Hospital Sector

JBA staff hosted the ‘Working on the Wards’ Regional Day that took place on Friday 8th November 2019 at the Burlington Hotel, Birmingham. Over 70 delegates attended the conference. Although called a Regional Day, people came from as far as Truro in Cornwall to Sheffield.

The purpose of the conference was for Hospital Schools across the country, to get together and share good practice, as they are all members of the National Association of Hospital Education (NAHE).

The agenda was very full and included the following:

Staff from Wolverhampton, Leeds, Sheffield & Leicester Hospital Schools gave four ten minute different Newsflashes; there were six workshops ranging from PMLD to Teaching & Learning and lots in between, to workshop that we, as JBA staff, presented and we had four guest speakers. We were particularly proud of the feedback from the two workshops that we presented (Careers & Computing).

Also, we were privileged to have one of our very own JBA students Cerys and her father, Geraint to talk about the impact that cancer has had on their lives and how our JBA education has helped Cerys on her cancer journey. Their speeches were extremely moving and really hit home as to why it is so important that hospitalised pupils receive education from us and it was clear that the relationship we build up with our pupils and family help them in traumatic times.

Rev Paul Nash, Chaplain at BWCH gave a talk too.

All of the feedback from the evaluation sheets was very positive and we were so proud to have hosted such a fabulous event!
Christmas Carol Service

Staff at JBA really got into the Christmas spirit by playing a leading role in the carol concert held in the beautiful chapel at Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital.

Four staff sang in the choir and sounded angelic; many other staff took part in the Nativity play and looked striking in their costumes. Children from the primary classroom showcased their Christmas art and the whole event gave the congregation a wonderful spiritual glow to take them through the final week of term!

The staff at BWCH were once again very keen to show off their creativity and stylish, sartorial elegance when donning their ‘Jolly Jumpers’ for the annual fundraising day, organised by the BWCH charities. All donations, given by staff for the privilege of wearing a jumper on the day, will be used across the hospitals to help support the patients.

Just as in previous years there was a selection of fun and Christmas jumpers; some home-made and others shop bought, but amazingly no two were the same! The winner of the most original jumper was awarded to Tracey Deathridge for her fluffy, tactile, festive Teddy Bear jumper.

The event helped to bring a smile to the faces of patients and other medical staff, but, the challenge for the rest of the staff was how to keep cool when working on the rather warm wards!
BWCH Primary Classroom

Our Primary classroom pupils have had a very busy learning week including; learning about healthy eating and looking after our teeth, developing our ‘Working Wall’ showcasing our fractions work; character descriptions and our ‘Right of the Week’ display.

BWCH Secondary Classroom

Well-being Wednesday sessions have begun with a flying start in the Secondary classroom at BWCH. Students have been exploring their internal and external emotions in ‘The Face We Wear’ mask making workshop. They have also been exploring identity in our personal mapping activities. The sessions have been enjoyed and students are looking forward to their next sessions.
QE YPU Exam Successes 2019

Students on the Teenage Cancer Trust Young Persons Unit have successfully passed a range of educational qualifications from Functional Skills Maths/English Level 2, GCSE’s, and ‘A’ levels, right through to Undergraduate and Post Graduate examinations.

Cory has just graduated from Warwick University with a First-Class Honours Degree in Modern Foreign languages and is busy planning the next stage of his career. All through diagnosis and treatment he was able to have the support of the education service on YPU and continued with his degree studies, determined to graduate. Cory claimed that his result was “the perk of being a ‘mature student’...”: I think it was the result of sheer hard academic study and determination to complete his degree!

Currently on YPU we have University students reading Pharmacy at Brighton and Russian and Spanish at Birmingham University: other YPs are engaged in Apprenticeships and working hard to complete written modules for their course whilst others are employed and working from home part time.

Owen pictured at the World skills day

“After being diagnosed in January (2018) in the final year of my A-levels I decided to continue my studies. I managed to complete my coursework and sit all but one of my exams. I still managed to get exceptional grades with an A*, A and B respectively in History, Business and Politics. This confirmed my place to study Ancient History and Archaeology at Birmingham University.

After I recovered from my transplant, I decided to do some work experience. Recently, I have been working at ‘Project Better Energy’ in the Finance and HR department and I also managed to do a week’s work at RLF doing Quantity Surveying. In that time, I have also had two interviews for two separate apprenticeships. One of those interviews was a success as I now have a job secured at Briggs and Forrester which I will start in September. In the meantime, I will carry on with work experience at ‘Project Better Energy’ pictured at the World Skills Day.
Noor pictured with Jayne Ruisi, bravely agreed to be the guest speaker at a recent Careers workshop based on developing skills in interview techniques. Noor came to Jayne for help to prepare for an interview for Birmingham City University to study for a BSc. in Radiography. Having gained the necessary educational qualifications during her diagnosis and treatment, Noor had been unsuccessful in an initial interview but chose to ask for help rather than ‘giving up’. The degree course Noor had applied for required the confidence to work with ‘leading-edge technology’, and the ability to learn new skills and adapt to new situations.

Being able to communicate well with colleagues and patients is an important skill and Noor had to demonstrate that she had the capacity to do this and learn new skills. Noor talked in depth about the background research she had done; the nature of the questions she was asked and the importance of mock interviews.

The young people were surprised at how complex the interview questions were!

Noor was determined to succeed despite her diagnosis, and is now far more confident than when she started out on her journey.

Throughout the academic year there have been a series of Careers and Skills Workshops organised for the YPU at QE and held in the Chaplaincy Meeting Room and the Learning Hub. These have proven to be well attended, very popular and useful for the young people and have helped them to develop a wide range of employability skills. Recent workshops have included:

- Effective vacancy searching, problem solving and creativity.
- Creating a dynamic CV and when to use it.
- How to explain gaps in education and employment.
- Interview preparation, interview techniques and post interview.

Following the successful completion of exams both on the unit and in their respective Schools, Colleges and Universities, many of the young people at the QE have been able to return to their education or employment; beginning the new academic year in September, in style.

Others have been continuing to engage with their school, University or college and resume online activities. Whether it is a phased return or a full time re engagement, there is much to celebrate in the young people’s grit and determination.
This is Riley (Yr8), creating work for the **Explore Arts Award** during his Art lesson.

Riley made a superhero dog, working collaboratively in Art and Computer science. The main construction is made up of pots, bowls, newspaper and Modroc, with added decoration of paint and a fabric cape. He named it ‘Cyborg Flash’ as the eyes light up and the dog plays a tune, which Riley programmed during a Computer Science lesson.

This work will be exhibited, together with the work produced in Well-being Wednesday sessions to complete the Explore Arts Award. Well done Riley!
On 16th October it was Burn Awareness Day. The pupils on the dialysis unit had the opportunity to meet some firefighters, discuss fire safety and try on the firefighters’ helmet.

Chriblish met the firefighters and explored sound, using the shaker: he tapped the helmet and smiled.

Laura put the helmet on for a short while and became Firefighter Hickman.

Yusuf talked about how firefighters put out fires and that policeman can also help us.

Alishba asked some questions about their jobs and the fire engine. She said she had seen some firefighters on the news and would like to be a firefighter when she grows up. She also completed a quiz.

Well done Alishba!
The Importance of Extra-Curricular Activities at Post 16

Everyday I have the privilege of working with young people aged 16-25 who are continuing to study, despite being diagnosed with Cancer. Seventeen-year-old ‘A’ Level student, Amelia, had always been an active member of the local Army Cadets, but on the eve of receiving promotion to Lance Corporal, all that was halted.

Keen to continue with their A level studies, Amelia engaged with teaching from JBA on the Young Persons Unit and was keen to share their experiences of the value of extra-curricular activities and the impact that it had on them on higher education and future career plans. Below is one young persons ‘5 Minutes with’………..

What are you currently engaged in with school or college?

A Levels in Philosophy and Ethics and Digital media.

How were your studies interrupted when you were diagnosed?

I had to miss the last three quarters of the academic year and start afresh in the following September, as well as drop a subject

How have you managed to combine studying with your diagnosis and treatment?

I have returned to the Sixth-Form on a part-time basis. The college have made it physically easier to attend by moving the subjects to the same floor as A-Level English.

Apart from studying, what do you do in your spare time? CADETs!!!

I am part of the Army Cadet Force and have been for the past 3 years. In that time, I have had the chance to go on camps abroad and learn skills like live fire shooting on semi and fully automatic rifles. I have recently achieved the rank of L/Cpl (Lance Corporal)

Do you have any advice to another young person trying to study whilst undergoing treatment?

Do what’s best for you; whether that’s carrying on with school, or focusing on treatment. Health is always more important, but make sure you keep in contact with the school so that they know what to expect from you.

Do you think the Education and Employability service offered on the YPU is important?

Yes, definitely

What would you like to say to the TCT YPU team on Ward 623?

Thank you for all the support you have given that I probably wouldn’t have received on an adult ward.

Jayne Ruisi
Specialist Teacher QE YPU.
Autumn Term 2019
Primary Classroom– BWCH

Our classroom Well-being Wednesday was inspired by our Space Week, and involved travelling to Planet Pandora, the magical place we created in our Literacy lessons.

The children interacted with the foam, colourings and different materials to create a dramatised art session, exploring the children’s imaginative ideas, as well as exploring the ‘wonder’ of shaving foam and colours.
This pupil identified the shapes and was able to name and label them correctly!
After two attempts, the pupil was able to stick the shapes together in the correct places to create the Rocket picture

This pupil was able to identify the shapes and place them under the correct label.
With a little help, he was able to, put the shapes in the right place to build the rocket.
The pupil seemed more confident with this task and completed it successfully without a lot of support!
Pupils in the Primary Classroom have been looking at farming, including the Harvest Festival and why we change the clocks twice a year... this is what they found out.

There are many reasons why we change our clocks twice during the year. Agriculture is a major concern, with farmers’ working hours being more affected by the amount of daylight available in the morning than the rest of us. Farmers often rise or begin work at around 5am in the morning. If the clocks were not adjusted, dairy farmers, located in the North of the country would not see dawn until after 9 o’clock, meaning many hours of working in the dark.

During our Design & Technology lesson, pupils planned, designed and created Autumn pizzas based on some of the vegetables that are grown on a farm. Next lesson they will then use their senses to write a piece of descriptive writing during their Literacy lesson.
Hospital Sector – BWCH

BWCH pupils were invited to a meet with Oliver Hynd MBE, Paralympic three times Gold medallist, which was hosted by Hogan Lovells Solicitors, Birmingham on Wednesday 13th November 2019.

Our pupils were inspired by Ollie’s dedication to the sport of swimming and his gruelling training regime, despite his disabilities. Riley, one of our Secondary classroom pupils, asked some really great questions.

Our hosts provided food, party games and even some relaxing hand massages. Riley enjoyed the calming effects of the hand massage, while other pupils enjoyed getting their nails painted. This promoted everything we do during our Wellbeing Wednesday sessions too. Thank you to Ollie and Hogan Lovells for a fantastic school trip; you really have shown our pupils that anything you want to do in life is possible with hard work and commitment!
L/O To recognise and follow a beat

Pupils on Haemoglobinopathy took part in a music lesson. They successfully followed a beat, distinguished between different rhythms and even came up with a rhythm of their own.
As part of our weekly Personal Development session, the children engaged with the enquiry question ‘Could this be my future career?’. Within the session we explored the daily news and discussed the different job roles linked to the reports.

A primary pupil also looked at job roles in a different context, linking skill sets to a particular role. This challenge highlighted certain misconceptions which we discussed further. Alongside this, she created her own reflective piece of work on her future career aspiration: a doctor!

The pupils focused on the current issue of Climate Change, discussing the relevant article regarding planting trees to partly tackle the problem. One pupil decided to show interest in the role of an ‘Interviewer’, so she researched her topic and chose questions she would ask the founder of the tree planting topic. Focusing on the skills needed for the role sparked interest and created a practical example of a ‘day in the life’ of the role.
New exercise bike in Oncology Clinic – Waterfall House

Patients attending day clinics in Waterfall House can now take advantage of a super new exercise bike which has been donated by www.cyclistsfc.org.uk. The CLIC sergents and physiotherapists who work with cancer patients at BCH have worked tirelessly to make this happen, so are now really excited that their idea has come to fruition.

The plan is for patients and other visitors to spend some of their waiting time keeping active. Each person can start a passport to record their progress and also record it on a daily distance chart kept in clinic. The CLIC sergents present certificates to patients for each 5km peddled and a cumulative tracker is used to see what distances people are cycling. They then plot this on a map to see where people could have cycled to, had it been a normal road bike. E.g. as far as the Sea Life Centre, or as far as Wolverhampton etc; even Europe is on the map – that may take a while to achieve!

One of our regular patients, Isaac, is taking advantage of cycling each week and has already been awarded his first certificate. He is impressed by the fact that the machine monitors his pulse, heartrate, speed, distance, calories expended etc.

So, if you are up on the first floor of Waterfall House, go and have a cycle!

**********

Zain on ward 18 has been a brilliant student showing perseverance in his learning. This term he has been successfully learning addition and subtraction from 2 digit numbers. Maths is his favourite lesson and he enjoys showing off his mathematical skills.

Well done, Zain!
Students across JBA have been working on entries for a competition run by Pearson called ‘A Twist on a Tale.’ Students at BWCH in both Primary and Secondary have written a selection of stories, creating new and original versions of traditional tales. The Three Little Pigs have all moved house, Hare and Tortoise help each other over the finish line overcoming their physical and mental impairments together, a princess realises she is one of the most beautiful girls in the world – though she was born without any hair.

The unique and imaginative reworkings of familiar tales have allowed these young people a new avenue through which they have been able to explore their own experiences – as well as tell versions of their own stories.

Ellie, a dialysis patient, pictured here, wrote her twist on the story of ‘Beauty and the Beast.’ A young beauty called Belle, after a tearful exchange with her dialysis machine Beast, lives happily ever after – but it’s not with a prince who she rides off into the sunset with.

Belle entered the creepy cave and sat down, her heart raced loudly in her chest and even her kidneys wanted to hide. The Beast’s deep voice echoed through the candlelit room, “Why are you here?” Belle stuttered and explained to the Beast that her kidneys did not work and that she needed his help to fix them. The Beast responded, “I will fix your kidneys on one condition: you have to stay with me and let me use your blood to make a potion.” Shaking with fear, Belle wished she was invisible, but she knew she had to do it: she had no choice, it was life or death for her.

It didn’t take long for Belle to get fed up with the Beast’s screams, the Beast making her feel ill and the Beast using her blood all the time. She decided to try and escape. She tried to climb out of the windows. She tried to distract the Beast and run out of the door. She even tried to end the bargain so she could escape. But every time the slaves worked together to stop Belle from getting away. But as much as Belle was desperate to escape the annoying Beast, she also knew that if she left, she would feel worse and worse every day.

As hard as it could be living with the Beast, Belle tried to keep all of her emotions in a box that she kept locked deep inside her. There was no point in wasting energy with feeling sad because it changed nothing. But Belle found it hard to keep giving blood to him all the time and one day, the box of feelings buried deep inside escaped. It was all too much...

BELLE AND THE BEAST

Once upon a time there was a little girl who was born full of energy, full of noise and full of kindness. However, she was also born with parshalsacrilagenasis. This meant that her kidneys didn’t work as good as everyone else’s. She often felt sick and often had to miss school. This made her feel lonely and bored.

One day Belle’s left kidney decided to stop working. This meant that Belle only had one kidney, which barely worked at the best of times. Soon after, the right one stopped working as well, leaving Belle with no choice but to visit The Beast. The Beast lived in a gothic looking castle, made of old dirty bricks. It had pointed witches’ hats for towers. In the castle the Beast controlled many slaves who had to rush and feed him every time he screamed (and he screamed a lot).

Outside the Beast’s castle, Belle stood scared and worried. The Beast’s door had a huge bronze lion door knocker. It stared at her and warned her not to enter. Full of nerves and fright, Belle ignored the lion’s snarls and followed the slaves into the dark isolated home.

As hard as it could be living with the Beast, Belle tried to keep all of her emotions in a box that she kept locked deep inside her. There was no point in wasting energy with feeling sad because it changed nothing. But Belle found it hard to keep giving blood to him all the time and one day, the box of feelings buried deep inside escaped. It was all too much...
Belle’s eyes filled with tears of sadness and like a waterfall they slid down her face. Belle’s pain was heard by the Beast. Even though Belle didn’t know it, the Beast thought Belle was brave, bright and beautiful. The last thing he wanted was for her to be sad.

He followed the sounds of her sniffles and found her alone in the isolated room.

“Why are you sad, Belle?”

“I'm sick of sitting here in this isolated room alone. I want to not feel sick anymore. I want to go back to my friends. I want to have more energy. Why can’t I be like everyone else?”

Overwhelmed with sadness for Belle, the Beast wrapped his arms around her and tapped her gently. A little droplet of Belle’s tears fell down her face in slow motion. Like a raindrop, it fell on the Beast’s shoulder. Suddenly the Beast changed before Belle’s eyes. She was no longer looking at a green, blood snatching monster. She was now looking at a healthy, life changing, super kidney. Within seconds the kidney became part of her body and she felt a massive boost of energy.

So, with the help of the Beast, her wish came true and she lived happily ever after.

Good luck with the competition Ellie!

IOP Institute of Physics

Birmingham Women’s and Children’s Hospital have been successful in securing a £600 grant from the Institute of Physics to fund enrichment resources thanks to Anna Adjei-Kwarteng (One of our secondary science teachers)

These include Physics related books (ages 4-19); games, puzzles and DVDs; posters, stickers and postcards, as well as STEM practical kits and equipment. The Science team at BWCH look forward to using these resources with pupils in the coming months.

Working alongside Greenwood Academy (GWA)

The pupils from GWA visited the hospital school on Friday 6th December to work alongside our JBA pupils. All pupils went on tour around the hospital singing Christmas songs for patients and staff which culminated in a mini concert in the Chapel at the end of the day. This helped to put everyone truly in the Christmas spirit!

We have an excellent working partnership with this particular secondary school. Trevor Evans from GWA, has very kindly offered some of our JBA pupils/classes across the school the opportunity to go and see their latest production, ‘Hairspray’, on Wednesday 12th February 2020 @ 9.30am. I will be in consultation with the Leadership Team which sector/classes will be attending …. So, watch this space!
Today was an exciting day in the Primary Classroom, our generous charities came in to decorate and bring a touch of Christmas cheer. After helping the ‘Christmas elves’ we made delicious Christmas cupcakes and designed festive toppings. We then investigated Christmas around the world, reading all about different cultures and how Christmas is celebrated in different countries. This valuable session supported the pupils to think about the wider world, different views and traditions. We then created questions that we would ask to other children around the world such as ‘What do you eat on Christmas day?’ or ‘What is your favourite present?’