

Season's Greetings from all of us

Dear All

I am pleased to share with you our third Bulletin for this academic year. It is wonderful to be able to tell you about our fantastic achievements and activities which take place across our thriving school. Some are long and well established (such as the annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party) as well as new and exciting ventures (including a range of University Visits for younger students).

Once more, the Bulletin highlights the many experiences, successes and reflections that are celebrated across the school community. I am incredibly impressed with Charlotte's reflection on Year 11 Mock Examinations. I agree with her view that our Year 11's are very mature and purposeful in their approach. I know our Year 11 Students are keen to achieve great results and with the support of our staff, parents and carers, I am sure they will be successful in the summer examinations. As always, we strive to get the very best for every one of our students, to ensure that they can fulfil their aspirations.

I know you will want to join me in thanking all our staff who have worked so hard this term and our Governors who have contributed much to the life of the school. Can I also extend my thanks to all parents and carers for the crucial part they play in supporting their children and our school. It will be a pleasure to celebrate student achievements at our annual Year 11, 12 and 13 Celebration Evening on Thursday 17 December.

It is through your continued support that we received recognition from The Bucks Herald as the school achieving the most improved results.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year and look forward to seeing all students back in school on Tuesday, 5 January 2016, fully refreshed and determined to succeed!

Yours sincerely

Miss A P Wells
Headteacher



www.buckinghamschool.com



Senior Citizen's Christmas Party

On Monday 14 December, the doors were opened to welcome the senior citizen community to our school for an annual festive Christmas party. Fifty guests were entertained with magic tricks, Christmas Carols by our fantastic Year 7 choir, bingo, raffle, a wind-band and dance performances - not forgetting festive food and a glass or two of sherry!

The main raffle prizes were beautiful hampers and other scrumptious delights! Thank you to the Sixth Form Business Studies A Level group for organising this successful and popular annual event.

Thank you parents, carers and staff for all the donations and a special thanks goes to Mrs Russell, in our Reprographics department for making the beautiful hampers. **Festive greetings to all our school community!**



Photography courtesy of Eliot Barnard, Will Hardisty & Aaron Toombs (Y13 Photography students)

The Buckingham School Sports Partnership KS1 Multi Sports Festival



The picture above is of The Buckingham School Sports Partnership mascot Busby, with KS1 children who attended a recent multi-sports festival here.

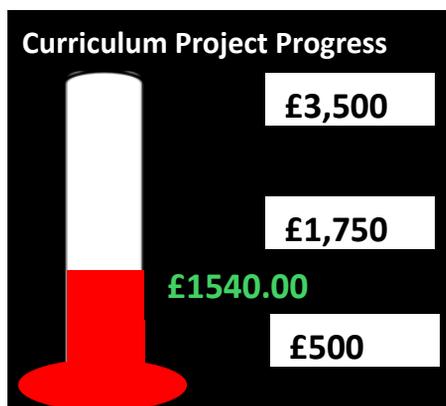
The Buckingham School is the hub site for The Buckingham School Sport Partnership – a 'family' of 42 secondary and primary schools, offering a high quality sport and PE experience for young people. Our CSLA/HSLA students (Sports Leaders) engage in a variety of leadership and development opportunities across the Partnership; helping out with the organisation and running of primary school sports festivals as well as after school and lunchtime clubs. This helps build their confidence and develop as future leaders, many of whom have already gone on to a future in teaching, coaching and officiating.

This particular KS1 multi-sports festival was attended by 14 primary schools with over 80 children participating in various fun, sports led games.

Curriculum Fund 2015-2016

Thank you to everyone that has supported the Food Technology classroom refurbishment project through the curriculum fund. We have £1540 towards our £3500 target and would appreciate further support towards this from as many families as possible. At some stage at The Buckingham School every student has the opportunity to use this classroom but it has not had a facelift in many years.

We plan to hold a Great Buckingham Bake Off in celebration of our achievements later on in the academic year once the work has been finished. All donations can be gift aided to boost the pot so please add this to your basket when you are next using www.parentpay.com



Matthew Watkins
Governor, Chair of Finance

University Inspiration

On Wednesday 25th November a group of year 8 students visited Bedfordshire University.

On arrival at the University, we were greeted by staff and students and taken to a lecture hall where we received an interesting and informative insight into university life, using games and a power point presentation and students own experiences.

We were given a group task to describe our own thoughts and images of what we perceive a university student would be like, and interestingly we all had very different ideas of this.

The university's radio presenter worked with us to produce and record adverts which we had made showing the many different courses available to students looking to join the university.

After spending lunch with the students in the onsite café, we were given a grand tour of the campus, including the Library, IT facilities, social and residential areas, which were clean, modern, and surprisingly large.

The tour ended with a gift to each student of a "selfie stick" which was enthusiastically received by everyone.

The day was packed with some very useful information and a great introduction and insight into university life.

By Ebony Bone 8RU

Teen Triple P Positive Parenting Program

Triple P is a parenting and family support system designed to prevent – as well as treat – behaviour and emotional problems in children and teenagers. It aims to prevent problems in the family, school and community before they arise and to create family environments that encourage children to realise their potential.

Date of next course: Tuesdays 19 January to 15 March 2016 (except school holidays) @ The Buckingham School, Buckingham MK18 1AT between 7.00 and 9.00pm

For information and course details visit www.buckinghamschool.com



White Elephant Success – The Final Countdown



A couple of our CFE students Joe Fuller and Will Griffiths have successfully entered the Battle of the Bands Competition with their band White Elephant and have made it through to the final on the 5 March 2016 at The Old Town Hall, High Wycombe.

Battle of the Bands have had three times the amount of applicants from last year and competition is tough. Huge congratulations to White Elephant and good luck for the final from everyone at The Buckingham School!

Senior Student Leadership Team End of Year Update

The student leadership team have currently been setting a foundation for several aspects of school leadership and organisation. Jocelyn and I have organised a team of people who are interested in doing such things. George Samways and Ellie Short, as the deputy head boy and girl, have been setting up an improved prefect system that rewards the prefects for outstanding service whilst making it easier for them to go to their duties without impacting their impending exams. Ellie has also been working closely with Maia Browne to set up a school support department. This is an overhaul of the old system which now focuses on a much wider range of issues than just bullying. They are currently training applicants and organising drop in centres which will be available for students to go to in the New Year. Savannah Jones and Aidan O'Sullivan have been nominated as the heads of student council.

They have already brought together a range of students who will act as the voice of those within the years. They have been collating a list of what people want and are preparing to carry out these changes in January. Alex MacLellan has taken on the role of the peer mentor leader. He is now changing the system so that the peer mentors have a much greater role in the guidance of the younger years. Jocelyn and I have been working with Mr Ryan and Mrs Gibson-Smith to improve and change things within the sixth form. Look forward to a whole lot more in the New Year.

Joshua Stacey & Jocelyn Ayres

Photography – A Hands on Experience – Year 10

This sports photography is of a Year 10 student doing trampolining in P.E. It takes a lot of patience to get an action shot like this, the difficulty is trying to get that perfect shot in a split second.

The angle has got to be just right so the photo shows the full image. As the trampoline is quite high off the ground I tried to make sure I got the right height.

I like this photograph as I have captured him in mid back-flip. I know now that I had to get the right angle to capture the image. If I was in this fortunate situation again, I would take the photography from a higher position that is level with the trampoline.

Millie Smith 10RU



I like this photo because of the way the camera has only focused on the leaf and all of the background is blurred. I also really like it because of the way that I have used the flash so that the water droplets are visible on the leaf. Also within the photo there isn't much going on in the background, which means that the leaves and water droplets stand out. I like the angle that I have taken the photo from because it shows all the different components of the leaf.

In photography there is a setting called macro (which looks like a flower on your camera), this is used when you are trying to take a close up shot of the object so that you can see parts of the object that the naked eye can't see. When using the macro you may have to focus the camera so that the photo isn't blurred.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a youth awards programme founded in the United Kingdom in 1956 by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. It showcases young people's commitment to their extra curricular activities. As part of the programme you have to do a skill, a physical club and a volunteering project for an hour a week for 3 to 6 months.

For the skills section I have chosen to do Photography with Miss Higgs for 1 hour every week and I will continue to do this for the next 3 months. At the end of my time I will have produced a scrapbook of the photos and descriptions to go with them.

Alex Forward 10DA



Throughout my time doing photography, I have felt my photography skills have drastically improved. I now understand how to properly use my camera, being able to use macros, taking photos from different angles and how to neatly mount up my photos and research.

Melissa Cronin 10EN

Learning photography has improved my skills with using a camera and the quality of my photos. My skills have improved by going to the club and I can now take pictures in different styles. There are a few key points to photography:

Digital single lens camera (DSLR) – this is where a digital camera uses both optics and mechanisms of a single-lens reflex camera with a digital imaging sensor.

Depth of Field (DOP) – This is the difference between the closed and the furthest objects in the scene portrayed in front of the camera lens. This can make an object either close to the lens sharp and the surrounding scene with a more blurred effect. A smaller sensor has a smaller DOP and a larger sensor creates a larger DOP.

Imaging sensor – an image sensor is what records your picture and allows you to capture it. It is light sensitive and is a vital part in the camera functions.

Lily-Rose Fisher 10SI

Year 11 Mock Exams through the eyes of a Year 11 student

For two weeks in November, beginning on the 16th, Year 11 students have had important mock exams, in preparation for the actual GCSE exams in January, May and June.

These mock exams are important for students - they help to show students where they are currently as well as provide crucial next steps in terms of what students need to do to achieve their best in their GCSEs. The mock exams also give students the opportunity to get used to the exam environment, so that it does not come as a shock in the real exams.

There were invigilators and all students were expected to come with full equipment ready for exams, it was very much like a real examination. Prior to the start of the exams, around two weeks before, we were given a timetable so we knew when each exam started and how many we had on each day. During the two weeks of the mock exams that's all we thought about and did, and at times it was stressful (some of us had more than one exam in one day!) but overall we felt ready and it was a really good experience.

On December 9th the mock results were given out. There were lots of happy faces and some were disappointed. Mrs Lefevre presented a great assembly that made us imagine what it would be like if this was the real exam results day, then how we would feel if these were our actual grades. Some students may be upset about their grades in the mock exams, although these are a guide of how you can improve and work towards the grades that you want to achieve. There have been great improvements in these mock exams, awards were given out to some individuals who did exceptionally well. Hopefully there will be even more improvements in early February for Round 2 of mock exams.

In general, Year 11 handled all the exams very well and the invigilators have told teachers of how impressed they are of us whilst under exam conditions.

Well done Year 11!

Charlotte Rawlings

The Mock Trial Competition

The mock trial competition consists of many schools in the Bucks county area, competing against each other. In the roles of lawyers, witnesses, magistrates and court staff, students prosecute and defend specially written criminal cases. Teams compete in real Magistrates' courts in front of real magistrates. School teams then compete against each other in local heats. The winners compete in a regional final and, in turn, those winners meet in a national final. The winner of the national final walks away with a shield, prizes for the team and a deserving sense of pride. Last year our school took part and got through to the regional stage of the competition where we competed against many grammar schools. During the local heats we beat the Royal Latin!

Our team this year is very strong and consists of both Year 9 and year 8 students. In the Legal Advisor role we have Scarlett Steer (Year 9); our defence lawyers are Chloe Harrison (Year 9) and Ebony Bone (Year 8); playing the defendant is Roy Chizana (Year 9). The prosecution consists of April King (Year 9) and Rhianne Rush (Year 8). To add to the team we have three witnesses, Megan Gallagher (Year 8), Maya Wood (Year 8) and Charlie Parslow (Year 8). Last but not least we have our magistrates. Olivia Batham (Year 9), Tom Green (Year 8) and Tilly Housden-Booth (Year 8). We also have Christopher Lloyd working with us and supporting the team.

This year we hope to have a successful outcome as I have no doubt our team will do incredibly well. All support is welcome; if you are in Years 7 or 8 and would like to know how you can get involved for next year please speak to Mr Mandel for further details.

By Scarlett Steer (Year 9)

School Lottery

Congratulations to the winners of the school lottery Autumn draw. 1st prize goes to the parents of Imogen Wilmot, 2nd prize Libby Ede and 3rd prize Joe Chrich. See school website for School Lottery details.

The Buckingham Bulletin

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



Many thanks to Frosts Garden Centre for our beautiful Christmas tree this year.



Student Behaviour

We would like to share a few headlines from a recent behaviour report which mirrors the relevant section of the latest Ofsted framework. A headteacher from another Buckinghamshire school came to visit The Buckingham School at the end of November for a day's mock inspection and here are some of his findings.

The relationship between staff and students was excellent.

Year 7 transition – students spoken to were very positive about the transition from primary school to The Buckingham School.

There were no areas around school where students felt unsafe and reported that staff were on duty to help.

The overwhelming majority of students were respectful, opening doors and saying hello.

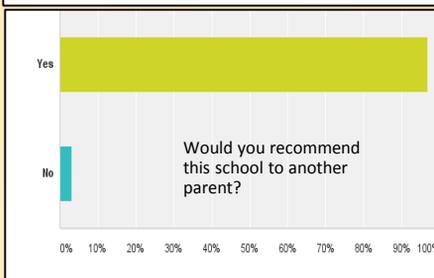
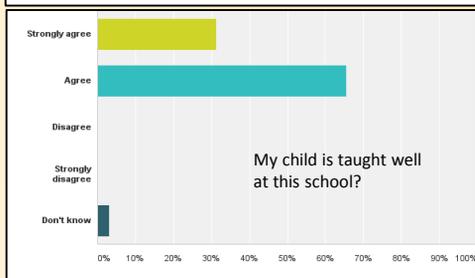
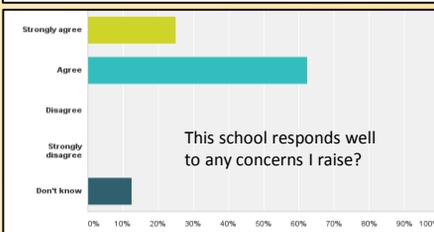
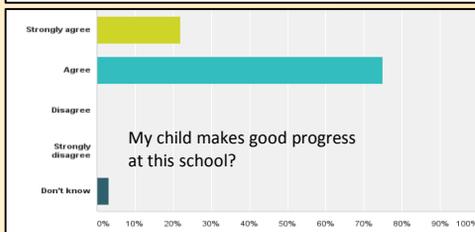
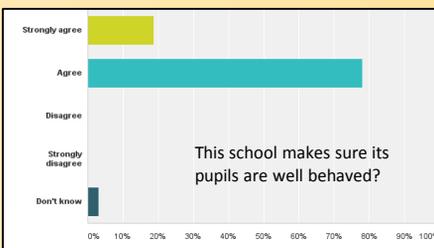
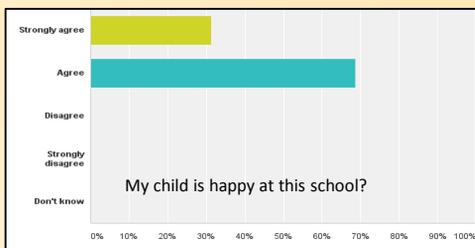
Sixth formers were positive about the school and the opportunities they are given to develop leadership skills.

On the whole students behaved well.

The STEP provision and Student Support provision to help nurture students is well planned and clearly has an impact.

Displays around school are in the vast majority well maintained and respected by students. They help to set a clear ethos for the school and the expectations of all.

Also, at every Parents Evening or Information Evening, we conduct online parental surveys – and here's your view on our school. The analysis shown below has been taken from our November Year 10 Achievement evening.



United World Schools – helping children in Burma

Our Year 7 disco on Wednesday 16 December is a fundraiser for United World Schools (UWS). The Buckingham School in partnership with UWS can help provide education to children in Burma and giving them an education they rightly deserve.

Dates for your diary

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

A Room with a BOOM!

On Tuesday 1 December Year 10 students went to "A Room with a Boom" at the Open University. When we went in I thought it might be a bit boring - there was a man at the front who was going to talk for over an hour! As soon as he started talking I couldn't stop listening. He was really funny and kept telling jokes and stories about his scientist friends. Like he had a friend who had come up with a cure for five cancers even though his house had an outside toilet. He kept telling us that we could be the scientists of the future and make things better for people everywhere. Then he showed us this stuff called "Nappy Sugar" which was used in movies and he used liquid nitrogen to make a banana so hard he could hammer nails into a block of wood. At the end he exploded all these balloons full of hydrogen. I would definitely go again next year!