



Newsletter

Issue Number 385

Friday 1st March 2024

Extra-curricular and Enrichment Activities

We know how important the day to day experience that our children have in their classrooms is for their learning and progress. All of our schools understand and promote high-quality teaching and learning in every class, and this is at the heart of our success. However, it is not the only thing that makes a difference. There are many other things that we do in school that supports pupils' progress such as targeted intervention sessions, excellent pastoral care, support for pupils' mental health and wellbeing, strategic use of homework – all make a contribution to success.

Another area that can play a pivotal role in pupils' holistic development is extra-curricular and enrichment activity. In our Trust schools, we are proud to offer a diverse array of activities that cater to every pupil's interests and talents, ranging from music and drama to sports, arts, and study support.

A 2019 report from the government's Social Mobility Commission confirmed the importance of extra-curricular activity, but also highlighted the disparity in take up for different groups of pupils. Research has consistently shown that engagement in extra-curricular activities is linked to improved academic outcomes, higher self-esteem, and enhanced social skills. These activities provide a platform for students to explore their passions, develop new skills, and form lasting friendships. They are not just hobbies; they are opportunities for real-world learning and personal growth.

Our trust schools are committed to ensuring that every pupil has access to these enriching experiences. We offer a wide range of activities, including:

Music and Drama: Unleash creativity and boost confidence through performances and productions.

Sports: Foster teamwork and physical health with various sports teams and events.

Arts: Encourage self-expression and develop fine motor skills.

Games and hobbies: Build confidence and develop friendships.

Study Support: Provide academic assistance and mentorship to help pupils thrive.

We understand that there may be barriers preventing some pupils from participating in these activities. Whether it's financial constraints, transportation issues, or any other challenge, we are here to support. We can assist in finding solutions to ensure that every child can take part in the activities they love.

Participation in these activities has been shown to lead to higher grades, increased likelihood of accessing further and higher education, and reduced absenteeism. A thematic review by the Girls Education Challenge (2018) found that extra-curricular activities are associated with a range of positive outcomes for pupils, such as higher grades and test scores, decreased school dropout, and greater educational attainment. They are instrumental in shaping well-rounded individuals who are prepared for the challenges of the future.

Your support as parents is invaluable. Encouragement from home can make all the difference in a child's willingness to participate and excel in extra-curricular activities. We thank you for your continued support and for being active participants in your child's educational journey. We are dedicated to providing a nurturing environment where every pupil can discover and develop their interests. Together, we can ensure that our children are not only academically successful but also happy, confident, and ready to take on the world.



Dr. Paul Heery
Chief Executive Officer



The White Hills Park Trust
Better Together

Careers within the White Hills Park Trust

Are you looking for a workplace that values collaboration, teamwork, and a supportive environment? Then look no further. In the White Hills Park Trust, we pride ourselves on the fact one of the best things about working here is the people. Whether it's our supportive central team, our passionate and dedicated school families, or our amazing diverse pupils, we provide a friendly workplace that promotes collaboration and teamwork, united in our mission to provide the very best for our young people.

We currently have open vacancies in various roles across our schools. Please see our online application portal at whptrust.org/vacancies for more information on the benefits of working with us, to read more about the roles below and begin an application, or to sign up for job alerts.

Head Teacher

at The Lanes Primary School, Beeston
Closing Date: Monday 11th March 2024.

Drama Teacher

at Bramcote College, Bramcote
Closing Date: Monday 11th March 2024.

Curriculum Leader - Computer Science

at Bramcote College, Bramcote
Closing Date: Monday 11th March 2024.

SEN Class Teacher

at Foxwood Academy, Bramcote
Closing Date: Monday 11th March 2024.

School Operations Manager

at Alderman White School, Bramcote
Closing Date: Friday 15th March 2024.

Exam Invigilator

at The White Hills Park Trust, Bramcote
Closing Date: Thursday 28th March 2024.



Century Learning Winter Cup Competition (For Year 7 and 8 Students)



On Monday 26th February we officially launched the **Century Learning Spring Challenge**, a competition that will run for 4 weeks and involve the Year 7 and 8 students at Bramcote College. The competition is designed to promote the use of Century Learning, our self-guided independent study app.

We have seen a really positive response from Year 7 and 8 with lots of the students completing the recommended 30+ minutes of Century Learning each week.

During the competition window, we will identify the top 10 performers in each year group each week. These students will receive a certificate and sticker. The top performer of the month will receive a special prize.

It is not too late to participate, just log into Century Learning and complete the learning nuggets in English, Maths, Science and Computer Science.

Accessing Century

At home, simply search for Century Learning or <https://app.century.tech/login/> or link on the link **CENTURY** from the Bramcote College Home page.

Ms Banger

the spring challenge
26th February – 24th March

Compete with other schools and colleges to win a trophy! Can your school or college complete the most nuggets to win the trophy?

Year 7 and 8
Century Learning
Spring Challenge Competition
Log into Century and complete **the most unique nuggets** each week
For a chance to win a prize and certificate.

CENTURY STARS

Maths Challenge Success

The Maths team at BC would like to congratulate the 99 students from years 9, 10 and 11 who took part in the UKMT intermediate challenge where our students achieved 9 gold, 14 silver and 26 bronze certificates. In particular we would like to congratulate the 8 students who qualified for the follow on Pink and Grey Mathematical Kangaroo competitions which will take place in school next month.

Well Done Everyone.

Mr Devlin



Chocolate wanted!

Our famous Easter Egg Tombola returns for students soon giving anyone and everyone a chance to win a delicious chocolatey prize.

This is always popular but our PTA need donations to make this a success - if you could spare an easter egg or other treat then please leave any donations at reception for the attention of the PTA who will gladly add them to the tombola!



BC Library News



During this term some students in Year 7 and 8 have been shadowing the Brilliant Book Awards, run by Inspire, Education Library Services. They have been meeting on Thursday afternoons after school to write reviews and complete activities on the books which they have read in their spare time.

<https://bba.inspireculture.org.uk/>

This week on Monday 26th February twelve students attended an author event, at the Becket School, to meet one of the authors: **Sufiya Ahmed**, *Rosie Raja: Churchill's Spy*.

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/author/sufiya-ahmed/>

"I thought it was cool going to Becket School to meet an author because nearly nobody can say they did that. Sufiya Ahmed is also a lovely person."

Charlotte Smart

"When we went to visit Sufiya Ahmed we got to get her books and get them signed, which was cool. She taught us about history including WW2 and the suffragettes. We also heard about Noor Inayat Khan a spy!"

Erin Taylor



Donated Books

Thank you to everyone who has donated books since the last newsletter, the students look forward to reading them. We have received so many we are running out of space! Please contact Mrs Brechin if you have any other titles you wish to donate.

EYFS Ambulance Visit

Early Years were joined by paramedic first responder Mrs Wood who kindly brought her ambulance in to show the children. She talked about her important role within the community and children were able to link this to their topic "People who help us".



National Grid Visit

Year 5 had a visit from the National Grid who focused on renewable energy and strategies to save energy. They took part in an interactive "Now Press Play" experience where they had to find ways to save the energy and find out who had sabotaged the wind farm. They then had a 'Question and Answer' session with the representative from the National Grid.



British Science Week

Mrs Whitaker led an assembly to kick start British Science Week which starts next week.

Children will be taking part in live lessons online and a range of activities around the theme of 'Time', in addition to their normal science lessons.

Coming up:

World Book Day - Thursday 11th March

Parents Evening - Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th March

Comic Relief (Red Nose Day) - Friday 15th March

Life Education (PSHE) visit - Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th March



The Return of the German Exchange

For over 30 years we have been organizing exchanges with our partner school, Städtisches Gymnasium, in Gütersloh, a town in North Germany which is officially twinned with the borough of Broxtowe. Our regular visits came to an abrupt halt during the pandemic, so I was delighted when Michael Brayley, who has organised the exchange for many years in Germany, contacted me to see whether we could re-start the programme this year. As we know, much has changed in the last four years, but 26 intrepid Year 9 & 10 students ensured that our long tradition of linguistic and cultural exchanges was successfully revived. Although there were no older students who could show them the ropes, they coped really well with everything from adjusting to life in a different country to living with a new family for 10 days. The extensive programme included a two-day trip to Berlin for both our students and their German partners, experience of life in a German school including lessons with their partners, a mayoral reception and an exchange party. The wider experience is perhaps best summed up in the words of two of the students on the trip:

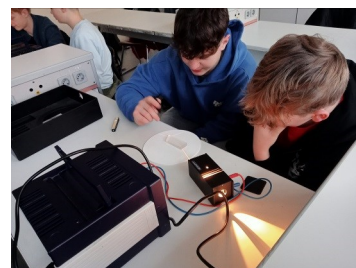


'I really enjoyed exchange because I really felt immersed in the German culture, language and welcomed by the school's community. I really enjoyed living a very different lifestyle from my own as this trip pushed us out our comfort zone. One of the best parts was the unique experience that we all had, and we have all really enjoyed sharing our favourite parts with each other.'

'The German Exchange was one of the best experiences of my life so far. I was anxious about whether I would like my partner and Germany itself, but once I got there, I had the best time. We got to experience loads of new things and I would love to do it all over again. I'm really looking forward my partner coming back in September and being able to show her what life is like here'

Many thanks go to Ms Hills and Ms Friend who accompanied the group during their half-term break. The next exchange trip to Germany for students in Years 9-11 will be in February 2025.

Mr Stephan



From Chinese New Year celebrations to Jazz Night

The last few weeks have been really busy with regard to enrichment activities. Just before the half-term break Year 7 & 8 students joined a Chinese New Year Cookery session where they made some traditional New Year Dumplings, our Saturday Chinese School celebrated the New Year in style last Saturday and the AW Jazz Band blew us away with their amazing Jazz Night performances last night.

Mr Stephan



Football News

Y10/11 Football vs Carlton Academy

A home tie in the quarter final of cup, with fellow students cheering them on, was a great opportunity for further success for the Y10/11 boys football team. Captain Will B decided to kick up the hill in the first half and the team were told to try to get to half time at 0-0 and then go for it in the second half. The gameplan was working a treat, with the home side in control of the game and looking great going forward. Arty got himself on the end of a couple of good crosses, only for the Carlton keeper to make a couple of good saves. The away side had a great chance of their own but Olly was quick to get off his line and make a good save to keep it 0-0. AW really should have taken the lead with further chances, but it was the away side who broke the deadlock.

A deflected cross looped up and over the AW defence and into the path of the striker who got very lucky as his shot deflected into the back of the net, despite Freddie's best efforts to make a last-ditch tackle. Finlay, who had been rested due to injury, came on and made an immediate impact, hitting a fierce strike towards goal but the keeper made another good save. Matthew then had a chance towards the end of the half but he couldn't quite direct his effort on target when stretching to get on the end of a cross. AW were very unlucky to go in 1-0 down at half time.

Going down the hill, we would have expected the home side to take full advantage, but this wasn't to be as the lads looked tired and deflated. Both sides had a couple of good chances but were unable to hit the back of the net. Alderman White's best chance to get back into the game fell to Ethan as he had an open goal to aim at, only for his effort to hit Giresse and bounce back into the Carlton keeper's arms. AW tried until the end but were unable to draw level, only for Carlton to secure the win with 3 minutes remaining with a lovely chipped finish, leaving Olly no chance.

A defeat that was hard to swallow with AW looking the better side overall, but it was Carlton who came away with the victory and head in to the semi final. Some great performances from the boys, especially the back three of Sam, Freddie and Will W, and MOTM goes to Freddie at the heart of that defence.

Mr Hallam



Rugby News

Y7 Boys Rugby CVL

The year 7s finally managed to get their second rugby experience after multiple cancelled tournaments for the weather in the past few months. They were all very excited and all the weeks of training were finally being put to good use.

Despite some cold, rainy and very wet and muddy conditions, the year 7s didn't let this dampen their mood. We started with a strong warm up, led by James A and captain Dexter.



We set out in a 12 a side format against a strong West Bridgford team. We showed such improvement from when we played them last early in the season, holding up defensively and working the ball well into the space moving forward. Despite this, WBS showed some great skills and scored a few tries without us scoring. This however, was just the warm up before we went to play East Leake.

The boys didn't take any negativity from the loss against WBS and it just prepared them for the next challenge. We started fantastically with superb rucking and captain Dexter built some great momentum and showed a huge amount of power to bulldoze his way through the defence to score our first try. The team were buzzing, very excited and keen to continue the good work on the muddy pitch.

The domination continued, Harry E ran brilliantly to the left side of the pitch, too quick for anyone to catch him for our second. Leon then joined in on the action after fighting his way through the East Leake players and sprinted through the middle to score our third. 15-0.

We continued to apply serious pressure, and great work from the whole team kept East Leake from scoring, whilst Harry and Dexter continued to score for fun. They both scored a further two fantastic tries each, finishing the game 35-0 with hat tricks for both Harry and Dexter.

The year 7s rightly celebrated their first win as a team and all that work in training has proved worthwhile. They may have even made it to the finals but we will have to wait and see about some other results first.

Very proud of the whole year 7 team, especially after all the cancellations they had to endure before playing in some super muddy conditions (which they all loved as can be seen in the team photo!)

Mr Sutton



Year 8 Boys Rugby CVL

The year 8s were in rugby action again on Wednesday afternoon after multiple cancellations for weather related reasons. We travelled to West Bridgford to battle in the CVL third round.

Despite the horrible weather in the morning, the afternoon brightened up and we were able to crack on with some rugby in some muddy and wet conditions. Sadly, no other schools turned up, so yet again, we locked horns with West Bridgford in a bigger, longer one match.

WBS had a few players missing due to a trip, so were down a few players. Some of our boys kindly and bravely stepped up to join the opposition team so we could have an 11 v 11 match. We were awarded the win from the last time we played WBS, so we went into this with friendly intentions. Will and Charlie were first up to join the WBS team and did very well settling into a new team with people they had never played with before. They also enjoyed tackling their own team mates in a competitive game.

Alderman White started brightly as we always seem to do. David was solid in the rucks and the ball worked its way out to Beeson who scored the first. We kept dominating in the breakdown, winning the ball back and gaining territory moving forwards. Some good tackles from WBS kept us from scoring straight after, but before long, we were too relentless and the ball was shifted out wide again and quick feet from Beeson saw him score his and our second try.

We won a penalty right up the far side of the pitch, the ball worked its way to Eddie who ran strong and fast into the right side of the pitch to score our third try. 15-0.

The half time whistle went and we made a player swap. We took back Will and Charlie who battled brilliantly, and it was the turn of Ben and Beeson to join the WBS team. Ben and Beeson were thrilled with this opportunity to try and score against their own team. Ben even screamed with excitement.

The game seemed more even and we were still dominant in the breakdown, but Ben and Beeson were relishing their opportunity to try and run through their own team.

Beeson kicked the ball on his own try line and a fantastic bounce saw a WBS player latch onto it with a great catch and run through to score their first try. 15-5.

Boyce then ran through the WBS defence brilliantly to score our fourth after we were awarded a penalty. 20-5.

The game got more even and WBS performed some nice passing moves and scored their second to take the score to 20-10. Just as WBS looked like scoring again, a great counter ruck from David saw Harry get the ball and sprint through the sleeping defence to score our fifth. 25-10.

Beeson took it on himself to try and even the game out even more, ran through brilliantly twice, avoiding the tackles of his own team, to finish the game on 25-20.

The boys were in great spirits despite the mud and the fact that we had to share some of our players. They didn't let up at all on the opposite team and credit to them.

The year 8s have now qualified to the county finals finishing top of the south division. They have been really impressive and continue to keep impressing.

Mr Sutton



Year 9 boys Rugby 7s vs Chilwell

On Tuesday afternoon, 9 of the year 9 rugby boys made the short trip to Chilwell for their first experience of rugby 7s. The pitch was more muddy than not, including a nice puddle towards the end of the pitch, but the boys didn't let this dampen their spirits to win their first rugby 7s game. Captain James took the usual armband duties and after a short warm up we started the game on a full-size pitch, doing three sets of 7 minute thirds.

Despite Chilwell moving forwards in the first minute, we slowly worked our way back up the pitch and a kick from the back saw Jamie chase it with too much pace and score the first try, which he nicely converted. 7-0.

After some great rucking, Jamie picked up a loose ball in our own 22, then sprinted down the right past everyone to score another great try. Theo hit the conversion nicely. 14-0. Jamie was proving far too strong and quick for any of the Chilwell players as this time, he picked up the ball on the left and sprinted through the team to score his and our third. Jamie hit the post for no conversion on this occasion. 19-0.



That called the end of the first 7 minutes as we made a few changes with the roll on roll off subs. Chilwell started better but a sloppy mistake at the back saw Sam P pick up a loose ball and score his first try. No conversion on this chance from Theo. 24-0. Theo wanted to get in on the action and again after some great rucking to win the ball back, the ball was passed out to him on the right and he put his head down and ran through 2 attempted tackles to score his first. James converted nicely. 31-0.



Captain James then worked some space nicely and kicked excellently into the gap for Romesh to chase and pick up the ball to score his first try for AW. James hit the conversion nicely in off the post. 38-0. Chilwell finally managed to score a very well worked try into the left corner. Jamie and Theo were performing try saving tackles left right and centre, but Chilwell deserved to get through on this occasion.

We made some more changes and were keen to keep the pressure on. Another fantastic tackle from James when Chilwell looked to be clear led our counter nicely. Sam C finished off a good attack scoring his first try, no conversion. 43-5.

Next up, probably our best move of the game, with a fantastic passing sequence from almost the entire team, finishing with one of the boys popping the ball up eventually to Bob who ran through to score his first. Converted nicely 50-5. Jamie came back on after a bit of time on the bench to do what he does best and pick the ball up and sprint through to score his fourth of the evening. James missed the conversion this time. 55-5.

We then went into the final 7 minutes and made some more changes. The boys were getting tired, but this didn't stop the efforts. As Chilwell were awarded a penalty, they set up nicely, but James was switched on and took a high pass from the opposition to sneak through and score. Theo converted. 62-5. Jamie then scored another, stepping around the opposition and pushing off a great attempt at bringing him down to score his 5th of the evening. James converted 69-5.

Chilwell came back into it towards the end with a final three tries, one of which was an incredible accidental kick, where he meant to kick it out of play, but the mud on the pitch stopped the ball dead on the try line for their player to jump on and score what was an incredible move. The game finished 69-20 to AW.

A fantastic all-round performance on a tricky pitch with lots of running. Incredible passes, tackles and all-round play from the entire team in a well deserved win in which we dominated the game. Man of the match could have gone to almost any one of the 9 lads with everyone playing a vital role. Captain James voted on Romesh on this occasion for a fantastic try and all-round great fitness and tackling.



Mr Sutton

Y11 Boys Rugby vs Quarrydale

On Wednesday afternoon, the year 11 boys took to the Alderman White turf to take on Quarrydale in a u17s friendly. Due to the fact some year 12s were playing for the opposition, we were only allowed to have year 11s in action for us. This meant the usual crew were involved with a fair few new faces experiencing their first game of rugby too.

Leo captained the game today and organised the team to have a nice mix of experience and newbies. We started strong with solid tackles, excellent rucking and before long, scored our first try with Seb pushing through to the try line. Benny nicely converted. 7-0. The contest proved to be a high-quality game with both sides showing real quality. We were building nice pressure, and the ball worked its way out wide to Fin who ran far out wide to score our second try. Benny converted. 14-0.

Quarrydale worked nicely back into the game and scored their first try. Converted well. 14-7. Leo then picked up the ball and did his usual whereby he built up great speed and momentum to fly through the defence to score our third. No conversion on this time. 19-7. Quarrydale did some great passing out wide and had a man over to score their second and end the first half 19-14 after a good conversion again.

Captain Leo made some changes in the second half with some new faces coming in and we were ready to continue the pressure. Leo led by example and scored the first try of the half which Benny converted again. 26-14.

The game continued to show great quality from both sides with both teams being competitive. The game turned almost into a real end to end affair with the teams taking in turn to score. Quarrydale took advantage of some new faces and their big second row ran through everyone, even a huge Leo tackle wasn't enough as he went on to score their first try of the half with a nice conversion. 26-21.

Leo picked the ball up again and ran out wide being too quick and too strong for any tacklers and found himself running back to the middle to score his third which Benny converted again. 33-21.

Leo at this point performed magnificently and had picked up an injury to his hand in a huge tackle prior to his try so he had to take himself off. He came off to a standing ovation from the supporters on the side and even the opposition players were clapping off the captain.

Quarrydale then like scored again, a nice drive unable to be held up on the try line, no conversion on this occasion. 33-26. Charlie then picked up the ball after being awarded a penalty and did a great fake to fool the defenders into thinking he was going to pass before diving for the try line on the right side. No conversion on this occasion. 38-26.

In the final 5 minutes both teams continued to push hard and didn't drop any intensity. Another fantastic try from Quarrydale in a well worked move and good conversion saw us go into the final 2 minutes with only a 5 point lead. 38-33.

Both teams were pushing really hard, but Fin got himself the ball and was too quick and his dancing feet raced through all of the tired Quarrydale defenders to score his second try with a fantastic run which Benny converted again. Leaving just over a fantastic 70% conversion rate for Benny.

The full time whistle then went, and the teams shook hands and celebrated together in good spirits. Many thanks to all the supporters and special mention to all the year 11 players who made their first appearance in a rugby shirt. Hats off to all players for putting up with Mr. Sutton's refereeing too! A great game and a fantastic team performance and win for AW.

Mr Sutton





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Nottinghamshire Healthcare
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Young Person's Involvement Group

If you are a young person, aged 14 - 18 years old who has experience of Children and Young People's Health Services, please register to join our Young Person's Involvement Group.

Share your feedback
and real-life experience
of services

Help shape Children
and Young People's
Health Services



Our first online
meeting will be
via MS Teams on:

**Tuesday
16th April 2024,
4pm - 5pm**



**For more information and to register, please scan
the QR code or use the link below:**

<https://involve.nottshc.nhs.uk/involvement-opportunities>

SCAN ME

