

Biddenham NEWS



Summer Edition

School News | Events | Sports News

First hand tales of the Second World War



A World War II Navy Veteran held Year 7 pupils spellbound with his experiences of serving during the war when he visited this term.

Fred Rose, 95, was originally from London but now lives in Bedford. He was conscripted into the Navy in 1939 when he was just 19 years old and fought for the whole duration of the war.

The students were fascinated to hear about his life aboard the ships he served on. On the HMS London he worked decoding radio messages, on the HMS Viceroy he was the Navigator's Yeoman (he helped the navigator with maps) and on the HMS Cawsand Bay he was the Special Security Duty Man and oversaw the securing of German U-Boats.

After the war he worked as a civil servant then became a primary school teacher.

Full STEAM ahead

The school recently welcomed more than 400 students from nine schools to the recent STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) Event.

Each school was allocated a two hour slot to participate in two of the 50 minute workshops appropriate to the level of the student's ability. These were hands on activities. The purpose of them was to enthuse the young scientists to get the experience of scientific techniques which they can relate to their curriculum and their own lives.

Each school also participated in the STEAM project competition and brought one to three projects with them based on STEAM.

Students showcased their project work and were judged by a professional scientist.

School will finish at 12.30 pm on Friday 21st July - lunch will be provided until 1 pm.

Students return to school on Wednesday 6th September 2017.

A message from the Head Teacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our summer term newsletter and our final one of this academic year... and it has been another momentous year which has disappeared, once again, in the blink of an eye.

It has been momentous in a number of ways:

On a personal note it marked the end of my thirtieth year in teaching and sixteenth at Biddenham - I know I can't be that old can I? In that time we have lived through many changes in the education world and, indeed, the world at large and it has been a privilege, and a challenge, to help prepare our young people to take their place as truly global citizens in the modern world. To that end I would like to thank our staff team who work so hard on behalf of our students - and do so with humour, optimism and hope ensuring they embody on a daily basis the values that the school stands for.

For Biddenham, 2017 will be recorded as the first year in its history that we can claim to be a full secondary, the first where we have year groups from Year 7 to Year 14, from age 11 to 19, and as such marks the new beginning of a longer journey with us which will make for a stronger community, stronger relationships and the opportunity to do more together and provide more opportunities and even greater success and enjoyment for our students. It is an exciting time for the school symbolised in our terrific new Year 7 and 8 complex which will enable the best possible start for our youngest students in a safe, purpose built learning environment.

So, I look forward to working with you all next year; have a great summer break and many thanks for your support for the school.

David Bailey
Headteacher

P.S. Please do look at the photograph on the front page of our Year 7s with WWII veteran Fred Rose - what a lovely photograph which encapsulates everything that is good about Biddenham.

NEWS IN BRIEF

It has been a busy term in the music department this year.

Our Biddenham Music Scholarship students have been having great fun learning the double bass with Mr. Knight. Ellie Gregory in Year 7 said 'the double bass is really fun and I enjoy doing it and learning new songs and playing songs with the bow. I liked playing in the concert because I showed the new Year 7s that a double bass is great instrument.' Jack Thomas in Year 8 echoed this enthusiasm by saying: 'It has been really good and fun and it is the best instrument ever because you can play it two ways and it may seem hard getting started but it is really good when you learn it and understand.'

Modern languages have had an exciting year. Year 7 has made excellent progress with learning German and are ready for the challenge of learning two languages next year. Year 8 had a great year of French and German and will also try Spanish next term.

Our connections with Bamberg in Germany still remain an important part of German learning. Bamberg is our twin town and over the years, we have taken many of our linguists over for the exchange. In June, we had students from the Dienstenhofer Gymnasium in Bamberg visit. The A Level German group are off to Berlin this July for a cultural and historical trip to the city. This supports the new A Level, which is an exciting and challenging course, looking at the history of Berlin post war to date. We hope to have a similar trip to Paris for the French A Level next year.

Years 7 and 8 are looking forward to their visit to Boppard in Germany next June and the Spanish department are hoping to run their fabulous trip to Salamanca next summer.

Showcasing our dramatic talent

The 2nd Drama Showcase took place recently and our Biddenham students outshone themselves. With performers from Years 7 to 13 taking to the stage the show was a real success. The production showcased the diversity of talent we have in this school, from group scripted performances to devised work including monologue and duologue performances.

A special mention to the Year 12 A level students Jemima Ajayi, Charlotte Denny and Georgia Dadley who devised, scripted and performed a comedy sketch called 'Hobo's'.



It was a 'laugh out loud' affair and we hope it's not the last we see of this formidable triple act! The showcase also featured a guest performance from our Biddenham Dance company who performed to 'Smooth Criminal'; the classic Michael Jackson track which asks the question, 'Annie, are you OK?'. Least to say the performance was better than OK, it was fantastic!

A royal visit to Biddenham from Beijing



For the past seven weeks, Biddenham has hosted 17 students from Beijing Royal School in China.

These students have been working in years 7, 8, 9 & 10, buddying with Biddenham students. This was part of an educational and cultural exchange program between Beijing Royal School (BRS) and Biddenham International School and Sports College.

Whilst in Biddenham, the Chinese students have also been travelling to Cambridge to complete various iGCSE qualifications. Their time in Biddenham has supported their education, by giving them complete

immersion in English, an experience of British culture and developed friendships with our students. Our students have done an excellent job in supporting the Chinese students, during their time in school.

Hopefully there are some lasting International friendships which will blossom and be sustained for years to come! Thank you to everyone involved in the visit, staff and students alike made it a real success.

Please visit our website at www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk for all of the latest news and information about what is happening at the school

Don't forget that you can also follow us on twitter @BiddenhamIntSchool

SPORTS PRESENTATION EVENING 2017

Biddenham School's recent 13th annual Sports Presentation Evening was a night where staff, students, and their parents/carers came together to celebrate the sporting achievements of the students throughout the year.

The evening was particularly special this year, as we were able to present awards to a full Secondary School cohort, due to the addition of both Year 7 and 8 students at the school. This was our most popular Sports Presentation Evening to date, with over 370 students and parents/carers in attendance.

This year we were able to welcome Dr Fran Williamson as our special guest speaker; Fran is a Paralympic swimmer and five times World Champion, as well as a World Record holder in numerous events. Since her retirement from swimming, Fran has been travelling across the country, working with a number of schools and youth groups, hoping to inspire a new generation of athletes.

And the winners are...



Team of the year - U16 Girls Badminton
L to R - Weronika Strzelec, Karoline Strzelec,
Freda Banda, Charlotte Saberi, Sisi Bomolo



Outstanding Contribution to Sport - Jade Robson



**Outstanding Contribution to Sport -
Matt Shatford**



**Neil Tysoe Endeavour Award -
Anna Jones**



Leadership Award - Ryan Bezer



Leadership Award - Elisa Sirchia



**Outstanding performances for a male and female -
Brennan Fox & Shanae Wright**

Shanae Wright (left) competed in the 200m (Time 25.63) and relay in the District competition recently at Bedford Athletics Track.

She came 1st in both events and this performance resulted in her being picked for the County Championships where she represented North Beds. Shanae ran the 200m (Time 26.1) and Relay again. Winning both again.

As a result of her places and times, she was selected to run for ESAA - English Schools Athletic Association at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham where she came 5th - Well done!

DAY OF SPORT - SUMMER 2017

The whole school enjoyed a Day of Sport recently and had a great time taking part in a day of activities including football, trampolining, cricket, rounders and volleyball.



Students take their concerns to Parliament

Twenty three of the Biddenham Student Forum travelled to the Palace of Westminster recently to give a joint presentation to MPs Alistair Burt and Mohammad Yasin on the high levels of stress caused by changes to the exam system.

In a 10 minute presentation backed by national statistics, students Lily Flashman, Anila Aswad and Francis Simmons, argued that the stress and anxiety caused by exam pressures were having a serious effect on students across the country. Both MPs listened attentively and agreed to take the students' concerns to ministers in both Health and Education. The students are keen to see what the responses will be from both departments in the coming weeks.

Mr Yasin spent extra time with the students, many of whom he knew, as three of his children

attend Biddenham. The students were also interested to meet Mr Yasin's political assistant, Maddy Rose, who had also once been a student at the school.

They all greatly enjoyed the visit, their tour of both Houses of Parliament and the opportunity to put their arguments to elected officials at a national level.



Students meet Mohammed Yasin MP (top) and Alistair Burt MP (bottom)

Hitting the right note



It was a case of blowing ones own recorder when a special group of woodwind musicians visited Biddenham School recently.

One of his former students and Head of the Music Department, Georgina Murphy, invited Professor Ian Wilson the principal recorder Professor at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama to come along with some of his students to demonstrate the musical versatility of a range of recorders and woodwind instruments.

As well as showing the children the instruments they gave two performances, which they hoped would inspire the students to play the recorder.

Please order your uniform online from Sportswear International www.swi.co.uk or by telephoning SWI direct on 01928 752 610.

Please be aware when ordering the uniform Year 7, 8 and 9 wear the blazer and the jumper with the gold trim. Year 10 and 11 wear the plain navy blazer and jumper.

For further information about deliveries and returns please go the school website. Last date for ordering uniform is Monday 7th August for delivery in time for back to school.



ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION 2017

Biddenham Upper School once again held its annual Art, Design and Photography exhibition recently which was well attended by students, parents and visitors from the community.

The exhibition showcased the variety of art and design artefacts produced in the school and celebrated the success and creativity of the students. The displays included paintings, photography, sculpture and textiles from GCSE and A level work.



In the name of the law!

Five Biddenham students along with Mrs Saggu (Head of Law & Criminology) attended a career insight day at City law firm, Taylor Wessing.

Zain Hanif, Foyzul Amin, Noor-ul-Ain, Tamannah Islam, Ayesha Hussain and students from other schools were led through a day filled with activities and networking opportunities. The day started with an interesting talk from a senior partner in the firm, Mustafa Hussain, who discussed how to make the most of opportunities and networking. The group were then led through a careers carousel in which they had the opportunity to meet people working in different departments within the law firm. The roles and departments included reprographics, secretaries, trainee solicitors, solicitors, accountants, marketing, human resource and a variety of others.

Students were given invaluable advice by members of the recruitment team about job applications, interview tips and what they look for in candidates. This was followed by a presentation given by trainee accountants from Grant Thornton. They talked at length about their roles and experience, the school leavers programme and the opportunities in accounting. After lunch, the students were led through mock interviews conducted by trainee solicitors. This was an excellent opportunity for students to use their own life experiences to practice their interview skills and transfer them to a real life situation. They were all given productive feedback.

For the final activity, students had to prepare and present an ethical debate from the options of privacy, radical speakers and referendums. Three of our five students won their individual debates!

Head Boy, Zain Hanif eloquently summarised the day stating: "It was a great experience, we got to meet people who are from different walks of life and to learn more about the amazing prospect of working in a big city law firm. A great day in all!"

Ayesha Khan - Year 12

A taste of the great outdoors - Welsh style



This term four members of staff and 21 excited Year 9 students set off on the Blue Peris trip to Snowdonia in North Wales.

On arrival the students spent the evening sorting rooms, unpacking bags, collecting a week's worth of equipment and even had an evening walk through the quarry, climbing rocks and exploring.

On the first day, the weather was appalling with 56 mph winds and non-stop rain. However, the now slightly tired students didn't let it dampen their spirits and both groups headed into the mines. After a long climb up the entrance, they put on their helmets and harnesses, turned on their torches and went underground. They climbed, abseiled, crouched and slid their way through to the other side with the majority of students managing to stay dry and warm.

The next day, both groups headed over to Anglesey for their sea level traversing experience. They set off in different directions around the coast climbing over rocks, stepping over rock pools and zip wiring over the sea. The weather was lovely and the students were desperate to get wet, so the last 20 minutes were spent jumping over waves, splashing one another with everyone getting thoroughly wet and sandy.

The following day the students did 'sit on top' kayaking and outdoor rock climbing. Kayaking around the beautiful Lake of Llanberis was breath taking and was a wet activity enjoyed by all. The outdoor climb, although windy, was a challenging experience but definitely a proud moment.

Due to the poor weather all week, the students were unable to go gorge walking. Instead they decided on raft building and indoor climbing. Both activities were thor-

oughly enjoyable but despite their best efforts everyone ended up swimming, even the teachers! After a quick change in the car park, the groups headed off for their indoor climbing experience. Students pushed their limits, came out of their comfort zones and encouraged one another to have a go.

Our final day arrived and it was the day the students were least looking forward to - the mountain walk. Both groups walked up the same mountain, starting at different sides and meeting at the top for a (very) windy lunch and group picture, before departing down the opposite side. It is safe to say that by the end of the day opinions had changed and it



was a day enjoyed by everyone and an experience to brag about.

That evening morale was low because nobody wanted the trip to be over. A tired bunch set off for home with loads of new stories, experiences and memories to last a lifetime.

Well done Year 9, you did yourselves and the school proud!