

## Citizenship Education

# Planting 3,000 bulbs for the Citizenship Community Action Project



On Friday 15 March a group of twenty community-spirited Year 10 Citizenship students set themselves the mammoth challenge of planting 1,000 daffodil bulbs on the waste land in the middle of the Bromford Estate.

Park Hall's Citizenship students are required to take part in a community action project as part of their GCSE Citizenship course. This group of young people contacted The Hub Community Centre to enquire if they could contribute to the Community Youth Action Project.



Paul Wright of Worth Unlimited contacted the students and arranged for Steve Hirst and Flo Berrow to visit Park Hall to be interviewed by the students. It was decided to focus on the area of waste land alongside the motorway on the Bromford Estate, as this is part of the Community Action focus, where paths have already been cleared, significantly improving the area.

Park Hall students set themselves the daunting challenge to plant 1,000 daffodil bulbs on the site. Amazingly they reached this staggering target by lunchtime, full of enthusiasm, they decided to keep working and actually planted 3,000 bulbs by the end of the day! We hope to return to view the display in a months' time.

Interestingly we were welcomed at the start of the day by Tim Evans, Chief Executive of Worth Unlimited and Alastair Jones, Chief Executive of Frontier Youth Trust, who are about to start a 1,000 kilometre cycle ride to raise money for charity.

Tim and Alastair returned in the afternoon to take a few photographs of the students which will be included in their book chronicling the journey, as they agreed they had "already met an inspirational group of young people making their mark on the community before their journey had even begun".

The project is on-going and we hope to involve as many students as possible in a project that aims to involve young people in making a difference in their local community.



**PARK HALL**  
ACADEMY

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# ParkLife

Summer 2014/#2  
The Journal of Park Hall Academy

**PARK HALL**  
ACADEMY



# Forging Ahead

## Dear Parents, Carers and Students

**This is our second edition of Parklife and it is very important we update you on the progress we have made this term.** We have already let you know of some changes and we are sure your child(ren) will also have updated you on the progress made. We have brought extensive support to improve behaviour, teaching and learning into Park Hall. Our progress has been monitored by Ofsted-trained inspectors and experienced colleagues from Arden. We have also had a visit from our HMI, Denah Jones who will be working with us over the next 12 months, during which time we firmly anticipate that Park Hall will move out of special measures.

The new pastoral system has been welcomed by both staff and students across the academy. This will further focus our journey to improving the outcomes for our students. You have also been informed about the evolving curricular developments for students in September.

We have in place a highly detailed intervention programme for our Year 11 students and can I thank you for your incredible support in ensuring your children attend the extra classes on offer. We have also drastically reduced the amount of supply teachers working at Park Hall and have appointed some extremely talented staff, many of whom will be starting in the Summer Term. We are pleased to report that a significant number of these new colleagues will be working across both Park Hall and Arden.

The full text of a recent letter from our HMI, Denah Jones will be on the website soon, but I felt it important to share with you some of the main comments: 'During this inspection I met with you, the Interim Principal and the Academy's Improvement Partner. A meeting was also held with a small group of Governors made up from the Chair of the Governing Body, the Sponsor Chair of the Rapid Recovery Plan Committee and one other Governor. The sponsor's Rapid Recovery Plan and the Academy's Action Plan were evaluated.'

'There have been significant changes to leadership and teaching staff since the inspection, of which the most notable has been the departure of the previous head teacher and the subsequent appointment of an Interim Executive Principal and an Interim Principal who work across the academy trust. In addition, there have been large-scale changes in the responsibilities of other senior leaders, leading to a largely restructured Senior Leadership Team. There are a further eleven teachers who have made arrangements to leave the academy. Successful recruiting by Senior Leaders means that some new teachers will start in April. Academy Leaders are currently recruiting to other posts and these teachers will start in September.'

'The Academy Sponsor has acted swiftly to improve leadership in the Academy through creating a new interim leadership structure using experienced and successful senior leaders from the partner school. Under this arrangement, Senior Leaders have responded to the areas for improvement from the inspection and are determined to improve the Academy.'

'Their work is starting to have an impact. Senior Leaders, governors and the Academy's Improvement Partner all talked enthusiastically about the improvements to the behaviour of students around the academy and in lessons, and improvements to the quality of teaching evidenced through better marking seen in work scrutiny.'

'Academy leaders have concentrated on improving the quality of teaching and making sure that all teachers have the necessary skills to teach consistently good or better lessons. Teachers have recently had training on effective lesson planning, using questioning to encourage deeper thinking, marking to make sure that all students know how to improve the quality of their work, and behaviour management.'

'This training has been delivered through morning professional development time, prior to the start of school, which takes place one day each week. External consultants and internal volunteers are keen to share their practice with others in these sessions. Senior Leaders have also made sure that students know what to expect in their lessons and have delivered 'learning to learn' assemblies to students. For example, in teaching them how they should respond to marking from the teacher.'

'There is greater rigour to the way in which the work of Subject Leaders is being monitored. Senior Leaders have recently carried out a detailed and thorough work scrutiny in which every student's books for every subject have been reviewed. Feedback, in terms of strengths and weaknesses of marking, has been given to teachers as they gradually improve their skills. Lesson observations are becoming more frequent, and this will support Senior Leaders in checking on improvements to the quality of teaching.'

'The recommended external review of governance has not yet taken place. There has been a restructuring of governance following the inspection and the formation of the rapid recovery committee, whose purpose is to monitor the Academy's work on progress made towards coming out of special measures. A further refinement of Governors' roles are planned as the Academy moves to a more formalised arrangement as a Local Governing Board, reporting to the Multi-Academy Trust Board.'

'The Sponsor's Rapid Recovery Plan is detailed and indicates clear lines of accountability for monitoring and evaluating the progress made with actions. The Academy Improvement Plan states clearly the work to be done, but needs to be more closely aligned with the Sponsor's Rapid Recovery plan.'

There is no doubt we are pleased with progress already made this term and this has been acknowledged by our HMI and consultants. We are, of course, not complacent and will make continued improvements over the summer term. We do hope you enjoy this second edition, which is full of the truly outstanding achievements of our students across an incredible number of activities.

We have now firmly started our exciting journey and we look forward to working closely with the Park Hall family - Parents, Students and all Staff over the summer term, ensuring we build a bright future for our Academy.

All our best wishes and have an enjoyable Easter

Martin P Murphy  
Park Hall Executive Principal

Damian Burgess  
Park Hall Academy Principal

*Cover picture: Alex Jennings, Arden, and Lewis Earp from Park Hall will now be representing Solihull at a national level at the United Kingdom Youth Parliament.*



*Above: Katie Timmins of The Art of Brilliance and Breakfast Club, and recent Inspire Birmingham Award Winner with Park Hall Academy Principal, Damian Burgess.*



## The Sad Passing of Derek Smart

**Derek was a gentleman, in the true sense of the word; he always had a kind word for everyone at Park Hall Academy and was a highly respected individual who really did make a difference to those whose lives he touched.** As Chair of Governors he came into school at the end of each term to boost morale and wish us a well-deserved break, thanking us for all our hard work and effort throughout the year, he would review the terms highs, drawing on positive examples and demonstrating a real awareness of events throughout the year. He even took time out from his busy schedule to visit staff after they had retired, demonstrating the caring approach we all remember him for.

Derek could always be relied upon to join staff and students on GCSE and A Level results day. He spoke to many students and took a real interest in their progress and journeys after leaving Park Hall Academy. Derek arranged engineering conference tickets for students, follow up advice and put students in contact with key individuals to aid their professional development.

Derek attended the last results day, even though he was clearly unwell and then made his way to Arden. He always had a kind word for those who had just missed out on their first choice university places and ensured someone was available to help the young person before moving on to talk to another student.

Derek attended numerous events at Park Hall and always spoke passionately about the Academy at Celebration Evening, inspiring students, parents and staff with his eloquent address. When The Mayor and Mayoress visited the Academy Derek was there to accompany them on a guided tour and even took part in a Question Time activity with the Mayor. He also came to all of the Performing Arts events, always providing informed feedback and encouragement for everyone involved.

Derek and Ann were invited to the Mayor's Parlour by The Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Ken Hawkins in August 2013 for his contribution to the Arden Partnership and once again he was more interested in the young people attending than enjoying his own moment of recognition.

Derek is fondly remembered by everyone whose lives he touched at Park Hall Academy and is sadly missed by everyone at the Academy. We will all treasure our memories and remember the significant contribution Derek made to Park Hall Academy.



# UKYP Election Polling Day

The Spring saw queues of Park Hall pupils waiting to cast their vote in the all-important UK Youth Parliament elections to choose their representatives at its national assembly. The UKYP provides a valuable democratic voice for Britain's under 18s. 'Votes at 16' is its key national campaign for 2014, with 'a curriculum to prepare us for life' also a priority campaign for England this year.



# Election Time

## Park Hall Academy Elections.

There was a huge turnout at the Academy Elections when they took place at Park Hall Academy on Thursday 20 March 2014.

Every tutor group elected one male and one female student to represent them on their Year Council. Students then elect two students from each year to sit on the Whole Academy Council. The successful candidates meet on a regular basis to discuss items put forward by the student body as a whole. The Academy Council has been consulted about supporting a range of charities, immersion days on E-Safety, links with the Azad Choudhery Academy in Bangladesh and has represented students in meetings with OFSTED and the Department for Schools.

Academy Elections are also an important part of Citizenship Education at Park Hall Academy, providing students with the opportunity to take part in a democratic election that mirrors the national election process.

All students register to vote, collect a ballot paper, cast their vote and place it in the ballot box. An official count is then conducted by Sixth Form students. The process helps students to learn just how simple it is to vote. We're pleased to report that every student did in fact cast their vote on this occasion, demonstrating that they recognise the value of this opportunity to elect candidates to represent their interests at decision making levels within the school.

## UK Youth Parliament Election

We are thrilled to announce that Lewis Earp of Park Hall Academy and Alex Jennings from Arden were both elected as the Members of The United Kingdom Youth Parliament for Solihull at a celebration event held at the Youth Workshop, Solihull on Monday 24 March 2014. This means that the Arden Partnership holds both Members of The UK Youth Parliament for Solihull. Lewis Earp MYP and Alex Jennings MYP will now represent The Borough of Solihull on Solihull Youth Council, the West Midlands Youth Council, as well as sitting in the UK Youth Parliament. Interestingly in 2013-14 Bradley Smith was MYP for Solihull, and James Hunt held the seat the previous year. Lewis and Alex's election ensures that both Arden and Park Hall Academy are again represented at the UKYP.

The Youth Parliament is the national 'voice' of young people in the United Kingdom. It has a rolling programme of activities across the year, including an Annual Sitting at Nottingham University that is chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons the Rt Hon John Bercow MP. This three day residential event makes policy decisions for the forthcoming year. The pair will also attend regional meetings and have regular dialogue with national decision makers, as well as the opportunity to speak in the House of Commons in November 2014.

We are extremely pleased that the young people of Solihull have chosen two students from Park Hall and Arden Academy to represent them on a local, regional and national stage. Well done Lewis and Alex we are really pleased to share your achievement with Park Life readers.



*Pictured Right: Lewis Earp and Alex Jennings with Executive Principal, Mr Murphy and Park Hall Academy Principal, Mr Burgess. Lewis and Alex will now be representing Solihull at the United Kingdom Youth Parliament, ensuring the two sister schools have a strong voice at a national level, as well as excellent representation on key local and regional youth committees.*





# Election Time

## Park Hall Academy Councillors

Year 7 Representatives	Luke Price	Toni Simner
Year 8 Representatives	Rojay Brady	Kelly Underwood
Year 9 Representatives	Joe Evans	Niamh Strong
Year 10 Representatives	James Dixon & James Hunt	Courtney Swallow
Year 11 Representatives	Callum Morris	Elle Trowman
Year 12 Representatives	Jon Joe Smith	Kirsty Tuffin
Year 13 Representatives	Kieran Coles	Lydia Markall

## Park Hall Student Councillors

### Year 7 Student Councillors

7A1	H Watton	Brandon Broomes	Kiah Bartosik
7A2	A Cartmell	Amiri Martin	Shannon Ford
7B1	L Pound	Ben Bower-Rose	Sophie Gamble
7B2	D Foster	Alishan Mohammed	Rebecca Li
7J1	J Bellingham	Joseph Kelly	Toni Simner (Academy Council)
7J2	R Phillips	Luke Price (Academy Council)	Abbie Sonko
7S1	L Teager/Q Hussain	Jack Norton	Millie Doyle
7S2	D Rogan/D Sauvage	Joshua Freeman	Holly Williams

### Year 8 Student Councillors

8A1	J Kirby / V Leigh	Ryan Johnson-Orme	Kelly Underwood (Academy Council)
8A2	C Robertson/C Cook	Melissa Jenkins	
8B1	K Chant	Cieran Hewitt	Riddhi Patel
8B2	P Edwards	Benjamin Jones	Lucy Andrews
8J1	M Rahman	Ryan Martin	Megan Boyce
8J2	R Lynch/D Raison	Rojay Brady (Academy Council)	Darcy Sturdy
8S1	S Hirons	Callum Aherne	Aimee Crisp
8S2	K Shearer/S Davies	Ryan Needham	Madison Evans

### Year 9 Student Councillors

9A1	B Johal / M Plackowski	To be confirmed	
9A2	R Eccles	To be confirmed	
9B2	H Slater	Kameron Thompson	Aliyah Ataria
9B1	A Bristow	Josh Orford	Ellie Cooper
9J1	S Allison	To be confirmed	
9J2	R Howell	Hamza Afridi	Niamh Strong
Academy Council			
9S1	S Loynes	Jake Collyer	Emily Palmer
9S2	G Singh	Joe Evans (Academy Council)	Amy Wilkins

### Year 10 Student Councillors

10A1	K Noorani/S Imtiaz	Liam Lovering	
10A2	J Roper	James Hunt (Academy Council)	Chloe Allatt
10B1	J Williams/C Oakshot	To be confirmed	
10B2	S Tomlinson	Euan Downes	Isabel Scott
10J1	D Amarteifio	Charlie Newbold	Paige Claire Morgan (10S1)
10J2	H Rhodes	Brad Sampson	Cherie Parker
10S1	L Macarthur-Clare	James Dixon (Academy Council)	Poppy Gates
10S2	P Nardiello	George Farrell	Courtney Swallow (Academy Council)

### Year 11 Student Councillors

11A1	J Lewis/S Parry	George Allen	Lauren Wilson
11A2	N Evans	Thomas Felton	Elisha Horrocks
11B1	A Herron	Omar Al Athamneh	Elle Trowman (Academy Council)
11B2	D Davidson	To be confirmed	
11J1	K Crotty	Callum Morris (Academy Council)	Mezsadeez Mulley
11J2	R Davies	Ellis DuCille	Casey Clissold
11S1	J Brayshaw/R Human	To be confirmed	
11S2	T Robinson/H Merchant	Daniel Ashfor	Zoe Purnell

### Year 12 Student Councillors

12A1	H Begum	Darren Gray	Claudia Stevens
12B1	S Todd	Jon Joe Smith (Academy Council)	Elisha Sturridge
12S1	D Hammond	Daniel Lanigan	Kirsty Tuffin (Academy Council)

### Year 13 Student Councillors

13A1	L Cowdell	Kieran Coles (Academy Council)	To be confirmed
13J1	C Mills/T Danks (Council)	Daniel Casey	Lydia Markall (Academy Council)
13S1	E Cullum-Kenyon/S Ruston	Kieron Chronin	Kirsty Tennyson



Park Hall Sixth Formers took the strain; registering voters, maintaining order and counting ballot papers.



# Inspiring Students

We are pleased to announce that Bradley Smith (Solihull MYP 2013/14), Jessica Schofield (Global Young Leader), Katie Timmins (Art of Brilliance and Breakfast Club) and Kieran Cronin (Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council) were recently nominated for the Birmingham Mail's 'Inspire Birmingham Awards'.

This prestigious Birmingham Mail Award celebrates the city's inspirational young people, in partnership with the Birmingham Leadership Foundation and sponsors, the Royal Bank of Scotland. Kate, Kieran and Jessica were taken forward to the second round of the competition as a result of their considerable contribution to the local, national and international community. Bradley, a finalist, attended the awards ceremony at Aston Villa Football Club and was presented with a certificate for finishing in the top three spot.

The awards celebrate inspirational young people who have made a difference to the city and Bradley and Kate attended the Inspire Birmingham Awards 2014 on Thursday. The Inspire Birmingham Awards 2014 saw the cream of the crop of talented, hard-working, motivational and kind-hearted youngsters getting rewarded during the glittering ceremony.

**Pictured top:** Bradley Smith and Jessica Schofield.

**Pictured right:** Katie Timmins.





# Dates for the Diary Summer Term 2014

## April 2014

Tue 1 Solihull Football Cup finals  
 Wed 2 Year 10 French Speaking CA  
 20:20 Maths programme  
 Year 8 Netball tournament  
 at Lode Heath  
 Solihull Football Cup finals  
 Year 11 Intervention Eve. 6.00pm

Thu 3 Solihull Football Cup finals  
 Fri 4 Y11 French Speaking CA

Tue 8 Performing Arts concert  
 (matinee and evening)

Wed 9 Year 10 Maths trip at  
 The University of Birmingham  
 MPL  
 A2 Dance practical exam  
 20:20 Maths programme

Thu 10 Geography trip to Sicily departs  
 (return 13 April)

Fri 11 Celebration Day

Mon 14 Revision Day  
 Tue 15 Revision Day

## Easter Break

Tue 29 Year 11 Art Exam  
 Year 10 Photography Exam

Wed 30 Year 8 HPV vaccinations  
 Year 11 Art Exam  
 Year 10 Photography Exam

## May 2014

Thu 1 Year 11 Art Exam  
 Year 10 Photography Exam

Fri 2 Year 11 Art Exam  
 Year 10 Photography Exam

## Bank Holiday

Tue 6 Year 11 Perf. Arts Prac. Exam  
 Wed 7 Year 11 Per. Arts Prac. Exam  
 20:20 Maths programme  
 Tue 13 Year 9 Consultation Evening

Thu 22 Year 13 Leavers Assembly  
 Fri 23 Inset Day  
 Year 13 Prom

Tue 27 Revision Day  
 Wed 28 Revision Day

## June 2014

Wed 11 Parents/Carers Council

Tue 17 Year 7 Consultation Evening

Thu 19 Year 8 PSHE Day A Band

Fri 20 Year 8 PSHE Day B Band  
 Fruity Friday

Thu 26 Year 10 PSHE Day A Band

Fri 27 Year 10 PSHE Day B Band

23-27 June  
 Year 12 Work Experience

Mon 30 Whole School ECM Day  
 Year 11 Prom

## July 2014

Tue 1 Sixth Form Welcome Day

Wed 2 Perf. Arts Residential Course

Thu 4 Perf. Arts Residential Course

Thu 10 Year 9 PSHE Day A Band

Fri 11 Year 9 PSHE Day B Band

7-11 July  
 Year 10 Work Experience

Mon 14 Sports Day

Fri 18 Celebration Day

14-18 July  
 Year 10 Work Experience

Mon 21 Inset Day

## Sixth Form Enrolment Day

Friday 22 August

# Park Hall's Sport Relief Challenge

**Everyone pulled together to recruit volunteers for our recent attempt to break the school's long-standing fundraising record.** Back in 2010 Park Hall students and teachers organised a sponsored run in which they aimed to run as many laps of the school as possible in a single day. In 2012, a gloriously sunny day saw students and staff make a new record; completing a total of 2660 laps of the school grounds - that's an amazing 1330 miles!

In both 2010 and 2012 students shattered the Park Hall record for a day's fundraising. Having raised £2,646 in 2010, students blasted through the £3k marker to deliver a colossal £3,370 to charity in 2012.

This year Park Hall students were out to beat the imposing 2012 record. To achieve this, the Academy involved more students in the run than ever before, with a record number of students aiming to raise £25 or more each for Sport Relief.

As ever, the event itself was fully-inclusive. Students could choose to run in a variety of running gear, their chosen football strip, and even fancy dress; though everyone was encouraged to take part- even if they didn't want to 'run', because every penny raised was destined for a fantastic cause.

Park Hall Sixth Formers were once again hard at work organising the event, marshalling the course and recording individual students' mileage, as well as providing crucial refreshment for participants!



# Sport Relief fundraising record **SMASHED!**



Well we did it! We absolutely smashed through our old 2012 Sport Relief fundraising record with a fantastic school-wide effort on Friday 21 March!

Park Hall Sixth Formers (pictured below) were not only responsible for organising the event, but were also the first year group to set off on their fundraising mission at 9.00am under the sunny, blue Spring skies.

Sport Relief volunteers from throughout the Academy set out to run a combined total of more than 1,000 sponsored miles to break the school's previous Sport Relief fundraising record. The target distance had to be covered between 9.00 am and 3.00pm in the afternoon on the first day of the 2014 Sport Relief weekend.

The event was organised by Sixth Form students, including Thomas Bassett who was responsible for creating a complex database that not only allocated individual start times and clocked students' distances, but also totted-up sponsorship monies raised. Other Sixth Formers were busy working as Course Marshals and running a refreshments stand, whilst others 'hole punched' runners' cards each time they made a circuit of the course.

Supper-fit Sixth Formers, Thomas Rimmer, Reece Sanders, Luke Hammonds, Scott McColl, Harry Allen, Daniel Lanigan, Conner Moore, Sophie Moss and Eve Harding ran throughout the day, providing support and encouragement to the younger students, who were each allocated a one hour period to complete as many half mile circuits of the school grounds as possible. Each year group was given its own period to complete their laps. As usual, this led to some friendly competition between the Years to see who could raise the most money. Year 7 did themselves proud in raising the most funds; unsurprisingly our dogged Sixth Form runners who were at it all day crossed the final line with most miles under their belt.

*"We're really proud of the fundraising efforts of many participating students and the hard work of our Sixth Formers in organising and running this great event. It's been fantastic to see everyone rise to the challenge with such good humour, competitive spirit and support for one another. You can all be very proud of what you achieved today"* Vice Principal, Ian Cornell.





Two students in particular made an amazing fundraising effort. Year 8's Lewis Earp, our new UK Youth Parliament MP, and Kaylee Moran of Year 7, each raised more than £100.

The rest of the school were no slouches either, with Year 7's Ellie Heferman and Olivia McKeon topping the list of NINE other students who managed to raise over £50 each.

#### Top Sport Relief 2014 fundraisers

<b>Lewis Earp</b>	<b>Year 8 Class A1</b>	<b>£130.00</b>
<b>Kaylee Moran</b>	<b>Year 7 Class J1</b>	<b>£102.00</b>
Ellie Heferman	Year 7 Class A1	£90.50
Olivia McKeon	Year 7 Class J2	£90.00
Kieren Waud Shaw	Year 12 Class A1	£65
Elle Lester	Year 7 Class A1	£60
Mia Morris	Year 7 Class A2	£53
Matthew Hooper	Year 11 Class A1	£53
Eve Harding	Year 12 Class A1	£52
Evans Madison	Year 8 Class S2	£51
Megan Corcoran	Year 7 Class J2	£50
Alexander Knowles	Year 7 Class J1	£45
Jay Cox	Year 8 Class J1	£43
Tom Rimmer	Year 13 Class J1	£42
Jay Smith		£41





By the end of the day the participating students and teachers had covered an incredible 1,843 miles, more than 800 miles over the target AND an amazing 500 extra miles more than our previous 2010 Sport Relief distance record of 1,318 miles.



During the run up students had two weeks to get as much sponsorship as possible for the event, and by the end of Friday had already managed to net an amazing £4,277 for Sport Relief... During more than 60 years of fundraising this is the greatest amount of money that the school has ever raised from a single event - fantastic!

Park Hall's soccer fans were encouraged to run in their football team's strip to find out the school's fittest supporters - providing an extra competitive edge to this excellent event. Reversing the past trend, 45 runners in Birmingham City shirts put three more past the post than our 42 Villa followers. Smaller numbers for Manchester Utd, Wolves, Albion, Liverpool, Real Madrid and Barcelona put in a valiant effort, but were no match for our local teams.



As part of their BTEC National Course in Sport, our Year 13 students recently completed a Course Unit in Massage and Physiotherapy. It provided a great insight for those who may wish to go into this industry in future, as the group conducted interviews with each other to discuss health issues and what type of massage therapy would be most beneficial. For the practical element of the course our students were shown all of the different stages used in massage therapy by a qualified masseuse - followed by the opportunity to practice their new-found skills on each other!



We're very proud to announce that Park Hall has become the very first school in the authority to be awarded the Bronze, Silver AND Gold Young Carers' Awards.

Park Hall Academy is delighted to be the first school in the Solihull area to gain the prestigious Gold Young Carers' Award. The Schools' Award Scheme was established to recognise schools' good practice in the recognition and support of Young Carers. During the last twelve months Park Hall have been working very closely with the Solihull Young Carers' Service and they have just been awarded all three of the important certificates.

The Academy considers supporting Young Carers to be of paramount importance. It signposts support available in Solihull and at Park Hall Academy. Typifying this work example, the Year 10 Citizenship group have produced tutorial work for all students in the Academy. This work detailed the demanding role Young Carers have to fulfill in supporting and looking after a family member who is sick at home or disabled.

Assemblies have been delivered and notices put up in every classroom to show where Young Carers can receive support. Information is also readily available on the Young Carers' noticeboard located prominently in the Academy foyer and at Student Services. Park Hall provides a range of support for young carers, including emergency plans, at-school events and homework clubs.

Park Hall Academy is extremely proud of its young carers and aims to work in close partnership with the community and every young person to positively address their individual needs.



# The sporting year takes off at Park Hall



### Girls' Trampolining

We would like to congratulate the Year 7 and 8 Girls' Trampoline Teams on their recent successes at the North Solihull Trampolining Level Two School Games Championships.

Tia Commander of Year 7 and Eloise Wheeldon, Year 8, were both placed as Runner-Up Trampolinists for North Solihull in their individual Year Groups.

In addition to the individual competitions, Park Hall entered in the team heats for both Year 7 and 8 with great success. Both Year Teams were awarded medals and certificates following very creditable placings as Overall Runners-Up.

Well done to all the students involved, we look forward to hearing about your future triumphs!



Year 7 Girls' Trampolining Team

### Girls' Year 7 Netball

The girls recently competed in the Under 13s North Solihull Netball tournament at the Level Two School Games Championships held at Grace Academy.

This was first real game in which all the girls had played together, but it did not stop them as they won their first league and went on to come in Third Place!

With a few friendly matches ahead and a tournament at Lode Heath School on the way, the girls are looking forward to what the rest of the season will bring. Well done to the girls so far and good luck for the rest of the season!



Year 8 Girls' Trampolining Team

### Girls' Year 8 Netball

With a newly formed team at the start of this year, the Year 8 team faced some difficult opponents in the Solihull Netball League.

The girls came out fighting at every match and kept their heads up to do their best and we're pleased to report that they improved at every game.

The Team achieved their first win against John Henry Newman where they won 4-2. The girls were ecstatic with this first win on the books and are looking forward to more as the year progresses. Good luck for the rest of the season!



Year 7 Girls' Netball Team

### Girls' Year 10 Netball

Having not played a competitive match since they started at Park Hall, the Year 10 Netball Team had a very tough start to the season. They were really thrown in at the deep end when they were pitted against experienced teams from Light Hall School and St Peters School from the south of Solihull, both teams had been playing together since Year 7.

Although both schools were highly experienced, Park Hall battled-on fearlessly. As a result Poppy Smith was awarded 'Player of the Match' in both games!

The girls still have a number of matches to play against challenging teams like Langley School and Grace Academy this term. There's also an upcoming tournament at Lode Heath where, I have no doubt, they will notch up some solid wins as they progress, both as players and as a team.



Year 8 Girls' Netball Team

### Girls' Under 13 Football

The Under 13 Girls' Football Team have had a busy season so far. To start the season the team made it through to the Third Round of the Under 13s ESFA Schools National Cup, which is a wonderful achievement. After the National Cup, the Park Hall Under 13s went on to play in the Solihull League and for the Solihull Cup.

So far this season the girls have played immensely well and at the time of writing remain unbeaten! They are already well on their way to win their group, which will see them play the Winners of Group B to compete for the Solihull League Title. They are also through to the Semi-Final of the Solihull Cup. The girls also recently took part in the North Solihull Under 13 Football Championships where they ended up as Runners-Up. Good luck to the girls for the rest of the season and let's bring home a resounding Park Hall win!



Under 13 Girls' Football Team

### Girls' Under 15 Football

In the Solihull Cup the Under 15s Girls' Football Team got off to a great start but were unfortunately knocked-out of the Cup by the Heart of England team.

Undeterred the Team then went on to successfully battle through their matches in the Solihull League, where they are now sitting comfortably in second place. The team has shown great team spirit and we wish them all luck in the forthcoming Tournaments and remaining matches.



Under 15 Girls' Football Team

**Boys' Year 7 Indoor Five-a-Side Football**

After winning the Year 7 North Solihull Five-a-Side and then being crowned Solihull Champions, Park Hall Academy represented Solihull at the English Schools' Football Association (ESFA) Midlands' Area Under 12s Indoor Five-a-Side Cup.

We're proud to report that Park Hall were victorious in all their games leading up to the Semi-Finals where they finally won on penalties in a close match against Woodrush School.

Park Hall faced Thomas Telford in the Final of the ESFA Cup. Both teams played extremely well, with a last minute goal from Thomas Telford that finally clinched the Championship.

After six hard games Park Hall can hold their heads high as courageous runners-up. We are very proud of the Team and look forward to seeing them win yet more prestigious games and titles.

**Boys' Year 7 Indoor Eleven-a-Side Football**

Well done to the Year 7 Eleven-A-Side Team who were one of the top 32 teams in the whole country in a recent national tournament when they were sadly being knocked-out by Bluecoat Academy, who put one in the back of the net in extra time to win 4-3.

The tournament was almost a tour of Britain as Park Hall Academy had away games as far afield as Wolverhampton, Derby, Nottingham and Loughborough. At the time of writing the team are still in contention for both the Solihull and Birmingham Cups.

**Boys' Year 9 Basketball**

The Year 9 Basketball team finished Third in the recent North Solihull Championships. This was in fact the first competitive basketball played by the team as a whole, and they deserve serious respect in being beaten 14-8 and 20-12 by two far more experienced teams.

**Boys' Under 13 Table Tennis**

The Under 13 Table Tennis Team became Solihull Champions on the 23 January this year - fantastic!

They beat various teams in the league to get to the Final, where Park Hall beat CTC Kingshurst Academy in the final.

The lads will now represent North Solihull at the Winter County Games. Good luck!

**Year 10 GCSE Students**

**The hard work and expertise of our Year 10 GCSE students was greatly appreciated at the North Solihull Indoor Athletics Championships recently. They were given the responsibility of Marshalling, Officiating and Collating the Results for this important event. They all did a simply fantastic job and were great ambassadors for our school.**

Year 7 Boys' Seven-a-Side Football Team



**Mixed Year 7 and Year 8 Athletics**

The Park Hall Athletes of Years 7 and 8 once again showed that they are the dominant force in North Solihull Athletics, as both boys' teams won their competitions to book their place against the best of Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire at the end of March.

It was nearly a clean sweep as our girls also displayed exceptional talent, but unfortunately both ladies' teams were knocked into a more than creditable second place. They can now look forward to the Summer Diamond League series, as well as the Super6 events.

Well done to all the Athletes involved on what was a tremendously successful afternoon for the school.

**Mixed Badminton**

To celebrate the success of Park Hall Academy representing North Solihull in ALL FOUR categories at the recent County Games, it was only fitting that our players had the opportunity to see many of the World's best in action, including world Number One, Lee Chong Wei.

With five matches on at the same time, as well as a number of exhibitions to see, it proved to be a fantastic day for all of our young Badminton stars.

At the recent County Games in February our Boys' Under 14s and Under 16 teams won Bronze Medals after qualifying from their respective groups.

The Under 16s had one Match Point to qualify for the Final and a place at Centre Parcs, but unfortunately it wasn't meant to be. After the disappointment of losing in the Semi Finals both teams raised their spirits to win the Third/Fourth Place Playoffs, earning themselves well deserved Bronzes in a tournament that showcased the very best players from the Coventry-Solihull-Warwickshire area.

Sadly the girls' teams weren't so lucky and didn't make it out of their group stages, but they remain North Solihull Champions which is an outstanding achievement. Well done to all players involved.



**Mixed Indoor Rowing**

As results currently stand, THREE out of the four teams that will represent North Solihull at the County Games Indoor Rowing Competition will be from Park Hall Academy!

With one school left to do their row, Park Hall Academy are in pole position to have a further twelve athletes competing at County Level. Well done to all of the Park Hall Rowing Teams!

Year 7 and Year 8 Athletics

Badminton





# Year 7 are the Birmingham Football Cup Champions



**They've Done It!** On Thursday 27 March Park Hall's Year 7 Football team met Bishop Walsh in the Birmingham Schools' Cup Football Final. Park Hall had tremendous success in each of the rounds leading up to the final. Facing formidable teams like John Henry Newman and last year's finalists Tudor Grange the team delivered amazing score cards of 13-3 and 10-1.

Within two minutes of kick-off at The West Midlands' Transport Ground the first goal was scored by Park Hall Number 10, Callum Brown. Our lads held their lead throughout the first half, hitting home a second in the forty eighth minute to clinch the game. That 2-0 full time score meant that Park Hall's Year 7 Football Team had made it through to be 2014 Birmingham Schools' Champions!

Each team member played extremely well throughout the stages of the Birmingham Cup and we are immensely proud that they have managed to bring back the Under 12s' Travel Trophy. Well done to the players - we look forward to seeing you win the next cup!

Our Year 7 Champions:

- |                   |                         |                  |
|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Alexander Knowles | Remi Colebourne-Boxhill | Harrison Job     |
| Reece Plant       | Thomas Faux             | Matthew Parker   |
| Lucas Powell      | Mikkel Boone            | Kye Shewell      |
| Callum Brown      | Jack Showering          | Tom Kiching      |
| Amiri Martin      | Rahmal Miles            | Lewis McNicholas |
| Corey Samuels     | Lewis Corkery           |                  |



# WORLD BOOK DAY

6 MARCH 2014

Our students were given a fantastic opportunity to become involved in the World Book Day competition this year. Each student had the chance to swap their national book token for a £1 book, or received £1 off any book or audio book worth £2.99 or more! ■ As part of the competition, students were required to design a 'book-themed' bookmark. Before getting down to designing their bookmarks, students undertook a range of reading-related activities focusing on why reading is important and the ways in which it enhances creativity. ■ If successful, students' designs could be made into a real bookmark which will be distributed to thousands of bookshops! Good luck to every Park Hall student involved in the competition!







## A Level Geography Fieldtrip

As part of their A Level Geography course Park Hall students are required to study an example of city centre regeneration.

A trip to nearby Birmingham was the obvious choice and we embarked on a day of analysing the effects and responses to the impacts of the many changes that have taken place. We walked for nearly four hours and covered parts of the city centre that we hadn't been to before.

Naturally the regenerated Bull Ring was one of the main changes, along with Centenary Square, the ICC, and Brindley Place. We also made a brief diversion into the new Library to take some skyline shots across the city.

Lunchtime saw a welcome visit to McDonalds to refuel before the last stages of the trip and a visit to the Mailbox which itself is undergoing changes, via Gas Street Basin.

However the BBC was still accessible and the students enjoyed recording themselves reading a weather forecast-maybe a career in meteorology beckons!

Needless to say after a long day on the hoof it was a quieter journey back to school! The Geographers involved were Tom Bassett, Luke Hammonds, Sam Hunt, Steven Marklow, Callum Reilly and Jack Rogers.



## Performing Arts

**Year 7 Performing Arts:** Year 7 study skills groups have been working hard to design and create their very own mini Set Designs. Students based their work on 'Charlie and The Chocolate Factory', choosing a scene such as the Sweet Garden or the outside of the factory to base their design concept upon. Then using their newly acquired techniques, they recreated their set design using recycled material. The project was a great success for the pupils involved, providing them with the freedom to give full reign to their creativity.

**GCSE Performing Arts:** In January the Year 11 GCSE Performing Arts group went on a backstage tour of the famous Birmingham Rep. This was a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to see what really goes on behind the scenes of a major theatre and to speak to professionals in their place of work. The visit included a guided tour by the Theatre Director who answered every question the pupils asked and provided extensive factual information about working in the arts today. The students found the experience a real eye opener, helping fire their passion for performance. "It has inspired me to become a stage manager" commented Year 11's Lauren Wilson on her return. The Year 9 and Year 10 GCSE Performing Arts classes still have this fascinating trip to look forward to.



## Songwriting Workshop

Thursday 6 March saw Park Hall's GCSE Music students take part in an amazing two hour workshop with well known folk-acoustic style singer-songwriter, Lisbee Stainton. Students got a first-hand opportunity to work with the songwriter who is well known for her use of the unusual eight-stringed guitar to create their own compositional material. The students then performed in front of the Lisbee and their classmates for a professional critique.

The aim was to use the workshop a springboard to help the students with the compositions that they are currently working on for their GCSE Music course. "It was great fun, I really enjoyed it" commented Chad Parton. Students will be showcasing their work in the upcoming Performing Arts showcase during April.

Lisbee with three of Park Hall's young songwriters



## Jessica's Community Award

Park Hall Academy is thrilled to announce that Jessica Schofield was recently awarded Castle Bromwich Parish Council's Award for 'Service to the Community'. Jessica was presented with the prestigious award by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor J. Whelan (pictured together, above), who congratulated her on her commitment and dedication to others in the community. At the ceremony Jessica presented a short speech on her involvement in the community and explained that she had been an elected member of The Park Hall Academy Council for seven years.

Jessica is active in a bewildering array of good works and has demonstrated clear leadership. Within Park Hall, she contributed to the design of the new school and seeking students' views on the new PE kit. She has also delivered workshops to Year 6 students during the Academy Summer School and is an active member of the innovative Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council.

In addition, Jessica was also selected from over 70 applications to represent the school on the Global Young Leaders project, travelling to America in May 2013 as a UK delegate and keeping everyone informed about her role in at the event via twitter. She also acted as Russian Ambassador during exercises as a result of being selected by her peers to take on this role, going-on to meet the real Russian Ambassador as a result. Jessica Schofield is undoubtedly a credit to our community and our school... And in amongst all that she even finds time to contribute articles to Park Life magazine!

Jessica was awarded the Castle Bromwich Parish Council Award for her contribution to the Park Hall Community. She is a member of The Local Authority Environmental Champions Initiative and continues to be involved in the upkeep of the Sensory Garden, which was established in memory of those who have lost their lives in armed conflicts around the world.

Jessica is an outstanding young woman who makes a difference and we're very proud that she is a Park Hall student.



# Global Young Leaders

**S**ixth Form students at Park Hall have recently been appointed Global Young Leaders. Following a rigorous application process and interviews, Gazel Rai and Kirsty Tuffin (above) will now attend the Global Young Leaders Conference 2014, in Washington and New York. ■ The Global Young Leaders Conference (GYLC) provides high-achieving students aged 15-18 with a greater understanding of their roles as global ambassadors; as they analyse concepts surrounding communications, diplomacy, law, human rights, peace, security, economics and the role of the United Nations. ■ Last year's Global Young Leaders, Jessica Schofield and Julia Grunhill, both had a wonderful time and developed their diplomacy and advocacy skills significantly during the trip. Educational visits and high profile events, such as the Global Young Leaders program help to raise the importance of positive participation of young people in a democratic society.



Our young leaders will soon be making their mark in New York!

## The Cavern

On Monday 10 March a thirty five seat Park Hall coach set off north towards Liverpool; packed with supporters of two of our school rock bands that had been given the honour of performing at the legendary home of The Beatles, The Cavern Club. The day was to celebrate and share musical excellence within schools from the West Midlands. This was Park Hall's third year performing at the event and once again our musical students did us proud. It's wonderful to see the confidence that our have students have on stage in front of hundreds of people and the fantastic team spirit they have in willing each other on to do well. The Performing Arts staff have a strong belief in creating a safe environment for all learners during their time at the Academy and this plays a key role in fostering the self belief and confidence our students need to share their work in such a demanding public forum.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Richard Jones, Phil Beatty and Oliver Sampson from Solihull Music Services. Their ongoing support enables Park Hall to run a thriving Music Department that provides numerous opportunities for students to work with students from other schools. We have built a great partnership with them and are thrilled to be able to connect our students with the skills, experience and expertise of three professional practitioners in the world of Music.

## Castle Bromwich Parish Council

Park Hall students continue to take an active role in Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council and recently launched a DVD of their work at the Senior Clerks' Practitioners' Conference.

Park Hall Media Studies Students Natasha Adcock and Kelly Adcock worked closely with the Parish Council to make the promotional video. Natasha commented "We decided to make our promotional video for the Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council. The aim of our video is to recruit more young people and to show exactly what the Council does by attending some events and recording them as evidence for the short film.

On 9 June, we attended the Civic Service at St Mary's and St Margaret's Church, recording the event and interviewing the newly-elected Mayor, Joe Tilsley and Councillor John Whelan. We wanted to know about what they thought about the Youth Council and their involvement."

The students found the experience very interesting and it has opened their eyes to just how much positive work the Youth Council does and its excellent contribution to the local community.

Castle Bromwich Youth Parish Council has been approached by numerous Parish Councils interested in setting up a similar Youth Parish Council, and it was felt that a video was the perfect vehicle to disseminate this information. The final result is a superb DVD and the council has already received around thirty requests for copies of it since the conference.

Well done to everyone involved in the project.



On 27 March Park Hall students took part in the BBC News School Report project. ■ Our young reporters spent the day researching breaking news stories from around the local community and across the globe. ■ Their site was linked live on the Park Hall Academy website; where you can see what they got up to in a short video clip.





## Healthy Self Conference

Members of Park Hall Academy Council recently attended the Healthy Self Conference at Solihull Sixth Form.

The event provided students with the opportunity to attend a wide range of workshops, including Yoga, 'Promoting a Healthy Self', Stress Management and Mental Health Workshops.



Our students met with the Rt. Hon. Lord Hunt of Kings Heath PC.OBE, who is Shadow Deputy Leader of the House of Lords and Chairman of the Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust.

A number of Park Hall students showed an interest in getting involved in the upcoming 'Healthy Self' project in April. Students will be looking at the Needs Analysis results for Solihull.

They'll also be investigating the top three health issues as voted by young people across Solihull. This will help inform the long-term progress of this project and future campaign themes, such as Mental Health, Drugs and Alcohol, Youth Wards, Sexual Health and Mystery Shoppers amongst others.

# Cake Decorating

Park Hall's BTEC National Child Care, Learning and Development students recently enjoyed some tasty time practicing lesson ideas in preparation for their block placements at schools and nurseries in the local area. They have to consider the type of development their lessons cover; this can include physical, social, emotional and/or intellectual aspects of learning.

The cake decorating lesson was developed to help assess the children's fine motor skills. We did a practice lesson of decorating cakes and biscuits for Easter which we felt were appropriate for children aged four to six years old.

The students had to plan resources and timings for the lessons and reflect on special aspects and considerations they would have to take into account in the classroom. The students did have an added benefit of being able to take their work home to test!

Below: Sophie Bennett, Holly Commander and Sophie Rigby.





# Dance Workshop

At the end of Autumn term twenty two students took part in a very special all-day dance workshop conducted by visiting artist, Helen Wilson.

The day was aimed at developing students' choreographic, technical and expressive skills and provided them with real life experience of working with a professional dancer and choreographer. "The day provided a brilliant experience for all the students involved, enabling them to create an original piece of choreography" Miss Chant.

"The performance was brilliant! The students have worked so hard!" L. Pound.

It was a simply fantastic day for everyone involved, with lots of amazing feedback from the students who really impressed the visiting professional! "It was a pleasure teaching such responsive young people - they were like sponges! A big 'well done' for developing a four minute piece in only four hours" Helen Wilson, Visiting Artist.

Well done to everyone involved, we'll leave the last word to student, Maisie Davies; "Today I worked SO hard that my feet have blistered!"



# Totem Challenge

A number of Year 7 students recently took part in a 'Totem' homework challenge, yielding some fantastic results! Students had four weeks to design and build their own Totem Pole using only recycled objects and materials. Totem Poles are of course used by North American Indians as family or clan markers. They detail ancestry and associations and can be 'read' by those in the know, and our students were asked to create poles that communicated their own messages (pictured right).

Every student who submitted a piece of work made a huge effort creating some simply amazing Totem Poles of their own. Well done to our Year 7 artists!

## London Trip

Students had an exciting opportunity to visit the Tate Modern gallery and Kew Gardens in London during December 2013. The experience was specially organised to enable GCSE Art and Photography students to view current exhibitions at the famous gallery. The trip also enabled them to gain valuable information and gather research that will improve their work.

This was a wonderful opportunity and well worth the early start!

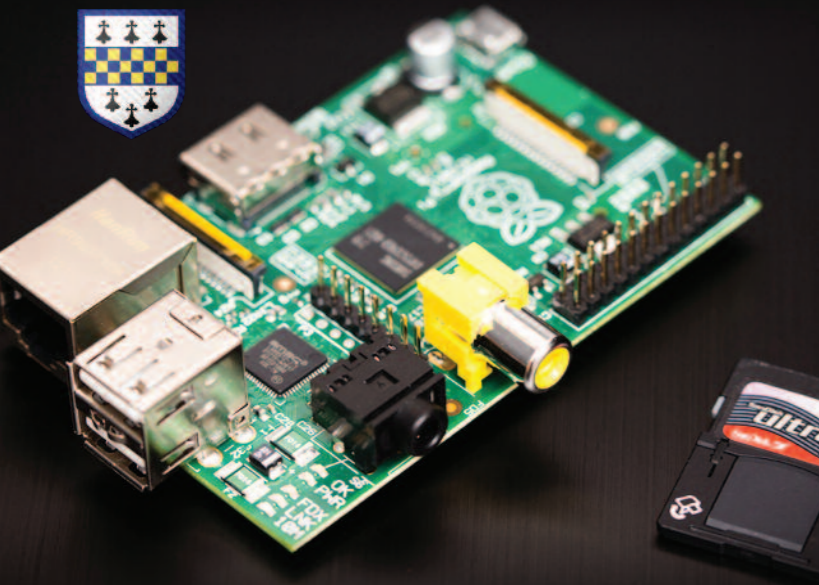
## Body Art

A number of Year 8 Art and Design students have been studying the topic of 'Body Art' recently. They have been investigating this uniquely personal form of expression from different cultures and in all its forms. The students are now designing their own Body Art pieces which will be exhibited at the school.

We are lucky enough to have a very talented Henna artist, Afsana Hussain (pictured below) as a Year 10 GCSE Art student. She joined the Year 8 group last term for a special session to showcase her work. Henna is made from a plant that creates a harmless rich brown semi-permanent stain on the skin, it is widely used across North Africa and Asia and is traditionally used to decorate the hands of young couples before they marry.

Students had the opportunity to design their own Henna Body Art and then apply their designs using a specialised Henna applicator. Many also got to have a Henna Design applied to their own hands, experiencing Body Art in a beautiful and less 'final' form than tattoos for themselves. The workshop run by Afsana was extremely successful and students were thoroughly excited and engaged throughout.





## Raspberry Pi

To keep in step with the Government initiatives, Park Hall introduced a GCSE in Computer Science to a group of Year 11 students for the first time this year, which has been an interesting experience for both the students and teachers.

The students initially found the work quite challenging as none of them had done any programming before. However, once they realised that they were capable of writing programs in low level and high level languages that actually worked, they were delighted!

The school applied for a number of Raspberry Pi computers recently. We were successful in our bid and, courtesy of the OCR exam board and Google who sponsored the machines, we now have a group of these miniature machines that can be used on the school network.

Some of our Year 11 students can be seen below experimenting with the mini computers during one of the lunchtime Computer Club sessions that are held every day in the ICT Department.

Many attend the after school and lunchtime Computer Club sessions. They are an excellent way to develop your computing skills, and in fact some of the students involved are now considering taking up programming as a career in the future... Who knows? We might have the next set of Flappy Birds or Minecraft programmers already hard at work on our keyboards!



# young enterprise

start something

Young Enterprise is a charitable scheme that gives students a taste of operating their own business over the course of a year as part of a National competition. Our students' business, named 'Simply Celebrate', sells quality homemade craft goods, including scented candles and scented fabric hanging hearts. 12 March saw a number of Park Hall students attend the Young Enterprise Fair at nearby Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre.

The six Year 12 students involved decided from the outset to run the business as a vehicle for raising funds for a school in Bangladesh. The Azad Choudhury Academy is an independent school in the north of Bangladesh which provides education for ten villages in the surrounding area.

We're pleased to report that the Sixth Formers did brisk business on the day at the recent Trade Fair, managing to sell most of their stock to the public quite quickly and also winning an award for the best display at the event. This accolade builds on their Valentines' Day sale in which they marketed candles, roses and scented hearts to Park Hall Students and Teachers; in fact they even dressed up in costume to deliver the products to students throughout the day.

### Simply Celebrate in the Entrepreneurs' own words

Young Enterprise is a charity that helps young entrepreneurs develop their own business ideas and get a taste for business in the real world, as well as compete against schools regionally and nationally for best overall business.

As a business, Simply Celebrate manufactures scented candles and scented fabric hearts. We took inspiration from the recent surge of handmade goods which are becoming more popular with the ever-increasing number of vintage and craft fairs.



All our products are homemade, and where possible use recycled materials. We try and use seasonal holidays to shape our products and make a marketing ploy around the holiday – for instance on Valentine's Day we went round giving out our scented candles along with roses. Currently we are selling bunny and heart shaped scented candles for Easter and Mother's Day. Simply Celebrate also is committed to giving 10% of our overall profit to charity; The Azad Choudhury Academy is a school in Bangladesh that provides nursery up to secondary education for children from ten different villages.

On Wednesday 12 March we ventured to Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre to compete against other schools taking part in Young Enterprise. On this occasion we managed to sell £50 worth of stock and were awarded 'Best Trade Stand' at the event.

### Chelmsley Wood Trade Fair

Our next trade fair was on 15 March at Touchwood, Solihull. We managed to manufacture 150 candles especially for the event. This time we were competing against fifteen schools from across the Solihull area for awards in 'Best Marketing and Customer Service', 'Best Product Development' and 'Best Overall Business'.

On this occasion, we came out with Best Overall Business, which was awarded for our excellent customer service skills, product and presentation. We also took over £100 at the event and gained new sales experiences in a busy town centre.

Our most recent trade fair was at Sutton Coldfield Shopping Centre on 22 March, where we competed against different schools for various awards and managed to win the Best Display award. We will also be looking at the Easter and Mother's Day markets and making sure our stand reflects this holiday. We have also decided to extend our range to include a new range of candles that are currently in production. Now that Sutton Coldfield is behind us, we are preparing for the regional finals which will be judged by experts from Deutsche Bank on 1 April at Birmingham's Symphony Hall. We will be making a presentation about our business and competing for four awards.

### The Simply Celebrate Team

Georgia Harper, Managing Director

Gazal Raii, Finance Director

Alicia Morris, Marketing Director

Katie Rimmer, Production Manager

Tia Jones, Human Resources/Sales Director



YOUTH AND PHILANTHROPY INITIATIVE

Students in Year 9 are currently taking part in the YPI programme; the third year the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative has operated at Park Hall Academy. Students are working in small groups, preparing a short presentation to demonstrate how passionate they feel about making a difference to their chosen local charities. Students within each class will vote for the most inspiring and creative presentation, which will then go through to the school final. The winners could net £3,000 for their chosen charity. ■ On 10 March 2014, YPI Programme Manager George MacPherson travelled up from London to deliver an inspiring, motivational assembly to Year 9. George discussed the importance of the programme and the way in which students and their 'philanthropy' can make a positive impact on the lives of many people across the local community. ■ George emphasised the importance of being creative and engaging with our peers to highlight social issues. The students also enjoyed the informative video that demonstrated the impressive impact that YPI has had nationally. ■ This is an exciting project for students to participate in and as the school's YPI Co-ordinator, I am very excited about the upcoming 2014 final. On behalf of Staff and all the nominated charities, we'd like to wish every one of the Year 9 groups the best of luck in planning their presentations; we are certainly looking forward to them showcasing their skills and evidencing their advocacy and representation abilities this Summer.





## Academy Radio

Academy Radio is all set for launching its new schedule with volunteers, Beth Mitchell, James O'Connell and Sam Hunt being amongst the first talent to come forward. ■ "We were really excited when Mr Cowdell asked us to present a show on Academy Radio. We have been working on our Chart Rundown show and we will be broadcasting twice a week across the Park Hall campus" commented Sixth Former, Beth Mitchell. ■ Both Staff and Students were invited to contribute to the station and a variety of Sport, Music, Film and Gameshows are already in the works.



## Year 12 on the road!

On Wednesday March 12, thirty-two Year 12 students will be given the opportunity to get behind the wheel of a car for the first time as part of a 'Driving Safety' event organised by Solihull council. ■ The event, which will be held at the National Exhibition Centre, is intended to promote positive attitudes to safer driving amongst young drivers and their passengers. ■ In addition to gaining their first experience driving around the course set up in one of the NEC's giant car parks, students will also attend presentations by West Midlands' Police and the Fire Service where they will receive crucial advice on safer driving and hazard awareness.



## WaterAid



Mr Cornell's Year 11 Citizenship class has spent the last few weeks researching the pressing issue of 'poor sanitation and dirty water across the world'. The class focused their research on the work of key British Charity Water Aid and their lobbying of international governments for a commitment to provide clean water and sanitation to everyone, everywhere by 2030.

In order to raise awareness students decided to make a film, writing their own script and using green screen technology to display pictures of cities like Dhaka in Bangladesh where people currently have little access to flushing toilets or clean water.

The students highlighted London in 1850s to remind audiences that, whilst clean water and sanitation is something we take for granted in today, it was virtually inaccessible to Britain's poor urban communities as recently as 1860. Their research discovered the way in which construction of London's sewage system brought about the largest ever single drop in Infant Mortality in Britain. The students' thought-provoking film demonstrated clearly the sort of positive impact access to clean water can have around the Globe.

At the end of the film students encouraged audiences to log-on to [wateraid.org](http://wateraid.org) and click on 'Get Involved, Campaigns' and then click on 'Everyone-Everywhere'. Those who have seen the film are encouraged to join Water Aid's e-petition asking International Development Secretary, Justine Greening to attend the high level 'Sanitation and Water for All' conference in April. According to Water Aid "The commitments made at the meeting will be vital to ensure everyone, everywhere has water and sanitation by 2030".