



CFE (Sixth Form) students in their dedicated study room

## **Dear All**

Welcome to the second edition of The Buckingham Bulletin. There has been an incredible range of activities and learning which have taken place within our school community.

The CFE Open Evening was extremely positive. The range of courses offered were well received by both our Year 11 students and external visitors. The CFE continues to grow and is a real strength of the school. A\* - B grades at A Level rose 12% to 41% in 2015.

Presently, our data shows that we are 10% higher at this point compared to last year, so we can predict another year of improved results for 2016. Already our students have this year received training on employability skills from local businesses, they have visited universities and had individual support on writing their university applications. Also, many students have engaged in a question and answer session on political and parliamentary processes with Lord Borwick.

Links to local businesses and apprenticeship opportunities are stronger than ever before, 67% of students went on to university in 2015 and the percentage of applications for 2016 have risen yet again.

Each student is supported in a nurturing learning environment to be successful and to gain their desired pathway to employability, training or high education. It is wonderful to see that the commitment and dedication of all staff working as part of the CFE has impacted so positively on our students lives and future opportunities.

I hope by reading our regular Bulletins, you gain a greater understanding of the wonderful work and opportunities we deliver within our school – I am truly proud of the achievements, attitudes and commitment of our students.

Yours sincerely

**Miss A P Wells**  
Headteacher



[www.buckinghamschool.com](http://www.buckinghamschool.com)



## Computer Science Department

Year 10 students will be taking a trip to Duxford for the annual Think Computer Science event - hosted by Microsoft Research Cambridge. Students will get the opportunity to run through a programme of exciting talks, demonstrations and workshops - all designed to inspire students about the fantastic opportunities available for them in the field of computing.

In addition to inspiring our GCSE students, the Computing Department currently runs a Key Stage 3 after school club on Tuesdays. The students are currently in the middle of competing in a National Animation Contest - Animation16. After the round of initial submissions the club will be working on student led projects that connect Computer Science to their other classes, using everything from Design and Technology to the School's brand new 3D printer.

To really top it off, planning has already started for Computer Science Week, which takes place during the week of 7-13 December. During this week, the Computing Department will be holding events in the computing suites. There is going to be a Lego Robotics competition with prizes for the winners; a film festival planned by the computing club, a how-to on the 3D printer and lots more!



**Ms Lacey Townes**  
Computer Science Teacher



# Animation16

## Meet the Teacher: Mr Roberts Assistant Headteacher & PE Teacher

My name is Peter Roberts and in September of this year I joined The Buckingham School as Assistant Headteacher for Data, Assessment, Reporting and Recording. I have spent the last 9 years of my teaching career in Luton where I have had various roles; Head of Year, Head of House before progressing on to a more senior role as Assistant Principal. I am a PE teacher and my main sports are football, golf and tennis. I have also taught IT/Computing and History as my additional subjects. In 2010, I enjoyed a sabbatical year from my previous post where I travelled to Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong. I was lucky enough to experience teaching for two months across two schools in Brisbane, Australia. I particularly enjoyed learning to surf and being able to teach new sports, such as Aussie Rules and Ultimate Frisbee.



My spare time over the years has mainly been spent playing sport. I represented my County in a number of sports as a junior and competed in golf nationally against the likes of Justin Rose and Nick Doherty. My evenings and weekends are now spent with my wife and 15 month old daughter, Ayra. Between them they definitely keep me on my toes and fairly fit and healthy! I look forward to becoming part of the community here at The Buckingham School and hope to meet many of you soon.

## Buckingham Music Centre Now Open!

We are delighted to announce that our new satellite centre is now fully open. We are running Junior Concert Band, Buckingham Strings and Guitar Group from Buckingham Primary School on Thursday afternoons. Lessons in most instruments are also available. From January we will also be running Tooty Flutey – our new flute choir for flautists who've been playing for two terms or more – it's not just for beginners though, come along whatever grade you are. You could come and watch our Christmas Concert at The Ugland Auditorium, Stowe School on 10 December or just come along one Thursday and meet us all. For more information contact Fay at [fhayhurst@learningtrust.net](mailto:fhayhurst@learningtrust.net)

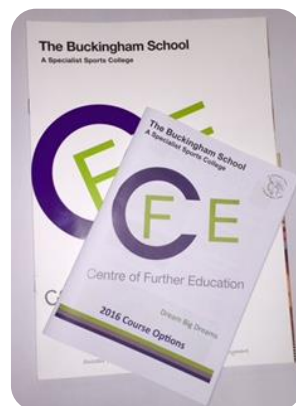
**Mrs Alderton**  
Music Teacher



**The Buckingham School's Centre of Further Education (CFE)** offers a wide variety of both academic and vocational qualifications in Years 12 and 13. It is rare in today's education system for a school to offer such a mix of theoretical and practical learning, but we feel it enables students to study a breadth of courses, opening up their progression pathways in a flexible and successful way. Our course options include A Levels in Business Studies, Psychology, English Literature, History, Media, Photography and Biology, and BTECs in Law, Travel & Tourism and Sport, (full list available on our website).

Alongside the broad range of subject courses available in the CFE, we also have a number of enrichment activities including Media Make Up, Enterprise & Entrepreneurship and Sports Leadership. These additional courses really help our students to stand out when it comes to writing their personal statement for UCAS or their CV for potential employers. This autumn, more than 60% of last year's Year 13 students progressed to universities to study high quality degree courses. We aim to build on this, year on year.

We recently held a CFE Open Evening for the School's current Year 11 students and for local external young people who are looking into their options for the next academic year. We had over 90 people attend. They were able to speak to subject teachers about how each course is delivered and assessed, and talk to existing students about life in the CFE. One parent who attended the event said, "It was very useful to get clarity on the options available". For those who were unable to be there, information can be obtained from the CFE and we will be running a number of follow up activities to help young people decide if our CFE is the right next step for them post-GCSE. These activities will include the opportunity to observe Year 12 and 13 lessons, a further information evening and individual meetings with the Director or Head of CFE to discuss preferred subjects and their entry criteria.



By being able to study A Levels and BTECs in the CFE, our students gain qualifications to facilitate progress towards their career ambitions in a way that suits their learning styles. In 2014-15, our students achieved a 12% increase in A Level grades A\*-B and a 15% increase in BTECs at Distinction\*-Distinction. These results demonstrate the School's ongoing commitment to post-16 education for our students. In the CFE, we offer our students a supportive learning environment which encourages them to grow as individuals, as well as to achieve and progress into successful careers. For more information, please contact the CFE on 01280 812206 ext. 282 or visit our website:

[www.buckinghamschool.com](http://www.buckinghamschool.com)

### New Head Boy and Girl

Student Voice are extremely pleased to announce the successful candidates for Head Boy and Head Girl are Josh Stacey and Jocelyn Ayers. Ellie Short and George Samways are the new deputies. Good luck to all in your new roles.

#### Student Voice



### My University Aspiration by Phoebe Browes, Year 13, CFE Student

I am hoping to go to University next year to study Biomedical Science. Miss Jardine (Curriculum Leader-Science) is really supportive of my aspiration to study Biomedical Science and is providing guidance and support. When I received an email regarding a fantastic opportunity to go to India to gain work experience in a hospital, I was immediately interested and began to look into it. I contacted a company called Medical Projects; I was delighted to find out that I had a place confirmed. I'm looking forward to going to India for a week in February 2016 which will involve working in a hospital to see what hospital life is truly like. I am also intrigued to find out about India as a country and their culture.



### Year 11 Students...

Get a copy of our CFE Prospectus and course information for next year now!

## Student Finance

On 19 October, Emily Blake from Events MS visited The Buckingham School to deliver a Student Finance Talk to our Year 12 and 13 students on behalf of the Department for Business Innovation and Skills.

She explained how the new tuition fees work, what they can be used for and how and when the repayments are made. She also highlighted that many universities offer additional bursaries that can be applied for. She strongly recommended that all those people wanting to go university research all of their options and claim all of the financial support they are eligible for.

At The Buckingham School, we have formed a relationship with The Lillingstone Trust. They are offering scholarships to encourage pupils from lower income backgrounds who are deterred by financial constraints from continuing into higher education. Their scholarships will have a maximum value of £4,000, with payments spread over the first 3 years of the Degree course. Further details, including the application form, can be found on the notice boards in the CFE study room and common room, as well as on our website.

## Safe Drive, Stay Alive

On Friday 6 November, our Year 12 students attended 'Safe Drive Stay Alive'. This is a hard-hitting presentation organised by Bucks County Council and Thames Valley Police, designed to highlight the often devastating consequences of road accidents.

Last year over 2,000 people were injured on roads in Thames Valley and Hampshire and an average of 4 young people per week were killed or seriously injured. Young drivers are much more likely to be involved in a crash on the roads, often due to inexperience and a lack of knowledge of the risks. Around 1 in 4 deaths on the road is aged 17-24.

Members of the emergency services described what their roles involve when they are at the scene of road traffic accidents and afterwards.

We also heard from two parents who lost children in car accidents and from two survivors; one had suffered life-changing injuries and one was a video interview with a young man who is currently in prison having been found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving.

"It made me realise how quickly your life can be changed or even be over with a silly mistake while driving," said Amy Fenables. All the speeches were delivered with a lot of courage and bravery. Many of the students were moved, particularly by the parents of road accident victims. Faye Barnes said, "It opens your eyes and makes you a lot more aware."

At The Buckingham School we feel this is an important awareness raising event and we will continue to take our Year 12 students to it each year.

### Safe Drive, Stay Alive!



## Parent Bridge

Parent Bridge is a database of parents who are willing to get involved in The Buckingham School in whichever way they feel they can make a difference. It is not a typical PTA or 'Friends of' where the emphasis is on fundraising, although if that is what you love to do then the school is often looking for financial support for specific projects to enrich the student experiences and learning. Whether you have half an hour once a month or an hour once a year, there are many ways in which you can support the school.

**Parent Bridge meet immediately after our half term Parent Forum gatherings, but please if you feel you can contribute to our school please contact**

Julie Barnard at  
parentbridge@bucksqfl.org.uk



## Remembrance Service

On 8 November, I went as a representative of The Buckingham School with Ellie Short and Mr Mandel to Buckingham's Remembrance Day Parade. I have never been before and it was really touching to see so many people from clubs like the Cadets and Brownies, as well as people from Buckingham and the surrounding villages, come together to remember the fallen service men and women. We followed the parade to the church and laid a wreath on behalf of the School on the war memorial during the service.

Jocelyn Ayres  
Head Girl



### Year 11 GCSE

**Geography** CAT catch-up sessions every Tuesday lunchtime in H6. Have your draft work checked and get advice.

**Mrs Sanghera**

Subject Leader Geography

## English Department

**Year 10 Students have been exploring the genre of horror and how writers use linguistic techniques and structural devices to create tension for the reader. They were challenged to use some of these techniques in only 250 words.**

**Miss Stepney**

Curriculum Leader for English and Media

### The Shack

She approached the woods swiftly while the trees surrounded her as she got deeper and deeper. The rain fell heavily, which created a loud 'thumping' sound as it hit the cold, corroded wooden path. She was cold and wet; it forced her to look for shelter. She followed the path into the depths of the woods. It began to get darker and darker before she was greeted by an old shack. It looked forgotten and corroded. She slowly and cautiously approached it. The shack barely showed any of its own skin as it was covered by bushes.



The door edged open with pace, the screech echoed in the enclosed walls. She stepped in, shouting out to see if there was any type of life. Nothing. But she did notice a lonely rusted metal boy in the middle of the room. She swayed towards it. Suddenly, the door slammed with such force that nothing but darkness filled the room. She ran for the door, ignoring everything around her. A piece floorboard caused her to fall. This was before she felt a tight wrapping around her neck. A faint, unknown, clue groan came from above her. "Hell". "Home". She could feel the blackness slowly starting to overcome her causing her to lose consciousness. A shadow staggered out of the shack after her. Her body was found with symbols scarred on her neck and with sunken eyes but what was found next to her sent a shiver down my spine...

**Lewis Hall**

### The Devil Inside

I fall deeper and deeper into a horrifyingly hopeless sleep. Surrounding me were leafy, green and tall trees. I felt trapped. The night was as black and dark as the devil's soul. Bang! The sky suddenly lit up like fireworks, which was followed by a deep sounding roar. Lightning had struck in the air. Pacing my way through the forest, I stumbled and fell to the ground.

I lifted my head upwards to see a short and stubble figure. Both of our eyes met but his were red, dead and colourless eyes. Gradually this old looking figure's mouth opened, chanting the words "GO TO HELL. GO TO HELL!..."

Here I was. Hell. I was transported within seconds to a place filled with walls of death which spookily surrounded me. Only one colour was visible in this land of death. Red.

I was enclosed in hell. Soon strange figures surrounded me, chanting in the highest pitch their voice boxes could produce. I lifted from the ground very slowly, going upwards and upwards. Bang! My head hit against the headboard on the bed. I slowly woke up to find out this terrifying story didn't exist.

**Sam Ward-Butler**



### The Cabin in the Woods

Slowly slumbering into the woods, he felt a cold breeze shoot past him. The owls were howling, howling like a wolf calling for its pack. He took two steps and suddenly the sky grew extremely dark and the breeze became as bitter as ice. He walked forward slowly only to find an old cabin in the distance. The thunder began followed by the rain, not thinking he dashed inside closing the door behind him.

He turned around and saw a crackling fire in the distance, the only thing lighting up the room. Suddenly the door flung open by the wind blowing out the fire as well. He tried to find a light switch with his hands pressed up against the walls! He felt a slight breeze on his hands, followed by a tight grip around his neck which was getting tighter and tighter by the second. A small whimper came from his mouth but before he could finish he dropped to the floor. Dead.

**Emily Honor**

### The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night.

On Thursday 5 November, Year 10, 11 and 12 were accompanied by Mrs Field, Miss Checkley and Morris to Milton Keynes Theatre to have a one hour workshop with the director and actors from *The Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night*, followed by a viewing of the full performance of the show.

As part of their GCSE and A-Level course which requires them to review a live theatre show, The Buckingham School students were privileged to a wealth of information from the director and actors alike, including participation in a demonstration of physical theatre by Frantic Assemble, which our students were very knowledgeable in and were able to answer some difficult questions posed from the director, outshining another similar school.

The performance itself was completely and utterly emotively captivating and brought a World of Autism to life and made something which appears on the surface as a complex area, understandable and relatable to all ages. It is, without doubt, a must see theatre show.



**Mrs Field**  
Teacher of English

**English revision sessions Wednesdays 3.30 p.m. in E6**

## New School Minibus – Sponsors Needed

Hopefully our new school minibus will be here by Christmas. We have been waiting since September to take delivery but due to factory backlogs it was delayed until this month. The minibus will be out and about on a daily bus route through local villages and used to transport our teams to all school fixtures in the County. We would like to have some local sponsors to advertise with us on the external panels and ask for all enquiries to be sent to Tracy Waumsley by email - [twauumsley@bucksgfl.org.uk](mailto:twauumsley@bucksgfl.org.uk) Thank you to those suppliers who have already taken up this offer and to Heron Signs who will be completing the livery.

**Mrs Waumsley**  
Business Manager



## A Lord's Visit

The Buckingham School hosted a talk from a member of the House of Lords on Friday 16 October to encourage students to become more engaged with the political and parliamentary process. Lord Borwick met with Centre of Further Education (Years 12 and 13) students for an hour to talk about the work and role of the House of Lords. This was followed by a question and answer session on various aspects of the parliamentary process and life at Westminster generally.



## Hair & Beauty



Hair & Beauty twilight sessions every Tuesday in the salon from 3.30 to 5.00pm £3.00 per session. For further details please contact Mrs Akerman – [kakerman@bucksgfl.org.uk](mailto:kakerman@bucksgfl.org.uk)

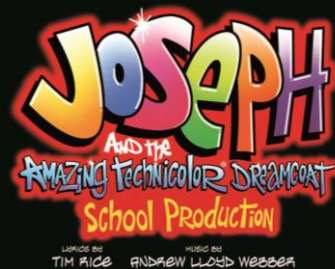
## Fundraising Event

Krispy Kreme Doughnut sale was held on Tuesday 24 November – raising funds for the Senior Citizens Christmas party. Thank you to everyone we raised £135.00



## School Show – 'Joseph' Rehearsal Times

Rehearsals for the new school show Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat will be held every Wednesday from 3.30pm to 5.30pm in the Performing Arts department.



## Nearly New School Uniform

Do you have any items of school uniform your child no longer needs **We are in great need for any school blazers that are no longer needed**, please do drop them in at Student Reception when convenient.

## Key Stage 5 Forensics



Look what happens as part of Key Stage 5 Forensics – students analysing a simulated crime scene to establish what crime was committed against the victim!

**Sarah Jardine**  
Curriculum Leader for Science

## School Lottery

School lottery is up and running – log on to the school website for your chance to win!

Angela Wells, Head teacher said "this was a fantastic opportunity for our students to interact with someone who knows the parliamentary system inside out, as it can sometimes seem far removed from their daily lives". The visit was arranged through the Lord Speaker's "Peers in Schools" programme, which has been running across the UK since 2007 and has so far involved around 75,000 young people. This continuing outreach programme sends members of the House of Lords into schools/academies and colleges across the country to give talks in support of the citizenship curriculum.

**Student Voice**

## Phobia Awareness at the London Zoo!

Year 12 and 13 students visited London Zoo to attend an educational session on phobias. Students learnt about the causes and treatments of phobias and how people react to phobias as part of their psychology course.

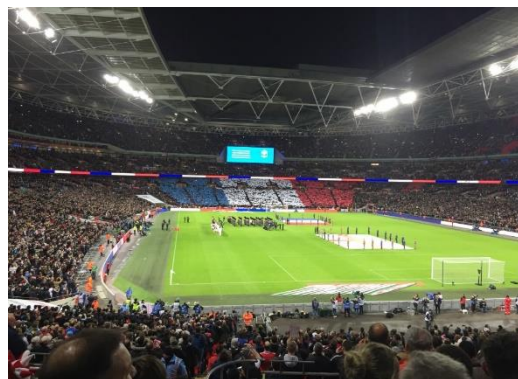
The talk was by clinical hypnotherapist John Clifford, who talked about arachnophobia and the extreme behaviours this has caused in people when trying to avoid spiders. Some examples were attempting to jump out a car going 70mph along the motorway because a spider crawled across the dashboard and a man who would watch television with a loaded air rifle ready to shoot any spider that had the misfortune to wander into the room. Students had the opportunity to experience hypnotherapy as a treatment of phobias for themselves, although this didn't work for everyone some students said they had gone into a hypnotic state! When we were brought out of the hypnotic state students had the chance to hold a tarantula called Rosie to see if it had worked. Maya Kitt and Summer Howell who had been afraid of spiders beforehand were able to hold Rosie after being hypnotised. The best part of the day was being hypnotised and seeing the animals; the gorillas, penguins and tigers being the most popular.

**Miss Simmons**

Teacher of Psychology



## The Buckingham School visit Wembley



42 Buckingham students recently visited Wembley Stadium to watch England vs France in an International Football Friendly on Tuesday 17 November 2015.

It was touch and go whether this fixture would go ahead after the sad events that took place the weekend before hand in France. The atmosphere inside and outside the stadium was somewhat sad but positive towards the French with supporters out in numbers, 71,000 people inside Wembley to show their support to the French players and the victims of the Paris shootings. The spectators at the match before the whistle completed a one minute applause and then a one minute silence took place, the stadium brought to a complete shutdown where only a pin could be heard drop.

As you can see from the picture above, the French flag was created by spectators in the crowd during both national anthems. The game began and England secured a 2-0 win with Wayne Rooney scoring and Dele Alli. A fantastic game for all students to witness and support, and a brilliant win for England on the night. Watch out for more international football friendly fixtures coming up as school trips.

**Miss Collie**  
PE Teacher

## Dates for your diary

Thursday, 3 December - Year 8 Parents evening

Monday, 14 December - Senior Citizen Christmas Party

Monday, 14 December - Year 11 Berlin trip

Thursday, 17 December - Year 11, 12 & 13  
Celebration evening

Friday, 18 December - Christmas Jumper Day

Friday, 18 December – End of Term

Tuesday, 5 January 2016 – Start of Term

### Save the Date

**2 July 2016**

**Fundraiser for student African charity trip**

In our next issue we look forward to featuring and reporting on all the fantastic PE achievements that have taken place during the Autumn term.

### The Buckingham Bulletin

is a regular news round up – if you have any suggestions or comments, please contact Claire Sherwood at [csherwood@bucksgfl.org.uk](mailto:csherwood@bucksgfl.org.uk)