



Dear Parent/Carer

March has been a very busy month at Winterhill; we've already had careers week, reading week, and world book day. Most recently, we've had the excitement of National Science Week with over 100 Winterhill students visiting the Big Bang event in Birmingham. These experiences encourage our students to learn outside of the classroom and think about how what they learn at school applies to the real world. You can find out more about these experiences below.

The WINTERHILL WAY: RESPECT

Respect is a core value of the school and forms one of our 3 R's which underpin the school ethos; 'The Winterhill Way'.

As we all know respect for self and others is a fundamental quality and I'm sure you will agree that one of the simplest ways to show respect is by being polite and courteous - please and thank you's go a long way!

Whilst visitors to the school and community members regularly contact me to say how polite our students are, there are times in a busy comprehensive school when this isn't the case. Therefore, the school will be emphasising good manners over the coming months, with a focus on how our students talk to each other and their teachers. Rewards will focus on this and consequences will be stepped up to emphasise the place good manners have in building respect.

The BIG BANG FAIR

As part of Science week 2019, we took 100 students from Y9 and Y10 to the Big Bang Fair in Birmingham. The students behaved impeccably and really embraced the variety of workshops and exhibits on offer to them at the event. Students were able to explore how Science and Engineering are used within a variety of careers. The interactive explosions, engineering demonstrations and hands on Biohazard exhibitions allowed students to get practically involved. The real life Drones, Red arrow plane, Tractors, the Army Air Corps' Gazelle and Shell Eco-marathon car were all perfect photo opportunities!

There were hundreds of schools present, with over 80,000 due attend across the 4 day event, our students were a pleasure to take and a credit to Winterhill School.

READING WEEK

We have had yet another successful and enthusiastic reading week this month, which included the annual World Book Day tradition. Staff delivered 'high standards' during the annual dress up as their favourite character from a book. This encouraged engaging conversations amongst staff and students, raising awareness for the variety of literature and promoting a live long love of reading.



CAREERS WEEK

During this academic year, we have been able to inspire and encourage our students to think about their future pathways ready for when they leave school by giving them access to a range of careers and higher education workshops and talks through our partnership with heppSY+. This has included a range of activities including time on the HeppSY+ bus looking at higher education, a motivational speaker and 1:1 careers interviews.

Monday, 4th March saw the beginning of careers week and students have been able to access a range of careers related activities. This has included a Future First workshop where two of our alumni supported some of our Y9 students looking at career progression whilst inspiring them with their own stories and through PSHCE students have accessed a virtual careers' fayre looking specifically at apprenticeship opportunities. To celebrate World Maths Day on Wednesday, 6th March, heppSY+ ran workshops for over 200 of our students across Y9 and Y10 which focused on careers in maths.

Feedback from students has been very positive and we will continue to create more opportunities in the future.

UPCOMING EVENTS at WINTERHILL

Tuesday, 19th March	Students finish at 1.15pm*
Wednesday, 3rd April	Y11 parent's evening
Thursday, 4th April	Gym and Dance Show
Wednesday, 10th April	CPA awards evening
	Spelling Bee finals Y3 to Y6
Friday, 12th April	School closes for Easter - usual finish time for students
Monday, 29th April	School re-opens to STAFF and STUDENTS
Monday, 6th May	School closed for May Day bank holiday
Friday, 24th May	School closes for half term - usual finish time for students

*Arrangements can be made to supervise your child until 2.50pm by contacting your child's Behaviour for Learning Leader.

If you would like to contact me, please email **Julie Parkin**
jparkin@winterhill.org.uk
Headteachers' PA to make an appointment.

Thank you for your continued support S Rhodes - Headteacher