Biddenham NEWS

Whitsun Half Term Edition

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Biddenham honours its very own Olympic Gold medallist

The Year 7 and 8 building was officially named and opened recently by London 2012 Gold Medal winning athlete and former pupil Etienne Stott.

Pupils, staff and invited guests cheered as Etienne unveiled the new sign in his name to mark the official opening of the first purpose built Year 7 and 8 unit in Bedfordshire.

Head teacher David Bailey said: "Our first Year 7s have been a fantastic addition to the school and every-one was thrilled when Etienne agreed we could name the new building in his honour as he is without doubt one of the most exceptional students to have attended our school. We hope that his name will continue to inspire all students who use this new building and remind them that with hard work and dedication they can achieve great things."

Important Dates

Half term holiday
Friday 27 May - Monday 6 June

Last day of term
Friday 22 July 2016
Students return on Wednesday 7 September 2016

Sports Presentation Evening
Wednesday 29 June

Drama showcase
Friday 8 July

Year 11 Prom
Tuesday 12 July

Day of Sport
Wednesday 13 July

Art, Photography, Textiles and Ceramics Exhibition
Tuesday 19 July

Sixth Form Prom
Wednesday 20 July

A message from the Head teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Whitsun half term newsletter.

Exams for Year 11 and Year 12 have started and Year 13's begin after half term, so our students really have their heads down and are working hard to achieve good results. Our Year 11s and Year 13s will achieve some really outstanding results and many of our Year 13s will achieve places at top, Russell Group, universities - including Oxford.

I am also happy to report that we have a full cohort of new Year 7s joining us in September as, for the first time in the school's history we become a 7 - 13 secondary school (as opposed to a 9 - 13 upper school); momentous times.

To this end, I have had a number of emails from our Year 11 parents thanking the school and teachers for all they have done for their daughters and I would like to share with you a couple of quotes from them:

"Sending my daughter to Biddenham was the best decision I made for her. I wanted to mention specific members of staff because they had a really positive affect on my daughter. She will be going to your Sixth Form and continuing her studies at Biddenham. Biddenham staff have contributed highly to the teenager my daughter has become. She has grown into a confident and happy girl. I thank you and your staff for the excellent work they have done and I know that the Sixth Form will bring about more positive changes."

Parent A

"I just wanted to say a big thank you to you and your staff. We have been part of Biddenham for over eight years now and the ethos is absolutely amazing and the staff are so hard working. The way they (the staff) put themselves out to help their students has been so wonderful to see. The knowledge of their students as individuals is outstanding. Choosing Biddenham was the best decision ever."

Parent B

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…. Many thanks to all our parents for your continued support.

David Bailey
Headteacher

Alumni News

Two of our very own Biddenham Alumni, Jonny Pryn and Alex Somervell, have started an innovative new business creating stories as a way for kids to learn foreign languages.

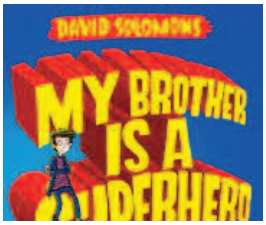
Jonny was at Biddenham from Year 9 (becoming one of our Head Boys) and Alex joined us in the Sixth Form after moving here from Paraguay.

They took part in a Young Enterprise project while at Biddenham, winning a few awards along the way and this project is an extension of that.

The project has been launched on Kickstarter (bit.ly/OTSKickstarter) Visit the site to see how the project works and give them your support.

Don't lose touch with friends and news when you leave the school. Sign up on the school website to join our alumni.

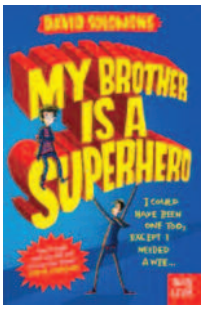
ff futurefirst
An Alumni Network for Every School and College

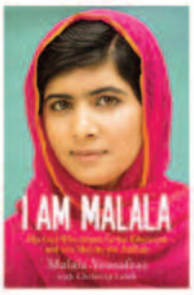


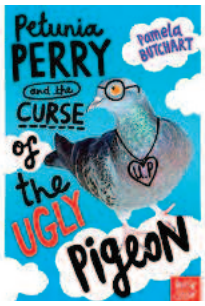
Get the buzz!

Biddenham is for the first time registering for Bookbuzz. This exciting Reading Trust scheme encourages students to read for the fun of it. The scheme is aimed at years 7, 8 and 9 but may be of interest to older students.

For just £3 per head every student can enrol in the scheme and choose a free copy of a new book that would normally retail at £6.99 or more. To take part in the scheme please see Ms Morris in the library for a registration form and submit it with £3 before 17 June 2016. See below for some of the books available or Ms Morris for the full list.







Meeting the challenge

Biddenham staff member Kali Sheimar raised £171 for the Capita Challenge. Capita is part of Sims which is the computer database used by the school.

The money was raised for the Princes Trust - a charity that helps young people who are struggling with education and unemployment.

Sanctuary Changes

Please be aware that after half term we will have some changes to the Sactuary provision as Stephanie Williams, our school nurse, will no longer be with us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all she has contributed in support of our students over the last 13 years. I would also like to thank Dr Mary Fenske and Jeanette Brand who are also moving on.

Clearly, this will mean that we will be operating a very different provision without qualified medical staff, but I would want to reassure you that many of the Sanctuary functions will be maintained and I will write to you again in the new academic year out-lining what the new, reconfigured Sanctuary will look like.

If you have any queries regarding these changes please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Clare Warburton at the school.

David Bailey
Headteacher

Sports News

Forty students were taken to Russell Park as part of the Davis Cup Legacy Tour.
They received a free 30 minute coaching session and then had an opportunity to see and take photos with the trophy that GB won for the first time in 79 years.

Year 7 Rounders
The first game was won 14-7 and the second game won 7 ½ to 6 ½. Some amazing team work by all of the Year 7s for the first time that they have ever played together. Erin Armstrong played amazingly at back stop and excellent batting skills by Natasha Aitchinson.

Year 10 Rounders
The team on the first game and only lost by a half in the second game. Excellent team effort both in batting and fielding. Freda Banda hit some amazing shots.

Year 7 Cricket
The team had their first ever cricket match recently and performed brilliantly against an experienced Westfield Year 8 side. Adam Wedd was the top run scorer, but every single player contributed a lot in an enjoyable fixture.
Everyone had a bowl and put up a great fight so we look forward to the league season.

Athletes of the week for this half term:

Imaan Sattar
Matthew Dilly
Erin Armstong
Adam Wedd
Denisa Toiu
Oskar Szcaryz

Sports Presentation evening: 29th June

Day of Sport: 13th July

Uniform for Years 7 & 8 will be available to order online from the end of June

www.swi.co.uk