

Headteacher

I am writing to you as we enter the last few days of the Summer Term. We have been blessed with some fine weather—although students sitting external examinations haven't always appreciated this. It is to be hoped that the sun continues to shine over the rest of the Summer. We were very pleased with how students managed the exam season – in particular in Y11 with the new GCSEs in Maths and English, and in Y13 with the new A Level specifications. Looking back over the last two years, I know how just hard students and colleagues have worked in partnership responding to the increased demands of the new specifications. We wish them the best for their results in August.

No less important in Years 7-10 and 12 are the internal examinations and end of year reports and assessments which you will have received in recent days and weeks. These should be used not just to sum up the progress of this year, but to identify areas for improvement and lay the foundations for the year ahead.

Examinations aside the term has been incredibly busy – and this is reflected in articles in this Bulletin. We have also enjoyed the Sixth Form Summer Ball, Sports Day, Sports Awards Evening, and the Summer Concert to name a few. This week is Enterprise Week and the visits and activities continue. I am both humbled and inspired by the colleagues who undertake to plan and organise these ensuring your daughters and sons get such varied and rich experiences.

We live in challenging and fast changing times. Who would have predicted the political changes in Britain, Europe and the US of the last 12 months alone? In education we are used to constant change. Colleagues at Bullers remain committed to responding to the challenges – however great they may be, to ensure that your daughters and sons continue to receive the best opportunities we can provide – they deserve nothing less. I am grateful to parents and carers for your ongoing support as we strive to create the climate and atmosphere where 'can do' remains the default response. Notwithstanding this, we reach the end of the school year ready for a break, proud of the many

and varied achievements and successes, and looking forward to fresh challenges next year.

The month of July is always bittersweet as we bid farewell to a number of staff. In some cases colleagues are retiring, in others they have secured well deserved promotions to other schools and others are relocating. Each goes with our heartfelt appreciation for their contribution to the school, which accumulated represents many years hard work and many thousands of students' education and lives improved.

Mr Morrison (Science)
Ms Kleine Deters (Science)
Ms Kamps Science)
Mr Feakes (Science)
Ms Santa Maria (Learning Support)
Miss Saville (Learning Support)
Mrs Walters (Business & Economics)
Mrs Bragman (Finance)
Mrs Calvert (Media)
Mrs Shann (Languages)
Mrs Fletcher (Head of Y11)
Mrs Williams (PE)
Mr Ahmed (Maths)
Mr Leonard (Maths)
Mrs Tibbitts (Maths)

It is with inevitable sadness that we say goodbye to these colleagues. However long their service at Bullers Wood, they have all made a rich contribution. On behalf of colleagues and students, past and present, I would like to record my grateful thanks to them. We wish them all well.

I would like to offer my best wishes to you all for a happy and relaxing summer holiday.

Ben Greene





Books2Africa

I would like to start by saying a massive thank you to everyone who donated text books for Books2Africa; an amazing charity which sends books to disadvantaged schools. Additionally I would like to express my appreciation to my friends - Ellie Hyde, Faye Frazer, Haysie Lopes and Sam Storey - who took time out of their summer to help box all the books, and Mr Greene and Mrs Fletcher for helping me organise this event.



We managed to collect a staggering total of 2056 text books, most of which came from the Maths department (who enjoyed having a massive clear

out of all their cupboards)! These books will benefit many schools, and give less advantaged children, a better chance at gaining an education. One text book will create a long chain of good opportunities.

I came about this idea when my friend, at Langley Girls set up a collection at her school, and I thought it was such an amazing idea, Bullers should do the same. Not only is it helping other children, it is a great way to help save the environment, as the books are being reused, instead of thrown away.

I hope collecting unwanted text books at the end of each school year, will become a new tradition at Bullers Wood, and the years below us will embrace this new idea.

Thank you again for everyone's help and support, and I hope everyone else shares the same good feeling, knowing that we have made a difference to this world.

Ellora Kowalczyk Yr 11

Bullers Divers

Bullers Wood School is very proud of our diving stars who are certainly making a splash!

Florence and Evie represented Bullers Wood School at the London Youth Games recently in Diving.

Florence won Gold and Evie won Bronze with Bromley coming second over all.

Connie Deighton has recently competed and is UK National age group champion at 1m and Silver medallist at 3m.

We look forward to hearing more of their successes over the coming months.





Year 10 Trip to Oxford University

On Wednesday 21st June, a group of Year 10 students visited Mansfield College, Oxford University for an insight into what it is like to attend Oxford University. Upon our arrival, we were given a talk about university life at Oxford, discussing possible degrees and courses as well as what we can do to improve our chance of meeting the entry criteria for the university. We were then introduced to Dan, a current student studying material science, who told us a personal account of his university experience – what a normal day is like for him, what he studied at A-level etc. He then proceeded to give us a tour of the college and its facilities. The architecture was incredible and the dining hall in which we had lunch was very grand and wouldn't have looked out of place in Harry Potter.

In the afternoon, we had a talk on the 'physics behind lasers' and how they are used, for example to determine the composition of other planets.

The day culminated in a trip to get some ice cream

before we travelled back to school, tired after an exciting and incredibly inspiring day. Many thanks to Miss Goddard and Mrs Sudds for making the trip possible!



Ella Jefford and Vikita Vaghela Yr 10

Delancey Chess Megafinal

Three of our students recently participated in the Delancey Chess Megafinal. Orla, Nesya, and Marvyn deserve congratulations for their performances. They were excellent ambassadors for the school at this busy event.

Thanks to Mr Leaton and Mr Runacres for making this possible. Thanks also to Gary Dorman, Jo Wildman, and the rest of the Delancey team for organising the tournament so well.

Here is a report on the event written by two of the students:

Orla, Marvyn and Nesya played in the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge Megafinal at Bishop Justus. There were lots of very good players there and you needed 3.5/6 to qualify for the Gigafinal in Twickenham in July. Orla got 5/6 coming 2nd in the Under 13s and winning the under 13 girls and Nesya and Marvyn just missed out by getting a

score of 3/6. It was a vibrant atmosphere and we all enjoyed ourselves and Orla is looking forward to the Gigafinal in July. There were approximately 20 participants in each section so they all did very well.





Thorpe Park

On Monday the 19th and Tuesday the 20th of June Mr Parsons ran a much anticipated and appreciated school trip to Thorpe Park for all the students that had achieved 100% attendance. It was a trip that I, like many others, have been thinking about all year. In all those groggy mornings where even slowly removing myself from the comfort of my bed seemed impossible, the thought of spending the day with my friends at Thorpe Park kept me going. This year one of the common phrases I have muttered to myself under my breath is 'No Ella, don't you want to go to Thorpe Park?' - and it clearly worked.

Both days we were very lucky to have exceptional weather that made the water rides even more amazing, once you had got over the fact that you were about to become absolutely soaking wet. As we zipped from ride to ride we could see the face of a Buller's girl lighting up as she discussed her last ride with her friends and worked out which one they would make their way over to next. I went on so many rides that by the end of it my throat was hoarse because I had screamed so much! However, this didn't stop us from having a good old sing song on the way home, much to the teachers' disappointment.

The trip to Thorpe Park was a brilliant day for everyone that went, as it was not only great fun but it came with a feeling of pride and accomplishment that will motivate me and many others to aim to reach this goal again next year. I'd like to say a huge thank you to Mr Parsons for arranging and taking us on this trip, and let's hope that we all reach the goal once again next year. ***Ella Brown Yr 9***



Public Speaking Competition

On Friday 23rd June, Year 10 students Ruth Ou, Ava King, Yasmine Fella and Sarah Aitchison competed in the annual Sir Winston Churchill Public Speaking Competition which is held in the prestigious setting of Churchill's home at Chartwell.

Both as researchers and speakers, the students gave first-rate performances and Ruth was honoured to take the award for best speaker.





Duke of York Award

"For the ambitious... The Bright and the Skill-seekers..."

Groups of students have been introduced to the Duke of York Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (iDEA), which has only recently been developed as a computing-based award scheme with Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Award. With its inception in January, Bullers Wood has become one of the earliest adopters of the scheme and we are proud to have become the largest group of participants after less than two months. Some of our students have enjoyed the experience so much that they have continued with the award in their own time, with one student completing the Bronze Award within an astounding 36 hours of starting.



The Duke of York award acknowledges the success of young people, with a series of online challenges and events. You can win career-enhancing badges and ultimately gain nationally recognised awards, which help YOU stand out from the crowd. The

Junior Maths Challenge

Pupils at Bullers Wood School achieved 2 golds, 24 silvers and 44 bronzes in this year's UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. Over 250 000 pupils from across the UK sat the Junior Maths Challenge with roughly the top 6% receiving a gold certificate, the next 13% silver and the next 21% bronze.

Special congratulations go to Holly Stevens in year 7 who not only achieved the best result in the school but also qualified and took part in the Kangaroo which is the next stage of the

challenges are split into four main categories that each include a series of badges to be won: Citizen, Worker, Maker and Entrepreneur. The majority of the badges are worth 10 points, but there are a few worth five and twenty points. When you've earned enough badges in each category, you can gain the iDEA Bronze Award, which is a recognised symbol of your hard work, determination and skill. You will then be able to take new challenges and badges that will unlock a Silver Award that can progress later into the Gold.

Elle-Mae Wood from Year 9 has completed her Bronze Award and has written about the scheme and her experiences:

'I really enjoyed completing my Bronze Award as I was able to complete it in my own time, at my own pace. Every badge is based on a different topic ranging from animation and automation to cyber security, graphic design, coding and cloud computing. This award isn't easy to get and a lot of hard work went in to achieve it, but it feels amazing to say I now have the Bronze Award. I definitely recommend joining iDEA and to give it a go as it can contribute to your future in so many ways and even help when seeking a job. Over 30,000 individual iDEA award badges have been completed since January and this is yet to increase. Start for free at <https://idea.org.uk/> and unlock your potential today.'

Elle-Mae Wood Yr 9

competition.

"The Maths Challenge provides material to provoke the students' mathematical thinking and test their problem solving skills in an accessible and yet challenging way. Many congratulations to Bullers Wood on their success in the Junior Maths Challenge; it is great to see achievement in mathematics recognised." Rachel Greenhalgh, UKMT Executive Director.



Mock Magistrates' Competition

Throughout the Spring term, 13 Year 9 students prepared for The Mock Magistrates' Competition. The school has competed in this national event, run by The Citizenship foundation, for 10 years. As always, the team gave outstanding performances, demonstrating intellectual rigour and a steely commitment to, at times, very demanding preparation. They performed brilliantly at the event which was held in Bromley Magistrates' Court on Saturday the 18th March. Congratulations to the team which consisted of: Scarlett Bloomfield, Holly Reynolds, Monica Rutherford, Abigail Prifti, Megan Platford, Mia Buxton, Robyn Picardo, Megan Hullah, Libby Hyde, Rachael Ashmore, Poppy Cann, Rosie Heald and Sasha Mulcahy.



Mrs Haslam

September 2017

The Autumn term starts for all students in Y7-12 on Wednesday, 6th September at the normal time. Y13 students return on Thursday, 7th September.

Please note that the INSET Days for the next academic year will take place on:

- Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th September 2017
- Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd January 2018
- Friday 29th June 2018

Students are not expected to attend on these dates.

We are grateful to parents for the role they have played in supporting students' attendance at School. We have maintained very strong attendance this year and made improvements in punctuality across all year groups. With this in mind we urge you to avoid holidays and other non-essential absences during term time.

In addition, we are grateful that you send your daughters to School wearing the correct uniform – in particular the length of the skirt which should be no shorter than knee length. The only items of jewellery which are permitted are one pair of small, plain silver or gold stud earrings for pierced ears (one earring in each ear lobe) and/or a small chain with religious symbol if appropriate. In particular piercings of other parts of the ear are not permitted. Details of our uniform requirements are to be found on our website.

