

Biddenham E-Newsletter

Fifth Edition



Students support charities

Students from Biddenham School have been tackling social issues by supporting local charities as part of a Programme provided by educational charity First Give, even when under the constraints of a national lockdown.

Teams of secondary school students at Biddenham School had the chance to win a total of £1,000 for local charities that they have chosen to support.

The school final could not happen as a face to face event with an audience including representatives from the local charities, as it normally would.

Instead the event was turned into a film to celebrate all the hard work with their year group.

The video will be shared with the charities the school represented because we are so proud of all the team's achievements.

Continued inside



Left to right - Grace Deasy, Shanae Yorke, Hannah Tyrell, Sophie Burke, Madeline Aitchison

The latest news from Biddenham
International School & Sports College

A message from our Principal David Bailey and Head of School Eleanor Grylls

Dear all,

There's only one place to start this newsletter and that is with a massive thank you and well done to all our parents and carers and students: this has been an amazingly tough time and we know you will have been dealing with a multitude of issues - not least your child's education and wellbeing.

I am in awe of just how well our young people have navigated their way through this pandemic and believe that they will have a perspective on life that will have a positive impact on the rest of their lives.

We have all learnt the importance of school and face to face learning and the power of technology to drive independent learning and for young people to be in control of their futures.

We have all learnt to make sure we are doing what we want to with our lives and not to wait or put things off as we may find ourselves unable to do them and have to put life on hold.

We have learnt the importance of family and friends and looking after each other and making sure everyone else is alright, whilst making sure we are doing things that support our own mental and physical wellbeing.

We have learnt the importance of physical activity and ensuring we lead a healthy lifestyle, whilst ensuring we are doing things that protect others.

As regards protecting others I would wish to pay tribute to the way our students have followed the rules...followed the one way system, worn masks when required, adhered to the seating plans and social distanced when possible.

Without doubt that has contributed massively to this virus not being transmitted in school and a relatively few number of student cases and students having to go home and self isolate.

I read this week that there were nearly 300 thousand students out of school having to self isolate... so we are not through this yet, but as a school in Bedford borough we have fared well by comparison.

But please do not get complacent - whatever happens on July 19th - as the infection rate is still not low enough in Bedford and did actually go up again last week, so please exercise caution and keep safe.

We are, however, inching our way back to normality.

We had a lovely Year 13 Leaving celebration, we will have our Year 11 prom at the Sharnbrook hotel and we even had a Geography trip to the coast last week - so, cause for optimism.

Most importantly we have got more than a semblance of normality back in school, in classrooms - we are back to students focussing on their learning and enjoying being in school together - this has been a good term and we are hopeful for more 'normality' in September.

So, as we go into the Summer break I would urge all our students to do all the set holiday work and, having identified gaps in learning, use this time to get ahead by revisiting things learnt and looking at what's to be covered next year and learning some of it now and treat the summer as an opportunity to do things that will grow you as a person and individual.

We look forward to working with you all in September as we build the future for our young people. Stay safe, stay optimistic and look after each other.



David Bailey

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Bailey', written in a cursive style.



Eleanor Grylls

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Grylls', written in a cursive style.

Year 7 charity work

Continued from front page

The First Give Programme saw students in Year 7 researching charities in the local area, having virtual classroom visits with these charities to learn about the work they do and producing presentations about them.

The best teams from each class participating in the programme progressed to the School Final to compete for first place.

Eleanor Grylls, Head of School commented: “The First Give programme has been running for a number of years now at Biddenham and every year it seems to go from strength to strength.

“The programme really strengthens students’ understanding of their place in our Bedford community and how they can play a part in raising the profile of the amazing local charities that work so hard to support the most vulnerable.

“It also allows students to develop their oracy skills through presenting to their peers and others. This year students have surpassed themselves with the amazing quality of their work and contributions; we are incredibly proud!”

The winners were 7GM (pictured on the front page) who represented CHUMs.

Their presentation was shared in the school assembly.

The school is so proud of how mature the students were and the detail they went into to make their presentation a success.

Year 10 student donates hair

Last month our star Year 10 student, Chloe Steele, donated a staggering 30 inches of her hair to The Little Princess Trust, a charity who make wigs for young people fighting cancer.

Chloe is still fundraising until the end of the month to hit her target of £550.

If you would like to show support for Chloe and for The Little Princess trust you can find her fundraiser here: <https://bit.ly/3jE9lxU>

Well done, Chloe!



History

Asian History Month

June was Asian History Month and this year at Biddenham and as part of this, the History Department took part in quizzes and sharing information with students via the Shared Histories Google Classroom that was created earlier this school year.

We have had help from Senior Prefect Dharishna Reddy who researched less well known religions and belief systems in Asia and shared her presentation via the Google Classroom.

The winners for the 'A Question a Day' quiz were:

Year 7 Raine Belfone
Year 8 Federica Omorogbe
Year 9 Fateha Aktar,
Year 10 Yusaf Ahmed
Year 11 Tatenda Gonera
Year 13 Xavier Deloubes.

As part of Asian History Month Mrs Vaughan, the Head of History and Politics, arranged for a guest speaker for Year 12.

Emerson Tan grew up and attended secondary school in Bristol before going to study biomedical materials and engineering at Queen Mary in London.

While there he was removed for a combination of computer hacking and failing exams.

He then went on to study planetary sciences at University College London and though he completed his degree he was removed from UCL for hacking.

After leaving university Tan had a career in computer security and eventually ended up working in defence, intelligence and cyber warfare.

At some point around 15 years ago, Tan decided to start doing humanitarian aid work both as a volunteer and a consultant.

He got his start with MapAction which has taken him into the United Nations system and all around the world.

Currently he is the Chief Innovation Officer at Financial Empowerment Partners; they build payment technologies for the global south with the aim of turning finance into an equitable development mechanism - or in plain English they look at ways to ensure that money gets to the people who need it - the workers - in countries where there are problems with banking and corruption or just a lack of technology to make it work.

He discussed his experiences of growing up as a British Asian and also his work as a humanitarian worker in disasters around the world as well as the importance of engaging with studies and giving careers advice for those interested in computing and ICT.

Year 8 Age of Revolutions Day

On 30th June all of Year 8 had a day off timetable focusing on the culmination of their studies about various different revolutions and protest movements from the American Revolution through to the Haitian Revolution and the Peterloo Massacre as well as the Abolition and Suffragette movements.

As part of the day the students were challenged to review their prior learning and come up with creative ways in which they would reorganise the historical protests were they given the opportunity to do so.

The students came up with some fantastic creative work to be proud of.

EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY
FOR ALL!

Abolition.

✳️ end slavery ✳️ blm ✳️ stand up!

Why are we doing this? -

currently black people are being forced and enslaved by white owners because they believed they were superior to anyone else. they barely get paid or are not paid in general / being tortured.



What we are doing to stop it?

We are keeping it simple but effective by only using 5 steps.

Step 1: We are starting the campaign on social media using our platforms and hashtags our goal is for the hashtag to trend.

Step 2: arrange a physical protest (time, date, place etc)

Step 3: Create petitions / get the governments attention

Step 4: Create posters, banners gather as much props as possible.

Step 5: The peaceful protest will convince and the march / chanting.

People travelled far and wide to hear Henry Hunt speak. What kind of thing would make you walk several kilometres to hear someone speak? After discussing it in your pairs, note down what you decided would encourage you to travel such a distance. Answer below



What might encourage you to travel with a _____ miles distance?

- money - reward

- fun reason

- food

People travelled far and wide to hear Henry Hunt speak. Hunt was known as a great orator. What makes someone good at public speaking? Write your ideas below.

What makes someone good at

public speaking?

- loud and clear

- body language

- confidence



What are the pros and cons of peaceful protests, based on what we have learnt about events at Peterloo. You may want to think about other peaceful protests too. Answer below.

Cons - They might respond negatively

- might not make a big difference

Pros - No one gets hurt

Geography

Year 7 off timetable day

Students represented a Commonwealth country for the day.

They had to work together as a team to create a presentation about how their country would host the next Commonwealth games.

They then presented this to their class in a bid to win the next Commonwealth games.

All the students worked really well and created some really impressive presentations.

The winning students received a prize and were presented it in assembly were:

Ismail Hussain
Noah Maynard
Aayan Ali
Denis Ivanciu
Abdul Moeed

Year 8

Year 8 spent a day investigating evidence for climate change.

They looked into carbon dioxide levels in ice cores, fossil adaptations, Dendrochronology (analysing tree rings), and analysed their findings.

Students did really well throughout the day and were able to link their findings to the greenhouse effect and impacts of climate change that they had learnt in Geography lessons.



Year 9

Year 9 Geography students have been learning new geographical fieldwork skills to prepare them for their GCSE.

They conducted several experiments looking at causes of flooding in an around urban areas.

Year 12 Walton on the Naze fieldwork trip

Yay! The first field trip since 2019!

Year 12 Geography students have completed a fieldwork day investigating coastal landscapes and urban areas, practicing their fieldwork skills. They then applied their findings to existing theories.

They were very excited to get out in the field and explore geographical ideas in real life.



Performing Arts

As the last year has been very turbulent for the Arts, we were absolutely delighted in the Dance department to be able to hold a workshop for 16 wonderful Year 8 students on Friday 2nd July.

These students were able to gain an understanding of where dance can take you, the careers it links particularly well with as well as being able to work on their technique and performance skills.

The students worked brilliantly for three hours which culminated in them giving a performance of what they had learnt across this time, as well as having the opportunity to showcase their own choreography.

It was a great way to finish the week and as a department we feel really fortunate to have been able to work with the students in this way.



STEM

Cranfield Rocket Project

This school term, year 12 physicists have been taking part in a rocket project for Cranfield University, for which they have designed an experiment which can fit into a small payload attached to a rocket.

The rocket, which was designed and built by the University will be sent into Earth's upper atmosphere and (hopefully) return back to the ground.

However, the project is not without challenges; the equipment will have to fit into a coke can with a diameter of 2.13 inches.

The students have been working on the project after school since March.

The Year 12's have been assisted by one of Biddenham's former students to help with the project.

Their idea is to design a circuit with a barometer, which measures pressure; an accelerometer, which measures speed; and a raspberry pi, a mini computer in order to measure and record both the speed and altitude of the rocket throughout its journey.

If all goes well the rocket will launch from Portugal in October this year.

Matthew Brown
Sixth Form



Smart Materials Workshop

Year 10 students attended a STEM workshop on the smart material sponsored by RAF youth. The SMART workshop was informative and interactive.

The speaker was enthusiastic and also spoke clearly which allowed me to discuss it with my friends whilst listening to them at the same time.

SMART Materials focused on materials which change shape, colour or some other factor in response to external effects, but revert back to their original form when this external effect is taken away.

The workshop also included an experiment, and a kit was given to the participating class to complete the experiment.

The experiments were all a variety of different things and nothing like I've done before. It was fun and interesting to do.

Overall, I enjoyed the workshop greatly and would definitely do it again!

Safiya Irshad,
Year 10



Discover Project and Discover Magazine

It has been a very productive year for the Biddenham Discover Society, the sessions were very focused upon what year 12 would like to change about Biddenham.

Many amazing and innovative ideas were put forward and presented to the group, including presentations on the installation of more smoke detectors in school bathrooms and enhancing what we love about the school environment.

One of the most notable presentations that was later focused on by the entirety of the Discover Society group was the improvement of the schools ELS (Essential Life Skills) sessions to better suit the needs of students who are flying from the proverbial nest and establishing their independence.

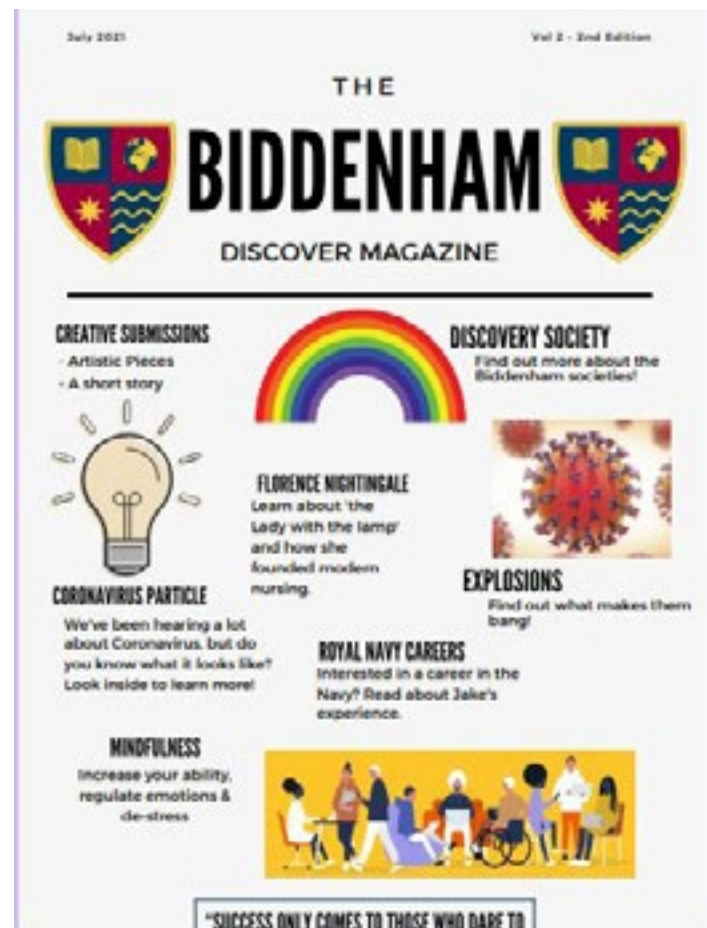
Ideas put forward were sessions on finance, cooking and healthy eating and personal statements and CVs. Overall, this has been a very successful and fun year for the Discover Society and we hope that next year this can be expanded to encompass the rest of the school.

The editors of the Discover Magazine have been hard at work this year and (despite multiple lockdowns getting in their way) they managed to create two volumes of the magazine that is full to the brim of the amazing knowledge that students and teachers all over the school possess. It has been a hard year for everyone and the Magazine has been a ray of sunshine throughout it.

The year 13 team did an amazing job of creating the first magazine despite the short amount of time they had to complete the task, without them the current editors of the magazine would not have known where to begin with creating a second. We cannot thank them enough for all the help they have brought us this past year.

The magazine has been responsible for bringing all year groups in the school together and hopefully this new community that has been created will continue for next year's writers and editors.

Matilda Crafter
Head Girl



Energy Quest Workshop

We did two fun practicals with Tash in the Energy Quest workshop organised by Tomorrow's Engineers.

One of them was with an orange to measure voltage and the other one was when we tried to make our own electricity.

We all learnt a lot about engineering and really loved it.

There are many different types of jobs that include engineering and that there is so much to it.

We really enjoyed doing the practicals and understanding more about ourselves and where we could be placed in the engineering world based on our interests.

We would like to do this again and hopefully expand our knowledge to know more about careers and what to study after our GCSEs.

Nikola Halicka, Year 8 and Yumna Begum-Hoque Year 8



Promoting STEM careers aimed at female students

We are delighted to take part in collaboration with Cranfield University to promote careers in Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), particularly aimed at female students.

At present, the program consists of a number of talks by both students and researchers in several disciplines at Cranfield University, discussing their careers in engineering so far.

The purpose of these talks is to showcase the exciting and varied roles that engineering has to offer, and to demonstrate both conventional and non-conventional routes into engineering.

Four talks are planned to be delivered before the summer holidays and it is anticipated that they will recommence from September.

The first of these sessions was held on Wednesday 23rd June and the second talk was on 30th June.

Alia Ardron

Alia studied Chemical Engineering via Natural Sciences at University of Cambridge.

She worked for six years in an equipment manufacturing company called SPX Flow doing design, sales, project execution and other roles, providing machinery for factories across various industries and countries.

She previously did a summer placement at Sellafield nuclear site working on a decommissioning technical team.

As part of her MSc Astronautics and Space Engineering at Cranfield University, Alia is completing her thesis alongside RAL Space, doing thermal modelling work for a European Space Agency mission.

After University she will be starting a job at SpaceX in Texas, to test rockets before they go to the launch pad.

Simran Dev

Simran studied all sciences and maths at A level and graduated with a BE in Aeronautical Engineering from City University of London, prior to studying for an MSc in Thermal Power at Cranfield.

She has experience in construction contracting, environmental and civil engineering with Arup, Laing O'Rourke and Hawkins Brown.

Our year 10 students' feedback so far is very positive.

Safiya Irshard in year 10 said: "The STEM talks so far have been factual and shed light on multiple different areas in the STEM field.

"The individuals who conducted the talks have shown that you can take numerous routes

to study what you want and how STEM is all around us.

“Most of them have studied multiple areas and achieved the most whilst studying in university and encouraging us that it is possible to reach your full potential especially as a woman in a male dominated field like STEM.

“Personally, I have enjoyed the talks and cannot wait for more to come.”



☀ Attendance ☀

This year, has been another funny one in school!
Thank you to all parents and students who come in every day.

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

Our goal this term has been to get students into school and help them to continue their learning.

We have had a big drive on punctuality and we have also been looking at students individually, encouraging them to come into school and to take ownership of their own attendance.

The overall attendance this year has been good, with students showing the right attitude when coming into school every day and on time.

Year 7

Transition Ambassadors

Our Year 7 'Be Awesome Ambassadors' will be helping to support the transition of the Y6's into Y7.

Their first job has been to help Year 7 students with writing a letter to a Year 6 buddy to welcome them to Biddenham.

They are doing a fantastic job and are very much looking forward to meeting our new Year 7s in September!



Road to Tokyo

Year 7 students have been working hard after a sustained period of remote learning to rebuild social relationships within their tutor team.

After returning from remote learning they were set the challenge to carry out a self directed project in tutor groups to represent the road to Tokyo where the Olympics are due to be held this year.

This project included team leaders, researchers, research coordinator, mileage calculators, production team/manager and technical support .

We are sure you will agree that all jobs require a great deal of determination and resilience but also gain a great deal of success when you are able to resolve conflict to communicate intentions to achieve the end goal.

Every tutor group collected a minimum of 5,777 miles as a class through activities such as family walks, football with friends and mindfulness activities such as reading daily.

The miles were calculated and countries were researched whilst the production team were

turning all the team's hard work into a fantastic class end product.

Students in year 7 will have the opportunity to observe and vote for the class that meets the criteria to most in their last 2 sessions of PBL this year to celebrate the hard work and united vision they all had together to learn about the unique world in which we live in but also taking into consideration the importance of being happy healthy sociable people.

Below are some examples of student work.



We are overwhelmed with the maturity and the development of skills seen through independence, time management and innovation.

Well done Year 7!

Cricket Equipment

My friend and I are obsessed with cricket so we decided to try and get some cricket equipment.

We made a presentation about cricket and the equipment we needed and we went around the school asking every Year 7 if they wanted to play cricket at lunch time.

We needed 22 people and we ended up with 32!

We then we emailed this information to Mrs Gill and Mr Bailey who said that we were allowed to get the equipment.

Mr Evans ordered the cricket equipment for us.

When I found out that they were being bought I was shocked and so excited - it was such a good moment!

This took a lot of determination and effort to get, all together it took three weeks and as a very impatient person I'm proud to say that this has taught me that I can achieve anything, you just have to put the hard work in.

Since we got it, we have been enjoying the equipment a lot and it gives everyone an opportunity to have fun learning a new sport.



Our first year at Biddenham

To help welcome incoming students who are moving from primary school to Biddenham next academic year, students in Year 7 have wrote about their experience since joining the school.

My first year at Biddenham was very different from the rest, it was unique.

Having to sanitise tables and hands felt very weird, a very different atmosphere to primary school.

Not having practicals in science because of Covid, but instead having to do written work was a big change, considering that in primary I used to have experiments every lesson; but, thanks to all my teachers I managed to get used to changes and make my way around the school.

Also I am a kindness ambassador, meaning a little group of students led by two leaders (me being one of them) who try to promote kindness amongst the year through things like a kindness board and “thank you” cards that we gave to everyone so that they could say thank you to somebody in the year.

I recommend being a kindness ambassador because it gives you the possibility to make new friends, work on group projects, which helps you develop many important skills like leadership or following instructions, and spread positivity amongst the year group.

There are many people who will help you with your transition at Biddenham, your Head of Year being one of them, Miss Copley and your form tutor.

I hope you are excited to join Biddenham in September. Good luck!

Ahmad 7MLG

I love Maths and my teacher is Mr.Hedge and he is my favourite teacher just because he teaches mathematics.

Also, having a chromebook is very new and exciting!

Tammaso 7HCB

Year 7 at Biddenham has been amazing although COVID has meant that we haven't been able to go on many school trips and we had to do some learning at home online. It has still been an amazing experience.

The best experience I have had is possibly when I first walked into the school, It was massive!

Although it doesn't seem that big any more it is still pretty big. I have made many new friends and have had so many new opportunities.

Rosie 7KRW

Year 8

A message from Head of Year, Mr Evans

We are nearing the end of our two year journey through Key Stage 3. Clearly we have had to adjust to the ongoing challenges of Covid during Year 8 but hopefully we are nearing some consistency with our learning. I want to thank you for your support this year and I would like to praise all of the students who have approached their learning in such a mature and resilient manner.

Recently the year group has completed another set of PASS assessments in their core subjects. The aim of these assessments is to evaluate the year groups' attitude to learning and their style of learning. This follows a set they completed earlier in key stage 3.

Over the course of the past year the year group have had lots of opportunities to extend their learning.

They have taken part in a meet the author 500 word event, completed modules as part of their Unifrog programme and more recently taken part in several Fabulous Finish end of subject events.

Finally, I wanted to take the opportunity to inform you about the plans for the start of Key Stage 4.

During the first half term after the holidays students will take part in a carousel of their optional subjects before making their GCSE choices.

This is an exciting time for the year group but also one which is provided with lots of support and guidance by the school.

Further details about this will be provided on our return in September.

On behalf of the Year 8 pastoral team, I want to wish you all a safe and relaxing summer.

Ed Evans
Head of Year 8

Biddenham welcomes newly qualified teachers



We are so proud of our trainee and newly qualified teachers!

Well done to all of you for making it through the most challenging year to become a teacher!

In a year when they should have been practicing the craft of the classroom, they have all risen to the challenge of online teaching, online training and all with a positive attitude towards constant changes!

Sixth Form

Year 13/14 Leavers Celebration Day - Friday 25th June

Celebration Day was a day to look forward to by all of our sixth form.

The Prefect Team decided that, in light of the current Covid-19 restrictions, it would be a good idea to have a more casual and fun evening at school rather than a formal prom this year.

With the premature and abrupt end to the final year for year 13, the Celebration Day gave all the students a chance to come back to say their final goodbyes to fellow students and teachers and to reflect on their time at Biddenham.

The evening consisted of lots of delicious food, music, games and awards.

The amazing food was prepared by the school cafeteria team, who did an excellent job in catering to everyone's dietary needs.

The awards ceremony was a great way to interact with the entire sixth form as the winners were decided by all the students.

The event was hosted in the sixth form block and external area with a barbecue outside manned by Mr Smith.

We had two rooms with games and a room dedicated to being a photo booth. It was amazing to see everyone get back together for the last time and enjoy their evening.

All students received a yearbook, which was created by the Prefect Team, which is a perfect and permanent reminder of their time at Biddenham, a brilliant keepsake!

Nadhira Yasmin





Oxford University Access Officer comes to Biddenham to help students write a perfect personal statement

As anyone who has been to university will know, when you first open up UCAS it can be a little bit overwhelming.

One of the hardest and most daunting bits is writing a personal statement - effectively selling yourself to potential future universities.

Applying to university is likely to be the first time most people have to do something like this.

Thankfully, help was on hand for Year 12 in the form of Hugh Munro.

On Wednesday 7th July, Dr McGrath and Mr Shakoor organised a virtual personal statement workshop with Mr Munro who is the Access Officer at Wadham College, Oxford - this was attended by all of year 12.

Hugh gave an overview of what universities are looking for in a personal statement and gave tips on how to write each section, giving plenty of opportunities for discussion, exploring links and starting to draft points to include.

Hopefully the students have gone away with some ideas of supercurricular links to explore, how to critically analyse what they have read and how to use this reading as a stepping stone for further exploration.

One student said “I’ve struggled with writing about my super-curricular activities and yesterday’s session made this much clearer.

The advice was useful and made the process of drafting that section much easier.”

Another said “I learnt a lot about how to write the last section of my personal statement because we were given examples and sentence starters.

“This was useful because at first I thought it would be the hardest part to write but now I think it’s the easiest part.”



Thorpe Park trip

The Sixth Form students enjoyed a well deserved break with a trip to Thorpe Park this term.

After all the remote learning and time away with friends, it was great for them to spend some quality time, making memories as a group once again.

Former student comes back to Biddenham to speak to sixth formers looking at medical career

I have been interested in pursuing a career in medicine for as long as I can remember; however I was afraid of the process as I had heard it was difficult and complex, and this discouraged me from wanting to do Medicine at University.

However ex-student Moriom Begum delivered an amazing presentation, which not only allowed me to learn more about a Medical degree, but also about the university application process, revision tips, student accommodation and how the process works etc.

I found the talk set straight any myths about the process and reduced my fears.

Many of the other students also found the presentation useful. Abdallah Akour states: "What I found useful out of her presentation was the fact she was talking about motivation as well as dedication to achieving your goals no matter how hard they are.

"Also the tips she gave for learning and understanding the content, e.g. teaching others, past papers etc."

Whilst some students may not want to study Medicine, they did pick up other skills:

"The talk gave me new potential revision/study methods to try" - Samuel Ellis

Many students also discovered facts about Universities they previously had not known, and possibly widened their University choices. Natasha Aitchison says: "I found the information on Leicester University interesting, especially the fact that it is one of the few universities to do full body dissections."

To conclude, the presentation was helpful and inspirational, and I would like to thank Moriom for her efforts as they have provided guidance for me and many other students.

Saima Shenwari

Results days

A Level Results day 10th August
GCSE Results day 12th August

Results will be available from 8.30am - 12.30pm in N Block



Sixth Form 2021 Senior Student Team

Deputy Head Boys



Akubakar Ahmad

Ahmed Elabd

Head Boy



Matthew Brown

Head Girl



Matilda Crafter

Deputy Head Girls



Natasha Aitchison

Lucia Scozzari

Senior Prefects



Salma Sherwari



Anisha Begum



Emily Hall



Charlotte McKenzie



Areeba Raja



Dharishma Reddy

Senior Prefects



Cameron McLeod



Jasper Kellie



Jake Maule

Library

Refugee Week

Refugee Week 2013 - a UK-wide festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary.

It encourages understanding of why people are displaced, and the challenges they face when seeking safety.

Many students have already read *Refugee Boy* by Benjamin Zephaniah, or *The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q. Rauf, so will already have a sense about what being a refugee might feel like.



This collection of Roy of the Rovers books were won for Biddenham library and are now available to borrow

Carnegie and Kate Greenway Awards

This year we once again 'shadowed' the Carnegie and Kate Greenway 2021 awards process.

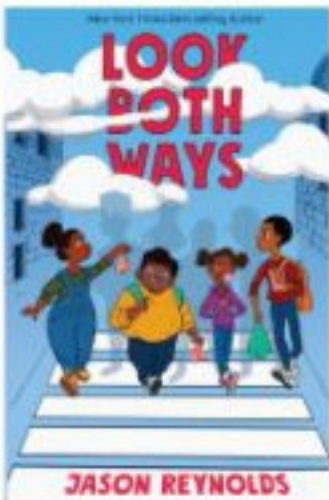
All the shortlisted books are available to borrow from the library.

Our choices this year weren't the eventual winners but as Hala Elabd in Year 8 said of the winning novel, *Look Both Ways* by Jason Reynolds: "I think *Look Both Ways* won, because it can be a good read for all ages.

"I think the fact that we read about different lives that are strangely interconnected is a heavy topic philosophically, which is why it can get many people thinking and challenging themselves.

"Honestly, it was a very unique idea, so I'm definitely not too sad about it winning."

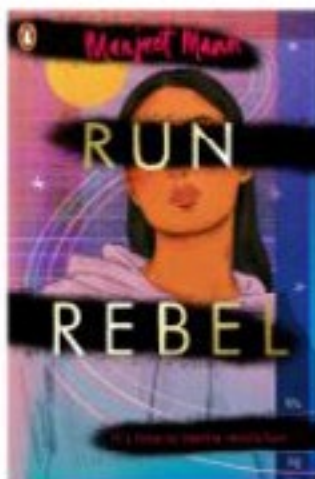
Winners 2021



CILIP CARNEGIE MEDAL

CILIP KATE GREENAWAY MEDAL

Shadowers' Choice Winners 2021



CARNEGIE
SHADOWERS' CHOICE



KATE GREENAWAY
SHADOWERS' CHOICE

Empathy Day

The library celebrated Empathy Day again this year, with a number of relevant books on display and hosted inter-tutor group activities.

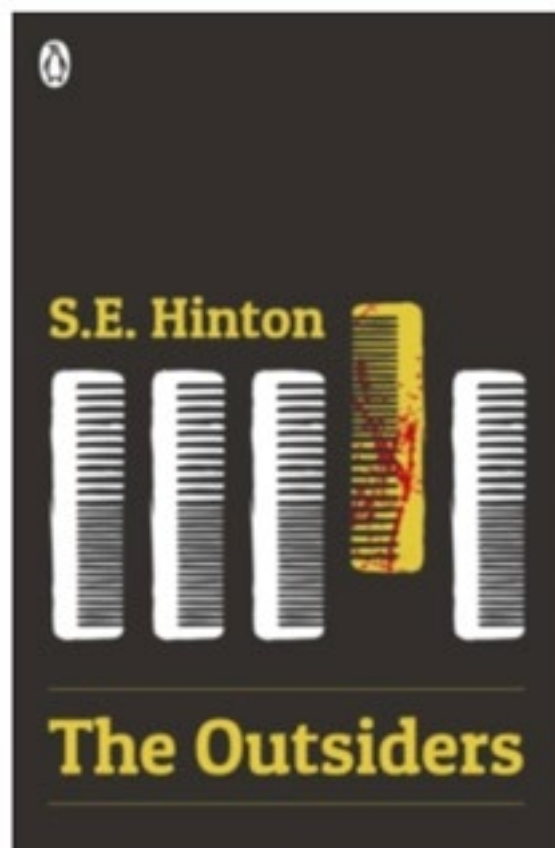
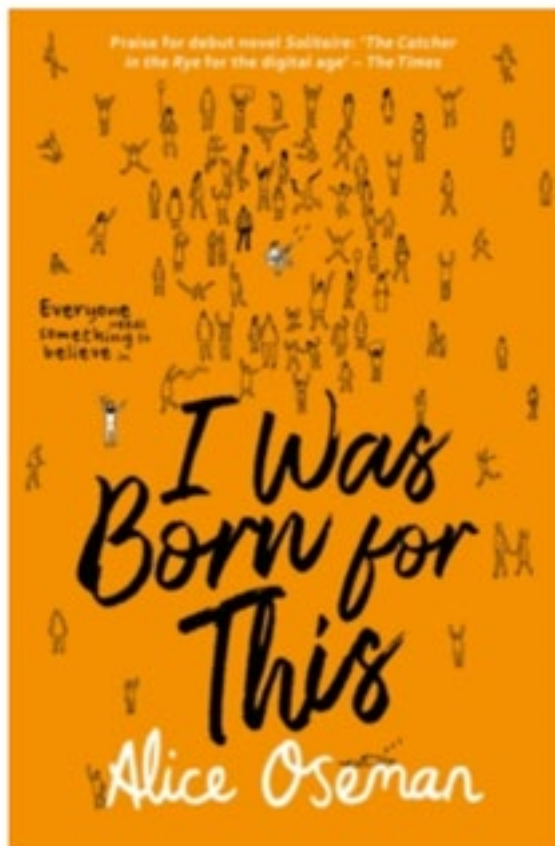


Top 100 books for young people

This is a wonderful list of the best children's books as recommended by Book Trust - we have all the ones for secondary students in the library...and some of the younger titles too.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/100-best-books/>

New book arrivals for Year 9 and above



Hiroshima, 1945.
A day that haunts many . . .

The Last Paper Crane

Illustrated by
Natsko Seki

. . . a promise
that haunts one.

KERRY DREWERY

"Perfectly captures how it feels to be an
outsider. I loved it." Tamsin Winter

"Exceptional"
THE TIMES
on The Unpredictability
of Being Human

ONE IN A HUNDRED THOUSAND

LINNI INGEMUNDSEN

NOAH CAN'T EVEN



SIMON JAMES GREEN

NOMINATED FOR THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

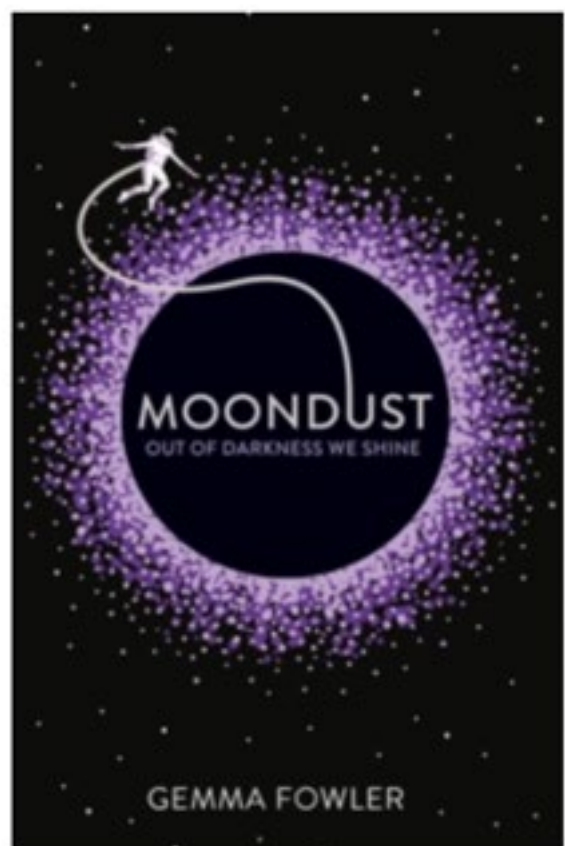
EVERYONE DESERVES
A FIGHTING CHANCE

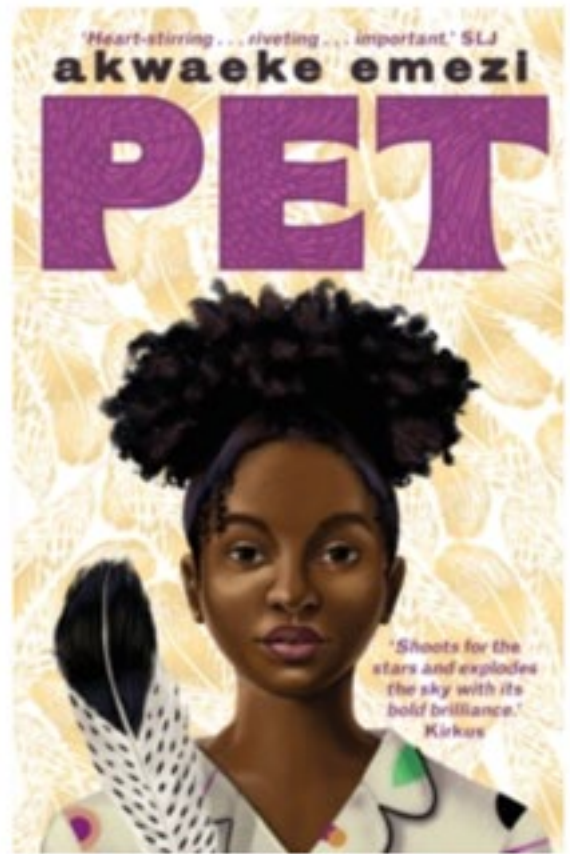
LOUISA REID

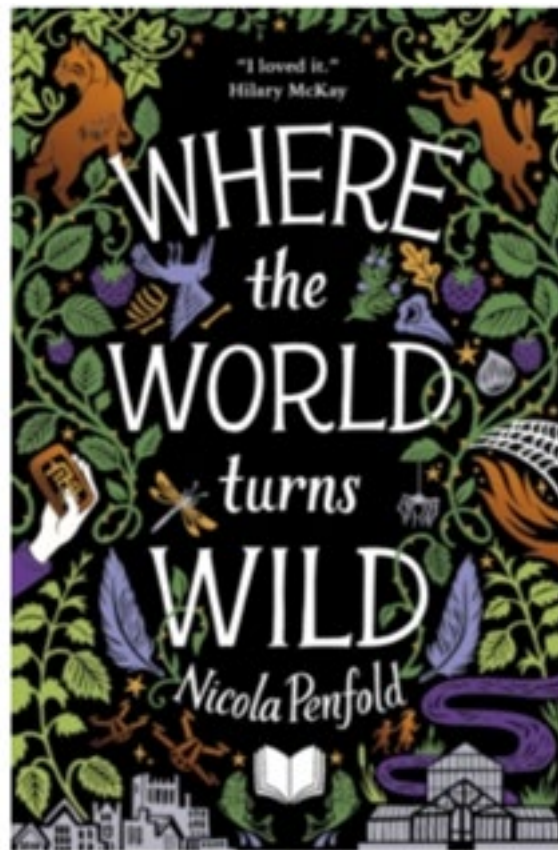
GLOVES OFF

"Intense, original and
profoundly moving" Guardian

New book arrivals for Year 7 and 8







Lego Club



Over the last 12 weeks these students have taken part in Lego therapy which is a social development program for children.

It uses children's love of Lego play, as well as their strengths and interests, to develop communication and social skills. During the sessions students take turns in being one of the three roles - Builder, Engineer and Supplier.

The engineer has the instructions (nobody else can see) they communicate with the supplier, describing the pieces they need.

The supplier has to listen and hand the pieces to the builder. The engineer then has to describe to the builder how to put the pieces together.

Julian, Kara and Filip have worked so hard and built an intricate veterinary surgery this term.

Alan Turing Day

To coincide with the release of the new £50 note and in celebration of Alan Turing's birthday, here at Biddenham we celebrated with our Year 8 students.

All students took part in specially arranged activities organised by Ms Guess, Mr Geary and Mr Evans that were themed around his life and works.

Here is what our students have to say:

On Alan Turing day I enjoyed it so much. In our first lesson we started with some code breaking which was fun and then the code we got was Parallelogram and Quadrilateral which link with maths as well.

The second lesson we did a PE challenge to see who could get over obstacles the fastest without touching the ground.

We were split into 3 teams from our tutor group and we needed to find different letters. We won the challenge.

Next, we completed a spreadsheet with puzzles and we played a Kahoot about Alan Turing. Last but not least we made origami tanks. Thanks to Mrs Guess it was fun, thank you so much.

Noor Mohammed Kousar

On Wednesday the 23rd of June we had an Alan Turing Day to celebrate his work and how he saved many people's lives!

However, to also recognise the hardships he went through because he was different. I am so thankful for the amazing Mrs Guess for creating this amazing day!

For Maths I created a poster about hacking which I enjoyed. Then the whole year 8 had a race to figure out the secret code.

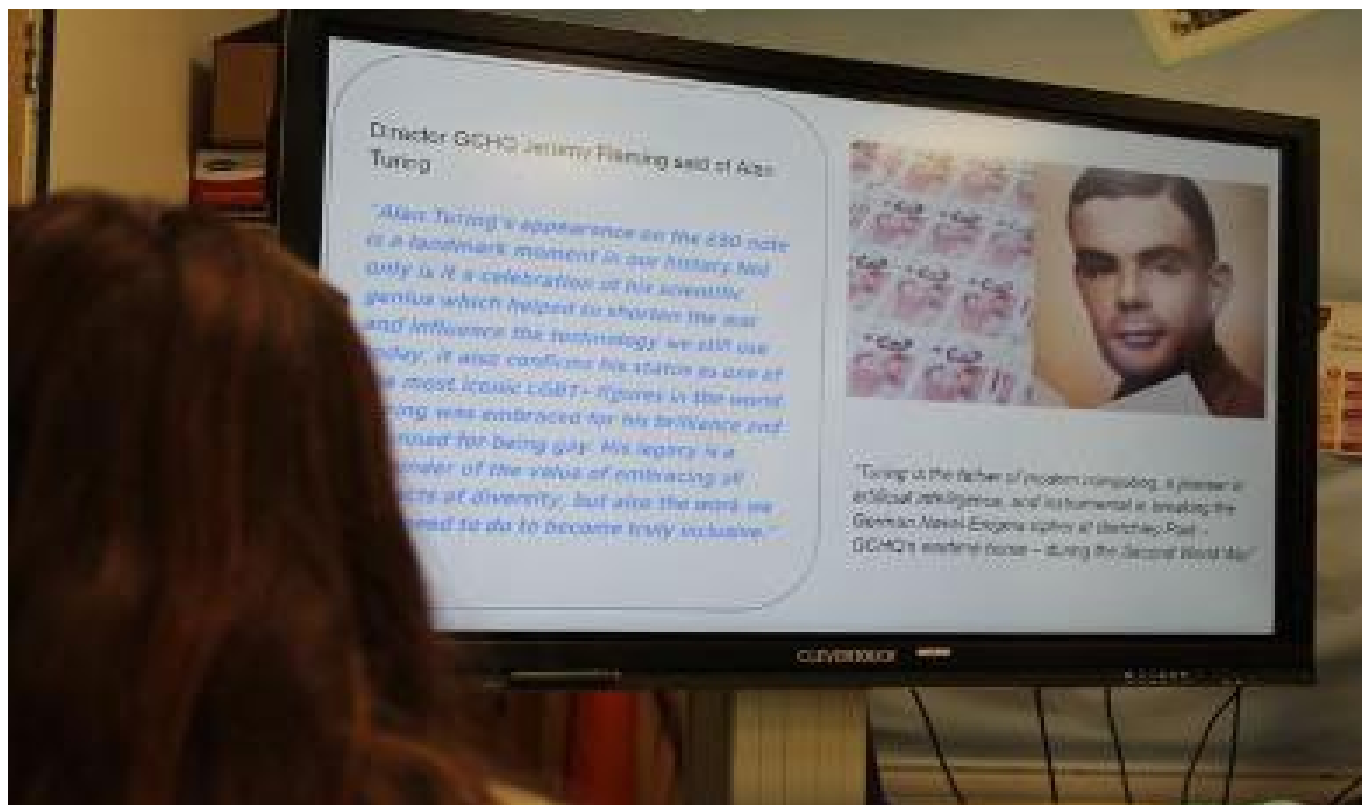
My class 8SDS came in joint first with another class! After that we completed a spreadsheet with lots of activities like codebreaking!

Later in Science we used a slidex and played Kahoots about Alan Turing. Last but not least for the last lesson we created origami tanks! It was probably the best lesson!

Rahima Khanom

Hummy Islam decided to use her Python skills she has learnt in the last few week's to design an interactive Python survey to find out students feelings on the Alan Turing Day.

Have a go with the code here - <https://trinket.io/python/6fe68a53fb> and well done Hummy!



```
trinket Stop Modules Share
main.py
1 youName= input ("What is your name?")
2 print ("Hi," + yourName + "!")
3 answer= input ("Did you like alan turing day? Yes or no?")
4 if answer== "yes":
5     print ("That's good!")
6 else:
7     print ("Too bad. :(")
8 response= input ("Was the original fun? Yes or no?")
9 if response== "yes":
10    print ("Good. I thought it was fun as well!")
11 else:
12    print ("Aw. That's too bad. I really enjoyed it.")
13 other= input ("What note is alan turing on?")
14 if note== "£50":
15    print ("Yes! Well done! You got it right!")
16 else:
17    print ("Aw. Too bad you got it wrong. It's the £50 note!")
18 birthday= input ("When is alan turing's birthday? " + yourName + "!")
19 if birthday== "June 23 1912":
20    print ("Well! Well done! You have super knowledge!")
21 else:
22    print ("Good try, but you got it wrong. He was born on June 23 1912.")
23 reply= input ("Where did Alan Turing work to solve the code?")
24 if reply== "Bletchley Park":
25    print ("Well done. You definitely know your stuff!")
26 else:
27    print ("Oops sorry but good try. The answer was Bletchley park!")
28 opinion= input ("Overall was your opinion good or bad?")
29 if opinion== "good":
30    print ("Great!")
31 elif opinion== "bad":
32    print ("Oh no!")
33 else:
34    print ("?")
35 rating = int(input("What would you rate Turing Day on a scale of 1-10?")
36 if rating > 8:
```


Careers department news

This term has been full of blended learning, focusing on linking careers with our curriculum subjects through virtual work experience and employer encounters. You can read more about this below.

The Deloitte Aspire Programme

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited, commonly referred to as Deloitte, is a multinational professional services network with offices in over 150 countries and territories around the world.

They are a leading global provider of audit and assurance, consulting, financial advisory, risk advisory, tax and related services.

Five of our Sixth Form students have been lucky enough to be selected to complete a three day work experience programme with the organisation.

The selection process was daunting, with an online skills assessment followed by an interview.

The delegates will be presented with live case studies and will be encouraged to lead, communicate and problem solve whilst interacting with senior members of the organisation.

Each student will be given a laptop (which they can then keep!) to work on during the programme.

Congratulations to Tasnima Salam, Lucia Scouzza, Salma Rahman, John Mateues and Hamaad Taj - we look forward to hearing about your experience.

Pearson Business School

The entire Sixth form completed virtual work experience on the 7th July. Accessed in school via their chromebooks, this was the perfect opportunity for our Year 12 students to undertake training which can then be added to their CV's.

Students interacted 'virtually' with professionals from IBM, L'Oreal, The BBC and Pearson Business School.

They saw first hand the importance of career networking and learned how to set up their own LinkedIn account.

Advice and guidance on how to perform well during an interview along with lessons about time management also form part of the experience.

Gaming virtual work experience

ICT students with an interest in gaming as a career path took part in this event.

Students from Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 will be boosting their employability through building new skills in VFX, Animation and Games.

They will take part in activities designed to challenge, inspire and expand their knowledge.

Delegates will be joined by industry experts from the likes of Animator Vine FX, Industrial Light & Magic, Factory 42 and Playground Games, who will share their own stories of breaking into the world of work, letting the group in on secrets that helped them secure their first job.

We look forward to hearing all about it .

Unifrog

We continue to embed our careers platform Unifrog into all areas of learning.

Based on the Myers Briggs model, this activity helps students to discover their personality type and how they perceive the world.

They then explore which careers are most commonly associated with their personality types. This can be a useful source of information and inspiration for very many young people.

Our Year 12 students are enjoying writing their personal statements on Unifrog ready for Higher Education applications next year, and the CV writing tool within the platform is useful for all those applying for part time work or post 18 full time jobs.

General Careers Department information

A key aim of the careers department is to ensure all our students have a post 16 or post 18 plan that they are motivated to achieve.

All appointments are student centred and provide attendees with a confidential platform to explore their choices and futures.

This term, 1-2-1 careers advice and guidance appointments with Sixth form students have continued and many of our Year 10 cohort have also had a careers session.

Students are able to request an appointment via their form tutors, by visiting the Careers Hub website accessed via the student homepage, or by emailing the careers department directly on rachel.purvis@mybiddenham.com

Finnley's Warriors

Any-K-A-Day

As you may recall in our last newsletter, over 35 staff took part in Finnley's Warriors Any-K-A-Day in April where they pledged to take part in a run, walk or cycle every day in April to raise awareness and funds for Children With Cancer UK.



It was an impressive effort by all the staff and their family and friends who also got involved. Together they covered 4,800km and helped to raise over £3000, which is a fantastic amount.

Mrs Neely-Hayes, whose son was diagnosed with Cancer aged 16 months in 2017 and is currently in remission would like to thank the staff and their families for their continued support. She said: "I am blown away with the amount of support that the Biddenham family continue to show Finnley's Warriors.

2017 was a dark year for my family, but the amount of support, awareness and money raised means that something positive has come from his diagnosis. Seeing these staff, all together for a photo was a powerful reminder of the staff who are willing to go the extra mile to make a difference."



Marathon Mike

You may have seen in the local news recently that Mr. Evans, our amazing PE teacher, decided to challenge himself over half term, when most of us were resting.

Mr. Evans ran seven marathons in seven days to raise awareness and money for Finnley's Warriors and Children With Cancer UK.

This phenomenal achievement included three marathons in Devon, and four in Bedford. Did you see him?

The last marathon was 17 laps of Great Denham Park and was supported by lots of his friends and other staff who helped him over the line.



Jesse Owens once said “In order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline and effort”

Whilst we agree with this, there's one ingredient missing, and that's a Mr. Evans!

Mrs Neely-Hayes writes “Thank you so so much for every step you have taken over the past few months to prepare for this.

You say every step is a step closer to home - we say every step is a step closer to a cure. One person can make a difference, but together we can change the world.

“Finn really looks up to you - you're an amazing role model for him. We're so proud of you.”

Mr. Evans has raised over a staggering £7,000 which will make a huge difference to the charity and the children it helps.

Mr. Evans said: “A huge thank you to all that supported me on this journey of a lifetime, from friends, family, colleagues, and students (current and past), your words of support and encouragement have been fantastic and will live with me forever.

“I am so glad that I can help such fantastic causes so one day no one has to suffer from this dreadful disease and hopefully it can inspire others to go beyond what they think they can do and help others along the way.”

Facebook: www.facebook.com/biddenham

Twitter: [@BiddenhamIntSch](https://twitter.com/BiddenhamIntSch)

Website: www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk



MUSIC MARK

As we come to the end of an extraordinary year there are many things to celebrate in the music department.

Eleanor Briscoe in year 8 has completed her grade 3 flute exam.

Justin Grosu and Florence Anderson have completed fantastic GCSE composition coursework. Trombone club is playing wonderful melodies and the ukulele club is still jamming together at lunchtime.

We are proud to announce that we have been re-awarded a Music Mark for outstanding music provision. The judges were impressed by our 'commitment to offer a broad, inclusive and balanced curriculum that includes many opportunities for children to perform and engage in music.'

We can't wait to have our choir back in September as restrictions start to lift.

A big well done to all our musicians, we are very proud of you.

Important news on School Uniform Shopping

As term draws to a close, we're already looking ahead to September. Our uniform provider SWI is working hard to make sure that despite the challenges posed by international shipping, Covid and Brexit, our parents will be able to find everything they need.

This is a reminder that the best way to ensure your child has all the uniform they need in good time for the start of the school year is to shop early, if this is possible for you.

Please visit the website of our uniform supplier SWI now, and register an account so that you can complete your shopping in good time and receive reminders, news on stock and special offers.

We know not all parents are able to shop early, but the challenges posed when large numbers of families shop in the last two weeks of August is something we are all keen to avoid. After what has been an interesting school year, please help us to help you to ensure we all return in September raring to go!

www.swischoolwear.co.uk

Help & Support

Should you wish to speak to a member of our Customer Service Team, please call 01928 752 610 or email customerservice@swi.co.uk

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IMPORTANT

The school is now going cashless and will be unable to accept cash or card payments
please sign up to ParentPay

ParentPay - our new online payment service

We are pleased to announce that we will shortly be accepting payments online for items such as dinner money, school trips and uniform. Using a secure website called ParentPay you will be able to pay online using your credit / debit card or continue to make cash payments at PayPoint stores. ParentPay will be our preferred method of making payments to school.

What are the benefits to parents & pupils?

- ParentPay is easy-to-use and will offer you the freedom to make online payments whenever and wherever you like, 24/7
- The technology used is of the highest internet security available ensuring that your money will reach school safely - offering you peace of mind
- Payments can be made by credit/debit card or also through PayPoint
- Full payment histories, balance alerts and statements are available to you securely online at anytime

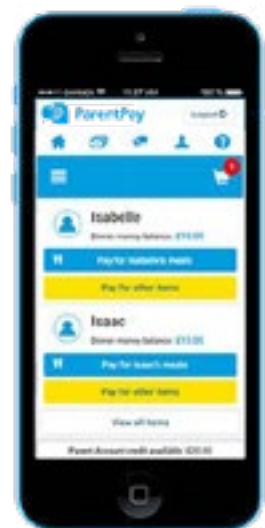
What are the benefits to our school?

- You can help us reduce workloads for all staff as no more counting cash, chasing debt and stop cash collection services
- Creates more time to lend to educational support and the smooth running of the school
- Improves school security
- Using ParentPay also ensures that all financial transactions are safe and secure - helping us to remove costs associated with us having to manage cash securely on the school premises
- The more parents that use ParentPay, the greater the benefit is to our school.

How to get started with ParentPay?

We will send you your account activation details. Once you receive these:

- Visit www.parentpay.com
- Enter your Activation username and password in the Account Login section of the homepage
NB. These are for one-time use only, please choose your own username and password for future access during the activation process
- Provide all the necessary information and choose your new username and password for your account - registering your email address will enable us to send you receipts and reminders
- Once activation is complete you can go straight to Items for payment, select which item(s) you want to add to your basket and proceed to complete your payment



If you have any questions, please contact the school finance office.
For more information, visit www.parentpay.com/parents/

YEAR 11 OUTDOOR PROM - AT SHARNBROOK





Sports Presentation Evening 2021

This year again saw a very different approach to our 17th annual Sports Presentation Evening, where due to COVID once again meant it took place virtually. However this year was also unique in the fact that due to the restrictions we were unable to run any fixtures and inter school competitions, which usually form the main section of our awards programme, but we still wanted to recognise all the amazing work of our students this year. We introduced some new awards for both PE and Performing Arts, where we awarded them based on students hard work, dedication and commitment to core PE, dance lessons and our extra curricular program, with over 100 students receiving the new awards. It is a huge achievement to get one of these and any recipient of one should be extremely proud as we are of them.

The one constant with other Sports Presentation Evenings were are main awards. These are in recognition of student hard work not just this year but over their whole time here at Biddenham.

The Leadership Awards for male and female went to Ajhanti Aries and Aman Iqbal. Ajhanti won the award for her outstanding work and enthusiasm with the cheerleading squad after school club, running sessions and encouraging all who attended, being a true asset, to the coaching team. Aman Iqbal for throughout his time here at Biddenham, it was clear to see his passion and enthusiasm for sport shining through where he was been integral in a range of extra curricular activities both for Biddenham and our feeder schools, leading by example in all he did.

The Neil Tysoe Endeavor Award is for a student who is earnest, conscientious, accomplished and who never gives up despite what is thrown at them and this years winner Sabin Manae encompasses all of this in bucket loads. From extensive extra curricular sport participation which led him to excel at GCSE PE and then on to BTEC Sport, always giving his best and looking for support to ensure he achieved the best he could, which he did.

The main awards of Outstanding Contribution to Sport for male and female went to Alex Cowley, Zuzanna Halicka and Wiktorja Halicka.

Alex was always keen to support others in lessons and was an integral part of our leadership programme both within school and with our feeder schools, being a perfect ambassador. Along side this he represented the school in a wide range of sports and excelled at both GCSE and BTEC Sport. It has been our pleasure to be part of this young man's sporting journey and he will go on to do great things and help so many people

Zuzanna was always supportive within lessons and would always ensure that everyone in the class, even those who may not have enjoyed sports engaged within the lessons to get the best experience. She was always willing to support the department and challenge herself wherever she could which lead her to GCSE and BTEC Sport with the end goal of a PE teacher to which we know she will be amazing.

Wiktorja has a huge passion for playing sports and has always taken her studies seriously, always striving to do the best she possibly can and most importantly knowing that a balance of academia and performance is the key to her success. She has been a true asset to us as a PE department and this is going to continue with her new role as our PE Technican next year before pursuing a career in PE teaching herself. She completely fulfils the motto of 'you can achieve anything if you really want to.'

Day of Sport

This year saw the return of the Day of Sport on the school site having held last year's event virtually. The excitement for not just the students but also the staff was evident in the build up to the event, with a buzz around the school and friendly rivalries reignited for the sporting battle-grounds.

Students competed in a wide range of sports, including the crowd favourite tug of war. It was so great to see students finally being able to compete in sports which has been missed for so long and embraced by everyone which is amazing to see. Both staff and students got straight into the events, most dressed in their house colour to show their pride in their house team and what a day it was, from the very beginning to the very end it was non stop fun, enjoyment and activity. It was such an amazing sight to see the whole school out enjoying sport, being active and competing in a variety of sports and was the best one to date.

There were two awards up for grabs on the day, the Day of Sport Cup and the overall House Cup for the entire year. The Day of Sport Cup was won by Akabusi house, narrowly followed by Radcliffe house and the overall House Cup was won by Davies house the second consecutive year.

Although it may be over you can see the passion on students faces (and staff) to start September on the front foot to either avenge the losses or for some to hold on to the trophies.



