



The Buckingham School Ofsted Graded Good 2016

Dear All

Welcome to the sixth issue of our school Bulletin. A real focus of this edition is our work on transition and the support we provide our new Year 7 students to move into the secondary school environment with confidence and enthusiasm.

Miss Collie (Head of Year 7) knows many of our intake students through her work with the Sports Partnership. She works alongside the pastoral, special educational needs and senior team to ensure that all of our students have the best possible start at The Buckingham School. In addition to this, our present Year 7 students have provided excellent advice for Year 6 and our Year 9 students are training as 'mentors' to support them in the first few weeks of the term.

The pastoral and academic transition work of the school does not just begin on the Induction Day. Alongside our Sports Partnership and many sports festivals, work has developed from start of the academic year across Years 6 and 7 in English, Maths, Computer Science, SEN, Wellbeing Centre and Modern Languages departments. I am incredibly pleased that we are able to work effectively and collaboratively with our Primary colleagues, to ensure we create the best possible opportunities for students joining the school.

Year 6 transition is one of my most favourite events of the year. The excitement and enthusiasm for the students is a wonderful experience.

I look forward to meeting you all in July.

Yours sincerely

Miss A P Wells
Headteacher



Starting At The Buckingham School

We extend a very warm welcome to all Year 6's moving up to The Buckingham School in September.



We know that starting secondary school is exciting, yet a little daunting prospect for many students. Our staff understand this and work closely with the primary schools to try to make students transition into The Buckingham School as easy as possible. Our students understand it too, because they've been through it themselves. We hope the following pages will help reassure you about the transition to us. We recently caught up with a group of current students and asked them about their first day experiences.

First Day at School Experiences

- My first day was good. I remember meeting a person who has become my best friend
- I felt very nervous and excited on my first day. I was worried about getting lost, but we had mentors to help us
- On my first day I made 3 new friends. They were really supportive
- My first day was great. I had plans to meet up with my friend from Primary school so we could go in together.
- I was shy on my first day but soon felt comfortable enough to make new friends
- I only knew a couple of people and a little worried about the size of the school as my primary school was really small. At the end of my first day I felt happy and knew I was going to enjoy school here.

Asking the students now they have been in school for nearly a year – we asked:-

What do you like about The Buckingham School?

- That there are so many possibilities and opportunities
- The education is good and the school makes me proud to be here
- I like the sports and most of the lessons
- I like the technology available at school
- The inter-house tournaments are fantastic!
- I like what we learn - we learn fun things as well as serious things
- The house points – VIVO Miles – we can get points for good attendance, uniform, contribution in class, lots of reasons and the points can be exchanged for prizes.

How has your first year been?

- My first year has been great. I've particularly enjoyed the sports and extra curricular lessons
- We've had really fun lessons and the school PGL trip was great too
- I love all my lessons!
- It was very nerve wracking as I didn't know many people here but then I made loads of friends
- It has been fantastic. The staff are really great and everyone is friendly. We can do inter-house activities. There is nothing I has disliked
- I am loving my first year, it is so much fun. The teachers here are amazing
- I have liked my first year because I have had new experiences. I like the different tournaments around the county
- The thing I liked about this year, was meeting new people and making friends. The school is so supportive.

What sports clubs do you go to?

- I go to trampolining club, it is awesome
- I attend football. I like it because we play lots of matches
- Athletics, football and many others, we play matches and everyone has fun
- I go to rounders, athletics, netball, badminton. I like how the helpers give you tips and advice about how you can improve
- I am part of the girls football club and play rounders' too. I enjoy playing football at school because we get to travel around to other schools for fixtures and tournaments
- I enjoy Cricket!

My advice is to try as many clubs as possible because you never know what you are good at.

In addition to sporting clubs, 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. See www.buckinghamschool.com for more details.

“The school's work to promote personal development and welfare is good.”

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What advice would you give to Year 6 students about starting secondary school?

- Don't be scared – the older years are so supportive and will help you find places if you get lost
- In my opinion I would try and make friends and the way to do that is by being friendly and helpful
- Enjoy every minute of your school life. Try to work as hard as you can to get those good grades and never give up
- You need to have confidence in yourself because that is so important
- It is a big school and it is easy to meet others and become friends
- A good thing is having loads of different lessons every day and having a range of different teachers
- Try and be friendly and make new friends because throughout your time you'll do lots of team activities. Also remember your equipment!
- Be as good as you can be in every lesson
- Don't be nervous. No-one picks on you and guides are selected to help you around
- Enjoy every moment, work hard, try hard and have fun
- **Be confident in yourself and most importantly, have fun!**

Check List for Year 6's

Have you completed and returned the Friendship form? If not, please do so straightaway. We use the friendship forms to create our tutor groups.



Have you completed and returned our admissions forms? These must be returned by Friday 17 June.



Have you saved the date in your diary for our two day Induction (transition) days. Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th July. Letters will be sent home nearer the time regarding the format.



On the evening of 12th July, Year 6 parents/carers and children return to The Buckingham School for the evening event including a BBQ, viewing market stalls on school services such as our uniform from T Kings, so save this date too!



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

Open Mornings for Year 5 Parents & Carers



We would like to invite Year 5 parents and carers to join us at one of our Open Mornings on Thursday 7 July or Thursday 14 July 2016.

The mornings will commence at 9.15am with a welcome speech, followed by a tour of the school. You will have an opportunity to talk to members of the Senior Leadership Team and pastoral care/support staff, over a cup of coffee. The Open Mornings will conclude by 10.45am.

We hope that the Open Mornings will provide information to enable you to make an informed decision about your child's secondary education. If you are interested in attending and wish to book a place, please email Claire Sherwood at csherwood@bucksgfl.org.uk or phone 01280 812206. We look forward to meeting you.

School Uniform Standards

All students should take pride in their appearance and understand the importance of looking smart and professional whilst in school and the local community. Students are expected to adhere to the clear uniform expectations set out, that ensure they look their best and are proud to represent The Buckingham School.

Our uniform rules and expectations are detailed on the new school website, please take a minute to have a look.

With effect from September, no skirts or trousers made from stretch fabric/microfibre, lycra or denim will be allowed. Skirts must be **worn appropriately** and should be either a school approved straight/pencil skirt (available at T King) or pleated skirt worn no more than 8cm above or below the knee.

Please see www.tkingassociates.com for a price list.

**Creating a positive impression.
The way you look matters.**

Meet the Teacher - Caroline Collie Head of Year 7 and Transition, PE Teacher

What persuaded you to come to this school?

I wanted to come to a specialist sports college. As soon as I walked in, I knew that I wanted to be here.

What qualification do you have?

I have an Hons degree from the University of Brighton and QTS (Qualified Teacher Status) for loads of different sports.

Why did you become a PE teacher?

I studied physiotherapy in my first year but I just didn't enjoy it. I've always been passionate about PE and I wanted to teach boys PE as I play football and rugby.

Where did you work before?

This is my first school. I've been here for 6 years now.

What do you like about being Head of Year 7?

I have so much enthusiasm for the new Year 7's. They are always so interested and keen to learn, despite everything being so new for them. Starting secondary school can be daunting for many students. We have a fantastic support programme in place and I'm absolutely determined to do the best that I can for all Year 7's. I really hope we'll relate to each other as I love sports and I'm also very girly.

Have you always loved sport?

Yes, even as a little girl I was obsessed with sport. I used to play sports with the boys. Sport kept me out of trouble. I left home when I was 15 and was selected to join the Arsenal Academy. I had to do all my school work, or I wasn't allowed to play football!

Who is your favourite team or players?

Glasgow Rangers and then Chelsea in England. My favourite player is Peter Schmeichel, who was the most fantastic Danish and Man U goalkeeper. I wrote to him when I was a child and he wrote back. I've still got his letter today. He's my idol!

What is your greatest achievement?

I played football in the World Cup for Scotland. Qualifying to play was just fantastic as it was the first time ever that the Scottish women's team had qualified to play. We made 'The Team' on our shirts, as we were the team that had finally got through and the reaction from everyone around us was just amazing. We got through to the semi-finals when we were beaten. I made the Scotland squad within 6 months of switching to Rugby.

What was your worst injury?

My finger got trapped when I was playing a rugby match that was being played live on BBC. I didn't realise at first how bad it was and played for the whole game, but then later when my team were out partying and celebrating, I had to have an operation to repair a snapped tendon. I still have no feeling in it and can't bend it properly.



Caroline Collie (L) of Scotland challenges Francesca Matthews of England during the Women's Six Nations Championship match between England and Scotland at Twickenham Stadium on March 13 2011.

"We aim to nurture and support, challenge and inspire in equal measure; to build confident, independent and capable young adults. In short, we aim to give our students the skills, knowledge and confidence to achieve their full potential in life."

*Miss Angela Wells
Headteacher*



Miss Collie, Head of Year 7

What do you do in your spare time?

I play football and rugby so I spend a lot of time training. I train for football twice a week and play matches on Sunday. I play touch rugby regularly and I go to the gym every day.

What's the most dangerous thing you have done?

A skydive`

What's your favourite TV programme?

Hollyoaks, plus all the other soaps.

What's your favourite colour?

Blue, as I'm a Rangers fan.

What's your favourite film?

Coyote Ugly and other girlie films.

What is your favourite food?

Domino's Pizza! I can't eat them though as whilst I'm training I'm on a really high protein diet.

Who is your favourite band or singer?

Rihanna. I like her music and her style. She's someone I'd aspire to be alike.

What's your favourite animal

My house rabbit, who's called Rabbit. He runs all over my house and has his own potty. If I could be an animal I'd be a cheetah so that I could run like Usain Bolt.

What is your worst fear?

I don't have one. I just take each day as it comes. I really don't like spiders though!

What do you do on holiday?

This summer I'm doing a boot camp in Thailand, it will be 100 degrees and I'll be working out next to elephants. I did this last year too.

What 3 things would you take to a desert island?

If it had Wi-Fi...my Iphone 6+, a football and my makeup.

If you could live anywhere, where would you live?`

Definitely Miami. My mum's from Florida and I just love it over there.

If you had £1 million what would you do with it?

Go straight to Oxford Street and start shopping! I'd go on the best holidays ever, seriously expensive ones and would be a complete WAG.

What's your dream job?

I'd like to be a singer, be fantastically wealthy and be followed by the paparazzi! I'd like to have someone to style my hair, makeup and clothes.

If you could go back in time, what advice would you give to your 12 Year old self?

School's not as tough as you think it is. Enjoy it! Be confident and make the most of every opportunity that you have. Try things! You don't know what you will be good at and what you'll like, unless you're prepared to give things a go.

New School Website and Free School App



We hope you have now had a chance to look at the school's new website. It is easy to use and works across all mobile/tablet devices. More exciting news! You can now download our new school App to help keep you connected with news and events around school.

Firstly, you will need to download the app from either the [iTunes App Store](#) , [Google Play](#) or [Windows Store](#) and searched for 'School News'.

Once you have located and downloaded the free app, launch the app and you will then be able to either click on the 'Find my school' button which uses the phones GPS to find The Buckingham School or you can type in the school's postcode MK18 1AT and click on 'Get my school' button. Click on the school and subscribe to get notifications for news and events information.

Click on the 'News' button to view all of the latest news items that have been added and also upcoming calendar events by clicking on the 'Events' button.

The Buckingham School Bake Off Competition

The Buckingham School Bake-Off competition took place on Tuesday 24 May. It was a light hearted competition battling for the title of Bake Off winner. We had some super entries both from staff and students alike and our two secret judges had a very pleasant time sampling all the lovely goodies on offer. We pitted adults against students and had an amazing blueberry pie as the winner of the Adult category. There was lots of umms and arhhs emanating from the judges at the perfectly cooked pastry and the delicious blueberry filling, a totally worthy winner. In the student category the winning entry was an amazing KitKat/Smartie/chocolate cake of sugary goodness, with a moist and light cake it won the judges over in record time. Miss Spekkens won a bottle of champagne and a box of luxury chocolates whilst James and Stuart Russell (student winners) enjoyed a week of free food and queue jumping. We had several well deserved runners up in both categories who also won treats for themselves. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the evening, the judges and of course our competitors.



Adult Category

1st Place Winner: Miss Erica Spekkens

Adult Category 2nd Place Runner Up: Mrs Kirstie Moors

Student Category Winner

1st Place Winners: James & Stuart Russell

2nd Place Runner Up: Nikola Bishop

3rd Place Runner Up: Libby Moors

District Cup Final – County Cup Success!



The District Cup Final was played at Mandeville School against Aylesbury Grammar School. Having lost previous finals we needed to break our duck and put a trophy in the Cabinet. We arrived with a strong squad of 16 players all competing for starting places. The starting 11 took to the pitch after an inspirational team talk from Mr Churchward (Curriculum Leader, PE) and after only three minutes the ball was in the back of our opposition's net. Sam Henken span away to celebrate after his arrow like strike nearly tore the net from its pegs.

Our joy did not last long as a penalty was soon awarded at the other end. I cannot understand why it was awarded but it was awarded nonetheless, and scored emphatically. A tense period of play ensued with chances at either end. Josh Bell was terrier-like in midfield battling for every

ball in front of our rock solid defence. The half time intermission came and went and we came out of the block like Usain Bolt. After three more minutes Jacob Ballinger picked the ball up on half way and strode down the pitch seeing the keeper off his line he lashed in a worthy of a shot into the top corner putting us 2-1 up. We began to dominate play; Luis Tippey played a pinpoint pass through to Sam Henken which left him one on one with the keeper. The keeper came out of his box and tried to stop him, Sam shot, the keeper saved...with his hands.....one on one..... out of his box!! The crowd went silent. We waited to see the red card but to everyone's disbelief no red card..... not even a yellow!! Madness!!!! A few seconds later the ball was ricocheting around Buckingham penalty area, all our good work and attacking play was about to be undone, a scuffed chance ended up in our net and the half was over. Extra time and penalties awaited. With five minutes each way time was of the essence and we didn't hang about. Only seconds into extra time a long through ball sent Sam Henken through on goal and a sweet strike left the keeper routed to the spot. 3-2 was the score line and our rock solid defence would not let a frustrated AGS side have a kick. The cup was raised in celebration and many a nugget was eaten.

Specialism Fortnight 6 June to 17 June

“Diversity in the Community”

Our Specialism Fortnight this year runs from Monday 6 June through to Friday 17 June (culminating with the school's Sports Day). The Specialism Fortnight Theme is Diversity in our Community. The next two weeks will focus on various student challenges, pursuits and activities – challenging students throughout their school day and across the curriculum. The fortnight kicked off with special guest (ex-professional tennis player and

Sky Academy Education Ambassador) Nathan Rooney. We extended a warm welcome to Nathan on Monday 6 June, who addressed students in special assemblies and spent the day inspiring students to maximise their potential in life and to highlight how they can become achievers in their own right regardless of the potential barriers they may face.

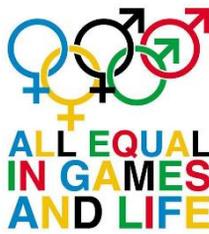
Nathan began his tennis journey as a nine-year-old, expressing a keen interest and love for the sport from the moment he hit his first ball. His father obtained membership for him at a local tennis club in Solihull which enabled Nathan to play on a weekly basis, before and after school. Nathan's curiosity and passion for the sport grew year-on-year and at the age of 14, with the full support of his parents, he left the family home to move to London in pursuit of his dream: turning professional.

In 2004 Nathan turned professional and went on to win domestic events in Great Britain, Canada, Spain, Ireland and more. Tennis gave Nathan the opportunity to learn transferable life skills that would assist him both personally and professionally after finishing as a full-time professional.

He continues to be heavily involved in the sport as a performance lead coach and secondary lead coach to both junior and senior touring professionals. He also has a great passion for educating and inspiring young people on the transferable skills you can obtain through sport which can benefit them in both the work place and life in general.

The Buckingham School's Specialism Fortnight is always an exciting time and it is great to see students challenge themselves. **We will focus on the Fortnight and our Sports Day in greater depth in our next issue.**

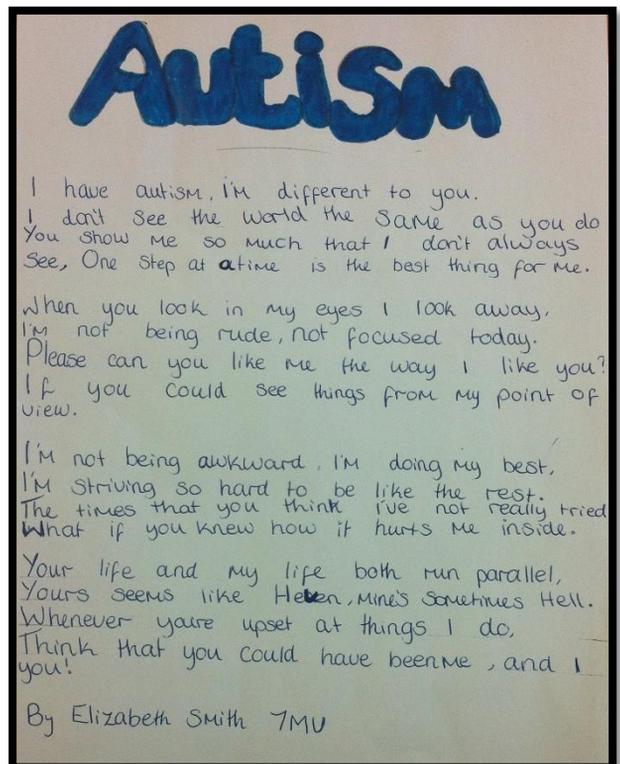
Success for All through Achievement,
Challenge & Enjoyment



Inclusivity at our School

Pastoral Care is a key strength of our school. Our students are your children and their safety, care and wellbeing are of paramount importance to us. All staff support students both academically and emotionally and we believe in order for students to achieve they need to feel supported, safe and secure. We are also committed to ensure that all students are included. We value diversity, understand difficulties and recognise and respect individual differences so that all students feel that they belong. Students who have a special educational need are given specific support and our learning support team work closely with a range of external and in-school professionals. Our school Counsellor, Miss Ayers, supports the emotional wellbeing of students and the school has a dedicated Wellbeing centre for those who require nurture to improve their confidence and self-esteem.

One of our current Year 7 students, Elizabeth Smith has produced the piece below to express her feelings and life with Autism. Heart felt words Elizabeth.



“Pastoral care, especially in Year 7 and for those with special educational needs is very supportive.”

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International Inspiration Day – Friday 27 May

Higher Sports Leader Student Report

On Friday 27th May, Year 13 Higher Sports Leaders prepared and presented a sporting day for Year 7 students. The sports included were Netball, Multi-Skills, Capture the Flag and Football. The day was a success and the students enjoyed themselves. The aim of the day was to make it as fun and as enjoyable as we could for the students. We wanted to show our great leadership skills and inspire the students to want to become sports leaders when they are older also.

The day was a success and we are pleased with how it turned out. We are pleased with how the form groups all came together and shown extreme commitment and many friendships were formed throughout the day. All form groups showed passion and engagement in which us as HSLA Leaders were pleased about.

Overall the winning form group was Ennis House – throughout the day Ennis showed immaculate progression and commitment.

We wish the very best for all students and we hope they enjoyed their day and exceeded their expectations in succeeding. It doesn't matter which form came in what position, it's taking part that counts.



Key Stage 3 Computing Club

The Buckingham School has a thriving computing club that looks at a variety of student lead enrichment activities for computer science. As part of the club each student participates in a variety of national competitions, enrichment days and assists with running all computer science school events.



Students accepting their certificate from Animation16

The school's resident magician (Aidan O'Sullivan) explaining his card tricks during the Magic of Computer Science Event.



Year 6 students programming Lego robots

Upcoming Events:

- National Robotics Week (25th of June to July 1st)

Diary Dates

- 6 June - First day back to school
- 17 June - Sports Day
- 21 June - Parent Forum
- 24 June - CFE Leavers BBQ
- 27-28 June - CFE Taster Day
- 30 June - Year 11 Prom
- 6 July - Sports Pres. Evening
- 7 July - Year 5 Coffee Morning
- 7 July - SSP Celebration Eve.
- 8 July - CFE Prom
- 12 -13 July - Year 6 Transition Day
- 14 July - Year 5 Coffee Morning

2 July 2016

Fundraiser for student African charity trip



Students coding their own book during national literacy week.