



SHIRELAND COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER



2020

WINTER

'HEAD'LINE

Dear families,

This has been an incredibly challenging term for all of our community. We have had to deal with some of the largest disruptions to the way school is run in all of my 20 plus years of teaching. However, I am very proud of the approach that students, families and staff have taken to address these issues. We have had very little cross infection in the school community despite some of the highest infection rates in the country in the areas that we serve.



We have continued to provide high quality education despite having staff delivering remotely into school and also delivering remotely to students who have had to isolate or whom we have had to have working remotely due to capacity issues. The quality of the remote education provided continues to be of the highest quality. I have been pleased to see that the majority of students have engaged with this remote education when they have been absent from the Academy.

Usually our newsletter is packed with extracurricular activities that the students have taken part in with descriptions of successes and challenges they have overcome and exciting experiences and I am hugely disappointed that this has been somewhat curtailed by the restrictions in place. I am hopeful that following the Christmas break that we will be in a position to restart some of the exciting opportunities. I look forward to sharing these with you in our next Newsletter

I hope that you have a safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year holiday and look forward to welcoming the students back in January.

Mr Irish
Principal

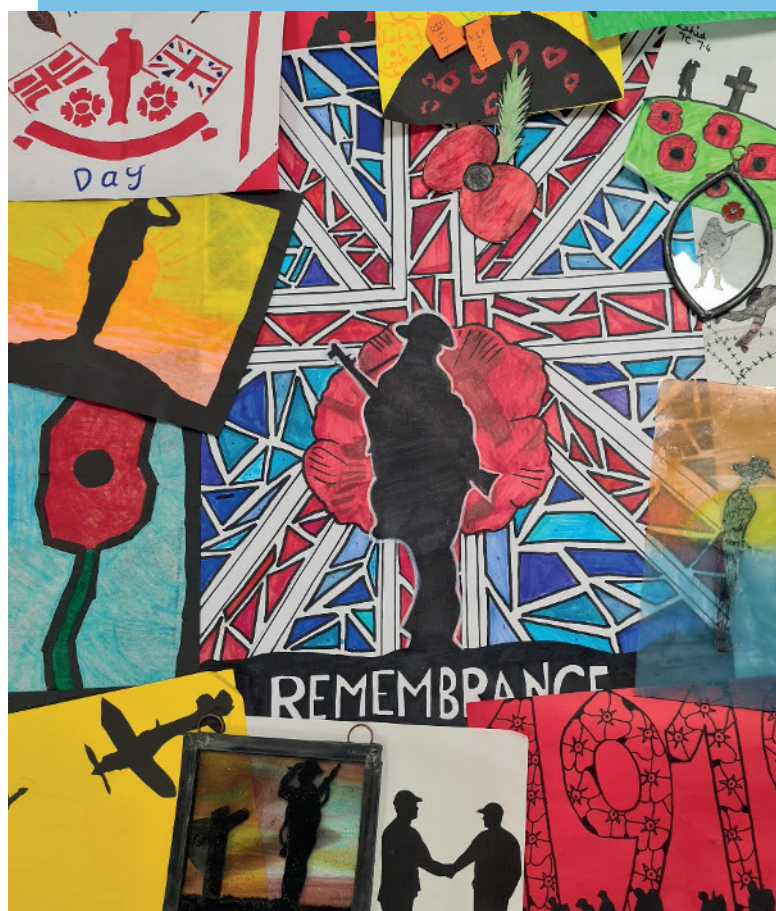


SHIRELAND
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

Remembrance Day Competition

In November, Year 7 and 8 students took part in an art competition for Remembrance Day. Students were given the task to create a stained-glass window design that reflects and remembers those who fought in past conflicts for our freedoms today.

We had truly amazing pieces of artwork submitted, but Mahnoor Ibrahim's impressive artwork took first place, closely followed by Rafay Mufty's and Breanna Walsh's entries. In addition to this, students donated a massive £132.81, all of which went to the Royal British Legion.



Goldilocks Trial

Year 7 students are currently exploring the Fairy Tales Theme. As part of the theme, all Year 7 classes took part in a Streetlaw Workshop, delivered by students from BPP University Law School. The aim of the event was to develop a better understanding of a crime. Students had an opportunity to act out a trial, which helped them to learn about the different roles in the courtroom. The final activity was to decide what sentence the defendant could be given.

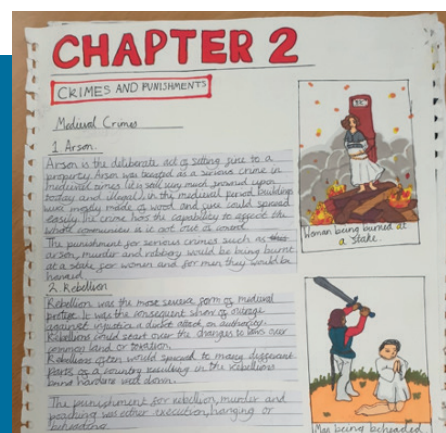
MyON

Students in our Academy have now access to MyON, which is an online library. They can select e-books using the features that MyON offers. For example, they can narrow down their searches to the right reading level or they can select the topics that they are interested in.

The History Project

Year 7 students have completed their first project – Life in the Middle Ages in Britain. They researched and gathered information about medieval towns and villages, crime and punishment, diseases and medicine. The best projects contained several hand drawn pictures, e.g. a medieval form of punishment.

This booklet was produced by Kainene Felix in Miss Pooni's class, 7F. The drawings beautifully illustrate the ideas presented inside.



Year 9

Sandwell Council Meeting, September 2020

Sandwell Council asked a selection of volunteers from our Years 9, 10 and 11 to provide feedback on a series of new ideas for the local community.

Through an online Teams call, members of our local council pitched their ideas and projects to our students who gave their honest opinions about which ones would make Smethwick an even greater place in which to live, work and be part of the community.

It was such an interesting opportunity to see how councils invest into towns and it also allowed our young people to make their voices and opinions heard. The council were so impressed with their feedback and co-operation. Well done and thank you to all students who took part.

New Councillors and Form Reps announced!

After several sessions of preparation through the Personal Development curriculum, many of the year 9 students took on the challenge of applying to be Form Reps and Student Council members for 2020-21. So many applied and had some fantastic ideas on how they would like to improve areas of the school or how they would like to use the platform to represent the voices of their year group.

A huge congratulations to our successful candidates and wishing you success in your new roles!



9A
Melody
Kankum



9B
Ayyatulahi
Adigun



9C
Amna
Iqbal



9D
Rania
Muflani



9E
Yuvraj
Singh



9F
Abdirahman
Abdullahi



9G
Viktor
Tomczak



9H
Mohammed
Rayn



9I
Samuel
Lloyd

"I am so excited to start working with such a talented and confident bunch of young people! I am looking forward to seeing their ideas come to life in our school community."

Miss Sheffield – Head of Year 9

Year 9

Year 9 Options Taster Day

On Wednesday 4th November, our Year 9 students embarked on their first step towards the Options Process. They were given the opportunity to test what it would be like to study both old and new subjects from a GCSE perspective.

In Travel and Tourism, students participated in a virtual field trip where they visited key tourist attractions in England such as, Stonehenge, Buckingham Palace, the Lake District and the Roman Baths. Students got the opportunity to explore these key attractions from a tourist's perspective. Students then took part in a Visit England activity discovering the main appeal of England as a tourist destination.

In Art, the students were influenced by Ben Wilson to create "chewing gum paintings" using Blue Tac instead of chewing gum.



In Drama the students created their own 'Camp Fire Stories' and performed these, complete with their own choice of stage lighting, in the Theatre. They were brilliant at adapting to the new way of working within practical lessons, following all the rules so that we could work safely. The performances from all students were engaging and creative, and clearly demonstrated the high level of acting talent we have within our Year 9 students at Shireland. Congratulations to all students who were involved in the Drama taster sessions.

Year 9s who chose PE as one of their Tasters spent the time testing their fitness in the Sports Hall to see how they compared to the average 14 year old. Students worked their way around a series of fitness tests to gauge aspects of their fitness such as agility, co-ordination, flexibility and reaction time. Based on these tests they were able to identify their strengths and weaknesses with the goal of improving their sport.

Head of Year 9 tips to success:

- Year 9 is a challenging but exciting year – be engaged, listen to advice, and perform to your highest standards across all subjects
- Be yourself and give everything 100%
- Ask questions and feed curiosity
- Be kind to everyone – we are all dealing with different things, sometimes a hello, a good morning and a smile is enough to make anyone's day
- Tap into a growth mindset and see the positives of every opportunity

Year 10

Class Representatives

I would like to congratulate the following students for their successful election to the position of class representative. Each student has been identified as having the attributes required to play a key role in student leadership at Shireland. I am excited about the year to come and am looking forward to working alongside these outstanding young people. Well done to all of you.

10B1 - Rabiathou Camara

10B2 - Armando Marin

10C1 - Sukhraj Singh

10C2 - Jaya Bhatt

10K1 - Rushma Khan

10K2 - Haider Wahid

10T1 - Aminah Shahid

10T2 - Ibrahim Hassan

Year 11

Leaving Committee

Some of our Year 11 students have formed a wonderful committee showing their dedication to the organisation of the end of year rewards. This committee has discussed and shared ideas around leavers books, hoodies and a potential school party (Covid dependent) celebrating their 5 years at Shireland. The students have shown dedication to their year group and will be sure to organise something special in the summer of 2021. The committee hold weekly meetings and share ideas as a group, posing thoughts and wishes whilst respecting other ideas too. "it has been wonderful to sit back and see such strong determined young people use the skills they have built up over the years in such a collaborative way. This is again another example of how the transferable skills used throughout their academic life sets our students up for their future aspirations" Mrs Prince HoY 11



We sadly say goodbye but say a huge thank you to our Head boy and Head Girl and the Year 11 Student council for their amazing work conducted over the past 2 years! It has been a joy to see them get so involved and see much they inspired those around them. They were always up for any challenge and will be remembered in particular for their ability to turn their hands to anything. As one of their final tasks as Head Boy and Girl Charlie and Aliza recently took part in a live question and answer session sharing some wonderful ideas from year 7, 8 and 9. We hope this inspired some of our younger students to take that step and realise their potential as representatives for the academy in the future!

Sixth Form

Futures Programme

Year 13s attended the annual personal statement conference at the start of term – albeit virtually! An excellent opportunity for each student to receive some individual advice and guidance on the quality of their personal statements. Thank you to all who contributed, including representatives from Highways England, Turn Town, Coventry University, Birmingham City University, Aston University, University of Birmingham and Hill Top Pharmacy.

As a result of this fantastic opportunity, we have seen applications to university remain buoyant during these uncertain times, with destinations including University of Oxford, Russell Group Universities (Birmingham, Warwick, UCL, King's College London and Bristol) as well as our local universities. The range of subjects that students are applying to read include medicine, computer science, midwifery, psychology and modern languages. In order to further support our students with the next step of their application each student is receiving a tailor-made mock interview late this term. We wish all our students the very best with their applications.

Meanwhile, our Year 12s are just embarking on their Futures Programme and this term's theme is exploring options. Whilst external visitors are not able to visit the Academy at this time we have not let this stop us from helping students explore their option post Sixth Form. A wide range of virtual talks have been available for our students covering topics such as Gap Year opportunities, the benefits of university, apprenticeship opportunities and employment key skills. A big thank you to representatives from De Montford University, Sheffield University, Avta Marway, University of Gloucestershire and NCU for giving their time to support our students.



SHIRELAND
SIXTH FORM



Transferable skill programme

The transferable skills programme offers our students the opportunity to develop their skills at Sixth Form to prepare them for study now and at university, as well as the world of work.

This term our students have completed workshops on diverse topics including research skills, building a social media profile, study skills and revision, critical thinking and academic writing, time management and reading to study.

A round up of other news in the 6th Form

We want to say a big well done to all our 6th Form students on completing what has been a challenging term. Our students are an absolute credit to us and to their families.

Attendance in the Academy and to online lessons has remained very high throughout the term and this is testament to the importance our students place on their education. We appreciate that our 6th Form Experience is not just about studying; our wellbeing is just as important.

The 6th Form student leadership team is working hard to provide light relief for our student, including donut day on Fridays, taking part in charitable events such as #HelloYellow and Christmas Jumper Day 2020. Follow us on our Instagram page and twitter to find out more news.

Dance

Year 9 Options Focus Day

The Year 9 options focus day was as busy as ever for the Dance Department, with 19 students taking part in a GCSE inspired workshop. All students worked practically and adhered to social distancing measures, managing themselves extremely well in the space.

They had great fun exploring one of the 6 professional works of the course, Emancipation of Expressionism by Kenrick H2O Sandy, an urban style piece that requires focus, precision and strength in movement quality.

"A wonderful day and amazing to see the students working so creatively in the space! It was lovely to work in such a friendly positive atmosphere with such wonderful students who were clearly ready to get moving again!" Miss Hughes.



Year 9 Options Taster Day

On Wednesday 4th November 2020, the Year 12 A-Level Dance students had access to the dance studio for the entire day. They were able to experience 4 professional practitioners in a workshop to support their solo elements of the course.

"It was so nice to see the dancers in full swing enjoying and embracing the space and experience. They conducted themselves so well adhering to social distancing measures and decided who they would choose going forward for their solo elements of the course. The day was a success all round. Most of all, it was so lovely to see the dancers in the space doing what they do best."

Mrs Prince

Drama

Acting for Camera Workshops

Our Sixth form Drama students have been taking part in Acting for Camera Workshops, exploring the technical skills required of both the actor and the film crew. Both Year 12 and 13 students are working within the genre of murder mystery for their final pieces. Year 12 are recreating scenes from Agatha Christie's 'And Then There Were None', an exciting locked room murder mystery, and Year 13 are filming their own script, written by Rushda Khan (13FBY), based on a group of trainee detectives who have been set a cold case to try to solve as part of their training. All of our sixth form Drama students have engaged exceptionally well with the projects and we look forward to seeing the final films when they are released after Christmas!



Virtual Backstage Tour of Birmingham Hippodrome

As we were unable to run our usual backstage tour trip this term, Birmingham Hippodrome have provided us with access to a virtual tour instead! Our Year 10 Drama students were guided around Birmingham Hippodrome by one of the technical directors, gaining access to areas such as the main stage, the fly floor, the prompt desk, the technical box, and the wings. The virtual tour gave students information about the history of Birmingham Hippodrome, some insight into the different job roles involved in a big show and an explanation of the equipment used. The virtual tour was really informative and thoroughly enjoyable.

Careers in the Creative Industry Workshops

Our Sixth Form Drama students have been studying careers within the Creative Arts Industry. They have been able to work with Ben Hallworth, Learning Officer from Hippodrome Education Network, to explore different careers and pathways to those careers. They have had access to Digital Masterclass resources, created by Birmingham Hippodrome, in which a number of industry professionals, including a Choreographer, Lead Technician, Visual Artist, and an Artistic Director, outline their day-to-day lives within the job role and give advice to students who wish to work in that field. It has been a very useful and interesting experience for the students.

Languages

Autumn Activities

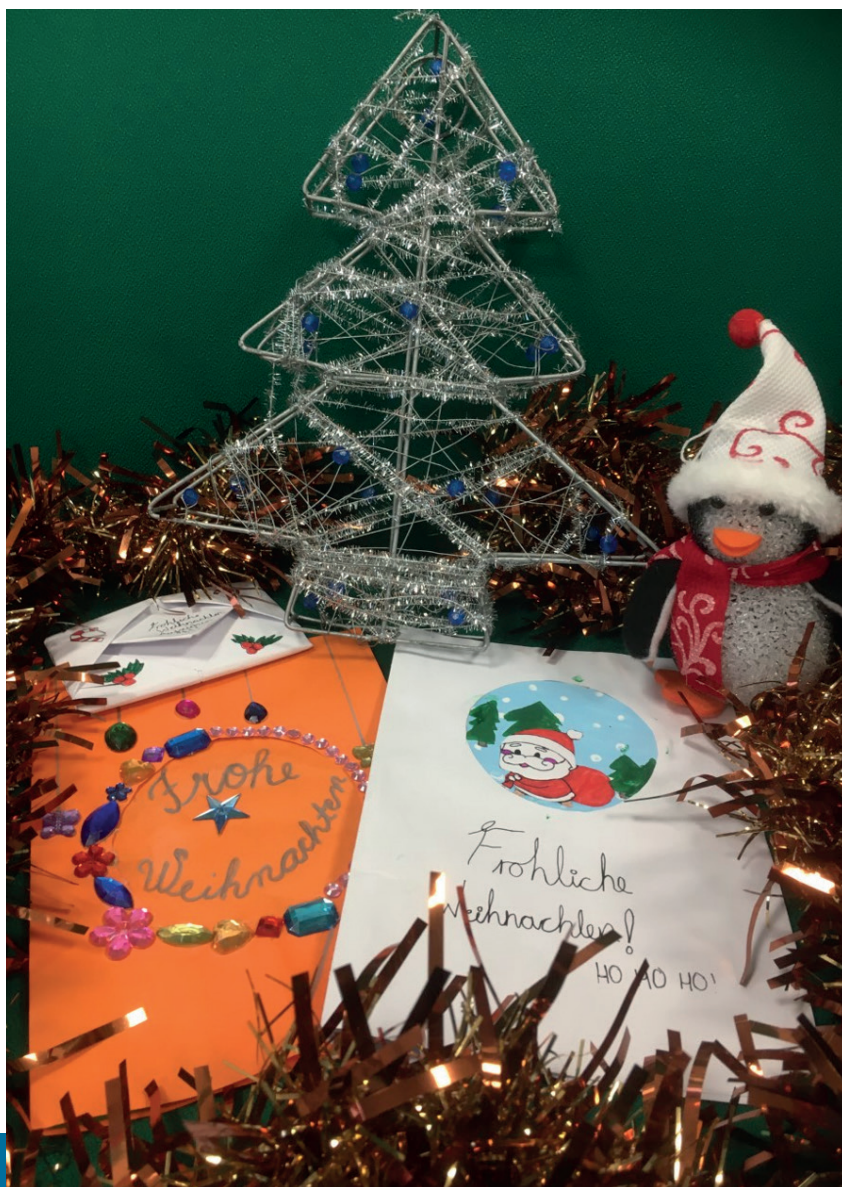
We are always very proud of our GCSE and A-Level German classes, but this year has been such a challenging year for everybody and we are so proud of the way they have all participated in the lessons with the usual enthusiasm and gusto! We know that they will continue to work hard over the coming weeks and months to achieve their well-deserved success!

Lower down the school in KS3, who are working equally as hard in difficult circumstances, Year 9 German have been learning all about Festivals and Traditions in German-speaking countries this term. The tradition of the 'Erster Schultag' (The First Day of School) is always an interesting topic and this year has been no exception! The students have made their own "Schultüte" - a cone made from paper or cardboard which is filled with sweets, toys and small gifts to make the first day of school much sweeter for the children in German primary schools!



We have also introduced a German Christmas Card Competition for Years 7 and 8 this year and are looking forward to choosing a winner at the end of term!

Frohe Weihnachten und einen guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr - from all of us in the Languages Department!



Focus Days

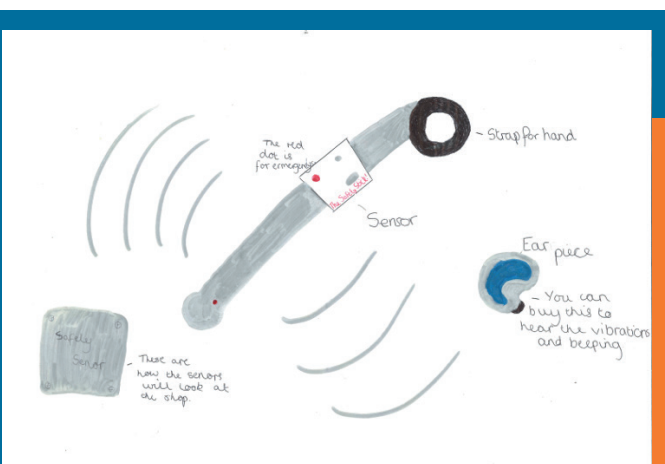
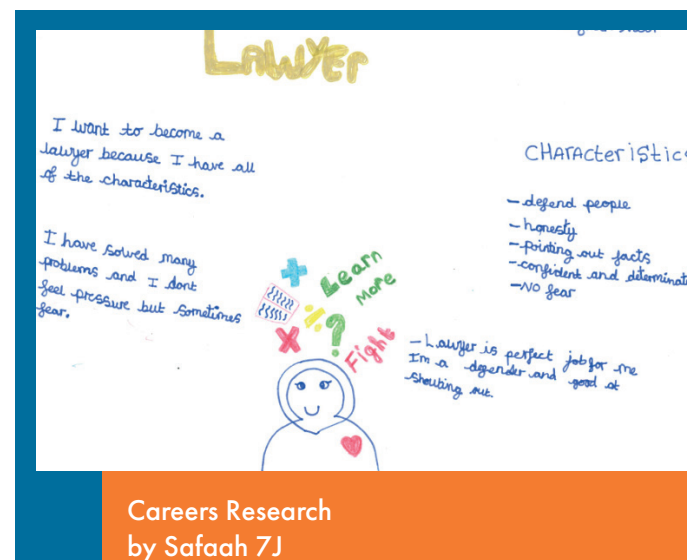
We had a fantastic Focus Day on 4th November in which students had the chance to engage in a real breadth of topics such as personal finance, careers and mathematical movement. I am really looking forward to the recommencement of Focus Days and having the opportunity to see all of the inventive, creative and wonderful learning that emerges when students are given the opportunity to really immerse themselves in a subject for the day.

Mrs Reed, Head of Focus Days.

Careers

Careers-minded Year Seven students spent a lively and creative Focus Day thinking about their future occupations. As part of the Year Seven L4L Personal Development curriculum, Careers Guidelines and Education is becoming an increasingly important aspect of the Year Seven experience. The Focus Day started by enabling students to use online tools to explore a range of potential careers and to write a CV.

The afternoon gave the children the opportunity to work in groups to showcase their ingenuity and entrepreneurial skills by creating, developing and presenting a product, service or app that would help people in society. We saw some very thoughtful ideas, such as a sign language translation phone app and a service to ensure that students don't forget to do their homework. Year Seven students enjoyed the day, which ended with them creating targets to help them to reach their career goals.



The Safety Stick was designed to help visually impaired people navigate the one-way systems around supermarkets during Covid-19. The stick would vibrate if the user went down the wrong way.

It was created by: Hafiza, Kejsi, Mohammed & Farhaan, all in 7J.

Focus Days

Grand Designs

As part of their Grand Designs theme, Year Eight students spent their Focus Days researching some of the most amazing architectural buildings in the world today, including the Taj Mahal. Students used their artistic skills to recreate some of these buildings and demonstrate an understanding of architectural form. Furthermore, the theme of Grand Designs was extended to building students' knowledge of personal finance – a skill that our students have said is really important to them. Students spent time learning about mortgages and why budgeting is so important when you are a home-owner.

Options Taster Day

The Options Focus Day was a chance for us to familiarise ourselves with, and understand, the subjects that we could choose to take for the next two years. It was a great opportunity to see what those subjects had in store for us and whether they were exam based, involved a lot of practical skills and how much coursework was involved. It was really useful, especially with subjects that we had never taken before like Computer Science, Triple Science and Health and Social Care. This day essentially allowed us to see what the next two years of our lives would be like and to ensure that we enjoyed what we were doing. Overall, it was an exciting day that allowed many students to make their minds up about their future courses, which is not an easy decision. It was an enjoyable day that we all looked forward to and it helped to make the options process easier.

Maths

Year 11 Band A spent the day focusing on 'mathematical movement'. They built on work they had learnt earlier in Years Nine and Ten and focussed on enlarging shapes using fractional and negative scale factors. The day consisted of them drawing and visualising where objects would move, requiring them to be accurate and precise with their drawings. Some classes worked on vectors and started with visual diagrams and have built up their understanding to be able to calculate with vectors without using diagrams. Overall students have improved their understanding of this unit and were able to tackle exam questions with more ease.



Other News

Charity Boxes

Shireland staff and Year 9 students have been collecting for their Christmas shoebox charity this half term. The shoe boxes will be given to "Teams 4 U" who run a nationwide appeal each year to provide Christmas gifts to vulnerable children and families. Students have donated gifts such as toys, books, colouring pens and practical gifts such as toothpaste and face cloths. They have shown amazing generosity when tasked with helping those less fortunate than themselves. Thank you to everyone who donated.



Debate Mate

Our incredible debaters took part in two Urban Debate League Finals during October.

Reaching the finals of the Urban Debate League is a great achievement in itself!

The Shireland A team comprising of Rushma, Sanjiv, Abdullahi and Sara in Year 10 debated with passion and eloquence, but unfortunately came up short - taking their first loss in many years. They were exceptional and had to oppose a very difficult motion, so we are incredibly proud of them.

For our Novice team comprising of Rania, Makonnen, Leighton and Salma in Year 9 it was their first year of debating and they have come along in leaps and bounds; so much so that they were successful in their debate, overcoming all obstacles to claim the title! The motion they had to oppose was tricky, but their passion and clarity of argument won the day.

Both debating teams have contributed to upholding our tradition of success in Debate Mate competitions which now stands as follows:

2019-20 - Core National League Winners and National Cup Finalists (runners up)

2019-20 - Debate Mate Midlands League Winners

2019-20 - Novice National Champions

2018-19 - Debate Mate West Midlands Cup Winners

2018-19 - DM Best Club Winners

2017-18 - Debate Mate West Midlands League Winners (and cup finalists - runners up)

2017-18 - DM Best Club Winners

2016-17 Debate Mate West Midlands Cup Winners



Other News

Smethwick Towns Fund Consultation

Smethwick was bidding for up to 25 million of Towns Fund funding from the Government. Before the shortlist was finalised, Smethwick Council requested a consultation meeting with a selection of students from Years 9-11, to get their views and ideas on how shortlisted projects could be enhanced.

These Are The Jokes Folks

Who is Santas favourite Singer?

Elfish Presley

How did Mary and Joseph know Jesus' weight when he was born? *They had a weigh in a manger!*

What do you call a deer with no eyes? *No idea!*

What do you call a deer with no eyes and no legs? *Still no idea!*

Only six allowed at Christmas but 30 for a funeral.

*I will be holding a funeral for my pet turkey
that sadly passed away on the 25th of December.*

Why is parliament like ancient Bethlehem?

It takes a miracle to find three wise men in there.

What did Adam say the day before Christmas? *It's Christmas, Eve!*

What do you call an old snowman? *Water.*

What do Scientists put up at Christmas? *A Chemis-tree*

Why couldn't Mary and Joseph join their work conference call?

Because there was no Zoom at the inn.

Did you hear that production was down in Santa's workshop?

Too many of the workers have had to elf-isolate!