

# Term 3 [JULY 2023]

# ENGAGEMENT PARENT & CARER

Take the chance to reflect over the opportunities our learners have had here at Cockshut Hill School this term



'NHS 75'

'DUKE OF EDINBURGH'





# WELCOME

As we began the journey into summer months, where we all hoped for Summer Skies, let's take a look at the last term of the academic year and what we have been getting up to during term three at Cockshut Hill!

*#NothingButTheBest #ScalingNewHeights*

Let's take a look at the past term and what we have been getting up to during term three at Cockshut Hill!

## KING'S CORONATION

With the King's coronation pending, eleven learners from Key Stage Three went to Solihull Sixth Form on as part of a project across our Trust, linked with the West Midlands Lieutenancy, on the King's Bunting. They worked alongside many other Summit Learners as well as the artists Hipkiss and Graney. The project was led by the artists who assisted the learners in producing bunting to commemorate the coronation of King Charles, exploring the themes of humanity, commonality and creative communities using the natural world and environmental topics as inspiration. The finished piece was on display in central Birmingham. What a proud moment for our young people.



# DES COLMAN

As Spring was certainly in the air, a group of Years 7-9 students had the pleasure of Des Colman, ITV presenter, coming in and speaking to them about his journey from secondary school to ITV icon! CHS always thrive to give our learners as many employer opportunities and what an insight they were given. The session was very interesting, with our learners being super keen to hear more and more, as they grilled him in the Q+A session at the end. They clearly knew how Des can cope under this kind of pressure! An inspirational story, as he shared his struggles and successes, with the message that anything is possible, if they give themselves the chance.



## FOOTBALL

Football season was well under way once again, keeping Mr Hargreaves busy into summer season. The Year 9 boys played a match against their local footballing rival, KESH. They worked really hard with Mitko scoring the only goal for the CHS team and nearly getting a second, which would have equalised, as he went one-on-one with the KESH goalkeeper. This time, luck was not on this side. Although it wasn't to be a win for the team this time, the passion for their sport, the commitment to work as a team and the resilience to never give up means that victory is not far away.



# April...

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Mrs Turton, Careers leader, went out to source employer opportunities once again and she never disappoints. She managed to get thirty volunteers from a variety of different industries to come to Cockshut Hill to grill our Year 10 learners as a means of supporting them to understand what it will be like at interview next year, and the years to come. This was the first time the school had been able to host such an opportunity for our Year 10 learners since pre-covid. Thank you to the volunteers for all their positive feedback to our learners and to us as a school. The students were buzzing about the experience with many saying how much confidence it gave them ahead of Post-16 interviews in year 11.



## CHS 'IMITATION GAME'

With options selected, Miss Griffiths took a group of Year 9 learners to Bletchley Park to gain more hands-on experience of Computer Science, ahead of their computer studies at GCSE level next year. They had a super experience and will, no doubt, be able to use this in their future lessons in this area. We hope, one day, to hear of their success as they become programmers and coders!



## THE JEFF HALL CUP FINAL

Mr Hargreaves, Mr Jamal and Mr Mustafa escorted our Year 10 boys to Small Heath to participate in the cup final against Holy Trinity. It was another lovely evening for a cup final. By half time it was 2-1 to our boys but with a change in the second half meaning decisions sadly went against the CHS on a number of occasions. Just before the final whistle, the score was 2-2 and it looked like it was heading to dreaded penalties when the referee gave a free kick to Holy Trinity, from which they scored the winner. Well done to Tyrique and Mitko for scoring in the match. A massive well done to the whole team. Although they didn't get the result they wanted, they will always be winners to us.

May was certainly the month for football as Miss Stevens and Mrs Dignum took a group of Years 7-8 girls to a 5-a-side tournament as part of the Birmingham Schools Sports Federation Football. The girls had played in the tournament a number of months ago and had finished 5th and 6th. This time they were ready to show the opposition that they have grown as teams and came out 3rd and 4th which is a fantastic result. We are very proud of their achievements and can't wait until the next match!

# May...

## YEAR 10 DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION

The first group of Year 10 DofE students went on their bronze expedition, and silver practise, to the lovely Forest of Dean. They managed to complete their bronze expedition as expected and now await the confirmation of their achievement via the assessor. They also managed to enjoy some lovely weather in the Dean Valley micro-climate! Thanks to Mr Mosedale, our Duke of Edinburgh mastermind, and Miss Ahmad, for ensuring our young people were able to complete stage one of their Duke of Edinburgh journey. Now they had the taste of Bronze success, Silver was their next plan!





## OUR LIONESSES

As May ended with football, so June began. Miss Stevens and coaching team took a group of Years 7-8 girls to play in a match against local school, KESH – a short trip down the road. As the girls are growing as team it was all to play for. The girls demonstrated their team work and resilience, with Ava-Rose and Abi scoring the only two goals of the match to make this Cockshut Hill team the winners! Future Lionesses for sure!

## BOWLING INTO CRICKET SEASON!

Years 8 and 9 boys made the trip down the road to Yardleys. This was their first outdoor match, so it was the hard-ball cricket as a first for many of this young team. Despite not getting the outcome they wanted, the experience this will have given and the opportunities for improving their game for the name match were taken. Well done to all our cricketers!



# June...

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH – BRONZE

Mr Mosedale had a busy month in June. It began with a group of Year 10 girls navigating their way around the Meridan area to complete their expedition for their Bronze Award. Plenty of water and break required with the lovely weather, as they realised how much they had packed in their rucksacks. Well done to all the girls on their achievement and thanks to Mr Mosedale (DofE lead), Miss Ahmad and Miss Begum for giving their time to ensure our learners gain such experiences and qualifications.



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH – SILVER

Once they had their Bronze, a group of Year 10 learners have made their way around the Malverns to complete their expedition for their Silver Award. The first time that Cockshut Hill has gone on to complete Silver requirements. Learning lessons from their Bronze expedition, they packed plenty of water and bug spray, heading up the Malvern Hills with all the gear and lots more idea. They may have had all the gear but they had no idea that the Malverns were not going to be as friendly as they looked! Thirty miles later – they made it to the end of their expedition – a tough three days of walking, but one they will forever remember! Thanks to Mr Mosedale (DofE lead) and Miss Ahmad for giving their time to ensure our learners gain such experiences and qualifications.





## A LOCAL CELEBRITY WITH AN INSPIRATIONAL STORY

Mrs Dignum managed to get an occasion for a local celebrity Hezron Brown to come in and share his story with Years 7-9. This inspirational story was told in a relatable manner and every young person was hooked. He joked and learners laughed but his message was clear. Hezron explained how his life choices had not been the best in life but through supportive people around him and a sudden realisation that his life needed a more positive pathway, he began a journey to change his life as well as help others too. Hezron moved from a life of criminality to winning the Prince's Trust Young Achiever Award as well as the Pride of Britain award in 2020.



## Y10 vs Y11- SOCCER AID

Over the past few years, post-covid, our Year 10 and Year 11 footballers have always been eager to host a charity match against each other. This year, under the leadership and organisation of Mr Hargreaves, one sunny Friday evening saw the return of this charity match. It was a competitive match as both teams have always been superb in their own rights in local competitions, both getting to the final of the Jeff Hall Cup during their time in Year 10 and the current Year 10's having won the Kevin Turner Cup last year. The rivalry between the year groups was only to be seen on the pitch. At half time, it was 2-2 and Year 11 were keen to ensure there was an outright winner. It looked like the match was going to go to extra time with a golden goal, but Nicholls came along to score the winner for Year 10! Well done to both teams, to Team PE and the support from the CHS community, who raised funds for Soccer Aid.



## CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Mrs Turton and Miss King made the early start to London with 6 Year 9 Learners as they headed to the Pinsent and Mason Climate and Sustainability Conference. Here they were taught how anything is possible and how adaptable materials can be to avoid creating more. Raised awareness on the possibilities with recycling. They even got a little trip to Spitalfields to view the London skyline.



## YEAR 9-10 CRICKET

KESH travelled the short distance to Cockshut's ground to play a friendly tournament between a mixed Years 9-10 team. The team thrive on getting the chance to play competitively, as much as they can. Although the innings didn't quite go to their liking, they enjoyed getting a game of cricket on the go.



## THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES LEGACY

Miss Stevens took a group of Year 9 sport enthusiasts to the Legacy Games at the Alexandria Stadium, continuing the work which occurred last year, via Sport Birmingham, with the Commonwealth Games in our very own city. Another fantastic opportunity organised by Sport Birmingham for our young people. The competition was fierce as to whose rocket would go the furthest. I think the girls may have won it!

## INSPIRING STEM

The Royal Navy, BAE Systems and the RAF returned again to speak to Year 7 learners in their STEM event, and this year with the theme of looking at the depths of the oceans to outer space. The event got our young learners thinking about the challenges which face engineers when trying to arrange travel to these very different environments, poignant with the recent events of the Titanic wreck disaster.

## EID CELEBRATIONS

Eid al-Adha celebrations got into full swing and our community had a wonderful time as they celebrated with their families and friends. CHS wished everyone Eid al-Adha Mubarak.

## YEAR 11 PROM

June finished in style. The Year 11 Prom at the Village Hotel in Solihull. The fancy cars were out in force, the dresses and suits were as amazing as ever, as the Prom got under way. The dance floor was never empty, the singing was somewhat interesting, not forgetting the 'Jordan' train, as this young man should be named the Dancing King! A lovely evening had by all, to end, what had been, a busy week!



**OFSTED:** Then the call came on Tuesday 27th – Ofsted were on their way! The school got ready for their visitors with a busy two days of meetings, lesson visits and student voice conversations with our learners! Although the outcome cannot be shared at present, we look forward to sharing the report with our community in early September 2023, when it is officially released to everyone.

## LONDON YEAR 11 CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

The Saturday walking tour of London returned. London showcased its talent as the group made their way from Exhibition Road to Embankment. The sun shone for our arrival. For some, this was their first time in the capital, as they asked questions about the different places, mentioned what they had saw on the news and made the connections with key landmarks from the Royal events which have been televised over the last year. They even heard Pink doing her sound checks over in Hyde Park, ahead of her concert later that evening. Buckingham Palace and Westminster never fail to amaze, as well as the walk down the Mall, which many had not realised was so long! A great day had by all.





# YEAR 10 OPPORTUNITIES

Year 10 had a busy month. Not only did they have Sports Day, but they started July with a week of work experiences during the first week of July. Some made their way to placements in the NHS, local schools, retail or other industries, whilst others went with Mrs Turton and other staff to work on location at the NEC, supported by Angela Walsh of the NEC group. Next up, was a Taster Day at Solihull Sixth Form, to sample what Sixth Form studies they could be signing up for next year. Alongside this, Year 10 geography had been completing their coursework element of their studies in the streets and rivers of Henley.

## SPORTS DAY

One of the highlights of the academic year, when the house colours come out in force! The weather was always going to be unpredictable, but the competitive spirit between the participants was not going to be dampened! Year groups competed within as well as House supporters giving their all to their house community. But which House will come out on top? That was the question everyone wanted to know and could not wait for...and the winner was Maple House.

## AWARDS EVENING

There were a range of Personal Development events during July. Years 7-8 had a virtual talk from Aston University, whilst the Great Hall at the University of Birmingham hosted our Trust Award winners once again. Not only were the learners from reception to Sixth Form awarded for their hard work and dedication to their studies, but the whole area was rewarded, with the various musical talents from across the Trust, with our very own 'Matilda', Lily-May closing the event, and not quite being as 'naughty' as her character would have suggested! What a wonderful evening of celebration.



# July...

## YOUNG ACTIVE CITIZEN

Earlier in the year, the school nominated two year 11 learners for an award organised by the West Midlands Lieutenancy and we were overjoyed when the news came that one of our nominees, Hannah, had won! An award that was truly deserved, as Hannah has been an inspiration to others with her work on leadership, wellbeing and charity, showcasing her own resilience and determination to achieve 'Nothing but the Best' for her own future successes. Well done to Hannah on this well deserved achievement.



## CAREERS CHAMPION

Mrs Turton was also rewarded and recognised by Birmingham Educational Partnership for her own in Careers as she won Careers Champion status for her work on continuing to inspire the young people of the future. A much deserved award as this lady is truly remarkable in the never-ending work she does for the young people of our CHS!



## NHS 75 YEARS

The choir participated and raised funds for the NHS as they celebrated the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the National Health Service. Miss Stallard and Mr March accompanied the choir to sing at Heartlands Hospital, where they were received warmly, as their angelic voices brought smiles to those who had few reasons to smile.

Not to be outdone, Alex from Year 9 played at the drums at Youth Prom in Symphony Hall - what a talented young adult he really is!



## WELSH RESIDENTIAL

Twenty-four Years 7-9 learners braved the wild mountains of Wales as they made the trip on a 5-day residential with Mr Sutcliffe and Miss Begum, as part of Outward Bounds residential opportunities. The first time that many had stayed away from home, climbed a mountain, walked a gorge or camped overnight in the wild. They were shattered on their return but they had an experience they will never forget!

## INSPIRATIONAL

Although Mr Hargreaves gives so much to our young people, they only need to look at him as an inspiration. Over a July weekend, he completed the Fan Dance Endurance event in the Brecon Beacons and raised over £1000 for Breast Cancer Now. Unbelievable fundraising for an unbelievable gentleman! Well done Mr Hargreaves. You're amazing!



## TALENT SHOW

The CHS talent was out in force as Miss Stallard oversaw not one, but two, shows. First up with was our Trust Talent Show, with Yvie and Lily-May taking the top two spots. Then came the CHS Summer Showcase, with an array of multi-talented young people demonstrating exactly what they could do in front of a packed audience.

Thanks to Miss Stallard for all the work she has put in to a large variety of events here at CHS and beyond. We wish her all the best in her new role.

## TRANSITION DAY

Loving transition, we welcomed the Year 6 learners on a delayed transition day, Wednesday 12th July. The day started with a hall full of nervous faces, but the students and staff who came out to support and teach sessions, soon put smiles and laughter on the faces of our future Year 7's. Then we welcomed their families later. A lovely day, had by all and we cannot wait until they officially join us on the 6th September!

## YEAR 10 DUKE OF EDINBURGH – BRONZE

Mr Mosedale was out with the map again, with his final Duke of Edinburgh expedition at CHS. He took, with Miss Topping and Miss Ahmad for support, 9 of the Year 10 group to Nether Whitacre, in the sun, the rain and the thunder (safely inside the minibus). They didn't let the weather get to them and on they went – getting the experience they needed for Bronze. Well done to all. We would like to thank Mr Mosedale for all the hard work he put in over the last few years to give our young people these Duke of Edinburgh experiences.





Our Annual Culture  
Day will take place on  
Tuesday 25th July



Enjoy the Summer,  
stay safe and see you  
on Wednesday 6th  
September at 8:30am.

‘Thank you for reading’

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