



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM  
SCHOOL

# UOB SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Spring Edition 2024 | Issue 12



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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



*Pictured: Principal Colin Townsend with members of the Pupil Guild*

Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends of the School,

I write with the spring 2024 term now behind us, to introduce the University School's spring newsletter. Whilst unusually short as a term, you will recognise the School's same high expectations and rounded provision for pupils and students.

I delight in the breadth and number of activities, excursions, expeditions, enrichment, and wider learning opportunities that have occurred, alongside our day-to-day core business in and out of the classroom. These support so richly our intent to widen horizons, open eyes, and foster character.

The photograph on this page introduces to you the Members of our Pupil Guild – elected young leaders of our year groups who bring forward pupil voice and advocate democratically for their peers. Our School aim for pupils and students to flourish helps our children become capable, confident, and caring citizens – finding and living a life with purpose. Our Pupil Guild Members are fine role models in all of those intentions.

We look ahead to the summer term from Tuesday 09 April 2024 – and indeed preparations for the coming School year 2024/25. We now know the details of the children and families who will be joining the University School from September 2024 into Year 7, and our minds are already focused on induction plans to ease anxieties that can understandably arise from transfer from primary to secondary schooling. I extend a warm welcome to our new families as we look ahead.

For our pupils in Year 11 and students in Year 13, teachers and leaders at the School continue to prioritise a range of academic and pastoral preparation – empathetic of the important tasks ahead for those young people – and ambitious to support each to successful progression come August.

If your child is a member of one of our public examination cohorts I encourage that you support them in putting in place a balanced revision programme over the two week School holiday period – alongside time for rest, relaxation, and recreation. When the examination period arrives, we wish all of our children success.

To close, whilst we all enjoy a short time over this holiday period to rest and breathe, we find ourselves also at holy periods. I therefore wish you Ramadan Mubarak, happy Holi, and a peaceful Easter.

With kindest regards,

**Colin Townsend**  
**Principal**

In appreciation of all of our staff, pupil, and student leaders:

**“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.”**

*John Quincy Adams (1767-1848)*  
*American Statesman and Sixth President of the United States*



# STUDENT STANDS AS CANDIDATE FOR YOUTH PARLIAMENT



**"These experiences provided me with the opportunity and platform to amplify the voices of young people in my community."**

I received the opportunity to stand as a candidate for member of the Youth Parliament (MYP) with the Birmingham Youth City Board – a group dedicated to empowering young people in Birmingham. Many regions have similar youth boards and hold elections for the UK Youth Parliament. These elections provide young people with the chance to represent their peers and advocate for important issues on a national level. It's a great way for young people to get involved with politics and make a difference in their communities.

In order to stand as a candidate in most regions, you have to be a member of a youth board and present your manifesto to the board members.

In the two years that I have served as a MYP for Birmingham, I have worked on multiple issues and campaigns including free school meals and voting at 16, working with local groups and councils to discuss issues affecting Birmingham youth.

I have liaised with civil servants from various government departments and I have worked with the West Midlands Police. I was able to provide input on policing strategies

and community engagement initiatives.

The highlight of my term as a MYP has been the opportunity to speak at the dispatch box at the House of Commons which was aired live on BBC Parliament and on YouTube. I also attended annual conferences allowing me to network with other MYPs and gain a better understanding of the youth perspective on a national level.

Citizenship education is critical for young people because it provides them with the knowledge, skills, and values required for active participation in society. Young people become more empowered and involved citizens as they learn about their rights, responsibilities, and democratic procedures that control their lives. Citizenship education promotes critical thinking, social responsibility, and respect for diversity, encouraging young people to make constructive contributions to their communities and advocate for social change. It promotes democratic principles and global awareness, preparing individuals to make educated decisions, respect others, and work towards a more inclusive and fair society.

*By Hardik S, Sixth Form Student.*

# RUGBY AT TWICKENHAM



12 pupils from Year 7 and Year 8 were given an exciting opportunity to participate in the Girls Rugby Showcase Event at Twickenham Stadium, home of the England National Rugby Team. The girls enjoyed playing in a tournament including over 30 schools across the country, meeting England Rugby legends like James Haskell and Amber Reed, and watching an elite Rugby match from the best seats in the house! Mr Bennett, Miss Dunne, and Mr Hayes were immensely proud of the girls and all that they achieved. A special mention to Amelie, Sophia, and Ella who scored a try at Twickenham – not something many people can say they've done!

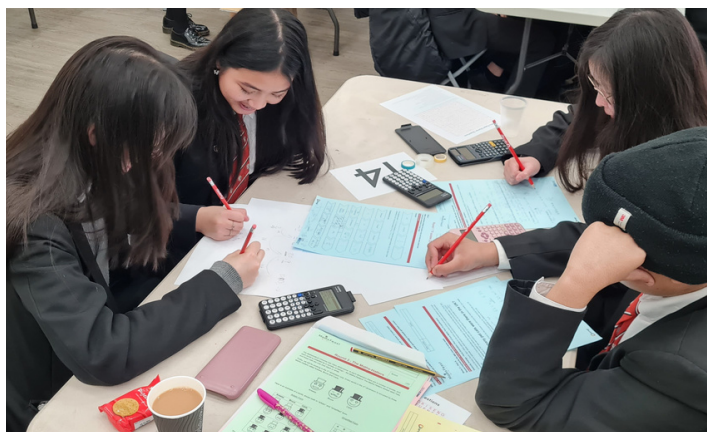




# NUMBER CRUNCHERS

Our Year 10 mathematicians have been busy competing in a series of challenging, number based competitions this term. The first took 22 pupils to the University of Birmingham to take part in the 'Big Maths Quiz' where pupils competed against several other schools in a series of puzzle rounds. Whilst our teams did not receive any podium positions, they all showed great curiosity, resilience, and tenacity when representing the School. Well done to you all.

To celebrate International Pi Day, 8 pupils took part in a regional Maths Fest at Ark Victoria Academy. Our 2 teams were among 15 other teams competing in problem solving rounds which challenged their logic, maths, and problem solving abilities, as well as their origami skills! The pupils made us very proud with their determination and ability to work together. Our teams won the award for best teamwork skills and for first place in round 1 of 4!



# SILVER DofE AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh Award plays a huge role in pupil and student holistic development here at UoB School. This term, 34 Year 10 pupils ventured into the rugged forestry terrain of Cannock Chase to complete their Practice Expedition.

Participants trekked 48 kilometers over the course of three days in wet conditions, advancing their practical map skills and campcraft, ready for their Qualifying Expedition to Church Stretton in July. When not in the field, participants continued working hard completing their volunteering, physical, and skills section of the award.

Looking ahead into April, our Gold Practice Expedition journeys through the wild countryside of Brecon Beacons National Park in South Wales.



# OUR SIXTH FORM



*Image: Year 13 students present their research on Rocket Fuel.*

## Year 13 Aspire Group

The Aspire Group is a Sixth Form initiative to support Year 13 students who are aiming to apply for competitive universities or have the academic prowess to apply. It aims to provide a platform for students to further nurture and enhance their academic knowledge, critical thinking, and communication skills.

The sessions so far have focussed on academic discussion and on wider reading on topics they have a particular interest in. Students then get the chance to present the information to their peers. This approach not only allows students to delve deeper into topics that intrigue them, but also encourages them to share their own insights, promoting a culture of learning and exchanging of ideas. Topics thus far have included Research on Rocket Fuel, The UNESCO Heritage, The Status of the Baguette, and The Evolution of Dinosaurs into Birds.

By nurturing these skills in a supportive environment like the Aspire Group, students are better equipped to excel in their academic pursuits when applying to university and beyond.

## Alumni Mentoring

We were delighted to have welcomed back 19 Sixth Form Alumni (now undergraduates) this term to deliver 1-on-1 tutoring to our Year 13 A level students. The sessions allow our students to work on assessment papers, go through revision techniques, & ask any questions they may have about examinations coming up.





### **A fascinating insight into the heart of the UK's political system**

The annual visit to the Houses of Parliament is an incredibly enriching experience for our Year 12 A level Politics students. It provides a unique opportunity for students to gain practical insights into the political world beyond what textbooks can offer. Exploring Westminster Hall and the Supreme Court gave them a first-hand look at the historical and judicial significance of these institutions, bringing their learning to life in a tangible way.



These experiences not only enhance the curriculum but also inspire students to engage more deeply with the subject matter, fostering a greater understanding and appreciation for the complexities of politics and governance. Meeting political figures Lord Russell of Liverpool and our local MP Steve McCabe offered students a glimpse into the inner workings of the political world and the opportunity to ask questions.

Such initiatives broaden students' horizons, encouraging them to think critically, ask probing questions, and develop a nuanced understanding of the political landscape. Overall, these experiences play a vital role in shaping informed, engaged, and socially conscious individuals who are prepared to navigate the complexities of the modern world.

### **Our Brilliant Scholars Graduates**

Congratulations to our Year 12 students who recently graduated from the Brilliant Club Scholars Programme at the University of Bath.

This program offers a unique opportunity for students to engage in university-style learning guided by PhD tutors. It's inspiring to see 14 A level students delve into the project 'Who Are We? An Archaeological Approach to Identity', where they honed their research and academic writing skills under the mentorship of PhD researchers. This experience not only expands their knowledge but also prepares them for the transition to university post-sixth form.

Participating in the Scholars Programme enabled students to enhance their critical thinking abilities through various tasks, culminating in a final assignment of 2,500 words, assessed with university grading standards. The dedication and effort these students put into their projects exemplify their commitment to academic excellence and personal growth.

As the partnership with the Brilliant Club continues, the upcoming recruitment drive for new applicants promises more opportunities for students to embark on this enriching academic journey. Here's to the bright futures ahead for these talented scholars!

Brilliant Scholars Club Graduates: Achent S, Nasra A, Tabassum S, Deena A, Hibbah B, Urjuwaan H, Hafsa I, Dominic O, Sofia T, Zaara B, Safwaan A, Francesca T, Umez A, Jacob R.



# SEEKING CHARACTER IN SINGAPORE

In February, sixteen of our pupils and students travelled to Singapore as part of a fully funded expedition by the Turing Scheme. The Turing Scheme aims to encourage school exchanges across different continents allowing young people the chance to explore different cultures and have experiences that are life changing.

The group's visit to The Commonwealth Secondary School provided invaluable insights into character education, allowing them to compare and contrast it with the practices at UoB School. Pupils and students were able to see how character education plays a crucial role in shaping students' attitudes and behaviour.

The group were also able to participate in school lessons and extra-curricular activities, offering first-hand experience of education in Singapore. By engaging in these activities, our pupils and students gained a deeper understanding of the school's values, enriching their overall learning experience.

Pupils and students also explored the rich history and culture of Singapore on their travels, including the country's aim to become a net zero emission country by 2050. Achieving this goal will require significant changes to individual lifestyle behaviours, industry practices, and infrastructure, but it also presents an exciting opportunity for innovation and progress. By learning more about Singapore's history and current environmental goals, the group were able to gain an understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the country and explore how these choices will impact not only its own citizens, but the global community.

*"Visiting Singapore was a life-changing experience for me. Singapore is an incredibly clean and beautiful country and I respect and admire their ambitious sustainability plans and their vision to excel in everything that they do."*

*"We had the most incredible time on our trip and I am so proud of how our pupils and students represented the School so positively."* Miss Powell.

*"I think all of the participants on the trip demonstrated remarkable character throughout. I think their performance virtues have been developed massively as a result of the trip with all demonstrating much increased levels of confidence and teamwork. At the start of the trip we had 16 individuals and by day two we had a cohesive team - a pupil and student body we were one. At various points they demonstrated moral virtues, showing gratitude, compassion, and humility for those around them."* Mr Haslam.

One of our students wanted to share a few highlights from the trip. Here are accounts from Tara's Singapore Diary:

## SINGAPORE DIARIES

### DAY 1: Commonwealth Secondary School

We arrived to the school and were warmly welcomed by staff and students at the entrance. We then had a little introduction by one of their teachers and the Principal, explaining the itinerary for the day.



# SINGAPORE DIARIES

As the school is very big on sustainability, they have a biodiversity habitat and a mini rainforest. The head of the Eco Club, who is also a Biology teacher, gave us a tour of the biodiversity areas and explained all of the things the school does to be more sustainable - like stopping the use of single use water bottles. As a group, we then potted some baby spinach, and helped plant some trees in the school grounds.

We followed our buddies around for the majority of the day and participated in a double literature lesson, an hour of social sciences, and an hour of foundation maths.

We then had our cultural exchange. My group chose to talk about diversity - including diversity in Birmingham, our school, religious diversity, and our own experiences. Our partnered Singaporean group of students then had the chance to ask us questions to discuss diversity and get a better understanding of what character education looks like in the UK.

The Commonwealth Secondary School (CSS) is very similar, but also very different to our School. Despite having a similar ethos, their school was adapted to fit in with the Singaporean culture. One of my favourite 'different' part about the school is that students have language lessons in their mother tongue by specialist language teachers. I feel this helps students to connect more with their own culture. The students of CSS showed a lot of kindness and respect towards us, which was greatly appreciated and returned in favour by UoB School pupils, students, and staff.

The virtue I think I expressed the most throughout the day was humanity, as my social intelligence grew a lot through meeting different people.





# SINGAPORE DIARIES

## DAY 2: Commonwealth Secondary School

As this day was Chinese New Year (CNY) Eve, the school had a shorter day. We were at the school for the whole time and participated in some CNY decoration making, and a quiz on CNY. I learnt a lot about CNY and Chinese culture in the quiz, like how oranges are a very popular fruit at this time as they symbolise prosperity. Hosts and guests exchange an even number of oranges (even numbers are considered as good luck) to wish each other prosperity and goodness.

Later, we watched the school's CNY assembly. The assembly was much bigger than I expected, and involved students and teachers performing dance, singing, and the Principal's speech. There was also some more traditional Chinese celebrations like dragon and lion dancing, Chinese mask changing, and a performance by the drums ensemble.

I enjoyed the assembly as everyone participated in different ways, whether it was through performance, videos, working backstage, or just singing along. It brought about a feeling of togetherness and made the school feel like a close-knit community.





# SINGAPORE DIARIES

## Sustainability in Singapore

Singapore is among the 20 most carbon-efficient countries and is widely known for being the front runner in tackling climate change. Throughout our time there, we explored the different ways that they are currently practising sustainability and their plans for the future.

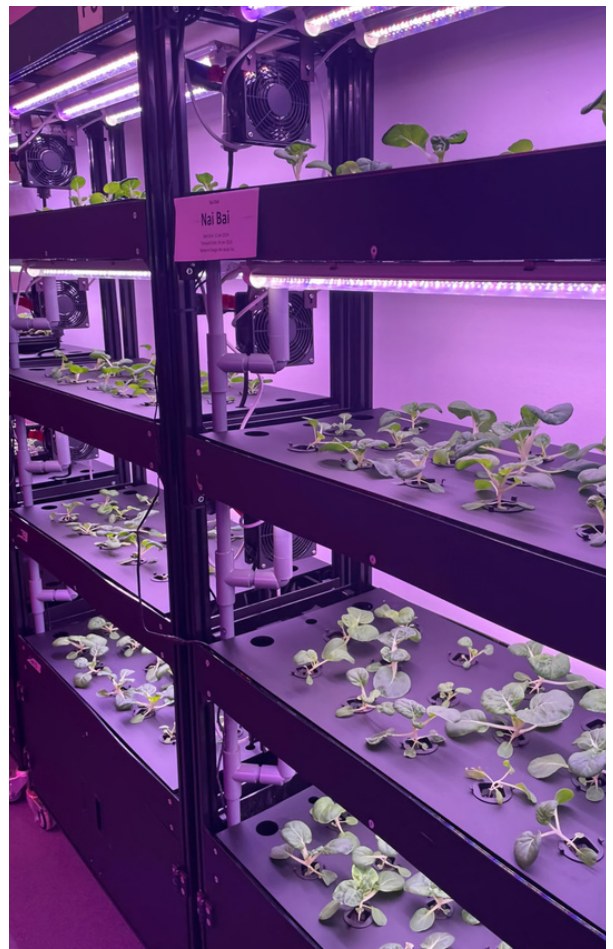
Commonwealth Secondary School is very big on this topic, some of the changes are small and some are big, but they all contribute to helping the wider issue. Starting with some of the smaller changes, the school has banned the use of single use plastic water bottles, and encourage students to bring in reusable bottles. Leading on from this, the school supplied each child with a reusable tupperware lunch box to use when collecting lunch from the canteen. This minimises the plastic waste from the food stalls in the canteen.

Some of the bigger changes include their biodiversity habitats that the school canteen use for produce. This is part of their 'Farm to Fork' scheme which minimises carbon footprint. They also compost all of the food waste and use it to help nourish the growing produce. This creates a zero-waste cycle.

We visited the Sustainable Singapore Gallery and expanded our learning on this topic. As Singapore is a low-lying country, it is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, this has caused the country to be more conscious.

Singapore imports 90% of their food supply, so increasing their local food production is a main priority. One way they do this is through vertical growing (due to lack of horizontal space), and indoor farms that use LED to grow produce, much like the one at CSS.

Water management is another concern. Three key strategies are used: re-using water, collecting water, and desalination.



Sustainable transport is a consideration that we directly used. During our time there, we used the MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) and buses to travel around the city. Singapore is a small country, they heavily promote the use of public transport to cut down on carbon emissions.

*By Tara P, Sixth Form Student.*

# SPORT AT UOB SCHOOL



## Netball Triumphs

The UoB School Year 8 Netball team has completed an unbeaten season winning their league! They consistently demonstrated excellent character throughout by playing with kindness and showing respect and sportsmanship to their opponents. Having won the league they have been promoted, so we send our congratulations and wish them luck for next season!

## Football Victories

The Year 10 Boys Football team celebrated their first victory against Kings Norton Boys School, marking a significant achievement in their sporting journey. The Year 7 team also showcased their talent by reaching the semi-final of the Great Birmingham Cup. Sadly, their cup run came to an end after facing a talented Solihull School, but their impressive performance signifies great promise for the future. We're proud of how both teams showed passion and determination to represent UoB School in local and regional leagues.



## Sports Enrichment

The Year 10 Enrichment programme for sport is in collaboration with our partner, University of Birmingham. Our special relationship has provided our pupils and students with the opportunity to experience the rich and historic heritage of sport at the University. Learners have been given the chance to use the University's cutting edge 3G astroturf at Metchley and the Sport and Fitness Centre for badminton, swimming, trampolining and tennis. Pupils have also enjoyed the use of the Edgbaston Priory Squash Courts to develop their racket skills.

Our enrichment offer is like no other in the City and we're immensely proud of our sporting connections and associations. It not only enhances learner cross-curricular experiences but also exposes them to higher education facilities fostering aspirations for further academic pursuits. Looking ahead to the summer term, pupils will be able to enjoy golf at a local driving range, tennis, softball, athletics at the University track, and rounders, among other excellent activities provided by the PE department and fellow teachers who love sharing their passion for sport.





## Athletics

Our top athletes represented the School at University of Birmingham's state of the art athletics track as part of the British Athletics 'Street to Stadium' programme. Competing to impress ex-Paralympic and Olympic athletes, our pupils showcased their talent, skill, and capabilities for a chance to be selected in future Athletics trials for British Athletics... watch this space!



## Table Tennis

Our U14, U16, and U18 Table Tennis players excelled in their most recent league fixture against St George's School Edgbaston. They played to a very high standard against tough opposition, putting all of their practice with Coach Kate to the test. Particular shout-outs go to Dan, Will, George, Dan, and Usman for completing their final competitive game as part of their GCSE and A Level moderation - congratulations! Keep up the good work. Your hard work, tenacity, and commitment is paying off!

## Indoor Cricket

A big well done to our Girls and Boys Indoor Cricket Teams who have participated in the local district leagues, playing a total of 13 fixtures since January. Lots of high quality batting, bowling, and fielding on display! Our U19 Boys will play in the Regional Finals at Edgbaston Cricket Ground in May. Will they be crowned champions for the first time in the School's history?



## Celebrating Excellence

The PE Department love to celebrate the hard work of our Sport Studies, GCSE, and A Level learners. All pupils and students have dedicated huge amounts of effort and time to complete the various practical and coursework requirements ahead of their external moderation. Your commitment and resolve will pay off - it's not gone unnoticed and your teachers are hugely impressed.

# VISIT TO ST MARY'S SCHOOL

*"Reading aloud fosters positive attitudes, enhances pupils' motivation to read, and develops vocabulary and other knowledge, including of books, authors, and genres that they might not choose to read for themselves. It also contributes indirectly to their fluency, as they listen to an accomplished reader bring a text to life." The Reading Framework.*

Reading aloud and discussing texts is a crucial strand of our Reading for Pleasure pedagogy as it enables children to access rich and challenging texts and offers up opportunity for dialogue about books. We were therefore thrilled to have the opportunity to take a group of pupils from Year 8 to read and share twenty picture books shortlisted for the Children's Literature Festival Book Awards with the Year 1 pupils at St Mary's Primary School in Selly Oak.

Prior to the visit our pupils chose the book they wanted to read and share and practised reading it so they could anticipate any questions or reactions they might receive from the pupils at St Mary's. We also talked through and practised a range of strategies we could use when reading aloud to their pupils:

- Introducing the book to the group: Pointing out the cover illustration, title, and author. Inviting the pupils to predict what the book is about.
- Reading with expression: Letting your voice reflect the tone of the story or the personalities of the characters. Not reading too fast. Varying the pace and pausing for emphasis. Allowing time for children to think about what's happening or what might come next.
- Building in time for the pupils to respond along the way: Allowing time for children to study the pictures as they were reading, making comments, and asking questions about the story.



- Encouraging predictions: Asking the children what they think will happen next. Helping them confirm or revise these predictions as the story unfolds.
- Watching and responding to the pupils: Watching the pupil's expressions and body language and being sensitive and aware to signs of confusion.
- Saving time at the end of the story to get reactions: Asking open-ended questions that don't have right or wrong answers and that can't be answered with a yes or no reply.
- Pointing out parts of the story you noticed or especially liked: Showing the pupils language patterns or phrases or parts of the text that made them feel or visualize something. Asking the pupils if there were other parts of the book they noticed.
- Encouraging discussion about the story: Asking the children questions about what's going on and encourage them to predict what will come next.

Once we had completed our practice we were ready for the visit and our Year 8 pupils spent the morning reading and sharing the books with small groups of the Year 1 at St Mary's. Our pupils led the sessions with confidence and it was such a joy to see the pupils from both schools interacting so beautifully and enjoying reading and sharing the texts together.



Our pupils then helped the Year 1 pupils to judge and rate the books which will be submitted to the Judging Panel for the Book Awards later this Year. We then donated the books we had read and shared with the pupils of St Mary's so they could be added to their growing Library.

Thanks to the success of this visit we are looking at other ways in which we can strengthen the link with the staff and pupils at St Mary's School and look forward to the ways in which our schools can continue to flourish.



### **More about the Children's Literature Festival**

There are currently over 350 literature festivals in the UK, with less than 10% solely dedicated to children. We were therefore thrilled to be asked to take part in the Children's Literature Festival Book Awards organised by Christina Gabbittas who is an award winning English children's author, poet, and voiceover artist. With an emphasis on encouraging children to enjoy books and help our children and communities feel valued, this is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to get involved with reading and the judging process.

Selected pupils in Years 7 to 10 will be reading 55 books over the next two months and will be writing their reviews and submitting their ratings to the head judges and patrons. The top three books and winning titles per category will be published online on 09 June 2024, NSPCC Childhood Day. Reading, reviews, and ratings are underway and we cannot wait to see which of the fabulous titles on the shortlist go on to be winners. There are also opportunities for our pupils to read aloud from excerpts of the stories which will be shared online as part of the festival to help share the love and joy of reading aloud.







**OLIVER!  
SCHOOL  
PRODUCTION**









# THE BOOK NOOK

## Be a Library Leader!

Ms Middleton will be recruiting for new Library Assistants after Easter. Evie in Year 11 shares her thoughts about her role as a Library Assistant and later a Library Leader:

*"Being a library assistant has been one of the most incredible experiences of my time at UoB School. Not only does it allow me to gain transferable skills, but it's also a position that has allowed me to meet people from across all year groups. The library is a great communal space and it is so joyous to see people from every year group engaging with one another."*



## World Book Day Celebrations

We had a fantastic week full of bookish fun and activities to celebrate World Book Day. Our book quizzes were very popular, especially our Harry Potter and Manga quiz! Congratulations to all our winners and runners up who won a mixture of prizes, including free books, chocolates, and £10 book tokens.

Pupils also engaged in our poetry writing sessions. Poetry is a beautiful form of literature, allowing pupils to express their thoughts, emotions, and experiences in a creative way. We were able to provide pupils with a space for self-expression and exploration, and a chance to share their love for reading and World Book Day.



## Harry Potter Book Night

Date: Monday 24 June 2024

Time: TBC

Location: UoB School Library

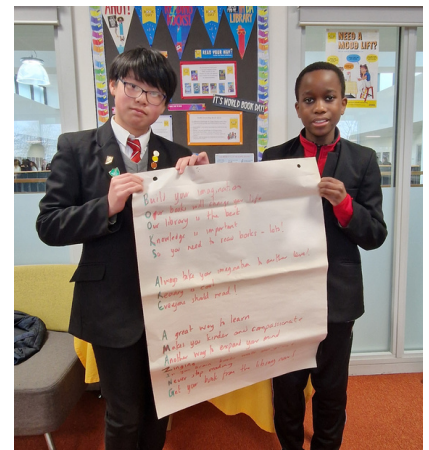


Image: Pupils with their World Book Day Poems

### Top 10 Borrowers:

1. Hannah A in Year 7
2. Kashif B in Year 9
3. Sarah V in Year 8
4. Areejah S in Year 7
5. Adepa Y in Year 7
6. Maxin C in Year 8
7. Lidya I in Year 7
8. Idris K in Year 7
9. Alice M in Year 8
10. Nina K in Year 8

### Top 10 Books Borrowed:

1. Death Note Vol 1 - Tsugumi Ohba
2. Wrecking Ball - Jeff Kinney
3. Dog Man Unleashed - Dav Pilkey
4. Heartstopper 5 - Alice Oseman
5. The Inheritance Games - Jennifer Lynn Barnes
6. Point Blanc - Anthony Horowitz
7. One of Us is Lying - Karen M McManus
8. Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban - JK Rowling
9. Caraval - Stephanie Garber
10. Happy to Help (Eventually) - Liz Pichon



# IN OTHER NEWS...



## Winter Concert

Thank you to all pupils, students, and staff who helped organise and perform a wonderful music concert earlier this year. It was a fantastic event enjoyed by all who attended.

UoB School music concerts are a great way to showcase our talented musicians and offer an opportunity for our community to get together and appreciate different styles of music.

## A New Look for our Netball and Basketball Teams

A big thanks to Babu and Jodie for modelling our new Basketball and Netball kits, ready to take to the courts to compete against our local rivals!

Representing the School in a performance team is a real honour and privilege. The PE Department love to celebrate pupils and students who have represented the School in 3 or more teams, awarding over 15 'Sports Colours' badges to our young athletes in January.



## Work Experience

Year 10 pupils and Year 12 students have been busy looking for work experience placements for the summer term. Pupils and students have been taking part in workshops to prepare them for work experience, including:

- How to apply for a job.
- How to interview effectively.
- Health & Safety in the workplace.

There are also several placements available at the University of Birmingham which pupils and students can apply for. Work Experience will take place between 01 - 05 July 2024.

# AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL

University of Birmingham School recently hosted colleagues and students from the American Farm School, Greece, as part of their visit to the UK. The visit provided a great opportunity for both schools to explore educational practices and create a platform for cultural exchange and collaboration. The interaction between students, staff, and visitors gave valuable insights into teaching and learning, new perspectives, and lasting connections across borders.



Students from American Farm School were given first-hand experience of participating in lessons at UoB School, attending presentations, and learning more about enrichment and character education. This kind of cross-cultural exchange fosters understanding, tolerance, and respect for diversity, which are essential values in today's interconnected world. It's encouraging to see educational institutions coming together to share knowledge and experiences for the benefit of all involved.

## MA IN CHARACTER EDUCATION

We are delighted that a number of our staff are currently undertaking a fully funded Masters Degree in Character Education at the University of Birmingham where they will be taught by some of the best-known names in character education, both in Britain and internationally. The course is run by The Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues based at the University of Birmingham. The Centre is widely acknowledged as one of the world's foremost research and teaching centres specialising in how character and virtues impact on individuals and society.

The course adopts a broad understanding of character – encompassing aspects of wellbeing, ethics, citizenship and social and emotional education and covers a range of topics, including: theories of character, virtue and flourishing; researching character education; the history and politics of character education; running character education interventions; and character education leadership in schools and organisations.

The MA Character Education focuses on character education and the theory and practice of human flourishing and will enable our staff to further develop their knowledge, understanding, and expertise in character education and the principles and virtues that underpin our School.

We are truly grateful for this wonderful opportunity to strengthen, and benefit from, our partnership with the University of Birmingham and The Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues and look forward to reading and sharing the research projects of our staff as they progress through the course.



# YOUNG ENTERPRISE AWARD

The Young Enterprise Award at University of Birmingham School has sparked the creativity and entrepreneurship of six pupils from our Business School, to come together and form a business group named Flaglets. Inspired by the diverse cultural backgrounds of their peers, the pupils decided to create cultural bracelets that can be customised to reflect individual heritage. The idea behind 'Flaglets' is to connect flags of the world with bracelets, offering a unique way for pupils and their families to celebrate their roots. By offering shares of their business at just £1 each, with a bonus of a free bracelet for every £5 worth of shares purchased, the group managed to kick-start their venture.

Recently, Flaglets had the opportunity to showcase their product at an event hosted by ITG – a marketing agency, in a setting reminiscent of the popular TV show 'Dragons Den'. The pupils impressed the judges with their confident pitch and were able to answer questions effectively. They also had the chance to participate in workshops focusing on presentation skills and explore the role of technology in retail and advertising.

As Flaglets gear up for the regional competition in April, they are excited to share their bracelets with their peers by taking orders and offering a range of options from cultural beaded bracelets to birthday stone bracelets.

With prices ranging from £2 to £3, Flaglets is not only creating a product but also fostering a sense of unity and celebration among the School community. The support and encouragement from everyone involved is crucial in empowering these young entrepreneurs to pursue their business goals.



# TRAINEE TEACHERS

We've had another busy term welcoming teachers who are starting their careers in various departments.

In January we hosted more than 60 trainee teachers from the University of Birmingham in physics, biology, English, geography, physics and PE, and we are now hosting 10 trainees in subjects across the School. This is their second school placement and they have really hit the ground running, building strong relationships with their classes and their mentors. In addition, we have had Teach First trainees completing their contrasting school experience in maths, English, geography, history and chemistry.

If you are interested in training to teach then we'd love to hear from you. Please contact David Ashmore, our ITE senior mentor, at [d.ashmore@uobschool.org.uk](mailto:d.ashmore@uobschool.org.uk) to explore how we can support you.

# FRIENDS OF UOB SCHOOL

The Friends of UoB School recently celebrated Pi Day with our School community by organising a quiz night. Each year we celebrate with a fun and educational evening, sharing baked goods, taking part in mathematical games and competitions. Whether you're a maths enthusiast or just looking for a reason to have some fun with numbers, Pi Day is a wonderful way to appreciate the beauty and importance of mathematics in our everyday lives.



The Friends of UoB School is the School's PTA and is open to all parents and carers of pupils and students at UoB School, as well as all staff.

Our aim is to create a collaborative environment for events and activities for the entire School community.

The Friends would love to hear from parents and carers who may be interested in getting involved with the group. Please email the group at [friends@uobschool.org.uk](mailto:friends@uobschool.org.uk) or find us on [Facebook](#).



## Spring Cleaning

The Friends of UoB School have been redesigning and preparing our School Community Garden for the spring weather. Thank you to everyone who helped out to keep this wonderful space accessible to our community.

## Rubery Swop Shop

If any of our families are looking for uniform but cannot make it to the [Rubery Swop Shop](#) themselves, please get in touch with the Friends via email [friends@uobschool.org.uk](mailto:friends@uobschool.org.uk) who will be able to source the FREE uniform for you from the Shop. Items will then be delivered to your child in School to take home.

# NOTICES FOR FAMILIES

Please note, the School premises are under CCTV surveillance for the safety and security of our pupils, students, staff, visitors and the School building.



University of Birmingham School is committed to protecting the privacy and security of personal information. This privacy notice describes how we collect and use personal information about pupils, in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), section 537A of the Education Act 1996 and section 83 of the Children Act 1989. [You can view our Privacy Notice here.](#)



# TERM DATES

## Summer Term 2024

\*Staff Professional Development Day: Monday 08 April 2024

**Term Starts: Tuesday 09 April 2024**

BANK HOLIDAY: Monday 06 May 2024

**Half Term: Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May 2024**

\*Staff Research Day: Friday 28 June 2024

\*Staff Professional Development Day: Monday 08 July 2024

**Term ends: Friday 19 July 2024 from 12.00**

## Autumn Term 2024

\*Staff Professional Development Day: Monday 02 September 2024

\*Staff Professional Development Day: Tuesday 03 September 2024

**Induction Day for Year 7 & 12 ONLY: Wednesday 04 September 2024**

**Term Starts for ALL pupils & students: Thursday 05 September 2024**

\*Staff Professional Development Day: Wednesday 09 October 2024

**Half Term: Friday 25 October to Monday 04 November 2024 (11 days incl)**

\*Staff Research Day: Thursday 05 December 2024

School closed: Friday 06 December 2024

**Term ends: Friday 20 December 2024 from 12.00**

## Spring Term 2025

\*Staff Professional Development Day: Monday 06 January 2025

**Term Starts: Tuesday 07 January 2025**

\*Staff Research Day: Friday 14 February 2025

**Half Term: Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2025**

**Term ends: Friday 11 April 2025 from 12.00**

## Summer Term 2025

\*Staff Professional Development Day: Monday 28 April 2025

**Term Starts: Tuesday 29 April 2025**

BANK HOLIDAY: Monday 05 May 2025

**Half Term: Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025**

\*Staff Research Day: Friday 27 June 2025

\*Staff Professional Development Day: Monday 07 July 2025

**Term ends: Friday 18 July 2025 from 12.00**

\*no pupils or students to attend/non-teaching day.



@uobschool



Birmingham  
City Council



Department  
for Education

# FREE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES WITH FOOD

## LOOKING FOR THINGS TO DO WITH THE KIDS OVER THE HOLIDAYS?

Bring It On Brum! is running **FREE** activity clubs in Birmingham for children aged 4-16 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

Activities include sports and games, arts and crafts, cookery, dance and music. Every child will be given a nutritious meal too!

If you're in need of a little inspiration to give your child a fantastic holiday, check out your nearest Bring It On Brum location and register today.



**FIND OUT MORE**  
**BRINGITONBRUM.CO.UK**



**@BRINGITONBRUM**



# HOW TO BOOK

UoB School BIOB code is: 3304014



## STEP 1

1. Go to [www.bringitonbrum.co.uk](http://www.bringitonbrum.co.uk) and click **BOOK NOW**
2. Enter your criteria E.g. Location, participant age, date and click **SEARCH**  
To view the session details click **MORE INFORMATION**
3. Once you've found a holiday club you like, click **BOOK NOW** and choose a date and time that works for you
4. Enter your child's details – you can add more than one child  
You may need to add 'Supplementary Information'.  
Please write 'None' in any fields that do not apply.

Repeat  
to add more  
sessions!

## STEP 2

1. Once you have chosen all your sessions, go to your cart and click **CHECKOUT**
2. To complete your booking, you will need to create a log-in. You can then view/edit and add any additional bookings at any time by logging in.

### Create a Log-In

- ☒ Add your details
- ☒ Sign up for session reminders
- ☒ Enter your child/children's details
- ☒ Sign up to our newsletter

## STEP 3

1. Click **COMPLETE BOOKING**

Why not take a photo  
of these instructions?



### No longer able to attend your session?

Please contact the organiser if you are unable to attend one of your booked activities. Places are limited and the venue will be able to open up space for other children and young people.

bringitonbrum.co.uk

University of Birmingham School  
12 Weoley Park Road  
Selly Oak  
Birmingham  
B29 6QU

t: 0121 796 5000  
e: [reception@uobschool.org.uk](mailto:reception@uobschool.org.uk)  
w: [uobschool.org.uk](http://uobschool.org.uk)

Keep in touch



@uobschool