



NEWSletter

20th December | 2024

Headteacher's Message

It has been an incredibly busy last week of term. From our aspirational visit to Warwick University with 7W, to the inspiring launch of our new Duke of Edinburgh cohort and the impressive teamwork displayed by our Year 11 girls' basketball team, the past week has truly highlighted the talent and dedication of our students.

This week, the school was filled with festive cheer as we hosted our annual Christmas Pop-Up Shop, alongside the much-loved Christmas Afternoon Tea. Families came together to enjoy delicious festive snacks, warming drinks and a variety of games. It was a heartwarming celebration of inclusion and diversity and we're already looking forward to next term's

Langar meal, which will continue our whole-school approach to embracing different traditions. The Pop-Up Shop has become a cherished tradition, offering students from vulnerable families the chance to select free gifts for their loved ones, wrap them up, and write cards. Supported by Coventry City Hosts, Coventry Rugby and Henley Netball Club, the shop was a true display of kindness and community spirit. Our festive feast, planned and prepared by an exceptionally talented group of KS3 students; was another highlight of the week. Parents and carers were treated to an afternoon tea, demonstrating the students' hard work, collaboration and planning as part of our Aspirations Programme. Adding to the festive spirit, our school performance of Cinderella was an absolute delight! A huge well done to everyone involved, both on and behind the scenes,

for creating such a magical evening for all who attended.

If you haven't already cast your Governor vote, don't waste it make sure you do so before the deadline which is today at 11.30 pm. Every vote counts and it's an important opportunity to have your voice heard in the decision-making process for your school. Good luck!

A reminder that students will finish for the Christmas break on Friday 20th December. Students will be dismissed at the earlier time of 12.30 however they are welcome to get their lunch before they leave if they wish. School will restart on Monday 6th January at the normal time. We wish all our families a very happy Christmas and a wonderful break.

Mrs E Martin

7W's Inspiring Visit to Warwick University

Last Thursday, students in tutor group 7W went on an aspirational trip to Warwick University.

As part of the visit, they were given a tour of the campus by student ambassadors, took part in a "build your own campus" workshop where they had to budget a calculate building a whole new campus from scratch!

They also received a talk from "aim a little higher" which was very motivating and inspirational!



Last year we ran our first ever Christmas afternoon Tea alongside our famous Pop-Up Shop! We invite families to share some festive snacks, drinks and games to celebrate this season of giving as part of our whole school approach to celebrating inclusion and diversity, including recognising different religious festivals. Next term we will be hosting a Langar meal, which celebrates another tradition from the Sikh religion. When the news can make it seem like there is division everywhere, we are grateful to be able to celebrate the inclusive and welcoming community that is Barr's Hill school. We are grateful to our local community partners, business links and the local "Pathways" Family Hub for all their support this term.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Launch

The new cohort of our Bronze Silver and Gold cohort had their breakfast launch this morning to introduce them to the expectations of their award qualification. 34 of our students are taking part in the prestigious award this academic year at various levels and they had the opportunity to meet Mollie Owen are Operations Officer, offering advice to our participants on how to make the most of their time on the award programme. Students received their DofE programme planner, a lapel badge and their DofE tshirt to wear on our expeditions.



We look forward to updating you as we venture through the award programme during the year.

Year 11 Girls Shine in Thrilling Basketball League Match

The Year 11 girls' basketball team delivered an outstanding performance in their latest Coventry Basketball League game against Bablake. Playing on home ground, the team showcased their incredible offensive strength, defensive resilience, and teamwork. Throughout the match there was sharp ball movement and quick decision-making, with **Lenora**, **Ami**, and **Phillipa** leading the charge. Their ability to score baskets consistently and maintain fluid ball movement kept the opposition on their toes throughout the game. **Lenora's** agility and precision were instrumental in finding scoring opportunities, while **Ami's** energy and control under pressure helped the team maintain their momentum.

Equally impressive was the team's defensive effort, with **Zuzanna N.** and **Susana S.** demonstrating excellent resilience. Their determination and ability to anticipate the opposition's moves were crucial in disrupting plays and regaining possession. **Natalia P's** exceptional communication throughout the game ensured the team remained well-coordinated and focused, contributing significantly to their defensive and offensive success. **Phillipa's** offensive prowess and confidence in taking shots added an extra layer of strength to the team's attack. Together, they demonstrated exceptional teamwork, making this match a thrilling spectacle for supporters. This game was another step forward in what has been an exciting season for our Year 11 girls. With their continued hard work and dedication, the team is proving to be a force to be reckoned with in the Coventry Basketball League.

Unfortunately, the team lost but still earned a point which places them currently in second overall in the league.





KS3 Students Host Festive Feast for Parents and Carers

As part of our Aspirations Programme a very talented group of students across KS3 planned, purchased, prepared and served a fabulous festive feast for parents and carers on Monday. The hard work, team collaboration and careful planning led to what was a fun filled event in the build-up to the festive season.

Thank you to all the students who took part in this and to our parents and carers for your ongoing support as we work together on raising the aspirations and destinations of our young people.



Spreading Festive Cheer: Barr's Hill Christmas Pop-Up Shop

This week we have been thrilled to host our annual Barr's Hill Christmas Pop-Up Shop. Students from vulnerable families have been invited to the shop to select free gifts for family members, which they then wrapped up and wrote a card to go alongside. They were supported by Coventry City Hosts, Coventry Rugby and Henley Netball Club. We hope this makes a small difference to those families struggling with the current cost of living crisis.

Alongside this we provided food parcels and chocolate treats to families in need to support them in getting through the festive season, the contents of which were made from a mixture of the wonderful donations received from Langar Aid and contributions from staff and students.

None of the above would have been possible without the generous donations from staff, Governors and our business links including Henley Netball Club, University of Warwick, JLR and Taylor Wimpey. We would like to offer a huge thank you for all of the support given.



Cinderella Wows Audiences in Barr's Hill's First Pantomime in Five Years

On December 18th, Barr's Hill brought the magic of Christmas to life with a spectacular performance of Cinderella, delighting a sold-out audience of parents and staff. The show was filled with laughter, applause, and heartfelt moments, culminating in a well-deserved standing ovation.

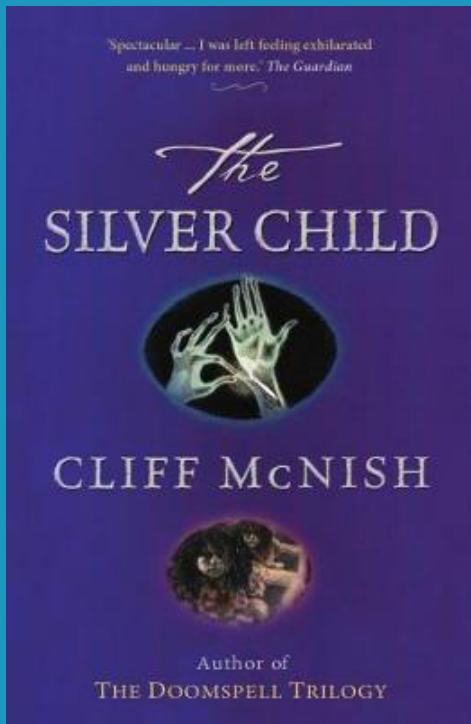
A true team effort, the production saw pupils take on every aspect of the performance, from acting on stage to running the backstage operations. In an impressive display of independence and skill, students were entrusted with full responsibility for lighting, set changes, and the overall running of the show - without any staff intervention. Their professionalism shone through, and the production was executed to a standard that rivalled professional performances.

Olivia Jones, who played the role of Prince Charming said that *"The atmosphere both prior and during the production was amazing. The response from the audience throughout the performance was uplifting!"*

The success of Cinderella is a testament to the incredible talent and dedication of our pupils from both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Feedback from parents and staff has been overwhelmingly positive, sparking excitement for future productions. The buzz is already building as both students and staff eagerly ask, *"What's next, and when can we start?"*

Congratulations to everyone involved in making this production a resounding success. Here's to many more shows in the years to come!





Library Ambassador Book Review

This week's review has been written by Baylei C from 7B

Book: The Silver Child

Baylei says: Thomas has a gift and he give it to children he finds in Coldharbour. It was a very good book- fun to read.

Rating: 5/5

Book of the Week

The Ice Children by M.G Leonard

Description: At the stroke of midnight on the dawn of December, five-year-old Finn Albedo is found frozen in the city park standing on a pedestal of ice. His heart is beating, he is smiling serenely, but no one can wake him. Finn's big sister, Bianca suspects that the beautiful sparkling book Finn got from the library has something to do with it, but the book vanished. Does the tall mysterious stranger who first discovered Finn know more than they will admit? Each day, more children are found frozen and Bianca realizes she's running out of time. Her quest to discover the truth and rescue her little brother hurls her into a fantastical winter wonderland, full of beauty and danger, where all is not as it seems. Can Bianca save her brother and the other ice children before they are lost forever?

