure to see them mature, grow and develop into such confident, talented and skilled young adults. We look forward to seeing them in August for their results before they move on to the next chapter in their lives."



Kammy visits school to host sports challenge

Students enjoyed an 'unbelievable' experience when Sky Sports pundit Chris Kamara visited Highfields as part of an action-packed PE challenge event. The former footballer - famous for his 'Unbelievable Jeff' catchphrase as an analyst on Sky Sports Soccer Saturday show - visited the school as part of the event run by Medical Mavericks.

Medical Mavericks worked with around 100 PE students from Years 8 and 9 on a range of Sport Science-related activities including agility and reaction tests, as well as cycling and rowing challenges. They even got the chance to race alongside a virtual Usain Bolt on a test called The Accelerator. The Challenge the Champions workshop that students completed is the same as one seen on Sky Sports Gamechangers and saw them use state-of-the-art

equipment to test themselves against the records set by the best sportspeople in the world. Chris Kamara added to the experience by providing the voiceover for video footage captured on the day. Dozens of students queued during their lunch break to meet the star and he happily posed for photographs with his fans.

PE Teacher, Mr A Jeavons, said: "He was typical 'Kammy' as you see on TV - really enthusiastic and lovely with the students by allowing them to take photos with him. "It was a fantastic event all round, filled with fun, excitement and learning. Many thanks to the Medical Mavericks team and Chris Kamara for providing such an enjoyable event for our students."



SCHOOLS PLAY VITAL ROLE IN STAMPING OUT KNIFE CRIME

Following an increase in knife crime in the City, West Midlands Police have launched a drive urging youngsters to think twice before picking up a blade. JOE REGAN looks at what else can be done to stamp out knife crime.

According to www.parliament.UK in the year ending March 2017 there were 34,700 offences involving a knife or sharp object. These horrific events are often concentrated in the country's capital - an area that has been controversially labelled a "war zone" by the President of the United States, Donald Trump. Metropolitan knife crime is happening to such a degree that it is now considered to be an epidemic, one not exclusive to London. In fact, West Midlands Police recorded 847 knife possession offences in 2016/17, the highest figure recorded since 2002/3.

Recent events suggest that the frequency of these events is increasing, and whilst these tragedies are still considered rarities, to ignore their presence would be naive and ignorant. West Park and Langley Road, close to Highfields School, both recently became scenes of the tragic loss of young life.

How can we prevent such things happening in future? How can we ensure no such blood is shed again? The answers to these questions are not easy to come by. With violence and gangs seemingly intertwined with the fabric of our society, a resolution to this dilemma seems difficult to achieve. However, action can be taken - especially within schools.

Education offers a chance to iron out the creases of violence in the clothing of our community - it can dissuade young people from getting involved with gangs, it can instil within these youngsters the belief that violence and knives are abhorrent and unnecessary. Whilst such incidents will never be made wholly obsolete, they can be limited and this limitation begins in school.

Here at The H, we comprehensively and strongly condemn gang violence and knife crime. In a society in which the "pack-mob" mentality is prevalent and where group violence (sadly, a consequence of desperate social compliance and of elemental reliance on gang culture) is bolstering, we decided to investigate what Highfields is doing to help combat this issue with our main means of investigation being an interview with Headteacher, Mr Graham Tate.

Government statistics convey that the number of knife-related crimes has almost doubled over the last five years. Mr Tate said: " There has been a real spike in incidents of violence, particularly in terms of knife crime, both nationally and in the West Midlands. A big part of this spike is young people's involvement in gang activity.

"However, the fear of being a victim of crime is often greater than the reality of it." It is undeniable that knife crime is an issue of increasing concern, however we must not lose sight of the fact that these incidents occur less often than people perhaps fear. The fear of being victimised has spread like wildfire - arguably to such an extent that it is an exaggeration, in comparison to the actual issue at hand.

Schools have a responsibility to help deal with this threat and during our interview, Mr Tate expressed some ways that Highfields School is ensuring that school remains a "place of safety".

Firstly, the school is working really closely with the police - a relationship that aims to both keep students safe and inhibit gang participation in the local community. In addition, assemblies involving Police Community Support Officers have taken place with the objective of raising awareness of knife crime among students whilst staff have been given special information on how best to identify young people at risk of gang involvement.

Another topic subject to discussion is what can be done to tackle gang culture. Previous experience of dealing with a postcode gang in the local area showed that their impact could be dramatically reduced through effective policing strategies, including dispersal orders and an enhanced local neighbourhood team of police officers and PCSOs working together with the community. With these postcode gangs at the epicentre of this most recent knife-crime tremor that has rocked Wolverhampton, could these strategies be implemented throughout the city? In conclusion, shocking recent events illustrate just how serious knife crime is, and an issue often discarded as "a distance away" is now very close to home. These events are undoubtedly worrying but don't let this fear eclipse the fact that the horrors of knife crime don't strike often. Highfields remains committed to educating its students to deter them from a life of crime and gangs to ensure this remains the case.

One knife, one life, more than one sentence



If your mate has a knife and you know he's going to use it, you risk being punished too

Knives end lives - don't let that knife end yours

If you have any concerns about youngsters with knives, please contact Catch 22 <https://www.catch-22.org.uk/> or Base 25 WMP <http://youthlink.btck.co.uk/> or Eyes info@eyes2success.org • 0784 619 7284
Tell police on 101 or dial 999 in an emergency
www.west-midlands.police.uk



Preventing crime, protecting the public and helping those in need
www.west-midlands.police.uk

(Additional reporting by members of The H team)

Bonjour! From Paris with love...

The magic of Disneyland dazzled Highfields students during an action-packed Parisian adventure. A total of 112 students, mostly from Year 8, took part in the trip from May 26th to 28th which they said had left them with memories that will last a lifetime.

The trip included visits to The Walt Disney Studios Park and main Disneyland Park, where members of the group braved the famous Tower of Terror and Space Mountain rides, as well as a visit to Parc Asterix.

Miss G Robinson, who accompanied students on the trip, said: "Students gathered at 6.30am at the front of school ready to board the three coaches that would transport them to Disneyland Paris. The coaches departed at 7am and there was obvious excitement in the air as parents, family and friends waved goodbye.

"After a steady ferry ride from Dover, students arrived in Paris at around 4pm and thanks to careful planning, refreshments were provided to help ease their eagerness as signs for Disney appeared. Finally, students reached the park hotel at around 7.30pm and students quickly dropped off their bags, boarded a shuttle and made their way into Disney Village where they enjoyed being surrounded by wonderful merchandise.

"The following day students travelled to Parc Asterix and were filled with enthusiasm as they braved the rides and watched dolphin shows. Despite the scorching heat, students and staff enjoyed every second of it! Around 6pm, they returned to Disney, entering the Magical Kingdom for the first time, before getting to witness the dazzling illuminations and fireworks display, which was an incredible experience."

The following day, students and staff enjoyed a final experience at the Walt Disney Studio park.

Miss Robinson added: "Unfortunately, the sunny spells quickly transformed into thunderstorms and lightning. However, students were not downhearted! They made the most of the final night, dancing in the rain and buying gifts for loved ones.

"The whole experience is one we will never forget."

Head of Lower School, Ms J Parker, who organised the trip, said: "Paris was fabulous, with an amazing group of students who were so appreciative of the trip. Time was spent in Parc Asterix, Hollywood Studios and the Magic Kingdom. Great fun was had by all, with students learning independence and how to budget their spending money.

"We had amazing staff who so freely gave up their time to make this trip possible, and allow for memories of a lifetime to be made!" Visit @HSWVParis2018 on Twitter to see a full selection of photographs from the trip.



Movies go under the spotlight at first ever Highfields Film Festival

Highfields' first ever Young Wolf Film Festival was a huge success as hundreds of students, staff and members of the public from around the city joined together to celebrate the wonderful world of movies.

The week-long festival kicked off with a visit to Birmingham's landmark Electric Cinema, where 63 students from Years 7-13 heard a talk about its rich history and watch animated film *Coco*.

The first day was rounded off in style when members of HTV and Film Club took to the red carpet at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre alongside two Sixth Form students, Jemma Payne and Jack Beckett, for the annual DIGI Awards. The talented HTV team picked up the accolade for Best Secondary Innovative Practice in recognition of their fantastic work bringing the school's success stories to life on screen in weekly news bulletins. Jemma Payne also edged out an incredibly strong field to win her second successive DIGI Award for Best KS5 Short Film.

Sadly, Film Club's effort *Nova* didn't win awards glory this year, although the team had a great time at the DIGI Awards, which are held annually to celebrate the achievements of learners and teachers in digital film and creative media.

The packed programme continued into day two when students and staff tested their movie knowledge with a series of quizzes, whilst students from four other city schools descended for movie-making madness on day three. Fifty students were involved, from primary (Springdale), special (Pennfields) and secondary (St Peter's and St Edmund's). Learners were given an expert tutorial in movie makeup and special effects by industry professional Laura Durand before trying their hands at applying their own prosthetic injuries.

The celebrations continued with students using both green screen and digital effects to collaborate on a disaster movie, *Disasterquake*, which received its world premiere in front of an appreciative audience at the Young Wolf Film Festival Awards Evening. The final part of the day featured a foley sound session from 'Into Film' whizz Dan Clifford, where students used an assortment of everyday materials such as celery and paper-clips to recreate and record sounds for their film.

The Awards Evening was a huge success as students, staff and parents braved the fierce heat to celebrate movies made by students from across the City over the past year. Our well-attired invitees, dressed to the nines, walked the red carpet and joined together to enjoy a wide range of films made by a diverse range of students.

Members of the Highfields choir and the KS3 performance group set the tone with two terrific performances and the keynote address, given by Simon Brew (author, creator and editor-in-chief of Den of Geek, one of the UK's most popular film websites) was inspiring.

Highfields scooped the prestigious best Key Stage 5 Film despite some high quality opposition, and the school also won other awards, including Outstanding Achievement awards for both Year 8's Jude Aston and Sixth Form student Jagpreet Jhamat.

The Film Festival finished on a high with *A Night At the Movies* finale, which featured a rousing sing-a-long screening of *The Greatest Showman* and incorporated this year's Summer Song & Dance Show, which gave students the chance to showcase their own performance talents in front of a live audience.



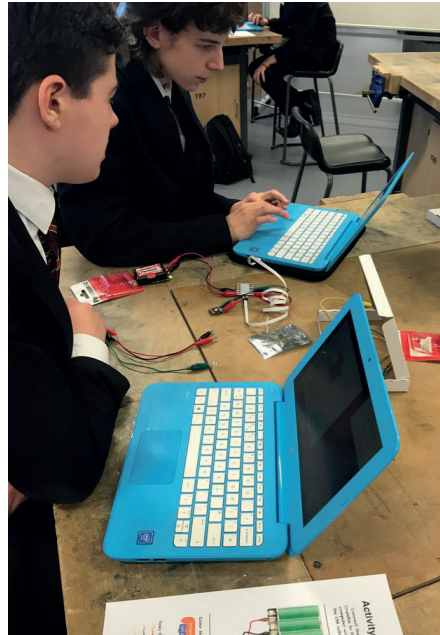
With thanks to Mr D Cooper, Mr A Beesla and Ms S Bishop for organising the event and providing information and photographs for this article.

New Science resource helping students

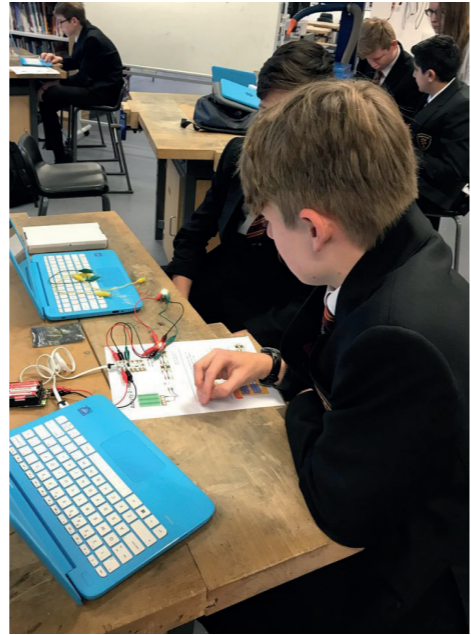


Students are being given a helping hand with their Science studies thanks to the introduction of a new online revision and classroom tool at Highfields. Doodle has been introduced to support the delivery of KS3 and GCSE Science. It contains thousands of resources that are mapped to the latest specifications for all major exam boards so can be used by teachers to assess students' understanding of topics and enhance their lessons. It can also be used by students to revise and extend their own learning independently. Science Teacher, Mr M Lee, said: "Doodle was introduced to Highfields students in April and its use is already through the roof. "Student feedback is hugely positive, and the potential it has to improve progress of students in Science is excellent."

Robotics being put in the spotlight



Robotics is being thrust into the spotlight, with Highfields' budding young engineers showcasing their programming skills to further develop the Design and Technology curriculum. As part of their GCSE studies, selected students took part in the Design and Technology Association's Introduction to Robotics. Highfields was one of eight schools that attended a CPD session at Birmingham City University where they were introduced to the Crumble programming system and given cardboard buggies with programming activities to complete. After working in teams with their buggies back at school, students were then selected to attend the Comino & IET - Robotics in School Showcase Event at Coventry University's Faculty of Engineering, Environmental and Computing.



The event provided students with the opportunity to showcase the work they had carried out on their buggies and give feedback on how this technology can become part of the Key Stage 3 D&T curriculum. Design & Technology teacher, Mrs G George, said: "As a result of the Introduction to Robotics, further developments will be made to introduce this to Year 8 students in the summer term."

Fun and physics on Alton Towers trip

Fun and physics merged together in a thrilling visit to Alton Towers. The theme park trip allowed students to apply their learning to the world around them in a dynamic setting. Students said it gave them a fantastic opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the topics they learn in the classroom and enjoy a fun-filled day to bring the academic year to a close. Emma Clifton, Rosie Kelly and Lauren Poole, who were among the Year 8 students on the trip, said: "We went there to explore the elements of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) present in rollercoasters and theme parks. In preparation for the trip we had a series of lessons which involved the mathematic and scientific aspects of the exhilarating rides. During lessons, we learned about the forces acting upon us whilst on the rides but also the shapes used to make the steel and wooden structures. "Our favourite was by far the newest addition to Alton Towers, The Wicker Man, which is the first wooden ride to open in the UK for 21 years. "The students and staff who went along all had a great time enjoying the rollercoasters and bringing STEM studies to life."

Palace date for golden Duke of Edinburgh's Award students



Three former Highfields students rubbed shoulders with royalty when they celebrated achieving the highest possible honour on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme at Buckingham Palace. Maiya Bahra, Alisha Patel and Josh Slomka-Moore travelled to London for the presentation in the gardens of the palace. They were presented with their DofE Gold Awards in the presence of Sophie, Countess of Wessex, as part of the special ceremony. The guest speaker on the day was entrepreneur, Holly Tucker MBE, the founder of notonthehighstreet.com. Mr C Moody, who runs Highfields' DofE programme and attended the star-studded ceremony, said: "Their presentation was held in the gardens of Buckingham Palace with over 1,000 young people from different areas of the country. "The DofE programme has been a journey which has taken them from Year 10 all the way through to their first year at University. "All three have taken part in some incredible activities such as their assessed expedition in the Lake District and residential volunteering at the Tallylyn Railway in North Wales. "When the presentation had finished they were allowed then to leave via the main gate at Buckingham Palace which they and their parents were overwhelmed by. To reach the Gold Award standard in the DofE programme is an incredible achievement and this was a wonderful celebration. It is a day that we will remember for the rest of our lives and fitting that our students were honoured in such incredible surroundings for their achievements on the programme."

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme was launched in 1956 with the aim of inspiring, guiding and supporting young people in their self-development. The awards scheme challenges students and allows them to discover the world around them whilst providing them with invaluable skills and experiences to improve employment prospects. Hundreds of Highfields students have taken part in the DofE programme since the school started running the scheme around 12 years ago.

Students get to grips with the great outdoors

Year 8 students have been getting to grips with the great outdoors with the launch of a new activity initiative. Groups of students travelled to Wales for an action-packed two-day stay, which gave them chance to work in teams to take on a number of challenges. They spent the first day canoeing on Lake Vyrnwy, before scrambling over Moel-y-Golfa, near to Highfields' Llandrinio Outdoor Education Centre. They completed the course by taking part in team-building activities. The aim of the activity scheme is to provide students with

new experiences and skills to support them throughout their school life. It also prepares students wanting to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's programme in Year 10 for the challenges they will face. Mr C Moody, who organised the trips, said: "Our students absolutely loved taking part. "It is a challenging environment and therefore provides the perfect setting for students to learn how to work in a team, gain social skills and make friends."



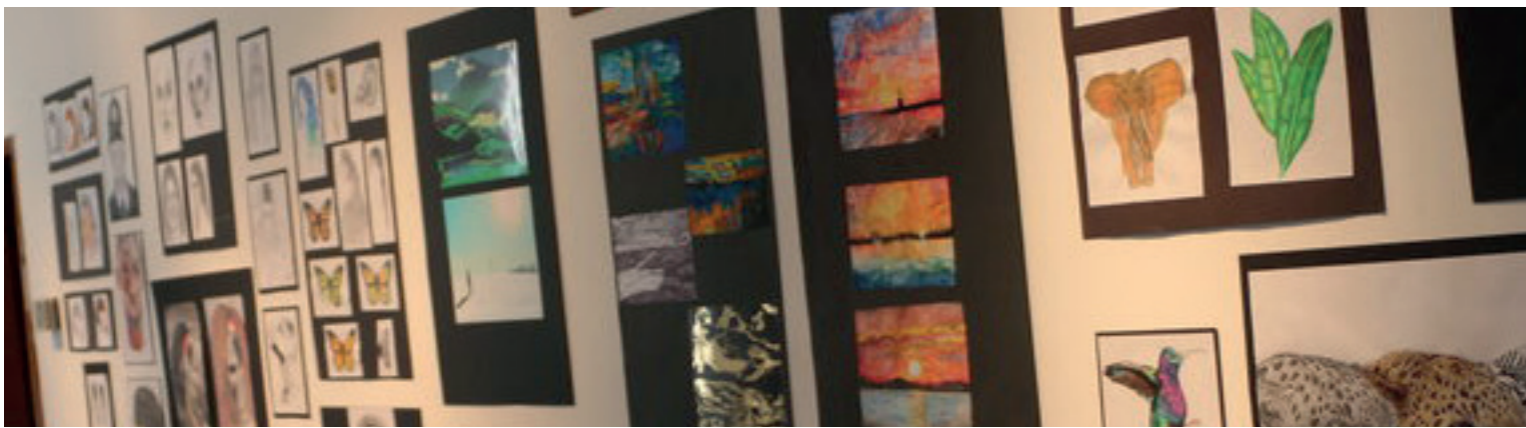
STUDENTS' STUNNING WORK ON DISPLAY AT CITY'S ART GALLERY

Stunning artwork created by talented Highfields School students went on display at Wolverhampton Art Gallery. Creative students celebrated the chance to showcase their artistic talents to members of the public, with dozens of pieces of work now taking centre stage at the prestigious gallery.

The exhibition was predominantly made up of work created by GCSE Art students but also featured artwork by students from Years 8, 9, 10 and 13. It ran for three weeks in June.

Art teacher, Mrs D Smith, said: "It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to be able to showcase their talents to members of the public at the City's prestigious Art Gallery.

"We have some incredibly talented students and we are very proud of the work they have produced. Thank you to everyone who went along to celebrate their creative achievements."



Reading Club inspires love of books

Students and staff were inspired to read as part of a four-week book challenge. Eager readers from Years 7 to 10 read from a selection of eight nominated Carnegie books as part of the Carnegie Book Club. The books were suited to readers aged between 11 and 15, which helped each individual to relate to and understand the book they chose. The nominated books were: After the Fire by Will Hill, The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas, Saint Death by Marcus Sedgwick, Beyond the Bright Sea by Lauren Wolk, Wed Wabbit by Lissa Evans, Where the World Ends by Geraldine McCaughrean, Rook by Anthony McGowan and Release by Patrick Ness. Each book had a different story and theme, allowing readers to expand the type of book they usually read. Following the four-week reading challenge, the winner of the book award was announced as Where the World Ends, by Geraldine McCaughrean.



The Carnegie Book Club continues to meet on Tuesday lunchtimes in the Humanities LRC and students are also being urged to take part in a Summer Reading Challenge over the holidays. Every student who enters will receive a certificate and a pin badge. They will also be entered into the prize draw to win £25 worth of books. More information is available from the Humanities LRC.

The eight selected books chosen for the first reading challenge:

- After the Fire – Based on a true story and follows the life of the main character, Moonbeam, who grows up in a religious camp which is isolated from the world. She doesn't know what the REAL world considers as wrong as she's been indoctrinated within the camp to follow the leader's rules. But can she put up with his unethical rules for too long?
- The Hate U Give – Follows the story of a central protagonist who is drawn to activism after she witnesses the shooting and killing of her best friend by an American Police Officer.
- Saint Death - A propulsive, compelling, and unsparing novel set in the grimly violent world of the human and drug trade on the US-Mexican border.
- Beyond the Bright Sea – Follows the story of 12-year-old Crow, who is abandoned and set adrift on a small boat when she is just hours old, before she is rescued and raised on an island. One night, Crow notices a fire across the sea, which entices her and spurs her curiosities about the world around her. Soon, an unstoppable chain of events is triggered, leading Crow down a path of discovery and danger.
- Wed Wabbit – The main character, Fidge, is hurled into a strange world, where she has three companions and tries to solve impossible clues whilst dealing with a dictator.
- Where the World Ends – Based on a true story, which follows the hard journey of men that are stranded on Warrior Stac, which is a high point of rock that pitches out of the Atlantic. It's a mesmerising story of survival.
- Rook - A poignant, beautifully-written novella about growing up and family.

Our Brian in volunteering mission to China

Former Highfields student Brian White, whose battle to stay in the UK and study at Oxford captured hearts across the country, is spending his holidays mentoring children at a Chinese summer camp. Instead of returning to Wolverhampton for the long break, the talented 21-year-old has instead volunteered his time to teach youngsters at the Greenwoods International Summer Camp.

The camp, located at Qiandao Lake in China, welcomes youngsters aged 7-15 from across the world to enjoy sports facilities, outdoor pursuits and academic studies.

Brian will spend two months tutoring youngsters at the camp after completing his first year at Oxford University.

Ms S Bishop, Highfields' Head of Performance who supported Brian in his hard-fought appeal to remain in the UK, said: "Brian has thoroughly embraced his first year at university and didn't want to spend the long summer break just sitting around after what has been a whirlwind of a year.

"He is loving every minute of his mentoring and it is wonderful to see his infectious smile lighting up the lives of students over in China."

Brian lived in an orphanage in Zimbabwe until the age of six when a missionary spotted the bright boy's potential and introduced him to British-born Peter White who was working in the country and had two children and a Zimbabwean wife.

Mr White first fostered and then adopted Brian, who was 12 when he moved with his new family to Botswana, where he was later left with one of their friends on their return to live in Penn. He was allowed to join them at the age of 15 but immigration officials gave him temporary rather than indefinite leave to remain here.

This was only spotted when Brian's application for a student grant in 2016, following the offer to study Chemistry at Lady Margaret Hall after he got 3 A*s and an A in A Levels, was rejected when it was discovered he had inadvertently overstayed his temporary visa and faced deportation.

Lady Margaret Hall took the rare step of putting his place on hold for 12 months whilst he fought to stay in the UK.

His story started gaining local media attention and the backing of a number of celebrities, including soul superstar Beverley Knight and author Sathnam Sanghera before a petition started by his friend, Luke Wilcox, turned his case into a national sensation.

The online petition urging the Home Office to rethink its decision to refuse him indefinite leave to remain in the UK was signed by more than 111,000 people whilst his story was picked up by the national press, including The Guardian, The Independent, BBC, Evening Standard, The Mirror, Daily Mail and BuzzFeed, among others. He also appeared on This Morning alongside Eamonn Holmes and Ruth Langsford.

After more than a year in limbo, the Home Office granted him indefinite leave to remain and he started his studies at Oxford last September. (Images below courtesy of Greenwoods International Summer Camp)



Talented students take part in sun-soaked Sports Day

Sporty students showcased their talents as they took part in Highfields' Sports Day 2018. Dozens of students braved the heat-wave to compete in a range of disciplines with the aim of picking up the most points. Others lined the school field to cheer on their fellow students.

Those taking part were able to cool down with an ice cream on the day, whilst speakers were set up playing motivational music to create a fun-filled atmosphere for the event.

Athletics was the focus of the day with disciplines including numerous short and long distance running events, high jump, shot put, javelin and discus. The timetables had been carefully constructed to encourage as much participation as possible and this participation was furthered by the fact that all students - regardless of where they finished in the competition - got at least a single point for their efforts on the day.

For the 60m, 100m and 200m, the seven to nine fastest athletes in the year group over that particular distance, all raced. These rankings were based upon qualification times from heats conducted in all students' PE lessons.

Mr C Brickwood, Highfields' Head of PE, said: "Students could register for up to three events on the day, so when we tally up all of the events that took place it works out that 938 athletes competed on the day, so we estimate about 45% of the school got involved, which is great to see.

"It was tough to compete in such high temperatures but everyone enjoyed a great day and got to enjoy the occasion with music and ice creams."



Media dream come true for Jude

Lauren Poole interviews Highfields' inspirational budding Sports Journalist, Jude Aston, about how he is already succeeding in bringing his dreams of a media career to life.

Year 8 student, Jude Aston, is already making waves in the media world where he is hoping to bring his dreams of becoming a future Sky Sports Journalist to life. Jude is a keen reporter and has interviewed many famous football players and managers, whilst also working with the Highfields News Channel (HTV), editing footage as well as reporting on sporting events. Despite suffering from Cerebral Palsy, Jude has refused to let the condition stop him from being who he wants to be or standing in the way of his career dreams.

In celebration of Jude's success, The H team met with Jude to interview him on how he feels and his thoughts on the past two years at Highfields. He revealed how his keen love of sport developed over time: "I never liked sports when I was younger, but I developed an interest when my mate invited me to a Villa match and then I got more of an interest in sport," he said.

In September 2017, Jude found himself in the middle of a football fan's dream when he landed a TV slot on Channel 5 to report on Aston Villa after his uncle posted an image of him on LinkedIn, promoting his interest in video editing and vlogging. Jude stated he "didn't know how to react at first as it was unexpected". Since then, Jude has interviewed a range of football professionals, admitting that he "didn't realise where he would be from then to now."

Jude's success in sports journalism to date - including his contribution to HTV's win at this year's prestigious DIGI Awards, has firmly set him up as a truly inspiring individual. On 13th June, 2018, Jude delivered a life-affirming speech at Wolverhampton's Molineux Stadium in front of 90 parents for Wolverhampton Parent Partnership Service, a SEND support network. When asked why it was important for him to deliver the speech, Jude said: "I did the speech at the Molineux to prove that there are no barriers, and anything is possible. Having Cerebral Palsy is a barrier but I'm not going to make it one in my life. I said if you put your mind to it and have the confidence in yourself, you are going to succeed."

Often describing his work in the media world as a 'dream', Jude continues to enjoy producing episodes for HTV and has even qualified to play for the England Cerebral Palsy Pathway. Having accomplished so much in a short period of time, we asked Jude what advice he might have for other students looking to get into sports journalism. He said: "The advice I would give to someone wanting to get into the media world would be, get as much experience as possible as it is a very tough industry to get in to and just be yourself when on camera."

Jude has shown courage over his time at Highfields, starting a YouTube channel, interviewing many football figures and giving a speech at Molineux. He clearly knows what he wants to do and how to get there - and won't give up. His journey into the media world has boosted his confidence and given him the opportunities he wants to get to be a journalist, which at the age of 13, is inspirational.



Young athletes win Gold in tournament

Young athletes from Highfields showcased their sporting talents to secure Gold in a prestigious tournament.

Eight athletes from the Year 8 Boys' Athletics Team took first prize after competing in the Black Country Schools Athletics Finals.

They competed individually in 100m, 200m, 800m races, as well as in High Jump, Shot, Javelin and Long Jump events. Two teams also competed in the 2x200m relay and another two teams in the 4x100m relay.

Nine schools competed in the tournament finals and Highfields' combined points from all events on the day saw the team walk away with the overall Gold medal. Mr C Brickwood, Head of PE, said: "This is a wonderful achievement. Our team put in a number of impressive individual performances to build up their points and win the tournament. Massive congratulations to all members of the team."



THE H SPORT

By Sports Editor Joe Regan

Talented Adam takes Gold in national competition

Talented athlete, Adam Saul-Braddock, has cemented his status as one of the best young runners in the country after winning Gold in a prestigious national competition.

Adam took the winner's medal in the Under 17s 800m race at the English Athletics Indoor Championships. The Year 11 student secured victory with a personal best time of 1.56.13.

Mr C Brickwood, Highfields' Head of PE, said: "To win the Gold medal at a competition of this level is an incredible achievement. Adam Saul-Braddock is certainly going to be a name that people will soon recognise as one of the country's brightest athletics talents. We're all very proud of him."



OUR SPORTING TALENT HONOURRED WITH AWARDS

Highfields hosted its second PE Legacy Awards honouring the efforts and achievements of the school's sporty students. The event, which took place on July 12th, was staged following the huge success of last year's inaugural event to celebrate the wealth of sporting talent at Highfields in a range of categories, including Sports Person of the Year, Sports Team of the Year and Elite Performer. This year the categories were extended to honour a wider variety of students, including the addition of an award for Dancer of the Year (for KS3 and KS4) as well as a Year 11 GCSE PE Contribution Award.

The guest speaker on the night was long-distance runner Rob Pope, who made records for becoming the first person to run across the USA four times in one year. He presented the accolades in front of family and friends and took part in a domino challenge. Invited guests were also entertained with performances by members of Highfields Barefoot Dance Group, GCSE Dance students and members of the school's Gymnastics team.

PE teacher, Ms L Stevenson, who organised the event, said: "We are overwhelmed with superb commitment, strong leadership and outstanding personal performances at Highfields. We were delighted to stage our second PE Legacy Awards to celebrate students' achievements, efforts and commitment to sport. It was another fantastic evening that ended the school term on a high. Congratulations to all of our nominees and students who won awards."

Big winners on the night included Daniel Foster, Kiah Townsend, Mia Cashmore, Leah Roberts, Emily Kilmister and Vishal Patel, who each won the Sports Person of the Year award for their Year group. The Under 13 Girls' Athletics team took the Sports Team of the Year accolade.

