

# Biddenham NEWS



Autumn Half Term Edition

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**A delegation of students from Biddenham and Westfield schools went down to the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) in London recently on a fact finding mission. It was part of a student consultation linked to the two schools setting up the 'Bedford RSA Academies Trust'.**

They toured the RSA's impressive headquarters just off Covent Garden and met senior staff including Matthew Taylor, the RSA Chief Executive and longstanding contributor to BBC Radio 4s 'Moral Maze'.

The students from both schools were full of challenging questions but at the end of the visit declared themselves enthusiastic about

partnering with this 260 year old organisation and becoming two of only nine RSA Academies in the country.

Luca Sirchia in Year 10 said of the trip, "What the RSA aims to do is to bring ideas into reality and this includes new ways of teaching. Also what would benefit Biddenham and Westfield is that we would be able to share these different ways of teaching with other RSA academies." The students plan to share their findings with their respective school councils. The consultation process ends on 11th November and all pupils, parents and community members are encouraged to consult their school websites to make their response.

# A message from the Head Teacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

Once again time seems to pass rather quickly and we find ourselves at the end of another busy half term and what were our new Year 7's and 9's are now part of the fabric having thrown themselves into life at Biddenham - whether it be rehearsing for Billy Elliot, trying out for the Cheer-leading squad, sporting fixtures or the array of trips and visits that have already taken place.

We have also been working hard on transition work for next year to support our Open Evening - where our wonderful students represented the school so fantastically - and we have been working closely with our many feeder schools through the Biddenham Team Challenge culminating in the grand final won by Great Denham and Westfield.

You may also have seen that we are due to begin work on our new Year 7 complex. This will ensure state of the art learning spaces for our new intake next year and will provide a 'school within a school' enabling the smoothest of transitions from Primary to Secondary supported by an exciting transitional curriculum combining the best of Primary practice and introducing the students to the best Secondary practice.

This coincides with our consultation on forming a Multi-Academy Trust with Westfield supported through sponsorship by the Royal Society of the Arts - which currently works with nine schools in the Midlands and we will be their innovative Bedford Hub. This partnership will drive the next stage of our development and provide students with a wealth of opportunities for advancement and enrichment. It is, without a doubt, a momentous time for Biddenham in looking to be part of such a prestigious charity whose remit is to 'enrich society through ideas and actions' with a track record of supporting Education over the past 260 years. With our recent excellent exam results, our superb inspection outcome, our exciting new building and as we become a full 11 to 19 RSA school the future looks even brighter for our current and the next generation of Biddenham students.

Thank you for all your support.

David Bailey  
Headteacher

## Term Dates 2016/2017

October – Last day of half term  
Fri 21 Oct – Mon 31 Oct

Christmas – Last day of term  
Fri 16 Dec – Tues 3 Jan

February – Last day of half term  
Fri 10 Feb – Mon 20 Feb

Easter – Last day of term  
Tues 4 April – Tues 18 April

May – Last day of half term  
Fri 26 May – Mon 5 June

July – Last day of summer term  
Fri 21 July

COME AND WATCH...

BIDDENHAM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL'S PRODUCTION OF

**BILLY ELLIOT**  
THE MUSICAL

**DECEMBER 8th & 9th AT**  
**7pm**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM RECEPTION**  
**AT LUNCHTIMES FROM**  
**MONDAY 30th NOVEMBER**



**ADULTS- £6**  
**CONCESSIONS- £4**



**Well done to staff who raised more than £140 for Macmillan Coffee Morning with cakes and coffee.**

# attendance **MATTERS**

If your child is unwell and will not be attending school please call or email the attendance office before 8 am. Direct Line - 01234 334528. If no reply please leave a message, stating child's name, tutor group and reason for absence) or email [sarah.harding@mybiddenham.com](mailto:sarah.harding@mybiddenham.com)

Everyday your child is absent the attendance office will need a phone call or email every morning before 8 am. If your child is absent due to another issue other than illness please always phone or email the attendance office.

If it could be arranged for medical appointments to be made after the school day that would be very much appreciated.

## Biddenham Students making a winning splash



**Brothers David and Chris Forsdyke made a great show at the UK Flowboarding Championships recently by winning every competition they entered.**

David, in Year 11, is now the UK Junior Bodyboarding Champion and UK Junior Flowboarding Champion and former student Chris is the UK Men's Flowboarding Champion as well as number 2 in Europe.



## Top crime author visits school

Year 10 and 11 English students had the opportunity to meet and talk to a real life crime author recently.

Vaseem Khan is a British writer, author of the Baby Ganesh Detective Agency novels – a series of crime novels set in India – featuring retired Mumbai police Inspector Ashwin Chopra and his sidekick, a baby elephant named Ganasha. The students started by chatting about crime fiction in books and TV and what ingredients are important and what goes into a great opening paragraph.

Vaseem then split the group into smaller groups and set them an exercise. He asked each group to come up with a short (100 word) opening paragraph to a crime story they had thought of. Each group then read out their paragraph to the whole class, and they voted on the best. The winning group got a box of chocolates to share.

## Coca Cola Year 12 Visit

Business Studies Year 12 students undertook a visit to Coca Cola European Partners in Milton Keynes in October. As part of the educational visit, they were given a talk about the business structure, marketing and production of the business as well as seeing the factory itself. Students saw first hand the production of the drink 'Monster'.

This information will be invaluable for their coursework but was also a wonderful opportunity to see behind the scenes in a real business environment. In addition groups of students also had to present about one of the Coca Cola products explaining who the product is targeted at and how they promote the business.

## Extra-Curricular

We have a comprehensive extra-curricular programme at Biddenham, with a wide variety of clubs available for students to access at break time, lunchtime and after school. Student participation is high in extra-curricular activities in all year groups. Students are also active in setting up new clubs as interests change.

Below is a sample of our 'term one' PE extra-curricular timetable;

The outside table tennis tables and equipment are available for all students to access at break times, lunchtimes and after school.

Day	Lunch (12.35 pm - 1.20 pm)	After School (2.45 pm - 4.00 pm)
Monday	Recreational table tennis Badminton - Years 7 and 8 Girls Fitness Club	Girls Netball - Years 9, 10, 11, 6th Form Boys Rugby - All years Girls Futsal - Years 7 and 8 Boys Football - Year 11
Tuesday	Recreational table tennis Trampolining Club 1st Half term - Year 7 and 8 2nd Half Term - Yr 9, 10 After Christmas - Yr11, 6 <sup>th</sup> Form	Netball Fixtures - Years 9, 10, 11, 6th Form Boys Basketball - Years 9, 10, 11 Netball - Years 7 and 8
Wednesday	Recreational table tennis Badminton - Years 9, 10 Fitness Club - Years 7 and 8	Football - Years 9, 10, 6th Form Girls Football - All years Girls Rugby - Years 7, 8
Thursday	Recreational table tennis Boys fitness club GCSE catch up - Year 11	Hockey Boys - Years 9, 10, 11, 6 <sup>th</sup> Form Hockey Girls - All years Football - Years 7 and 8
Friday	Recreational table tennis Badminton club - Year 7 Fitness Club	Recreational Badminton - 6th Form Fitness Club - 6th Form

Clubs not on this term will be on after Christmas - e.g. handball, 6th Form boys' basketball, Years 7 and 8 hockey.

This is a sample of our 'term one' Performing Arts Extra-Curricular September to December

Day	Lunch (12.35 pm - 1.20 pm)	After School (2.45 pm - 4.00 pm)
Monday	Cheerleading/Musical	Musical rehearsals
Tuesday	Cheerleading squad	Dance rehearsals Musical rehearsals
Wednesday	Cheerleading squad	Cheerleading Club - all years welcome no experience required Musical rehearsals
Thursday	Dance/Drama catch up	Musical rehearsals
Friday	Dance/Drama catch up	Cheerleading