

The Buckingham *Bulletin*

Success for All through Achievement, Challenge & Enjoyment

New Issue 4
January 2016



Artistic Impression: GCSE Dance Student

Dear All

Welcome to our fourth edition of The Buckingham Bulletin. The Autumn term was a very positive one with many successes to note and the Spring Term has started extremely well – as you read through the Bulletin you will see the many activities, sporting successes and fantastic work that has already happened in school this term.

I am pleased to share with you that the Year 11, 12 and 13 current grades are very positive and encouraging. Attendance is up again on this time last year at 95.4%. Our students continue to show real commitment to their studies and are motivated to achieve the highest standards.

As mentioned, The Bulletin demonstrates the range of activities taking place at The Buckingham School. The Arts and Sports continue to provide a full range of opportunities for our students to participate in and to learn from. Indeed, it is great to be able to showcase previous students fantastic success in these two areas of study.

I am also very pleased with the growth and range of activities offered to our students within the Computer Science Department. Mr Osbourne is developing a strong following of keen programmers.

I am truly proud of the achievements, attitudes and commitment of our students and the wonderful opportunities we deliver within our school.

Yours sincerely

Miss A P Wells
Headteacher



www.buckinghamschool.com

Success for All through Achievement, Challenge & Enjoyment

Governors' Corner



As we approach the half way stage of this school year, I thought that it would be helpful to update parents and students on the work of the school governors and some exciting school developments.

Victoria Beech, Nick Keay and Paul Wildman have joined the governing body as new parent governors.

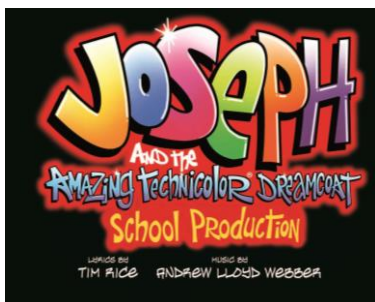
Julie Branch is the new staff governor and Tim Dugher has been recruited as a new co-opted governor.

The governing body is pleased with the improvements made by the school under the strong leadership of Angela Wells, our Headteacher. The Department for Education has recently published the School & College Performance Tables for GCSE outcomes in 2015. These show the detailed results for every school in England.

The Buckingham School is the third most improved secondary school in the county for students gaining five or more higher grade GCSEs including English & Mathematics. The proportions of students making the expected progress in both English and Mathematics were above National levels. Results in Science were also much improved on those from the previous year.

These results and those in other subjects were the direct result of the hard work by students and the great commitment and guidance shown by school staff in supporting students. In recent discussions with groups of students, their feedback on the support they receive has been most positive and highly valued. Furthermore, the strong GCSE outcomes were underpinned by a clear school improvement strategy of building capacity at all levels of school leadership.

The Buckingham School provides such a fantastic offering in Dance for students of all ages.



Following these improvements, the governors are working with senior leaders on the next phase of school development to drive us further forward. To support our ambition to become an outstanding school by 2019, we have drafted a revised vision and a set of strategic goals. We will ask key stakeholders, including parents and students for feedback on these in the near future. Our current strapline is *Success for All through Achievement, Challenge and Enjoyment* within a culture of *High Expectations no Excuses*. These will serve us well as we continue to have the highest ambitions for the achievements of our students.

We have recently commissioned a more dynamic and responsive website to improve communications with parents and others and to showcase the wide range of achievements by our students. Development work is in hand at present with a launch date of May 2016. The new website will be addressed to pupils, parents, staff and the wider community. It will provide information and news tailored to the needs of each audience in a direct and easy to use way.

David Gamble
Chair of Governors



A small gathering of Governors from top left: Ian McPartlan, Nick Keay, Julie Branch, Tim Dugher; bottom left, Matthew Watkins and David Gamble.

Dance at The Buckingham School

Students can take **GCSE Dance in Year 9 or BTEC Level 2** progressing to BTEC Level 3 (A Level). The GCSE course consists of developing skills, knowledge and understanding of dance as a performer, choreographer and critic.

Years 7 and 8 combined dance in PE (as part of the curriculum subject) but have the opportunity to attend school clubs such as ballet, tap dancing, cheerleading, Glee club to name a few. Also, they can take part in school dance festivals and main school show productions.

The school even has a dance company run for dancers of all levels and an elite squad who can progress their love of dance further. At the moment, the Performing Arts Department is busy rehearsing for this year's annual show, *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.



Centre of Further Education

Centre of Further Education Dream Big Dreams

Celebration Evening

Just before Christmas, we were delighted to hold our annual Celebration Evening for Years 11, 12 and 13. This event celebrated the successes and achievements of our students in the 2014-15 academic year.

This year we had 76 awards and many of the winners were able to attend and receive their certificates and prizes with family and friends watching on. Each subject had a category winner and each year group had an overall highest achiever. There were also awards presented to those who had shown the greatest effort and endeavour to improve their work, and to the student who had made a significant contribution to the school and local community.

The awards were presented by the Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP and our Headteacher, Angela Wells. Both of whom gave speeches congratulating these students for their hard work and dedication to their studies and personal development.



Over 150 students, family, teachers, support staff and governors were there, along with the Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP, Buckingham's Mayor, Andy Mahi, and several representatives from our business sponsors. Three of our Business Studies A Level students, Daniel Hayward, Megan King and Lauren Orpin, helped to organise the event and held a doughnut sale to fundraise for it beforehand. On the night, they were meeting and greeting visitors in Reception and helping with the refreshments. Excellent evidence for their coursework!

It was a very enjoyable evening which enabled us to acknowledge the commitment and success of these young people, as well as a great opportunity for us to welcome back some of our former students, many of whom were home for Christmas from university. Thank you to everyone who was involved with making it such a great evening and well done to all the award winners!



Rt. Hon John Bercow MP

Racing success for former student Anton Spires

Anton is a former student of The Buckingham School, attending from 2007 to 2010. To give you a bit of background information about Anton, in 2008 he won "Rookie of the Year" in SaxMax Championship, and finished third in the Championship the following year. In 2010 he switched to single seater racing finishing 4th in the AutoSport Young Guns Championship. Anton raced in Formula Renault for the next two years before taking a year out to concentrate on his degree. In 2013 he qualified as an ARDS Racing Instructor and graduated from the University of Gloucestershire with a 1st Class Honours in Business Management, Marketing Management & Branding. In 2014 he moved back into saloon car racing winning the Michelin Clio Cup Road Series. Last year he joined PP Motorsport as a driver coach before being entered into the Michelin Clio Cup Race Series. On his first race weekend he missed out on a podium finish at Oulton Park by 0.8 of a second.

The season starts for Brands Hatch on the first weekend in April. On Sunday 3rd the UK Clio Cup race will be part of ITV4's live coverage of the British Touring Car Championship. More often than not the Saturday race will be shown on Sunday in between the live races. If you want to follow Anton please see below:

PP Motorsport Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/paintperfectmotorsport>

PP Motorsport Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PaintPerfectMS>

Anton Spires Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AntonSpiresMotorsport>

Anton Spires Twitter: <https://twitter.com/antonspires>



We were delighted to welcome BCQ into a joint Year 11 and CFE assembly on 25 January 2016, to tell us about the printing industry and the career opportunities available within it.

BCQ are based in Buckingham and offer a wide range of print and media solutions. Established 40 years ago, they now have 120 members of staff across several sites. Their clients include some very well-known names: Honda, Jaguar and Marks & Spencer.

In the assembly, they played a video showing all the various aspects of printing, from the design process, to the product being manufactured then made ready for despatch. Managing Director, Chris Knowles, emphasised how integral print is to our everyday lives, pointing out that without the capacity to print we wouldn't have money, books, newspapers, posters or magazines. Due to the high demand for items that require printed components, mobile phone circuit boards, for example, the technology being used in the print industry is constantly advancing and progressing, making it an exciting industry to work in.

BCQ have a strong track record of recruiting apprentices into their business and retaining them once qualified. Several people who started with them as apprentices more than 20 years ago are still working there today! Now they are team leaders and managers. They also employ several former Buckingham School students, including a current apprentice who is just completing his Advanced Apprenticeship in print. Anita Atkinson, Operations & Compliance Manager at BCQ, was keen to highlight that the print industry is not just for boys! They welcome interest from everyone and encourage girls to consider working in print as a future career path.

BCQ are looking for new apprentices to join them in September and will be holding an Open Day at their main site in April. Anyone who would like more information about this event should register their interest with Miss Gates in the CFE.

Lord Parmoor Visit

On Monday 25 January 2016, we were extremely fortunate to have Lord Parmoor visit The Buckingham School and speak to our Years 7, 8 and 9 students in assemblies. Lord Parmoor, who is a retired judge, spoke to students about the rule of law and emphasised to students that certain actions will lead to undesirable consequences. It was an energetic talk and students greatly benefited from it.

Following assemblies, Lord Parmoor spent an hour with our mock trial team as they prepare for their upcoming competition. The session was very helpful to students as they were able to gain a valuable insight on the law in general and their case for their competition specifically. On behalf of all of us we thank Lord Parmoor for his time and advice during his time in the school.



World Book Day is a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and (most importantly) it's a celebration of reading. It is held every year on the first Thursday of March – Thursday 3 March!

Which book character will you be?





Both Year 7 and Year 8s have made a solid start to football at The Buckingham School. They managed to pick up their first win away to Aylesbury Vale Academy, winning the game in the final five minutes 4-3. The boys managed to beat Aylesbury with two goals coming from Joe Hill. Impressive performances by Ewan Barnard and Man of the Match Joe Glister helped secure the win. The Year 8s were unfortunately knocked out at the first hurdle, losing 3-1 to Milton Keynes Academy. They have progressed to the District Plate.

Year 10 Netball

After the overall win at the first tournament, the girls netball team went to play their first match. It was against Sir Thomas Freemantle and they did wonderfully again.



The final score was 15-10. Well Done!

PE Students of the Fortnight

Every fortnight the PE department recognises individual students for their commitment, ability, achievement, dedication and/or hard work. Each PE teacher nominates one student as their Student of the Fortnight.

This time we acknowledge **Oliver Power** (nominated by Mr Churchward). Oliver not only has natural ability and is excelling in rugby and football, he is turning into a student with excellent leadership skills.

Cerys Allen (nominated by Miss Keeping) for working exceptionally hard and making great progress with her theory work despite committing endless hours to her snowboarding. **Olivia Souster** (nominated by Miss Collie) for her fantastic attitude in PE. She works so hard and always has a smile on her face.

Year 7 Boys Football

The Year 7 football team have made a great start to the season by beating Homer Green 3-0 in the County Cup, with particular impressive performances from Captain Oliver Power, Tobi Bullivant and Man of the Match Tom Lawer. They were able to build on the previous performance with an even more dominant display against Aylesbury Vale Academy, winning 9-0. A host of players managed to get on the scoresheet, playing some beautiful football at times, with the opposition manager declaring this is the best team we have ever faced at Year 7 level.



Fishing

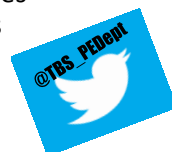
Joseph Reilly caught a lake record and a new personal best at a private lake. The fish, a Golden Orfe, weighed 2lb off the English Record. Well done Joseph!



Caitlin Burke (nominated by Miss Vaill). Caitlin is an absolute pleasure to teach, she always leads by example and is just an all round superstar!

Mr Ribbans nominates **Danny Taylor** as his student of the fortnight – his enthusiasm and commitment are exceptional for every lesson and he sets an example to the rest of the class. **Callum Marshden** (nominated by Mr Wardle) – Callum has a superb attitude and a great leader who leads by example. Well done.

Mr Roberts nominates **Emily Hazelwood** – Emily is keen and eager and capable of grabbing the attention and explaining tasks to her peers and articulates complex teaching points simply for others to understand. Well done.



Computer Science Week

This year the school celebrated the 7th annual computer science week, held every year from the 7th to the 13th of December. Computer Science Week was founded as a means to raise awareness about computer science education, and expose students to the critical role computing holds in all careers.

During the week there was something new going on each day in the Computing Department, with over 100 students taking part. With the help of the school's computing club which runs after school every Wednesday students were able to get a taste of app development, robotics, writing programs for the Kinect sensor. The week ended off with a bang, with a codeCombat tournament won by Alex Mitchell (7MU), who finished the coding tournament with a grand total of 4054 points!

Duxford Trip

Every year during Computer Science Week, Microsoft hosts a packed conference - Think Computer Science - which draws computing students from all over England to Cambridge. This year The Buckingham School had the privilege of selecting 15 computing students to the event. The students were lucky to hear talks from industry giants, which ranged from Microsoft's research manager who is in charge of developing Microsoft's new "HoloLens" to the co-founder of hackLab Mark Calleja.

Students were able to get their hands on Britain's new Microbit which is part of an ambitious project to get computers into the hands of all Year 7 students. In addition, the students were given time to check out the science fair, the talks hosted, which featured the newest and latest in computing technology. Overall, each of the students were exposed to the current climate of computing and given a better insight into the profession and everything that awaits them if they choose to continue computing beyond GCSE.



COMPUTER SCIENCE



Homework Club (Years 8 & 9) starting w/c 22 February, every Wednesday in the LRC from 3:15 pm to 4.30 pm.



School charity event

4pm-5pm

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

Thursday 11th February

Hot and cold drinks
Cakes
Pizza
Biscuits
Raffle with surPRIZES

Can get raffle tickets from:
✓ Mr. Mandel
✓ On the day
✓ From The Visiting student in your form

Raffles cost: 50p for 1 OR £1 for 3

Year 8 Options Information Evening

If you were unable to attend the information evening about your child's GCSE subject choices – the information booklet will be posted to you. There will be drop in sessions running from 1st until 15th March. You will receive further information regarding this.

Parent and Community Forum – Have your say!

Parent Forum meets every half-term to discuss important issues within The Buckingham School. All parents and carers are welcome to attend and put forward their views on things such as anti-bullying, procedures and policies. Your views really do count and do have an impact on what happens within the school. The next Parent Forum will take place on Tuesday 23 February from 6.20 - 7.30pm.

There will be a Parent Bridge meeting immediately after the Parent Forum and this will run from 7.30 - 8.00pm. We hope that you will be able to attend.

The Agenda

6.20pm - Arrival and Refreshments

6.30pm - Welcome and update from Mrs E Howard

6.40pm - Marketing Update including new Website: Mrs C Sherwood

6.50pm - Senior Student Leadership Team Introductions: Mr J Mandel and SSL team

7.00pm - Parent Questionnaire Feedback and discussion: Mr M Wardle & Mrs E Howard

7.10pm - Life without Levels, New GCSE 1 - 9: Mr P Roberts

7.30pm - Close & Depart/Parent Bridge meeting led by J Barnard



united world schools
teach the unreachable

Since the beginning of the year we have partnered with United World Schools (UWS), with the aim of supporting the work of the organisation, which is to help provide education to remote places around the world. Specifically, we have partnered with a school in Myanmar and I am extremely pleased to report that we have already raised £500 which were raised through the Year 7 Christmas disco. We are working on other fund-raising ideas to support this incredibly worthwhile cause.

Transform Lives Through Education

United World Schools have partnered with The Buckingham School to provide an education to children living in the village of Ma Yaw, Myanmar.

There is a boy Ma Yaw, an indigenous ethnic minority tribe in a remote village in Eastern Myanmar. He has two sisters, his other siblings, the 25% of all children in the province, died during early infancy.

There's family lead a tough life, with no school to go to, his mother was married at 14 and only looks after her children because of superstitions.

There and his sister can now attend a UWS Community School, built in 2015 and supported by The Buckingham School. There's hope, one day to be a teacher himself.

Supporting thousands more children like Thana.

Education transforms lives. UWS are dedicated to improving educational opportunities for some of the world's poorest children who live in remote, post-conflict regions.

Put simply, UWS build schools and support communities by providing a free basic education. UWS can provide a child's education for less than £1 a day – and together we can make a big difference to the lives of thousands of children.

Everyone is invited to take part in the challenge of supporting your UWS Community School, Ma Yaw. In doing so:

- Learn about the school project and the community
- Lead and inspire others as an ambassador for educational equality
- Enhance your university application or CV with a UWS Global Citizenship badge

Next steps: look out for more information on the partnership, how you can get involved, make a difference and be an active global citizen.

United World Schools is a registered UK charity number 1220927. For more information go to: www.unitedworldschools.org or email: info@unitedworldschools.org

For more information go to: www.unitedworldschools.org

Mr Mandel

Teacher Citizenship/PSHCE Co-Ordinator

Parent Courses and Workshops

Alfriston School have successfully been delivering specialist workshops and courses for parents and guardians who care for a child with special needs.

For further information visit www.alfristonschool.com

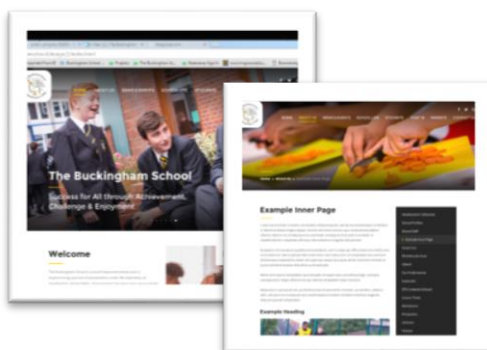
Educate Against Hate – Protect your Children

The website brings together the best advice, support and resources available for parents, teachers and school leaders who want to learn how to protect young people from extremism and radicalisation, and is the result of successful collaboration between the Department for Education, the Home Office, the NSPCC, Internet Matters, Childnet, ParentZone, UK Internet Safety Centre, and the many other organisations who have contributed resources.

www.educateagainsthate.com

New school website Launching in May 2016

The school is currently working with an education website company developing a new, fully responsive website. This means you will be able to use the website on any mobile device, tablet or computer without any navigation issues. The website will offer greater functionality such as the ability to sync the school calendar with your own Outlook calendar.



Second-hand
outgrown
School uniform

Please.....we are in need of second-hand school uniform for our nearly new school uniform shop. If you have any outgrown, no longer needed school uniform, please drop off at main reception.

Former Student Dance Success!

Miss Swain, a former student of The Buckingham School is to appear in a solo spot in the stage production of David Walliams Gangsta Granny Live on Stage!

Miss Swain who auditioned to The Birmingham Stage Company heard before Christmas she had been successful and had got the part.

She was then sent videos to learn the dances, and has been helped by Ms Hunt, Curriculum Leader for Dance at The Buckingham School.

Gangsta Granny tells the story of Ben who isn't looking forward to the cabbage soup and pie that will be on offer at his Granny's house. But what Ben doesn't know is that Granny has a big secret and his visits are about to get more exciting than he could ever imagine. The shows taking place at Milton Keynes Theatre from 9 February to 13 February. Tickets are available from £22.50.

To book tickets call the box office on 0844 871 7652 or visit www.atgtickets.co.uk/miltonkeynes.

World Book Day 2016

World Book day this year is going to be a fantastic day of activities and fun.

To hopefully spark your interest for the upcoming World Book Day event (3 March 2016), there will be lots going on around school during break and lunchtimes, there will be so much going on you won't know where to visit first! Will it be to the LRC to find the literary elf on the shelf or to buy a raffle ticket for a book inspired cake or maybe you fancy a go at playing Quidditch with the PE department. An 'extra' ordinary Shakespeare play will be performed by the English department or maybe you are great at writing poems or solving riddles in which case the CFE will be your first port of call. We have origami and book art classes in ART as well as the favourites of sponge the teacher and Krispy Kreme, cakes and sweet stall. There will be a photo booth opportunity to get your photo taken with your friends or maybe you just want to have a 'selfie' You might be into horror and forensic stuff in which case Science is the place to be. Or you might fancy a visit to Humanities for an investigation into the book Animal Farm. If Maths is your thing then visit them and take part in a frequency analysis code breaking activity. You could also try a spot of translating in MFL of French books.

Most importantly this is a fun day for the whole school community so do take part and join in. Don't forget to dress up as your favourite book character, the 3 March is fast approaching! Make sure you bring some money with you on the day and please do donate an appropriate book to the LRC. Watch out for posters popping up around school telling you of what is going on and a school letter will be issued home shortly.

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



picture courtesy of: Jasmine Swain

Diary Dates

12 February - **Ski Trip (Italy)**

12 February - **Last day of first half term**

22 February - **Return to school**

23 February - **Parent Forum**

6.20pm-7.30pm

1 March - **Reading / Fairtrade Week**

3 March - **World Book Day**

7 March - **Fairtrade Week**

10 March - **Year 10 Parents Evening**

14 March - **Science Week**

18 March - **United World/Sport Relief
(non-uniform day)**

Save the date

2 July 2016

**Fundraiser for student
African charity trip**



Taking place on 1st March at The Buckingham School, Cinderella, an evening of Drama, Dance and Music in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital charity.

6-8pm in the Main Hall, tickets available from members of Student Voice or Parent Pay. £3.00 per ticket.