Dance festival which showcased the talents of our very own Hamstead Hall Dance Academy.

- August saw another set of positive results at both GCSE and A Level.

- In October Year 9 students, ‘Team Cherish’ won The Birmingham Civic Society’s Next Generation Awards for a project on raising awareness of mental health.

- We celebrated Black History Month culminating in a concert on Thursday 24 October. The concert showcased music, song, dance and poetry with performances from children of all ages from Hamstead Hall and Grestone Academy. The concert was compered by Story Teller Alim Kamara who was very inspirational.

- Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 visited France and Belgium to see for themselves the impact of World War I on Britain and Germany. This visit was a very moving and emotional visit for many of the students and staff.

- November saw another wonderful Awards Evening where students were recognised for their achievements. The guest of honour was actor, singer and weather presenter Des Coleman who presented the awards to the students and gave an inspiring and motivational speech at the end of the evening.

- In December our Year 13 students and staff will be making their annual visit to The Gambia to further support the work that we started to build the nursery school in Abuko.

As we approach the end of another calendar year, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the events that have taken place in 2019.

- In January the academy was inspected by Ofsted who confirmed that Hamstead Hall Academy was a “Good” academy.

- In February we said farewell to Miss Emson who retired after 31 years of loyal and committed service to Hamstead Hall.

- In March Hamstead Hall Academy was presented with an Outstanding Achievement Award in recognition of for the work done for the 2018 – 2019 ‘Restart a Heart’ Campaign in the Community.

- In April The Charity Vaisakhi Concert raised over £1000 for The Gambia Project.

- In June, Year 12 students ‘Team Real’ reached the finals of the Envision Community Apprentice Award for their project on body confidence. The funds raised from this project were donated to Birmingham Children’s Hospital.

- In July Hamstead Hall hosted its first
In December we will also be hosting our annual Christmas Concert on Thursday 19 December.

- Throughout the year the academy has continued to develop our students’ resilience and team building skills through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for which we are a licencing centre.
- 3 students in the sixth form achieved their gold DofE award, collecting their awards at Buckingham Palace. There have also been many educational visits both in the UK and abroad which have provided students with many memorable and life changing experiences.
- Rehearsals are well under way for our forthcoming Musical, Oliver, which we are all very excited about. With a cast of over 70 students, it promises to be a significant event for the academy in February. Tickets will be on sale soon.

None of the above events would have been possible without the hard work, support and commitment of all our staff. We are very proud of all our staff at Hamstead Hall who always go the extra mile to support the students.

As always, we would like to thank parents and carers for the support they have given to Hamstead Hall Academy over the last year. We hope we can count on your ongoing support in 2020 and wish you a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

We are happy to report that the Academy Library will be running a half price Christmas Book Fair from the 11 -17 December. It’s the perfect opportunity for pupils to purchase gifts for the holiday season or a little treat for themselves. There is always a fantastic selection of new and beautiful books to choose from. Every item including the stationery is half price. We hope to see as many pupils there as possible.

Mr J Cochrane

Bookbuzz is a reading programme from BookTrust that aims to help schools inspire a love of reading in Year 7 students. This year we give our students the opportunity to choose their own book to take home and keep from a list of 17 titles suitable for 11 to 13 year-olds. They are all carefully selected by a panel of experts including school Librarians, Teachers and children’s booksellers to ensure quality, suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure. With so many titles to choose from, students will always find something they love whatever their interest or ability.

Those that have finished their Bookbuzz book should head down to the Library where they will find a copy of every book that is available in the scheme.

Mr J Cochrane
Year 12 Science of Roller Coasters

Year 12 Physics and Forensic Science students were given the opportunity to attend Alton Towers, and apply learning from the classroom into real world situations. Students went on various rides such as Nemesis, The Smiler and Rita. On Rita ‘The Queen of Speed’ students experienced 4.7 G Force and were able to explain the forces they experienced. Students also went on Oblivion where they experienced acceleration due to gravity and were able to grasp how fast objects travel when being dropped from a considerable height. A lot of them were pushed out of their comfort zones with how high and fast the rides went however, students came out feeling more confident and glad they faced their fears.

Drama Department News

The Drama Department has been busy with theatre visits this term with two trips for GCSE Drama students to two different Birmingham theatres. Firstly, in October, a visit to the Birmingham Hippodrome to see ‘Blood Brothers’ by Willy Russell which is a set text for the new specification at GCSE. This particular trip was to cover Section B of the final exam – a theatrical review. A brilliant production, students were engaged from start to finish and will have no trouble writing about all aspects of the show as the production values and acting were of such a high standard. More recently the group visited the Birmingham Rep to watch ‘An Inspector Calls’ by JB Priestley. This spectacular reimagining of the play by Stephen Daldrey sees the Birling’s house tilt forwards and tip its contents onto the stage – a metaphor for how the mysterious Inspector breaks the comfortable lives of the Birlings apart. Nearly two hours with no interval and an auditorium full of GCSE English and Drama students is usually a recipe for disaster but you could hear a pin drop throughout and on the way home, it was great to hear the group discuss the play and the production with such insight and understanding.

I’m on the lookout for something to take Year 10 to see next but in the meantime if anyone fancies catching a spectacular, dramatic, heartwarming, funny, exciting piece of theatre then tickets for ‘Oliver!’ will go on sale in the New Year.

Miss J Davies

The Library Runs a Mock General Election

Over the last few weeks the Library has been running a mock general election in which any pupil under 18 can anonymously vote for their preferred political party. The Library presents objective information based on each party’s manifesto and allows the pupils to make up their own minds. The 2019 results will be announced on the same day as the real general election result via the Library Twitter page @HHALibrary.

Mr J Mohr

Mr J Cochrane
年9奖励旅行

在7月17日，一群在法语方面付出了大量努力的年9学生被带到了伯明翰摩西利的面包店‘La Brioche’。店主不仅生产法语甜点和糕点，他们还会说法语，这样学生就可以用他们在学习的语言进行点餐和支付。

对所有参与的人来说，这是一个非常愉快的经历。店主对学生们非常愿意说法语感到非常惊讶。

以下是几位学生的评论：

“谢谢您的旅行。我很喜欢它！”
Fatheha

“谢谢今天的旅行，小姐！真的很喜欢！”
Aleema

“你好，小姐，这次旅行很棒。真的很感谢。我和我的家人可能会下星期去！”
Ikrah

年12学生被带到Solihull School参加联合国模拟活动。他们必须与其他学校的学生一起工作，制作法语演示。这是一次非常具有挑战性但非常有益的体验。

学生们表示，这次活动非常有帮助，他们很高兴能够与来自其他学校的学生进行比较，并且非常开心能够见到新朋友。

其中一位是Jaspreet Singh，他说：“这次旅行非常有用，因为它让我走出了我的舒适区，就像在未知的观众面前做演示一样。一开始很紧张，但最后我意识到其实并不那么糟糕，我完成了任务”。

作为他们的老师，看到他们如此大步地走出舒适区，真的令人感到鼓舞，也让真正感到自豪。

大问题—A-Level旅行

Jaspreet Singh, Vishal Raj, Ethan Stafford-Cookson, Luna Villarroel, Ritish Yash, Eisha Sohal, Wiktoria Washonska

Miss L Dupon
Year 11 Students Complete Silver DofE Expedition

On the 26 September the Languages Department, alongside a handful of fantastic students, held the second edition of Language Day festivities in Parkside Hall. A range of activities were on offer covering a large variety of languages ranging from French and Spanish to Latin, Polish, Ancient Greek, Italian, Punjabi and Sign Language. Once again, this day was a success thanks to all the people who took part whether it was by hosting a station or collecting tickets to try to win the big prize during the raffle. Until next year...

Day one saw a monster of a walk from the Stiperstones and over the long Mynd to a campsite at Hamperley where students were expected to pitch their tents and cook their evening meal. It is sometimes the last thing that the students want to do when they are cold, wet and hungry but an amazing sight to see them supporting one another.

Day two was an early start and another big walk as the students tackled the length of the Long Mynd (some 7.5 miles) before dropping down to lower ground at a tiny village called Ratlinghope. The students earnt a rest at this stage after walking around 12 miles on the second day.

Day three and the end was in sight. The students were great at organising themselves on a rainy day and packing everything away before completing their expedition in Church Stretton. The last day was made all the more confusing as it had to be changed due to the adverse weather conditions. It gave all the students something to talk about as Mr Sims got the blame for making them walk in the mud on the last day.

A brilliant bunch of young people who worked their socks off and should now try to ensure that they complete all of the sections towards their silver award. Well done everyone!

Mr J Sims

Language Day 2019

Miss L Dupon

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Language Day 2019

Miss L Dupon
During the October half term Mrs Bolton, Miss Wilson and Mr Anthrobus took 26 students to the World War One Battlefields in France and Belgium.

It was a very early start for everyone however everybody turned up bright eyed and bushy tailed ready to start our little adventure. After a very long coach and ferry trip – yes, we did have to remind some that we were going on water! – our first stop was Vimy Ridge, the Canadian Memorial. Despite the bitter wind that took hold as we walked up the hill, students fell silent as they took in the sheer size of the monument. As our guide Alan was talking to us the students started to reflect on the gravity of the war. When they realised this was just one monument for one country, we started to see students appreciate why we were on this particular trip.

Day two took us into Belgium and in particular Ypres. The highlight of this day was the Last Post at the Menin Gate. We asked the students to write a message for the wreath we were allowed to lay on behalf of Hamstead Hall. As a group they wrote ‘Your son’s sacrifice will never be forgotten. We appreciate your support and we will never forget you. At Hamstead Hall we remember both sides. You have died physically but are still in our hearts. Let the fathers, sons and brothers sleep’. As staff we were immensely proud that between them they could come up with such fitting words to remember the soldiers. Three students (Kymani James, Haroon Mushtaq and Boydd McMurdo) then did the academy proud by laying the wreath during the ceremony. After listening to the Last Post it was a pleasure to talk to the students as they discussed their feelings and thoughts they had whilst they were silent.

Day three took us to France and the Somme. The most affecting part of the day was visiting the Thiepval memorial. This memorial bears the names of those missing from the Somme (both English and French), there are more than 72,000 names. Watching the students walking up to the memorial they were marvelling at the size but when they walked through the arches and saw the graves the students literally stopped dead because of the number of graves and names on the walls. That evening we were lucky enough to have a talk by Alan about artefacts and two very willing volunteers dressed up in uniform for us. They were obviously very happy with wearing very itchy 1914 army uniforms.

Day four was home time. We went into Belgium again for the morning to visit a museum that allowed us to interact with uniform, lie in bunkers and walk through the trenches. It was then time to start the long journey home again. With a far more subdued and quiet coach we eventually made it back home all in one piece and looking forward to the rest of the half term.

Mrs L Bolton & Miss S Wilson
On the evening of Thursday 10 October 2019, Hamstead Hall Academy were one of four finalists at the Next Generation Awards. ‘Team Cherish’ consisting of Tanzeela Ahmed, Ganga Dewgun, Deeya Roopra and Genevieve Picart performed their presentation on mental health to a full house at Highbury Hall.

The girls performed their pitch with great confidence and conviction and had the audience gripped straight away. The passion, knowledge and vision they portrayed to enhance the understanding of mental health in young children was clearly evident and even sublimed the audience with the amazing singing of Ganga Dewgun, which was very emotional.

After a tense long wait, the judges returned and announced the winners. I am ecstatic to say Hamstead Hall Academy were joint winners along with Oscott Manor School and shared the first prize. Each school will be rewarded with a prize fund of £850 to put towards their project. On top of this, each school will be assigned a Mentor from Aston University to support their projects going forward. Overall, it was a fantastic evening with so much joy for the pupils, families and teachers of the pupils.

A few comments from the girls on how they found their experience of competing in the

Next Generation Awards:

"My experience in the Next Generation Awards was something that brings you into the reality of what is real. It made us grow up but with the freedom of a child." Tanzeela Ahmed

"The Next Generation Awards was like a wake up call to the real world. We had learnt so many new things and picked up many skills. It also is something for your CV yet it was more – It allowed us to explore myself and go beyond." Deeya Roopra

"Next Generation was a journey, a journey that we got to grow up in. We got to do something about what we so deeply believe in." Ganga Dewgan

"I found the next generation an amazing experience. It gave me a chance to share my ideas and make an impact whilst learning about the process of business." Genevieve Picart

A special thank you to Mr Farar, Mrs O’Sullivan, Miss Brown and Ms Burrows for supporting the girls at the event.

A massive well done to ‘Team Cherish’!

Mr C S Goray
Envision - Team Hope!

We are Team Hope! We are taking part in the Young People’s Envision Project 2019. Over the past 11 weeks we have been working on behalf of Edward’s Trust to raise money and awareness around school, for our project. Edward’s Trust is a charity which help families deal with family losses and provide bereavement services. The charity was set up by Peter and Hilary Dent in 1989 in memory of their son, Edward, who died of cancer.

On Friday 25 October 2019 we had our first challenge, which was our Raising Awareness Challenge. For this we had to think of a way to inform our peers about our project in a unique way. We had a kite signing event in memory of Edward. We delivered our message and informed over 500 pupils about Team Hope. Then on Monday 25 November 2019 we completed our second challenge, which was the Fundraiser. For the Fundraiser we sold samosas and cakes. Then we also held a raffle with many prizes. We intended to raise around £200 -£300 but instead we were able to raise an incredible amount of £509, which exceeded our target.

Hamstead Hall Academy Presents
OLIVER!

Book, Music and Lyrics by Lionel Bart
This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe). All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe www.mtishows.co.uk

Tickets Available from 13th January
Adults £8 Children £3 Family £15 (2 adults + 2 children)
5th, 6th, & 7th February 2020
Craythorne Hall 7pm