

Biddenham NEWS



February 2018 Edition

School News Events Sports News

Sixth Form Awards

The autumn term ended with a celebration of the achievements of last year's Sixth Form.

The evening was attended by approximately 200 people.

The guest speaker at the event was Marjilla Furmally who attended Biddenham from 2008-2013.

Marjilla graduated from the University of Exeter in Medical Imaging in 2016 and now works at Bedford Hospital specialising in CT scans. She gave a heartfelt, inspiring speech.

Students received their GCSE and A level certificates. In recognition of their achievements, they also receive subject prizes and special awards.



A Fabulous Finish at Bletchley Park

Year 7 had their Fabulous Finish for last term's topic 'We'll Meet Again' when they visited Bletchley Park recently. As well as having a tour of the building including Alan Turing's office they enjoyed a code breaking and ciphers workshop.



Those in receipt of the Connolly Foundation Scholarships in 2017 also received certificates to celebrate and mark their achievements. These were presented by Steve Lowe (pictured).

They provide an Academic Excellence award which provides a sum of up to £1000 per student. A total of £9,750 was awarded to 15 of our most deserving students.

IMPORTANT DATES

Parents' Evening

Thursday February 8th – Year 11

Tuesday 20th March – Year 7

Tuesday 24th April – Year 8

February half term

Last Day Friday 9th February

Students return Monday 19th February

Easter break

Last day Thursday 29th March

Students return Tuesday 17th April

A message from the Head Teacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

As I come to write this I have just read the biographies of six ex-Biddenham students who are part of our Alumni and are off in life doing wonderful things - you will read about them in more detail in this newsletter. Currently:

- One is working at the BBC as a paralegal apprentice.
- One is studying at Newcastle in her third year, so half way to becoming a doctor.
- One who has a law degree and started off with Deloitte.
- One working as a business and finance executive in Westminster.
- One a management accountant at the Cabinet Office (see photo outside No 10).

These are all students that we are proud of and, indeed, are tremendously proud Biddenham students and it reminded me of what I see as our core purpose at Biddenham: to help our students get where they want to be in life.

This is important to remember as we head into the hard graft of the exam period that is upon us; these six students all went through this and it is key that our students have options moving into the future. It is also important to remember that the outcomes from these exams are not life-defining - how can they be at 16 and 18? Not all of the six students decided on the university route, not all of them have had a smooth journey to where they are now - but all have followed their passions - not just in work - and are all doing amazing things with their lives.

It is vital that we remember in schools that we are not just preparing students for exams, that the results of those exams do not limit them in their ambitions and that preparing them for the challenges beyond school is vitally important - and in doing so they look back on their school and school days with fond memories and go on to be happy in all they do.

Needless to say I am proud of our students, and equally, our staff who every day are instrumental in supporting our students to achieve their future ambitions.

David Bailey



When your child is absent can you please call in the morning the attendance office on 01234 334528 you are able to leave a message if your call is not answered.

If your child is absent for more than 3 days medical evidence is required to authorise the absence. Medical evidence could be a copy of a note from the Doctor, an appointment card or even a copy of the prescription.

Lesson 1 starts at 8 am, all students should be in school before 8 am, lateness is a huge issue and disturbs others.

Please be aware of the following:-
90% attendance = 1/2 day missed every week

80% attendance = 1 day missed every week

Research suggests that 17 missed school days a year = GCSE grade drop in achievement

1 school year at 90% attendance = 4 whole weeks of lessons missed

So the greater the attendance the greater the achievement.

Massive well done to those who do attend regularly. Any issues please do not hesitate to contact the attendance office or Mrs Warburton, Assistant Headteacher.

ALUMNI NEWS

We are delighted to bring you information about some of our Biddenham alumni and for them to share their success stories with us since leaving the school.

Rebecca Bennewith - I left Biddenham Upper School in 2013. I am currently studying at Newcastle University Medical School - I am in my 3rd year so halfway to being a doctor! After sixth form I briefly studied languages at university, went travelling in Brazil, and I have worked at an American Summer Camp.



Ameer Hamza - Since leaving Biddenham, I have completed an apprenticeship with the Civil Service and have now started on a Civil Service Graduate Programme known as the 'Fast Stream'. I'm currently working as a Business and Finance Executive Officer for the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in Westminster, London.

Marjana Uddin - I now work at the BBC as a Paralegal Apprentice. My apprenticeship involves placements in various legal departments across the business; including Employment law, BBC Worldwide (which was split in three departments including Content and Production, Corporate and Brand Protection) and finally, BBC Studios where I am responsible for drafting talent contracts and location agreements plus negotiating fees for actors.



Ammar Muhammed - I am currently a Management Accountant at Cabinet Office. As part of my role I manage and analyse Financial Accounts for Prime Ministers Office and other areas. I am also studying to become a Chartered Accountant and hope to have a long and successful career within the Civil Service.

Chandni Sahonte - After completing my Law degree I landed my first role at Deloitte, where I worked as a case handler for insurance claims. Since then I have been able to pursue my goal of working within a Compliance team in financial services. I am currently working as a Compliance Analyst at VocaLink in the City of London.



Thomas Tagoe - I am a neuroscientist, science communicator and co-founder of GhScientific, an organisation focussed on building capacity in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths through public engagement and outreach activities. I hold a BSc in Biological Science and a PhD in Neuroscience both from the University of Leicester. I am currently a lecturer at the University of Ghana in Ghana, the country of my birth.

Sports News

We took 8 girls from Year 10 and Year 11 to St George's Park for the day to help launch the FA People's Cup.

We were one of eight groups that were involved in a guided tour of the facility including the futsal hall, the autograph wall, the strength and conditioning suite and both the indoor and outdoor Wembley replica pitches. They then took part in a two hour training session delivered by FA licensed coaches, the sessions were designed around improving the individuals five-a-side skills to help them when they play in the tournament.

It was a great chance for the girls who have all represented the school at football to improve and show off their skills. The girls all showed outstanding effort and attitude towards the day and were a real credit to the school. The other groups were from a variety of backgrounds from a walking football team to a veterans ladies side the girls showed great maturity and worked incredibly hard all day.

We are grateful to ex student Luke Bliss and his team at Fuse and The FA for the invitation. The girls involved were:

**Nazo Utmanzai Ruby Ajayi Suzannah Halicka
Wiktoria Halicka Faida Dangi Amina Begum
Esther Fisher Bryanna Petrie**



Year 11 Football - District League

This term saw the Year 11 football team play in the semi final of the district league, for the 3rd consecutive year, against Samuel Whitbread.

In a tightly contested game, we took an early lead through a superb overhead kick from Parvez Uddin. For the next 40 minutes we sustained high levels of pressure and attempts from the opposition with Connor Buckland pulling off some excellent saves to keep us in the game.

This could only hold out for so long as eventually they equalised.

We held out for full time which meant extra time. We went looking for the winner to avoid penalties, yet despite our best efforts we eventually lost 3-1.

This is a great achievement for the boys, not only this year but over the past three years, well done.

Thank you to all the staff and students who came to support the boys.



A day at the Basketball League Finals

Eleven students enjoyed an exciting day at the Basketball League Finals in Birmingham on Sunday the 28th January.

They had the opportunity to witness two of the most dynamic and entertaining teams in the BBL.

All students from Year 9 to sixth form had a great day out and witnessed Basketball at its highest level.