



Year 11 Geography Field Trip Students

## Dear All

Welcome to the start of the Academic year 2015-16. During our first month we have been incredibly busy. Year 7s have settled in well with 100% of parents showing that they are happy with the transition to our school at the recent 'Meet the Tutor' evening. We have an excellent track record in supporting the transition from primary to secondary education and this had been even stronger this year. Thanks to Miss Collie and the Transition team. Open Evening for Year 6 parents was very well attended, comments were very complimentary about our students, staff and facilities.

I am sure you are all aware of the fantastic improvement in results both at GCSE and A Level in August 2015, and inside the Bulletin details our key results for you to look at. We are proud of the progress made especially the fact that Maths and English progress and attainment measures are higher than National. Our Sixth Form results demonstrated similar level of improvement as A\*-B A Level grades improved by 15% as did D\*-D results in vocational courses. I also believe the incredible improvement in Science results is worthy of a mention here too! The Science team worked relentlessly to improve pupil outcomes and I am very proud to be able to say that the percentage of 2 good (Ebacc) Sciences increased by 28% to 63%. The progress made in Science is truly outstanding.

Our improvement in pupil results remains a key focus for the school as we strive to deliver the very best for every child. However, it is a huge focus as well at the school on

how well we support and promote the development of the 'whole child'. This had been evident in the first month with Year 9 buddy support for Year 7's, Sky Sports television interview with our students, filming for the British Heart Foundation as three of our students become the face of their campaign launching this month, and also the launch of our charity work supporting the development of a school in Burma to provide an education for children who are less privileged than ourselves.

I am truly proud of the achievements, attitudes and commitment of our students and I hope you read through our more regular Bulletins this year to gain a great understanding of the wonderful work and opportunities we deliver within our school.

Yours sincerely

Miss A P Wells  
Headteacher



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## Key School Results – good news all round

### A round up of GCSE and A Level results for 2015:

- The school has seen a 9% increase in students achieving 5 or more GCSE grades A\*-C including English and Maths
- 68% of students achieving A\*-C grades in Maths
- 75% of students achieving A\*-C grades in English
- Progress made by students in English and Maths is higher than National
- 21% increase in students achieving 2 Ebacc A\*-C grades in Science
- Single Sciences A\*-C grades in line with National – Biology 90%, Chemistry 93% and Physics 93%
- A\*-B grades at A Level went up by 15%
- D\*-D (Level 3) in BTEC went up by 8%
- Highest number of university placements in the school's history (61%)
- 2015 Year 7 student intake is up by 13% – Student Admission Number is 180 – we are oversubscribed in Year 7

## Parent Bridge

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

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

Julie Barnard at  
parentbridge@bucksqfl.org.uk



Pictured here, Tim Howarth left with a group of Year 10 Geography and Citizenship students who are leading this project on behalf of the student body.

## United World Schools – helping children in Burma

Tim Howarth, Chief Operating Officer of United World Schools (UWS) visited the school last week to talk about the work they undertake. UWS provide education for children in developing and war-torn regions of the world.

Mr Howarth, a teacher by trade, has worked in and around education for 13 years. He talked about the new partnership The Buckingham School now has with UWS, highlighting the work they do, specifically in Burma, where we as a school will help provide education to children there. Mr Howarth spoke about ways to support this important project and presented a number of real life examples from Burma. We look forward to learning about how The Buckingham School can help support children in Burma and giving them an education they rightly deserve.

## New 3D Printer & Year 8 Entrepreneurs

This term the school has invested in a new and exciting piece of kit. It's called a 3D printer. It builds models up layer by layer and can produce some very intricate parts. Also slow to work it can produce models in much quicker time than it would take to traditionally model it by hand. You have probably heard of 3D printers before as they are becoming very popular for small kick-starter businesses. The practical uses for 3D printers are being realized by more and more industries and since being created in 1983 they really have revolutionized the way things are being made. 3D printers can build whole new biological parts:- new organs for transplant and in China the same process has been scaled up to actually print in concrete and to build actual houses! This quick rate of producing something gives this type of manufacture the name of: rapid production or rapid modelling. A group of Year 8 students who have at break-time and lunchtimes been totally inspired by the technology and have started their own entrepreneurial company called "3D Quick Prints". (Look out Lord Sugar!) They even have designated roles for them all to do (such as designer, painter, seller etc). They will create models upon request for a small fee. 3D Quick Prints are trained and able

to use the 3D printer so for the cost of £3 they will print models for you. The £3 will cover the cost of the material used (£2) but these young boys have also decided to selflessly donate all of their profit to charity. **They will collect £1 from every print to give to MacMillan (Cancer Research Charity).**

Shown here are pictures of the products 3D Quick Prints will be selling upon request. A dinosaur, a pencil grip and a rocket-ship pencil topper. Each are available in a range of colours, all for £3. Any orders can be placed in 8FA form folder and you will be informed when the model has been printed so you can come and collect/pay. Please do get involved to support these fabulous Year 8's, and raise lots of money for MacMillan!



## School Lottery

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

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

## Year 11 GCSE Geography Field Trip to The River Chess

Year 11 Geography students visited The River Chess to collect fieldwork data for their Controlled Assessment. The aim of the day was to see if the river fits the Bradshaw Model, which suggests that river width, depth, velocity and discharge increases downstream. Students visited their first site at Scotsbridge Mill, near Rickmansworth and took a series of measurements in the river, using tape measures, metre rulers and hydro propellers. They also learned how to do field sketches. In the afternoon, after lunch along the banks of the river, students repeated these measurements at a second site at Chesham Moor and started to make comparisons. They will now present the data they have found and begin to analyse it in class to see to what extent the River Chess fits the model. The visit was a huge success, mostly due to the impeccable behaviour of the students and the dry, sunny conditions on the day. For many of the students it was the first time they had worn a pair of

wellies, let alone take measurements in a river, so it was refreshing to see them out of their comfort zone. They were all willing to participate and get involved and I hope that this has inspired them to investigate their surroundings more often. A special well done to Alex Forward and Iris Hampton in Year 10, who also participated in preparation for their own fieldwork in the summer term.

Mrs Sangherra  
Subject Leader - Geography



**The new Buckingham Bulletin is a regular news round up and quick glance at upcoming events in and around school.**

## Sky Sports – Professional Golfer Master-class

During the Summer holidays, 20 extremely lucky (and talented) students were given an opportunity of a lifetime to be part of a master-class with pro-golfer, Ian Poulter at Woburn Golf Club. Not only this, two weeks ago, the same students enjoyed a second master-class here in school with pro-golfer Nick Dougherty. Sky Sports and their production team spent the day at The Buckingham School filming – ready for a news feature on Sky Sports that evening! WOW, what an opportunity!



## MacMillan Coffee Morning

The school supports many charities and on Friday 25 September, staff members baked some delicious cakes to sell to complement their coffee/tea at break-time. A successful morning raising £80 towards this worthy cause, as all know, cancer affects so many people's lives. Thank you everyone!



## Music Department:

### Musical instruments wanted

Do you have unwanted musical instruments or know of anyone who does? If you do, Ms Hunt, Head of Performing Arts would be delighted to hear from you. We are particularly interested in musical AMPS and electric guitars but any contribution to our fabulous Performing Arts Department is very much appreciated. Rachel Hunt can be contacted on [rhunt@bucksgfl.org.uk](mailto:rhunt@bucksgfl.org.uk)



**Secondary school application deadline is 31 October. The Buckingham School Student Admission Number for 2016 is 180.**

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

## English Department

The department have had a wonderful start to the year, after another increase in GCSE and A-level results, the English team are delighted to be back after the summer. Students have settled well into their new classes and work is well underway. The schemes of work for each year group are as follows:

Year 7 – Magic in Shakespeare

Year 8 – Heroes and Villains

Year 9 – War Poetry

Year 10 – Descriptive Writing

Year 11 – An Inspector Calls or Jekyll and Hyde

In last year's evaluations, students suggested they wanted more active lessons so we have included lots more drama based activities to support learning. We will also be entering national competitions next month to celebrate National Poetry Day and using WW1 literature as a focus for

creative writing near Remembrance Day.

Remember – we have lots of opportunities to extend learning outside the classroom, 'Show my Home work' provides weekly homework, extra-curricular sessions in Creative Writing and Homework support and wider reading lists are available for all students from their class teachers.

Miss Stepney  
CL English and Media



## Students in Year 7 have been busy settling into their new sets and studying the play *The Tempest*. Here is what some Year 7's had to say about their start in English...

*"So far, I've really enjoyed English as we've learnt a lot and have managed to do a lot of acting. We've been doing *The Tempest* and have been studying the language used, the conflict, the chaos, the opening, the characters feelings and the drama. When I first found out that we were doing *The Tempest* I was excited as I have never done it before. For my first English lesson, I was a bit nervous but the teacher was really nice and made me enjoy the lesson!"*

**Amreeta Ghataora**

**Daisy Fisher**

*"I have enjoyed learning about *The Tempest* during the first few weeks at this school. We have made our own play script in groups acting out the chaos on the ship. I am looking forward to carrying on with Shakespeare's work and finding out more about him."*

**Alisha Carter**

*"I'm loving it! At my old school I was never a person into English so I was literally dreading it. But it is different in a great way! When Miss first said Shakespeare I thought it would be so boring but she has made it amazing. We have looked at *The Tempest* script and looked at different characters. I am now looking forward to everything in English!"*

*"In English so far I have loads of fun! We have done lots of drama to help and it has been awesome. At first I was really worried but the English teachers made me feel really welcome and happy to be here!"*

**Summer Jones**

The next Bulletin will look at the fantastic work our Year 10s are doing this term.

## Literacy leads the way

### Joint Partnership working with the Primary Schools:

Over the past year The Buckingham School and all the feeder primary schools in the area have been working together on improving literacy. Some of this work has included: sharing good practice on all areas of literacy from different schools; enrichment days for Year 5 and 6 students at The Buckingham School, bespoke performing arts packages for some primary schools, shared writing and also joint moderation of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 1 writing to ensure even greater consistency in marking. These events have been well attended but this year we hope to have all of the primary schools involved at every meeting so we are all learning from each other.

The up and coming challenge for us this year is in securing an even smoother transition from Key Stage 2 to 3 now that Levels have gone. We can only hope to achieve this through our unique and important work with the primary schools and this will help to ensure that all the children who come to us make outstanding progress from their very first lesson at secondary school.

Mrs Anita Baxter  
Lead Practitioner - Literacy  
abaxter@bucksghf.org.uk

## Year 11 Celebrate Successes!

Year 11 have had a great start with many of them starting to read the play 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B Priestley in preparation for their GCSE Literature exam. In their first lesson back this year they were called into an English assembly to reward some key students for their performances in the mock exams before the summer. The following students were awarded:

Grace Cherry, Emily Poppe, Alisha Stones, Kerrie Spires, James Easton, Charlotte Rawlings, Alfie Fenables, Sam Talbot, Alice Baker, Tamika McCullough, Charlie Fenables and Ashley Brand-Benee.

These students made great progress and worked really hard in the exams and the whole English department is incredibly proud of them.

## Excellent Attendance = Excellent Achievement

We recently sent out a letter regarding the link between attendance and attainment – as it is such an important matter, we have taken the opportunity to again, summarise the facts.

We believe every child should have the best possible opportunity to achieve their full potential and make excellent progress. To develop and increase each student's progress, we encourage them to understand the importance of good attendance and how regular attendance directly relates to positive attainment and exam success. Last year's attendance for Year 11 and GCSE attainment statistics have been analysed.

The key findings are:

- 71% of students with 100% attendance achieved 5 A\*-C grades including English and Maths
- 65% of students with 95% or better attendance achieved 5 A\*-C grades including English and Maths
- Only 40% students whose attendance was 94.9% - 90% achieved 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.
- Only 30% of students below 89.9% achieved 5A\*-C including English and Maths

As the statistics show, students who attended more frequently have an increased chance of performing to their best and increasing the range of options available to them Post 16. As a school, we continue to encourage all our students to aim for 96% attendance over the school year and emphasise the link between attendance and achievement. We value our partnership with parents/carers and believe that strong communication between school and home will help to raise attendance and improve standards.

Mr M Wardle  
Assistant Headteacher  
Attendance & Behaviour

### Diary Dates

- **Wednesday, 21 October**  
Year 9-12 Geography Field Trip
- **Thursday, 22 October**  
Year 12/13 Parents Evening
- **Friday, 23 October**  
Last day of school for half term break
- **Monday, 2 November**  
Return to school
- **Wednesday, 4 November**  
Year 10 Achievement Evening
- **Friday, 6 November**  
Year 12 Safe Drive Stay Alive Trip
- **Tuesday, 10 November**  
French Trip Information Evening
- **Thursday, 12 November**  
CFE (Sixth Form) Open Evening
- **Friday, 13 November**  
Children in Need Day
- **Wednesday, 18 November**  
Year 9 Parents Evening

### Nearly New School Uniform

Do you have school uniform your child no longer needs (perhaps outgrown, or sibling has left school)? We are always looking to add to our nearly new uniform stock. Alternatively, you might need uniform for your child. Contact main Reception on 01280 812206 for assistance.

### Head of Year 7 Miss Collie

**Did you know our Head of Year 7, Miss Collie, was an international player in both football and rugby?**

She has played for Scotland many times and is absolutely passionate about sport.

Miss Collie said, "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! I studied physiotherapy in my first year at University but I just didn't enjoy it. I've always been absolutely passionate about PE and I wanted to teach boys PE as I play football and rugby."

On one of Miss Collie's greatest achievements, she comments, "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. Miss Collie now has made the switch back to Football playing for MK Dons Ladies.

"I play and train regularly and spend many hours training in the gym. This summer Miss Collie spent her Summer break in a boot camp in Thailand. Working in temperatures reaching 100 degrees and she still trained, working out next to the elephants!



Miss Collie has been a PE Teacher at The Buckingham School for the past 6 years and is keen to pass her love of sport to her students and to encourage them to take every opportunity that is offered to them. As Head of Year 7, Miss Collie says, "I have so much enthusiasm for the 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. They may worry about making new friends, whether they will get lost and how they will get on with the older students. We have a fantastic support programme in place and I'm absolutely determined to do the best that I can for all the Year 7's.

### Bulletin Suggestions

If you have any comments on the Bulletin, or suggestions for content, please contact Claire Sherwood at [csherwood@bucksgef.org.uk](mailto:csherwood@bucksgef.org.uk)

## Student Voice – It’s more than just a voice!

Student Voice is much more than just giving students a voice. A strong Student Voice means students having a real sense of involvement and belonging, of being given opportunities to influence the way the school is shaped and run, of being in meetings with policymakers in the school to express opinions, thoughts, concerns and ideas.

Student Voice is about creating opportunities for young people to experience the meaning of responsibility, accountability, representation and decision making. Student Voice at The Buckingham School has increased dramatically with around 200 students now involved; from Year 7 through to Year 13. Student Voice students are involved in many different aspects of school life.

Our Senior Student Leadership Team, a group of Year 12 and 13s, are committed, responsible and motivated to making the school an even better place. Key areas of SSLT responsibility include, our Head Boy (Simeon) and Head Girl (Megan) being in charge of school Prefects, making sure they are carrying out their roles correctly. The Media Team aim to increase the use of technology throughout school, those in the Community group look to increase positive opinions and thoughts from the community of Buckingham and the Anti-bullying team focus on our anti-bullying campaign throughout the school.

Student Voice is now proud to have a group of students reporting on news events around school (TBS Reporters)

and they even carry Press Passes so we all know when they are reporting on events. There are many roles and on many occasions we have received such praise for our Student Voice members, such as:

*This is a quote from our recent Year 6 Open Evening about our Student Voice tour guides:*

“Please pass on our thanks to Lilly and Jess who were fantastic hosts tonight. We got caught up by our own actions in the music room and got left behind, but we were warmly welcomed into their small group. Very accomplished young ladies who added to the impressive set up.”

*Paul and Jakki Churchill.*

## Deputy Head Boy and Head Girl Voting is underway!



Voting is taking place as we go to print, for Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl. Candidates are Joshua Stacey, George Samways, Alexander MacLellan, Jocelyn Ayres, Maya Kitt and Ellie Short. Watch this space!

## Congratulations Mrs Gibson-Smith

Congratulations to Mrs Gibson-Smith, Head of CFE and Food Technology teacher, for her 25 Year Long Service Teaching Award. Pictured here being presented by Chairman of Buckinghamshire County Council.



Centre of Further Education

## A Lord’s Visit

Lord Borwick (James Borwick, 5<sup>th</sup> Baron Borwick) will be hosting a talk to Year 12 and 13’s this week about the role of the House of Lords. The aim is for students to become more engaged with the political and parliamentary process. This is a great opportunity for students to be able to interact with someone who knows the parliamentary system inside and out, as it can sometimes be far removed from their daily lives.



## Centre of Further Education Enterprise Day

On Friday 25 September the CFE students came off timetable to spend the day in workshops learning about the world of business and gaining practical skills needed to secure employment. All of the workshops were led by external business people who are working in the local region. Many are linked to the Young Enterprise network, so one may shortly become an adviser to the Young Enterprise company being established within The Buckingham School!

Each student spent time identifying their life ambitions and career goals, and thinking how best to achieve them. The majority ranked happiness as being more important to them than money, but all felt that earning a reasonable salary would help them to be happy!

They also received guidance on how to write their Curriculum Vitae (CV). The expert advice included having a sensible email address, making sure you highlight the skills gained from work experience and voluntary work, and ensuring your personal statement emphasises your qualities and attributes.

It was a useful day which provided an opportunity for students to gain insights from those who are successful in the business world, whilst taking time to think about and plan their own futures and career paths.