



Message from the Principal

It is amazing to think that the academy has now been open for nearly a year, particularly when I consider how embedded the new ethos has become. Every day I look forward to arriving at work, to be greeted by students with a friendly smile and a positive attitude to the day ahead, and to spend time working with staff, students and parents who are all committed to the ongoing successes we all share and celebrate in.

The House system is established and large numbers of students have taken part in events throughout the year, demonstrating leadership skills and a willingness to participate and enjoy on an impressive scale. We anticipate an even greater degree of involvement next year, with the addition of House Music and House Commerce, while the Hero Programme is set to expand and play a larger role in the vertical tutoring system. Meanwhile, parents and students have benefited from the close and supportive partnership between the Heads of House and home, and we know this is having an ongoing positive impact on student/staff relationships and the team spirit which is evident here.

September sees the launch of our new Year 9 and Year 10 curriculum programmes, so I took the opportunity during the recent Duke of Edinburgh expedition to quiz students about how they feel about their new options. I was very pleased with the responses; some taking Triple Science, some taking additional PE, some Music, some History and Geography, some Business and Economics and all looking forward to following courses which interest them and suit their individual skills and method of working. There is a wide range of courses being pursued through Years 9 and 10 beside those mentioned and we believe we have achieved an exceptionally high quality, personalised, curriculum offer, which ensures all students get the opportunity to study what is of most benefit to them.

Next year is also one of major site developments. The proposals for the new building have been submitted for planning consent and, subject to their approval, work will begin at Easter. In preparation for this we are closing Block 4 and moving all teaching to Blocks 1 to 3 from the end of this term. At Easter we will move into purpose build

temporary accommodation which sees us through to the opening of the new building in September 2012.









Rest assured that we will not allow building works to compromise the continual drive for excellence at the academy. There is a significant amount of experience of working on this type of project in the senior leadership team at the academy and we are well supported by an excellent construction firm with considerable expertise of working in education. We have also consciously limited numbers entering the academy this year and next, in order to ensure that we can comfortably accommodate and maintain the highest of standards for those students who attend here.

We set out with a mission to create a learning focused community where happiness is derived from achievement and positive self-esteem, and where everyone has the chance to shine. I believe we have succeeded and that this has been an incredible year. However, we will not be complacent and will continue to work solidly for the success of all the students in our care. We are determined that everyone here will continue to be "Proud to Belong".

Andrew Hemmings
Principal



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Language and Literature Competition

Célébration! Celebración! Celebração!

The academy's first Language and Literature House Competition featured brave students tackling poetry in performance, Shakespeare interpretations and even childhood tales told entirely in French! The evening was a sell out and a diversity of cultures greeted the audience, with students delivering a greeting in their mother tongue. This set the scene for an evening of supreme performances. Syesha Chohan and Amber Clarke of Whittle House barked out the angry refrain of "Sweet Sixteen I've Never Been" from Jackie Kay's poem "Sour Sixteen". Edison House showed off their comical skills as they performed "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" in French, with Isaac Kioko making a beautiful Goldilocks!



David Cox, Babbage, gave a stunning performance of Mark Anthony's monologue from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar", and sixth formers took part in a battle of wits and words as they delivered speeches on topical issues, including Lauren Pike's winning speech on "World Peace". Year 7 students participated in the final of the first academy Spelling Bee, with Amy Fitzmaurice out-spelling her competitor by just one word.

Babbage House won the Language and Literature Trophy, but each house was rewarded for their part in this celebration of the arts and the cultural diversity which exists in the academy. The evening was rounded off with a "stomping" Can-Can by Year 7 girls.

A Trip to Dorset

A Level Students go Exploring

When planning this field trip with the Year 12 and 13 Geographers, we envisaged a long bank holiday weekend in beautiful Dorset where the sun shone and the birds would wake us in our tents each morning. It was cold, windy and it rained a lot.



On the Saturday, we visited the River Corfe to take measurements and we got wet. On the Sunday, we visited rural settlements and got wet again.

However, the spirits of the students were not dampened and they collected all the data they needed to complete their second examination in the summer.



This included investigating the management of the beautiful Jurassic Coast, observing the scenery, focusing on the impact of tourism and being awestruck by some of the most perfect examples of coastal features anywhere in the world.

The Hertfordshire Business Enterprise Challenge

Rising to the Challenge

Three groups of students, a Year 12 Male, a Year 12 Female and a Years 12 & 13 Mixed team, were entered for the challenge and given the task of creating a new product in the field of fashion, music or electronics. There were over 60 other teams from a variety of Hertfordshire schools, with the first prize being £1000 worth of gift vouchers.



Students were given two hours to work up an idea and create a presentation ready to pitch to the judges, who were from organisations including the University of Hertfordshire, the Institute of Directors and the Chief Executive Officer of Toyota UK, amongst others.

After pitching in a Dragon's Den style format, six teams were selected for the final and we were delighted to discover that our Year 12 Male team, comprising Joe Young, Evangel Varghese, Waheed Anjum, Stephen Poole, Shoaib Ali and Christopher Davies had made it through to the final.

Our students were overall runners up, and enjoyed the experience of competing against other schools and striving for victory. It was an excellent experience and they were a credit to the academy.

Finally, their product was an application for an i-pod that located missing keys through radio frequencies - how innovative!

Charity Golf Day

Our Sponsor Takes the Lead

The Bushey Academy's lead sponsor, Mr David Meller, led the field of local firms and individuals who sponsored holes and prizes for the Observer Newspapers Charity Golf Day early in June.

Mr Meller provided sponsorship for 12 holes, prizes for the golfers and a coach for the singers of the South Oxhey Choir, so that they could be part of the day.



The South Oxhey Choir, featured in the award-winning BBC documentary, *The Choir: Unsung Town*, brought the day to a tuneful crescendo when more than 80 singers joined the final stage of the annual battle of the fairways.

Winners were congratulated by the Mayor of Watford, Dorothy Thornhill. As a result of the generosity of the sponsors, more than £6,000 was raised to support South Oxhey Choir.

Drama

The school production "High School Musical" is due to be performed on 14, 15 and 16 July. Students and staff have been working hard rehearsing, designing and building the set, and organising costumes. Please look out for photos in the next Newsletter, and on our website.

Students entered the Herts Drama Festival this year, securing trophies a number of the high and upholding Lower students their academy's standards. "Ground Force" entered their mime category and won the award for the Best Mime. We were delighted to see Lauren Baulch, Year 7, win the Best Actress award.



The first academy House Drama Competition was planned and organised by the Sixth Form Drama students. All students had the opportunity to participate in competing for the overall trophy for Best House Drama Performance. We were very proud of all the students who took part, directing and rehearsing their performances themselves. The judges had a difficult task, but Babbage House was announced overall winner.

Music

The Bushey Academy Soul Sound (BASS) was founded in September 2009, and is a student-led activity, working towards performances both at the academy and at local events.

They have already performed, with the Rock School band, at the student-led fundraisers for Haiti, the Ace of Hearts Valentines Ball and the Young Enterprise Bluetique Fashion Show. The AS Band, the Language and Literature Choir and the Staff/Student Chamber Group also performed at the Language and Literature House event.



Links with the Bushey Symphony Orchestra

The academy is proud to be home to the Bushey Symphony Orchestra, which now includes our own Miss Anderson amongst its violinists. The BSO currently performs an average of five concerts per season at The Bushey Academy to a large and appreciative audience.

The South Herts Bikeathon

What is proving to be a tradition for staff at the academy, a team of enthusiastic cyclists entered the fifth annual South Herts Bikeathon, organised in aid of Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.



Unfortunately, the day dawned overcast and the weather deteriorated to the point of heavy rain for the first half of the race. This did nothing to dampen the spirits of the team and their supporters, or the speed of Mr Hemmings and Mr Wall who shot off into the lead from the start of the race.

Because of the weather, most riders were unrecognisable and covered in mud by the second mile of the 22 mile Bikeathon. This mile also brought with it another surprise, when riders were diverted off the road onto a steep, muddy and very uneven field, which forced most participants to walk.

Mr Wall crossed the line first, with Mr Hemmings only a few minutes behind him after having to repair a puncture at the side of the road. The team consisted of Mr Hemmings, Mr Wall, Mr Walters, Miss Finn, Mrs Sexstone, Mr Walker, Miss Higgs, Mr Putman, Mr Tripathi, Miss Guglick and Miss Campbell, who raised over £1,500 for the charity.

Student Services

During the year, Babbage House has entered the various competitions enthusiastically, winning the Year 7 Quiz and both the House Drama and the House Language and Literature competitions. This was the result of tremendous teamwork and some outstanding individual performances.

Members of Edison House were thrilled when the award for Best Actress in the House Drama competition went to Jessica Taylor. In the Language and Literature competition, Year 7 boys had the audience laughing with their portrayal of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. In the House Sports competitions, Edison girls won their football and netball tournaments.

"Marconi's Got Talent" was in the year. Students from 8 and the Year 9 Boys' the Year 8 Girls' Rugby and tournaments. Lauren Drama, was awarded House Drama competition, Speaker" at the House competition. Marconi House a period of 10 weeks, confidently group who had been on a winning streak throughout. Ms Collins' form won the prize for "How Many People Do You Know In Your House?"

a memorable event earlier Marconi won the Year Basketball competitions, the Year 8 House Rugby Pike, Head of House "Best Director" at the and also "Best Public Language and Literature also held a Form Quiz over won by Mr Stritter and his form

Whittle House were very proud of the performance of their Year 10 students recently, when they took part in work experience placements. Feedback on our students was outstanding, including that for Lisa Leggatt, whose placement, a private girls' school, asked if she could go back to do some more days there. Edison girls won their football and netball tournaments in the House Sports competitions.



Calendar

Autumn Term 2010

Thursday 2 September
INSET day, school closed for students

Friday 3 September
Years 7, 11, & 12 induction

Monday 6 September
Start of term for all year groups

Friday 22 October
INSET day and ALAN tests for Year 10 & 11, school closed to other students

Monday 25 to Friday 29 October
Autumn half term

Friday 17 December
Last day of term

Mon 20 December to Mon 3 January
Christmas break

Spring Term 2011

Tuesday 4 January
INSET day, school closed for students
Wednesday 5 January

Start of term
Friday 18 February
INSET day, school closed for students
Monday 21 to Friday 25 February
Spring half term

Friday 8 April
Last day of term
Monday 11 to Monday 25 April
Easter break

Summer Term 2011

Tuesday 26 April
Start of term
Monday 2 May
Bank holiday
Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June
Summer Half term

Friday 22 July
Last day of term
Monday 25 July
INSET day, school closed
Tuesday 26 July
Occasional day, school closed

Rewards

Special recognition must go to **Nicola Cartwright**, 11 Fn/B for her outstanding achievement of 100% attendance over the past five years!

Attendance Raffle

100% Attendance Autumn 2009
David Beddall, 9 Al/B

100% Attendance Spring Term 2010
Javan Isles, 10 Wk/B

Merits and Attendance Raffle

Autumn 2009
Luke Money Penny, 8 St/M

Spring 2010
Lauren Baulch, 7 To/W

Best in House Award

Autumn 2009
Lois Davis, 7 Rz/B
Joe Homewood, 7 Fl/E
Martin Sutch, 12 Cl/M
Michael Major, 12 Az/W

Spring 2010
Hayden Ashurst, 11 As/B;
Kwabena Kuten, 7 Wr/E;
Sheldon Loader, 12 Nd/M
Michael Ricciardi, 7 Cn/W

Arrangements for collection of examination results

GCE 19 August
09.00 – 11.00

GCSE/BTEC 24 August
10.00 – 12.00

GCSE paper slips from the Exam Boards will be posted out on 26 August.

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