

Biddenham NEWS



Summer edition

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A new chapter at Biddenham begins

In September we welcome our first year 7 students to the school. This is a very exciting time for Biddenham and is the result of hard work over the past two years beginning with our new state-of-the-art purpose built classrooms and organising our innovative and creative curriculum.

Biddenham has developed a model which ensures that the new students have a smooth transition from primary to secondary school. For learners who are joining from

primary and middle school, it is an exciting time for them to develop skills in topic based learning with subject specific guidance. The aim is to develop independent learning that has purpose, connecting all curriculum areas.

Head teacher David Bailey said: "We feel we can give the students joining us in September learning that has purpose and that is relevant to real life with all subjects working together to inspire students to have a life-long love for learning."



An unforgettable visit

A group of our sixth formers have recently returned from an amazing trip to South Africa - turn to p3 for full story.



800 years of the Magna Carta

Year 12 Government and Politics students visited the Magna Carta exhibition to memorialise the charter's 800th anniversary. Also on display was the handwritten copy of the Declaration of Independence and one of the original copies of the US Bill of Rights, along with scrolls, statues and even King John's teeth!

Important dates

13th Aug - AS/A level results - 20th Aug - GCSE results
Monday 24th/Tues 25th Aug - Yr 11/12 enrolment
School begins on Monday September 7th

www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk [twitter@BiddenhamIntSch](https://twitter.com/BiddenhamIntSch)



A message from the Head teacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our sixth and final newsletter this year. There is a widely held misconception that at this time of year, with Year 11 and Year 13 gone, we are winding down for the summer holidays; this could not be further from the truth.

As I write we have just had our Day of Sport, we have a group of students in Bamburg, a drama production of Willy Russell's 'Our Day Out' on Friday, not to mention the Art Exhibition, Music Showcase and Iftar all before the end of term. There has been a plethora of activity within and beyond the school curriculum since Whitsun half-term with over 30 different trips and visits, many residential, going out of school; I hope your son/daughter has been on at least one. I firmly believe that a school's curriculum is not just about timetabled lessons, but everything a student experiences in their time at school, which is why all the other things we do in school are so important and I would like to thank all our teachers for going the extra mile and providing these opportunities for our young people.

Speaking of young people, we welcomed our new Year 7, 9 and 12 into school recently for their 'transition' days – it was particularly heartening and exciting to see them.

Governors play a major role at Biddenham and I am happy to report that we have just appointed 2 new parent governors, Sharon Skilling and Dinka Miocinovic. There is more information on the work of the governing body on our website.

To end, we will be inspected this coming September, a key part of which will be your views on the school, so I would like to ask you all to spend 15 minutes of your time giving your views on 'Parent View'. The link for this is: www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk/information/parent-view or it can be found via our website.

Many thanks for all your support over the past year and, I hope you have a good summer break.

Best wishes
David Bailey

School uniform

Year 7 Uniform

Currently this is unavailable to order online please contact the school on 01234 342521. If you have ordered uniform at the sizing evening you can collect it on Wednesday 22nd July or on any of the dates below.

Year 9 – 11 Uniform – School Trends

School uniform is available to order and pay online from www.schooltrendsonline.com or if you have no access to online facilities you can complete an Order Form (available from the school) and send it with a cheque or postal order to: School Trends Ltd, 10 Carley Drive, Westfield, Sheffield S20 8NQ

Orders can be delivered to your address for £4.20 (free if over £50) or can be delivered to the school free of charge. Uniform collection Dates during the summer holidays

Monday 17th August	10 am – 2 pm
Tuesday 18th August	10 am – 2 pm
Monday 24th August	10 am – 2 pm

Sports presentation evening winners



Sports Presentation Evening 2015 main award winners

Outstanding contribution to sport:
Shannon Hussain, Aston and Nathan Grant-Williams.

Outstanding performance:
Alice Read and Tom Stace.

Neil Tysoe Endeavour award:
Dimple Singh.

Leadership awards: **Amen Ized and Joshey Freeks and Aston and Nathan Grant-Williams.**

Team of the Year:
U15 girls handball team.

Our fantastic taste of South Africa

For 12 days, we, as five Sixth Form students, were introduced to a completely new, vibrant culture and enjoyed a hoard of exciting experiences as we embarked on our trip to South Africa. It is safe to say that every member of the 14-strong group, comprising of Biddenham students, Redborne students and staff, returned to England with a new outlook on life and a far more humble attitude.

With the majority of our time spent in Cape Town, we had plenty of opportunities to explore the stunning landscape. Visiting places such as Robben Island and doing things such as an open-top city bus tour highlighted the history of South Africa that is deeply ingrained within its culture. However, arguably Table Mountain was the most breathtaking site that we encountered in Cape Town.

However, we were not confined to tourist attractions alone, the group was also able to visit three schools in South Africa, teaching and playing with students of different ages. After driving five hours from Cape Town to Karoo National Park, we spent two days with our partnership school Beaufort West. Here we were introduced to many new dances, played football against their very successful year nine team and also delivered lessons in English, History and Science. Visiting these schools was extremely overwhelming and humbling. Many of the children we interacted with were facing poverty and great difficulties at home, yet to our amazement their uniforms were all immaculate and their smiles and welcoming nature were prevalent for the duration of our time at each school.



Students visiting our partner school in South Africa

Overall, our time in South Africa has been an unforgettable learning curve. To see the poverty in many areas of South Africa, contrasted by the sheer enthusiasm and optimism of students in the schools was extremely overwhelming and eye-opening. We are extremely thankful to have been given this opportunity.

Alex Bailey and Tabitha Everett

Out and about



Eleven Biddenham students from all years including 6th form travelled to Copenhagen in Denmark on a 4 day return exchange trip. It was a great opportunity to visit the sights and get an insight into this lovely city.



Twenty year 9 pupils headed off to North Wales on the annual 'Blue Peris' outdoor and adventurous trip. They took part in activities such as sea level traversing, rock climbing, mining and and evening making it to the summit of Mt Snowden.



The Year 12 Law group were invited to attend a debate day facilitated by the Supreme Court in London. Students conducted research on the area in advance of the trip and on the day were advised and guided by an experienced team of barristers. They then presented their arguments in of one the two court rooms. A unique opportunity to experience first hand how this court works.

Sports News



Girls' Handball team reach national finals

The year 9 and 10 handball team were runners up in the national girls' handball finals recently.

The team fought their way through the district and regional finals to win their place in the national finals in Worcester. The girls narrowly lost out in the final to a team made up mainly of England International players.

The team put up a great performance with one student, Storm Judge, being identified early on in the competition as having huge potential by the England scouts.

The team have been coached throughout the whole year by two sixth formers; Amen Ized and Joshey Freeks. Both Amen and Joshey have driven the girls' handball team from strength to strength.

Students Impressive Medal Haul

Biddenham students put in an outstanding performance at the County Athletics Championships



Eight students qualified for the County Finals and claimed four gold medals. Leon Tse, in his first season at Biddenham took the Junior Boys Javelin title with a series of consistently long throws proving too far for his rivals. Storm Judge only needed one throw to win the Intermediate Girls Hammer, but the performance of night came from Alice Read, who stormed to victory in the Intermediate Girls Sprint Hurdles, before doubling her medal tally with victory in the Girls Triple Jump (*pictured*) with an effort of over 10 metres. Reece Baker also impressed in the Intermediate Boys 400m Hurdles. In his first year competing in this event, Reece was given the same time as the gold medal winner, but was placed second in a photo finish.

Sixth Form News

The end of June saw the launch of the Higher Education process for our Year 12 students, soon to be Year 13.

On Monday 22nd we all attended the UCAS Higher Education Convention at UoB. Many returned with a much clearer idea of appropriate courses for them and where they may apply to.

The following day, we all decamped to Nottingham University where a bespoke Information day had been arranged for Biddenham students. This proved to be an excellent day, full of useful and informative sessions ranging from advice on writing their Personal Statements to shopping and cooking on a budget. They also had a tour of the university and a visit to typical student accommodation.



Our students at Nottingham University

The third event of the week took place the following evening, when students, parents and carers attended a Higher Education Information evening here at the school. We were informed by two excellent invited speakers about the latest information on the university application process, the financial implications of student grants, loans and bursaries and the apprenticeship alternative to university. Many parents commented that the knowledge they had gained had allayed their fears and anxieties about the whole university issue.

When our students return in September they will begin the UCAS application process in earnest, but these three events have certainly served to give them plenty to consider over the summer break.