

## A TIME OF CELEBRATION

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many cultures celebrate the return of spring, people of the Jewish faith celebrate Pass-over which commemorates when the Jewish people were freed from slavery to Egypt, according to History. Spring for Christians is marked by Easter which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ and his triumph over physical death. Muslims will be observing Ramadan which teaches them to practice self-discipline, self-control, sacrifice, and empathy for those who are less fortunate, thus encouraging actions of generosity and compulsory charity (zakat). Muslims also believe fasting helps instill compassion for the food-insecure poor.

Spring helps us to understand the importance of embracing and adapting to change over time. Over the past two years COVID has certainly put this to the test. Part of returning to some form of normality means our Year 11 pupils will be sitting external exams this year. While they may be feeling the pressures of preparing for exams and transition onto further education, I ask that our pupils and their families see the Easter Holiday as a chance to also spend quality time together with your families.

The arrival of Spring may have its drawbacks to our health with fluctuating allergies in the changing of seasons, but overall it is a positive season of new beginnings in weather, agriculture and self-awareness to take care of ourselves, and our surroundings. Ashley College puts wellbeing at the heart of our school, encouraging pupils and staff to look after themselves and well as an awareness of wider issues. We hope that over the Easter Holidays you will be able to participate in some community activities and tend to your environment as well as yourselves.

**Headteacher R.Shiyani**



As a small provision we ensure that every Friday afternoon our pupils still participate in physical activities. During the Spring term pupils had the opportunity to go to the Harrow climbing and the Vale Farm Gym.

*"The gym was really fun. I would like to do more of it. I really liked exercising"*

**Tasha**



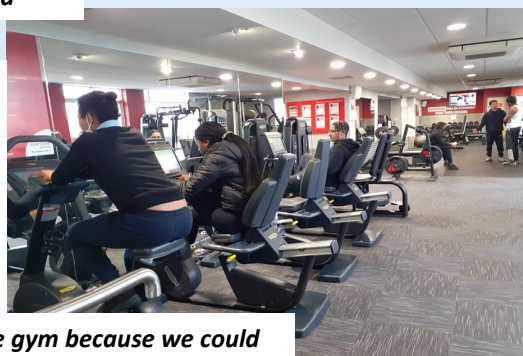
*"I enjoyed the climbing wall because we were supervised by staff who helped us on the different levels. Each level required different skills, I think everyone enjoyed the challenge and the work out."*

**Lewi**

*"I really enjoyed the gym because we could all go off and work on our own things."*

**Skye**

## Keeping Fit and Healthy!



## Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford -Upon -Avon

We were very fortunate to have the opportunity to see a live performance of William Shakespeare's comedic play *Much Ado About Nothing* in The Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-Upon-Avon. The play tells the story of two very different couples who fall in love but this particular Royal Shakespeare Company production is set in a futuristic world which also invokes images from ancient African Kingdoms.



**Caroline O'Gara**

*"I really liked the way they blended Shakespearean language with Patois and Pigeon English. I also liked the costume design because they used traditional African dress combined with futuristic images."*

*Kiyah-Marie*



### Reflections on my trip to Stratford-upon-Avon to see Shakespeare's, *Much Ado About Nothing*.

*I was really excited to go on this trip. At first, I did not want to. The coach journey was really smooth and I read some books. When we arrived, we first had lunch. Yummy! Anne-Marie told me I was in her group and Anne Marie said, "We have the best seats, we are on the bottom floor". My heart skipped a beat as I ran down the stairs excitedly to find our seats. I felt had the VIP treatment.*

*People around me were starting to get frustrated as we waited for more than 30 minutes for the play to begin. A woman dressed all in black came onto the stage told us "we are having some delays and I will update you in 10 minutes." There were sounds of groans from every direction as you can imagine. I looked at Anne-Marie and we waited. My mind was wondering about all the possibilities (the worst ones) that could be happening backstage. After what felt like years, the lady returned and curiously I leaned forward to hear what she said but all she came back with was the same news.*

*Anne-Marie and I went to get another drink and some biscuits to eat as the play did not look as if it was going to start yet. After we had finished, we slowly went back and returned to our seats. The woman came out again to tell us the play was going to start. I sat back and waited for it to begin.*

*I loved all the characters but the one that stood out for me was Beatrice because she is a loving and generous character like me. She is clever, funny, and very sharp and this was shown in the way she likes to play with words.*

**By Tasha**



As part of our innovation strategy we have been incorporating the use of new technologies.

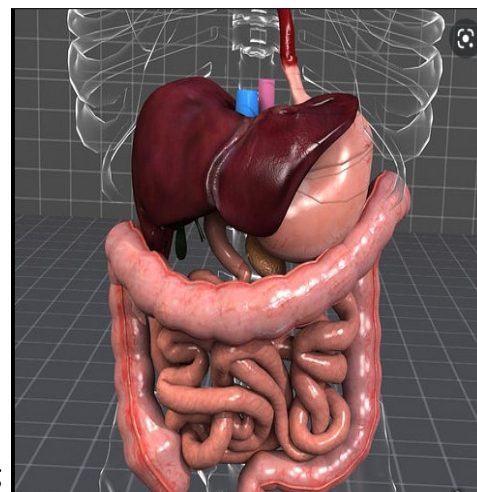
In Science pupils have been using Virtual Reality (VR) head sets to explore the world outside of the classroom.

The Year 10's made good use of the VR equipment to further their understanding of the digestive system. Although some students found looking at

diagrams from text needed a little adjustment, all were impressed by the experience of seeing in 3D the journey from the mouth through the stomach and intestines.

**Frank Ofori- Sampong**

### VIRTUAL SCIENCE



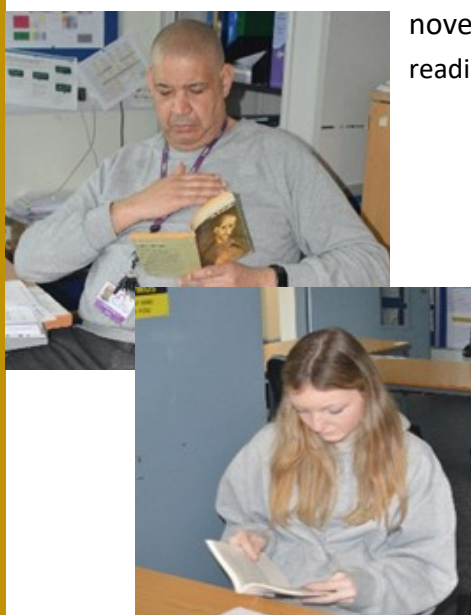


## World Book Day

For World Book Day this year, we joined teachers and students across the UK to celebrate our appreciation for reading. All the students and staff got together to read extracts from novels they have enjoyed at some point in their lives; some students brought their own favourite book in whilst others read from a selection of extracts that were compiled for this occasion. The readings were from novels as diverse as *The Kite Runner* by Khalid Hosseini, *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky, *I know why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou, *The Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison and *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens.



All of the students read with fluency and confidence and some spoke at length about their choice of novel. This is what the National Literacy Trust says about the importance of reading for pleasure:



*Research by The Reading Agency, National Literacy Trust and others has shown that reading for pleasure promotes mental wellbeing by helping children to relax, reducing anxiety and stress. It can help children develop empathy by experiencing the world through someone else's eyes. They will also begin to understand themselves better as they explore different emotions, identities and experiences.*

*The key to encouraging reading for pleasure is to allow children to read what they want. According to the UK Literacy Agency, "If children want to pick up a book, comic or magazine, choose their own reading material and enjoy reading, they are far more likely to continue reading, become effective readers and gain from the countless ensuing benefits." (11<sup>th</sup> August 2020)*

Caroline O'Gara

A couple of Maths problems for your to have a go at!

## MATHS CONUNDRUMS



### BALANCING ACT

Eight of the nine metal balls shown have the same weight and the other one is heavier. How can you use a balance to identify the heavier ball in just two weighings?



Not to scale (it's a joke!)

### The Handshake Problem

There are 50 people in a room.

Each person shakes hands with each other person exactly once.

How many handshakes will take place?



For the answers email me on:

[abenamara@ashleycollege.nbrent.sch.uk](mailto:abenamara@ashleycollege.nbrent.sch.uk)

Kader Benamara

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE SUMMER TERM

- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - Students return to School. Normal start time.  
 Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - Parent/Carer Progress Review and Target Setting Day  
 @ 3.30pm – 6.30pm.

**HALF TERM : MONDAY 30th May - FRIDAY 3rd June**

- Thursday 30th June 2022 - Year 11 Leaver Event  
 Thursday 21st July 2022 - END OF SUMMER TERM

Whenever you need to talk



### Elefriends (part of MIND UK)

A supportive online community where you can be yourself. We all know what it's like to struggle sometimes, but now there's a safe place to listen, share and be heard. Whether you're feeling good right now, or really low, it's a safe place to share experiences and listen to others. Elefriends is moderated daily by the Ele handler team from 10am-midnight.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/support-community-elefriends/>



### Hub of Hope

The Hub of Hope is the UK's leading mental health support database. It is provided by national mental health charity, Chasing the Stigma, and brings local, national, peer, community, charity, private and NHS mental health support and services together in one place for the first time. <https://hubofhope.co.uk>

For Activities over the holidays and outside of school hours for pupils with ASD please visit the BOAT website: [www.brent.gov.uk/boat](http://www.brent.gov.uk/boat)

Or contact them : [boat@brent.gov.uk](mailto:boat@brent.gov.uk)



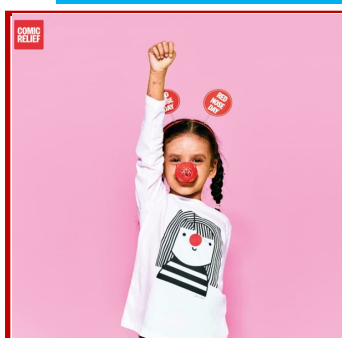
## ASHLEY COLLEGE

ASHLEY GARDENS

WEMBLEY HA9 8NP

Tel: 020 8937 3330

Email: [admin@ashleycollege.brent.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashleycollege.brent.sch.uk)



*Thank you to the pupils, parents and staff who helped raise £50 for Comic Relief 2022*

When there is adverse weather, don't forget to check our website for information about school opening at:

[www.ashleycollege.brent.sch.uk](http://www.ashleycollege.brent.sch.uk)



2019-2022



HEALTHY SCHOOLS  
LONDON



MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL

**DIVERSITY  
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