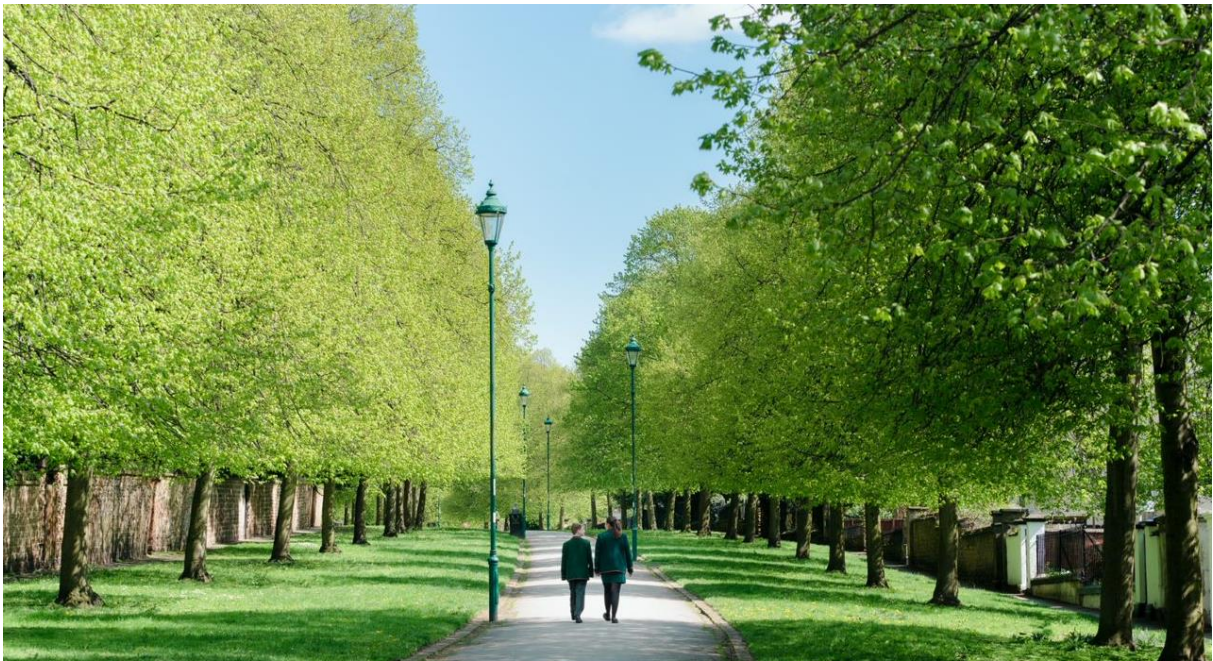




HOLLY LEAVES



An Overview of our Academic Year 2022-23

Hollygirt
SCHOOL

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

It's been a very positive year for Hollygirt and an important one for laying down foundations for future successes which are now detailed in the Hollygirt five-year strategy.

We said goodbye to some but not all of our Year 11 students and we celebrate the exciting news that we are opening a Sixth Form. I hope you agree that this is such a positive step for the school. We were delighted to welcome Mrs Alison Brown as Head of Sixth Form. Alison has been working tirelessly to ensure a smooth opening and an excellent provision. The building works are scheduled for the summer along with moving the kitchens into the Senior School. We are proud owners of a minibus now so that will allow us to enter more and more fixtures and to make the most of the ISA (Independent Schools Association) sporting and other networks.

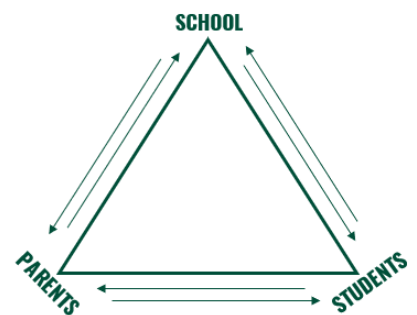


We held our first whole school production in many years this summer and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' gave a chance for our budding thespians to have a Shakespearian role; more to come. We also held two lovely end of term Music concerts. Additional Curriculum Enrichment runs through the Senior School every Tuesday and this coming year we will aim to add more to this in terms of lunchtime and after school clubs – trying to find something for everyone, and to this end the Prefects have just surveyed the senior year groups in house time.

Our roll continues to grow which is no mean feat in the current economic climate and this is because we work as a team at Hollygirt to listen and to care for the wonderful young people that you entrust to us. New social media awareness education is coming in for Year 5 to 7 and many of you know the lengths we go to, to nurture the difficult trajectory that is the teenage years.

We need your support always – it is only with this triangle that we can achieve the full potential.

Please help us in getting older students to school on time next year or letting us know when there is a reason not to be on time. As always – we will care for the individual – we are so privileged in the work we do and your children keep the staff here forever young!



There are so many things to look forward to next year. We have some new teaching staff and we can't wait for them to realise just how lucky they are to be working at Hollygirt. We look forward to welcoming Mr Cholerton as our new Assistant Head (Pastoral), Mr Dobson (Chemistry), Miss Veal (Biology), Mr Shahrokhshahi (Physics/Maths) and Miss Green (English). The aforementioned building works will be mainly completed and the extra-curricular provision reviewed and improved.

Our doors will remain open and we will continue to dedicate our thoughts and deeds to continuously improving our offer. I'm ready for a break, for a re-charge but Hollygirt is never very far away in my thoughts and the genuine excitement for how we can keep on onwards and upwards.

My sincere thanks to the whole team: staff, trustees, parents and all in the community who work with us. We are so fortunate with our students, your sons and daughters, and I wish you a happy and safe summer. Students return to school on Wednesday 6th September (New Senior School/Year 7 students on Tuesday 5th September, from 9.00-11.00am). We will see many of you for Results Day in August and don't forget to mention the new Hollygirt Sixth Form to friends and families.

Happy holidays – we will miss them but you can now enjoy them!

All good wishes,
Dr Helen Barsham (AKA Doc B)

Please remember our door is *always open*, so do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or queries.

New SLT Structure from September 2023

Head:	Dr Helen Barsham
Deputy Head and Head of Prep School:	Mrs Victoria Wright
Assistant Head (Academic):	Mr Neil Rollinson
Assistant Head (Pastoral):	Mr Dave Cholerton
Head of Sixth Form:	Mrs Alison Brown
Bursar:	Mr Chris Bowker

Head Student / Prefect Team for 2023-24

The Senior Leadership Team and all staff will work closely with the Prefect team. They have already been busy helping out with our Year 5 Taster Day.

Head Student:	Noah Hicks
Deputy Head Students:	Gabrielle Peace-Gadsby Sufyaan Sharif
Senior Prefects:	Lotty Bricklebank, Amelie Conway, Charlotte Corbishley, Amelie Mills
Prefects:	Joy Kibugi and Andrew Pang (Prep School) Rhiya Phull and Hope Sutton (Events) Lotty Bricklebank and Edie Wood (Arts) Polly Hardiman and Tamelia Ayodele (Well-being) Cas Davis (Sports)

EARLY YEARS – Kindergarten & Reception

Kindergarten and Prep had great fun during **Science Week** when they took part in Science Day and worked with the other year groups to try different science experiments. Our favourite was the rainbow Skittles experiment.



As part of our **Transport** topic last term, we found out about lots of different types of transport and how they move. We enjoyed bringing our own transport toys into school and talking about them as well as playing with them in the playground.



We always love the chance to dress up in Early Years and this year on World Book Day it was no different. Mrs Scott dressed as the witch from one of her favourite books and we saw lots of other favourite book characters.

It has been a busy end of the year for Early Years as we celebrate the achievements of the children at our special Prize Giving assembly. This was followed by EYFS Sports Day which was lots of fun. We are now ready for the summer break but can't wait to return in September ready for the next chapter. *Happy holidays from all of us in EYFS.*

YEAR ONE

Year One have had a wonderful year. We have enjoyed visiting Doc Barsham where we have biscuits whilst she reads us a story. We have visited the **Science** labs and met the skeleton to learn more about our bodies. In Science we have also been experimenting with ice and enjoyed planting lots of different seeds - we even grew pea shoots to eat. We have done lots of writing about **life cycles** including writing about the tadpoles that we had in our classroom.



This term we have set up a bird feeder outside the classroom window and watched all the different birds come to feed. We have been using our **Maths** skills to keep a tally chart of all the different birds to see which bird comes the most and it is the magpie!



YEAR TWO

Year Two have had an extremely busy year producing some lovely pieces of work. You can see in [Science](#) we have been measuring to see which sock was the stretchiest. The Year 2s really enjoyed being able to play in the snow. Tori produced a wonderful vehicle - she learnt how to use a hacksaw to make the axles and created her own wheels made from yoghurt pots.



Girls in Year 2 created beautiful posters emphasising how important it is to stop polluting our seas.



Rayyan enjoyed visiting Nottinghamshire Hospice during Sparkle Week - he produced a beautiful 'rainbow' picture to make the people there smile.

One of our favourite trips this year was to the [National Videogame Arcade Museum](#) in Sheffield where we made our own Space Invaders controllers - we all loved learning about gaming as part of our topic work!



YEAR THREE

Back in the Autumn Term, Year Three were learning about [Flight and Aircrafts](#) as part of our topic work. We had great fun learning about key figures such as, [The Wright Brothers](#) and [Amelia Earhart](#). In November, we invited the rest of the Prep School to join us on a trip to [Newark Air Museum](#), which was very interesting and great fun especially getting the chance to go in a couple of the aeroplanes and helicopters!

Year Three have had a fabulous year of learning and having fun. We have loved learning about the famous scientist [Charles Darwin](#) in [Science](#), writing and performing our own playscripts in [English](#) and creating our own fish for the [Prep Art Exhibition](#).



YEAR FOUR

As part of their **North America** topic, Year Four learnt about volcanoes and created their own out of papier-mache. Once completed, the children researched scientific ways of exploding their volcano, and used ingredients such as vinegar, lemon juice and bicarbonate of soda to attempt this!



As part of their **Tudor** topic, Year Four held a debate about Mary I. In class, they researched her reign and made arguments for and against her. The class was split into two, with one group on Team Mary (using what they have learnt to defend her) and the other group against Mary (explaining why she was a bad ruler).

The debate got very heated, but Mrs Maher decided that Team Mary had put across the better argument. In May, Year Four and Six visited **Mary Arden's Farm** in Stratford-upon-Avon. The day transported the children back to the Tudor times, where they found out about different Tudor jobs, got to make their own Tudor sweets and learnt a Tudor dance.



In June, Year Three and Four visited **Wollaton Park** for a one-night residential trip. The children camped in the grounds and took part in activities such as shelter building, a scavenger hunt and campfire. They also got to visit the main hall on the second day and saw Titus the T-Rex.

YEAR FIVE

Year 5 (alongside Year 6) have been working hard in their **Art** lessons on their Mad Hatter's Tea Party hats, complete with Under the Sea theme, which they also proudly displayed in the recent **Prep Art Exhibition**.



Year 5 (and 6) had great fun on their residential at The Mill - tunnelling, zipwire, archery, kayaking, plus lots more! The pupils slept in pods and slept from lights out straight through to breakfast time both nights...



Year 5 made working lights in their Art lessons with Miss Fry.

YEAR SIX

Year Six have had a busy time this year. They have become involved in new lessons such as **Forest Schools** and **Philosophy** (although we think the weekly promise of biscuits made the latter subject a favourite!). The children have also been on a number of trips: orienteering at **Wollaton**;, visiting **Mary Arden's Farm** and having great fun at the **National Videogame Arcade Museum** in Sheffield.

Year Six have also found the time to fit in several home baking sessions in order to cook goodies such as carrot scones, gingerbread and vegetable soup. Their creative side was also in evidence during Art lessons, where they studied works by **Georges Seurat** and **Hokusai**.

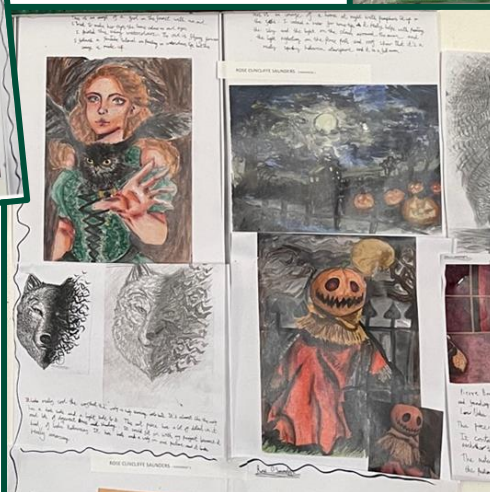
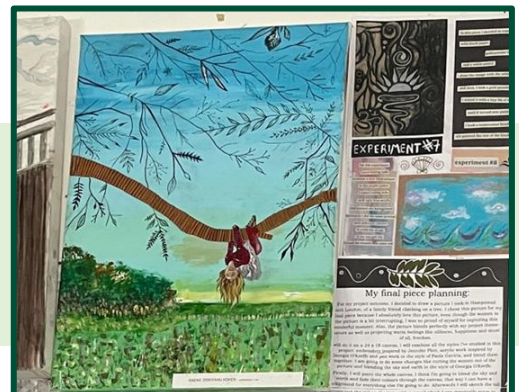


A fantastic year, Year Six - *you've been amazing!*



ART

Year 11 had their final show on 6th June. It was a pleasant evening showcasing their hard work. We wish them well for their future and fingers crossed for Results Day. The evening coincided with the Prep Art Exhibition showcasing their Ocean awareness.



COMPUTING

All pupils in Year 9 were entered for, and gained the Bronze Award in iDEA, with some achieving the Silver Award too! The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (iDEA) is an international programme that helps young people develop **digital, enterprise and employability skills**. Through a series of online challenges, pupils win career-enhancing badges across 4 areas: Citizen, Worker, Maker and Entrepreneur, unlocking new opportunities and, ultimately, gaining an **industry-recognised award** that will help them stand out from the crowd.

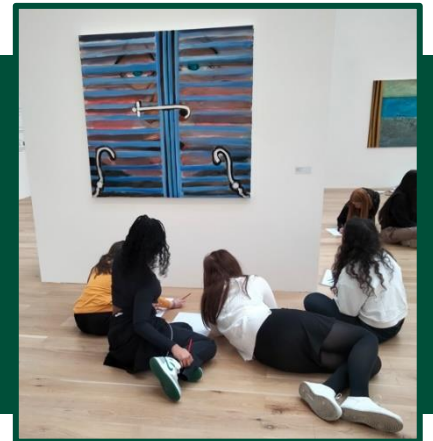


iDEA badges are interactive online modules, created in consultation with industry experts that can be accessed for free, on any device, anywhere in the world. They vary in length and difficulty and iDEA has a huge range of badges to suit all learners, where students pick the ones that interest them and get started. The iDEA Award is perfect for those students who choose not to continue their studies in Computing at GCSE level yet have something worthwhile to show for their three years of hard work.

ENGLISH

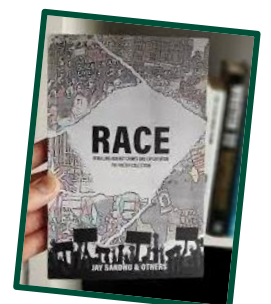
We have run several outings and visits this year in English. We love to get out and about and with theatres in walking distance, we are lucky to be able to see live performances. Year 10 went to see 'An Inspector Calls' at **Nottingham Theatre Royal**. To see one of their IGCSE texts performed live was a great opportunity – they enjoyed the performance and were particularly impressed by the set.

We also ran a new trip this year for our GCSE students. In preparation for their IGCSE Imaginative Writing coursework, a piece of descriptive writing inspired by an image, we took Year 10 for a creative writing workshop at **Nottingham Contemporary**. Students worked with their Artist in Residence who is also a creative writer. We explored the gallery and wrote some inspiring imaginative pieces based on a piece of artwork. We also gained some insights about how to plan and develop a piece of descriptive writing.



Our Year 8s start the year with a non-fiction writing unit 'Writing Instructions'. To demonstrate their learning, at the end of the unit, pupils worked in teams to create their own board game on the theme '**Escape from Hollygirt**' and then independently wrote the instructions for how to play. Of course, we had to test their instructions by playing the games! Lots of fun was had by all.

On **Poetry Day**, we had a visit from a local performance poet: Jay Sandhu. Jay ran a workshop for each year group during the day. His vibrant and exciting style was a hit with all the students. All students had the opportunity to write a poem of their own. Jay told us that he was very impressed with their ideas, creativity and talent.



FOOD AND NUTRITION

Year 8 had fun making a **frittata**. This is an egg-based Italian dish similar to an omelette, crustless quiche or scrambled eggs. The chefs enjoyed enriching it with their own choice of additional ingredients such as meats, cheeses or vegetables.



A successful mix of **pizzas** and **samosas** have been excellently made in Food & Nutrition by Year 9 in the last two weeks.

GEOGRAPHY / TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Excellent progress has been made within Geography and Travel and Tourism this year. Year 7 have refined and built up their **map skills**, studied **world biomes** through **adventure** and thought about the sustainability of **coastal** and **river landscapes**.

Year 10 also visited a new location to **Norfolk** for the GCSE residential for data collection. Year 11 have worked incredibly hard towards their final 3 GCSE papers.



A highlight for Year 9 and 10 was the trip to Cadbury World learning about the operation of a TNC, timely planned ahead of Christmas so a good shopping spree.



Within BTEC Travel and Tourism the Year 10 cohort have started a new specification and successfully submitted their first assignment where they investigated **Amsterdam** as a tourist destination. We have also enjoyed planning towards the introduction of **A level Geography** from September.

HISTORY

Year 7 have studied the **Black Death** and the **Peasants' Revolt** including the reasons why the peasants were angry and what they did about it to try and change their lives. We have debated whether King John really was the worst ever King of England and challenged the evidence about this. Some of us had strong opinions and argued

Year 8 have studied the **Tudors** and **Stuarts** including the **Spanish Armada** and the **English Civil War**. We have prepared for, and conducted, a whole class debate on whether Oliver Cromwell was a hero or a villain. We have finished the year considering the issue of empire and the transatlantic slave trade.

Year 9 have focused on the **Industrial Revolution** and the **First and Second World Wars**. We have explored the causes of both wars and the key phases of the **Holocaust**. We have debated the issue of different levels of blame for the Holocaust and considered the views of historians on this debate. Year 10 have looked at the reign of **Henry VIII** and considered the role played by his chief ministers Thomas Wolsey and Thomas Cromwell. The reasons for the **Reformation** and its impact on ordinary people were explored. We have finished the year studying medicine in the trenches during the First World War.



LANGUAGES – FRENCH AND SPANISH



Last summer Senior School students from Year 7 to 11 went on a European trip **visiting Paris and Barcelona** - including the Arc de Triomphe, cruising along the River Seine, experiencing Euro Disney then moving to Barcelona to enjoy tapas tasting, a tour of the Neu Camp and visiting the famous Sagrada Familia, Parc Guell and seeing the creations of the incredibly talented Gaudi. Next Year, we are offering our Year 6 to 8 students the opportunity to visit the beautiful cultural capital city of Paris with of course a trip to **Euro Disney** whilst we are in the area!

This academic year in languages, we have done so many things. We have made **clocks** in Year 7, performed a **fashion show**, created a rap and learned songs, ran a whole school **Languages House Quiz** and put on a food tasting session.



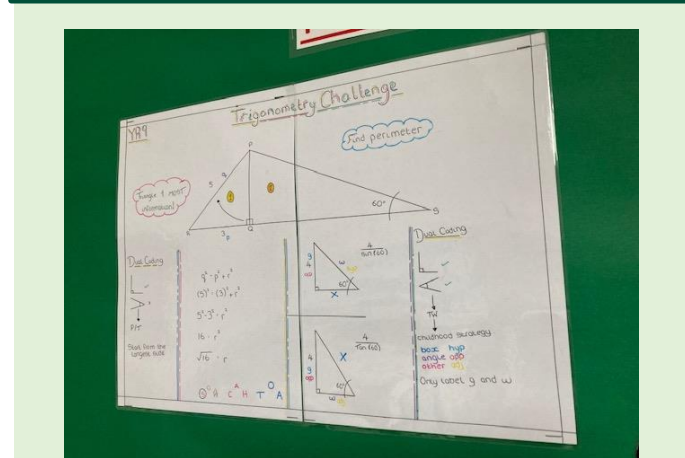
For the **European Day of Languages**, we each wrote the countries we had visited or lived in and displayed these. For Eurovision 2023, hosted in Liverpool in May, we did a special lesson in languages rating the songs from the countries taking part. Miss Nisan is also running a **Spanish food tasting session** for Prep School students which I am sure will be delicious.



MATHS

A massive well done to all the students who took part in this year's Maths Challenges, across Years 7 to 10.

Maths Challenge Participants	
Junior – Year 7	Junior – Year 8
Sebastian	Hayato
Dhaman	Mustafa
Ali	India
Rishi	Peyton
Riley	
June	
Intermediate - Year 9	Intermediate - Year 10
Isabella A	Noah
Lily-Mai	Charlotte
Charlie C	Amelie C
Benjamin	Sufyaan
Hasan	Lotty



Coding - the photo above shows some extended Mathematical practice by Lily-Mai in Year 9 - it details the coding required to find the perimeter of a composite triangle - by making use of Pythagoras Theorem and Trigonometry. The coding is a way to aid and promote mathematical recall whilst introducing a mathematical problem that stretches and challenges students.

MUSIC

The Music department has added many performance opportunities this year.

It was great to see the church so packed for our annual **Carol Service**. Our wonderfully talented pianist, James Burton (Year 10), performed a variety of pieces to welcome in congregation members. The service commenced with the gorgeous angelic soprano voice of Elsie White filling the church with the traditional Once in Royal David's City solo. Again, performances were showcased from Year 3 through to Year 11. Mrs Maher conducted the wonderful Prep School choir who shone like stars at the front of the church. We had a glorious Hebrew song performed by Naomi (Year 11) which was truly enchanting. Our Senior School choir were great with their beautifully presented SSA performances.

The **Teatime Concerts** have been a lovely addition to the music calendar to showcase the talent of all our performers from beginners to more experienced instrumentalists. It has been fabulous to see the great support for these concerts which have now been firmly fixed in the calendar for next year.

Our **Arts Award** have been hugely successful this year with all students in KS3 gaining the required level to receive their certification. The Arts Award is regulated by Ofqual and accredited by Trinity College London. The Bronze Arts Award is untaken by all Year 9 students



and carries a TCL Level 1 Award in the Arts. Students found it hugely rewarding to develop and deliver their own workshops to Prep School. Each group picked their own instrument and lesson idea and developed resources, plans and how they were going to share their leadership skills with others. This is the first year we have run the Silver Arts Award program which provided positive leadership skills. This qualification carries a Level 2 Award in the Arts (5 to 9 equivalent). It carries a lot of self-study and individual planning and preparation.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Hollygirt has continued to field competitive teams in a wide range of sporting events and competitions this year. Whilst the usual sporting favourites, such as **football**, **netball**, **cricket** and **basketball**, have remained high on the fixtures agenda, we have also diversified into a number of less familiar sports such as **dodgeball**, **handball** and **Futsal**. The children have relished the opportunity to participate in a wider range of activities and we have enjoyed a number of successes, notably in dodgeball where Mr Dean has led the Year 7 boys to a Gold and Silver medal, and the Year 10 boys to a Bronze.

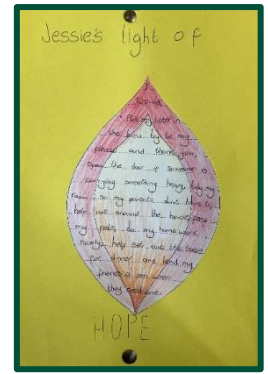
The fixtures calendar is also now providing a significant number of matches against other schools in the independent sector, and we have developed strong relationships whilst competing against Repton School and Wellow House School.



There will be numerous other fixtures against other local independent schools as well as those further afield next year.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

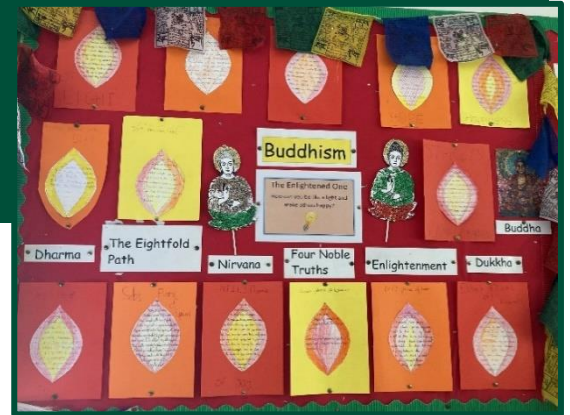
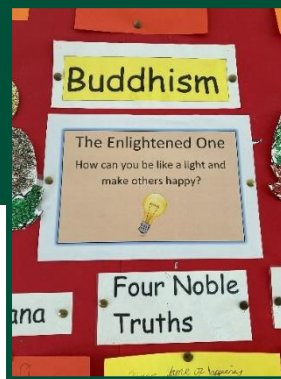
Students have, over the year, looked at many aspects of religion. In Religious Studies we have studied the six major world religions: **Buddhism**, **Christianity**, **Hinduism**, **Islam**, **Judaism** and **Sikhism**. Year 7 began the year with a general overview of religion and religious ideas and theories. They then studied Judaism, Buddhism and finished the year with a study of the life of Jesus.



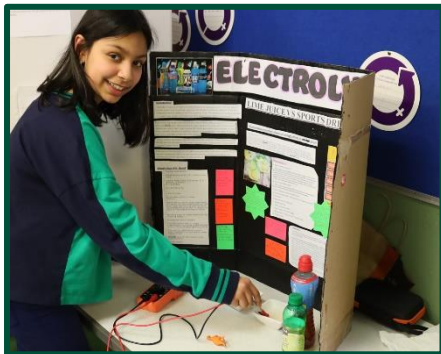
Year 8 have studied Judaism and dressed up ready for prayer in Judaism prayer clothes. We are so lucky to have had Elam join us and tell us first-hand about Judaism and the whole class enjoyed wishing him and his family "Shabbat Shalom" on a Friday. We continued our studies looking at Christianity and Hinduism.

Year 9 began a study of Islam in the Summer Term and used artefacts to develop their understanding in preparation for those starting GCSE RS in September. We also studied Sikhism and

Year 10 have seen and used artefacts in Christianity and Islam to help them understand the significance of these items in these faiths as part of their GCSE course.



SCIENCE



National Science Week saw the launch of Hollygirt School's first ever **Science Fair**. Students were given complete freedom to investigate an area of Science. They were then tasked with presenting their findings during an afternoon to both staff and their peers. The level of effort put into the projects was superb. The Science Fair highlighted the high levels of creativity and the ingenuity of our students. In the Senior School, Year 7 and Year 8 were involved, and the winning project was deemed to be Diya's investigation into the electrolytes found in sports drinks. In the Prep School, Years

3 to 6 were involved, and the winner was Ava with her investigation into the size of bubbles blown when using different types of gum. Overall, the standard was very high from all students, and we look forward to seeing everyone's new projects next academic year.



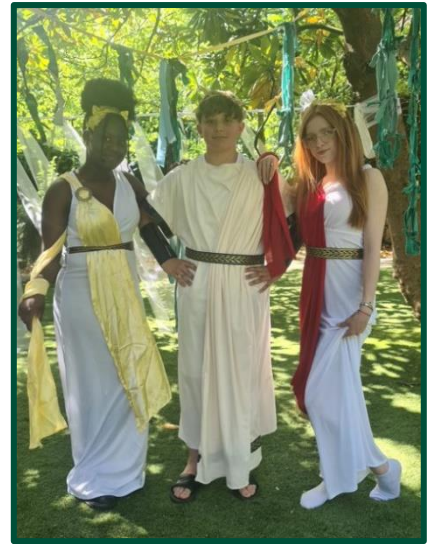
Year 10 Physicists had fun using the **Van de Graaff** generator last term. It works like rubbing a balloon on your head except a motor keeps it going. As Year 10 held on to each other as a group, it drew negative electrons off their surface. This made every hair more positive, repelling each positive hair near it and making their hair stand on end. *A truly electrifying experience!*

A MIDSUMMER SUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Wow, what a spectacular event as **A Midsummer Night's Dream** saw 30 students from Years 3 to 10 shine in the White House Garden. Hours of lunchtime and afterschool rehearsals certainly paid off as our students truly captured **Shakespearean** language bringing to life the meaning of the play.



Our **Mechanicals** were spectacularly humorous with Matilda and Bella kissing the Wall played by Diya. The **Lovers** were perfectly portrayed by Euan, Dhaman, Tamelia and Charlotte as they repeatedly fell in and out of love with each other. Our fabulous fairy world saw Gurleen, Desmia and Teddy all own the stage with their magic and potions as Titania and Oberon.



The truly captivating dancers added that special flare to the show in the enchanted woods with ballet and contemporary routines. We saw Edie perform a beautiful ballet to symbolise Titania's dream. A huge highlight of the performance was the role of Puck performed by June and Olwyn who flawlessly showcased the character's split personality.



All in all, a huge thank you to our marvellous performers and parental support which contributed to this magnificent event. Onwards and upwards to the next great show.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The **Duke of Edinburgh Award** has been extremely successful again this year providing 30 students from Year 9 and 10 an opportunity to develop a huge diversity of both individual and team focussed skills. Having been disrupted by the restrictions of Covid and lockdown in previous years, we decided to take a larger group from both Year 9 and 10 in order to offer as many children as possible the opportunity to gain the **Bronze** award and consider registering for the **Silver** award in 2024.



Our first practice expedition took place in **Leicestershire** at the end of April. We were fortunate that the weather was ideal – cool and cloudy but dry until around bedtime! The students were able to familiarise themselves with the practical elements of erecting tents and cooking on stoves, before embarking on instructor led walks where they were guided in the skills of navigation and rucksack packing. Despite some highly creative interpretations of their route on the second day, when a 'remote supervision' model was applied, everyone returned to camp safely with numerous stories to tell.

At the end of June, the students attended the qualifying expedition and were required to demonstrate that they could use the skills that they had previously learned. Again, we had ideal conditions and the children conducted themselves with aplomb.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Students come to Hollygirt to gain **skills** and **qualifications** to eventually enter their chosen career path. **Work Experience** is a valuable way to get ahead in the interview process for university and work, and is something we prioritise for our Year 10s. It shows employers that students have already taken the time to gain experience in the world of work or their chosen career.

Year 10 undertook their Work Experience in March of this year, spending a week in a work environment of their choice – ranging from a **teashop** to **multi-million-pound pharmaceutical** companies. It is important both for the student and the employer, the student gains knowledge of the job role, the environment and what is expected of them in the work place. Equally the employer will bring in new insight and potential to their business. Some of our students have even been offered summer or weekend work after completing their Work Experience placement.

The Benefits of Work Experience:

- Employability skills
- Insight into the work place
- Increases your knowledge of your chosen industry
- Maximises your chances of finding employment
- Improves communication skills
- Optimises your CV

Work Experience allows young people to gain insight into a career and informs their decision making. Students are often convinced they have found their career of choice only to complete a work experience placement in that field and realise it is not for them. Equally, for many the work experience placement can help to confirm that it is the right career option for them.

FRIENDS OF HOLLYGIRT

Friends of Hollygirt are a group of volunteers who are passionate about raising funds to benefit our students. We are always looking for new enthusiastic people to join our committee.



At the last bid for funds, the Prep School Council were awarded £697 for a bench, picnic table and various garden pots for the Prep School garden. The DT department was awarded £600 towards a new sewing machine for Textiles and a stand mixer for Food and Nutrition. The PE department was awarded £600 for an outdoor table tennis table, £100 for football goals and £250 for shin pads/gloves for the after-school football club. Mrs Atherton was awarded £25 for a butterfly hatching kit. Mrs Maher was awarded £400 for musical instruments for the Prep School. The Christmas raffle raised around £300 with the lovely luxury Hampers. Although there were no large 'second hand uniform' sales, we have been able throughout the year to welcome individual groups to kit them out and have raised funds that way too (any pre-loved uniform in good condition is very appreciated).

If you would like to become more involved in Friends of Hollygirt, please email receptionists@hollygirt.co.uk.



FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School began in the Prep School in September and soon became a weekly favourite for all children. Our games and activities generally follow the pattern of the season and wherever possible are child-led.

We have built shelters, completed 'natural' artwork, made conker jewellery, created sparks, been animals, completed scavenger hunts, created our own Forest School stories, drunk hot chocolate, played animal bingo and animal Top Trumps, made bubble wands and of course enjoyed the classic Bath and Moth game.



Thank you to all who have been involved and worked on skills of cooperation and teamwork in an outdoor setting.

Next year we are looking at developing the curriculum further with some outdoor cooking.



SIXTH FORM

Hollygirt

SIXTH FORM

Thriving in a supportive community

A message from Mrs Brown, our New Head of Sixth Form.

Exciting times are ahead for Hollygirt as our brand new **Sixth Form** gets ready to open to students from September. I have joined Hollygirt as it is a school which truly stands out as having such a **caring** and **supportive atmosphere**. This becomes ever more important as the students move up to study in Year 12 and 13 - as their academic studies become more **challenging**, it is only right that they have the opportunity to benefit from being at the heart of their Sixth Form, rather than being one of many.

When students reach Year 11 they can experience a mixture of feelings - from sadness that they are in their final year of Senior School to excitement about exploring their futures. The introduction of Hollygirt Sixth form provides the solution. It allows students to continue to **meet their potential** in the **valued community** in which they feel secure, whilst **experiencing independence** and **opportunities to grow** and develop both academically and personally.



Lots of work has been going on behind the scenes; preparing the academic courses, a Taster Day for our Year 10 students and the whole school voting on a name for our Sixth Form building '**Stevenson House**'. I look forward to welcoming our first cohort of Year 12 students.



Year 10 Taster Day

Year 10 students enjoyed Hollygirt's first Sixth Form Taster Day on Monday this week, learning about their future pathways and building skills for successful studying. We were also delighted to welcome students from other schools who were interested in finding out more about life in Hollygirt Sixth Form.



#thrivinginasupportivecommunity

At **Harvest Festival** in September the school found out about the work of **Emmanuel House** in Nottingham that helps feed homeless and vulnerable people in Nottingham. Emmanuel House is an independent charity that supports people who are homeless, rough sleeping, in crisis or at risk of homelessness in Nottingham. Their purpose is to tackle isolation, vulnerability and homelessness within the community by providing an inclusive, compassionate service to people who need help, whether it's providing food, hot meals, washing facilities, a night shelter or just a warm place to chat to a friendly face over a cup of tea. We collected donations of food and non-perishable items from our students' families running up to Harvest Festival, after which we delivered all to Emmanuel House in November.



Prep School students voted to support the **Make a Wish** charity. Over 60,000 children in the UK have been diagnosed with a critical condition, changing their lives and the lives of their families forever. For them, the joy of childhood is brought to an abrupt end, with

treatment plans, hospital visits and sleepless nights taking over. A wish revives a childhood stolen by critical illness. It brings light and joy to children and their loved ones and leaves a profound and lasting impact on all their lives. Each house did a charity event raising money for this valuable charity.

Prep School Fundraising - £872.12

As well as raising funds for Make a Wish, the Prep School students have raised funds throughout the year for a number of other charities including the Anti-Bullying Alliance (Odd Socks Day) and Comic Relief / Red Nose Day.

Senior School Fundraising – £441.42

Senior students have also supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning, Comic Relief / Red Nose Day and Open Minds - raising funds for these invaluable charities.

Total raised to date
during 2022-23:
£2,604.70

Whole School Fundraising - £1,291.16

The school has joined together in raising an exceptional amount for yet more charities – Children in Need, Save the Children, Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to name a few. Food donations have been collected and taken to both Emmanuel House and St. Ann's Foodbank. Thank you to all of our students and families who offer support throughout the year with our numerous initiatives.





In true Hollygirt spirit, the students enthusiastically embrace the opportunity to support charities and eagerly engage in various initiatives to make a positive impact on the community.



HOUSES

Autumn Term House Winners: **CLUMBER**

Rewarded with a trip to Planet Bounce



Carefully counting the house tokens

Spring Term House Winners: **RUFFORD**

Rewarded with a trip to Laser Tag



The House winners for the Summer Term will be announced after this has gone to print... students of the winning house will be rewarded with a bowling trip!



Eco CLUB

We meet every Monday lunchtime and discuss numerous different things! We have discussed litter and how to stop it, we have done sticker charts for every form and talked about respecting gardens and wildlife. We are in the process of renovating the pond, have removed single use plastic bottles from school and have added more drinking fountains. We have successfully completed non-school uniform days and raised money for charity. We want to get a pen recycling box and also a crisp packet recycling point.

We would like to introduce an environmental code of conduct and we would like to make art using plastic..... more to come next year!

STUDENT COUNCIL

We meet every week and ensure every student has a voice and is involved. We have spoken in an assembly and really listen to the students. We have introduced new water fountains and renovated the White House garden and toilets.



All ideas are discussed, taken seriously and you can see progress. For example, someone suggested a bigger library and it's in the works already. We are talking about a golden ticket idea for lunch and there's always more ideas. We want to add chess tournaments, vending machines and more. Everyone feels heard and has a great time eating biscuits and playing with Rusty.

PREFECTS

The newly selected Prefect team are already shaping the way for the year ahead when they will become Year 11s. They have already supported our recent Year 5 Taster Day, surveyed students regarding extra-curricular activities, raised money for this year's Prom... there will be so much more to come.

ESTATES/ FINANCE

There have been some significant changes to both Prep and Senior School since September - brand new desks across the Senior School, repurposing of the White House garden to create more space for students, the introduction of iSAMS (our new Managements Information System) and new accounting software.

On the Estates side, we have a packed schedule of improvement works over the summer to make the school look even better for this coming academic year. There is a major renovation of the kitchen area, classroom moves and the launch of our brand new Sixth Form in Stevenson House.

An ambitious target have been set to move to being fully paperless from September 2023 – already we have implemented paperless billing from this Spring Term with a long term goal to introduce direct debit fee payments from Spring Term 2024 and other opportunities to make our processes more streamlined for parents.

STAFF CHANGES

Mrs Victoria Wright, Head of Prep – now also Deputy Head

For the last term, I have been given the exciting opportunity to, in addition to my Head of Prep role, also take on the role of Deputy Head of the whole school. It has been a pleasure to get to know the Senior School children better and work more closely with the staff. I am looking forward to working across the whole school and we have many exciting ideas for both Prep and Senior School, including opportunities for parents to become more involved in school events.



We have renamed the Junior School 'Prep School'. The new name better reflects the curriculum focus and goals of this educational stage, emphasising the preparation and readiness for the challenges that lie ahead. It carries a positive connotation, signifying a comprehensive and well-rounded education.

Mr Dave Cholerton - I can't wait to get started as Assistant Head (Pastoral) at Hollygirt School. I knew the school was a special place from my interview day and I'm looking forward to supporting the staff and getting to know the students. I have been a Pastoral Leader for 14 years and I'm looking forward to bringing my experience to Hollygirt.



I am inspired by creating a relational school where success is achieved through having high expectations and building positive relationships. My main teaching subjects are PE and PSHE. I love inspiring young people to enjoy their participation in sport and I believe no subject prepares students to succeed in the wider community more than PSHE. I am looking forward to building positive relationships with our parents to ensure that students receive the best possible support to achieve their potential. Have a great summer and I'll see you all in September.

Earlier this year we were delighted to announce the appointment of our new Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Alison Brown, who joined us after Easter. Alison is an experienced Head of Sixth Form who recently achieved an 'Outstanding' Ofsted grade for the Sixth Form at the George Spencer Academy. Alison will be teaching Psychology, Criminology and History to our new cohort of Year 12 students. She is known for her excellent results and commitment to the students. Alison really impressed us with her knowledge of pathways in terms of preparing young people for the future such as entry for Oxbridge, UCAS, and BMAT applications, degree apprenticeships, and other routes. Furthermore, Alison is very experienced in her organisation of the super curricular offer for sixth formers, in ensuring our students are ready for their futures. We are delighted to have Alison on board.



Mr Chris Bowker - I have taken over as Bursar at Hollygirt School from Laura Hudson at the end of December. I have come from the University of Nottingham and my background is in Operations Management and process improvement, so I bring considerable experience to this role. I have settled in, got to grips with the school finances and overseeing the IT and Estates teams. It has been a real pleasure getting to know all our lovely students and staff throughout this term and familiarising myself with the school. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities the next year will bring.

This academic year we have also welcomed to our team Miss Laura Hill (DT Teacher), Mrs Tracey Brown (School Administrator), Miss Vlada Kovalska (IT Technician) as well as Mrs Lucy Wilkins returning to work as Dr Barsham's PA. In September we look forward to welcoming new teaching staff: Miss Eleanor Veal (Biology), Mr Tom Dobson (Chemistry), Mr Farnoosh Shahrokhshahi (Physics/Maths) and Miss Nina Green (English). We are also still recruiting for other roles within school.

We have also said goodbye to staff this academic year – Mrs Laura Hudson (Bursar), Miss Ellen Young (IT Technician), Mr Anthony Goldsbury (Caretaker), Miss Mimi Evans (Admin) and Mrs Janine Cooper Cassady (DT Teacher). Carol Thorpe finally hung up her duster after cleaning at Hollygirt for over 22 years! We wish Mrs Jenny Thornton a happy maternity leave and look forward to baby news and also Miss Alex Cooper later in the Autumn Term. We also wish Mrs Alison Bailey, our peripatetic piano teacher, well in her new adventures.

We are sad to be saying goodbye to two key members of the Senior Leadership Team: Mrs Naomi Howlett (Senior Teacher - Pastoral, Lead DSL, SENCo, Geography, Travel and Tourism) and Mr Alex Firth (Senior Teacher - Academic, Head of Science) – they are firm friends and know will come back and see us. On a positive note, they are leaving because it is time for something new in their lives and not because they don't love Hollygirt. We thank them for their hard work and 'above and beyondness' with all of our students.

MESSAGE FROM ALEX FIRTH



It is not without careful consideration that I have come to this decision. Life is a constant evolution, and as individuals, we must recognise when it is time to embark on new endeavours, embrace fresh challenges, and seek personal growth. Although change can be daunting, I firmly believe that it is through change that we find the courage to pursue our dreams and reach our fullest potential. As I bid farewell to Hollygirt, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you.

To my fellow educators, thank you for your unwavering support, camaraderie, and dedication to the noble profession of teaching. The tireless efforts you put forth to inspire, nurture, and empower young minds are truly commendable.

To the students who have filled my days with laughter, curiosity, and awe-inspiring moments, you have left an indelible mark on my heart. It has been an honour to guide you along this educational journey, witnessing your growth and transformation. Remember that knowledge is a tool that will accompany you throughout your lives. Embrace it, treasure it, and never stop exploring the depths of your potential.

To the parents and guardians who have entrusted me with the education and well-being of your children, I am deeply grateful for your support and collaboration. Your partnership has been vital in creating an environment conducive to learning and personal development. As I embark on a new path, I carry with me the invaluable lessons learned from each of you. The experiences, challenges, and triumphs we have shared have moulded me into the person I am today. I leave this position with a wealth of memories, a heart filled with gratitude, and a spirit eager to embrace new opportunities. Farewell, but not goodbye.

MESSAGE FROM NAOMI HOWLETT

I would like to say goodbye to my beloved school and Geography departmental partner and new Subject Lead, Mr Dean. Over the 11 years Geography has been exciting and a very popular GCSE choice for the students. I thank them for making work such a joy. I have been lucky enough to lead many adventures for our students with some wonderful memories and experiences of new places - Yosemite National Park standing out. Another memory to share was when we were on a coach from New York to Washington and the whole bus of 32 students and 4 parents received a synchronised government hurricane warning, just like the textbooks teach us happens in countries which prepare for Natural Hazards - living geography!

Supporting students' wellbeing and individualised progress to me is what makes Hollygirt such a unique school and I have been fortunate enough to have an oversight of this as SENCo. I leave the school in the excellent leadership of Mrs Skov and Mrs George. I have been lucky to bring so much joy and fun to Hollygirt as Senior Teacher (Pastoral) with support of such a fantastic team of staff, the whole school comes together for Christmas Fair and charity events so well that once we won a visit from Helen Skelton (of whom it is known I am a fangirl). I hope my new school embraces my role as Elvis in the staff Christmas Panto as Hollygirt has.

I would like to thank all the parents who have helped over the years, too many to mention, in assemblies, teaching lessons, helping on trips and more. Behind all these wonderful events and hats I've worn is an incredible supportive admin team who make this happen, so thank you for your organisation. And of course, the Prep teachers who have given my girls such a wonderful start with care, nurture, excellent education a fun days.

Ever Onwards and Upwards - to new adventures by the sea - Mrs Howlett, Frankie and Lucky.



iSAMS

iSAMS is our new Management Information System which has been gradually introduced this school year. The majority of our parents are now registered to access the Parent Portal provided by iSAMS. An APP will be available for use this next academic year. It is extremely important for those not yet registered to do so as soon as possible. The Parent Portal will be used for:

<u>School Information:</u>	Where you can access the school calendar, the staff directory and school news.
<u>Parent Details:</u>	Where you can view and edit parental contact information, look at your email history and change your email notification preference.
<u>School Profile:</u>	Where you can view your child's timetable, attendance, reports, detentions, merits, rewards and conducts.

Hollygirt School
Elm Avenue
Nottingham
NG3 4GF

Tel: 0115 958 0596

Email: info@hollygirt.co.uk

Website: www.hollygirt.co.uk



Published July 2023