Hello and welcome back to the new school year! Welcome to the September/October Issue of Bullers Bulletin, featuring all the latest news and achievements from the School. We hope you enjoy it.

Contents

- Bay of Naples trip
- 2015 GCSE Results
- 2015 A2 Results
- Summer school 2015
- Design Ventura
- European Day of Languages
- Youth Travel Ambassadors
- Year 12 Geography trip
On the 25th June, the Italian and Latin Department took 33 very excited students from Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 to the Bay of Naples for three days.

Their first day: the climbing of Mount Vesuvius! They went on 4x4 shuttle buses leading them up the volcano through the National Park, which is an ancient and silent mountain trail as there are no other means of transportation nor are pedestrians allowed to cross it. Once at 1000 metres height, the visit continued on foot until the crater (approx. 20 minutes). All students attacked the ascent with great gusto and once at the crater they were able to enjoy the wonderful views above the Gulf of Naples, with the Sorrento Coast and Capri at the horizon.

Herculaneum was next on the programme. As they walked through the streets, they were able to read inscriptions on the sides of shops and marvel at the mosaics left in situ. They all now could see marshes where once there had been a beach. The sea had retreated so far back that it is now nowhere to be seen in Herculaneum. To look at the modern town built all around the ruins was amazing to see.

On their second day, they decided to spend the morning at the seaside to enjoy the summer time season with the locals while in the afternoon they went to Sorrento. The views were absolutely fantastic. The cliffs towered over the sea and there were small villages clinging to the sides of the cliffs. The surroundings were very natural. They were also able to explore la dolce vita and do a bit of shopping. There were plenty of fine old shops selling ceramics, lacework and intarsio (marquetry items) famously produced there.

On their third and final day, they were off to Pompeii. Pompeii was a place that our Latinists have grown to love and care about through the Cambridge Latin Book I. They had a very experienced tour guide which showed them the beautiful ruins around Pompeii. The girls were taken down the old roads, used the stepping stones (the earlier versions of our pedestrian crossings), they also visited the atriums of the old houses, the upstairs of most having collapsed under the weight of pumice and lava.

This will be a trip to remember for many years and all participants would like to thank those involved in making it possible.
Bullers Wood students celebrated GCSE success on the publication of the 2015 results with 80% securing 5 A*-C grades including English and Maths. 40% of students secured at least 3 A/A* grades and 28% of students secured 5 or more A/A* grades. 54% of the year had achieved the ‘EBACC’ suite of subjects, and we are equally proud of students’ achievements and success in creative and practical subjects which reflect our broad and balanced curriculum that nurtures and develops the skills and aptitudes for study and work in the 21st century. These results reflect two years commitment and hard work on the part of students, with expert guidance from dedicated teachers and support from parents and carers. We congratulate the students on their achievements and wish them well for the future.

Bullers Wood School are delighted to announce an outstanding set of A2, L3 BTEC and L3 Cambridge Technical results. Congratulations to our 4 students who secured places at Oxford and Cambridge. Katie Howell and Zach Liew will read Modern Foreign Languages at Oxford University and Molly Carlin will study History. Leila Cazaly will read Law at Cambridge University. Alongside these there are so many other examples of exceptional individual achievement – we are proud of them all. 83.5 % of all grades were A*-C; 52.9% A*-B, 7.7% of all grades were A*, 29.8% of all grades A*-A, 10.7% of students achieved all A*/A grades, 28.8% of students achieved all A*-B grades and 64.9% of students achieved all A*-C grades. 

Our Level 3 BTEC and Cambridge Technical results were once again also impressive, with 100% pass rate and 93% of all grades being the equivalent to A*-C, including 18% A*. These grades have secured students places on some of the most competitive courses around the country. Students across all courses and programmes should be proud of their achievements which are the result of their sustained hard work over two years of study; supported by dedicated and expert teachers.
Summer school took place for the third time from 17th to 21st August. All Year 6 students starting at Bullers Wood School in September were invited to attend from 9am until 2.30pm for 1 week. Many members of staff were involved in arranging and delivering activities throughout the week which included Literacy and Numeracy based lessons, Science, Technology, Food technology, Physical Education such as dance and Drama. All the students who attended had a fantastic time. The activities focused on transition and giving skills students would need when starting at Bullers Wood School. It was a great opportunity for students to get to know the staff, make new friends and become familiar with the school before September.

We received excellent feedback from parents about the summer school: ‘She loved summer school. It also gave her the opportunity to walk to and from school on her own which was valuable. Thank you for doing it and giving my daughter the chance to settle in before the term starts for real’.

‘A really positive experience!’
‘It was an excellent idea, helps children like my daughter to settle in better and makes the transition from primary to secondary school much easier’.

‘We have been thrilled with my daughter’s engagement with the programme. The balance of activities has been perfect and she’s loved everything. Thank you!’

‘An excellent opportunity to be more confident in September.’

‘I think it has been a great success, my daughter has enjoyed it. I have no doubt it will make the transition to senior school much smoother. Thank you!’
This September marked the return of the prestigious Design Ventura competition, where in 2014 the team from Bullers Wood scored a place amongst the top ten schools, receiving a commendation for good communication. Inspired by the success from last year, the Design Technology department wishes to build on this and has an ambitious vision which will see 90 students entering the Design Museum’s competition, more than doubling the number of students from last year. To get the creative juices flowing 90 students visited the Design Museum last week. Students were fortunate to see a diverse range of innovative products in the Designs of the Year 2015 exhibition. Additionally students embarked on a creative journey into how traditional shoemaking has been shaped by contemporary design and new technologies with the Life on Foot exhibition. Students also took part in a workshop delivered by one of the Designers in residence. Spirits were high as we left the museum brimming full of ideas to explore when back at school. The girls should all feel incredibly proud of the compliments that were received by museum staff and members of the public. The museum’s director of learning complimented them on their ‘impeccable behaviour.’
On Tuesday 29th September 2015, students at Bullers Wood School celebrated European Day of Languages. About 150 Year 7 students participated in a variety of activities held at lunch time, ranging from Spanish Dancing, German Hotdog tasting, French café, Italian mask making and Japanese Origami. Students had a fantastic time learning new skills and sampling food from different countries. Sixth form and KS4 students acted as waitresses in the French café, served hotdogs and helped with the craft activities. One year 7 student said “I’ve had a great time. I’ve tasted a German sausage and made an Italian mask. I liked it because I’d never done either before.”

Student from Years 7, 8 and 9 were also invited to take part in a Poster competition entitled “My favourite word in a Foreign Language”. Over 150 entries were made with languages chosen ranging from Japanese, Polish, French and Swedish. Students had to explain why they had chosen that word and represent it pictorially. The winners will be announced shortly.
On 6th October, our Year 8 Youth Travel Ambassadors travelled to London to collect our Gold Award for our Outstanding Travel Plan. The aim of our Travel Plan is to raise awareness of the benefits of sustainable travel, both on a personal level and also on a national/universal level.

Many of our students now walk to school, which is clearly the most sustainable and healthy mode of travel. Research has shown it to increase spatial awareness, to improve social skills and to improve concentration. We would also like to encourage students who currently use other modes of travel to also include some walking in their journey to/from school. For example, if travelling by car, children can be dropped off a short distance away and walk; this is called our Park and Stride initiative which we hope will prevent students being dropped off by the school gates. Dropping off or parking by our gates presents dangers, and we would like to keep these areas clear of cars for the safety of all our students and staff.

This year, our Youth Travel Ambassadors are working on their project to reduce congestion outside the school gates and create ways for students to travel to and from school in a safer and healthier way. Building on the success of last year’s Walking Bus, our Youth Travel Ambassadors are identifying possible Park and Stride locations, where the Walking Bus will collect/drop off students in the morning and after school. Last year, our students formed friendships through joining the Walking Bus and enjoyed a healthy walk into school. In addition, if they joined the Walking Bus over 3 times per week, they received a voucher to be used in the school canteen.

Our Youth Travel Ambassadors will be launching their Park and Stride project soon to all Year 7 students.
53 students accompanied by Ms Kincaid, Ms Giacopazzi and Mr Weeks (and Ron the coach driver) left Bullers Wood for the South coast on Tuesday 13th October. The first day of the trip involved a ferry trip across Southampton Water to visit Dibden Bay – the site of a proposed container port development which was turned down by the government due to the ecological value of the area. The next stop was Swanage which was 'home' for 3 nights in several B&Bs. During this time, students completed 're-branding' and 'coasts' investigations in Swanage, Studland, Lulworth Cove, Weymouth and at Farmer Palmer’s (a diversified dairy farm). Activities included questionnaires, sand dune transects, environmental quality surveys and listening to various expert speakers (to name a few). The students worked very hard individually and through group activities. It was an excellent opportunity for students to mix with different people and they certainly enhanced their ability to work as part of a team. Their commitment to their studies was demonstrated by the hard work in evidence in the evenings in a little primary school in Swanage; some were rewarded with bags of Haribo sweets and mini chocolate animals for their willingness to make verbal contributions. Students now have a good grasp of the fieldwork and research techniques that can be used to further their understanding of Geography and they have results which they will be able to discuss in their AS Level examinations in the summer.