



# THE MESSENGER



## PD Day

On Thursday 9th December, pupils in all year groups took part in the first Personal Development day of this academic year.

The aim of the Personal Development programme is to develop pupils' understanding of the world beyond school, and their lessons last week covered topics ranging from being a good friend in year 7, all the way up to applying for student finance and managing a student budget in the sixth form.

Over the course of this next year, pupils can look forward to exploring more issues that will affect them as they become adults e.g. their physical and mental health, their finances, their relationships and their career.



### Upcoming Dates

4th January

Phased return to school

13th January

Year 11 Parents' and Carers' Evening

27th January

Year 9 Parents' and Carers' Evening & Options Event

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of a busy term, it is important to take time to reflect on the positives from what continue to be very challenging times. This newsletter celebrates many positive aspects of recent months in school - we have a lot to be grateful for. While many challenges clearly lie ahead, we must have hope that better times are coming. While it can sometimes be hard to see, we are in a much better position than we were 12 months ago. I would continue to ask for the support of the whole school community to persevere with the measures which we have in place to try to keep everyone safe and healthy. All good wishes for the coming Christmas season and a New Year full of hope.

Mr Smith, Principal

## Smith's Myths

True or False?

In Australia, it's tradition to eat crocodile meat on Christmas day.

Christmas wreaths are a symbol of Christ.

Reindeer lose their antlers every year.

The French word for Christmas is 'Noël'.

# Takeover Day

Friday 26th November  
2021

57 students took part in our 'Takeover Day' working as teachers, leaders, admin staff, pastoral staff and site staff. It was a really positive experience with students asking when the next one would be. Watch this space for our next Takeover Day.

'It was a one of a kind experience. I intend to hopefully take part next time.' (Nimrah)

'Being a teacher requires a lot of work that students don't see and I was able to see what they do behind the scenes.' (Hafsah)

'100% I will recommend people to do this job.' (Jaden)

'I learnt how to be responsible and that teachers have a lot of hard work to do.' (Alisha)



E Kumar and N Beaty as site staff



E Ali took on the role of Mr Pittaway  
Head of Year 8



## Prayer Corner

Dear God, we give thanks for this time when we can all be together. I pray that you will turn our hearts toward you as Christmas approaches. Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season this year and miss the chance to celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love, that you sent to us on the first Christmas. Amen.



# Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Wednesday 20th October, we held our annual Macmillan coffee morning. The event was open to staff and sixth form. We raised a total of **£326.18**, which is one of our highest totals since we started hosting these annual charity events. Thank you to everybody who bought cake, contributed and supported on the day, and well done to all of the raffle prize winners.



It was a lovely and empowering day for all the pupils involved.

Roll on next year, when we hope to raise even more money for good causes!

## Star Mathematicians

Great work from our Half-Term 2 'Mathematician of the Week' winners! Jannat, Arozo, Aayan, Jamil, Ethan, Alessia and Zanisha have each received a Love2shop voucher from the Maths department. Well done!

## COVID Testing

We are hoping to increase the amount of COVID tests recorded on the NHS website. Please keep testing and recording during the Christmas break.

Please report your results via:  
<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>  
Thank you for your support.



**'Christmas is most truly  
Christmas when we celebrate  
it by giving the light of love  
to those who need it most.'**



A heartfelt thank you to Asda Walsall who kindly donated 35 Christmas Eve boxes to the students of Blue Coat Academy as part of the "Christmas Magical Moments" campaign.

The pandemic showed us how much we all depend on the kindness of those around us, and what's really important to us: family, food on the table, and the importance of basic services.

Asda's Magical Moments campaign is helping bring communities back together to celebrate those special moments that mean so much at Christmas.

Here is a few things you can do for free for your community this Christmas:

Donate your old phone and connect someone in need

Share food and your time

Lend a helping hand

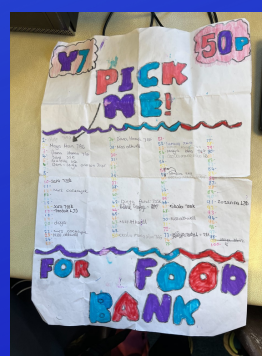
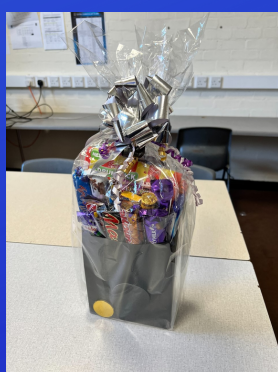
Donate old toys

Thank you ,Asda, for reminding us how important our community is and for spreading Christmas cheer.

## **7AG Raffle**

Well done to 7AG for organising and putting together a wonderful raffle prize to help raise money for the food bank this December.

Good luck to all staff who have bought a ticket!





# GCSE 3D Design

Throughout the Autumn term the GCSE 3D Design students have been working on their final pieces ready for assessment. These have ranged from designer bins to war memorials. When asked about her project Laura K (Y11) stated :

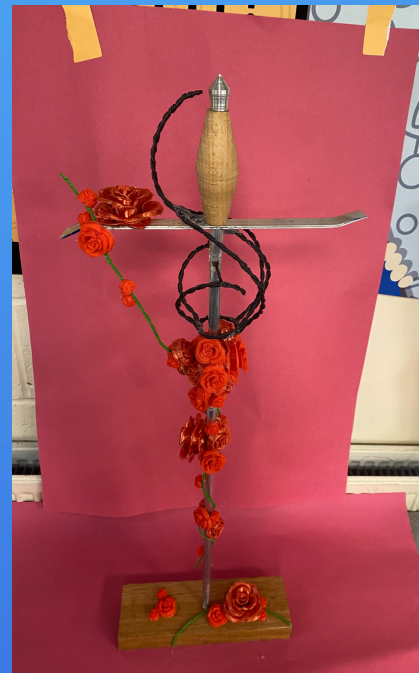
"For my year 10 final project in 3D Design, I have designed and constructed a sword with red flowers "growing" from the body.

Similar to the red poppies that people wear during November, the War Memorial piece was made as a tribute to those who have fallen during the World Wars.

I wanted the piece to be more of a permanent reminder of what those soldiers had to suffer through for their countries and families back at home.

The red flowers on the sword represent the blood that was spilled – again similar to the poppies. The sword itself is something that I wanted to include along with the flowers, so as to not only remember the people that died but also the pain that they suffered.

The piece was also influenced by the designers we had been researching, as a part of our Artist Research phase. Zaha Hadid's works have influenced certain elements of the piece, like the handguard and the decorative piece under it. The flow and curve of her work is something that I tried to include within my own".



## All That Jazz

On Monday 15th November, four of the Year 11 Dancers did an outstanding performance at the Walsall Arena.

The group performed 'All That Jazz' from Bob Fosse's musical 'Chicago' in front of an audience of more than 200 people, in a line-up made up of other dancers from primary, secondary and private dance schools from all over the Black Country.

The girls' performance was of a very high standard, and was very well received by the audience. Well done Fatima, Fridaus, Ayesha and Victory, we were very proud of you!

