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N E W S L E T T E R

OCTOBER 2011

Headteacher's Hello

October has been the month of visitors. At the beginning of the month we welcomed over 2,200 parents and prospective students to our school. The students acting as guides and also helpers within faculties were tremendous ambassadors for the school. Following the event we received many favourable letters and emails praising the students.

On the 13th and 14th October Ofsted arrived in the guise of five inspectors. The school only gets two days notice of their visit. They visited lessons, talked to students, interviewed many staff and worked through the school's data, paperwork and systems. In addition they met with Governors and analysed the students, staff and parental questionnaires. Ofsted are currently finalising their report which will be published after half term. We will ensure all families receive a copy at the beginning of next half term.

We are all looking forward to a restful holiday and hopefully a less frenetic second half term!

Josephine Valentine

Headteacher

Forthcoming Events

Monday 31st Oct	School re-opens, 8.40am
Tuesday 1st Nov	Year 7 French Theatre in Barbirolli
Tuesday 8th Nov	Year 10 Science GCSE exam Musical Aptitude Test for secondary transfer applicants at 4.00pm
Wednesday 9th Nov	Year 10 Maths GCSE exam Year 8 Girls HPV Vaccination (2nd dose)
Friday 11th Nov	Remembrance Service
Tuesday 15th Nov	Year 11 Science GCSE exam
Wednesday 16th Nov	Year 11 Sixth Form Options Evening (7pm)
Friday 18th Nov	Year 9 Spanish Theatre in Barbirolli
Saturday 19th Nov	Academic test for secondary transfer applicants
Wednesday 23rd Nov	Commemoration Choir and orchestra rehearsal, 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Friday 25th Nov	Commemoration Services
Monday 28th Nov	Occasional day's holiday (school closed)
Tuesday 29th Nov	Year 8 French Theatre in Barbirolli
Wednesday 30th Nov	Year 9 Parents Consultation Eve (5pm)

Halloween

Every year I remind students about expected and reasonable behaviour in the local area on Halloween. In recent years students have been mature enough to heed our advice and I hope that will be the case this year. I ask parents to support us over this matter.

In the past a few irresponsible students have acted in an inappropriate manner. The school has responded with the severest punishments. "Trick or Treat" is a harmless activity for young children - not teenagers. When groups of teenagers are involved their actions can be interpreted as threatening by members of our local community. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Josephine Valentine

Headteacher

Commemoration Reminder to Year 7 Parents

Due to a shortage of space in St Clement Danes Church, we need to limit the amount of Year 7 parents going to the Commemoration service. If you are a parent of a Year 7 student who has not previously had a sibling in Year 7, your name will go forward to a Lottery. Fifty names will be drawn by Friday 4th November and only these Year 7 parents will be allowed to attend the service.

Following the service those 50 parents, if they so wish, may meet their child and make their own arrangements for after the service. We will also allow those parents who have had no sibling in Year 7 but whose names were not drawn from the Lottery, to meet their son/daughter after the Service.

Exams Information

All students in years 10, 11, 12 and 13 have been sent a letter regarding public examination and coursework/ controlled assessment rules.

Timetables for those students doing an examination in November (mostly year 10) were also enclosed in this mailing. These timetables detail the seat number in the exam room and students will need to remember these for each examination.

Students should line up outside the Barbirolli Hall, 20 minutes before the published start time of the examination and must make sure they bring the correct equipment.

Please contact the Exams office if you have not received a letter (and timetable where appropriate) or if you have any queries concerning public exams.

Mrs D Harvey

Exams Officer

Parents' Association BULLETIN

The PA wants to thank everyone involved with the setting up and clearing up after the Autumn Ball, particular thanks going to the Grounds Staff for helping out at short notice. Thanks also to the Kitchen Team for a delicious meal and all the students for their hard work waiting tables.

The next PA event is the Christmas Craft & Gift Fair to be held on Sunday 27 November 11am – 4pm and we will be hoping to get people along to help on the stands, with the food, baking cakes etc, as well as urging everyone to come along and support the event. There will be further bulletins about this in due course.

The next Committee Meeting is the AGM which will be held on Tuesday November 10th at 7.30. This will be followed by an ordinary meeting. Everyone is welcome. For further information please contact scdpa@hotmail.co.uk

Christmas Craft & Gift Fair

Sunday 27 November

11am – 4pm in the Barbirolli Hall

Prize Draw tickets will be on sale from the beginning of November. £1 per ticket

All donations of unwanted gifts, bottles and other prizes for the tombola as well as cakes and second hand uniform should be handed in to student reception please

WORK EXPERIENCE 2011

The Overall Work Experience Prize Winner was Anish Patel who worked at Cinnamon Square.

My placement was at the communications department of Brent Council, located near Wembley Stadium. Throughout the week I learnt many new skills as I was given tasks such as editing the webpage, drafting press releases and contacting photographers to use in the Council's magazine spread. On Wednesday I was lucky enough to shadow the Mayor of Brent, and visited a homeless shelter and attended meetings with Mencap and the High Commissioner of St Lucia. Although the early starts and long hours of the week were somewhat tedious, I really enjoyed the experience and had a fantastic time!

Serena Basra 11L

My placement was at the pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline in Stevenage. Throughout the week I visited a number of different areas on the site, mainly in biology or chemistry, which were involved in different stages of drug discovery and development. I was also able to do some practical work based in the laboratories in addition to watching others complete more complex experiments. During the week I especially enjoyed the practical work as it was very different from tasks I had done before. I think my work experience was very useful as it gave me an insight into jobs that could be involved in science and whether or not this would interest me in the future.

Ellen Bamford 11L

I spent the week working at Cinnamon Square in Rickmansworth. During the week I got to see different sides of the work place including the patisserie area, kitchen and front counter. Most of my time was spent in the patisserie area learning to make and finish lemon meringue pies, frangipans, fruit tarts and eclairs. I really enjoyed working with Hazel as she taught me many new techniques and she was very friendly. I also spent a day in the kitchen preparing and making sandwiches and baguettes as well as observing how the kitchen is run. On my last day I worked at the front counter serving customers, making teas and coffees. Overall I found the week very interesting and a valuable experience as it has helped me see what I potentially would like to do in the future.

Anish Patel 11E

Episerver are a computer platform company similar to the frog server that we use at school but they are used by larger companies. On my first day I was thrown in at the deep end as I had to create a demo website for the wine company Majestic Wine. I had to use their current website to source bottles of wine and I had to find a description about them, what type of cork and whether it was a fruity red or a dry white. During the week I went to various meetings with clients who needed help with the technical side of their websites. I really enjoyed my week as I learnt how to create a website and sat through some interesting meetings.

Tom Hendrie 11A



Julian Smith (John Lewis)

I went to Heritage House, a school for severely disabled children in Chesham. At the start of the week it was quite a challenge to communicate with the children. For example one girl, aged 6, hummed all the time. The best way to communicate with her was through music or to sing to her. She really enjoyed it when I played songs from 'The Sound of Music'. By the end of the week I found it a much more comfortable environment and felt that I could communicate with each of the children according to their needs. Overall I really enjoyed my week helping at the school and feel that this is an area which I would work in the future.

Naomi Chadder 11S

My placement was in Watford Football Club's Media Department. As an avid Watford supporter and having a keen interest in Sport Media, it was a perfect placement! The department boss didn't make any allowances for the fact that I have not yet studied media and asked me to transcribe and report on interviews conducted with two players. Both of my articles were published on the WFC Website and I was also given the opportunity to meet a new player within an hour of him signing with the Club. Unfortunately the timing of the placement meant that it was pre-season but I have been invited back in my own time during half term so I can observe the office operating during the football season and also to sit with the Media Team during a home fixture in October. I had a memorable week that also provided valuable experience and insight into the career I want to pursue.

Will Cottle 11A

My work experience was at the head office of Tesco. I was with the Store Planning Team in Property Services. Their job is to plan the inside of Tesco Extras including how the store will be laid out and the position of

WORK EXPERIENCE 2011



Amy Hutchins and Robyn Clay (Berry Lane Nursery School)

different products. My week involved time in the office learning about how plans are put together and then sent over to Tesco's support centre in India to be drawn up. I also attended the Planning Approval Committee. This meeting involved people from all different departments such as finance and merchandising who all need to be consulted to agree the plans. My favourite part of the week was visiting stores in the process of being refurbished or built. I particularly enjoyed Hemel Hempstead, my local store where I completed the design for the new bakery and was pleased to find out that they would really use my plan. I look forward to visiting the store in November when the refurbishment is complete to see how it looks.

Eleanor Masters-Gregory 11B

My work experience is something that I will never forget. Instead of going somewhere local I went for something a little more ambitious as I felt this would relate to me in the future. I spent a long time applying to different places situated in the centre of London. After lots of research and phone calls I found PWC. PriceWaterhouseCoopers, one of the largest account firms in the world. With 43 offices in the UK alone I couldn't believe the opportunity I was given. At my preliminary visit I was taken on a tour that took an hour and a half. I was working in the media section where I would update the website, also I helped film live broadcasts for the new video links. My favourite day was when I worked on reception where I would meet new people every five minutes, the exciting part was meeting possible millionaires. I was given the task of booking meeting rooms, bringing refreshments and sometimes even joining in some of the meetings. However there were some minor disadvantages as I spent four hours a day travelling. I learnt many valuable skills for interviews and also how to book appointments and travel. I am amazed that I was given this brilliant opportunity.

Lawrence Michalowski 11A

I went to BBC Worldwide, the company that deals with the merchandise for BBC television programmes. During the week I did a number of different activities. Sometimes I was in the office producing powerpoints for the company and doing 'real-time research' about what people had been saying about a certain product in the past week. I also gained a lot of experience about what the company does as I sat in on a multitude of meetings. One day I spent the morning at the Masterchef set as BBC Worldwide had helped to create their new cookery range and it was being shown to John Lewis store managers. There were a number of guest speakers, two being celebrity chefs and judges on the programme, John Torode and Michel Roux Jr. I went to the Boots Christmas preview of all the stock they will be selling as the BBC Worldwide has helped to create the Strictly Come Dancing makeup range so I particularly enjoyed that day. I also went to the Christmas preview of toy manufacturers Hasbro and came away with a goody bag, as well as getting a tour around BBC Television Centre. I am so pleased I got this placement, it will look fantastic on my CV and I had a lot of fun.

Lily Nelson 11E



George Pilling (The Box Moor Trust)



Jono Avis and Laura Stainsby (Clas Ohlson)

I had the opportunity to work in the stem cell research laboratories at the Magdi Yacoub Institute, which is part of Harefield Hospital. It is hoped one day that stem cells can be used to repair diseased heart valves in humans. After attending the weekly research staff presentation, things got a bit more exciting. I spent most of my week shadowing researchers, and I was given different experiments each day, such as observing animal cell cultures growth and movement through digital microscopes. I came away exhausted after a week's experimenting, however I do now understand that what we learn in science is a job for some people doing really important work to cure human illnesses.

James Price 11D

I went to a branding and digital business called Rufus Leonard in London. It was extremely eventful. During the week I was given a brief from their client Lloyds TSB regarding their sponsorship of the 2012 Olympics. I was able to experience the different departments within the company, which ranged from the creative department to the structural department. Overall I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Rufus Leonard, consequently inspiring me to get involved within the media which is something I may wish to pursue in the future.

Isabelle Patel 11T



Chantelle Woodward-Iles (Red Lion Farm)



Christopher Strong (Hetheringtons)



George Selwood (Premier Travel Inn)



Lotta Gustafsson (The Institute of Child Health)



PERFORM 150 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS The Talents

From November through to April 2012 with an **ipad 2** as the winner's prize

Thank you to all the students who have agreed to take part in The Talents. Apart from helping us to raise money, we hope you have fun and learn something about charity fundraising.

There are plenty of things than you can do to help raise money. If you're unsure about your fundraising idea, just see Mr Hampson.

Talents – Perform 150 will run from the time you get your £10 loan in early November until April 23rd 2012.

There will be three days in the course of the year when you can bring in the money you've raised.

These dates are

12th December 2011 · 6th February 2012 · 12th March 2012

We will be handing out prizes on these dates for the really impressive fundraisers amongst you.

Thank you once again. Good luck with the fundraising. Remember there's an ipad2 up for grabs for the individual who raises the most money.

- ★ Set up a car washing service for your street
- ★ Advertise your services to help tidy your neighbours' gardens (Autumn is a key time)
- ★ Make cakes and serve them at a Talents coffee morning at home – charge your own rates
- ★ Be involved in one of the special Year group Perform 150 Days at school*
- ★ Think about having a Talents stall at the Parents' Association Craft Fair on November 27th*

The St Clement Danes 150th Teddy – *more details to follow launched early November through to September 2012

150th Greetings Card and individual photos for sale – early November

150th Craft Fair and Prize Draw Raffle (1st prize ipad 2) - Sunday 27th November in The Barbirolli Hall