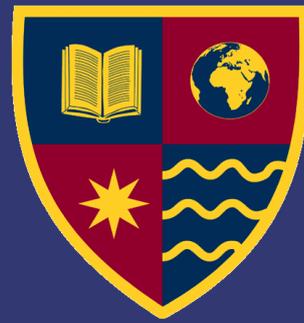


Biddenham NEWS

February Edition



AN EXCITING SCIENTIFIC DAY TRIP WITH A DIFFERENCE

A-Level Physicists embarked on a day trip to the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland, where scientists discovered the Higgs-boson or so called "God particle" in 2012.



The LHC is the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator and consists of a 27-kilometre ring of superconducting magnets with a number of accelerating structures to boost the energy of the particles along the way. Analysis of the byproducts of these collisions gives scientists good evidence of the structure of the subatomic world and the laws of nature governing it.

Arriving in the city at lunchtime, students were able to sample Swiss chocolate and Lake Geneva before catching a tram to CERN. The tour began with a lecture covering the origins of CERN and the latest developments in Particle Physics. This was followed by a short coach journey to the border with France to explore a decommissioned synchrocyclotron and many other working parts of the LHC.

Following a brief stop in the gift shop and photo opportunities at the amazing sculpture outside the facility, twisting 11 metres into the air, the time had come to return to the airport. Touching down in Luton at 11pm made for a very long day, but a memorable one too. With the many opportunities available for students to work at CERN, perhaps a Biddenham student could be next to uncover the mysteries of the universe. I wouldn't be surprised.

A message from the Principal



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2020 and a new decade.

It is that time of year when year 11 and year 13 start to feel that time is short in relation to sitting their final exams; indeed our year 11s who take IT and Business Studies sat their first 'proper' exams last week. Our year 13s have received their university offers and our year 11s have given in their sixth form applications; the end is nigh and new beginnings beckon.

As you can see from this newsletter, there has been a lot happening since Christmas and you will have seen in our last newsletter the range and number of opportunities for our students within and beyond the formal day's teaching: trips to the Battlefields, Geography in Swanage, the Eden Project and a whole host of Science related activities. This year's new trip to CERN to see the Hadron Collider (see the front page article) was an amazing opportunity for our students and I am very proud that our school offers so much to so many.

This breadth of opportunity connected to, but additional to, the curriculum, is another massive way in which our students are inspired and engaged with something that, who knows, might become a lifelong passion that they then follow as a career that they love and enjoy.

So, I hope your son or daughter has taken up one of those activities and, if not, will resolve to do so - and look back at the start of the next decade - 2030 at what will have been a life defining precious ten years. Ten years of growth, opportunity and happiness I hope.

Best wishes,

David Bailey
Headteacher

POETRY LIVE

A group of year 10 and 11 students attended Poetry Live in Cambridge.

Students were able to see the poets perform, discuss and answer questions about their work for their GCSE exam.

Everyone had a great time and the students and poets were amazing!

BUSINESS NEWS



Year 9 Business Studies students were involved in an Employer Event on Thursday 30th January.

The students enjoyed listening to presentations from local businesses and then undertook a series of questioning sessions. This was insightful and inspiring for students, to help give them an insight into what it is like to run your own business and the skills needed to set up a company.

SIXTH FORM AWARDS EVENING



Some of the exceptional winners on the evening



The Autumn term ended with a celebration of the achievements of last year's Sixth Form, year 12 (level 2 & 3) students and year 13 and 14 leavers. The celebrations were attended by approximately 150 people consisting of current year 13 students, ex-students, parents, carers and teachers.

The guest speaker at the event was Tabitha Everett, who attended Biddenham from 2013 - 2017. Tabitha graduated from the University of Oxford in Philosophy and Linguistics. It was lovely to welcome Tabitha back and to listen to her sincere, heartfelt, inspiring speech.

Students received their GCSE and A level certificates. In recognition of their achievements, students also received subject prizes and special awards; amongst these the Academic Excellence award went to Abi Walters, the Most Improved student award went to Ammarah Yasin, Excellence for Special Achievement went to Alina Khan, Community Service Award went to Jasmine Ajayi and Carmen Pocol and Stephen White Memorial award went to Moriom Begum.

In addition Taher Ahmed, Tanjana Begum, Jalilu Osman-Adama and Kesia-Rose Johnston received certificates in recognition of receiving the Harpur Trust Bursaries of £3,600 for their undergraduate courses. Students in receipt of the Connolly Foundation Scholarships in 2019 also received certificates to celebrate and mark their achievements. The Connolly Foundation provides an Academic Excellence award which provides a sum of up to £1000 per students depending on grades achieved. Miguel Porto and Abi Walters received £1,000 each and Michael Jones and Ava Sharma received £750 each.

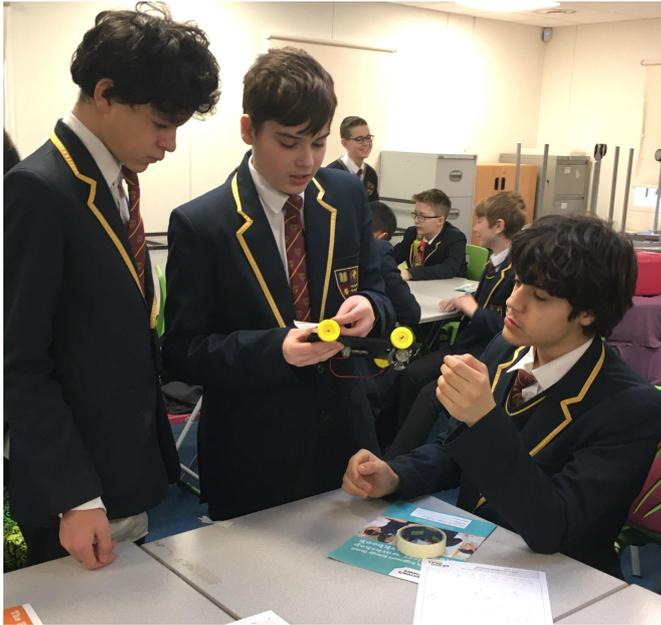
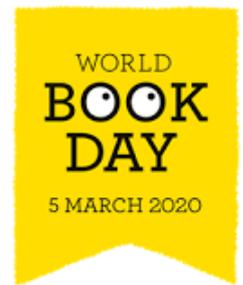
In addition, the Foundation annually invites Biddenham to put forward six students for Discretionary Awards of £500 each. These awards went to Jasmine Ajayi, Rayhan Iqbal, Fatema Islam, Luke Lipski, Anisa Raja and Ammarah Yasin.

Needless to say these awards were gratefully received by all of our students and we acknowledge our grateful thanks to the Harpur Trust and Connolly Foundation for helping our students.

WORLD BOOK DAY

All students will receive a free voucher via their tutors so they can collect a free WBD book, or have £1 off other books from participating bookshops: in Bedford that includes W.H. Smith and Waterstones.

The Bistro is offering a WBD-themed lunch on the day (Thursday 5 March) with 'surprise' vouchers to win a free book. There will also be a Treasure hunt in the library to win free books!



120 year 8 students took part in the Energy Quest workshop organised by Tomorrow's Engineers and sponsored by Shell. The workshop's main purpose was to get students aware about engineering careers associated with sustainable energy.

The Energiser Workshop was an interactive STEM workshop packed with hands-on activities, careers information and stories from real engineers working in energy. Students received their own workbook to capture learning as they explore concepts of energy generation, sustainability and technologies.

VISIT TO BOUGHTON HOUSE

Year 9 History students visited Boughton House in Northamptonshire.

They were privileged enough to see the inside of the unique historic property, nicknamed the 'English Versailles' for its beautiful architecture, and see many priceless paintings and pieces of furniture as well as the glorious park surrounding the house. All of this work ties together in an essay the students undertake that explores how the property has changed and stayed the same since its origins back in 1528.



Students enjoying the treasures of Boughton House

CAREERS NEWS

Careers appointments

The Careers Department has been continuing to work closely with year 11 students this term. So far this academic year, over 85% of our year 11 cohort have had one to one personalised careers guidance with a careers professional. Giving our students an experience of the wide variety of careers is important and we are always grateful for offers of employers to come in and speak to interested students.

A virtual careers hub has been piloted this term by the careers department and the sixth form with great success. All sixth formers have been invited and encouraged to connect with this hub and those who have done so now receive up to the minute information about current careers matters including apprenticeship opportunities, live talks and streamed events.

Sainsbury's

Students from Years 10 and 12 have recently visited the Sainsbury's store in Kempston. We are very lucky to be working closely with this retail giant, who are not only conducting tours 'behind the scenes' in their store, but are also delivering a series of workshops aimed at honing the interview techniques and cv writing skills of some of our students.

Barclays Live

Barclay's Buzz took place on 3rd February. A group of year 11 students joined apprentices and recruiters from the Barclays Bank Head Office for a live interactive session aimed at students interested in applying for a level 3 apprenticeship.

Lloyds of London

Lloyds of London were represented in school this week by their partners Visionpath. Year 12 and 13 students were invited to attend a seminar aimed at sixth formers keen to apply for a level 4 apprenticeship. The students were presented with a series of challenges which saw them assessing risk, making investment decisions and learning about the Lloyds Marketplace.

Health and Wellbeing

We recently celebrated 'Children's Mental Health Week'. The theme was 'Find Your Brave'. There were lots of activities where we celebrated braveness. Shazmin Islam showed her bravery by raising money for 'walk the walk' breast cancer awareness charity. Frejya Hayward and Meg O'Loughlan showed theirs by organising pebble painting activities for the younger year groups.

Teachers and students also shared their braveness stories in a photo competition. Well done to Carlos Pinto Da Costa for sharing his poem to the student forum and winning the competition. The week ended with a non uniform day to raise money to support our local mental health services.

SPRING INTO DANCE 2020

Audition Dates – 27th & 28th February

‘Spring into Dance’ is our annual dance production featuring our GCSE and A level groups alongside our Dance company and Cheerleading squad.

We also offer an opportunity for students to audition their own pieces for the showcase. We look for students from any year group to become part of this performance. Any style of dance is welcome and we like to see solo and duet auditions as well as groups. The dance must be well rehearsed with music and ready for performance by the audition dates 27th & 28th February.

The dance should at least be 1 minutes 30 seconds long. We look forward to seeing lots of students audition as well as many audience members on the 13th March.



SPRING INTO DANCE

Friday 13th March 2020

GCSE and A-Level performances including student choreography, as well as guest performances

Refreshments will be available to purchase

WHERE
MAIN HALL

TICKETS
£3 ON SALE EVERY LUNCHTIME IN RECEPTION
From 9th March 2020

START TIME 7PM

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Monday 27th January was Holocaust Memorial Day in the UK. At Biddenham we held our third annual Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration with our year 8 students. The students were off timetable all day and engaged in different activities while learning about the Holocaust of the Second World War as well as other genocides of the 20th and 21st centuries.

January 27th is the anniversary of the liberation of the death camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau. This year was a special commemoration as it is the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the camps. The national theme for Holocaust Memorial Day was Stand Together so this year we also had several Year 12 students come and help out for the day.



Paperclips are more than an ordinary item, they were used by the Norwegian resistance to show others that they too were willing to stand up against bullying and resistance during the Nazi occupation of Norway during WWII.

Our students created art with paperclips which they can wear to show their willingness to stand up against bullying and discrimination show and that they will not let the Holocaust be forgotten.

YEARS 7 & 8 NEWS

As a school we believe in the importance of equipping our students with Oracy skills. KS3 have been focusing on two projects this term and we have a lot to look forward to including:

Up for Debate

Year 8 Students are preparing for the regional Oracy competition 'up for debate' during their project Based Learning Lessons. Up For Debate is the perfect tool to help prepare our student debaters to use social, cognitive, linguistic and physical skills through purposeful talk but also encourage them to have a wider understanding of the world around them and how to share their views through well organised and evidence based opinions to come to a shared argument.

First Give

Year 7s have been carrying out an oracy project to raise awareness of local social issues. This is the fifth year we have run this project and both students and staff really enjoy the difference they can make to the local community.

Students are preparing five minute group speeches that identify a local charity that they would like to represent. Eight local charities have been selected and we have had representatives coming in to tell us all about the wonderful work they do. Using this information and researching the teams carry out social action projects and fundraising activities to raise awareness of the work they do to reduce the impact on their local community. They will then battle it out in class teams to identify the presentation they would like to take forward to the final.

Year 8 have had a brilliant start to the new year

They have achieved more than 5000 housepoints. A large proportion of these are for over and above acts of kindness and for excellent effort or contributions within lessons. Students have also had the opportunity to participate in a STEM session where they raced model cars they had designed after an engineering workshop. They have also participated in Holocaust Memorial Day. Students have competed in a range of extra curricular activities this half term. Some of the most notable were the boys badminton teams who came both first and second in their recent competitions and the girls futsal team who came third overall. Students attending gymnastics lessons are progressing well.

Tendulkar house are currently in the lead for the year 8 house cup. We hope to see more students participating in extra curricular activities in the coming half term.

February half term break - students return on Monday 24th February
Easter Break – Students finish on Friday 3rd April and return on
Tuesday 21st April

Sport News



Left to right: Year 7/8 boys badminton, Year 9/10 girls futsal, U18 girls badminton.

House Cup

This term has seen the re-invention of the house cup with a weekly competition for each year group held on Mondays, allowing students to compete for their house across a variety of sports which will contribute to the overall house cup.

Fixtures

This has been a busy half term for fixtures for our students across a wide range of sports. Whether it was braving the cold and wind to produce some great performances at the district cross country, to the Sixth Form basketball showing determination to succeed, to some excellent results at the district handball for all years with notable performances by the year 9 and 10 boys and girls teams finishing 4th and 3rd respectively.

This term has seen the start of the older years hockey practice and fixtures with over 30 attending each week, which lead to some great performances against some strong opposition.

With the football season approaching it was time for the futsal leagues to take centre stage, with great performances from both boys and girls teams at all ages, with special mention to the girls 9/10 team who won the district competition and placed 3rd at the county finals, a huge success and well done to all that played. This term has proved to be the biggest success with racket sports, with year 7,8 and 10 girls badminton teams finishing 2nd, 3rd and 2nd in the district and the boys 7 and 8 teams placing second and now off to the county finals. Not to be outdone by the younger years it was the Sixth Formers who lead with success in badminton with both boys and girls teams winning the district competition and now off to the county finals, good luck to all teams. In addition to badminton table tennis has been a huge success, stemming from dedication at the outdoor tables come rain or shine, which paid off with the year 7/8 team winning the district league and placing 4th in the county.

County Individual Table Tennis Championships

This term has also seen success from our 6th formers Ryan and Jamie who attended the County Individual Table Tennis Championships competing against the best players in the area. Which saw Ryan placing 3rd due to losing to Jamie who went on to win the tournament and is now off to the national competition. A huge well done boys and best of luck in the next round.

Basketball Trip

This term saw the annual trip to the British Basketball Cup Final in Birmingham. A great day out by all who went, witnessing the best of British basketball in the mens and womens game, in conjunction with the entertainment of a slam dunk competition.