Dear Parents

Issue 9 is another ‘full’ edition featuring lots of school news and information about student successes. Below are a number of items we would like to draw your attention to:

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STOP PRESS 1: INVESTOR IN CAREERS – FULL AWARD SUCCESS

We are delighted that Bradon Forest is the first school in the Wiltshire/Swindon/Oxfordshire area to have been awarded the ‘Full’ Investors in Careers (IiC) award passing through the final assessment with flying colours. Congratulations to Mr Hutchings (Progression Manager), Mr Winward (Deputy Headteacher), the Progression, PSHE, Pastoral and Learning Support teams, and the students involved - they did a sterling job. It’s great to see all their hard work and commitment being recognised in such a positive way. Further details and photographs will be in the next issue.

STOP PRESS 2: QUEEN’S VISIT TO SALISBURY

The school was recently given the opportunity to send two students to take part in the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations in Salisbury. Mr Otter accompanied Cora Danieli and Erin Donnelly who were selected to attend as winners of our Royal Family competition.

The focus for the day was the history of Wiltshire, and there was a range of exhibits including rare farmyard animals, displays of medieval life and falconry (in which one of the birds refused to come down from a tree). Each place in Wiltshire had a display tent (Purton’s was about the Astronomer Neville Maskelyne). Despite a rather rainy morning, they had an enjoyable day and managed to get great views of the Queen.

MEMORIAL DAY FOR MR THOMAS (See poster on Page 13)

The arrangements for the Chris Thomas Memorial Day on 14 May 2012 are coming along nicely and Miss Colbert would like to draw your attention to the raffle that she is organising to raise money for Cancer research and the Oncology ward which were Mr Thomas’ chosen charities. She has been working very hard to get plenty of prizes together to raise a lot of money. In addition, we will be running a tombola and cake stall on the day. If you are able provide a raffle/tombola prize or provide cakes for this worthwhile cause, please contact Miss Colbert or Mrs Davies via the school office.
Prizes so far include:

- Mini 2GB MP3 player
- Cinema tickets, £10 Pizza Hut gift card
- Laser Quest game vouchers (both single and group passes), signed Welsh rugby team poster
- 2 x family tickets to watch the Swindon Chill Ice Hockey at the Link Centre
- family bowling vouchers, Starbucks merchandise, £80 worth of trainers (chosen by students) purchased by Nuffield Health & Fitness, 1 voucher for 2 people to attend a skate session for free at the Link Centre
- Call of Duty note books & XBOX 360 pens, Body Shop gift sets, collector’s edition Tomb Raider watch, XBOX 360 note book, pen and card sets, Sonic the Hedgehog hat, bubble gum ball vending machine, big box of Thornton’s chocolates… and a lot more with prizes being added daily!!

See poster at end of newsletter.

YEAR 11 2011/12

The Year 11 (2007 – 2012) students have been a year group with much to be proud of during their five years at ‘Bradon’. The students have been a credit to their families and the school and we would like to thank them for all that they have done during their time at Bradon Forest. Their annual Awards Assemblies have always been enjoyable events celebrating a fantastic range of success each year. We are looking forward to the ‘Past Year 11 Awards Evening’ in November when we will be able to formally thank the students for their many contributions to school life and also to celebrate their many and varied achievements – including those from their forthcoming examinations. We would especially like to thank the Senior Prefect team for their fantastic help and support over the last year.


The year group has always been keen to support and help; this has been greatly appreciated by the teaching and support staff, and this partnership has ensured that Bradon Forest traditions and culture have flourished.

The Year 11 GCSE examinations finish on Wednesday 27 June 2012 and we will have our traditional Year 11 Prom on Friday 29 June 2012. We are also looking forward to celebrating with the year group on results day on Thursday 28 August 2012 and, as mentioned earlier, at the Awards Evening in November.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Year 11 students and parents for their support for Bradon Forest School and wish all Year 11 students the very best of luck in their forthcoming final run of examinations.

STUDY LEAVE PROTOCOL

Study leave commences after the Leavers’ Assembly on Wednesday 23 May 2012. During study leave, when students are at school for an examination or for their revision lessons, they should not leave the site during their time here. On leaving school, students should be picked up either from the school car park or catch the bus from the stop in The Peak. Other than Purtonians, we do not expect students to be in the village and we would be very grateful for your co-operation with this request. The school wishes to continue a good relationship with the local residents and therefore Year 11 students have a responsibility to ensure this is maintained during study leave.

(A detailed Study Leave Revision Session Timetable has been given to Year 11 students and is available on the Key Stage 4 area of the Learning Platform and also on the Home Page of the school website via the Welcome to Bradon Forest button - Section Two – School Information.)

http://www.school-portal.co.uk/GroupHomepage.asp?GroupID=70773

STAGECOACH 53 BUS

The public service bus Number 53 (Swindon/Lydiard Millicent/Purton/Cricklade) has been run by Thamesdown for a number of years. We have been informed by Wiltshire Council that the Number 53 bus route will be operated by Stagecoach as from 14 May 2012. Stagecoach will extend the service to Cirencester. A new timetable will be in operation (full details on the Stagecoach website). This has affected our traditional use of the Number 53 service bus for Out of Hours activities as the timings have changed. We have negotiated that two buses will continue to come into the school grounds. These will now be at 5.13pm going to Cricklade and Cirencester and at 5.55pm going to West Swindon and the Swindon bus station. We will let the students know the arrangements for these two buses via the Student Bulletin.

NB: The Ellisons 4.45pm Out of Hours service, which is the free bus run by the school, is unaffected and will continue to run to West and North Swindon.
ROAD CLOSURES

We are aware that there will be further road works later in May on the main road through Purton and will update parents as previously by Schoolcomms. We will also update parents regarding the arrangements for the temporary closure of Blunsdon/Tadpole Lane bridge which will affect those people transporting their children from the Northern part of Swindon.

INDIA LINK TRIP 2012

Miss Shelley reports: Miss Beet, the India Link students (Chanaley Alleyne, Maegan Bryon, Emily Bullock, James Green, Ryan Higgs, Tanisha Kalra, Charlotte Markham, Tayten Nyahwa, Emily Tidball, Jack Tyler and Oliver Webb) and I have just returned from our very successful second student trip to India. Our India link has been part of the British Council Connecting Classrooms project with Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya known as JNV schools, and St Laurence, Bradford on Avon, for the past three years. The project involved the sharing of work between schools, and many fundraising activities. Bradon Forest students were encouraged to raise funds for the trip, developing the skills of team work, self motivation and determination. The trip was more of a journey, than a holiday.

Our link schools in India form part of a network of schools initiated by the Indian President Ranjiv Gandhi, to find and foster talented children from rural parts of India. The schools are residential and enable children from poorer backgrounds to have an excellent education, regardless of their social situation. JNV students have all of the cost of their education met, in order to provide excellence, equality and social justice. Their aim is to promote integration by providing opportunities to talented children largely from rural backgrounds, from different parts of the country, to live and learn together and develop their full potential. The JNV school motto is ‘Come to Learn, Go to Serve’. Their students aspire to be future leaders in technology, medicine, engineering, teaching and politics, in order to serve their country as adults.

The group flew from London into the city of Amritsar in the Punjab where they visited the wonderful Golden Temple, a sacred Gurdwara for millions of Sikhs worldwide. At the temple, they learned about Sikh beliefs and culture, and shared langar, a free vegetarian community meal, cooked and prepared solely by volunteers. At the Harimandir (Golden Temple) langar is served 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is an act of selfless service to others, central to the Sikh faith, whereby no one ever leaves ‘the Guru hungry’.

Two JNV schools were visited on the trip, JNV Taran Taran and JNV Bilaspur. Both schools welcomed us as honoured guests, indeed, the welcome at Taran Taran was spectacular, everyone received garlands of flowers, students performed traditional dancing, flags were flying, and our students were overwhelmed!

During our stay we toured each school, and spent time in the classrooms, observing teaching and learning, and interacting with the students.

During the evenings we played sport, Volley Ball and Basket Ball (unfortunately we lost both times!) and took part in a cultural evening, where we watched performances of traditional Indian music and dancing. Bradon Forest students performed songs, one in Hindi which our hosts loved. The students boarded at the schools, giving them the opportunity to really interact with the Indian students. Our girls were lucky enough to have mehndi tattoos, giving another opportunity for them to engage with the JNV girls.
In addition to the visits to the schools, we spent three days in Dharamshala and McLeod Ganj the spiritual home of the exiled Dalai Lama, where we learnt about Tibetan history, culture, and Tibetan Buddhism. We were fortunate enough to visit the Tibetan Children's village, a school for Tibetan refugees, and are hoping to develop further links with them through our KS3 India link.

The British Council Connecting Classrooms project with St Laurence has now come to an end, however we are already planning a future trip for April 2014 to continue our excellent relationship with JNV schools in India. See future newsletters for further information.

Student voice is a powerful indicator, as shown in the following accounts by Oliver Webb and Maegan Bryon, underscoring the reasons why we want this project to continue.

**Oliver Webb reports:** My most exotic holidays have consisted of Cornwall, Wales and rain. So when I was presented with the chance to travel almost half way round the world to a completely different culture, my immediate reaction was a definite yes!

Indian culture has fascinated me since I was very young. The multiculturalism is astonishing, and their collection of Gods and Deities is beyond measure.

Before going I spent many an evening researching aspects of everyday life for the different members of the country.

Having arrived in India the first thing I noticed was the smiles; a sea of smiles surrounding you constantly. No matter what, if you spoke to someone, they would continue the conversation and keep it interesting. This shocked me having come from England where this is not always the case. But we were always made welcome.

My favourite aspect of the trip was witnessing first-hand how the schools work and the students’ attitude to school and their future. To the children their future consisted of working for the good of India, not themselves; the strength of their patriotism is overwhelming. Their motto is 'come to learn, go to serve'. Listening to their ideal futures made me believe India’s future will be great and successful, not only this, but I hope it works for them. The amount of effort and work these young people do is astonishing; they most definitely deserve their prosperous futures!

I hope the India Link continues for as long as possible so that we can continue to share our traditions and cultures, growing in ourselves along the way.

**Maegan Bryon reports:** Never had I dreamed that I would go to India, let alone see the things that I did. All of these amazing experiences were because of Connecting Classrooms! The connection with JNV schools has been in place for over three years and through that time work has been exchanged between schools. Beautiful pieces have been sent to us, telling us all about their traditions, culture, aspirations, inspirations, environment and so much more. At the schools in India more work was exchanged during presentations and we were presented with a ‘Guest of Honour’ plaque and a wonderfully made clock. These are mementoes of the trip I will treasure forever.

The first time that it really struck me what this was all about, wasn’t in India, it was when our school hosted the principles from the JNV schools. We talked with them, showed them around our school while discussing the
differences and parallels with their schools. I learnt so much just from that brief meeting about how the schools worked, what teaching was like and why they were set up - that I could tell going to India was going to teach me so much more.

Physically going to India brought everything to a new level. We visited two JNV schools, at Taran Taran and Bilaspur. Both were different, but both equally as thrilling a place to be. We played sports, and naturally lost both times! We talked with the pupils, performed to them, and toured their schools. Everyone - absolutely everyone that we met was so welcoming and considerate. The welcomes laid on by the schools would have no comparison back in the UK!

The aims and principles that the Indian students live by, ‘Come to Learn, Go to Serve’ is just amazing. To have such a clear life plan and goal from such a young age, when I still don’t have a clue was just astonishing, and their aims aren’t just mediocre; they all aspire to be doctors and teachers, worthy professions, that follow the ethos of serving their country and the people in it. Their aims in life reflect their work ethic and patriotism, their sense of community, pride and respect.

In the schools we spoke with the children there and they were as curious about our life in England as we were about theirs in India. Both parties were amazed at the things the other did. The relationship between teachers and students was very respectful and they look up to their teachers as their ‘Guru and guide’ as we heard from a poem that was performed in the morning assembly.

My favourite moments from the schools was simply just talking with the pupils and learning about them, the welcome was spectacular and the performances they put on were amazing. But it was the people that I met that made my trip to India something that only occurs once in a lifetime!

YEAR 11 ACTIVITIES TRIP TO AMBRIÈRES-LES-VALLÉES, FRANCE

Mr Hutchings reports: This eight day visit was a new addition to our trips calendar. The setting was a large woodland and river all centred around a typical French Chateau.

The group consisted of 37 Year 11 students and four members of staff, all keen to be put through their paces. From the moment we arrived until our sad departure the activities came thick and fast. Amongst these were archery, fencing, abseiling and a two day canoe trip with an overnight bivvy. The canoeing was a highlight for most of the students, although many found the cold river temperatures challenging (if you fell in!!!). Sleeping rough under a tarpaulin sheet was more of an experience than an enjoyable activity - I can still remember the morning with a thick frost and one of the girls shouting “No way, my hair has frozen!!!” The hot meal and various games around the camp fire were amazing, unlike the toilet arrangements, the details of which I have chosen to leave out!!!

The only ‘down-time’ during the eight day visit was a trip to Mount St Michel. The group stopped on the way to visit a local market, where the students couldn’t spend their money fast enough. They had the opportunity to buy local produce and sample regional food, including galettes (a savoury crepe).

The Mount itself offered superb views of the coast and surrounding countryside, especially for those who ventured into the abbey which began its life back in the 8th Century.

Even though there were a few bumps and bruises, the group gelled well and supported each other through challenging moments. For me, being part of all the activities I learned many new skills as well as the fact that girls are more hardy than boys!!!!!

Thank to Mr Hutchings, Mr Duncan, Miss Moore and Miss Gilbert for taking this successful new trip.
SCIENCE NEWS

Just a Minute Competition

Miss Hall reports: All of our Year 7 and Year 8 students have been working hard to produce a 60 second talk on an area of Science of their choice. Each teaching group ran competition heats to find the class representatives to be put forward to the finals. Our finalists then presented their speech again in front of an audience of their peers and a panel of teachers acting as judges.

The standard in this year’s competition was extremely high and all those who participated did brilliantly making it very difficult to judge the winners. A video of all the talks is available on our Science page on the Bradon Forest Learning Platform.

http://www.school-portal.co.uk/GroupDownloadFile.asp?GroupId=70683&ResourceID=4541374

The winners, who were announced this week as part of the achievers assemblies for Years 7 and 8 were:
Year 7 1st Michael Harris (7S), 2nd Bethany Galt (7Z) and 3rd Gen Thorpe (7P).
Year 8 1st James Howse (8T), 2nd Danielle Spiers (8T) and 3rd Chloe Wilkinson (8W).

The Heat (Tutor Group) Winners and Runners up were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7 Winners/Runners Up</th>
<th>Year 8 Winners/Runners Up</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7P - Gen Thorpe/Tayla Freegard &amp; Keanen Burke</td>
<td>8aSc1 - James Howse/ Bryony Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7Q - Rosie Hannay / Jack Winson</td>
<td>8aSc2 - Danielle Spiers / Rianna Bryon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7S - Michael Harris/ Holly Young</td>
<td>8aSc3 - Hamish Jardine/ Jamie McQueen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7T - Stephen Hoy/ James Medcraft</td>
<td>8aSc4 - Shannon Lambert-Evans/Maddie Jordan-Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7X - Charlie Martin/ Ellie James</td>
<td>8bSc1 - Emily Vanes/ Beth Adams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7Y - Sophie Richards/ Habib Ali</td>
<td>8bSc2 - James Keen/ Lewis Griffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7Z - Bethany Galt/ Tyler Lewis</td>
<td>8bSc3 - Luke Jackson/ Emily Rogers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8bSc4 - Chloe Wilkinson/ Gabe Maddison</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Charlie Martin (7X) commented: “I found the 60 second Science talk helped me with my confidence in front of big crowds. It was fun because you could choose a subject you enjoy and then have your say in your speech in front of your class mates.”

Well done to all the students who took part in the 2012 Just a Minute competition and many thanks to Miss Hall and all the Science staff who organised and ran the event, both the class heats and the finals in assembly.

PRIMARY LIAISON NEWS

Primary Liaison News Issue 13 (April 2012) was distributed to all Key Stage 2 in our North Swindon, West Swindon and North Wiltshire partner primary schools. This is available to view on the home page of the school website http://www.school-portal.co.uk/GroupHomepage.asp?GroupId=140529

Oakhurst Primary School: 60 Second Competition

Miss Hall reports: Attached are some photos from Oakhurst Primary School. They recently ran the 60 Second Competition (similar to our Just a Minute competition – see below) to help with their communication and presentation skills.

I went over during Science Week (17 March 2012) to judge their winners and present their prizes in Assembly. They were all excellent, and it was obvious that a great deal of effort had gone into preparing their efforts and talks.

Science Primary Liaison - Peatmoor School:

Miss Hall recently joined Peatmoor School for a day to work with pupils who were studying plants and how they use the sun’s energy and water to create their own energy. The following link leads to Peatmoor School’s page about the visit. http://www.schooljotter.com/showpage.php?id=161703

Science WOW Show

Following the success of our Year 5/6 WOW show in October 2011 when we welcomed over 300 pupils from Catherine Wayte, Peatmoor, Oakhurst and St Mary’s schools to our three performances, we are delighted that the Bradon team are running a second event on Tuesday 19 June 2012 when we will be welcoming over 300 Year 5 pupils from Orchid Vale, St Sampson’s, Haydon Wick, Bridlewood, St Francis and Lydiard Millicent primary schools.
OLYMPIC UPDATE

Secret Mission

On Monday 27 February 2012 Mrs Chappell, Ms Hunter and 21 able, gifted and talented Art students went on a secret mission to Lydiard Park. Students were working with Nela Melic from Goldsmiths University, London and more details will be shared in a future newsletter, once the information is released nationally by the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games. Bradon Forest had been asked by LOCOG to work on the secret task as a ‘thank you’ for the work students and staff have been doing this year leading up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Our Olympic Blog is regularly checked in London to find out about our Olympic work: https://getset.london2012.com/en/blog/public/f5e167e3120cf90d0103c7d514c5b342-37183

Olympic and Paralympic Trips

LOCOG have allocated Bradon Forest four tickets to see two Ladies Football matches on 25 June 16:00 - 20:45. Mrs Lappin and Miss Moore will be taking students to the event in Cardiff. Olympic Prefects Tayten Nyahwa and Kyle Greenwood have been canvassing students to find out how best to allocate the tickets. Ideas so far have been top student in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 in the awards assembly to a raffle draw of any student wanting to go. A decision will be made in May and students will be informed about who has won the Olympic tickets. We also have 30 tickets to the Paralympic Games. On Tuesday 4 September 2012 four teachers will take both mini buses to the Olympic Park to see some Paralympic Football. More details about which year group will be going on this trip in the summer term.

Olympic Values

Congratulations to Term 3 and 4 students who gained certificates for showing the Olympic Values of Respect and Courage. In Term 5 and Term 6 we will be awarding certificates for the values of Inspiration and Equality.

Olympic Sports Day

We have been successful in gaining some funding for Sports Day. This will mean that special Olympic gold medals will be awarded to winners in every event. Sports Day will also be the premiere of the mascot dance. Tutors and students in Key Stage 3 will learn the dance and perform it in our Olympic Opening Ceremony. Any parents who wish to learn the dance before coming to Sports Day can see the video on http://getset.london2012.com/en/world-sport-day/videos

Miss Moore will also be helping to run a Mini Olympic Sports Day with our partner primary schools in Term 6. Bradon Forest X Bikes will be part of the events younger athletes in the area will be asked to compete in.

MUSIC NEWS

Young Musicians’ Showcase

Miss Groom reports: After performing and winning an award at the Swindon Young Musician of the Year, Jake Painter (8T) returned to the Blunsdon House Hotel again to perform to another full house. The Young Musicians’ Showcase was supported by the Rotary Club of Swindon North and Swindon Music Trust including in the audience the current and previous Mayor of Swindon. Jake did a sterling job, dazzling the crowd with Sweet Child O’ Mine. The round of applause showed just what a great job Jake did at representing Bradon Forest in a very enjoyable evening.

Spring Concert

The Spring Concert was held on 28 March 2012 in the school theatre to a sell out audience. Staff and students put on a very varied and enjoyable programme. Well done to Miss Groom, Miss Hedges, Mrs Fleet and all the other staff and students involved. The following email received from a parent following the concert speaks for itself:

“Please can you pass on our congratulations to all pupils and staff who performed in this evening’s concert. It is clear that everyone enjoyed performing and did so with confidence and passion. Year 11’s in particular really did themselves and Bradon Forest proud. We must comment on the diction of all the singers it was excellent - everyone was well drilled and able to deliver. Another enjoyable evening. Well done!”
In the Spring term, many of our talented music students took grade examinations in their chosen field. Their results are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Pass Level</th>
<th>Genre/Instrument</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lory Baker</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Music Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Bartlett</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Merit</td>
<td>Classical Singing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy Bedry</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Flute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daisy Caple</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Merit</td>
<td>Music Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly Curtis</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Music Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darcy Claridge</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Merit</td>
<td>Music Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicky Egerton</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Music Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gemma Forde</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Music Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhianne Groom</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Music Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Holmes</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Music Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Humphries</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Music Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryony Lewis</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Merit</td>
<td>Pop vocals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Millward</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Music Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sufia Ruhomaun</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Merit</td>
<td>Piano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danielle Spiers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Flute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyra Taylor</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Merit</td>
<td>Flute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelby Westen</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Pop vocals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SPORTS NEWS**

**Braden Forest Badminton Teams Reach South West of England Finals**

Miss Moore reports: As Wiltshire Champions, the Key Stage 3 Boys and Key Stage 4 Girls Badminton squads travelled by school minibus to Exeter for the South West of England Finals on Thursday 15 March 2012. We are very grateful to the PTA who kindly sponsored our overnight stay in the M5 Exeter Travelodge to make sure the students were fresh for a 9.00am start.

The boys’ first match was against Preston School from Somerset. The boys won 2 games but lost 3, all with a score of 15 – 21. The second match was won 4 games to 1. Our boys were too strong for St Peters School, Devon. Next it was Cotham School, Avon. Again we won 4 games to 1 and finished 2nd in the group. In the play off match it was two games each, with Cameron’s singles game deciding 3rd and 4th place. Cameron played brilliantly, but was pipped 20 – 21 – what a close match! 4th in the South West is an amazing accomplishment, well done boys. Josh Musty should get a special mention for some outstanding play and excellent sportsmanship. We would also like to thank the 200 Club for providing Bradon Forest School Polo shirts for the boys to wear – as you can see, they looked very smart!

The girls’ first match was against Chew Valley, Avon. They lost 1-4 unfortunately, and lost 5 – 0 in their next match against a very strong school from Dorset, Talbot Heath. Third time lucky and a 4 -1 win v Truro School, Cornwall and 3rd place finish in their group. A local play-off game was next against Cheltenham Ladies College. The girls followed the same pattern as the boys, with two games won each. Polly and Helen’s doubles game would decide 5th or 6th place. Unfortunately the girls lost 20 – 21 finishing 6th in the South West. The standard of badminton was extremely high in both competitions, and our students played excellently and did themselves and Bradon Forest proud.

**KS3 Boys Squad:** Josh Musty (9Z), Cameron Shaw (9S), Ben Hares (9T), Charlie Ilsley (9W) and Russell Hudson (9W).

**KS4 Girls Squad:** Nicole Farmer (11S), Helen Conway (10R), Sian Towler (11X), Polly Whinfrey (10P) and Jemma Bradley (11X)
Due to lack of space in this issue there will be a full sports report in the June newsletter giving updates on the Year 8 Outdoor Activities Days, Football, Athletics, Cricket and much more…

MODERN LANGUAGES NEWS

Year 8 German Experience: Throughout Year 8 Ms Hunter’s German class have been learning about German culture through different class projects. One lesson prior to Christmas they were tasked with making a traditional German gingerbread house. Some groups found that icing was not sufficient to stick their broken walls back together and were forced to eat sections of the house.

Following an episode of the Hairy Bikers the class were tasked with an Easter homework to make one German dish. Some amazing Schwarzwalderkirschtorte, Kartoffelbrot, Bierrocks and Prezel were made.

More pictures can be found on the learning platform. http://www.school-portal.co.uk/GroupHomepage.asp?GroupID=132947

ENGLISH NEWS

Year 9 Enrichment - The Wyvern Theatre  During the Easter holidays Mrs Brett-Harris and Mrs Marion took fifteen students to the Wyvern Theatre Swindon to watch a production of J B Priestley’s ‘An Inspector Calls’ directed by Stephen Daldry. This particular production has won nineteen awards so it was a great opportunity to be able to see it.

‘An Inspector Calls’ is a regular on the English GCSE Syllabus and students may get a chance to study it in Year 10 and complete an assessment worth 10% of their final literature grade.

Seeing any text live, performed by a professional company, is a very valuable experience and this show was really worth a watch.

“The English theatre trip has vastly developed my understanding and my approach towards theatrical techniques, which I therefore predict will benefit my analysis work. The production itself was incredibly entertaining and also required thought to understand what actually happened. It was definitely a beneficial and entertaining production and I would certainly go again!” Lauren Field (9Y)

“The performance was cleverly executed and left me with several questions when it was over: whether the family responded well to the fake inspector and to follow on and be honest in the real inquiry and to teach them a lesson; also, what relevance were the supporting cast. On reflection I think the play centres on the ‘Pretend Inspector’ acting as conscience to the family and addressing their inner guilt to ensure they did the right thing when it actually happened.” Poppy Gibson (9Q)

The students’ behaviour was exemplary and it was a pleasure to take them to see something that they enjoyed and will help them with their GCSE studies.

OCEAN ROCK ADVENTURE PROGRAMME

A small group of students have benefitted from a pilot series of whole day engagement activities over the course of the last term led by Ocean Rock Adventure.

The group have experienced a range of challenging activities including raft building, high ropes courses and abseiling, taking all group members out of their comfort zone and developing their confidence, communication and team working skills.

The students involved have all successfully risen to the various challenges and they will now be mentored within school to help them build on their success.
Mr Lemin reports: As training strides ahead for the upcoming trek in Morocco, the team reach their new “team” high point together on the first training trek at the lofty heights of 927m above sea level! Only a further 2303 meters of climbing would have got us to the same height as our projected high point (3230m) for the upcoming expedition to the Tizi n’Tacheddirt pass in the high Atlas Mountains.

The World Challenge team led by Mr Lemin and Mr Heathcote are: George Dudman, Vicky Egerton, George Griffin, Callum Gunston, Robyn Haigh, Nathan Hiles, Iona Hudson, Andrew Johnson, Charlotte Lewis, Robert Mills, Aaron Moody, Gemma Perry, Beth Richards, Daniel Rogers, Lauren Stannard, Rebecca Stevens, Robson Sutton, Abbie Titcombe and Oscar Turtle.

YEAR 11 ASDAN COPE SUCCESS

A group of Year 11 students have secured a Level 2 Qualification (B Grade GCSE equivalent) a full six months earlier than their peers.

Over the past eighteen months, students have worked extremely hard on a variety of challenging tasks from hosting a coffee morning (raising almost £150.00 for Macmillan) and a Christmas party for an elderly group to researching the needs of a disabled member of the school community and the impact of self-harm. The course has allowed students to develop their independent and team skills, alongside planning and preparing events, making presentations and undertaking detailed research.

On moderation, students’ portfolios were marked as being ‘excellent, well organized, innovative and interesting’. Candidates showed a mature approach to their work and the response showed independence and understanding. The centre is to be congratulated on this high standard of work’.

The group is now working towards an additional qualification by organising and hosting a Disability Sports Awareness Day at school to link in with the forthcoming Olympic and Paralympic games. The students involved are Darcy Griffin, Sean Ash, Charlotte Bunce, Mitchell Tovey and Ben Manning.

WORK EXPERIENCE FEEDBACK

Mr Hutchings reports: Reading the feedback report forms that students completed it is clear that they found the work experience week a useful experience as it has improved their employability skills, given them an insight into the world of work and has helped them to decide their future career paths.

Overall, employers have commented that students showed a mature and positive attitude, were polite, eager to learn, reliable, helpful, showed an interest and asked sensible questions and interacted well with staff. Many employers have said that they were the best students they have ever had and would like more like them in the future! There were also a few tentative job offers. The extract on the right is from the May LINK Magazine regarding Danielle Forsythe’s work experience (it was great to see the number of pictures in the LINK which were Danielle’s work).

Here is a sample of the other employers’ comments:

- “Worked brilliantly on her own, using her initiative at all times – pleasure to have around and fitted in with the team perfectly.”
- “He coped fantastically well with all tasks – we could be more than happy to give him more work experience in the future.”
- “She has proved herself to be a hardworking, capable and charming student. She has given all of her efforts to every task – a valued member of the team.”
• “He is a credit to his school and we would welcome him back anytime.”
• “We would like to work with him again.”
• “He was well presented, eager and worked well with all our team.”
• “She has been a valued member of the team, enthusiastic and keen to learn.”

Well done to the year group. Please pass on our congratulations and thanks to all Year 10 students!

We will be receiving the WEX Certificates later this month from Connect South West and these will be passed to the Exams Team for distribution to students next year during the Past Year 11 Presentation Evening in November 2013.

Well done to all the Year 10 students involved in the work experience programme and many thanks to Mr Hutchings and Mrs Watson for all their hard work ensuring the Year 10 Work Experience ran so well.

**FOOD TECHNOLOGY NEWS**

**Cook for the Queen**  Miss Kinsey Reports:  In Food Technology we have entered the ‘Cook for the Queen’ competition and eight students in Years 7 and 8 have worked hard in finding out about local dishes and foods that come from our area. They then had to design a menu which could be turned into Canapes and served to the Queen at a garden party this summer. We will have to wait to hear if they were successful. Success would mean that they will be on their way to Buckingham Palace to see the Queen and to oversee her chefs turning their ideas into reality. Well done to everyone who entered and let’s keep our fingers crossed!

We have also been busy with Year 8 classes on the DLD days decorating cakes fit for the queen. The classes have each had a demonstration on cake decorating techniques and then they were set the task in groups to design a batch of cup cakes to help the Queen celebrate her diamond jubilee. There were some amazing designs and the classes really enjoyed the challenge. Here are some comments that the Year 8’s said about their cakes:

“The cup cake decorating was brilliant. We had to design and decorate cupcakes linked to the Queens Diamond Jubilee. On my design I put a crown on the bottom, then the number 60 on top of the crown. The cakes were scrumptious. I could eat them over and over again.”
Matthew Hibbs (8W)

"I made cupcakes in Food Technology for the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. My design was a Union Jack with a diamond in the middle. It was a great lesson full of lots of fun and I learnt a lot of new techniques. The cupcakes were delicious and I hope the Queen has a great Diamond Jubilee.”
Miles Joliffe (8W)

**Swindon Schools Cookery Competition**  Charley Hill (8Z) and Jasmine Learmouth (8Z) represented Bradon Forest School at the Swindon Schools Cookery Competition. The girls made a breakfast pizza with 2012 written on the top and an Olympic ring dessert made with sponge cakes which were the same colours as the Olympic rings. They didn't make it into the final, but they did a brilliant job in representing Bradon Forest. Thank you to Miss Summers for all her hard work with the girls and to Mr Purcell for taking the girls to the competition. Also thank you to Miss Marshall and tutor group 8Z for helping to design the menus and exciting table lay out.

Mrs Purcell reported: “The competition was a great opportunity for all the students involved. There was a very professional atmosphere in the kitchen as everyone stroived to do their best! I'm sure they've learnt a lot for the future, but one phrase for them to remember... ‘Washing up is for life, not just for competitions!”

Next is the turn of Rhian Williams (9Z) and Emilia Sando (9W) in Year 9. Further details in the next newsletter.
Cup Cake Club

Cup Cake Club started this week with a huge interest - there were over 20 students who turned up which was a brilliant start. We decided to start off our creative journey by making ice cream cones for the top of our cakes. Everyone rose to the challenge and as you can see from the photo we made some brilliant cakes - it’s a shame they didn’t entice the sun out! Keep looking out for what we make over the next few weeks. There will be a page set up on the Learning Platform in the Design Technology area under ‘Food’ - just click on “Cup Cake Club”.

ARTS NEWS

Drama Club

Mrs Purcell reports: We have a brand new Drama Club production coming up on Wednesday 16 May 2012 and Thursday 17 May 2012 (7.30pm) with a large Key Stage 3 cast waiting to entertain you all!

The Drama Club have been working hard over the last few months exploring money and what it means to us, to devise an exciting tale of morality. The resulting piece will be performed over two nights in the theatre and we’d love to have a packed audience!

Tickets can be bought/reserved from the Arts Office TEL: 01793 773981. Tickets: £3 students, £4 adults. Hope to see you there, and thank you for your support!

Swindon Young Actors

It was great to see Bradon Forest students (current and ex-students) as part of the Swindon Young Actors cast for their production of Spring Awakening which was performed at The Platform, Faringdon Road, Swindon at the end of April: Sam Stafford (ex student), Edward Evans (10Q) and Benjamin McMahon (ex student). David Calder loaned Bradon Forest Theatre equipment, seating and also provided help and advice. It is terrific that our Specialist School investment still continues to support community arts, especially when funds are tight.

Live And Unsigned – George Dudman

Congratulations to George Dudman (10S) who is the base player in local band The Fixed. The band made it through to the area final of the Live And Unsigned competition. (More than 10,000 acts entered Live And Unsigned across the country.) The Fixed will be competing against acts from the South West and Wales in the next round on 27 May in Reading. The overall winners of the competition will win £10,000 and will perform at 15 festivals across the UK this summer. Good luck boys!

As well as taking part in the competition, The Fixed will also be performing at the Lechlade Festival and Big Arts Day this year.

For more information follow the link below to see an article in Swindon Advertiser: http://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/9655758.Young_band_are_just_step_away_from_02/

200 CLUB Prize Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WINNERS March 2012 Draw</th>
<th>MEMBERSHIP NO</th>
<th>PRIZE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Mrs M Smith, Shaw</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>£20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Mrs P Newman, Freshbrook</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>£15</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Miss J Kinnett, Bradon Forest School</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>£10</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WINNERS April 2012</th>
<th>MEMBERSHIP NO</th>
<th>PRIZE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Mr P Bowden, Nine Elms</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>£20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Mrs K Hunt, Moredon</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>£15</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Mrs C Hoard, Peatmoor</td>
<td>40</td>
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DATES OF FUTURE NEWSLETTERS 2011/12: Issue 10 w/c 18 June 2012 & Issue 11 w/c 16 July 2012
2011/12 ACADEMIC YEAR REMAINING DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 5</th>
<th>Term 6</th>
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<tr>
<td>Students return</td>
<td>Students return</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 16 April 2012</td>
<td>Monday 11 June 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Holiday Closure</td>
<td>Ends</td>
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<td>Monday 7 May 2012</td>
<td>Friday 20 July 2012</td>
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<td>Ends</td>
<td>TD Day</td>
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<td>Friday 1 June 2012</td>
<td>Monday 23 July 2012</td>
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<td>Holiday</td>
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<td>2 June 2012 – 10 June 2012</td>
<td>24 July 2012 – 3 September 2012</td>
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Remaining Teacher Development Day for 2011/12 (school closed to students) Monday 23 July 2012

Yours sincerely

L M Spiers
Headteacher

Raffle in memory of Mr T!

Raising money in memory of Mr Thomas for the Oncology ward and Cancer Research

Buy 1 ticket for 25p Or a strip of 5 tickets for £1

Tickets available from Miss Colbert & 10R will be visiting tutor bases during tutor times!

This is only a selection of the prizes...
NOTICE RE: PURTON DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Purton Diamond Jubilee committee would like to remind our Purton families about the FREE Village Party at The Red House to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations on Sunday 3 June 2012.

The party is for all Purton Parishioners, their extended families and friends. It will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 3 June 2012 at the village centre (The Red House).

Proceedings will start with a banner parade which will assemble in Highridge at 1.45pm. The parade will pass down the High Street, turning right at the bottom triangle and on to the football field. The banners represent all the various organisations which exist in Purton. If you are part of an organisation which wishes to enter the parade, and you haven't already done so, please ring Tony Price on 770696. It is hoped to close the High Street while the parade is taking place so vehicular access may be restricted at that time.

Once the banners have arrived on the field and set out for display, there will be a short church service, prayers and a rousing hymn. This will be followed by the entertainment. This is supplied by Purton people or those with connection to Purton. The entertainment is varied and will continue all afternoon and evening finishing quite late with a firework display. The entertainment at present consists of comedy sketches, a choir, dancers, poetry recitals, a saxophonist, a ukelele band, a folk band and rock bands.

As well as the entertainment, there are stalls which will showcase the societies/groups in Purton. There will also be various activities to take part in. At present, these are penalty kicking, tennis, archery (for anyone over 5), sword fighting, bowls on the bowling green, French boules, arm wrestling (a chance to take on the British Arm Wrestling Champion), skittles, a story telling corner, cupcake decorating, hair braiding, face painting, a play area for the younger children, circus skills, displays on the skateboard park and tethered hot air balloon rides.

There will also be an art project for everyone to get involved in. When completed, the artwork will go on permanent display in The Village Hall. There will also be free teas and coffees and a slice of cake (while stocks last) in the afternoon. We do need cakes however, so if you would be happy to donate a cake, please get it to the Millennium Hall on the morning of the event. Please use only disposable plates/wrapping.

All these activities will be free, there is no admission charge to the event itself nor will there be any collection buckets passed round.

There will be a pig roast for which there will be a charge, the Brownies/Guides will be selling small bags of sweets for children to buy and The Red House Club will be open to non-members if you fancy a pint. Other than that, you can bring your picnic, drinks, tables, chairs, blankets, lanterns and have an entirely free day.

We do ask however, no gazebos - they block the view if they are in the middle of the field and if put round the edge, they push all the audience to the edges. Also no barbecues - they damage the football pitch, and no sky lanterns - they're not environmentally friendly.

We will be taking up some of the car park so we are asking that you bring all your tables and chairs etc. down in your cars in the morning, set up your space, take back your cars then walk down in the afternoon with your picnic. You can leave all your stuff overnight and walk home at the end without worrying about drinking and driving.

If you have any queries regarding this event please phone Sue/Tony Richardson on 772581.

Tony Richardson