

Headteacher

Christmas Greetings from us all at Bullers Wood! As I write this I can hear the sounds of rehearsals for the Christmas Concert from the Main Hall—it certainly promises to be a festive occasion and a fitting end to the term. Students are also looking forward to the return of ‘Buller’s Got Talent’ which will take place on Wednesday. Look out for the results and pictures in the next Bulletin!

I am pleased to say that the large part of this Bulletin contains articles written by students about their activities this term. These provide but a snapshot of their interests and pursuits beyond the classroom in a range of fields. In terms of their classroom learning we are very pleased with the way in which students in all years have responded to the challenges of this first term. Students in Y11 and Y13 go into the New Year knowing that the next six months will be crucial for their progression to the next stage of their education. They have laid solid foundations this term and the Mock Examinations in the New Year will further refine their awareness of the areas to work on.

The end of term sees us say farewell to a number of colleagues. Mr Bannister, having last year completed his training with us is relocating to the West Country. Miss Cottam has completed her period of maternity cover and will be moving to another post. We are particularly grateful for her work in highlighting the issue of ‘Modern Slavery’ and will look to ensure we continue to raise awareness of this. Mrs Beckett is also leaving having had her baby and we wish her well. We are also saying goodbye to Mr Leaton who departs having lead the Maths Department for the last three years. We thank them for their contribution—not just in the classroom but to the broader community. Each leaves knowing they have left their mark and we wish them well in the future.

The last week or so has seen some wintry weather. Not enough to lead to any closure but a few flurries that remind us of the potential for disruption. This obviously will continue in the New Year. As the thermometer drops we monitor weather forecasts carefully—particularly in relation to snowfall. Decisions about any closure are governed by considerations of safety for staff and students moving around the site, and also in relation to travelling to and from school. In the event of any potential closure to the school or changes to arrangements, all announcements will be communicated via the website.

There will be much to look forward to in the New Year. Not least of which is the anticipation of the beginning of the construction of the Boys’ School. In this respect Ms Gouldthorpe will commence the New Year working full time as Headteacher Designate of the Boys’ School. As such the role of Deputy in the Girls School will be taken on by Mrs Anderson. So, not quite goodbye to Ms Gouldthorpe—but genuine and heartfelt recognition and thanks for her leadership at the Girls’ School; and secure in the knowledge that the fledgling Boys’ School could not be in safer hands.

We very much look forward to seeing students back in school on Thursday 4th January. Our Christmas Assembly last week reflected on the theme of ‘peace’. Amongst all the things you receive over the next few weeks I hope the traditional wish of ‘peace and goodwill’ is realized.

Ben Greene





A Christmas Carol

On Tuesday 5th December, Year 7 students got the opportunity to go and see "A Christmas Carol" in Bromley's Empire Cinema.

When we entered, the rustling of sweet wrappers failed to drown out the sound of our excited whispering. Suddenly, the lights began to dim and we all went as silent as mice.

We went to see it in 3D so it looked as if we were in the middle of the action and the snow was really falling on our heads!

During the film, there were a few moments that made us squeal with fear, for instance, when the ghost of Marley appeared! The 3D really brought it to life. Some funny moments were when the film was drawing to a close: Scrooge could be seen, dancing, in the background...

It was a great way for us as a year group to mark the end of our first term at Bullers and to mark the beginning of advent. I loved the film and we all hope we can do something like it again soon.

By Evie Taylor-Cokayne Yr 7



House Assemblies

Bullers Wood students participated in the first ever series of House Assemblies from 20th - 23rd November 2017.

All eight houses had an opportunity to enjoy a short presentation which was put together by their respective House Leaders. The focus was to educate house members about the lives and achievements of the women whom their houses have been named after. All the House Leaders played prominent roles in ensuring that their assemblies truly reflected the identity of their house. It was also an opportunity for the House Leaders to be officially introduced to their house members since they were appointed.

In order to provide uniqueness and a sense of community spirit, each house's assembly was held at a designated venue (the main hall or the dining hall) on an allocated day. It was truly an assembly of house members - by house members and for house members. The House Leaders were able to bond with their house members and also used the forum to provide information about future House events that are coming up later in the academic year; not least of which is the much anticipated return of Bullers Got Talent!

Mr Ayo

Trampolining Competition



Having all been woken very early by our alarms and braved both the snow and the M25 we arrived safely for the trampolining competition.

All students jumped very well and two teams just narrowly missed out on qualification.

Congratulations to the U13 team who placed 1st. Emma Sefton, Mila Rudetsky-Keats, Gemma Read and Jessica Teague will go on to represent London at the Southern Zonal competition in January.

The U15 Novice team placed 3rd overall: Lucy Gosling, Phoebe Hoang, Freya Sheath and Tallulah Sitwell.

In the U14 Elite competition, Sophie Birch placed 4th jumping extremely well against girls older than her.

Katherine Hincks secured 1st place in the U19 Elite and will go onto the next round.

The U19 Intermediate team placed 3rd; Yasmine Fellah, Fran Deighton, Molly Teague and Sophia D'Souza.

Miss O'Hanlon



'A Christmas Carol' at The Old Vic

"The orchestra were amazing - creating a magical atmosphere immediately on entering the auditorium. The staging was really imaginative – especially the use of lanterns to create a gothic atmosphere. The cast really created the sense of Victorian London with bell ringers, carol singers and even free mince pies for the audience.

Rhys Ifans (Scrooge) gave a very powerful and emotional performance – especially when confronted with the ghost of his sister. It was an original interpretation using minimal props in inventive ways. At one point, there were turkeys on

zip wires, and potatoes and sprouts being showered down into the audience and snow falling from the 'gods'.

The child actor playing Tiny Tim was disabled and reminded us to be thankful for our health and happiness during the festive season. He gave a touching and powerful performance and proved the message of Christmas Carol is just as important today.

By Kem Grandison, Holly Boreham and Zoha Cousins Yr 12

Bullers' Got Talent

The 2017 edition of BULLERS' GOT TALENT has been scheduled for the last day of autumn term, 20th December 2017. It will showcase the fantastic but hidden talents across the 8 houses of the school. It is also aimed at ending the term with festive cheer whilst encouraging inter-house competition.

Each of the 8 houses have scouted for the best talents in their houses and the House leaders auditioned these acts. The best acts / talents have been put through to the finals to represent their House and will be performing in front of a live audience in the main hall.

A panel of judges have been carefully selected to give feedback to the acts as well as award points to the houses. **Seacole House Leader, Molly Kennard:** "I love having the

connection with the students in my House. It's been stressful organising the auditions but the hard work will pay off. The Seacole entry has variety and an edge – we're going to win!"

Blackman House Leader, Abi Assock: "It's really nice being able to spend time with the younger students. They've all shone like stars and we're very proud of them!"



EU Mock Council 2017

Beth Handley and I were fortunate enough to represent Bullers Wood for the first time at the EU Mock Council 2017. This fantastic opportunity, organised by the European Commission and the British Council, gave us the chance to experience the EU's decision-making process by taking part in debates and learning more about EU policy in various areas. To reach this stage we had worked hard, improving our debating skills and putting them to the test against schools from across the country to win in the qualifying round to secure our place in the final. Bullers Wood was one of only 32 winning schools across the UK that took part in the mock summit of EU leaders on 22 November at the Law Society in Chancery Lane. Over 60 students discussed and debated two key issues: the future of the United Kingdom in the Erasmus+ programme and the rights of EU citizens in the UK once it has left the European Union.

Each school was assigned the role of one of the EU's 28 member states; Buller's being Romania, with Beth and I negotiating on our respective issues in the talks. It was really interesting to hear from key players in European Policy. The British Council's EU Regional Director, Rebecca Walton,

opened the event along with Christine Dalby, Acting Head of the European Commission Representation in the UK. After our debate, in which we successfully obtained a 'good Brexit deal', Her Excellency Ms. Tiina Intelmann, the Estonian ambassador to the UK, closed the event with an inspirational and thoughtful speech. With a particular emphasis on how the EU will continue to be relevant to British economic and political life in the future, she went on by saying, "Taking part in the mock summit will give the students an invaluable insight into the dynamics of complex political negotiations."

I hope fellow Bullers students in the future have the same opportunity to improve their debating skills and learn more about politics outside of the classroom by taking part in fascinating opportunities such as this.

By Andrew Wolckenhaar Y13



TES Kids Lit. Quiz 2017

On Tuesday 21st November 2017, I had the opportunity to participate in the Times Educational Supplement's annual international 'Kids Lit Quiz'. I am very thankful that I was able to go, as it challenged and broadened my knowledge of children's and teenager's books.

Before being selected, we were assigned a pre-test of 30 questions to see who had the widest knowledge of children's literature. This led to ten students - Angeliki Georgiou, Lucyna Ebdon, Milan Shakespeare-Sims, Holly O'Hara, Sarina Bodbin, Hannah Sweetman, Grace Boichat, Millie Haslett, Niamh Tsang and myself being selected to take part.

The competition was held at Harris Academy Chafford Hundred, Essex and once in the building we were allocated a table with our school's name on. Every team was asked which category they specialised in so that they could pick that round to get double points in. The categories are diverse in order to cater for all reading tastes and the Bullers Wood teams chose 'fantasy' and 'dogs'. The

Quizmaster and Founder who hosted the competition was Wayne Mills, who came all the way from New Zealand. He read out all of the questions and answers clearly and in a friendly manner, with the occasional stop to host games with the audience. With every round there was a bonus question which one of our team mates won.

Although we didn't come first or highest on all the rounds, I was still satisfied with our position as tenth out of thirty. My knowledge of children's and teenage literature has broadened fantastically and I am extremely grateful to Mrs Haslam for giving us the chance to engage in this event. Not only did my knowledge of reading expand, but my skills of collaboration and cooperation have improved through working together to choose the right decision for our team.

I had an unforgettable time and really enjoyed myself.

By Ipek Kilic Yr 8

Stamp out Albatross Deaths



giving
nature
a home

We all receive lots of post—particularly during the festive season. Please collect your used postage stamps and Bullers will send them to the RSPB—they will convert them to cash, and use the money save albatrosses.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/join-and-donate/other-ways-to-help/save-your-stamps/>

15 out of 22 albatross species are threatened with

extinction. The main threat to albatrosses is death on a hook at the end of a fishing line.

The Albatross Task Force is helping to save albatrosses from extinction both at sea and on land. They show fishing crews how to stop albatrosses from being killed and share the best techniques and tools.

With BirdLife International partners and other organisations, they are working to stop the needless slaughter of these amazing birds and bring them back from the brink of extinction.

Ms Lenihan

Diving Competition

Florence and Evie both competed in the national 'Luton Challenge' diving competition.

It was a great competition with both girls winning a Silver and Gold medal each! Congratulations!





Imperial College STEM Potential Programme

Blog #1- December 2017

Today I started my journey with Imperial College... This university is ranked 7th in the world and I have been lucky enough to secure a place on a 2 year Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) course with them.

Our first session was Physics. It was amazing to learn about cosmology and astronomy—they even had their own inflatable planetarium! We got to observe the sky during the day and travel forward in time to see the night sky! The projector in the centre displayed the entire universe, including all the stars and their names. For example, Polaris is the one of the easiest stars to find on a clear night. Ancient travelers used this to find the north.

After lunch, we went straight over to the laboratory to start our Biology lesson. Here we did a practical about fruit juice production. You may be thinking well how can this relate to Biology? Fruit juice companies use a variety of enzymes to maximise their yield. In this practical, we investigated the

effectiveness of different enzymes: Pectinase, Amylases and Cellulases. All these enzymes are designed to break down cell walls, releasing the liquids and sugars from the fruit. We discovered that Amylases was the most effective in breaking down pears to form pear juice.

The final session of the day was Maths. In this session we learnt about 'Trigetti'. Trigetti is Trigonometry (branch of mathematics dealing with relations of the sides and angles of triangles) using spaghetti. We were asked to plot the graph of $(x)=\sin$ on a piece of large A1 paper. At first, when hearing these instructions they did confuse me, but by working with the new people I had met on my table, not only did we get to know each other better but we managed to complete our graph and move on to the graph of $(x)=\cos$.

Overall I really enjoyed my day and I can't wait for the second session on the 12th February.

By Elle-Mae Wood Yr 10

The Bromley Homeless Shelter

On November 3rd I slept outside the Parish Church near to Primark – in a graveyard - to raise money for The Bromley Homeless Shelter. TBHS is funded solely by gifts and donations, not by the Council, as many think. So far my mother and I have raised a total £815.95, with the school contributing £205.90.

Each winter season TBHS nightly provides 12 temporary beds to 50+ homeless guests and provides an all-year-round advice service to these guests.

ANYONE can become homeless. My mother has volunteered for 2 homeless shelters and she's met all sorts of people as guests: students, people fleeing domestic violence, a GP, a Scientist, several others with PhD's, several chefs, an accountant and a man whose business partner had swindled him out of all he owned ... plus many vulnerable people unable to look after themselves for various reasons such as mental health issues, memory loss, epilepsy and cancer.

Over 8000 people slept rough on London's streets last year and the problem is getting worse. I want to raise awareness and money to support this fantastic local charity that helps those who are homeless or about to become homeless..

In November the homeless charity Shelter revealed nearly 4,500 people are homeless in Bromley - but Bromley council is disputing those numbers. According to the charity, 4,478 people are living in temporary accommodation in Bromley, while there are three rough sleepers, putting it within the top 50 highest local authorities for homelessness numbers. Shelter has assured the figures, which are taken from a variety of sources including the Department for Communities and Local Government, are "robust lower-end estimates of recorded homelessness".

Thank you to all who sponsored me. If you wish to donate [click here](#) - The Bromley Homeless Shelter will be very grateful for any donations.

Yr 11 student





Year 9 Public Speaking Training

In late November, 26 Year 9 students participated in an exciting workshop delivered by 'Speaker Bank' trainer, Caroline Clark in the school library. The day started with games and culminated in a stimulating afternoon session where each student delivered a speech, without notes, on an eclectic range of subjects including classical music, art, feminism, friendship, food and the entrepreneurial spirit.

Student feedback was extremely positive, 'Caroline was so amazing and really changed my life completely,' 'It was the perfect way to boost confidence without feeling mocked or picked on', 'Great time learning how to improvise and learn

skills for the future'.

Six students - Georgina Gibson, Ava Gray, Charlotte Morton-Hollis, Alicia Odmosu, Beatrice Ubochi and Orphelia Kelly were selected to develop their speeches and two of these students will represent the school in The Bromley Schools' Public Speaking Competition to be held at the Harris Academy Beckenham on the evening of the 6th February next year.

Mrs Haslam

Churchill Public Speaking Competition

On the 12th of December, five Year 12 students; Cerys Jones, Herbie Barlow, Jasmine Miller, Annie Mercer and myself attended an introductory workshop for the Churchill Public Speaking Competition. Here, we learnt about the competition, its aims, and the benefits of taking part and about Churchill's background and speech styles and methods. We went on to read a section of Sir Winston Churchill's VE Day speech and had to offer an analysis of what we assessed to be the most effective literary and spoken language features and explain the effect of these features on the audience. We progressed to working in small groups to compose our own short speeches making use of Churchill's methods, receiving encouragement from Ann West, the visiting speaker and Mrs Haslam.

This annual competition is organised by the education department at Chartwell, Sir Winston Churchill's former home, which is now a National Trust property. The competition has two further stages: a special workshop day

on 2 March 2018 and the actual competition on 22 June 2018. Both events are held at Chartwell and culminate in a number of Bromley and Kent schools presenting final speeches to a board of judges, with members of the Churchill family in attendance.

The competition was started seven years ago, with the aim of encouraging young people to take up public speaking and enhance their public skills using Sir Winston Churchill as inspiration. The school has taken part for the last two years gaining best GCSE individual speaker award on both occasions. We are looking forward to writing and delivering our speech in the summer.

By Ahmunet Adams-Eloi

Bullers Wood Multi Academy Trust

On the 16th November a small number of parents attended a consultation event in the school library where they were updated on plans to establish a Multi Academy Trust as we progress towards opening the Boys' School. We anticipate this conversion being confirmed in the New Year. This will enable us to secure and uphold the ethos we have established at the Girls' School rather than find that circumstance dictates we join someone else's MAT.

A MAT Board will be established overseeing a local governing body in each school. Each school will also have its own Headteacher, and we anticipate appointing a Business Manager to work across both to secure economies and efficiencies of scale and savings through shared costs. This should help to ensure both schools are well placed as we continue to chart challenging financial waters.

The Boys' School will be a school in its own right. It will recruit its own staff and attract its own dedicated funding. There will be exciting opportunities for colleagues to collaborate professionally as well as for students in extra-curricular opportunities.

Len Webb, a previous Chair of Governors at the Girls' School will be the Chair of the MAT Board. He is available to answer any questions you may have about the governance structure which will be in place via len.webb@virginmedia.com



Young Carers



I have been caring for my mum since I was 4. Obviously, the role has adapted as I have grown older. At the moment, I do things including housework, cooking and shopping as well as helping my mum get ready for the day, arranging her medication and manoeuvring the wheelchair around. As this has been part of my life for so long, it has become a routine so I find it easier to handle now than when I was younger. However, I still need some support sometimes which I get from family and friends as well as a charity called 'Carers Trust' who help all sorts of carers—from one to one support sessions, group activities and training.

For example, I was first aid trained through one of their courses. Recently, I have been increasingly involved with their fundraising events as their funding has been cut. In my role as a media ambassador of 'Carers Trust', I was asked to do a speech and a reading at their Christmas Concert - alongside Angela Rippon, Jennie Bond and Jo Brand. This was a wonderful night for my mum and I to take part in and we met some amazing people.



Chloe Stimson Y11

*

More information about the work of 'Carers Trust' can be found at <https://carers.org/>. As a school we are keen to support families where young people are caring for other family members. If this affects your family and your child please contact Mrs Carter, Designated Safeguarding Lead, at the school.

Help us Raise Donations. For Free!

Every time you shop online via 'easyfundraising' at one of 3,300 retailers including John Lewis, Sainsbury's and Booking.com, a donation will be made to Bullers Wood School, and it won't cost you an extra penny.

It's really simple to get started:

Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Sign up for free—and start shopping – your donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to Bullers Wood School. It couldn't be easier!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Bullers Wood School will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

