



## Newsletter

4<sup>th</sup> July 2022

### The Karen Moore Award for Creative Writing



We are pleased to announce the winner of this year's Karen Moore Award for Creative Writing, sponsored by the Droitwich Arts Network.

More than forty entries were received from across the school, each trying to win the trophy and the cash prize of £100. After much deliberation, the first round judges – Helen Karakashian, chair of the Droitwich Arts Network and Karen Moore, ex Deputy Head of the High School – chose a short list of four entries. These were sent to Katie Bowen, a former Head Girl of the High School, who is now studying English at The Queen's College Oxford. The four entries chosen as finalists were by **Isobel Sprague** in Year 10, **Rhiannon Green** also in Year 10, **Mary-Jane Peace** in Year 8 and **Eva Palmer** in Year 11. All were all judged to be very strong. Katie finally decided that the winner was by Isobel in Year 10, with Rhiannon as runner

up.

The award was established in 2019 following the retirement of Mrs Karen Moore, for many years the Deputy Head at the school. Mrs Moore said: 'As this is the fourth year we have run the competition, I am delighted that the number of entries continues to go up and that entries are coming in from year groups across the school, with some of the younger students showing exceptional writing skills which bodes well for the future. We always try to give a title which allows students to give their own interpretation and this year the title was 'The Silence of the Crowd.' The diversity of ideas across the entries was astonishing. In short, we have read a lot of creative thinking and writing which is exactly the purpose of the competition.'





## Awards Evenings

Last week's Awards Evenings were a great success. Congratulations to all the Award Winners and also to those who impressed the audience with their excellent performances. They were:

Y13 A Level Music Exam Piece (The Swan – Camille Saint-Saens) performed by **Tom Griffiths**

Y13 A Level Drama Exam Piece (Things I Know to be True – Andrew Bovell) – performed by **Dan Finch** and **Pamela Stacey**

Y10 Dance (Everybody Wants to Rule The World - Lorde) performed by **Hattie Bird** and **Grace Oakley**

Y9 Drama (Lord of The Flies – a reinterpretation) performed by **Hollie Baker**, **Bee Barber**, **Erika Baylis**, **Bailie-Mae Bull**, **Sophie Cound**, **Holly Dufty**, **Emily Gandy**, **Anna Garbett Sweet**, **Lillie Greenhill**, **Julia Gryzio**, **Eloise Harris**, **Beth Johns**, **Lily Noone**, **Erin Sanders**, **Sadie Summers**, **Olivia Traynor**

Choir (Here's Where I Stand - Tiffany Taylor) performed by **Georgia Howes**, **Ellison Priest**, **Grace Rusby**, **Lilly-Ann Lavender**, **Isabelle Butcher**, **Oliver Barker**, **Amelia Freeman**, **Isabella Ross**, **Mary-Jane Peace**, **Kaicey Robinson**, **Rochelle Harris**, **Sophie Gomersall**, **Bella Smith**, **Beatrice Boutayre-Burrows**, **Erin Jones**

Choir (All I Want Is You - U2 arr. Estell) performed by the staff choir

Y8 Dance (Brave – Ella Henderson) performed by **Penelope Crabbe**, **Erin Kilmartin**, **Florence Bird**, **Pippa Lang**

Y10 Music (Mazurka – Frederick Chopin) performed by **Joe Bradbury**

## ITN Coverage of Diversification in English Literature Texts

When ITN decided to cover the exam boards' decision to broaden the range of authors covered in the English Literature syllabuses, they illustrated the piece with brief interviews with some of our students. Anyone who saw the news that day will have seen **Harry Jeys**, **Hope Rose**, **Summer Goodwin** and **Sophie Gomersall** do a superb job, speaking maturely and wisely about the issue. We also had some wonderful, positive and encouraging support from members of Sixth Form.



Without wanting to be controversial or political, the English department accepts that the exam boards are making these changes to diversify the offerings and to make literature more inclusive. This is not to take away from current pieces or the authors studied, but to allow students to study underrepresented groups such as women, differently-abled, Black, Asian and minority ethnic writers.



## Athletics News

Following her success in the Hereford and Worcestershire Athletics Track and Field Championships, **Bea Rusby** competed in the 3000m at Stoke on Trent on the 18<sup>th</sup> June in the Mason's Trophy event. **Bea** came 7<sup>th</sup>, improving on her qualifying time; we congratulate Bea on this huge achievement.



**Pippa Lang**, **Josh Shuck** and **Arthur Wilkinson** all qualified to represent Bromsgrove and Droitwich District in the Minor Counties event at Nunnery Wood High School on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June. **Pippa** gave a strong performance in the discus and **Josh** ran a determined race to gain 2<sup>nd</sup> place in his heat for the 200m. **Arthur** won the shot putt with a spectacular distance of 13.23m. Congratulations to all three athletes.



## Sixth Form

Year 12 Biology students have spent part of the week carrying out ecology field work in North Yorkshire. They investigated bioenergetics within a marine ecosystem on Filey Brig beach, catching plenty of crabs (Jasmine Kilmartin was our ultimate crab catcher!) They delved into streams to investigate the impact of crayfish on the local freshwater ecosystems. Ewan Sanders, Mary-Ellen Poynton, Phoebe Williams and Heidi Shumba caught the biggest crayfish, which they called Petra. The group set up various scientific traps to survey woodland mammals and invertebrates. The final day was spent in Wharram Quarry, an area of scientific interest, where they investigated succession.

The Intermediate Biology Olympiad results for Y12 have now been published.

Ewan Sanders, Kimberley Jones, Thomas Ward, Oliver Broomfield, Rachel Cheah and Mary-Ellen Poynton each received a participation certificate. Well done to Iestyn Owen and Callum Patterson who also achieved a Highly Commended award. Congratulations to the following who received a Bronze award (Ben Rogers, Harriet Rochelle and Tamsin Baker), a Silver award (Rowan Dennett) and a Gold award (Ben Rosser).

Year 11 into 12 Politics Transition – Gabe McAlinden, Ruva Nyamande, Adam McArdle and Noah Dean offered some excellent contributions to our discussions on Representative Democracy.

## Year 10



Congratulations and thanks to the year 10 Parks House dream Rounders team. Hattie Bird, Ellie Hyde, Flynn Hatfield Evans, Ruby Boulton, Hannah Eccleston, Sophie Gomersall, Lucas Colley, Oliver Barker, Ellie Harris, Mr Tubb and Miss Jones.

Special mention for support to Sylvia Scattergood, Bryn Lambe and Summer Goodwin.

We all had so much fun taking part, supporting and cheering this brilliant tournament. The teamwork was impeccable.

In History Laurie Holder, James Rudkin, Jasmine Crawford, Zoe Kirkham, Mark Hewlett, Maddie Jennings, Isobel Sprague, Joseph Bradbury, Catherine Sandell, Jacob Bastock and Noah Whitteron completed excellent work on different Medieval Medicines and Cures.



**Reece Smith** and **Oscar Fitzhugh** have grown in confidence and willingness to contribute in English.

## Year 9

Last week some local primary schools went through a variety of different cycling activities here at the High School. Four of our Year 9 students acted as young leaders: **Faye Morgan**, **Matthew Oliver**, **Rory Crawford** and **Aaron Cooper-Aston**. Their work was highly commended.

In Year Drama, 9A have been doing some very good work, focussed on the style of Commedia dell'Arte, including making their own masks pictured below. They invested a lot of time and effort in creating these to enhance their performances.

9C worked as a whole class on a reinterpretation of Lord of the Flies in preparation to perform it at the awards evenings. They did a first class job, with some excellent vocal projection and choreography from the actors, some detailed and effective costume and prop making, and excellent sound and lighting design and operation from various members of the class.



In History members of 9RD have researched how the United States expanded during the 1800's – with special mention to **William Ross**, **Rory Crawford**, **Bee Barber**, **Holly Dufty**, **Finley Jones**, **Lewin Thomas Meredith**, **Ella Marshall** and **Matthew Oliver**, all of whom made excellent contributions to our class discussions.

## Year 8

Members of 8RA+ showed determination when completing their end of year writing assessments in English, and have been rewarded with some very good marks.

Members of 8RR worked very hard on their end of year writing assessments in English. They have earned some very high marks.

**Viya Patel** and **Penelope Crabbe** have shown strong team spirit in supporting the rounders competition every day this week.

**Grace Dean** created an excellent entry to the Reading Role Model competition.



Year 8 – 8RD, 8RW and 8RR have all worked really hard in their assessments this week, many of whom have shown up with some really impressive revision.

### Year 8 Athletics



Twenty one Droitwich Spa High School students attended the Year 8 District Athletics meet at the Abbey Stadium in Redditch on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June. The athletes demonstrated great talent in the various disciplines and were great support for each other.

Congratulations to: **Emily Colley**, **Phoebe Brindley-Jones**, **Pippa Lang**, **Florence Bird**, **Ania Waldron**, **Lizzie Marshall**, **Drew Hankins**, **Sophie Parkinson**, **Chloe Buckler**, **Aleisha Layton**, **Emily Cowell-Baker**, **Holly Smith**, **Ellen Macrae**, **Matthew Howard**, **Zac Thomas**, **Fin Kiernan**, **Dylan Sivaharan**, **Fin Garlick**, **Oscar**

**Peckover**, **Josh Shuck**, **Oscar Putt**. Medallists were **Josh Shuck** (1<sup>st</sup> in 200m), **Pippa Lang** (1<sup>st</sup> in discus), **Ania Waldron** (2<sup>nd</sup> in 800m), **Chloe Buckler** (3<sup>rd</sup> in hurdles), **Ellen Macrae** (3<sup>rd</sup> in 100m), **Zac Thomas** (3<sup>rd</sup> in 200m), **Fin Kiernan** (3<sup>rd</sup> in 300m). Special thanks go to two Year 12 students, **Reece King** and **Heidi Shumba** who joined the team to officiate in the triple jump event. Without such volunteers the event would not have been possible.

### Year 8 Industrial Cadets Celebration

On Monday the D&T department took our Year 8 Industrial Cadets to a celebration event at the AMTC in Coventry. Each team had a stand to display its projects and throughout the day the students took part in activities organised by the Create Education Project, Impression Technologies, [@fiinschoolsuk](#) and [@jcbmachines](#)



Team 1 won the People's Choice award, Team 2 were runners up in the Teamwork award and Drew Hankins won both the JCB challenge and Impression Technology challenge. As well as receiving their Bronze Award badges, the students were also treated to a tour around the AMTC which provides high quality engineering apprenticeship training.

Team 1: **Drew Hankins**, **Larisa Stefan**, **Aleisha Layton**, **Eva McKay** and **Grace Dean**

Team 2: **Rebecca Johnson**, **Beth Childs**, **Paige Shaw**, **Lily Smith**, **Sophie Holland** and **Emily Cowell-Baker**



Well done to **Olivia Knight** for baking these 'Linzer Kekse' as part of the British Council's Great German Language Challenge and our MFL House Competition. This recipe, chosen by Olivia, originates from Linz in Austria and the biscuits are made with ground almonds and filled with blackcurrant jam. It was originally made as a tart 'Linzertorte' and is the world's oldest written recipe still in existence.

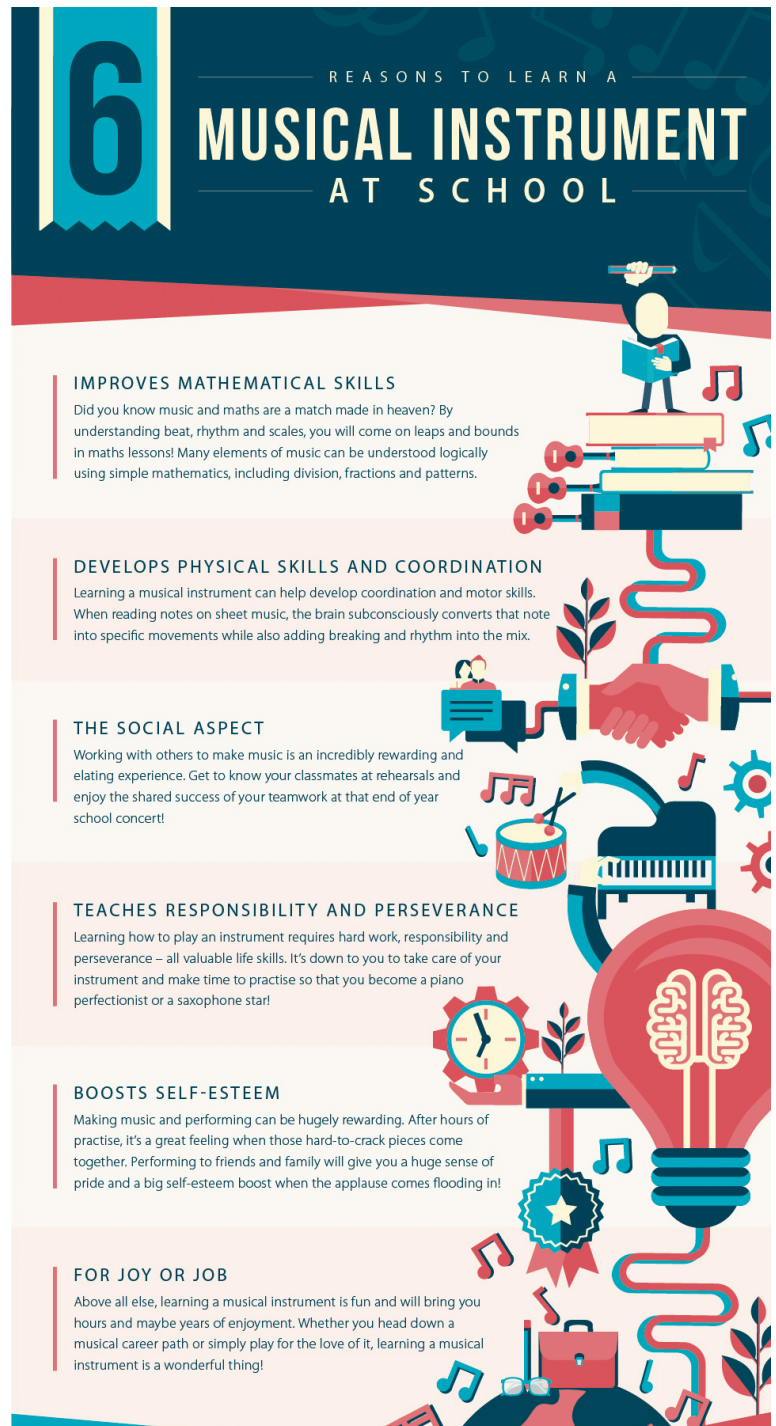




## Peripatetic Music Lessons

<https://website.droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/DSHS-Guide-to-Peripatetic-Instrumental-Tuition-SEPT-2022-1.pdf>

The Music department is keen to promote the benefits of learning to play a musical instrument. If you would like your son or daughter to have lessons at school, please follow the link above.



The Hive and Worcestershire Libraries are now looking for volunteers aged between 12 and 17 to help with the [Summer Reading Challenge](#). This is a great opportunity for anyone thinking of a career working with children, or anyone who wants to demonstrate communication skills on their CV or UCAS personal statement.



## Book Donation Appeal

The school is keen to update and refresh its stock of reading books and is therefore appealing to the people of Droitwich who might want to de-clutter their homes!

We are very interested in books suitable for ages from 9 to adult that are in need of a new home.

As the pandemic gave so many people time to clear out their homes many charity shops became overwhelmed with donations but we can offer new life to those old paper backs that are taking up space on your shelves.

Emma Davie Smith, the school's literacy co-ordinator said: 'During the pandemic, the High School distributed a lot of books to students so that they could read at home and thus finds itself short of sufficient stock. We would be really grateful if people would keep us in mind when having a clear out, or even better, if they could check their shelves for books they know they are not going to read again, we would happily receive them. We are really trying to push the idea of our students reading for pleasure, so are particularly keen to improve our stocks of teen fiction, a genre that has seen an explosion of titles over the past few years.'

Books can be dropped off at reception, but anyone wanting any further details or information is welcome to contact Mrs Davie-Smith for a chat.

## And finally.....A Reminder about the End of term Activities

### Whole School

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July pm

Celebration event for winners of the House Cup. **The students in winning house only are allowed to come to school in their own clothes.** The winning house will be announced by e-mail on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Inter-House Sports Day. All students should come to school in their PE kit

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July

On the final day of term there will be End of Year assemblies and the school will close at 1.20 pm. Students will not be expected to wear school uniform.

### Year 12

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July

Futures Week

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July

Normal lessons resume

### Year 10

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July

Year 10 Visit to Drayton Manor



## Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July

## Work Related Learning Activities

During the final week of term Year 10 will be involved in a series of activities in preparation for the important choices to be made in the course of Year 11. These will include visiting speakers and sessions run by members of local businesses. Students will not be expected to wear school uniform this week.

### Year 8 & 9 Activities Programme

Some students will be joining in activities off site on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July. Those not going on one of these visits will follow their normal timetable and should wear school uniform.

In the following week, the final week of term, there will a range of sporting, artistic and other practical activities in school for those not taking part in a particular visit. Students will not be expected wear school uniform.