

NEWSletter

7th March | 2025

Headteacher's Message

It has been an eventful and inspiring week at Barr's Hill, with students seizing opportunities across a wide range of academic, creative, and sporting activities. From an insightful business breakfast with Sergeant Paul Cary, where students explored careers in the armed forces, to a thought-provoking Orwell Youth Prize workshop that sparked creative writing across different forms.

Our sports teams have also been in action, with

the badminton team securing a dominant victory, while the U15 girls' cricket team showed remarkable determination in a thrilling super over contest.

In the arts, students have drawn inspiration from photorealistic painter Sarah Graham and the vibrant traditions of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), producing stunning work in both photography and sculpture.

Meanwhile, Bridge students had the unique opportunity to engage with NASA's Branelle Rodriguez, gaining insights

into space exploration and future missions.

Our Hooked on Books team also showcased their literary knowledge at the Coventry Inspiration Book Awards Quiz, representing the school with pride. It has been wonderful to see our students embracing these opportunities with enthusiasm and dedication demonstrating growth and commitment in all areas!

Mrs E Martin

British Army Business Breakfast

On Tuesday 4th March Sergeant Paul Cary from the British Army joined students from Year 7 to Year 13 interested in armed forces careers at a business breakfast. Paul shared information on careers available in the army, entry routes at both Post 16 and Post 18, apprenticeship opportunities and support available to those that join. He also talked them through the application process and explained the importance of gaining their GCSE and Level 3 qualifications. Students were surprised to hear of the generous salary available to army recruits and the support given to those that wanted to pursue further qualifications and sporting pursuits.

It was great to see all students demonstrate PRIDE throughout and hear the insightful questions they had for Paul to close the session.



Orwell Youth Prize

On Friday 28th February, students from Year 7-10 took part in a workshop to prepare their entries for the Orwell Youth Prize. The theme for this year's prize is 'Freedom is...' which sparked students' creativity and led to some fantastic poems, short stories, essays, screenplays and even video game design.

The students will now submit their work for feedback from professional writers before finalising their entries for submission.



A huge well done to our Hooked on Books team - Zoe, Natalie, Lilijana and Lacey - who took part in the Coventry Inspiration Book Awards Quiz on Tuesday! The team has been preparing for this event since November and did a fantastic job answering questions on the shortlisted books while competing against other schools across Coventry.

A special mention goes to Zoe, who answered the most questions correctly! Although the cup went to Cannon Park, it was a brilliant morning celebrating a love for reading - and, of course, enjoying a brownie or two!

Fantastic effort, team!

Barr's Hill Badminton Team Secures Dominant Victory!

Barr's Hill School's badminton team delivered an outstanding performance in their latest fixture, winning every game in dominant fashion. Facing off against a strong opposition, the team showcased skill, determination, and teamwork to claim a well-deserved clean sweep.

The singles matches set the tone for the afternoon, securing convincing victories through precise shot placement and excellent court coverage. In the doubles matches, the players demonstrated superb coordination, overpowering their opponents with fast-paced rallies and sharp net play.

With this emphatic win, Barr's Hill continues their unbeaten streak and looks ahead to their next challenge with confidence.

Well played, team!

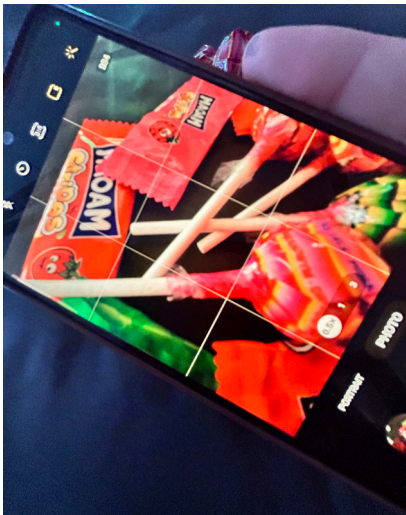


'Pop' of Sweet Colour!

Last term, our Year 9 students explored the stunning artwork of photorealistic painter Sarah Graham, drawing inspiration from her intricate and vibrant pieces. Taking this inspiration into their own photography, they captured images that reflected Graham's attention to detail and lifelike qualities.

Students applied key visual elements such as colour, depth of field and the rule of thirds to create well-composed and striking photographs. By focusing on these techniques, they've not only enhanced their understanding of photography, but also gained a deeper appreciation for the meticulous process behind photorealistic art.

A fantastic effort from all involved - well done!



Exploring Colour & Culture in The Bridge!

Just before half term, our Bridge students immersed themselves in the exciting world of colour theory in Art! Using oil pastel printing techniques, they explored vibrant hues and colour combinations while also channelling their creativity into clay sculpture work.

As part of a cultural exploration, students designed their own sugar skulls, drawing inspiration from the Day of the Dead. This hands-on project allowed them to blend their understanding of colour theory with sculptural techniques, resulting in beautifully crafted, personalised pieces that reflect both artistic growth and cultural awareness.



Bridge Students Lecture with NASA!

Last week, students in The Bridge had an exciting opportunity to attend a live Science and STEM online lecture with Branelle Rodriguez, Manager of Program Integration and Artemis II Vehicle Manager for NASA's Orion Program at Johnson Space Center in the United States of America.

During the session, Ms. Rodriguez shared her incredible career journey, insights into space exploration and the cutting-edge work being done on NASA's Artemis program. Students were truly inspired by her expertise and had the chance to ask questions about the future of space missions, making this a memorable and educational experience!

We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to connect our students with such an influential leader in the world of science and technology.

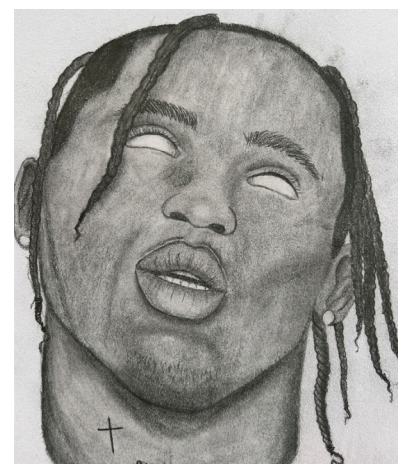


Celebrating Creativity in Year 8!

This exceptional piece is by **Marshall** in Year 8. It always amazes us to see the incredible talent our students develop as they explore their creativity in unique ways. When students bring in their work to share, showcasing projects they've created with materials and media of their own choosing, it's clear how much thought and effort they've put into their craft.

Whether it's painting, crochet, sculpture, or any other form of expression, it's inspiring to watch them discover their own artistic voices and build confidence in their abilities.

We're so proud of the creativity they bring to the classroom!



Barr's Hill U15 Girls Cricket Team Shines in Thrilling Match Against Rugby High!

Barr's Hill U15 girls cricket team delivered a spirited performance on Tuesday against Rugby High Secondary School in a nail-biting encounter that ended in dramatic fashion. After 20 overs of competitive cricket, both teams were tied at 70 runs, forcing the match into a tense super over. The team who scored the most runs after 6 balls would win, and in a heart-stopping finish, Rugby High narrowly edged out Barr's Hill by a single run.

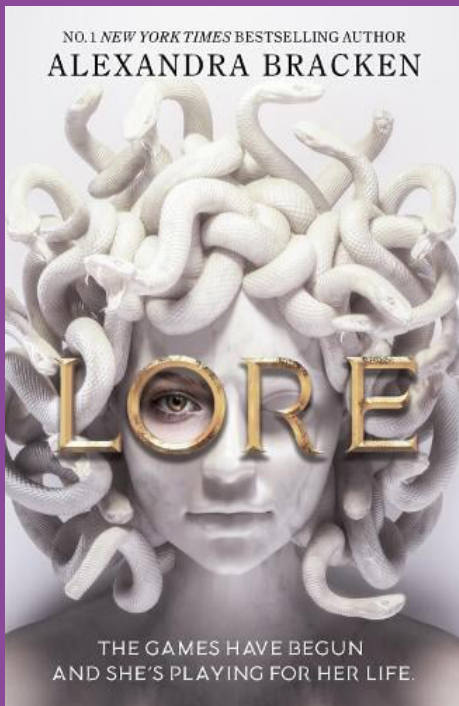
The game showcased remarkable determination and teamwork from both sides. Batting first, Barr's Hill posted 70 runs, with strong contributions from their middle order. Their bowlers worked tirelessly to defend the total, taking crucial wickets at key moments to keep the game finely balanced.

Rugby High, however, matched Barr's Hill's effort, managing to reach the same score and setting up a thrilling finish. In the deciding super over, Barr's Hill fought hard but narrowly missed out, with Rugby High holding their nerve to claim the victory by the slimmest of margins.

Despite the result, Barr's Hill can take immense pride in their performance - especially considering that Rugby High fielded a team of Year 10s, while Barr's Hill's team consisted entirely of Year 9s! Their resilience, teamwork and ability to handle pressure were on full display, highlighting the strength of their squad.

This match will surely serve as a valuable experience as they continue their season and aim for the county finals in a few months!





Student Book Review

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

Book: Lore by Alexandra Bracken

Rehanshi says: I enjoyed this book because it sucks you in and you don't want to put it down.

Rating: 4.9/5

Book of the Week

The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke

ZPD: 4.8

Description: Winter has come early to Venice. Two orphaned children are on the run, hiding among the crumbling canals and misty alleyways of the city. Befriended by a gang of street children and their mysterious leader, the Thief Lord, they shelter in an old, disused cinema. On their trail is a bungling detective, obsessed with disguises and the health of his pet tortoises. But a greater threat to the boys' new - found freedom is something from a forgotten past - a beautiful magical treasure with the power to spin time itself...

