

Biddenham NEWS

Summer Term Edition



School News Events Sports News

IT'S A 'GOOD' FOR BIDDENHAM

It was 'good' news for our school when just before the Easter break we were inspected by Ofsted and received a really positive report being deemed to be a good school in all categories.

Inspectors found that, 'Pupils enjoy their learning' and pupils are making good progress...and behave well because as one student put it, 'everyone here wants to learn.' The report confirms the view of local parents who have chosen Biddenham as their first choice secondary school for September resulting in not all parents getting one of the 200 places on offer and confirming the school's popularity amongst parents.

It is also popular with staff at the school with over 20 having chosen to send their children to the school and, indeed, ex students many of whom come back to work in the school.

Comments from current students included, 'The school cares about us being successful and makes sure that we do succeed. 'They understand me.' and said that the school is 'like a big family.'

Mr Bailey said, 'This report validates our own view of the school and is pleasing for us all - staff, Governors, parents and pupils - who have all contributed so much to the our success over many years. We are proud of our students, past and present, and their achievements and this report reflects that, recognising that our students do well in an aspirational school with a strong family' feel.



Inspectors were also impressed with the school's Sixth Form provision commenting on the fact that students engage in high level discussions and debate and benefit from good teaching, have a broad range of subjects to choose from and that 'a higher proportion of students progress to university than is the case nationally'.

Alan Brown, Director of Sixth Form, said, 'It's great to have the quality of our provision recognised in such a positive fashion proving that we are making a difference to the lives of the young people we serve.' Biddenham is still a local authority maintained school and Ofsted have acknowledged its good work, uniqueness and place as one of the leading schools in Bedford Borough.

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MUSIC NEWS ROUNDUP



Biddenham School has been awarded a Music Mark for outstanding music provision. Mr Bailey, Miss Murphy and Mrs Bell, Biddenham's Chair of Governors took Goodness Uzoagba, Tarandip Singh, Abbie Walters and Connie Walters to the Awards Ceremony at Bedford School. *See photo above.*

Head of the Music Service Mr Rose noted Biddenham's particular dedication and commitment to providing an inclusive music provision to all its students with a regular and vast array of musical opportunities for all students.

A group of GCSE students visited the English National Opera's performance of Mozart's Magic Flute at the London Coliseum.

Biddenham welcomed the Brook Street Band who played a recital to Key Stage 3 and GCSE Music students. The award-winning Brook Street Band has established itself as one of the country's foremost interpreters of Handel's music.

Year 10 GCSE students travelled to Milton Keynes music venue The Stables to compete in the Bedfordshire Battle of the Bands. With an eclectic mix of The Beatles, Fleetwood Mac and Blondie the Year 10 students wowed the audience.

Congratulations are in order for Ciaran Russell who passed his Grade Four bass guitar exam and for Abbie Walters who is taking her Grade Six cello exam next week.

We look forward to this term with Fiddle Fiesta, Choir Day and our recital night. More details to come in the next edition of Biddenham's newsletter.



All students taking exams this summer need to be available up to and including the 26th of June. Ofqual have introduced this date as a contingency day, in the event that any exams earlier in the season have to be cancelled or moved.

**Results Day for Sixth Form:
Thursday 15th August**

**Results Day for Year 11:
Thursday 22nd August**

You will be able to collect your results from 8am - 11am on the above dates.

If you are unable to collect, you may send us a stamped addressed envelope, and results will be posted to you instead.

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Mr Berrill pictured at his final student forum meeting

Mr Berrill, previously the Headteacher and more recently Executive Principal of Biddenham is stepping down after 22 years of leadership at the school and 41 in education.

“Working as an educational leader in Bedford has been an absolute privilege and pleasure”, he said. “From the beginning the staff, students and local community made me feel at home and part of the Bedford family, and I have done everything in my power to ensure that the school's reputation for friendship, inclusion and success has continued and grown. I am also extremely proud of Biddenham’s contribution to the close collaboration that exists between schools - state and private - the local authority, and University in the town, something that is the envy of other local authorities.”

“I am particularly proud that under the leadership of the Headteacher Mr Bailey, Biddenham is the last full secondary school in Bedfordshire to remain independent. If I have a legacy I hope it is that the school long remains a place where the personal, social, moral and character development of young people is placed on a par with exam success.”

Mr Bailey said, “He was the key reason that I came to work at Biddenham 18 years ago and it has been a privilege to work with such an inspirational leader. What he has contributed to the success of the school is immeasurable.”

Gonçalo Brett and Gurpreet Bhamra, the current Head Boy and Head Girl said ‘Mr Berrill is someone who goes out of his way to guide, help and teach others. He has a kind heart with a genuine passion to better and develop young people in every way he can. This is shown in his commitment to developing the student voice over the years at Biddenham, particularly his recent work with the Student Forum and the Student Parliamentary Society. He inspires everyone around him and gives us a sense of purpose as young people. We thank him greatly for his significant role in the school, which is something we will not forget.

Mr Berrill is not retiring altogether and will continue to raise funds and carry out research for the new 'School Parliament and Citizenship Centre' at Biddenham, a facility that will be available to other schools, the University and the local community. He will also retain his leadership of PLACE, the support programme for home educating families and his co-chairing of the Associate Education Fellowship Programme at the University.

Biddenham

Year 9 student selected for the GB U18 Dragon Boat Team!

Caleb Page has successfully been selected for the Great Britain U18 Dragon Boat Team and will be travelling to Thailand in August with the GB Team to compete in the World Championships against top elite teams like China, Australia, USA and Canada.

Great Britain U18 trials were held in Liverpool in February where he was selected. He will be training hard over the next few months all over the UK with his GB U18 team mates. Well done Caleb we are very proud of you and good luck with the competition!



Things to look forward to next term

The new Summer extra curricular timetable - this will include rounders, cricket, athletics, tennis and volleyball. Clubs start in the second week back. Try something new!

Y9 Blue Peris Outdoor Adventure week.

Monday 8th July - Saturday 13th July - if anyone is still interested please speak to Mr Ray.

Sports Presentation Evening: Tuesday 16th July

Day of Sport: Thursday 18th July

Athletes of the Week

Keira Williamson - excellent effort in netball and scoring lots of goals

Tom Bailey
excellent effort in goal

Joachim Piechowiak
excellent handball performance

Stephanie Omorogbe
excellent effort in netball

Ben Boxall - excellent effort and teamwork in the Year 7 football game

Lily Aitchison - excellent effort and super shooting in the netball game

Towheed Sharafuddin
excellent football performance and scoring a 20 yd screamer!

Ankush Sharma
great football performance

Khady Niang - excellent netball performance

Omid Javed - excellent football performance

GCSE PE Star Homework Winners

Kaiden Quinnell

Aaron Saunders

Wiktor Halicka

Abu Saleh

Mahira Ahmed

Jay Juttla

Tayyab Mehmoo

Kitty Davison

Jamie Fernandez-Hernandez

William Parton

Adnan Yasin

Jodi O'Loughlin

Natalia Blonska

Sports News

U16 Boys Badminton

The U16 boys badminton team of Jay Juttla, Fergus Armstrong, Nikola Miocinovic and Josh Southerden made it through to the county finals tournament against strong opposition and with Nikola and Josh playing up one year.

The boys came across some very strong opponents but got better and better throughout the tournament eventually coming runners up in the competition. Well done boys 2nd in Bedfordshire.



Year 7/8 Netball

Our Year 7 and 8's have been working hard this half term with their netball and have made huge improvements with the help of our two new fantastic Year 9 coaches Shazmin and Rachel.

The girls are fantastic leaders and have helped to develop the girls netball to a very good level. The Year 7 and 8's go from strength to strength and we have seen a huge amount of determination and effort from all involved. Well done, girls a great season!

U16 Boys Handball

Our U16 boys handball team reached the county finals this year with a strong team. The boys made it through to the final to face Samuel Whitbread who they played previously and were beaten by a big margin. The boys however were stronger and better than their previous encounter. And this showed. Taking it right to the last minute where unfortunately they narrowly missed out by one goal. Despite this the boys worked so hard and became county runners up.

Well done, boys a great achievement.





Milton Keynes University and Apprenticeship Show and the UK Apprenticeship Show

On 8th March we took 140 students to visit the University and Apprenticeship show at Arena MK. This event showcased a multitude of colleges, universities, many of the UK's top apprenticeship providers as well as creative, STEM and sport interactive hubs.

All of our year 12 cohort attended, who are beginning to make choices about their futures and Year 13s who are considering Higher Apprenticeships.

On 13th March we took 30 Year 11 students to visit the UK Apprenticeship Show at Arena MK. These are students who are considering an apprenticeship post 16 and this is our largest cohort to date. Apprenticeships are growing across the UK in popularity and Bedford has many exciting opportunities, recruitment for positions will start now. Parents and students who are interested in finding out more, should visit our Careers Section of the School Website.



Maths Club

The Maths Challenge Club meet every Monday and Friday after school at 2.30 pm for one hour for problem solving.

If you would like to join this club please contact Mr Nyandemoh for further information.

Left: Winners Bedfordshire Year 9 Maths Challenge



SPRING INTO DANCE

March saw another successful Spring into Dance production featuring performances from our GCSE and A level Dance students as well as performances of students own choreography after successfully auditioning.

There was a great turn out in terms of audience and everyone was very grateful for the support from our parents.

The school's own dance company was back in action on the night with their new piece and more exciting a whole new bunch of keen dancers. The dance company is growing in numbers and there has been an influx of new Year 7s who are passionate about dance.

The students have worked really hard in preparation for the showcase and pulled off a really fantastic evening. The school is particularly proud of our 6th form representatives who continue to inspire and support the lower year groups. The dance company will be performing their latest work in the Drama Showcase later this year.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

STEM club students are working on a project with Cranfield University which could find a Biddenham designed payload end up sky high.

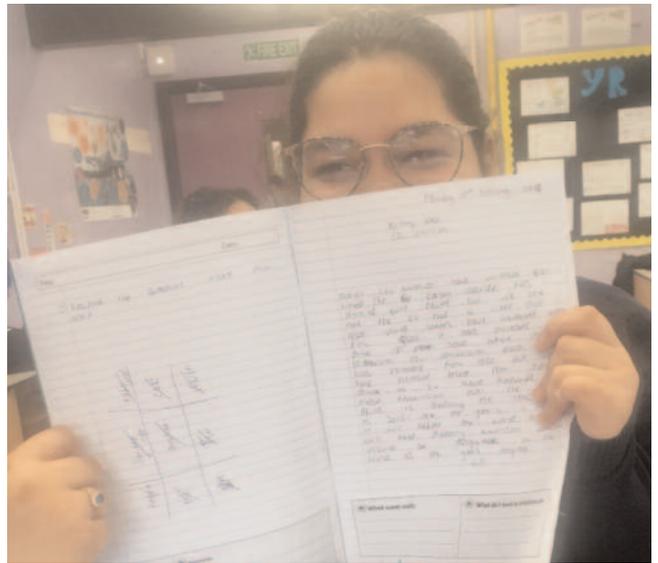
Cranfield University Masters students are taking part in a global space project to design and develop a rocket which, if successful, would be launched into the skies above New Mexico. They have asked our STEM club to design a component that deploys once the rocket reaches 10,000 feet. An exciting project. Watch this space!



Connected Curriculum

In February all of our Year 11 students experienced a connected curriculum week where students worked on developing their extended writing skills in relation to the issue of Global Warming.

Staff and students alike enjoyed and really engaged with the topic and students appreciated the opportunity to link their learning across different subjects.



Year 7 News

While exploring the topic of divide and conquer this term, many Year 7's have enjoyed learning about Human Rights in their Citizenship lessons.

The unit concluded with the students bringing in the homework task which was to create a game of some kind relating to Human Rights. They self and peer assessed and had lots of fun in the process. Mrs Fountain was particularly impressed with the quality and content of the work and enjoyed watching the students having so much pride in their work. Well done to all involved.



Students from Biddenham were winning teams in the 'Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge' hosted in Warwick at the Warwick Trident College.

There was a total of 14 schools that participated in five challenges, Biddenham were placed first in the first two challenges. The first one being the 'Speed challenge' and the second, 'The Robotics Challenge Mat'. The students were ecstatic and proud of both of their wins.