



## NEWSLETTER

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5th July 2024

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Dear Parents and Carers

We have so much good news that this issue is 3 pages long!

I am delighted to be able to share with you that our debate team came SECOND place in the national Debate Mate competition in London. This is such a great achievement, and the following students should be so proud of themselves: Congratulations to Gavenpreet S (10G), Regina A (10G), Manveer S (8F), Manraj S (10J), Ravneet K (7B) and Balveer K (8D) and of course staff members, Mr Clarkson and Ms Kaur. Well done all.

Recently some Y9 girls went to West Smethwick Park to play a cricket fixture against Shirelands, on the pitch that was paid for by KP Snacks and which is available for the community to use. It was their first ever fixture and they only missed out on the win by a just few runs... All girls were a credit to the school and displayed some real talent after just a few coaching sessions from Pravin Patel from Staffs Cricket, in PE lessons this half term.

Sports Day is taking place next week, on Friday, we are keeping our fingers crossed for nice weather!

Those students who took part in the reward trips to Drayton Manor and Alton Towers last week had a great time and luckily, they had lovely weather too. I know that our Y12 students are looking forward to visiting Alton Towers soon.

Also last week, some Y8 students visited Wolverhampton University to work with the artist Mark Riley. The students enjoyed the trip and this week, some Y9 and 10 students went to work with the artist Black Country Type.

Also on Thursday, some lucky students visited a local French Café for breakfast where the students had to order their food and speak to the staff in French.

Thank you to those Y10 parents and carers who joined us for PCE last night. It was also a delight to meet our new Y7 students who were in school this week getting to know their new teachers and classmates. Last week our Y7 students visited a local park for their Geography field trip.

Thank you to the volunteers at Just Like Us for the insightful session they delivered to Y12s recently. As part of schools

diversity week, students learned how to be an ally, showing respect and tolerance.

Last week a small group of boys visited a local prison with 'The Invested Man' group, the group encourages boys to envision who they aspire to become.

Next week we have the brilliant theatre group Saltmine in school and they will be showing their latest show 'Filters' which focusses on Sexual Harassment/Consent, Cyberbullying and AI risks.

Our Culture Day was a huge success, please look out for the photos on our social media and well done to the Y12 students who raised over £255 for 'Save the Children' by selling keyrings and bracelets. Also as part of our culture celebrations we welcomed professional musicians Andre and Daniel Hutchinson (sons of Mr Hutchinson) in to deliver a Y7 masterclass. The students enjoyed learning all about what it's like to have a career in music.

Our Y11 EAL students have now recorded their final show for Black Country Radio Xtra and you can listen to it here <https://www.blackcountryradio.co.uk/player/black-country-xtra/on-demand/the-lounge/> (jump to 1 hour). Well done to all students involved.

I have included a link to a survey for the people of Smethwick, please click the link on the next page to complete it.

**Our September return dates and times are on the next page, please check carefully.**

As this is the last newsletter of the year, I would like to wish you a wonderful summer holiday.



Best Regards

1.

Imran Iqbal  
Headteacher



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As we come to the end of the academic year I wanted to reflect on the current attendance at Holly Lodge and compare it to the National picture. Our whole school attendance for years 7-11 is 91.6% which in comparison to the national average puts us 1.3% lower than the average attendance at other secondary schools in the UK. Our persistent absent figure which is classed as (pupils away from school on a regular basis whose attendance sits below 90%). On average this means that pupils are missing 16 days a year if they have attendance at 90%. This is a significant amount and is a concern as pupils will lose so much learning time as well as the opportunity to see friends and be in an environment that allows them to meet their potential. Again our PA figure sits 1% higher than that of other secondary schools at 21%. Attendance will be a huge focus for us in September and families can expect a lot of support as well as challenges around why their child is not in school. We will work closely with the local authority in using sanctions if needed but of course this is what we want to avoid so please ensure your child is in school. If you have any questions please get in touch with Mr Burke ([lburke@holly-lodge.org](mailto:lburke@holly-lodge.org)) or Mr Robinson ([Arobinson@holly-lodge.org](mailto:Arobinson@holly-lodge.org)).

## Attendance Matters

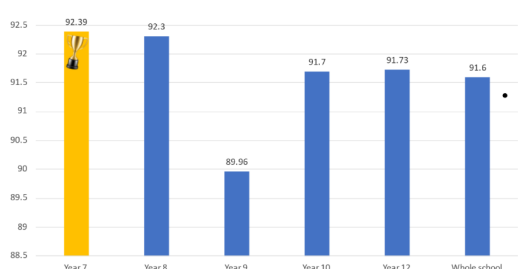
every minute matters



7 to 11	PA Figure (7-11)	PA Figure (7-13)	National Att	National PA
91.6%	21% (304)	21% (338)	92.90%	20%



### Year Group Attendance Figures



- Every Minute Matters
- Miss School-Miss Out
- We need to be in school and attendance should be above 96%

Ambition | Opportunity | Community

### WORD MILLIONAIRES

9E - Bismillah TR - 2,077,915  
 9A - Yuvraj D - 1,020,993  
 8F - Aaliyah S - 5,012,225

8I - Emaan T - 3,031,341  
 8J - Ria A - 2,688,774  
 7A - Sarah K - 6,078,557  
 7E - Fathima R - 1,052,336



## BACK TO SCHOOL

Year	Date	Time
7	Tuesday 3rd September	8.40am
8	Wednesday 4th September	8.40am
9	Wednesday 4th September	9.30am
10	Wednesday 4th September	10.45am
11	Wednesday 4th September	11.30am
12	Tuesday 3rd September	8.40am
13	Tuesday 3rd September	9.50am

## Smethwick Long Term Plan

Do you visit, live, work or study in Smethwick?

We need YOUR voice to help shape our communities future.

Whether it's improved greenspaces, new community activities, safer streets with new lighting and CCTV or better transport... your view matters!

Take a moment to complete a short survey and make a difference to Smethwick. Visit <https://smethwicktp.whatmatterstoyou.co.uk> or contact [town\\_deal@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:town_deal@sandwell.gov.uk) for a paper copy of the survey.

It's Your Town, Your Future, Your Say

- 8/07 Saltmine theatre show Y8
- 9/07 Saltmine theatre show Y10
- 11/07 Y8 More Able Careers
- 12/07 Sports Day
- 13-19/07 CCF Camp
- 16/07 Y12 Alton Towers trip
- 17/07 Art Gallery (invitation only)
- 19/07 Last Day of term
- 20/07 Sports Festival
- 22/07 Sports Camp Y3-6
- 29/07 Cricket Camp Y7-10
- 29/07 Girls' Sports Camp Y7-10
- 03-04/09 Back to school - see above

# Well done! | ਬਹੁਤ ਖੁਸ਼ | ਸਾਵਾਸ਼ | بت اچھے



Congratulations to our Fantastic Debate Mate Grand Finalists who came in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place



**11-3PM**  
**SMETHWICK SUMMER SPORTS FESTIVAL**  
**SAT, 20TH JULY**  
**HOLLY LODGE HIGH SCHOOL**

FREE Fun community activities  
 Music  
 Employment fair  
 Food & Drink  
 MultiSports

MUCH MORE WITH:  
 ANY GIRL NETBALL  
 07754990612  
 AnyGirlNetball.co.uk  
 AnyGirlNetball@hotmail.com



Ambition  
 Opportunity  
 Community

Well done!

To our very own Coach Lofters who has been awarded Basket Ball England's Childrens Coach of the Year for the West Midlands, for his work with West Brom Basket Ball Club!

WWW.HOLLY-LODGE.ORG FREE

**HOLLY LODGE CRICKET camp**

29 - 31 JULY  
 9.30 A.M. TILL 2.30 P.M.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROVIDED

REGISTER HERE: [QR CODE]

FOR Y7 TO 10 EMAIL  
 HLCOMMUNITY@HOLLY-LODGE.ORG FOR FURTHER DETAILS

WWW.HOLLY-LODGE.ORG FREE

**HOLLY LODGE MULTI SPORTS girls' camp**

29/07 - 02/08  
 9.30 A.M. TILL 2.30 P.M.

FOR YEARS 7 TO 10

REGISTER HERE: [QR CODE]

EMAIL HLCOMMUNITY@HOLLY-LODGE.ORG FOR FURTHER DETAILS  
 BREAKFAST & LUNCH IS PROVIDED

WWW.HOLLY-LODGE.ORG FREE

**HOLLY LODGE MULTI SPORTS camp**

22/07 - 26/07  
 9.30 A.M. TILL 2.30 P.M.

FOR YEARS 3 TO 6

REGISTER HERE: [QR CODE]

EMAIL HLCOMMUNITY@HOLLY-LODGE.ORG FOR FURTHER DETAILS  
 BREAKFAST & LUNCH IS PROVIDED