



# Newsletter

The White Hills Park Trust

Friday 16th October 2020

 whptrust.org

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## Learning Languages and Understanding Cultures

There are many things that are special about the schools in the White Hills Park Trust, but one of the things we are most proud of is the way our schools look beyond our boundaries and introduce pupils to the wide world beyond school. Over the years, countless students from Bramcote College and Alderman White have had the opportunity to visit countries all over Europe – Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Poland, Germany – and we have now had several student trips to China. The German exchange has been a major feature of our school year for over four decades, and lifelong friendships have been forged.

Our relationship with the Chinese community in the UK has become very close and despite not being able to operate at the moment, the Saturday Chinese School at Alderman White has become the centre for the cultural and language education of Chinese children in Nottingham. The Confucius Classroom has added another dimension in recent years, providing a host of language and cultural experiences for our students, as they find out more about one of the most influential and fascinating parts of the world.

At the heart of connecting and understanding the culture of different countries across the world is an understanding of the language spoken in them. As the world becomes ever more interlinked, speaking another language is not only an interesting accomplishment, but has become a huge advantage, particularly as young people seek employment in a challenging market. Developing language skills is also a valuable academic and intellectual activity, but even if people just learn enough of a language to have a conversation when they go abroad on holiday, it can be fun and rewarding.

This is why language teaching has been given such an important status in our schools. The Florence Nightingale Academy has a tradition of language teaching that stretches back many years, and now all children at the school learn Chinese Mandarin. Our secondaries continue this strong ethos of language teaching – results in languages at both of our secondary schools have consistently outperformed national averages and many students have gone on to further language study or to use their skills in their work or travels.

Alongside the learning that takes place in class is the Language College, which runs at Alderman White every weekday evening, bringing classes in a whole variety of different languages, from Europe and across the world. Over the years, many hundreds of families and members of the local community have come together to try a new language – it has been a fantastic contribution that the school has made to the local community, and the untiring work of Mr Stephan, our Language College Director, and Ms Shaw, the college administrator, has been appreciated by many people who have successfully developed their speaking and listening skills. The on site evening classes have, of course, been one of the casualties of the coronavirus crisis. However, the college quickly adapted and we are now offering a full programme of online classes, including classes in Arabic, Chinese/Mandarin, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Spanish & Russian.



**New Language classes: Family French, Beginners Japanese & Spanish**

Just some of the on-line language classes on offer from Alderman White School.

Unbeatable value starting @£5 per week

Contact [languages@aldermanwhite.school](mailto:languages@aldermanwhite.school)

Japanese French Italian German Mandarin Arabic Russian Spanish Greek Polish

It is still a chance to meet with a group of other people who are enjoying developing a new skill, and because it is now online, we are able to offer it far more widely than before. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact [languages@aldermanwhite.school](mailto:languages@aldermanwhite.school) or go to [aldermanwhite.school/languages/language-college](http://aldermanwhite.school/languages/language-college). Who knows, next summer, we may be able to travel once again, and you may be showing off your newly-acquired language skills in the hotel bar!

**Dr. Paul Heery**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Golden Book Assembly

Well done to everyone who was chosen for the Golden Book Assembly this week!



Dina Asher Smith Class – Zoe

Leonardo Da Vinci Class – Fay

Billy Jean King Class – Abdur Rahman

Ellie Simmonds Class – Albert

Evelyn Glennie Class – Dexter

Nina Simone Class – Stephen Junior

Greta Thunberg – Jonjo

Ada Lovelace – Eloise

David Attenborough – Logan

Martin Luther King – Melissa

Sanna Marin – Ryan

Barack Obama – Riley

Michelle Obama – Jessica

Joseph Rowntree – Jacob

**Are you Following us yet?**

Get the news first by following us on Twitter!



***This week: Leonardo Da Vinci class learn which materials will keep teddy dry, and which don't work so well!***



## Ready...Steady...ROW!

The PE Department started their inter-form rowing competition this week, the first extracurricular activity that has been offered to the whole school. The PE department have ensured that the session is 'Covid Safe'. We had a great turn out in our first day with 8ARN turning up with 10 pupils to row in their lunchtime slot. The first session, led by Mr. Bacon, saw the Year 8 tutor group row a huge 6838 metres. A high target to set for the rest of the school to try and beat!



The table will be updated weekly for pupils to check how their form are doing to compete for the top prize. Seven sessions are going ahead over the 2-week timetable, ask your tutor when you are rowing! Any questions please do not hesitate to contact the PE department. Ready, steady, ROW!

**Mr N Sutton**

## Apprenticeships

For those parents wishing to find out more about apprenticeships please download the latest Parent Pack from Amazing Apprenticeships. This edition covers the differences between T Levels, Traineeships and Apprenticeships, the 2020 BAME Awards, apprenticeships in Engineering and life as a mature apprentice in the NHS. The pack is available here: [vcl.whptrust.org/data/uploads/documents/parent-packs/parent-pack-october-2020.pdf](https://vcl.whptrust.org/data/uploads/documents/parent-packs/parent-pack-october-2020.pdf)

**Ms C Welch**

## Rocketbook Launches @ BC6F!

A group of BC6F Y12 students are celebrating after winning our Rocketbook competition run this half term. For the last two years, all BC6F students have been given Chromebooks to support their studies and feedback has been really positive in terms of how Chromebooks enhanced students' learning experience. However, one obstacle was students studying subjects like A Level Maths or Physics as they still had to handwrite their diagrams and equations. Our investment in the [Rocketbook technology](#) means that students have access to an 'everlasting notebook' where handwritten diagrams and equations can be directly uploaded to their devices for feedback and revision purposes. Here are some of our lucky winners proudly displaying their prize.



**Mrs F Parker Dennis**



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**Ms C Welch**

## Bramcote College New Build

I am writing to update you on the progress of our new build plans for Bramcote College. Last Autumn, we shared our plans for building a new school. I would like to thank everyone in our school community for your patience as we have worked on this, and I can reassure you that we have done everything possible to move forward.

I have been working closely with Nottinghamshire County Council officers and Council Members to drive the project forward and achieve our key purpose of building a brand new school and while I am frustrated this has not happened at the pace we expected, I am pleased we are now in a position to move forwards. I am grateful to the County Council for understanding the importance of having a suitable school building for the good of the entire community, and for working with us to overcome the obstacles.

We are seeking the transfer of the freehold of the Council's land at Coventry Lane to the Trust, enabling us to move forward independently. This will need to be approved firstly at Nottinghamshire County Council's Policy Committee within the next few weeks, which will put the project in our hands, enabling us to market the land and use the proceeds to get our new build back on track as swiftly as possible. The land is in a prime development area and has been earmarked for housing in the Broxtowe Local Plan. After our recent experiences and due to the complicated nature of this transaction, I am unable to put a precise timescale on the project but I will endeavour to keep you fully informed.

We have a wonderful community at Bramcote College. Mrs Gale and her team have created a school of which we can be very proud, with strong and improving student achievement, and wonderful pastoral care. We want our building to match the standard of the education delivered within it, and will do everything we can to bring this about as swiftly as possible.

**Dr P Heery**

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