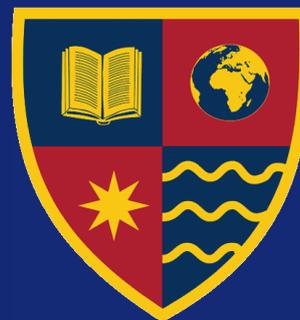


Biddenham NEWS

Summer Term Edition



School News Events Sports News

Finnley's Warriors take on a new challenge



Twelve members of staff took part in Finnley's Warriors 5k-a-day challenge in June.

This involved walking, running, cycling, rowing or swimming 5km each day of the month.

They took on this mammoth feat to raise awareness and money for Children with Cancer UK.

In 2017 Mrs Neely-Hayes' son was diagnosed with cancer at 18 months old. Thanks to previous work and research by CWCUK there was a protocol for Finnley to follow. After six months of gruelling chemotherapy & hospitalisation, Finnley was classed as in remission in August 2017.

Since then Finnley's Warriors was created to put something back and have so far raised over £173,000. Mrs Neely-Hayes was joined by Miss Lewis, Miss Copley, Miss Roberts, Mrs Speight, Miss Eckett, Mr Brown, Mr Evans, Mr Bliss, Mr Smith and Mr Ray who all took part in the challenge.

**FIRST DAY BACK AT
SCHOOL IS
Wednesday
4th September**

**Year 7 and Year 8
start at 8am
Years 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
start at 9am**

UNIFORM ORDERING

Please order your uniform online at www.swi.co.uk and order via **DIRECT TO PARENT**.

The uniform will be delivered straight to your home.

Ties are only available from the school (£7.00).

If you do not have an online facility you can order by telephone on 01928 752 610.

Please note the recommended last day for ordering uniform online is Monday 5th August for delivery in time for back to school in September.

A message from the Head Teacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write this final newsletter piece of this academic year, every year - things do seem to go quicker the older I get - I do a little mental review of the events that have occurred throughout the year, especially around what the student experience has been in each year group. I hope whatever year they are in they have enjoyed their learning, in and out of the classroom.

As I write this we have just had a busy week with transition activities for our new Year 7s in September and Years 8 and 9s who are joining us as well. We also hosted 450 primary pupils for our annual STEAM Fair on 4th July. STEAM = Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths.

We recently enjoyed Sports Presentation Evening, Day of Sport, Year 11 Prom and Year 5 secondary experience days. Busy, but good.

When I wrote to you this time last year, I talked about the family ethos and this was very much echoed in our Inspection report in March - it comes through strongly. What is lovely is that this often extends beyond the five or seven years students spend with us. Just this week I have been contacted by two ex-students - one offering to come in and either do some project work or give a talk to our current students and one who I taught at Biddenham twelve years ago and he would like to 'catch up'. This happens on a regular basis with many staff and is a real joy for us to maintain those connections over time and very much adds to that sense of family and community that we cherish so much.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a good summer break and look forward to working with you again in September.

David Bailey
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

This year our attendance has improved. Thank you to all parents and students who come in everyday.

Every year our results show that students who average 96% attendance as the ones who are more successful - so showing up is half the battle.

A few things would help us - if your child has a headache or is feeling a bit ill can we see them in school later, instead of taking the whole day off? And perhaps they don't need the second day (unless they have been vomiting).

Attendance and achievement go hand in hand and the building blocks begun in Year 7 and 8 are equally as vital for learning as for those preparing for GCSE's and A Levels. If your child is too unwell to attend school, we would like to hear from you please, drop us a line or text.

Or you can call us on 01234 334528 or email at attendance@mybiddenham.com

If time is taken out of school for routine medical appointments, it also affects your child's attendance. With your help this year, we have reduced the time lost from appointments by 30%.

Please book all medical appointments after 2.30pm and if it is absolutely necessary then please ensure your child is in school before the appointment and after, as much as possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

A group of Sixth formers spent two days walking around Oxford and Cambridge recently. They explored the colleges and different courses they were offering, asking students and professors alike about life at Oxbridge.



CAPITA | SIMS | AGORA

Never
have
the right
change?



Our school now takes credit
and debit card payments online



The new Agora ePayments system is the quick and easy way to securely make payments to the school.

Please [click here](#) for more information about making your payments the easy way.

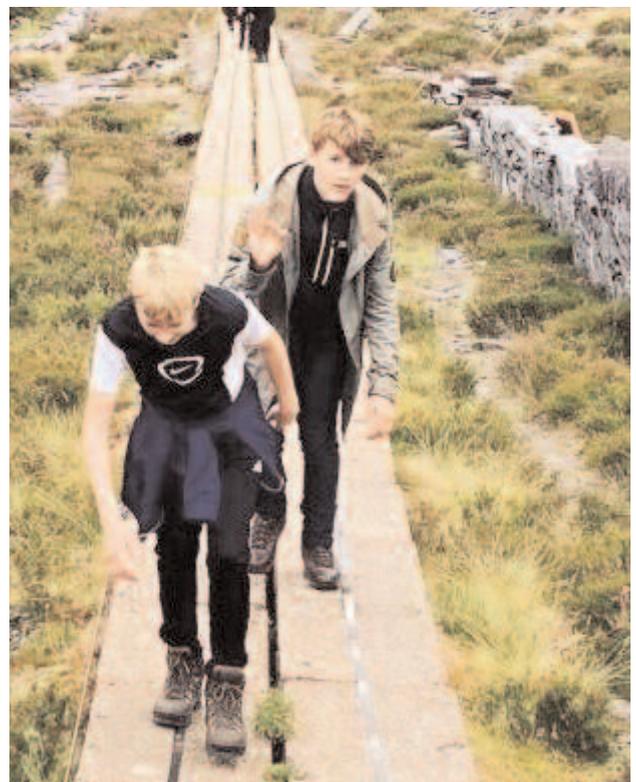


All major credit and debit cards accepted. Payments are secure using the highest level of card security.

A WEEK OF ACTIVITIES IN WALES

The five day residential to Blue Peris in North Wales started with a six hour minibus journey. On arrival at the centre students were thrown straight in at the deep end, completing an hour and a half trail walk.

The days were long but fun filled, with important team building and life skills being learnt. Being supportive of one another was crucial and students worked well to build relationships, both with each other and staff. During the week they completed activities including gorge walking, coasteering, canoeing, rock climbing, abseiling and also completed a 946m mountain climb! The ability varied from completely accident prone to near professional levels. Everyone tried hard and took part in the activities on offer. Students also took on the responsibility of serving meals to one another and tidying up afterwards. A great week had by all culminated in a very sleepy bunch for the journey home.



A great week was had by everyone on the Blue Peris residential trip.

Sports Presentation Evening

We were delighted to welcome students, family and friends to our Sports Presentation Evening this week. Here are some of the winners who received awards. Well done to everyone who won.

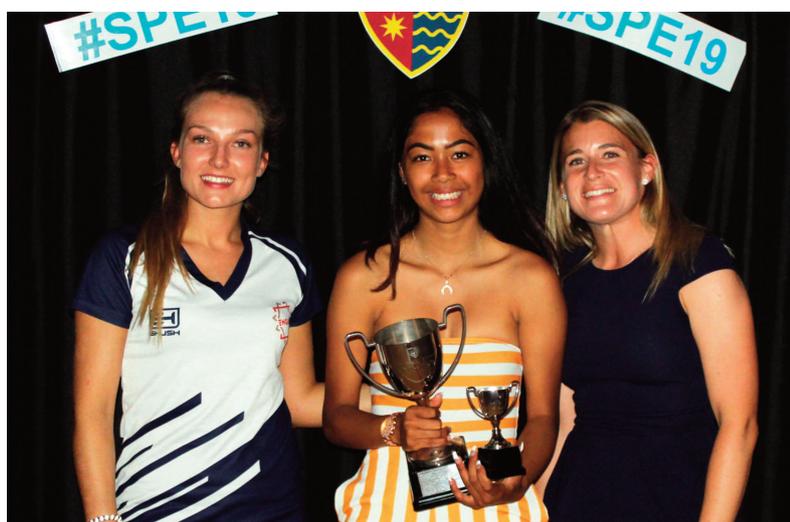


**OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTION TO
SPORT**

Ryan Beezer

**OUTSTANDING
PERFORMANCE IN
SPORT**

Danae Smith



**NEIL TYSOE
AWARD**

Esther Fisher

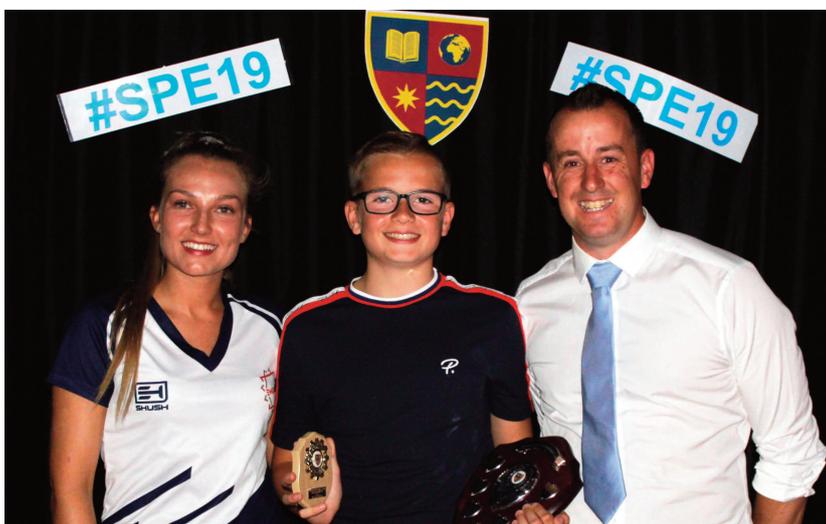
**OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTION TO
SPORT**

Jasmine Ajai



**LEADERSHIP
AWARD**

**Josh
Southerden**



**OUTSTANDING
PERFORMANCE IN
SPORT**

Caleb Page



WELCOMING STUDENTS FROM CHINA



Alexandra Balogh, Year 8, talks about students from China visiting Biddenham.

During the first week, I didn't know what I should do or how should I start a conversation with them. We started by talking about our different countries. They asked what it is like in England and we asked how it is in China and how their school is different from Biddenham.

As the weeks went by, we started having fun together and were really comfortable with each other. We started learning some Chinese which I think is really cool knowing their culture and speaking their language.

They told us that they found coming here was really amazing experience and I've made so many friends that I thought I'd never have. It was a great experience to find out about our different cultures and hear about what they do back home in China.



Seventy students went to Sheringham in Norfolk for a Geography Field trip.

They were looking at different coastal processes with the students all participating and conducting their own fieldwork.

The students completed two days of fieldwork as part of their GCSE.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all staff and students.

A SUMMER OF STORIES

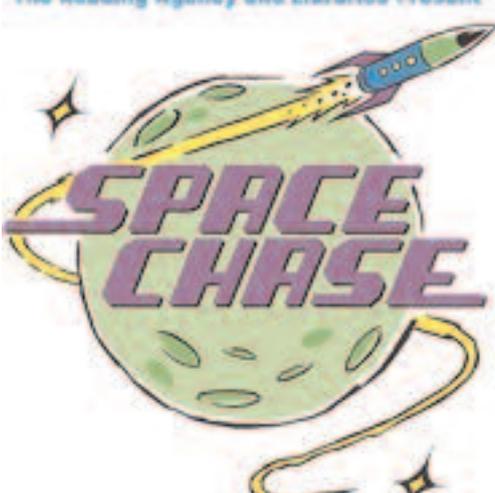


The CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals 201

The winners of this year's Carnegie Prize for fiction and the Kate Greenaway Prize for illustration were announced in mid June. A few Year 7 students took part in 'shadowing' the awards. They read most of the shortlisted books and made suggestions as to which book should win the shadowers' choice awards.

Our suggestion for the Carnegie was *The Land of Neverendings* which was won by *The Poet* by Elizabeth Acevedo. However, we were right when we said *Lost Words*, by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris, should win the Greenaway award.

The Reading Agency and Libraries Present



SPACE CHASE

Summer Reading Challenge 2019

Bedford Borough Libraries are once again holding their Summer Reading Challenge for children. This year's event has the theme of a Space Race and runs from Saturday 13th July until Saturday 7th September at your local library.

It is free and for everyone! The more you read the more sticker sheets and prizes you win, and the more chances of entering the prize draw.

For further suggestions and recommendations for books to read go to www.booktrust.org.uk/ and use the book finder option.

SCIENCE ROUND UP

KS3 STEM in Action Emmanuel Centre, London.

A number of Year 7 students ventured out to The Emmanuel Centre, London for an inspiring KS3 STEM in Action event. It involved interacting elements, hunting for evidence, deep sea exploration and exploring what is and isn't possible with 4D the robot.



Woburn Safari park

Fourteen Year 8 Biologists visited Woburn Safari Park to get a first hand experience of animals in the manmade habitat. They also attended a workshop on where they discussed the reasons of extinction for certain animals.

STEAM Fair

Biddenham School organised another STEAM fair for the local primary schools. Approximately 450 students participated in the event. The young scientists did hands on activities on the day. The purpose of the fair was to enthuse students about science, technology, engineering and maths subjects.



OUR STUDENTS ARE ROCKET MEN

Biddenham is pleased to be involved in 'the intercollegiate rocket engineering competition' (IREC) Our students have been working closely with the students from the MSc Astronautics and Space Engineering centre at Cranfield University. An opportunity that the students have found thoroughly engaging and rewarding.

The main goal is to design and build a rocket which will reach 10000 km altitude, the competition will be held in New Mexico US in June 2019. One of the expected outcomes of the competition is to design a payload for the rocket. Biddenham students have been given the responsibility for this. The students decided to investigate the behaviour of non-Newtonian fluid at the high altitude. The students are hoping to film and observe the behaviour of the fluid at increasing altitudes.