

BIDDENHAM BULLETIN

JAN 2024
ISSUE NO 1
AUTUMN TERM
OCT - DEC 2023



F1 STEM DAY

THE ADDAMS FAMILY

SIXTH FORM AWARDS

AND MUCH MORE!

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Festive fundraising to Christmas carolling. Discover how the school got into the seasonal spirit.

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UPCOMING SCHOOL DATES SPRING TERM: JAN - MAR 2024

Mark your calendars with key school dates for the spring term ahead.

BLACK

HISTORY

MONTH

On 31st Oct, in observance of Black History Month, Biddenham presented our first ever spoken word night: Celebration of Belonging.



An evening of poetry, performance and an accompanying art exhibition. Work was produced and presented by students, staff and our guest poet Anthea Speaks.



Still images created in a Year 7 Drama lesson in response to a Black History Windrush lesson.





ANTHEA'S POEM

**It's like being part of a family,
You see, we're packed full of diversity,
Students – we come from different countries,
Which means we can share our cultural stories.
Like an around the world pick and mix,
With less of the drama and politics,
Staff from all ages and races and places,
But we try to be a school that embraces.
You.**

**The food in the canteen? Well, it's great!
The chocolate cracknels, chocolate toothpaste cake,
Honestly, the cookies also bang!
They could be designer like clothes by Vera Wang!
There's definitely something new for everyone to try,
Clubs and sports for the bold and the shy,
Each student gets a Chromebook,
It's a great evolution of the textbook!**

**It makes us smile and I think we all agree,
That Mr Bailey's suits are quite crazy!
The staff are supportive and there to help you.
The aim is for all students will reach their full
potential,
To do this, the teachers are very influential,
Education has power to transform lives,
At Biddenham International School, education
thrives.**

Anthea Davis-Barclay, 2023



BIDDENHAM & BEDFORD BLUES



21st Oct - Our students waving on the Blues.
Thank you to Bedford Blues Foundation for this incredible programme, opportunity, and experience.



"A wonderful experience from start to finish, for a group of lads who have never seen a game of rugby before. The coaching session was fun, engaging and they learnt a lot, even the weather couldn't dampen spirits."



"The guard of honour was a great touch as the boys felt "famous" (in their words) by being part of the match itself and then having great seats to watch their first ever game of rugby was one they will not forget."



"This is something that us as a school a really grateful for, especially as it was lead by an ex student made it even better to us and the students. We cannot wait to do it again." - Head of P.E. at Biddenham International School

PROJECT BASED LEARNING

Y8 500 WORDS COMPETITION

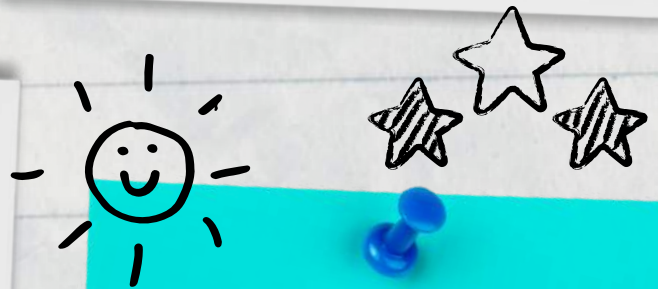
13th NOV - Y8 PBL
finalists of the 500 word
short story project
celebrated their work with
local authors, who picked out
4 top winners and gave
expert advice and feedback
to our budding writers.



Judge panellist: Sue Upton, Nasreen Rafiq, Peter Gallivan & Alison Nicholson.



Y8's story
workshop with
local authors



As part of the 500 word short story
project, we are currently in the process
of creating a book with all the finalist
stories for parents to purchase.

Congratulations to Shamina Ram who
won the student competition to
design the book cover!





500

Words



The project Based Learning
Department Presents Biddenham School
Top 20 Short Stories of 2023



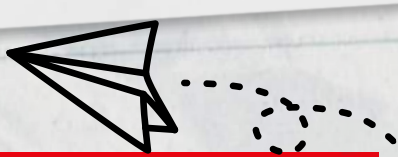
Alastair Campbell's Visit



Alastair delivered a talk and workshop to our Year 13 Psychology students on politics, psychological wellbeing, and Schizophrenia.



13th Nov - We welcomed Alastair Campbell (former journalist, political strategist, and mental health campaigner) to our school.


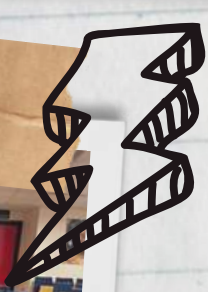


THE NO.1 SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER


**BUT
WHAT
CAN
i DO?**

Why politics has gone so wrong,
and how you can help fix it

**Alastair
Campbell**

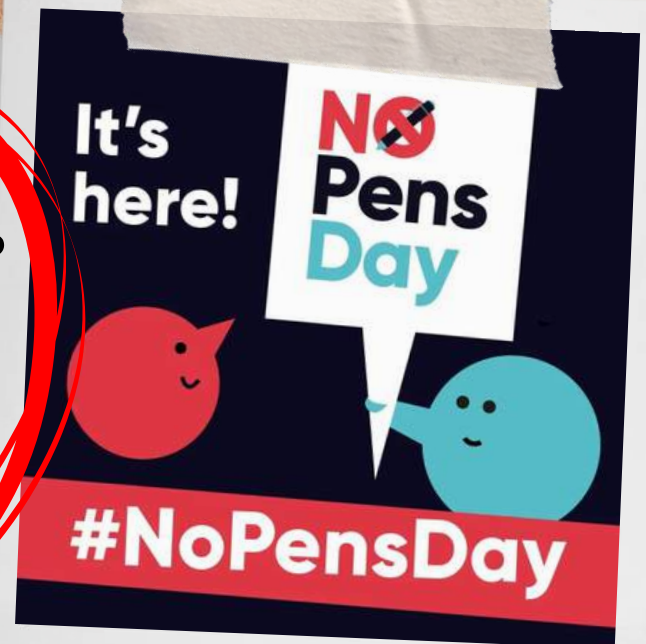


All students received a signed copy of his new book 'But What Can I Do?' filled with practical advice and motivational tips on campaigning for systemic change.



For more wisdom from Campbell listen to The Rest Is Politics Podcast!

#NoPensDay



29th Nov - Across the school we got involved in #NoPensDay.



Students took part in debates, discussions, role play, and practical activities.



All to raise awareness and support for speech, language, and communication needs.

MENU



YEAR 10'S - DEBONING CHICKEN FOR THE FIRST TIME. THEY USED THE CHICKEN AS A FILLING FOR A PIE LATER IN THE WEEK.



YEAR 8'S - STUDENTS MADE THEIR OWN BATTER TO MAKE THIS STAPLE DISH OF TOAD IN THE HOLE!



YEAR 9'S - FOCUSED ON BINDING INGREDIENTS TOGETHER TO MAKE HOME MADE BEEF BURGERS AND WEDGES!



YEAR 10'S - MADE THEIR OWN MAYONNAISE AND USED IT TO CREATE A COLESLAW!



YEAR 7'S - BEAUTIFUL CHOPPING SKILLS. PREPARING INGREDIENTS FOR A STIR FRY!



YEAR 9'S - FOCUSED ON BINDING INGREDIENTS TOGETHER TO MAKE HOME MADE BEEF BURGERS AND WEDGES!



YEAR 10'S - MADE HONEY CARAMEL AND PEAR COBBLER. HOW DELICIOUS!



YEAR 9'S - FIRST GCSE LESSON. THEY CREATED SOME WONDERFUL SHORTBREAD BISCUITS!



YEAR 9'S - FIRST GCSE LESSON. THEY CREATED SOME WONDERFUL SHORTBREAD BISCUITS!



SCHOOL TRIPS



6th Oct - Year 10 Textiles students visited the Knitting and Stitching Show at Alexandra Palace in London.



Students were able to see exhibitions and demonstrations by Textile artists and designers. Some managed to interview artists for their GCSE Coursework projects and have their photo taken with the artist.



9th Oct 2023 - The National Museum of Computing, Bletchley Park



Students visited the National Museum of Computing, Bletchley for Ada Lovelace Day.



This was an opportunity for them to experience interactive, innovative and careers focussed activities and hear from inspirational women in the industry.



This visit was to enthuse young women in their pursuit and engagement with STEM subjects.



19th Oct - GCSE and A-level Drama students visited the Noel Coward Theatre, London.



The trip was to analyse and evaluate the work of live theatre makers.



They saw the acclaimed stage adaption of The Ocean at the End of the Lane.



13th Oct 2023 - MK Innovates Festival. This trip gave year 12 & 13 students an understanding of the different careers in STEM and business.



Exhibitors included Redbull, Natwest, Tesla and ABB robotics. A good day was had!



**15th / 17th Nov - Year 8
Residential Trip to Castleton,
Peak District**



**Students explored the
Treak Cliff Cavern**



**Whilst also completing a 5 mile
walk up Mam Tor!**



**They learnt all about the local
geology and how people use
the land in the area.**



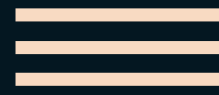
**30th Nov - Year 8 Day trip to Hare
Krishna Temple, Watford**



**Students explored a mock Tudor manor
house, plentiful gardens, and an
organic farm.**



15TH NOV 2023



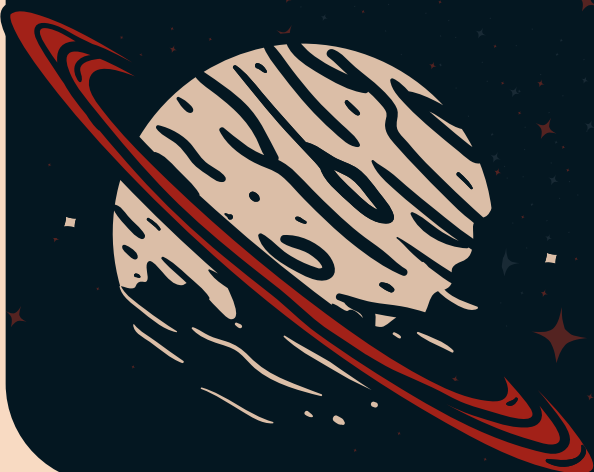
THE NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE



Year 9's took a trip to The National Space Centre in Leicester.



They explored the cosmos, what it takes to get into space, and took on the Rocket Challenge to produce their own spacecraft!



22ND NOV 2023

F1 STEM DAY

IN ASSOCIATION THE SMALL PIECE TRUST



IN NOVEMBER, THE SMALL PIECE TRUST HOSTED A STEM WORKSHOP FOR YEAR 10. FROM CONCEPT TO CREATION, STUDENTS SHOWCASED PRACTICAL AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT SKILLS BY DESIGNING THEIR VERY OWN RACING CAR. ALL WHILST LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE INTRICACIES OF MOTORSPORT ENGINEERING.

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM (TRING)

29TH NOV 2023



YEAR 8 STUDENTS LEARNED ABOUT VARIATION AND EVOLUTION, CHECKING OUT THE DISPLAYS (INCLUDING THE NOW EXTINCT DODO), AND TOOK PART IN A WORKSHOP, GETTING UP CLOSE TO SOME OF THE EXHIBITS.





The Addams Family

A NEW MUSICAL
COMEDY





A few highlights from our spectacular spooky show of The Addams Family!

Congratulations to all the cast and crew involved within the making of this production. From on stage to behind the scenes, and all you've achieved these last few months whilst rehearsing and studying is incredible. Thank you to all those who came to support our star students. We can't wait to see what they put on next. Until 2024!



14th Dec - Santa's sixth form helpers sorting out the Bedford Foodbank donations for Christmas in a box. Thank you all for your generous offerings.



14th Dec - We took 41 Year 7 students to see 'Cinderella' in Milton Keynes. We all had a lot of fun - oh yes we did! Students and staff had a great afternoon.



6th Dec - Our Be You programme students getting into the Christmas spirit, creating their own personal role model placards as decorations. The theme was Kings and Queen. The decorations were displayed in St Paul's Church.



**20th Dec - Warm
welcome on the last day
of term from Santa aka
Principal Mr Bailey.**



**Throughout December, Gary Richardson has
been selling his beautiful handmade wood
crafted items. All whilst raising funds for
Finnleys Warriors. Within three days, he
raised £550. By the end of term he raised
over £800!**

**For further information, payment and/or
commissions contact Gary at
gary.richardson@mybiddenham.com**



**16th Dec - A selection of the school choir attended and
performed at A Ceremony of Carols with Bedford
Choral Society. They all had an amazing afternoon
singing a variety of traditional and modern Christmas
carols. Well done to our super singing stars!**

JOIN US FOR



SIXTH FORM

Awards Evening

A CELEBRATION OF STUDENT
SUCCESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

Tuesday 19th December

Arrival Time:

6:00pm

For 2023 Leavers & Year 13 /14 Cohort

Biddenham International School
Opening Minds. Transforming Lives.



19th Dec 2023 SIXTH FORM Awards Evening

**A CELEBRATION OF STUDENT
SUCCESS AND ACHIEVEMENT**

"Dream big. Work hard. Believe in yourself. Collect them stones. And never forget that your journey starts right here. Right now."

Last night we welcomed back our 2023 leavers to congratulate and celebrate their academic results and successes.

Thank you to our honorary guest speaker of the evening, Toqeer Masud. A former student from 2002 - 2008. Law graduate, now a solicitor partner with Hannah Solicitors LLP.

Special shout-outs to Jasmine Nyenya and Justin Grosu for providing beautiful music intervals throughout the evening.

Well done to every award winner. We wish all our students a bright and successful future ahead and can't wait to see what they individually achieve next.





Upcoming School Dates

JANUARY

♥ 4TH JAN: RETURN TO SCHOOL ♥

✍ 4TH - 5TH JAN: Y12 L2 ASSESSMENT WEEK & LEVEL 1 FUNCTIONAL SKILLS MATHS ✍

✓ 8TH - 12TH JAN: Y8 HOD MODERATION & CHECKING ✓

🏠 9TH JAN: Y7 QUEENS PARK FAITH TOUR 🏠

🌐 10TH JAN: KS3 CLIMATE SUMMIT TRIP 🌐

🔊 10TH JAN: Y7 FIRST GIVE LAUNCH ASSEMBLY 🔊

🏰 12TH JAN: Y9 DT TRIP TO SILVERSTONE EDUCATION MUSEUM 🏰

💉 16TH JAN: Y9 DTP & ACWWY VACCINATIONS 💉

✓ 16TH JAN: Y11 & Y12 L2 - REVIEW TARGETS ✓

🐟 17TH JAN: Y7 TRIP TO SEA LIFE CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM 🐟

⚖ 18TH JAN: 6TH FORM TRIP TO THE ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE, LONDON ⚖

🍷 18TH JAN: Y9 & Y11 TRIP TO BLOOD BROTHERS, WOKING 🍷

👯 19TH JAN: GCSE DANCE EXAM 👯

📺 19TH JAN: Y9 TRACKING TO PARENTS 📺

✓ 22ND - 26TH JAN: Y11 - Y12 L2 HOD MODERATION AND CHECKING ✓

✍ 23RD JAN: Y13 L3 - REVIEW TARGETS / FORMAL WRITTEN REPORTS ✍

👥 23RD JAN: Y9 PARENTS EVENING (FACE TO FACE) 👥

🎭 25TH JAN: DRAMA TRIP TO QUARRY THEATRE 🎭

📺 26TH JAN: Y11 REPORTS TO PARENTS 📺

🏀 28TH JAN: BRITISH BASKETBALL LEAGUE CUP FINAL 🏀

👥 30TH JAN: Y11 PARENTS EVENING (FACE TO FACE) 👥

🦖 1ST FEB: Y9 TRIP TO THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM 🦖

🍷 1ST FEB: TRIP TO EDWARD SCISSORHANDS 🍷

💇 2ND FEB: Y11 TRIP TO BEDFORD COLLEGE HAIR & BEAUTY 💇

✍ 5TH - 9TH FEB: Y10 ASSESSMENT WEEK ✍

✓ 5TH - 9TH FEB: YR13 L3 - HOD MODERATION & CHECKING ✓

🎭 6TH FEB: A LEVEL DRAMA EXAMS 🎭

📺 9TH FEB: Y12 & 13 REPORTS TO PARENTS 📺

✍ 12TH - 16TH FEB: Y7 ASSESSMENT WEEK ✍

🎭 12TH FEB: A LEVEL DRAMA EXAMS 🎭

🥞 13TH FEB: SHROVE TUESDAY / PANCAKE DAY 🥞

👥 13TH FEB: SIXTH FORM PARENTS EVENING (FACE TO FACE) 👥

🌹 14TH FEB: VALENTINE'S DAY 🌹

😴 19TH - 23RD FEB: HALF TERM 😴

✍ 26TH FEB - 1ST MARCH: Y12 L3 ASSESSMENT WEEK ✍

✍ 26TH FEB - 1ST MARCH: Y8 ASSESSMENT WEEK ✍

🎵 28TH FEB: MUSIC RECITAL + REHEARSAL 🎵

FEBRUARY

MARCH

📅 4TH - 8TH MARCH: Y12 & Y13 PRACTICE EXAMS 📅

📅 6TH MARCH: Y12 TRIP - PWC PATHWAY TO FLYING START PROGRAMME 📅

📊 6TH MARCH: Y10 FORMAL WRITTEN REPORTS 📊

📊 8TH MARCH: Y7 FORMAL WRITTEN REPORTS 📊

💕 10TH MARCH: MOTHER'S DAY 💕

🌙 10TH MARCH - 8TH APRIL: RAMADAN 🌙

📅 11TH - 15TH MARCH: Y11 ASSESSMENT WEEK 📅

✅ 11TH - 15TH MARCH: Y7 & Y10 - HOD MODERATION AND CHECKING ✅

🚧 13TH MARCH: YOUNG CARERS ACTION DAY 🚧

✅ 14TH MARCH: Y12 L3 COMPLETE TRACKING ✅

📊 15TH MARCH: Y7 REPORTS TO PARENTS 📊

✳ 17TH MARCH: ST PATRICK'S DAY ✳

📅 18TH - 22ND MARCH: Y10 ICT & BUSINESS STUDIES CONTROLLED ASSESSMENTS 📅

✅ 18TH - 22ND MARCH: Y12 L3 - HOD MODERATION & CHECKING ✅

💚 18TH MARCH: GCSE DRAMA PREP DAY 💚

🏃 18TH MARCH: SPRING INTO DANCE - TECH RUN 🏃

💚 19TH MARCH: GCSE DRAMA EXAMS 💚

📊 19TH MARCH: Y8 - COMPLETE TRACKING 2ND ROTATION 📊

🏃 19TH MARCH: SPRING INTO DANCE - DRESS RUN 🏃

📊 20TH MARCH: Y10 REPORTS TO PARENTS 📊

💚 22ND MARCH: GCSE DRAMA EXAMS 💚

📊 22ND MARCH: Y12 L3 TRACKING TO PARENTS 📊

🏃 22ND MARCH: SPRING INTO DANCE SHOW 🏃

✅ 25TH - 29TH MARCH: Y8 AND Y13 HOD MODERATION & CHECKING ✅

💚 25TH & 26TH MARCH: GCSE DRAMA PREP 💚

📊 28TH MARCH: Y13 L3 TRACKING TO PARENTS 📊

✝ 29TH MARCH: GOOD FRIDAY ✝

🐣 29TH MARCH - 12TH APRIL: EASTER HOLIDAYS 🐣

BIDDENHAM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL & SPORTS COLLEGE



OPENING MINDS, TRANSFORMING LIVES

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