

The Buckingham *Bulletin*

Success for All through Achievement, Challenge & Enjoyment

New Issue 2
December 2016



Dear All

It's been an exciting and productive term. Year 7s have settled in well and have had opportunities to extend their learning in the classroom and beyond. The rest of the school are focused and studying hard. I have been really impressed with the overall attitude of the Year 11, 12 and 13s through their recent Mock examinations.

There have been occasions for students to participate in extra-curricular events and educational visits including a Berlin History Trip, England Football match at Wembley, visit to Bletchley Park, Birmingham Magistrates County Court to participate in the regional semi-finals for Mock Trials and a Geography field trip. Forty-four students have all gained a Bronze Award in Duke of Edinburgh in a wonderful presentation of their skills and learning.

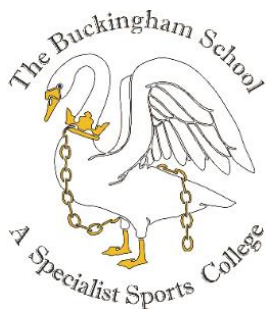
Our staff continue to dedicate their time and effort to student learning and I thank them for their ongoing commitment and loyalty to the school. Staff and students continue to wholeheartedly support charities and vulnerable people in society through fundraising events and I am so proud that this continues to grow and is a true strength of the ethos of our school.

As the year draws to a close, I reflect on the most successful calendar year to date the school has ever had. This is due to the support, hard work and commitment of our parents, carers, community as well as students and staff.

I wish you all a peaceful and festive time and look forward to 2017!

Yours sincerely

Miss A Wells
Headteacher



**Success for All
through Achievement, Challenge & Enjoyment**



The Centre of Further Education

Centre of Further Education

The Buckingham School recently welcomed many prospective students and their parents to our Centre of Further Education Open Evening. The evening was a real success.

The CFE offers continuity for those students who decide to stay with us and a fresh start within a supportive, caring and friendly environment for those who join us in the Sixth Form. If you missed the event and you would like to learn more about the CFE offering, please contact Mrs Anne Swift-Clarke, CFE Admissions (email) cfe_admissions@buckinghamschool.org, telephone 01280 812206 ext 282 or visit her in the CFE Study Room.

CFE Key Facts

- Ofsted graded Good school in all areas of inspection including 16 to 19 Study Programmes
- Post 16 curriculum is varied and innovative - offering traditional and vocational subjects
- Caring and supportive learning environment
- Bright and modern facilities with a dedicated study room and common room
- Plenty of enrichment opportunities with extensive sporting facilities
- Strong careers support and advice
- 65% of students now go onto University (including the Russell Group).
- 100% of our students go on to meaningful education, training or employment.
- The number of academic entries and APS achieved have both increased again this year and vocational APS continues to sit well above the National standards.
- A Level Business Studies (50% A*-B), Photography (47% A*-B), Art (43% A*-B).



Why you should join the CFE for your Post 16 education...

We have designed a varied and innovative curriculum to meet the needs of all students. This means that you can choose to follow a traditional academic A Level programme, or you can take a more vocational path, choosing courses which build your practical skills at the same time as developing your academic abilities. What is crucial is to make sure that the courses which you choose are right for your interests, skills and ambitions and our admissions process will help you in doing this.

We are very proud of the fantastic enrichment opportunities which our CFE students enjoy. These include taking on leadership roles within the school; participating in clubs, activities and trips, work experience, fundraising and volunteering.

What makes The Buckingham School's CFE different is the opportunity that it provides to pursue academic and/or vocational subjects, within a caring and supportive environment. We are absolutely committed to ensuring that all students achieve their full potential by equipping them with the right qualifications, experience and attitude.

We will help you take the next step to achieving your dreams.

CFE Key Dates

CFE Applications forms will be sent out during the first week back in January – to be returned by 20 January.

Pick up a copy of the CFE Information Booklet and 2017/18 Course Options Guide.

DREAM BIG DREAMS.



Just add power! Buckingham Students mix it up at E.ON's new microgeneration workshop

Year 9 and Year 10 Students at The Buckingham School are among the first in the country to have taken part in E.ON's new 'Micro Mix' workshop which will help students investigate renewable energy sources and the role these play in the nation's energy mix.

Taking part in the Micro Mix workshop, the students designed and built functioning micro models that generated electricity using wind, solar or hydro power. Working in competing teams, they were encouraged to use their problem solving skills and creativity to build, test and improve their designs before finalising them.

The students were then tasked with recommending the ideal mix of renewable technologies to meet the energy needs of the fictional 'Brightford City'. To do this, they had to find the best balance between the city's climate, geography, size and natural resources and its available budget, as well as allowing for environmental and technological factors.

Suzanne Doxey, Community Relations Manager at E.ON, said: "Our Micro Mix workshop is all about showing secondary school students that energy can be generated in unexpected ways.

"Our hope is that by completing the workshop, they come to understand more about the different renewable energy technologies that exist, and the conditions under which they work best. There's an important message here around how we, as a society, meet future energy demand and we hope that our Micro Mix workshops will help to bring it to life for students." Emma Laird, (Science Teacher) said "It's good for our students to have spent this time thinking about where their electricity comes from now and where it might come from in the future. "Designing and building their own micro models was good fun, and really helped with their understanding of the technologies involved. They were then able to consolidate this knowledge by working through their recommendations for Brightford City."

E.ON launched its new educational programme, E.ON Energise Anything in September this year. It includes online educational content (videos, classroom activities, home activities), hands-on workshops delivered in schools (including Micro Mix) and an energy-related competition, all aimed at encouraging 5 to 18 year olds to explore the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and maths) in an unexpected way.

To celebrate the launch of E.ON Energise Anything we're giving schools and individuals the opportunity to win prizes, such as iPads or vouchers for their school through our #MyEnergyHack competition. The competition is open to schools as well as individuals aged 5-18 years. Parents and teachers of younger students who don't have social media can enter on their behalf. Full details about the competition and resources can be found at eonenergy.com/energiseanything



Duke of Edinburgh Celebration Awards Evening

Tuesday 13th December 6pm-7pm

It was an evening of celebration at The Buckingham School, with 44 Year 11 Students receiving their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The students have completed all their sections over the past year.

"Thank you so much for giving our children the opportunity to take part in such a crucial scheme (D of E) that helps our children change into young adults." Parent Barry Short.

"Thank you and all of the team for their hard work and commitment in the D of E. The students are all so proud of themselves. It teaches them so many life skills." Parent Helen Dutch.

We are very proud of each and every one of you.



Computing News

The computing department and the Computing Club has been very busy this term with a multitude of trips and competitions running. The Computing Club runs every Wednesday after school in IT2 and provides an opportunity to build leadership and computing skills.

Trips

On November 18th, The Buckingham School celebrated International Men's day by taking a group of 21 boys to the Winchester Science Centre. The day was filled with robotics, science of sport and various problem solving activities. Before the day ended every student was treated to a show at one of England's largest planetarium.

International Women's day will be celebrated March 10th, 2017.

Competitions

23 girls from Year 7 to 9 are participating in a UK wide engineering competition, geared at increasing girls participation in STEM fields. The winning team wins £500 pounds for themselves and £500 pounds for the school. Deadline to submit to Talent 2030 is Friday 16th December, 2016.



For the last month and a half the computing club has been hard at work building their own prototype and a business pitch for a new device that connects to the *internet of things*. The team that wins Buckingham's competition will go on to represent the school on **11 January 2017** for the regional semi-finals. The overall top winners of the competition will be partnering with a business to help bring their device to market.

Bar Trial Competition

On Saturday 19th November, 15 students from The Buckingham School participated in the Bar Trial Competition in Birmingham's Crown Court. Students had to learn two cases and in their roles of barristers, witnesses and jury had to re-enact the cases and compete against other schools.

The group of students who represented The Buckingham School cannot be praised enough for their effort and commitment throughout the preparations for the competition and also during the day in Birmingham. They have displayed excellent teamwork at every stage of the process. In addition, the students also developed valuable skills such as critical thinking, analysing information and planning.

Though the team did not advance to the next round (one team out of eight advanced), they were a very difficult opponent to the teams they competed against and were praised by the organisers for how well they did. A huge Well Done to TBS Bar Trial Team!

(Charlotte Rawlings, Eve McDermott, Jack Porteous, Emily Adamson, Lucy Wescombe, Alex Forward, Alex Sherringham, Matthew Phillips, Ashley Spencer, Wendy Donkor, Roy Chizana, Angus Butcher, Chloe Harrison, April King, Hannah Walker)

Mr Mandel



Do you follow The Buckingham School on facebook? If not, follow us today!

England vs South Africa

Six Nations

England Mascot

William Prince 8FA entered a 02 sports twitter competition giving a short video of why he would make a good mascot at a Six Nations Rugby game. He won the competition! What a fantastic once in a life-time opportunity – to walk out with the England team as a mascot during the England vs South Africa game held at Twickenham on 12th November 2016.

What an amazing opportunity!



Remembrance Day

Emily Adamson and Alex Higgs represented The Buckingham School during the Remembrance service in Buckingham on Sunday 13 November. Both laid a wreath on behalf of the school to show gratitude and respect for those who have lost their lives in conflict.



Senior Citizens Christmas Party

The Buckingham School opened its doors to our local community on 7 December 2016 to entertain over 70 Senior Citizens at the annual Christmas Party. This was run by the Enterprise group, expertly led by Katie Hassell, with many other Sixth Formers assisting on the day. The guests enjoyed a number of live acts showing the artistic talents of our students. These included our Year 7/8 choir, solo performance by Ollie Sawyer on the Tenor Saxophone and a beautifully sung song by our Head Girl Charlotte Rawlings. Aidan O'Sullivan, having recently auditioned for Britain's Got Talent, dazzled the guests with some spellbinding tricks and magic!

Our guests enjoyed a specially choreographed dance by Alex Cassidy and Jasmine Swain which ended the afternoon's entertainment perfectly.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Hampers which were raffled off during the party and special thanks go to Di Russell for making them look amazing.

Mr Cunningham



The Buckingham Bulletin is a regular news round up – if you have any suggestions or comments, please contact Claire Sherwood at csherwood@buckinghamschool.org

Our Resident Wizard



During lunchtime recently, one of our Sixth Form students Aidan O'Sullivan performed a magic show to a group of students in our Learning Resource Centre. They were all mind blown and amazed! What a great way to spend a rainy Tuesday lunchtime.

Music Showcase Success

Singing and guitar students from The Buckingham School performed at The Bittersweet Music Showcase Event on Sunday 11th December. Primary school students showed off their musical talents from 3pm until 4pm and later in the afternoon, it was the turn of The Buckingham School Students. Fine performances were given by Hattie Moors, Daniel Oswald, Hannah Steer, Faye Barber, Olivia Souster, Hattie Jones, Daisy Bateman, Megan Stuchbury and Amelia Gohl.

Bittersweet Music offers private music tuition in several local schools (and at home). In addition to our fun and fabulous lessons - we offer students performance opportunities, several times a year. Our service is unique, personal and highly praised. If your child is interested in having singing lessons and/or acoustic guitar in 2017- then do get in touch with Suzy at Bittersweet Music to find out more. There's so much to tell you!

Email suzyasmith@aol.com
www.bittersweetmusic.co.uk

Facebook - Bittersweet Music (Buckingham) for showcase information and regular updates!

From The English Department
Have you downloaded the new App for revising English Literature. It's called PiXL Lit App. This is available FREE from the App Store, Google Play and Amazon Apps. Students will need to ask their teachers for the logins - Enjoy revising everyone!

Season's Greetings
to all our students,
staff, parents,
carers, governors
and the whole
community.

We hope you have
a festive, peaceful
and restful break.



Fantastic Fundraising!

The Buckingham School has raised;

A grand total of **£1005.48**
for Children In Need on
Friday 18 November 2016.

£923.00 for Macmillan
Cancer Support

£918.27 for Cancer Research.

A very big thank you to
everyone who donated!



Extra curricular activities

The school has a wide range of extra curricular activities such as IT, Performing Arts (dance, music, drama) homework, Science, Graphics, English, Maths Club, Modern Foreign Languages and so many more. Have a look at the school website for more information:

www.buckinghamschool.com

Improving School Communications and Payments with ParentMail

Communicating with parents is an important part of what we do, making sure you get the correct information about activities, events and things that really matter is something we care about.

Traditionally we have mainly used printed letters but delivery of these can be unreliable; they are also expensive, take time to produce and are not environmentally friendly. In the New Year we will be using ParentMail, a service used by over 6,000 schools, nurseries and children's clubs to communicate to parents.

ParentMail will be beneficial to you because:

- Messages will get to you reliably and on time
- We can send messages directly to mums, dads and other carers at the same time
- Emergency or important information can be sent by text message
- iPhone and Android Apps available for parents on the go.
- ParentMail is also an easier way for you to make school payments

Also, we will be looking to use +Pay on ParentMail – an online payment service which allows you to pay for school items on your smartphone, tablets or computer.

Over 90% of parents say they would prefer to pay for school items online, because it's easier and more convenient than sending cash or cheques into school – and you can be sure that your money is being spent on the right things! We will inform you about items you need to pay through ParentMail, and you will then be able to pay electronically, with money transferred directly into the school bank account – it's all very easy, safe and secure. ParentMail doesn't store credit or debit card details and works in the same way as other large retailers who accept online payments.

Another great thing about +Pay on ParentMail is that you can also make payments using PayPal or PayPoint. This makes the payment process easier than ever before!

When we return to school after the Christmas holidays, we will send out a communication regarding ParentMail and how to activate this service.

If you have both a mobile number and an email address registered on your account, you will receive a registration invitation by text and email. You can decide which way you register – but you will only need to register once.



ATTENDANCE LEAGUE INFORMATION

HOUSE POINTS

Please share the following information with your tutor groups and year group.

HOUSE	WK: 1	WK: 2	WK: 3	WK: 4	WK: 5	WK: 6	WK: 7	TOTAL	POSITION
BUTTON	8	6	6	6	8	8	12	54	3 rd
DALEY	8	8	6	8	8	6	8	52	4 th
ENNIS	8	8	12	10	8	10	8	64	= 1 st
FARAH	8	12	12	8	8	8	8	64	= 1 st
MURRAY	6	5	3	5	7	5	5	36	7 th
RUTHERFORD	8	7	5	9	9	7	5	50	5 th
SIMMONDS	5	5	7	7	3	7	5	39	6 th

Make sure that your attendance counts each week.

All the points awarded go towards our School Games Day on the 17 June 2017

Our Parent Forum meets every half term and is your platform to put forward your views. Your opinions really count and do have an impact on what happens within school. We hope to see you at our next Forum on Tuesday 21 February, 5:50 - 7pm. See website for more information (under Parents section).

Oliver – The Show

We are looking for costumes (top hats/flat caps) tail coats, overcoats and long skirts. If you can help, please let us know.

Ms R Hunt
Performing Arts



Our Bletchley Park Experience

On Wednesday 30 November, some of Year 8 students went on a trip to Bletchley Park. The coach journey took about half an hour long. When we got there we split into two groups. Group one looked around the museum and then did an activity workshop about coding and learning about the Enigma machine. The types of coding we used were; Morse, Number grid, Pigpen and Rail fence.

Group two had a tour around Bletchley Park grounds, learning about history of the park. Both groups then switched. After that we went to Hut 8 where we watched a short film, experienced an audio listening and engaged with interactive screens. We also learnt about pigeon racing and how they linked to Bletchley.

Finally both groups met at the gift shop where you could buy things like Bletchley Park Cluedo and your very own Morse Code machine. The trip was a really informative and enjoyable.

By Kizzy Wells and Harriet Cahill 8BU



ASA County Swimming Qualification

Having been a swimmer for the Maxwell Swimming Club for the past 3 years I have been working towards qualifying for the annual Oxon and North Bucks County Championships as part of my personal goals and objectives.

Last year I narrowly missed out having made a couple consideration times which disappointed me but this has made me work harder this year in training and local galas.

Over the past two months I have competed in two events which were the last opportunities to qualify for the 2017 County Championships, I have managed to achieve the following;

8 x County Consideration Times

1 x Automatic Qualification Time and have also been selected to represent the club as part of the Relay Team.

In order to achieve the above I have also swam personal bests in all 9 events, taking up to an average of 8 seconds off each time and in three of the events I medalled in the;

100mtr I. Medley (which covers all strokes) – 1.24;63

200mtr Breaststroke – 3.18;23

100mtr Breaststroke – 1.31;88

My favourite event is the 200mtr breaststroke and I am really hoping that I have done enough to swim this event at the Counties as I am very close to the Automatic Qualification time.

Swimming is a great sport but does take a lot of commitment as I have to swim 6 days a week, some days twice a day and on a Saturday I have to be in the pool at 5.20am.

It's a good job that I really love it!!

Isabelle Ford – 7RU



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Diary Dates

SMSC Enrichment Days – 19/20 December

Non Uniform Day - Tuesday 20 December

End of Term – Tuesday 20 December

Start of Spring Term – Thursday 5 January

Year 8 Options Evening – Thursday 2 Feb

Year 11 Parents Evening – Thursday 9 Feb

End of half term – Friday 10 February