



HYDESVILLE  
TOWER SCHOOL

# WEEKLY

## News in brief...

### Head's commendations:



Oliver – Y2  
Mehtaab – Y3  
Aahil – Y4  
Zakir - Y5  
Safiya – Y6

Well done to Shivam who was last week's Head's commendation recipient for Year 4.

### Nursery Star of the Week:

Anaya – awarded for making great progress.



### A note from the Headmaster...

We were delighted with yesterday's news from the official Government statistics revealing the tremendous success we had with last summer's GCSE examinations. The level of performance by the pupils in all their subjects was a strong reflection on the outstanding teaching and learning occurring within the Senior School. The score in Attainment 8 (the best 8 GCSEs of each individual) placed us in the top 3 schools in the borough, with clear water between us and the next school. Even more impressive is the percentage of pupils gaining Grade 5 or above in English and Mathematics, with only two percent difference between us and the Walsall Grammar Schools. I am very proud of the achievements of last year's cohort, and know it is linked to the strong relationships between the school community and the excellence occurring in classrooms day after day.

As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, mental health of our children is of key importance. The figures showing current difficulties faced by young people in the UK indicate that the problems are growing and that prevention is best wherever possible. With this in mind, we are trialling a "Happiness Homework" idea for the whole school community. Each weekend, we are encouraging pupils, parents and staff to do at least an hour of something that is neither work nor gadget/TV related that brings them pleasure and happiness. It might be something fun and frivolous like going out to play in the park, experienced-based like visiting an exhibition, or simply curling up in the living room with a crossword or book. The principle, however, is to give ourselves permission to have time off and allow our minds to wander. Too much of modern life – for children and adults – can feel like a treadmill of work and deadlines, so a positive step like this can be very worthwhile. Tutors will take various opportunities to reflect on what "Happiness homework" the children have engaged in, so we can see how well the pupils can relax and free their minds.

If your "Happiness homework" happens to be outside this weekend, I hope the hats, scarves and gloves keep you warm...

### Maths success for Team Hydesville

A huge well done to Karina, Shriya, Viren and Mustafa in Year 4 who represented Hydesville at a Maths Competition this week at King Edward's School. During the morning the children took part in a number challenge where they had to fill in a crossword with numbers instead of letters. It was challenging and the children really enjoyed finding out the answers and working as a team. They also enjoyed taking part in the number relay race where they were solving word problems against the clock.

All in all, it was a great day, and we are delighted to announce Team Hydesville came 4<sup>th</sup> out of 12 schools; what a fantastic achievement!



## Reception Star of the Week:

**Reuben** - awarded for excellent effort across all areas of learning.



## Performer of the Week:

**Ibrahim (Y3)** - Awarded for demonstrating an excellent knowledge of the musical elements when learning about Sains-Saens "Carnival of the Animals." Well done!



## Poetry in action

Pupils in Year 11 had a fantastic opportunity on Tuesday to see some of our nation's most celebrated poets read from their work, as well as gain advice from principal examiners, who provided our pupils with lots of invaluable tips and techniques.

The exclusive event took place at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham and included Carol Ann Duffy, Gillian Clarke and Imtiaz Dharker. However, it was Simon Armitage and John Agard who received the greatest applause from our pupils! With their mix of friendly humour and lyrical eloquence, the duo charmed our pupils - and staff too! We can't wait to attend again next year.

## Nursery & Reception Fun Club

We're holding a February Half Term Holiday Fun Club for children in Nursery & Reception. The Club will be open from 9am until 4pm every day and children can also bring along a friend or family member who isn't at Hydesville.

Please contact Mrs Smith in Nursery or your child's Reception teacher to find out more. And do hurry, as the Early Bird price of £20 per day per child expires on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February!



## More Half Term Holiday Clubs

It's going to be busy during Half Term as we are hosting two external companies who will be offering Holiday Clubs to our pupils:

- **Mad Science:** children in Prep School enjoyed a Mad Science assembly last week, complete with explosions and chemical reactions! We are delighted to announce Mad Science will be back during February Half term, offering a Science themed Holiday Club to children aged 4 – 12. See

<https://register.madscience.org/westmidlands/camp.aspx> for more details.



- **Sports Plus:** Pupils in Prep School can sign up to the Sports Plus Scheme multi-sports camp, taking place from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February. More information here:

<https://www.sportsplusscheme.com/bookings/walsall-multi-sports-camp-5-11yrs/>



## Prep School Awards and Achievements

**Congratulations to the following Prep School classes who achieved 100% attendance this week: RD, 1B, 1E, 3L and 5B**

**Congratulations to the following Senior Form Group who also achieved 100% attendance this week: Form 5**

Congratulations to Kadii in Reception and her younger siblings, Cataleya and Maven in Nursery. The children kindly volunteered to help wrap more than 100 Christmas



presents. They also gave up their time on Christmas morning to help give out the presents to children at Birmingham Childrens' Hospital and Acorns Childrens' Hospice. Mr Honey received a letter from the Director of the charity who organised the present wrap. He said the children were fantastic in their efforts! Mr Honey is very proud of Kadii, Cataleya and Maven too. We have some very kind children in our school!



Congratulations to Nitin in Year 6 for his amazing achievements in karate. His hard work and dedication during the past 12 months has paid off as he has achieved his Blackbelt (2<sup>nd</sup> Dan). Well done!

Well done to Emil in Year 2 for taking part in a sponsored run where he raised money for Birmingham Childrens' Hospital.



### Notices/reminders:

<b>Nursery sound of the week</b>	Here is this week's phonic link for learning at home: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_NgOtt0Htw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_NgOtt0Htw</a>
<b>Photo consent forms</b>	Please can parents return their child's photo consent form ASAP, if they haven't already done so.

### Annual parent survey

Our annual parent survey is still open so we'd like to encourage those of you who haven't completed it to do so if you are able. Thank you to those parents and carers who have already given us your feedback. It is really important to us.

## Year 11 'Spotlight on Careers'

### BMW GIRLS GO TECHNICAL PROGRAMME – APPLY NOW!

**Fantastic opportunity for talented ladies.**

We are again running our popular Girls Go Technical Programme, aimed at ladies currently in year 11 or older who are considering a technical apprenticeship within the manufacturing industry starting in **August 2019**.

Participants will experience the day-to-day challenges encountered by our engineers and technical apprentices in our fascinating world-class factories through this exiting and unique opportunity.

A limited number of places are available on the scheme which will run **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019**.

Those attending will be taken on a tour around two of the three manufacturing sites: Plant Oxford where MINI is built, Plant Hams Hall where engines are assembled and Plant Swindon, the Body and Pressings Plant. Four days will be spent at the heart of our operation, two at the site closest to your home region for in-depth work experience, and two at Plant Oxford.

Upon completion of the programme, participants will have gained:

- An in-depth awareness of manufacturing and engineering processes
- An insight into the range of careers available-including the technical roles
- Enhanced interview and job application skills.

To apply for a place, please access the following links:

**For the Birmingham area:**

<https://www.bmwgroup.jobs/gb/en/jobfinder/job-description.1900002E.GB.HamsHall.ResearchDevelopment.html>

**For the Oxford area:**

<https://www.bmwgroup.jobs/gb/en/jobfinder/job-description.1900002D.GB.Oxfordshire.ResearchDevelopment.html>

**For the Swindon area:**

<https://www.bmwgroup.jobs/gb/en/jobfinder/job-description.1900002C.GB.Swindon.ResearchDevelopment.html>

The closing date for applications is midnight on **25<sup>th</sup> January**.



## WHY BECOME AN APPRENTICE?



### BMW Apprenticeship

**£0** University fees

**Work experience** over a broad range of specialities

**98%** of our apprentices stay with us after completing their apprenticeship

**Discounts** available for a wide range of retail outlets, both online and on the high street.

**Car scheme (from 18 years old).**

**Pension plan**

**Salary** starts from around £13,000, completing on circa £25,000.

### University

**£50,000 Average Debt**

Average Debt (institute for fiscal studies-BBC July 2017)

**£15,000 to £22,000 Average Starting Salary**

(graduatejobs.com/The Telegraph/ June 2017)

**One in five graduates in low or medium skilled jobs**

(The Telegraph, April 2017)



**YEARS 10 -12 AND PARENTS, JOIN US AT MEDIC MENTOR'S 2 DAY CONFERENCE FOR ASPIRING MEDICS, DENTISTS AND VETS.**

#### **Day 1: Insight into Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary**

14 unique talks for each speciality looking at experiences from A Levels, throughout university and leading to life as a fully qualified professional.

#### **Day 2: Medicine only UCAS Lectures**

A full day of lectures covering the medical application process including work experience, personal statements and interview techniques led by our team of doctors.

Exeter	19th - 20th Jan
London	26th -27th Jan
Birmingham	2nd - 3rd March
Stirling	23rd - 24th March
London	30th - 31st March
Cardiff	6th - 7th April

Registration:\*

Day 1 starts from £25

Day 2 £100

\*Students from low income backgrounds and teachers attend free. Proceeds from events are reinvested to support the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Register now at [medicmentor.co.uk](http://medicmentor.co.uk)  
or call 01524 389772



**Dates coming up week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019:**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>After School Clubs:</b> <b>Musical Theatre:</b> Seniors (3.45 – 4.45 pm) <b>Art Club:</b> Upper Prep (3.45 – 4.45 pm) <b>STEM Club:</b> Upper Prep (3.45 – 4.45 pm) <b>Problem Solving:</b> Upper Prep (3.45 – 4.30 pm)
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<b>Tuesday</b>	Trip to Thinktank, Birmingham: Y5 & Y6 After School Clubs: Drama Club: Upper Prep (3.45 – 4.45 pm) Spanish: Upper Prep (3.45 – 4.30 pm) Art Club: Seniors (3.45 – 4.45 pm)
<b>Wednesday</b>	KS4 Boys Table Tennis at Streetly Academy (3.15-5pm)
<b>Thursday</b>	Themed lunch day: Turkey Business Studies trip to Cadbury World: Y10 After School Clubs: MAT Elocution: Upper Prep (3.45 – 4.30 pm) Intervention: Year 6 (3.00 – 5.00 pm) 11Plus Booster session: Year 5 (4.00 – 5.00 pm) Musical Theatre: Upper Prep (3.45 – 4.30 pm)
<b>Friday</b>	After School Clubs: Karate: Prep School (3.50 – 4.50 pm) Duke of Edinburgh: Y9 - 11 (3.45 – 4.45 pm)

Next week's 'Around the World in 24 Dishes' menu is:

## Turkish day.

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BBQ Chicken wrap melt

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Borek (spinach & feta rolls)

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Pide (Turkish pizza)

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Turkish spiced potatoes

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Turkish baked vegetables (chick peas, onion, garlic, tomato, carrot)

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Deli bar

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Salad bar

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Revani (Turkish semolina cake)

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