

Biddenham NEWS



Spring half term edition

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Top CEO comes back to school

The Student Forum welcomed a very special guest recently when Harriet Green, the former Chief Executive of Thomas Cook Group came to the school.

Harriet talked about her role as a global executive who has led business transformations on four continents, with a proven track record for developing and implementing strategies for profitable growth and increasing shareholder value in global technology, logistics, travel and consumer sectors.

David Bailey, Headteacher said:

“Harriet is one of the foremost business women in the country currently and we were privileged that she came specially to talk to Biddenham students. The students were impressed and inspired by her and all her achievements and went away with a great deal of good, practical advice; not just about how to be a success, but how to live your life.”

Politics students are in the news

In the past week our students have been making their contribution to the news headlines.

Firstly, Channel 5 News came into the school to interview some of our politics students on the eve of the budget to

get their views on what they would like to see the Chancellor do.

“The students loved it”, said Head of Politics, Helen Rose.

“They gave really good answers and came across very well.”

There is a video of their interview on YouTube which

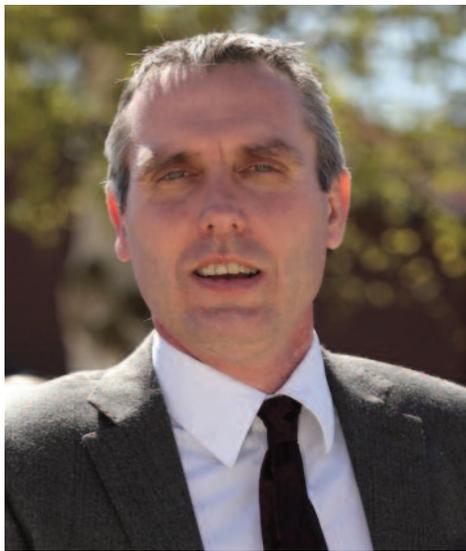
can be viewed on the school website.

This week ITN news came to Stewart House to film a group of Year 12 and 13 politics students that concern young people.

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Harriet Green pictured with the student forum



A message from the Head teacher

Welcome to our Easter newsletter. This is a really busy time of year for all of us in school - particularly for our Year 11's, 12's and 13's - as the exam season takes off.

Only this week we have practical exams in Art, Drama, PE, Dance and Food.

We have also welcomed lots of visitors to the school this week with 20 Danish exchange students. German exchange students, Channel 5 news interviewing our students about the budget and premier businesswomen, Harriet Green, speaking with groups of our students.

In the midst of this we also ran a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Fair at Kings House in Bedford, where 16 schools and 300 students took part, which was a resounding success. The coming week is equally frenetic with the continuation of exams, Year 11 reports issued, ITN filming our students on Tuesday (to go out Wednesday), teachers from Kazakhstan visiting and our Ski trip departing on Friday.....and I'm sure I will have missed something along the way as well!

For me this shows what we at Biddenham are about - a school that combines ensuring students achieve their full potential academically whilst at the same time providing them with exciting, inspirational and motivational opportunities that are enriching and enabling.

I hope that you enjoy reading about some of them in this newsletter and have a good Easter break.

Many thanks

David Bailey
Headteacher

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Some of the students were also interviewed individually.

David Bailey, Headteacher said: "Both of these interviews have been a fantastic experience for our students and I know that they really enjoyed themselves and came across as well-informed and excellent ambassadors for the school".



ITN journalist Wesley Smith introduces the students on camera.

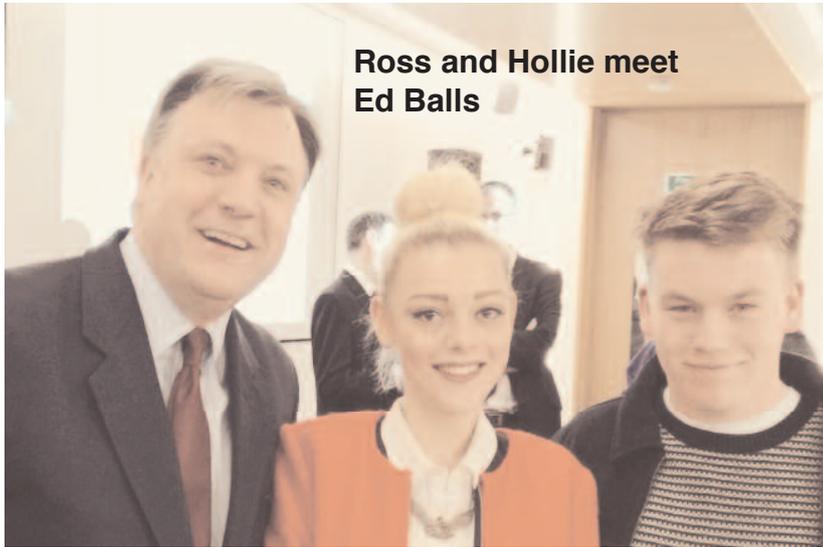
Year 7 & 8 Director takes up her post.



Emily Simpson the new Key Stage 3 Director for Year 7 and 8 will take up her post after the Easter Break.

"I am really looking forward to joining the school and welcoming its first Year 7 students in September. It is particularly exciting to be working in the first purpose built Year 7 and 8 unit in Bedfordshire".

Mike Berrill, Executive Principal of Biddenham Campus Trust said: "Emily is an energetic and forward thinking educational leader and we are all greatly looking forward to working with her. We are confident that she is exactly the right person to spearhead the new Year 7 and 8 development and this new phase in the history of the school."



Ross and Hollie meet Ed Balls

Meeting the top brass

As the General Election day gets closer lots of politicians have been visiting the key marginal seat of Bedford and Kempston. Biddenham Politics students have been

involved in many events giving first time voters the opportunity to discuss the issues that concern them. The Shadow Chancellor, Ed Balls, seen pictured with

Ross Hamilton and Hollie Ross, visited the University of Bedfordshire recently to discuss labour market opportunities for young people.

Keeping safe on the internet

Over the last couple of weeks Bedfordshire Police have received several calls relating to adults using online chat rooms to attempt to groom young girls in Bedford Borough.

Students and parents are being asked to be aware of the dangers of online chat rooms and to make sure that the internet is used safely.

For more information about how to keep safe on the internet please visit www.saferinternet.org.

Students return to school on Tuesday 14th April

Biddenham's Science Fair takes off

Bedford held its first science fair last week.

The STEM Fair - (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) – featured many local schools taking part in a variety of science based projects.

The event was organised by Biddenham and funded by the

Harpur Trust. Laura McDonnell, said: "This event inspired students and helped them to see that science is more than the lessons they have in school. We hope that it has encouraged students to continue to study sciences and to seriously consider a scientific career. We aim to run

the fair as an annual event."

Organisers also attempted to set off as many pop rockets as possible at one time. The rockets were film canisters with an effervescent vitamin C tablet inside, they reacted with water and the gas produced propelled them into the air.



Students enjoying the activities

The fair was held at the Kings House Conference Centre and included a variety of activities and workshops. A number of organisations

took part including Chester Zoo and Comets run by the National Space Centre. There was also a Planetarium and a Mission to Mars activity.

Spring into Dance 2015



Forty GCSE English Literature students attended POETRY LIVE! in Cambridge recently.

This annual event is held at venues all over the country and tickets are always sold out. Consequently, the Corn Exchange was full with school parties from all over the eastern region clamouring to experience the work of these poets first-hand as well as receiving advice as to how to answer the poetry questions in the literature exam from the Chief Examiner at AQA. Particular highlights came Carol Ann Duffy (Poet Laureate) and Gillian Clarke, a great double act; Simon Armitage who came on to the stage reciting from his book Paper Aeroplane (brilliant – look it up!), leaving the audience almost as



breathless as his delivery. This was followed by performances from Daljit Nagra (of Singh Song fame) and Imtiaz Dharker. Perhaps the great favourite was saved for last: John Agard, whose delivery using rhythm and patois electrify words to

dance off the page. But the final word should probably go to Armitage who, when asked by a student: “Why do you put all your frustrations into a poem?” Replied: “Better on the page than on the pavement.”

Anne Dunigan

Our Biddenham students really impressed the audience in this years Spring into Dance showcase.

With more than 45 performers taking part, the show was a real success. The production showcased the diversity of talent we have in this school, from performance and choreography in a range of dance styles, to cheerleading and singing.

The production included many solos from students in Year 10, 11 and 12 as well as group dances choreographed by our Year 13s. Our dance company and cheerleaders continued to do themselves proud with their amazing performances. We were also lucky to have special performances from Orbit Dance Company as well as past Biddenham students now in full time training; Urdang (Ben Joseph Hukin), the University of Bedfordshire (Tishsa Bonson) and the University of Coventry (Eleanor Shatford).

A huge thank you and well done to all the dancers as without their hard work and commitment the show would not have been possible.

Hayley Wiltshire
Head of Dance and Drama,