

GreenFields



M|P|W

HOUSE OF LORDS, CIFE AWARDS

10



DENTAL ALUMNI

16



CHARITY

27



Principal's Welcome	01
Harry Potter World	02
Model United Nations	04
MH:2K Project	08
House of Lords – CIFE Awards	10
Meet the Photographer – Fang	14
Dental Alumni	16
CIFE Football Tournament	18
Never Give Up!	19
Biology Olympiad	20
Awards Evening	22
Maths Challenge	26
Charity	27
Art Gallery Visits	28
Keeping Students Safe	30
Tutors vs Students – Charity Football Match	31
University of Birmingham Visit – Stem Education Centre	32
Medical Society	34
Meet the Artist – Yanny	36
Running Club	38
GCSE Student Interview	39
Coping with Pressure	40
Annual Art Exhibition	42
Extended Project Qualification	46
Careers	47
The Lapworth Museum of Geology	48
Sports Awards Dinner	50
Preston Montford – Biology Trip	52

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



A summary of our recent success at the House of Lords is as follows:

Academic Year	Academic Award
2018-2019	Gold Value Added Value Added
2017-2018	Gold Award Economics Social Science
2016-2017	Mathematics Humanities Value Added
2015-2016	Economics Social Science Value Added

Having served as Principal of MPW Birmingham for ten years I can hand on heart say that it is truly an inspiring and incredible place to work. It never ceases to amaze me just how committed our students are and the lengths my colleagues will go to support and help students become successful. It remains a privilege to serve the MPW community and help our students turn their academic aspirations into a reality.

There is much to celebrate in this edition of Greenfields and I hope it goes some way to capture the energy and positivity of the college.

For the second year running a student from MPW Birmingham won the prestigious Gold Award for outstanding academic achievement. You will be able to read an article, in this edition of Greenfields, about this achievement which was celebrated at the House of Lords. So much of what we do at MPW is about adding value to the student journey and it was quite fitting that two of our students picked up awards at the House of Lords for Value Added performance. Put simply this is a celebration of how far a student has travelled in obtaining the qualifications they have when we consider where they started from.

These successes speak volumes about our commitment to excellence and as a small college we punch above our weight. Our supportive and student focussed ethos is underpinned by having very small class sizes and a pledge that our biggest class size will never exceed nine students. Our students sit weekly tests, and these compel them to revise weekly and to apply their learning under timed conditions. Known as Timed Assignments, these weekly tests have helped generations of students achieve success they never thought was possible.

Our students aim high and to get to where they want to there is no getting away from the fact that a lot of hard work has to go into their studies. To help develop student resilience and to encourage and in some cases provide constructive criticism, each student is assigned a Personal Tutor (PT). We have a strong commitment to pastoral care and our Personal Tutor team provide the reassuring and at times emotional support that builds upon the outstanding teaching our teachers deliver.

Having interests outside of studying is important and we encourage our students to play sport, participate in debating or undertake voluntary work. Our football

team had a successful season and narrowly missed out on reaching the semi-finals of the 7-a-side football tournament held at the FA's St George's Park by goal difference. Regular followers of the England national football team will relate to the agony.

Earlier on, I mentioned resilience and it is worth us reflecting a little more on this. Life can present us with knocks and challenges and it is important to develop perseverance and tenacity. One inspiring example of this is the interview we have with former student Kiran. During her time at MPW Kiran had her heart set on becoming a dentist.

She got close to entering dental school but just missed out. Kiran studied Biomedical Sciences at university but kept in touch with MPW and at the end of her degree course and submitted another application to dental school. After undertaking some interview preparation at the college, Kiran finally achieved her dream of entering dental school. Sometimes you just have to keep going and never give up!



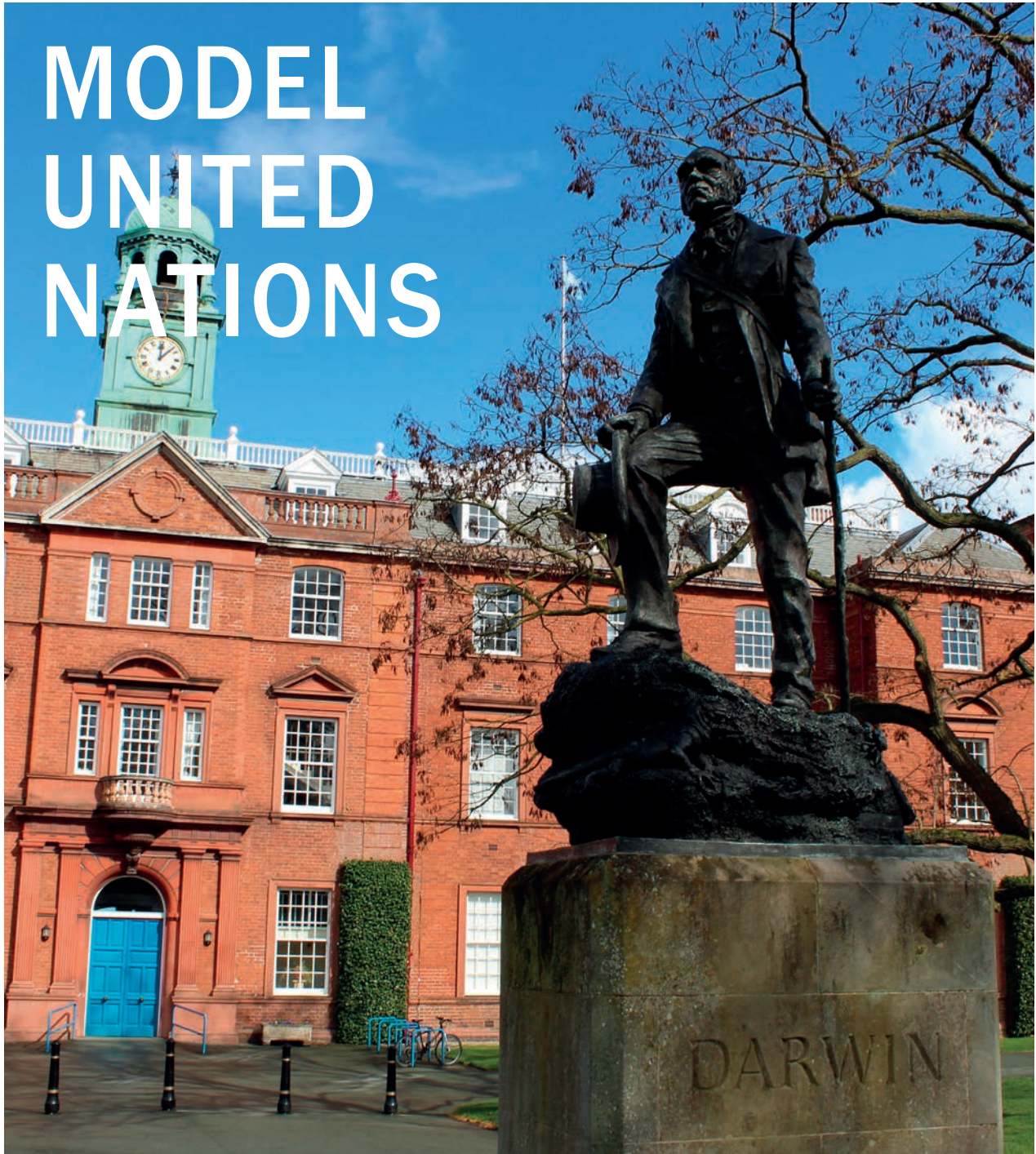
MPW's A level Economics and Business students embraced the opportunity to visit Warner Bros. Studio Tour to gain a unique understanding of how the global conglomerate operates so successfully across a wide range of markets. The trip was organised to supplement the student's classroom research into business decision making.

One of the highlights of the trip was when students were able to attend a workshop session about successful marketing in Hollywood and hear first hand business insight regarding how a business can successfully manipulate their marketing mix to improve brand recognition and business performance. In addition to an inspiring workshop where students could apply the theories and concepts discussed in their lessons, students were able to use some of their free time to visit one of Europe's most visited tourist destinations and fully immerse themselves in the magic of the Harry Potter movie franchise. With a huge number of iconic attractions, there was no shortage of fun on the trip and a great time was had by all students!

Despite the temptation of one more ride on the Hogwarts Express, students were able to collect information from around the attraction and then collate data in an official study guide. Students were able to apply ideas about branding and decision making to real life case studies across Warner Bros. full product portfolio before bringing all the information back to college to discuss at length with their friends and classmates. Students are now able to use these real life examples to enhance the quality of their written responses in the essay style questions in both the Economics and Business examinations.

HARRY POTTER WORLD





MPW students travelled to Charles Darwin’s old stomping ground at Shrewsbury School for a weekend of debating issues, building contacts, and drafting solutions to some of the biggest problems facing our world today. Every year, our debating team attends the Model United Nations conference, where students take on the role of delegates representing other nations of the world stage. This year, however, was our first year attending the Shrewsbury conference (affectionately ‘ShrewsMUN’).

We began preparing as early as September, focusing on building up students’ public speaking skills and ability to craft clear and reasoned arguments. By the time we received our country allocations – Peru and Bangladesh – we were ready to begin a period of in-depth research on key committee issues and draft resolution proposals to present at the conference.

The weekend began with a brief opening ceremony, and then the students leapt straight into action. The first day saw them in committees, grappling with such issues as how best to use education to tackle the problem of radicalisation on the UNESCO committee, how to resolve the water crisis in the developing world in the environment committee, and even the ethical question of whether AI has human rights in the special ethics committee.

ShrewsMUN is entirely student-led, with each committee chaired by a small team of Shrewsbury students, all of them experienced with the MUN format and guiding the discussions ably and efficiently. But Shrewsbury accept applications for guest chairs, allowing students from visiting schools to take on the responsibility of leading one of these committees. We hope that next year some of our returning students will be interested in tackling this challenge.

Committee meetings continued on day 2, but the main event was the general assembly, where our delegations gathered together to respond to proposals from other nations on issues that would affect the global stage – this year’s topic was the ongoing Afghan conflict. It gave our students a wonderful opportunity to build confidence and engage in passionate debate.

The highlight of the closing ceremony was a speech from Canon Sarah Snyder, the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Advisor for Reconciliation, stopping off in Shrewsbury on her way to New York to speak before the UN itself. Her speech on the importance of empathy and working to understand different points of view summed up the heart of the ShrewsMUN experience – cooperation, building relationships, and learning from those around us. The weekend was a rewarding and valuable experience for our students, who made new friends, built up their skills and confidence, and gained a deeper understanding of some key contemporary issues. Looking ahead to next year’s conference, we hope even more students will want to be involved in this amazing opportunity.





‘I ENJOYED GETTING THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP MY PUBLIC SPEAKING SKILLS, AND MY CONFIDENCE TO DEBATE ISSUES IN DEPTH, SUCH AS THE FAMINE IN YEMEN AND THE CONFLICT IN NIGERIA.’

Mojo



‘IT WAS SO INTERESTING MEETING LIKE MINDED STUDENTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UK.’

Himmat

MH:2K PROJECT



Last year, a small number of students took part in Mental Health 2K. MH:2K is a project designed to raise awareness of the mental health conditions that young people experience.

Mental health conditions affect about 1 in 10 young people, with vulnerable groups particularly at risk. Young people have a unique and vital perspective on their mental health – the challenges they face, information they need, and what is and isn't working for them. By harnessing young people's experiences and views, decision-makers can gain deeper understanding of mental health issues in their area and new insights about effective solutions for prevention, support and services. They can better serve the diversity of their youth populations.

Last year's project culminated in the group presenting their ideas and findings to their peers in the form of a workshop. A small number of students from that group developed their ideas this year and were invited to present their visions for how the government should tackle the issue of mental health to Members of Parliament in Westminster. This inspirational and daunting task was something the group took in their stride, with their ideas being received by MP's extremely well. With many of the members of the group being GCSE students, we are excited to see where their passion for developing support for mental health issues will take them in the coming years.



Two of the students who worked on the project, Year 11 students Simria and Rishka, tell us more about their involvement in the MH:2K project.

“MH:2K is a project that focuses on how young people can help tackle mental health. Young people have an active role in researching and presenting aspects of the projects. Over several months we put together a list of recommendations we all felt were either leading causes of mental health issues or preventatives. Then in small groups we presented our findings in front of a wide range of people from a small group in a church to big school halls filled with students. MH:2K was a project that was mentioned to all students at MPW via email, and after looking into the project and seeing how amazing the opportunity would be, I signed up and was accepted.”

Simria

“During the project we conducted research and collected our own data based on Birmingham’s youth. Following this we delivered roadshows to people aged 14-25. These consisted of presentations about the main areas of life that are major impacts on an individual’s mental well-being, such as; stigma, social media, schools and education. We were lucky enough to reach our goal of presenting in Parliament; this wasn’t as nerve-wrecking as I thought it would be as we had presented that many times it felt like second nature and I had gained new confidence from the experience.”

Rishka

“After presenting our findings and recommendations in our big showcase; filled with board members and decision makers, the project was invited to parliament to showcase our ideas. The experience was amazing. Being able to speak in front of 200 people in parliament was surreal. I was so proud of myself, at age 15 I was talking in front of politicians in parliament about mental health. My confidence blossomed over the many months I had been doing the project and going to parliament symbolised that for me.”

Simria



HOUSE OF LORDS

- CIFE AWARDS

The weather was kind in early April as once again MPW students assembled at the House of Lords to receive prizes that most of us can only dream about receiving.





For the second year running MPW Birmingham won the coveted Gold Award (Is there no end to what MPW students can achieve?) for outstanding academic performance.

Lord Lexden, the President of CIFE, provided a thoughtful and at times sombre opening address as he contrasted the optimism contained within the prize-winning ceremony with debates he had recently been involved in at the House of Lords.

There was much optimism amongst the students gathered as they reflected on what they had achieved and the opportunities that lay ahead. The warm glow of pride that radiated from the parents in attendance was difficult to ignore. Success in education often centres around partnerships and collaboration. Of course, we need talented, inspiring and motivated teachers and of course we need dedicated students. But having supportive parents can make all the difference. The journalist, Malcolm Gladwell, once declared that it was better for a student to come from a rough family and live in a nice neighbourhood than for a student to come from a nice family and live in a rough neighbourhood. He was obviously hinting at the negative influence the wrong peer group can have. Students at MPW are pleasant and well-behaved and this has a beneficial influence on the community. However, at MPW, we observe that coming from a supportive family makes such a crucial impact on the progress of a student. We certainly do not underestimate the great sacrifice that parents make to send their children to a successful college such as MPW and we very much see our role as forming a partnership with parents.

Whilst it is only right and proper to acknowledge the role parents play the day belonged to the students. After all, it is they who have brought us together. Enabling teachers, support staff and parents to share a common purpose and to get the best out of our students.



Louise won the Gold Award for outstanding achievement after achieving four A* grades in the A levels of Chemistry, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics. It's best not to dwell too much on what her percentage scores were because they were some of the highest in the country. Louise is now at Imperial College reading Physics.

'I AM SO PROUD TO BE HERE AND WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE AT MPW FOR THEIR SUPPORT. I WORKED HARD AT MPW AND CONTINUE TO DO SO AT IMPERIAL. MPW GAVE ME THE BELIEF THAT I COULD ACHIEVE SPECIAL THINGS AND FOR THAT I WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL.'

In addition to the Gold Award two of our students also won the Value-Added Award. This award has become somewhat of a speciality for MPW Birmingham with the college picking up this award several times in recent years.

Pranay thought his dream to study medicine was over when at his previous school he obtained grades BBC in his A levels. Pranay completed a one-year A level programme in three subjects and transformed his grades to A*A*A and is now reading Medicine at King's College, London.

'MPW GAVE ME THE SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND CONFIDENCE TO MOVE FORWARD IN MY LIFE. I CAN QUITE HONESTLY SAY THAT MPW CHANGED ME FOR THE BETTER.'

Another Value-Added winner at the House of Lords was Meg who originally achieved grades DDD at her previous school, came to MPW to complete a two-year A level programme and left with A*AA and is now reading Accounting and Finance at the University of Birmingham.

'A LEVELS CAN BE CHALLENGING BUT MPW GAVE ME THE SUPPORT TO BE SUCCESSFUL. I CAN'T CONVEY JUST HOW SUPPORTIVE THE STAFF ARE THERE.'



MEET THE PHOTOGRAPHER

– FANG

Photography was invented over a hundred years ago. For decades it has offered photographers the opportunity to give audiences a glimpse into their world. At MPW this is no different. The college is full of interesting young people each with a different background. Those studying GCSE or A level Photography are able to capture and share their worlds through their photographs.

This year, Fang joined MPW as a one-year A level Photography student. With little knowledge and experience of the process, Fang quickly developed into a thoughtful, hard working and proficient photographer. Interested in cityscapes, the nighttime and lights, Fang's photographs are displayed here along with some of his tips on how to capture successful photographs.

- “In hand-held shooting, the shutter speed cannot be too slow, otherwise the image becomes blurred. If you are attempting to capture great detail and require a longer exposure, it is essential that you use a tripod”
- “When photographing cityscapes, I tend to work with a small aperture. This allows for maximum detail. The city is an exciting place to explore and it's important that the tiny details are all recorded.”
- “I really enjoy the work of Andreas Gursky. Whether it's a plant pot on the street or a tangled water pipe, Gursky enjoys saturated colours so that audiences are given a beautiful photograph that contains high levels of realism”



DENTAL ALUMNI

Once our students leave MPW, we like to keep in touch with them to see how they are progressing through their undergraduate studies. We have the particular pleasure of keeping in touch with a number of our medical and dental undergraduates and find that they have some really useful words of wisdom to offer to aspiring students. We recently caught up with Simran, who is studying Dentistry at the University of Plymouth, to see how she was getting on and what advice she would give to anybody considering following this route at university.



WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO STUDY DENTISTRY?

I chose to study dentistry because it was a career that I was really passionate about, having carried out work experience. During my GCSEs, I was totally adamant that I wanted to be a lawyer and hence chose to do my placement in a law firm. It was a life lesson for sure! I didn't enjoy it one bit and went back to the drawing board, looking at what I enjoyed at school and where my strengths were. I have always enjoyed science from a young age and a lot of my personality suits that of a healthcare professional. I looked into dentistry following the recommendation of some of my friends that had already applied to university and decided to carry out some experience within the field. It wasn't just the skills of the profession that drew me in but the fact that you are able to meet so many people each day with their own stories and backgrounds. Throughout your life you will always be learning as the industry develops and this is something that really excites me as my job will never get boring! When you begin to study Dentistry you will soon come to realise that there are numerous options of specialisation and branching out into different fields, which is something I am looking into now. It is important to realise that there are few jobs in the world that enable you to develop your skills over a lifetime and have such a strong impact on people's lives.

WHERE DID YOU CARRY OUT WORK EXPERIENCE PRIOR TO APPLYING TO STUDY DENTISTRY?

I carried out a bulk of my work experience during my first year of A-levels and this was over a prolonged period at a local practice. Additionally, I was able to shadow in the Oral Maxillofacial Department at a hospital in Birmingham.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM YOUR WORK EXPERIENCE?

Work experience in the dental surgery showed me how important team work is; if there isn't a nurse present a lot of disruption is caused. It has become even more apparent now as I have started my own training! As well as this, being able to show empathy to your patients is crucial as you can't assume you know the whole picture. There could be a number of factors that contribute to the state of a person's oral hygiene and you shouldn't pre-judge.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPERIENCES OF STUDYING DENTISTRY SO FAR?

It is hard work but also rewarding. I have enjoyed my first year at the dental school and I have been able to do so much too, I have treated several patients at the end of my first-year and learnt a majority of the clinical procedures on the phantom heads. The jump between A levels and university study is tough and perhaps the most difficult you will face; you have to become independent and motivate yourself to do the best that you can do. These next few years excite me as I will be slowly becoming more capable of clinical procedures and be treating a significant number of people!

WHAT DO YOU PARTICULARLY ENJOY ABOUT THE COURSE?

The clinical aspect is by far the most enjoyable and makes the 8am starts worthwhile. As a student you are able to spend a lot longer with patients, meaning that you are able to get to know them as a person and build a relationship with them. The hardest part is when it comes to summer or a referral and you have to discharge them!

ARE THERE ANY ASPECTS YOU DON'T ENJOY?

I find it difficult to make time for my friends outside of the course, because they have a lot more free time and you can't always afford to socialise with them until late or you're too tired to even see them! However, it does get easier as you adjust to a new routine and find a balance between the two.

DO YOU HAVE ANY HINTS OR TIPS FOR PROSPECTIVE DENTAL STUDENTS?

1. Ensure you stay on top of study from the start, it will help you so much when it comes to exams
2. Try and develop your manual dexterity skills before you start university
3. If you're looking to apply to university, have a look at when they start clinics and actually treat patients. This is because some universities start later than others and you could wait 3 years to realise that you don't like the clinical side of the job at all.
4. Don't be put off by the interview process
5. Be prepared for long hours!



CIFE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The 4th annual CIFE Football Tournament at the prestigious St George's Park was a great success. St George's Park is the home of the England Football team in Burton. The national team use the facilities at St George's Park to train and prepare for international fixtures. MPW Birmingham finished runners up at last year's tournament only to be undone by Brooke House College Football Academy in a tightly contested final.

This year's tournament was another great success with 12 teams taking part. Similar to last year, MPW Birmingham played with a highly competitive spirit culminating in

some outstanding performances which led to four group stage victories and only one defeat.

Over the course of the tournament there were some outstanding performances in defence by Hamza, Oscar and Kamran. Their super-human efforts were enough to keep some fierce opposition at bay throughout the early period of the tournament.

In midfield, the power of Drew and skill of Leo created an array of opportunities for striker Shin to dispatch. Shin's energy and precision were crucial in ensuring victory in the early fixtures.

Unfortunately for the team, the group was so tight that three teams finished level on 12 points and MPW Birmingham were eliminated on goal difference. Having only lost one game overall it was difficult for the boys to swallow. CATS College Cambridge ran out eventual winners, with the team showing a little more cutting edge in front of goal than the rest of the teams on show.

With many of the MPW Birmingham team made up of Year 12 students, the young side will be looking forward to next year's tournament where they will have the opportunity to improve on this year's showing.



Kiren left MPW achieving high grades in the A level subjects of Biology, Chemistry and English, gaining a place at the University of Warwick to read Bio-Medical Science. Kiren graduated from the University of Warwick at the end of the academic year with an upper second-class honours degree.

Her aspiration was to become a dentist and she got in touch with MPW to undertake mock interviews in readiness for her interview at UCLAN.

Kiren tells her story.

NEVER GIVE UP!

Initially I was successful academically at school and obtained good GCSE results. However, things did not go well for me in the sixth form and I got low A level grades. From about the age of 15 years old I had wanted to become a dentist but when I get low A level grades I thought my chance was over. I came to MPW to improve my A levels and studied a one-year A level programme in the A levels of Biology, Chemistry and English.

The study skills I developed at MPW stayed with me at university and helped me successfully complete a demanding degree course. MPW taught me to stay on top of my workload and regularly review

my work. I had always been organised but MPW taught me to become even more so.

The great thing about MPW is that if you want success it really helps you to reach your potential. The other students I met were equally ambitious and it was good to be in such a focussed environment.

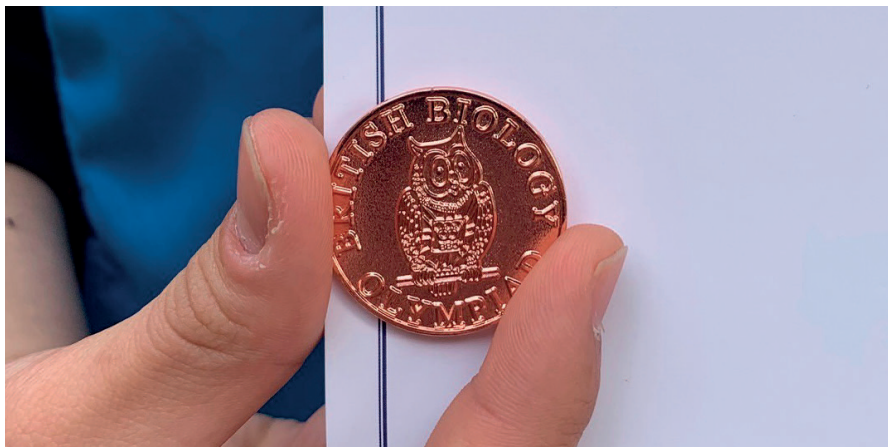
Whilst at MPW I applied to dental school but was unsuccessful. This was disheartening but on leaving the Principal told me, I should not give up on my aspiration to study dentistry. He even said that I if I apply again to study dentistry the college would help me with my application.

When selected for interview at UCLAN, I carried out two mock interviews at MPW and these closely resembled the real thing. The mock interviews really helped and I can see why MPW gets so many students into dental and medical school.

In my case, I was not successful first time round but I did not give up and thankfully, MPW was able to support me when I needed it. It is great that MPW looks after its former students and this should give hope to other students who first time round may not have entered dental or medical school.

Kiren is now ready to embark on her first year of dentistry at UCLAN.

BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

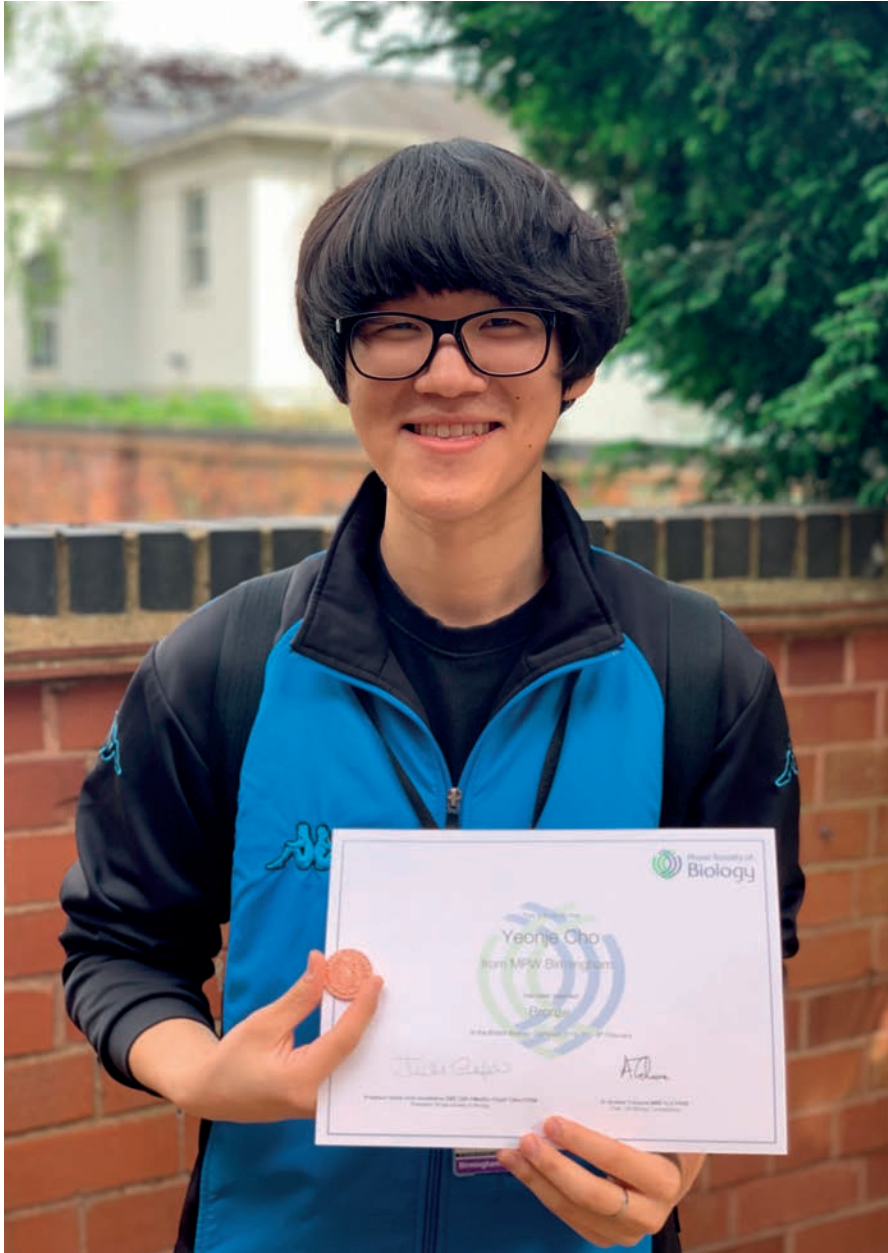


Earlier this year, nine MPW students took part in the British Biology Olympiad, organised by the Royal Society of Biology. The Biology Olympiad is a test, consisting of two papers of multiple-choice questions, which students complete online. The questions significantly stretch and challenge the students, testing their knowledge of Biology as a whole. The topics that are assessed span both years of the A level course as well as material that goes beyond the specification, including some of university-level difficulty.

Considering all this, every student who took part performed commendably. Congratulations to Yeonje and Peter who achieved the Bronze Level Award and received a certificate and a medal for their performance – achieving a score in the top 15% of all students who took part. Peter, a first-year A level student, was one mark off a Silver and exceeded expectations as he has not been taught much of the material they assessed!

Dongho achieved a 'Highly Commended' score, Abdur and Chami achieved a 'Commended' score; all performing admirably in the top 20%, and also receiving a certificate. All students who took part achieved a score in the top 25% of those who took part. We clearly have some gifted Biologists at MPW, with lofty potential.

The first-year students who attempted this will be more knowledgeable next year with an extra academic year under their belt and hopefully some students can achieve Silver and Gold next year!



AWARDS EVENING

Once again, December gave us the opportunity to celebrate the successes of our former students at our annual prize giving event at the college. This is always a fantastic opportunity to meet students after their first term at university and see the progress they have made. There is no doubt that the students always find their first term challenging, but always comment on how their A level studies have helped them to prepare for this. It is also a great chance to formally share the achievements of the students with parents and friends as well as colleagues.

As always, there was a real celebratory feel about the evening and Adam once again had the pleasure of presenting the awards. Our guest of honour this year was Markus Bernhardt, Principal of MPW Cambridge, who presented the prizes to our prize winners and gave an inspirational talk to us. The prizes awarded to each student along with a short overview of their achievements are as follows:

THE MPW LOWER SIXTH AND EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION AWARD

SEIKA

Seika joined MPW in September 2017 to study a two-year A level programme in English Literature, History and Mathematics having previously studied in Singapore at the United World College of South East Asia.

Seika completed her EPQ during her first year of A level study gaining grade A*.

THE NCUK AWARD

ZAINAB

Zainab joined MPW from Malaysia to study our Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics as part of our University Foundation pathway.

Zainab excelled throughout the course and on completion gained grades A*A*A. Zainab is now studying Astrophysics at the University of Manchester.

THE GCSE AWARD

CHAMI

Chami joined MPW having previously completed her education in South Korea. Chami completed a one-year GCSE programme at MPW obtaining grades A*,9,8,8,7,7.

Chami is currently studying a two-year A level programme in Biology, Mathematics, Psychology and Sociology.

THE RIYA DANDEKAR PUBLIC SPEAKING AWARD

AJEET

During his time at MPW, Ajeet has been a regular member of the debating team and has excelled in public speaking during his participation at Model United Nations and other public speaking events.

THE GARY DURRANT MEMORIAL AWARD FOR CREATIVITY

KHAI

Khai joined MPW to study a two-year A level programme in Art, Digital Photography and Mathematics having previously studied at Hanoi – Amsterdam High School in Vietnam.

Khai completed his studies obtaining grades A*AB and is currently reading Fine Art Painting at the University of Brighton.

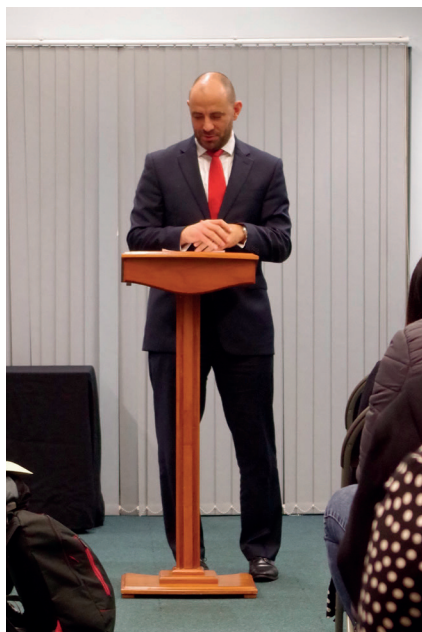
THE MPW SCIENCE AWARD

ALA

Ala joined MPW from King Edward VI Camp Hill Schools for Boys, where he obtained grades BBB in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics.

At MPW Ala studied a combination of one-year and short courses and achieved grades A*A*A. Ala is currently reading Medicine at King's College, London.





THE MPW SCIENCE AWARD

BINITA

Binita joined MPW from King Edward VI Handsworth School, where she obtained grades CCD in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics.

At MPW Binita studied one-year A level courses and achieved grades AAA in Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics. Binita is now reading Optometry at Aston University.

THE A LEVEL RETAKE AND VALUE ADDED AWARD

ABU

Abu joined MPW after completing his A levels at Handsworth Grammar School, where he obtained grades CCC in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics.

At MPW he studied a one-year A level programme in Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry, obtaining grades A*AA*. Abu is now reading Economics at the University of Bristol.

THE MPW MEDICAL AWARD

PRANAY

Pranay joined MPW after completing his A levels at Caterham School, where he had obtained grades BCB in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics.

At MPW, Pranay completed a one-year A level programme in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics, achieving grades A*A*A. Pranay is currently reading Medicine at King's College, London.

THE MPW DENTISTRY AWARD

YUSRA

Yusra joined MPW after completing her A levels at Queen Mary's Grammar School. At MPW she studied a one-year A level programme in Biology and Chemistry and a short course in Geography.

Yusra achieved grades AAB in Biology, Chemistry and Geography and is now reading Dentistry at the University of Leeds.

THE MPW VETERINARY SCIENCE AWARD

OLIVIA

Olivia transferred to MPW after completing her AS levels at Queen Ethelburgas Collegiate.

At MPW Olivia completed Year 13 in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics obtaining grades AAA. Olivia secured a place to read Veterinary Science at the University of Liverpool and is currently taking a gap year.



THE MPW HUMANITIES AWARD

PHOEBE

Phoebe joined MPW from King Edward VI Five Ways School, where she obtained grades BCB in Economics, History and Mathematics.

At MPW Phoebe studied a one-year A level programme in Economics, History and Mathematics, gaining grades AAA. Phoebe is now reading Economics at the University of Manchester.

THE MPW VALUE ADDED AWARD

JOE

Joe joined MPW after completing his GCSE's at Bromsgrove School to take a two-year A level programme in Business Studies, English Literature and Geography. At MPW Joe built upon his achievements at GCSE and obtained grades BBA in his chosen subjects. Joe won a place at Nottingham Trent University reading Real Estate.

THE MPW PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

MEG

Meg joined MPW in September 2017 having completed her A levels at Stafford Grammar School where she obtained grades DDD in Business Studies, History and Psychology.

Meg completed a one-year A level programme in the same subjects and obtained grades A*A B. Meg is currently reading Business and Management at the University of Reading.

THE MPW OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

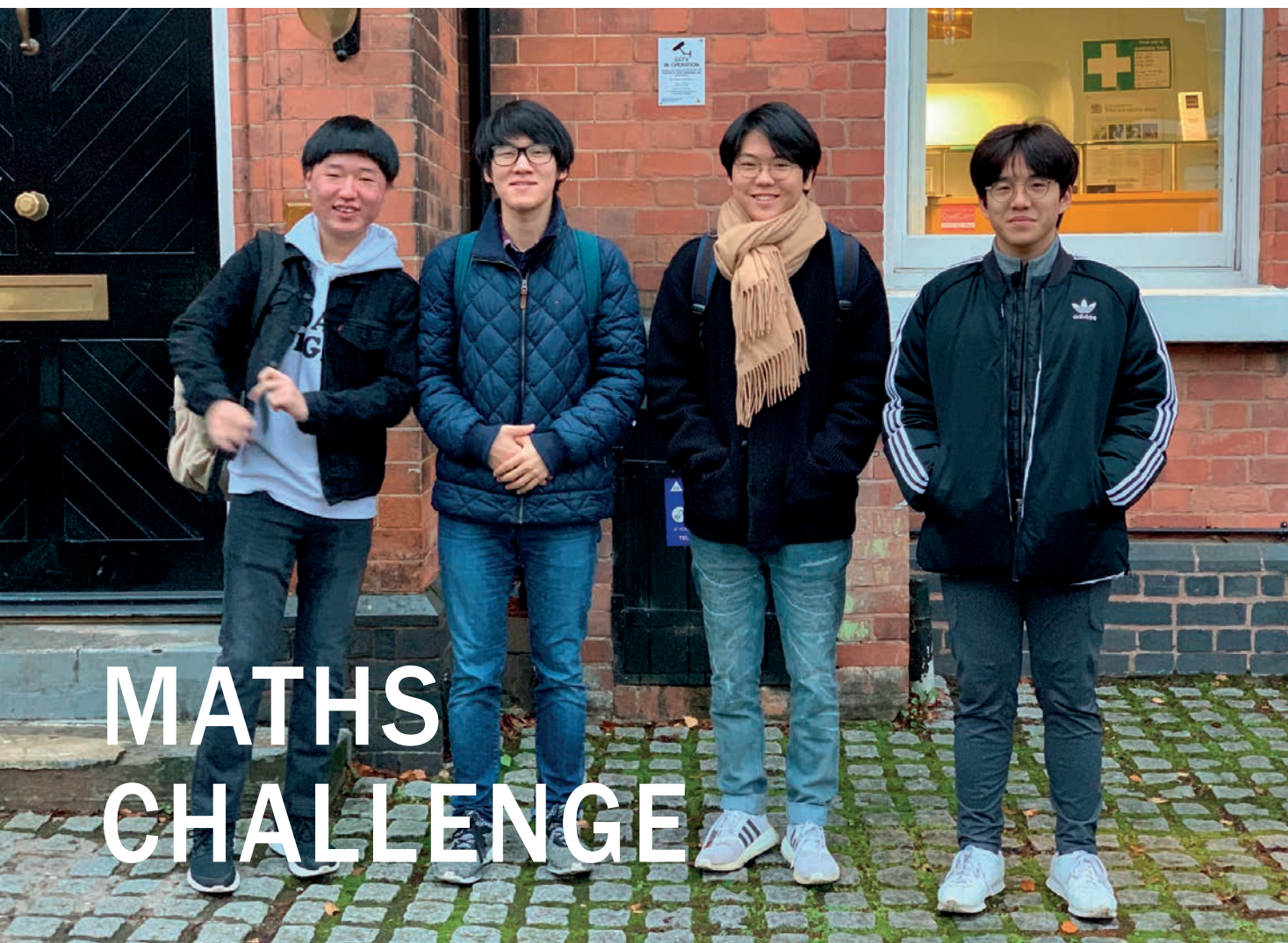
And

THE NIKUL PATEL MEMORIAL AWARD FOR MATHEMATICS

LOUISE

Louise joined MPW after completing her compulsory aged education in China and completed a two-year A level programme in Chemistry, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics, obtaining grades A*A*A*A*.

Louise is currently reading Physics at Imperial College London.



Each year, MPW encourages our mathematics students to take part in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Challenge, the UK's biggest national mathematics competition. The UKMT challenges contain thought-provoking questions designed to assess students' logical faculties and problem-solving abilities. This year, twenty-six MPW students took part in the first round of the competition, achieving an impressive tally of: ten gold, seven silver and four bronze certificates. Six of these students then proceeded to compete in UKMT Kangaroo challenge, with Yeonje achieving a merit in the competition.

For the second year running, we also took a team of four students to compete in the UKMT Team Challenge Regional Final. William, Tim, Yeonje and Jason all performed exceptionally well against some of the region's top young mathematicians. The MPW quartet were the only team to achieve a perfect score in the cross-number round and secured third place overall; a superb result, especially given the limited time they had to prepare. We are optimistic that we can do even better in next year's event.

This year, we also had one student compete at the highest level, in the British Mathematics Olympiad. William utilised his outstanding mathematical abilities to achieve a Bronze medal in the competition, which places him in the top 100 students in the UK. Well done to William and all the other students who took part in this year's competition!

CHARITY

As a college we are passionate about supporting good causes and local charities. This year has been no exception. Organisations the college and staff have supported this year include Mind, Save the Rhino, The Down's Syndrome Association, The Big Issue Foundation, The Trussell Trust and UNICEF. In total, staff and students have raised £8050.

Emily, Martin and James all took part in the London Marathon this year. Having three tutors from the same college take part was an incredible feat.

Martin – “They say things get easier the more you do them, but that doesn’t apply to marathons. It was another massive challenge and probably more difficult that last year even though I did finish with a faster time. It’s quite comparable to A levels. Even if you resit your A levels you’ve got to put the work in the following year, you don’t have a given entitlement to a particular grade.”

James – “The amount of training and sacrifices you have to make to run a marathon are incredible! I’m glad I did it and was able to raise money for a good cause, but I won’t be doing it again!”

Bridget took to the dark streets of London with her dog Chalky in March to take part in the Big Issue London Night Walk.

Bridget – “Many thanks to all of you for your support on my London Night Walk adventure! I survived, although realise that I need to be fitter. Too much gentle plodding with Chalky.”

As well as raise money for good causes we have raised awareness for causes such as Anti-Bullying Week which took part in November. As a college we have a zero tolerance approach to bullying and our staff and students showed their support by wearing odd socks because it’s okay to be different.



ART GALLERY VISITS



Here at MPW we value the importance of experiencing the topics taught first-hand. This year in Art and Design, students attended a selection of local galleries to broaden their experience of art. The internet is a wonderful tool and allows us to view almost any notable art work in the world. However, there is nothing more rewarding as an art student than seeing works first-hand.

In previous years, students have travelled far and wide to see works of art. Visits include the Louvre in Paris, the Saatchi Gallery in London and the Tate Liverpool. This year saw visits to the Birmingham Art Gallery and Museum, the IKON gallery and the Eastside Projects space in Digbeth.



At the Birmingham Art Gallery and Museum students visited the Women Power Protest which featured artworks around the topic of feminism by world renowned artists such as Sam Taylor-Johnson, Lubaina Himid and Sonia Boyce. The work invited audiences to consider conceptual messages and ideas that relate to women's place in society.



Whilst visiting the IKON Gallery, which is located near Greenfield Crescent, students experienced the highly conceptual works of Haroon Mirza. Born in London in 1977, Mirza's work tends to take the form of interactive sculptures created from electrical equipment. MPW students were treated to an array of visual and sound pieces, some of which were interactive. A piece that students found particularly interesting was a room that was pitch black and fully soundproofed. The piece removed senses that we rely on so heavily in life and gave students a striking experience of art that was as unnerving as it was thought provoking.



At Eastside Projects in Digbeth, MPW students were given a taste of what is possible for young artists to achieve when studying at post-graduate level in Birmingham. Different to the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and the IKON Gallery, Eastside Projects champions the work of young artist's looking to exhibit work early on in their career. For many, the notion of becoming a successful artist can feel daunting, perhaps even impossible. By seeing exhibitions in smaller gallery spaces such as Eastside Projects, students can experience the steps necessary in cultivating a successful creative career.

KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE

The PSHE programme at MPW continues to play a pivotal part in our students' development. The advancement of the internet and social media means that young people are continually exposed to negative temptations. Delivered weekly by the Personal Tutor team and guest speakers, our PSHE sessions aim to provide students with a moral framework that can help them in their decision making as they progress into adulthood. Themes tackled throughout the year include online safety, prejudice, discrimination, mental health and British Values.

PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION

One of the first, and most important sessions we deliver in PSHE is on Prejudice and Discrimination. Birmingham is one of the most multi-cultural cities in the world and as a college we embrace this. There is no room for prejudice and discrimination at MPW. This extends to the online behaviour of our students. One of the reasons we are so successful is the peaceful culture that exists throughout the college.

ONLINE SAFETY

Young people are constantly downloading new weird and wonderful smartphone applications that offer us alternative ways to engage with each other. Unfortunately, some of these applications are abused and can put users in danger. The tutors at MPW delivering the PSHE programme are committed to staying up-to-date with developments in this area and empowering our students to stay safe online.

HERE ARE 5 TIPS TO STAY SAFE ONLINE:

1. Be careful what you share. Once something is online, it's out of your control.
2. Don't meet people you don't know in person. Even if you get on with them online, you can never be sure that the person is who they say they are.
3. Use a complex password. It should be hard for other people to guess your password and it's a good idea to change it regularly.
4. Keep your online profiles private. Check who can see what you post and whether your accounts are public or private.
5. Talk about it. If you see something online that makes you upset or uncomfortable, talk to your parents or one of your tutors.



TUTORS VS STUDENTS

– CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH

‘THE EVENT WAS
COMPETITIVE,
WITH A LOT OF
PRIDE AT STAKE’



For the first time in a good number of years the college held a Staff vs Students football competition. The event was held at the Doug Ellis Sports Centre and featured three student teams and one staff team competing in a mini league format.

The event was competitive, with a lot of pride at stake - well you wouldn't want to lose to a bunch of 'oldies', would you? However, despite the competitive nature, the games were played in a friendly manor brimming with good spirit.

After some extremely tight encounters, and endless missed opportunities it was the Staff team who ran out victorious proving age really is just a number. With Tim providing cat-like reflexes in goal, Mir governing defence, Dean controlling midfield and Ryan threading Pirloesque through balls to the two Jameses up front, there was only ever going to be one winner!

The event was held to raise money and support for the charity Water Aid who are working towards providing clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene around the world.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM VISIT -

STEM EDUCATION CENTRE



The University of Birmingham has established a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Education Centre, as a direct legacy of the National HE STEM Programme. The new Centre is building upon the previous work and profile of the University in leading science, technology, engineering and maths education at a national level. Some of MPW's aspiring scientists were invited to an open day at the STEM Education

Centre. After walking to the university campus, students were welcomed by Professor Nicola Wilkin, Director of Education who introduced students to the schedule of the day. Following this, students listened to research talks from several world leading academics in the field of antibiotic resistance, developments in optical imaging for pre-clinical and diagnostic purposes, the applications of mathematics and computer science in the

life sciences and Birmingham's work with NASA in the field of engineering in their mission to Mars. After touring the various areas of the campus and meeting with university students, the day finished with a panel session with STEM students and a Q&A where students got to ask about life as a STEM student, career prospects, typical working days, extracurricular activities and research projects that they had undertaken.



MPW Birmingham MedSoc enjoyed its first full year this year and gave students fantastic opportunities to develop their understanding of current affairs related to the medical sciences and the pathway to pursue a career in any healthcare related field.

Some of our highlights of the year were as follows:



MEDICAL SOCIETY

TALK FROM DR SZABO

Dr Szabo visited us to give an insightful presentation about the world of being a junior doctor. She discussed her experiences of applying to university, attending interviews, completing medical school and then talked us through her typical day-to-day routine at work.

During the session, Dr Szabo got us involved in carrying out some PBL-based activities to give the students an insight into what group work at university was like. This was an extremely informative session that shed light on exactly how demanding it is to train to be a doctor

STUDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

During the year, our students were encouraged to present to the rest of the group about any of their own personal interests within the world of medical science. Some of our standout contributions were from Amba, who talked about her personal research which led to the discovery of a new gene, Faith, who talked about Sepsis and Georgia, who talked about her research into prevalence of mental health issues in different ethnic groups.

VISIT FROM A CURRENT DENTAL STUDENT

In December, we were lucky to have former student Simran come and talk to us about life as a dental student. Simran, who is currently in her second year of study at the University of Plymouth, spoke to us about her experiences of dental interviews as well as how she was finding life as an undergraduate.

INTERVIEW PREPARATION

In the Autumn term, we had a session about the key parts of the interview process and this gave us an opportunity to practice our interview skills before the real thing. As a group, we looked at the different types of questions and the skills needed to be successful. This was then followed up by one-to-one interview practice to put students through their paces!

FULL MOCK MULTIPLE MINI INTERVIEW (MMI)

One of our most exciting weeks was when we set up a full-scale MMI mock for our students to participate in. This involved each student visiting eight stations to carry out a range of different interview tasks. Following each station, the student was marked and the marks were then aggregated to give an overall performance mark. This was a really exciting event and we were really pleased to see all of the students taking it so seriously.

VISIT TO KEELE MEDICAL SCHOOL

We were lucky enough to get spaces on the Keele Medical School experience day. This was designed to show our prospective medics the workings of a medical school and to see what their day-to-day life would be like as an undergraduate.

PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING (PBL) SESSION

In Spring, we ran a mock PBL teaching session using materials kindly provided to us by a medical school. This gave students insight into exactly how PBL works and the range of skills needed to be successful when undertaking the PBL elements of a course.

This was a fantastic year for the MPW Birmingham MedSoc. We hope that our students next can have an equally useful and enjoyable experience.

MEET THE ARTIST

- YANNY



The MPW Art Studio is one of the quietest and calmest places in the college. With one wall of the studio made from glass, the conditions are perfect for our GCSE and A level art students to become inspired and creative. Although there are an array of courses running in the studio, the door is always open for students not studying art to use the space and be creative.

To learn a little more about being an art student at MPW we spoke to Yanny who has just completed her A level in Art and Design.



HOW HAVE YOU ENJOYED YOUR TIME AS AN MPW STUDENT?

I love the small environment at MPW. Students get a lot closer and less reserved in terms of making small talk and having fun that alleviates the stress and anxiety of achieving good grades in exams.

TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AS AN ART STUDENT?

I picked Art and Design for one of my A Level courses for two reasons. One is that art is therapeutic, and it can channel any stress or tension through my drawing and painting. Two is that I believe that being creative makes a person grow in a number of dimensions. Being an art student at MPW means having access to the Art Studio at any time. Given how peaceful it is in there it's perfect on those days when headspace is required for inspiration.

WHAT ART PROJECTS HAVE YOU WORKED ON THIS YEAR?

My chosen exam theme this year was 'European'. I decided to explore the topic of Brexit as it seems like something so important to the people of Birmingham. Armed with my sketchbook and camera I set out to interview the people of Birmingham and gather their thoughts on this topic. I would then use my findings to create documentary style portraits that express the thoughts and opinions I encountered. I found out that everyone I spoke to at the Birmingham Market had a strong stance on the subject. Some were very much against the process of Brexit, whilst others were keen for the process to begin. I'm really pleased with the work I created from the opinions I gathered (pictured) and although I won't be studying Fine Art at degree level, I hope to make more work similar to this in the coming years.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE COMING YEARS?

I will be heading to university, although I have deferred my applications this year as I will be taking a year out to volunteer at my local church. After this, I will be commencing a degree level course in Filmmaking.

MPW RUNNING CLUB



M|P|W
Mander Portman Woodward

Scientists say that a healthy body means a healthy mind. Taking care of yourself while you study is crucial in being successful. Students need to eat well, sleep well and exercise regularly. We appreciate that young people lead busy lives and finding time to get regular exercise can be difficult. However, to counter this and motivate students to get out and use their bodies we hold a weekly 5k run each Monday evening. Students and staff meet at the end of the college day to run a route together from the college to the University of Birmingham and back. Everyone is welcome, from beginners to marathon runners. The weekly run is designed to offer students an opportunity to exercise regularly whilst also enjoying a social experience at the end of the college day.

TOP EXERCISE TIPS

LITTLE AND OFTEN

When revising for exams students spend long periods of time with their heads in books or looking at a computer screen. Taking a short walk or run inbetween revision periods can provide students with much needed breaks whilst also clearing their head.

DEVELOP A ROUTINE

A balanced routine of work and play is essential during the exam season. It might feel like you are too busy but try and maintain regular exercise. The benefits of feeling fit and healthy while you study are great and can make an incredible difference.

USE YOUR FEET

Do you live in walking distance from college? If so, make the most of this and walk to college. Not only will you improve your health, but you will also be contributing to improving the environment.

RUNNING CLUB

Being a GCSE student at MPW is completely different to the experiences Year 10 and 11 students have at other schools and colleges in the UK. Taught in class sizes of no larger than nine, each student's academic progress is monitored on a micro-level allowing for immediate intervention when students are struggling in certain topic areas. Regular GCSE testing not only allows tutors and Personal Tutors to continually monitor progress, it also forces students to apply good revision habits from the beginning of Year 10.

Aside from the academia, GCSE students also take part in a number of extra-curricular projects and activities in and around college. This year, Simria and Rishka from Year 11 presented to MP's at Westminster on the topic of attitudes towards mental health. GCSE students have also represented the college football and basketball teams successfully competing with A level students also aiming for a place on the college team. This in addition to attending a host of field trips organised by GCSE tutors.

We spoke to Simria and Rishka about what it's like to be a GCSE student at MPW College.

SIM, HOW HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE AS AN MPW GCSE STUDENT BEEN?

As a GCSE student at MPW I have not just strengthened my knowledge academically but as an individual I have learnt key skills for life. I have been able to work as part of a team but also have been given responsibilities as an individual thus strengthening my independence. My teachers have really helped me solidify my knowledge which helped me when approaching my GCSE examinations. It has been amazing two years at MPW college, they have helped every step of the way and made by prioritising my needs. I can now say I am fully prepared to move on to sixth form and that was all thanks to MPW.



GCSE STUDENT INTERVIEW

RISH, WHAT'S THE HARDEST THING ABOUT STUDYING FOR YOUR GCSES?

Personally, the hardest thing about GCSEs is sticking to a revision routine, I've found that if you have a solid structure to stick to when preparing for exams you feel much more confident. My Personal Tutor has supported me with maintaining this routine, the mocks and Timed Assessments prepared and aided me when it came to sitting the exams. They helped me get used to the examination environment which resulted in me being calmer when sitting the exams.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR YOU IN TERMS OF A CAREER?

Sim – Through the great variety of courses offered by MPW I was able to study subjects I enjoyed and have an interest in. I am currently looking into Business Psychology as it is a combination of both Psychology and Business; two subjects that I am very passionate about and have had the opportunity to study at MPW.

Rish – In the future, I hope to sit my A-levels, complete a degree apprenticeship and hopefully come back to MPW and teach Business and Economics.



COPING WITH PRESSURE

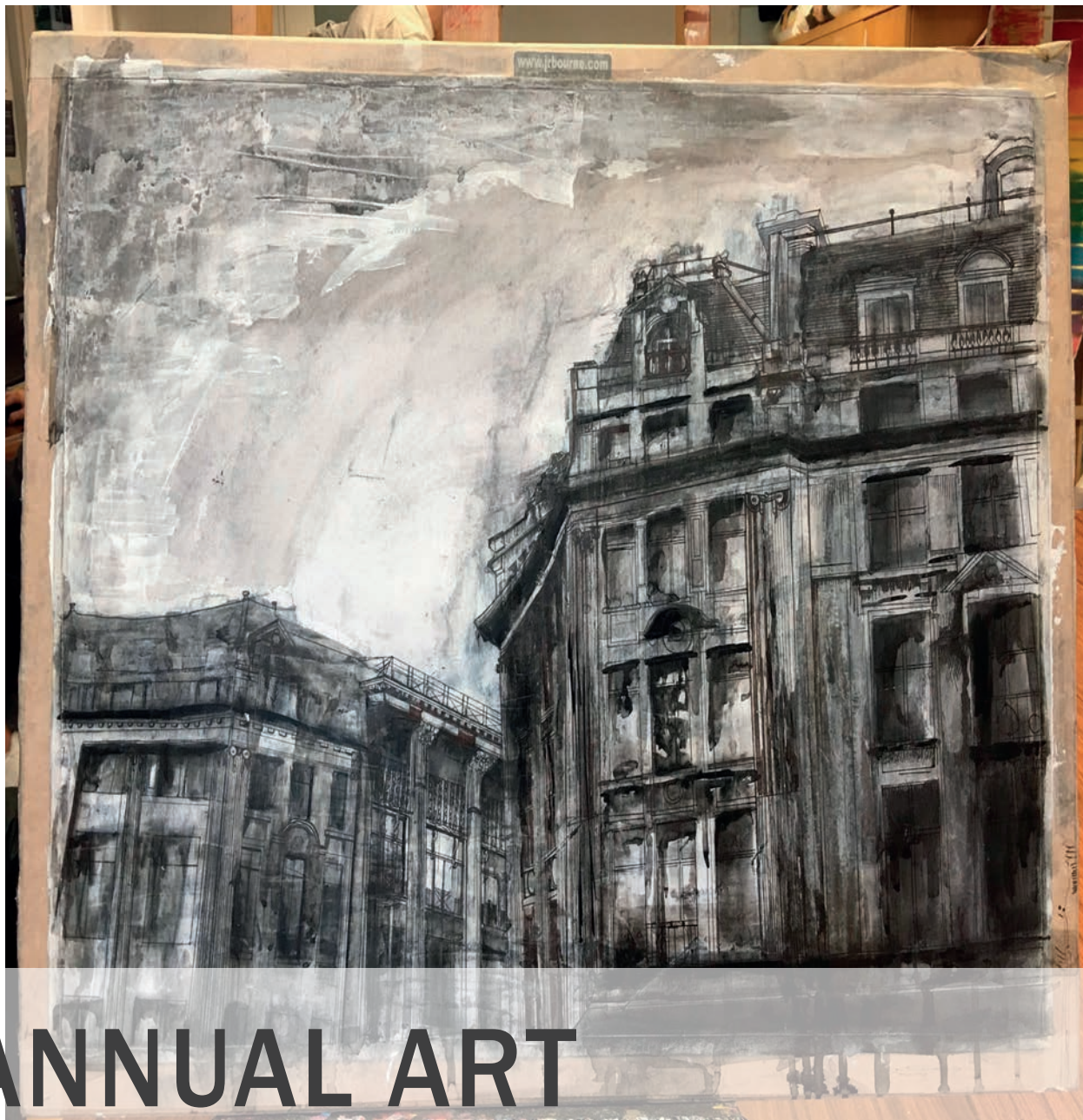
We understand the pressure young people experience whilst studying. MPW students are ambitious and applying to study at some of the best universities in the UK, if not the world. With such fierce competition to gain access to these courses, it is no surprise that the entry requirements are so high. The level of commitment and work involved in fulfilling the necessary entry requirements is immense and educating students on how to manage their levels of stress is an essential part of the support we offer as a college.

Every student at MPW is assigned a Personal Tutor. The job of the Personal Tutor is to help a student navigate the sometimes-demanding journey of academic study. We empower our students to become more resilient and develop effective coping strategies when at times things can feel overwhelming. There are many misconceptions about what resilience means and for many people it can mean bouncing back from a tough situation or setback. Whilst there is some truth in this interpretation, at MPW we go a step further. Our aim is to help students learn from what they are experiencing and to help them become stronger, so they get better at tackling the next challenge.

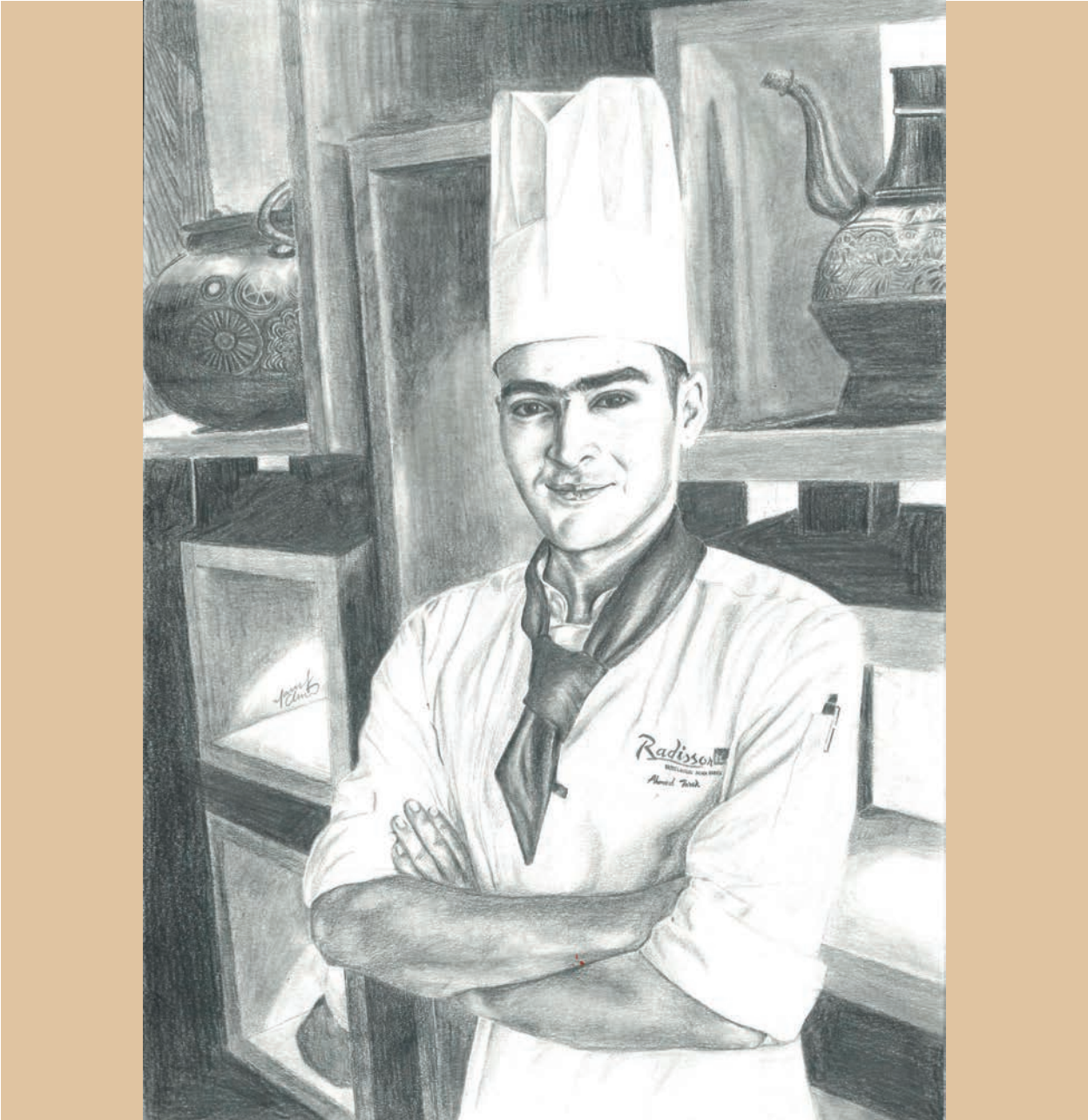
MPW works in partnership with Open Door Youth Counselling who are also located on Greenfield Crescent. Open Door have worked with our young people for several years now and supported them through exam anxiety and other issues that have impacted on their wellbeing.

This year, we also invited Mindfulness teacher Rachel Broomfield back to the college to deliver a Mindfulness session to our students. Mindfulness is an activity that encourages people to focus on the moments and sounds around them so that they can disconnect from the aspects of life that cause them tension and in some cases stress. For more information on how Mindfulness can help improve your mental wellbeing visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mindfulness/>





ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION





ANNUAL ART, DESIGN & PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

FRIDAY 1ST MARCH
11:00AM - 4:00PM
COMMON ROOM

The art, design and photography department invites you to join us at the annual college exhibition. Celebrating the most innovative and exciting art work from MPW's talented student artists.

The exhibition aims to celebrate students of all disciplines and encourage all to enjoy and engage with art, design and photography. Please feel free to visit the exhibition held in the common room on Friday 1st March from 11:00am to 4:00pm.

MPW
Mander Portman Woodward

Each year, the MPW art and photography students hold an annual exhibition. The exhibition is an opportunity for students to showcase the hard work and efforts they put into their coursework projects whilst giving the college community the opportunity to enjoy the work of our creative students.

Having visited contemporary art galleries such as the IKON Gallery and Eastside Projects MPW art students did not only gain understanding of the ideas and techniques behind pieces of work, but they also develop their ability to curate work.

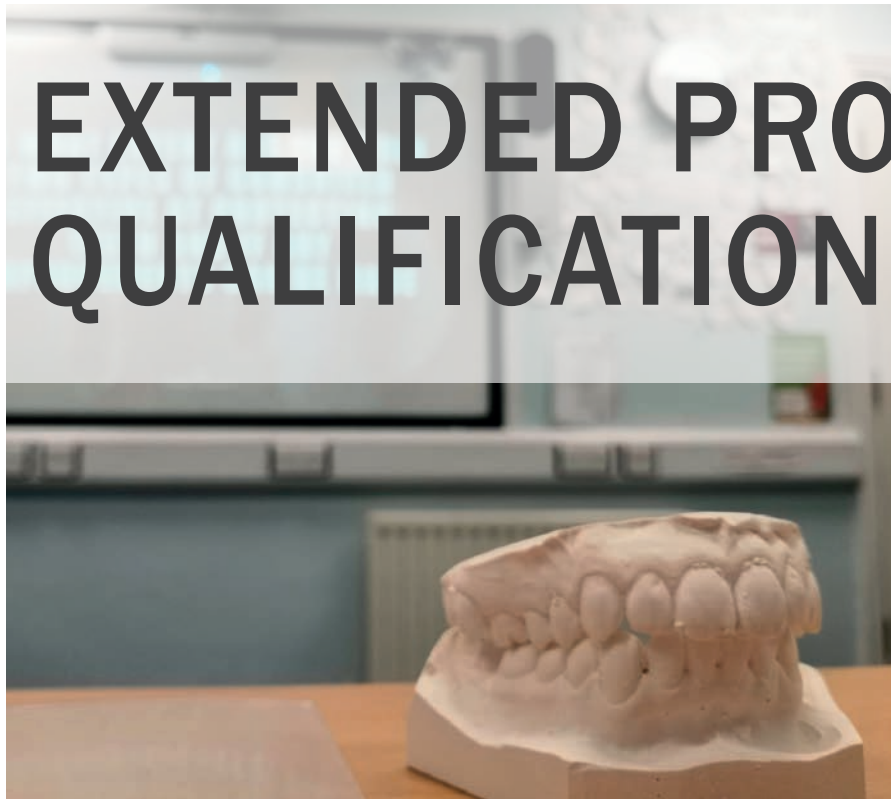
Yanny's self-portrait is inspired by the Outsider Art movement and drawings she made in her pre-school. The painting documents how her imagination as a child has helped develop her into who she is today (right, below).

Gemmie's multimedia piece made from plastic, spray-paint and thread is a political comment on how the leaders of the world are not doing enough to limit the use of plastic worldwide (right, above).



**‘THE EXHIBITION IS AN OPPORTUNITY
FOR STUDENTS TO SHOWCASE THE
HARD WORK AND EFFORTS THEY PUT
INTO THEIR COURSEWORK PROJECTS’**





EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) continues to be popular and successful. The students are given the chance to submit a 5,000-word dissertation style essay or artefact project on a topic of their choice. This project is then delivered as a presentation to a panel of non-specialist academics. The EPQ gives students the opportunity to gain UCAS points to put towards their UCAS application.

This year the EPQ has been host to a wide range of topics. Belina completed her project on youth mental health. Discussing the project Belina stated; 'Mental health is incredibly important for teenagers and it is so important that teenagers have people that they can talk to. It's also really important to do exercise to help look after your mental health. I feel that I have a competitive advantage for when I start university and I can write long essays and reference resources correctly.' Mental health has been a big topic this year in the EPQ project; Rashmini used her opportunity to discuss mental health in the dental industry, when discussing her EPQ journey Rashmini stated; 'I received constant support throughout the course of completing my EPQ, not only from my supervisor, but from my personal tutor and other staff. The resources that were made available to us were invaluable and the taught content sessions were engaging and varied, to ensure we could achieve the best result possible.' In addition to written essays, the EPQ project also saw a wide range of artefacts this year; Gurdeep used his dental skills learnt during work experience to produce an artefact project addressing the impact of gumshields in protecting teeth.



CAREERS

Although the main focus of our students is to achieve exceptional A level grades, we go that extra mile to ensure they are fully prepared for interviews and tests that universities and businesses set them. Each year, university courses become more competitive with entry requirements becoming more complex and difficult. There are a number of ways that we support students outside the classroom in preparing them for the tasks that universities and businesses put before them.

INTERVIEW PREPARATION

Over the years we have supported numerous students in achieving their goal of gaining entry onto Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science courses. A crucial part of the entry process is the interview. Supporting our students with this is something we take great pride in. In addition to sitting with Personal Tutors and members of the Senior Management Team for mock interviews, students also take part in mock Multi-Mini Interview Stations. The mock MMI stations are set-up by the college Medical Society. Vice Principal, Adam Cross and UCAS Officer, Emily Lucas head the society and as part of the preparation for the mock MMI create scenarios under the topics including ethics and role play.

ENTRY TESTS

Many competitive courses will require students to take an entry test such as UKCAT and BMAT. Students applying to Cambridge or Oxford University will also be required to take entry tests relating to their area of study. With a rich pool of expertise throughout our academic staff, students preparing for these tests are offered support and guidance on how best to approach entry tests.

UCAS SUPPORT WEEK

In addition to the extensive UCAS support given by Personal Tutors in weekly meetings, students take part in a UCAS preparation week in which they attend presentations on several topics relating to university applications. These include advice on writing a Personal Statement, applying for Student Finance and Budgeting. In addition, workshops and presentations are delivered on various career pathways students can take, including apprenticeships.



THE LAPWORTH MUSEUM OF GEOLOGY



A level Geography students had the opportunity to visit The Lapworth Museum of Geology based in the University of Birmingham to further their knowledge of tectonic plates and hazards. Students were given a comprehensive tour of the museum by expert staff and were shown fossilised remains of prehistoric rhinos that were discovered just outside Birmingham. MPW Students were also able to engage in an interactive workshop that brought the specification content to life in front of their eyes. The session took place in a classroom-based environment, with some rather unusual learning resources including volcanic rock and a seismometer which is normally used to measure the severity of an earthquake. Students were amazed that the seismometer could detect tremors caused by school football team goalkeeper, Dike, jumping on the spot in the classroom. In addition to the taught content session, students were able to explore the university campus and gain an improved understanding of life as an undergraduate.

SPORTS AWARDS DINNER

As with most years, there was plenty to celebrate at this year's Annual Sports Awards Dinner. Given the gruelling study MPW students endure throughout the academic year, taking part in sporting activity can provide a much need opportunity to let off some steam. However, there is a competitive side to our sports programme which includes an extensive fixture list against other independent colleges, along with the end of season CIFE Football Tournament.

The Annual Sports Awards Dinner allows the players and management to reflect on the season that was, recall the best goals of the season and enjoy a tasty meal. Perhaps more importantly, votes are taken, and awards are handed out.



This year's awards were awarded to:

DONGYEON – TOP GOAL SCORER

HAMZA – PLAYER'S PLAYER OF THE SEASON

HAMZA – MANAGER'S PLAYER OF THE SEASON

DREW – FAIR PLAY AWARD

OSCAR – LEADERSHIP AWARD



“The two main highlights for me were the excellent victory away at Bosworth College thanks to an outstanding hat-trick by Drew and the strong performance in the CIFE Annual Football Tournament at St George's Park. Once again, the students were a credit to the college throughout the season, showing fantastic behaviour and sportsmanship at all times.”

MPW Birmingham Manager, Ryan Moran

A crucial part of studying A level Biology at MPW is conducting experiments inside and outside the college laboratory. The results students record are used as evidence in case studies which students then use in their final examinations. Earlier in the academic year, the A level Biology group visited the Preston Montford Field Studies Centre to complete a practical experimentation that involved an ecological investigation into the effect of a factor on the growth of a chosen species. Students chose to investigate the effect of grazing animals on grassland, lichen distribution on the north and south side of a wall, species diversity in a clean and eutrophic pond, competition between different species in different light intensities. In the green rural setting, students learned about random and systematic sampling techniques in the context of woodland, grassland and aquatic environments. Following this, students planned their own investigations using their knowledge of ecology and the resources available at the site allowing them to explore areas of specific interest to them. The experience allowed them to practice planning investigations and consider ethical concerns and carry out risk assessments which are important skills in A level Biology. The day proved a huge success, with students experiencing Biology in a natural environment rather than the usual college environment.

PRESTON MONTFORD

– BIOLOGY TRIP





M|P|W

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