



RoundUp

Summit Learning Trust News



Also in this issue:

- The Gambia Project 2024
- Our Summit Community

#ScalingNewHeights

Welcome



A huge thank you to our parents, carers, families and communities for supporting our academies to achieve so much with our learners this term and throughout this year.

2024 has been another great year for our Trust family. We have seen record exam results overall in all phases, Kineton Green Primary School have joined our family, Solihull Sixth Form College and Ninestiles, an Academy have both had excellent Ofsted inspections, significant improvements and additions have been made to our estate, notably the Turvey building at our college, and we have recently launched The Education Exchange West Midlands with neighbouring trusts and schools.

This edition of the Roundup gives a small snapshot into some of the achievements made at our Summit academies, and it has been a pleasure to see the work that takes place day in, day out, with our children and young people.

Every year we focus on the true spirit of Christmas and can all be proud of the efforts made by our learners in supporting charitable initiatives which will help those with the greatest need in our communities. Thank you to those learners and colleagues who have completed voluntary work and raised funds for the University Hospital Birmingham (UHB) Charity, our Trust's chosen charity for 2024. Whilst fundraising continues right until the end of term, we have already achieved our collective Summit target of raising above £10,000, so thank you to all involved.

Our Summit Base Camp programme continues to develop, ensuring that we provide a consistent level of support for our children and young people across our schools and college to enable them to make strong levels of academic progress including the free breakfast club we provide in every school. Our schools and college provide a comprehensive range of support for learners where needed, so please do not hesitate to contact your child's academy where this is required, they will be very happy to help.

Another key feature of our work this calendar year has been sustainability through the TREAD Lightly programme, in partnership with our West Midlands Lieutenancy. Children and young people across our family continue to initiate and lead projects in this area. All Summit academies are part of our solar panel and LED lighting projects, our new college building is net zero, and we are piloting the eradication of single-use plastic bottles at Ninestiles. We now aim to roll this excellent initiative out across all our academies very soon.

Thank you all for your ongoing support for your child's school or college.

Have a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Vince Green
Chief Executive Officer

Cultural Capital

This term, our Cultural Capital programme has provided enriching experiences for every year group. Year 7 enjoyed a team-building day at Beaudesert in Cannock Chase, fostering teamwork and resilience. Year 10 embraced the festive spirit at the Birmingham Rep, attending A Christmas Carol.

Looking ahead, Year 11 will embark on an exciting London trip in February, while plans are underway for Year 8 and Year 9 visits. These opportunities ensure every learner benefits from meaningful, memorable experiences beyond the classroom.



Rewarding Excellence

This term marked the introduction of exciting reward trips, celebrating young people who demonstrate outstanding commitment to learning, excellent attendance, high SOAR points, and no consequences.

Children and young people across all year groups enjoyed activities such as a relaxing 'Golden Ticket' cinema afternoon and a fun-filled trip to Acocks Green Bowl. These events not only reward hard work but also serve as a motivation for all learners to strive for excellence.

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many learners embracing these trips as a welcome incentive. We are excited to build on this initiative and continue fostering a culture of achievement and recognition in the coming term.



Outside the Classroom

This term, partnerships with the Royal Navy, Birmingham Rep, and Birmingham Law Courts and the Transformation Partnership have provided our students with exciting opportunities to explore careers and raise aspirations while enjoying hands-on, interactive learning outside the classroom.

These collaborations have inspired learners, combining fun with valuable insights into diverse professions and life skills. We look forward to continuing these partnerships to broaden horizons and support learners in achieving their goals.

This term, our enrichment programme has flourished even further, offering learners an incredible variety of activities to explore their interests and talents. Whether it's creating music, excelling in sports, crafting, diving into coding, or exploring the wonders of science, there's truly something for everyone.

These activities not only provide enjoyment but also inspire creativity, teamwork, and new skills outside the classroom. We extend our gratitude to the staff who make this possible, giving learners opportunities to thrive and grow.



It has been a busy term as usual at Erdington Hall. Our Core Values are incorporated in our 3 R's. They are **Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Resilient**. We are focusing on one per half term. This term, we have focused on Be Ready. We learnt about famous people like Darren Harris and Funmi Oduwaiye, who have to be ready for the challenges of using their skills to achieve success. We were also lucky to learn about their resilience.

We think about our value, Be Ready as we focus on attendance. It is improving this year; everyone is working hard to be in every day and on time as often as they can. This term has seen the introduction of the VIP Lounge. This is for one class per week who have achieved the highest attendance. Every class member in the winning class has had the opportunity to wear a VIP badge, have a picnic lunch in the hall and even the choice of a mini disco as well as games as rewards for high attendance. Well done Year 4, who have won this four times so far this year.



Community Cheer

Christmas is, as ever, a busy time for the performing arts department with our choir performing at Heartlands Hospital to raise money for the University Hospitals Birmingham Charity and the One Day at Christmas event at the NEC, which is charity initiative, creating a magical Christmas Day experience for people experiencing loneliness and isolation at Christmas. They also performed for our own community Christmas party on 13th December.

Our performing arts department is also eagerly rehearsing for the annual production; Shrek – The Musical in the final week of term. We wish you all a Merry and peaceful Christmas.



Sustainability

We have been teaching everyone about sustainability since our school councillors visited Tyseley Energy Park. This term, our children have been taking part in gardening club, which has involved planting seeds and plants around school and looking after them.

Our colleagues have also been reflecting of further ways we can help the environment. At Erdington Hall, we have been considering the environment carefully and have created a house system to celebrate successes in school. Our houses are named after the canals that meet at Spaghetti Junction. They are: Fazeley, Tame, Warwick and Worcester. This is very poignant for our school as we are so close to this area. In recognition of what we have in our locality, it is vital that our learners know more about their locality, its enterprise, the opportunities it creates, the links it has to the rest of the UK and beyond. Also, the contribution canals make to providing leisure and most importantly, sustainability and the contribution our learners can make. And of course, it is important to note that Birmingham has more canals than Venice.



We love learning at Erdington Hall

This term saw the introduction of Erdington's school ambassadors programme. Each area of the curriculum is represented by children in addition to our Subject Leads. This includes English Guild and STEM, Digital, Project, Health and Safety and Wellbeing Ambassadors. As well as these, we have a well-established Phonic Friends who read with our younger readers at lunchtimes.



Black History Month

Each year, during the month of October, it is Black History Month. This is a great opportunity to spotlight the ongoing learning that takes place at Erdington Hall. Throughout their projects, our children learn about aspects of Black History through a range of subjects in the curriculum. During October, we welcomed visits from a famous footballer with a vision impairment, Darren Harris. He amazed everyone with his talents with football as well as wonderful piano skills. We also welcomed Funmi Oduwaiye who has taken part in the Paralympics this year. Funmi has been both an Olympian and Paralympian. Our learners really enjoyed the experience and learnt about her resilience and perseverance. Afterwards, they spent time thinking about their own resilience and talked about how inspired they were by her and Darren Harris' visit.



Guide dogs

The learners in Year 1 have learnt about working animals, how they help people with impairments. We were lucky to have a visit from a guide dog, who all of our children enjoyed meeting.

Hippodrome workshop

We were very lucky to have a visit from members of the Hippodrome, who entertained all with their modern dance. The learners at Erdington Hall were in awe of their brave and moving performance.



HM Royal Navy Portsmouth

Our learners had an incredible day at HM Royal Navy Base Portsmouth. They explored naval history, learned about modern-day maritime operations, and even met with Navy personnel. A unique experience that sparked curiosity and gave insight into the world of defence and leadership. Another great step on the Lyndon Learner Journey.

Year 7 Bletchley Park

Year 7 learners had an incredible day exploring Bletchley Park. From learning about the brilliant minds behind the World War II codebreaking, to seeing the famous Enigma machines. An opportunity to explore history, technology and problem-solving to life. A perfect example of the Lyndon Learner Journey in action - broadening horizons and igniting curiosity.



Wicked

What an unforgettable experience for our learners who had the wonderful experience of watching Wicked in London's West End. From stunning performances to powerful theses of friendship and courage, it was a fantastic opportunity to see storytelling at its finest. Another brilliant moment in the Lyndon Learner Journey, building confidence and broadening horizons.

Visit to Keble College

Our learners had an inspiring day at Keble College, Oxford University. From exploring the campus to learning about university life and future opportunities, they gained valuable insights into what it takes to study at this prestigious university. This was a day full of inspiration and big dreams for all involved.



Mock COP29

11 learners from Years 8 and 10 took part in a Mock COP29 at Solihull Council Chambers where they gave speeches on the climate positions of Nigeria and Barbados, who they were representing. They also questioned other countries on their climate action and worked with other nations on strategies to respond to climate change. It was a very valuable experience, with learners having to show a broad knowledge on their own and other countries, along with developing a range of skills.



Creativity within Summit family

Lyndon learners were delighted to attend a collaborative Art & Design workshop with learners from Solihull Sixth Form College where they developed their skills and created wonderful Christmas card designs for our school Christmas card.



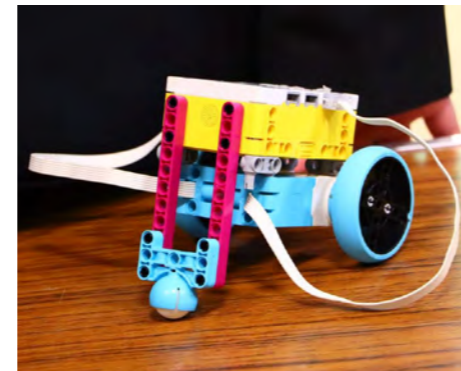
Careers Convention

Our annual Careers Convention was a very busy and successful event with lots of external exhibitors supporting our Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 learners with decisions about their future.



STEM Learning

Learners across the academy have engaged in a range of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics workshops including Bloodhound Land speed car activities, Robotics workshops.



The BIG Sleep

Learners and staff members participated in the St Basil's BIG Sleep charity sleep out event. The team built their camp for the evening and participated in fundraising for both St Basil's and University Hospital Birmingham, raising an impressive £1462 in total.



Global Show

The Year 7 cohort hosted a brilliant Global Show sharing their learning about key global issues through presentations, discussions and creative artwork to a range of visiting judges.



The Annual Shoebox Appeal

Each year, learners at Lyndon School participate in the Teams4U Shoebox Appeal. Teams4U is a global charity dedicated to empowering communities and transforming lives through education, health, and humanitarian aid. As part of Lyndon School's annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal, learners fill shoeboxes with useful items and toys to be delivered to vulnerable children around the world during the festive season. This year, learners filled over 150 shoeboxes with Christmas gifts, with an amazing 55 shoeboxes being donated by a single family. This year the shoeboxes will be heading to Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania. Teams4U works closely with in-country partners like the Red Cross to help them find children that are most in need.



Mishal Husain BBC Reporter

Our learners had the opportunity to participate in a workshop with BBC reporter Mishal Husain, learners were able to ask questions about her journey and explore current affairs. Mishal referred to her years of experience working at the BBC, this was a great opportunity for Lyndon learners.



Christmas card competition

The learners at Kineton Green were invited to participate in a Christmas card competition run by Dr Neil Shastri Hurst MP. We are delighted to announce that Martha in Year 6 won the competition. Dr Shastri Hurst came in to school to present Martha with her award. Her design will be used on all of Dr Shastri Hurst's cards he is sending out this Christmas. Well done Martha.



Trips

Over the last two weeks children in FS2, Year 1 and Year 6 have all participated in trips out of school or enjoyed a visit from an outside group.

FS2 trip to Warwick Arts Centre

As part of our wonderful topic this half term, Once Upon a Time, FS2 visited Warwick Arts Centre and soared into space for an exciting adaptation of the award-winning book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler – The Smeds and the Smoos. The show was wonderful to watch and the children absolutely loved it, even when one of the cheeky aliens sprayed us all with water. FS2 really impressed us with their super behaviour throughout our trip, we were really proud of them.



The Animal Lady

Year 1 had a wonderful visit from the animal lady. They got to meet a snake, a frog, a gecko, an owl, a bearded dragon, a guinea pig and a honey bear. It was such an amazing and exciting experience, a perfect end to our Paws, Claws and Whiskers topic. Year 1 really impressed Laura with their classification knowledge and vocabulary. Some of the children were asking questions such as 'are any of your animals carnivores or herbivores?' and 'do you have any amphibians?'

Year 6 trip to Coventry Transport Museum & Herbert Museum and Art Gallery

Year 6 had a fantastic trip to the Herbert Museum and Art Gallery and Coventry Transport Museum. They impressed all of the staff with their knowledge about World War 2 and got hands-on with a range of genuine artefacts and clothing. They also visited two different shelters and saw authentic World War 2 vehicles.



PTA

On Friday 13th December, it was Christmas Celebration Day at Kineton Green. Staff members and learners wore their Christmas jumpers and the PTA arranged for Santa Claus to visit the school which the children loved. Later in the day the PTA held their Christmas Fayre with stalls, face painting, hot dogs, donuts and the choir performed in the hall.

Climate change workshops

Key Stage 2 has been participating in climate change workshops this term where they have been finding out all about factors that are influencing climate change globally. The learning has been engaging and interactive with opportunities for roleplay, quizzes and partner work. So far, they have looked at food miles, carbon footprints and ways in which individuals can make a difference. Our children are passionate about protecting the environment for future generations. The children have enjoyed this work, and it has supported them hugely with the TREAD Lightly Campaign, which they are already heavily involved in.



No Pens Day

Pegasus took part in No Pens Day. The children spent the day thinking about how we use communication to gain understanding. Oracy skills were developed across the day in conjunction with our Voice21 work, which is having a remarkable impact across the school. Everyone had a fantastic day and we are looking forward to building on the event next year.



Exciting Experiences

At The Oaklands Primary, learning goes beyond the classroom with an array of enriching experiences and trips that spark curiosity and bring subjects to life. Children explore history firsthand through visits to Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust, where they immerse themselves in the Bard's legacy, and participate in engaging historical workshops tied to their studies. At Cadbury World, they uncover the science and history of chocolate, while The Living Rainforest offers a vibrant glimpse into exotic ecosystems and adaptations. Exciting outings to Birmingham Hippodrome introduce children to the magic of live theatre and an opportunity to perform on stage themselves. Geography visits to Dovedale provided learners with an opportunity to put their river and mountains learning into action and inspire a love of nature.

In school, visits from Guide Dogs and The Falconry Centre provide hands-on learning about animals and their roles in human lives. These diverse experiences not only deepen understanding but also create unforgettable memories, fostering a lifelong love of learning in every child.



Armonico Consort

We are delighted to participate in a year-long performing arts programme, offering learners a remarkable journey through music, theatre, and dance. In partnership with the renowned Armonico Consort, children experience the joy of singing and choral harmony. They then step into the captivating world of opera, discovering storytelling through expressive vocals and drama. The programme concludes with an exploration of ballet, where children learn the elegance and discipline of this beautiful art form.

This term, 30 children received weekly lessons from the consort where they have explored songs from various genres, including classical music, honing their vocal skills and deepening their love for music. The training concluded with an impressive concert, where they proudly showcased their talents to an appreciative audience. A standout moment of the concert was their stunning rendition of *Carol of the Bells*.

Scan the QR code to relive this memorable performance and experience the magic of music in action.



Celebrating a vibrant and engaging school community

As we reach the end of this term, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the many enriching activities and achievements that have taken place across our school community. From musical events to inspiring trips and the introduction of new initiatives, there is so much to celebrate.

Carol concert, Nativity and community spirit

Our carol concert was a heartwarming highlight of the term, bringing together learners and colleagues, to share the festive joy of the season. Alongside the carol concert, our younger learners delighted audiences with a beautifully performed Nativity play, showcasing their creativity and confidence while retelling the timeless story of Christmas. The learners performed beautifully, showcasing not only their musical talents but also their dedication and teamwork. Alongside this, our school choir also performed at the local hospital, raising funds for charity and spreading cheer to patients, visitors, and colleagues. It was a moving experience and a wonderful way for our learners to give back to the community.



Engaging with parents and carers

Workshops and consultations

Strengthening the partnership between school and home has been a priority this term. Parents and carers were invited to attend a range of workshops and events designed to support their children's learning and well-being, including:

- Maths Workshops, which offered practical strategies for parents and carers to help their children with numeracy skills.
- Reading Club (EYFS), a wonderful opportunity for parents and carers to engage with early reading activities and support literacy development at home.
- Coffee Morning (SEND), where parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities could connect, share experiences, and gain insights from colleagues and peers.
- Occupational Therapy (OT) Parent Workshop, providing helpful advice and resources for supporting motor skills and sensory needs at home.



In addition, parents and carers had the chance to engage through Parent Consultations, fostering meaningful discussions about individual progress and ensuring every child's needs are met.

Community visits and Open Day

This term, we welcomed parents and carers to our Open Day, showcasing our school's vibrant learning environment and providing insights into daily life at Yarnfield Primary School. Families also joined in community visits, which highlighted our school's commitment to building connections and fostering a sense of belonging both within and beyond the school gates.

Exploring the wider curriculum through trips

Our learners have been able to extend their learning beyond the classroom with a series of exciting trips linked to the wider curriculum:

- Reception ventured on a local walk, using their geography skills to explore the area and develop their understanding of the world around them.
- Year 1 visited St John's Museum to delve into history and bring their studies to life.
- Year 2 took an adventurous trip to Warwick Castle, immersing themselves in medieval history and stories of knights and castles.
- Year 4 explored the natural beauty of the Malvern Hills, learning about geography in a hands-on and memorable way.
- Year 6 travelled to Stratford-upon-Avon, deepening their understanding of history while exploring the life and legacy of William Shakespeare.

Empowering learners through leadership roles

This term also saw the introduction of Pupil Advocates, a group of Year 6 learners taking on leadership roles to observe lessons and provide feedback. These advocates have demonstrated responsibility and maturity, contributing valuable insights to help enhance teaching and learning.

Our Pupil Advocates have also taken on other responsibilities, such as giving tours to visitors, preparing the hall for assemblies, and representing their peers in the school council and pupil voice groups. Their involvement highlights the importance we place on fostering leadership and active participation at Yarnfield Primary School.



Celebrations, remembrance and fundraising

This term was also marked by vibrant celebrations and meaningful acts of remembrance and charity. Our school came together to:

- Celebrating Diwali and Bandi Chor Divas, where learners explored the traditions and stories behind the Festival of Lights, participating in activities that honoured this important cultural celebration.
- Remembering Remembrance Day, with a poignant assembly and activities that helped learners reflect on the sacrifices made by others.
- Raise funds for important causes, including:
 - Hello Yellow Day, supporting mental health awareness.
 - Children in Need, where learners and colleagues came together in fun and creative ways to contribute to this national charity event.
 - Wear It Pink Day, raising awareness and funds for breast cancer research.
 - Christmas Jumper Day, which added a festive touch while supporting a good cause.



These events highlighted the values of community, empathy, and generosity that are central to our school ethos.

A very busy Performing Arts department

Since September, the Performing Arts department has been brimming with energy, passion, and creativity. We proudly launched the school's very first Black History Month celebration, featuring a vibrant Afrobeat dance workshop led by an external company. Learners embraced the rhythm and culture while connecting with the rich heritage of the genre. Alongside this, our poetry workshops gave young people the opportunity to craft heartfelt pieces about their personal experiences, including expressive works about their hair, celebrating individuality and diversity. Year 9 learners also enjoyed a specialised acting workshop, designed to deepen their understanding of drama and inspire those considering it for their GCSE studies.



Rehearsals for our much-anticipated school production of Sister Act have been in full swing since late September. With three lively sessions per week, learners from all year groups are coming together to create something magical. This production is not just about performance but also about building confidence, teamwork, and lasting friendships across the school.

As the festive season approaches, the Performing Arts department is embracing the holiday spirit with an array of heartwarming activities.

We are turning our talents outward to spread joy in the community. Children and young people from Years 7 to 11 have visited a local care home and hospital, sharing carols and poetry to brighten the days of residents and patients. This wonderful opportunity combines artistic expression with compassion and community engagement.

Additionally, we are excited to announce our upcoming Christmas Gala, a celebration of talent from across the school. Learners will showcase a variety of performances, including Christmas songs from the choir, captivating snippets from our school production of Sister Act, heartfelt poetry, instrumental performances, dramatic readings, and much more. This event promises to bring the school community together in a festive celebration of creativity and togetherness.

We are so proud of the dedication and enthusiasm of our children and young and look forward to continuing to provide opportunities that inspire, nurture, and showcase their incredible talents.



A Christmas Carol theatre trip

The English department's term was nicely rounded off with our Key Stage 4 trip to the Birmingham Rep Theatre to watch A Christmas Carol. Both Year 10 and 11 learners had a fantastic time watching a key GCSE text come to life on stage.

Our learners were extremely well behaved and, despite the performance being delayed, they sat patiently. When the performance started there was not a sound from them - it clearly grabbed their attention. At the end of the performance several members of the public and the Rep team commented how respectful our learners were.

Amina, a Year 10 learner gave us a review of her evening:

I had the pleasure of attending a live performance of A Christmas Carol at The Rep, and it was a truly magical experience that captured the heart and spirit of the holiday season. From the moment the curtain rose, the production enticed me into Dickens' message of the novella.

The cast's phenomenal acting was breathtaking as it accurately represented Dickens thoughts and aims of A Christmas Carol. Sitting on the top seats of the Rep, we were still able to feel the deep and meaningful emotions portrayed by the characters, making the experience truly touching.

Overall, I enjoyed my experience and would recommend it to anyone of all ages and interests as it is an experience that is too beneficial to miss out on. Throughout the play, I further enhanced my knowledge and understanding of the novella, while also having an enjoyable time with my classmates, and would be honoured to live in the moment all over again.



Turvey Building open for Psychology

Solihull Sixth Form College opened a brand-new building on campus this term.

The Turvey Building, housing eight new classrooms for Psychology, opened after half-term thanks to a £2,072,512 grant from the Department of Education and a £692,000 investment from the Summit Learning Trust. A net zero project from TG Escapes, this modular building provides modern and spacious classrooms for Psychology and an ideal teaching and learning environment.

Nicola Holmes, Curriculum Leader for Psychology, commented:

"Psychology is currently the biggest A level subject here at the College, with approximately 600 learners across Year 12 and Year 13. It's absolutely fantastic for us as a department to be teaching in the brand-new Turvey building. The classrooms are modern and spacious and clearly set the tone for serious study."



Year 13 Psychology learner Denisa added:

"What I like most about the Turvey Building is that it's spacious and it offers us the opportunity to do a wide range of activities in class. It's nice for the biggest subject in College to have its own designated space. The design of it is very calming and peaceful and that goes really well with the subject we are studying."

The building has been named after Malcolm Turvey, who taught at the College for his entire 44-year career before retiring in 2023. He was a highly skilled and passionate teacher who loved being in the classroom. Malcolm is a true polymath and was able to teach all subjects across the Social Sciences Curriculum area, although he specialised in Economics. He held the post of Curriculum Leader for 22 years, leading a team with a calm and supportive demeanour. All who have worked with Malcolm found him to be a great reassurance, a source of inspiration and an outstanding role model.



The Inktober Challenge

Jake Parker created Inktober in 2009 as a challenge to improve his inking skills and develop positive drawing habits. It has since grown into a worldwide endeavour with thousands of artists taking on the challenge every year. In October, Ninestiles Art department held their own competition.



Key Stage 3 Winner Amelia won with this fantastic drawing



Key Stage 4 Winner Charlina won with this piece



College learners on fieldtrips

Learners at Solihull Sixth Form College have been on a variety of fieldtrips this term to stretch their learning. This has included an overseas trip to Spain and day trips closer to home.

Spanish arts

Visual Arts students travelled to Spain during the half-term holidays to explore galleries, museums and the prominent architectural sights of Madrid. The residential fieldtrip enabled Visual Arts learners to experience a different culture and get inspiration for their own portfolios from some world-famous artwork on display in the Madrid galleries.

Among the art galleries and museums they visited, learners saw works from Holbein and Hopper at the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza. They also saw famous works like Picasso's Guernica, as well as pieces by Miro, Dali and Calder, at the Museo Reina Sofia. The Museo Del Prado was another stop on their itinerary, as they explored artwork by Goya, Raphael, Velazquez, El Greco and Bosch.

Other places of interest in Madrid included a visit to the Teatro Real to learn about the architecture and history, as well as a tour of the Royal Palace. Students took a tour of Madrid by foot, visiting areas such as Puerta del Sol, Plaza Mayor and Mercado de San Miguel and they enjoyed an evening visit to Temple of De Bod. They visited the El Rastro Market, La Latina area and the Botanical Gardens. The final site of interest in their trip was the Bernabeu Stadium, home of Real Madrid Football Club, to explore the architecture and engineering of the world-famous stadium.



London - National Archives

Meanwhile, Historians at the College undertook a two-day fieldtrip to London. They participated in a workshop at the National Archives to explore primary evidence about whether there was a 'Crisis in the Reign of Mary I'. They were able to handle original documents as part of the workshop and were treated to seeing some 'showcase' sources such as the original copy of King Henry VIII's will. Day 1 of the fieldtrip also saw learners take a walking tour of key sights in London followed by a trip to watch the musical 'Six' about Henry VIII's six wives on The Strand.



The second day of the trip involved a full-day student conference, at which expert university lecturers from leading Universities delivered relevant lectures on 'Russia in Revolution'. These lectures were highly relevant to their A level unit on Russian history and some of our learners impressed the lecturers by posing challenging and sophisticated questions to them during the Question-and-Answer sessions.

Computer Science - Bletchley Park

Computer Science learners also headed out on the road, as they visited Bletchley Park to learn about the advances in computer science that took place during the Second World War. This was a site of great importance, where a team of mathematicians broke the Enigma code to enable them to decipher secret German messages and prevent many attacks. Alan Turing designed a machine called the Bombe, which was able to decode messages by cycling through all possible combinations in about 20 minutes, far faster than would be possible by people. Use of that and a computer called the Colossus were hailed as one of the most significant victories for the Allies during the war.



Learners explored the modern-day Bletchley Park by viewing the interactive displays and museum collections, as well as watching the immersive films set within the restored historic buildings.

The Gambia project 2024

Finally, a group of 28 young people have just returned from a life-enhancing trip to The Gambia, having raised over £18,000 this year for a school in the West African country. It was the ninth visit to Africa with the College's Team Gambia project and more than £92,000 has been raised since the initiative started in 2013.

While in the Gambia, students spent every morning at the Abuko Nursery and Lower Basic School and taught the children (aged 4 to 6) in small groups. As there was a language barrier to overcome, many of the activities that the learners undertook with the children were active and visual, such as singing, craftwork, word and picture matching and there were lots of outdoor fun and games too.



Charity and Christmas Cheer

Our learners have raised nearly £900 for our local hospital charity University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB) thanks to Christmas carol concerts at their hospitals.

Learners performed carols at hospitals across Birmingham and Solihull to raise funds for the University Hospitals Birmingham Charity, which supports four of the largest hospitals in Birmingham:

- Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, Heartlands Hospital, Good Hope Hospital and Solihull Hospital.

From tiny newborns on the Neonatal Unit, to elderly patients living with dementia, the Charity supports more than two million patients and their families, as well as 25,000+ members of hospital staff, every year.

They provide ‘added extras’ that are over and above what the NHS provides as standard, including helping to refurbish wards and departments, purchase vital, state-of-the-art equipment, fund life-saving research and more.

The Charity also supports our armed forces by running Fisher House UK, a “home away from home” for military families on the site of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, home to the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine.

Last Christmas, learners from Summit Learning Trust academies helped decorate Fisher House in a display of festive spirit.

Vince Green, CEO of Summit Learning Trust, said: “The spirit of charity in our learners is really inspiring to see across our work supporting the University Hospitals Birmingham Charity. I know that this money will make a huge difference to many in hospital this Christmas and we look forward to continuing to support our local charities for many years to come”.

Mike Hammond, the Charity’s Chief Executive, said: “We are delighted to have the support of Summit Learning Trust this Christmas. Carol performances from local schools and community groups always bring a smile to the faces of patients and staff at all our hospitals and are a great way of spreading some Christmas cheer. The schools from the Trust that have taken part this year have made a huge difference, not only by coming themselves and brightening peoples’ day, but the money that they have raised will also help us to make sure that patients and staff staying in hospital over Christmas don’t miss out and are still able to enjoy some of the festive spirit of the season.”



Click or Scan
To watch our Community
Cheer Video



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