

## *Headteacher*

As I sit down to write this I am reflecting on the fact that for a month and a half we have seen no rain and the temperature has often exceeded 30 degrees. Yet only four and a half months ago, the school was closed due to snow and the temperature on our garden thermometer read minus 10 degrees... a timely reminder of how drastically and quickly things can change and the awesome power of nature!

Thankfully the worst of the summer heat did not really kick in until external examinations were completed. Parents and carers will be aware of the challenges of the new specifications which across the board mean less coursework and more external exam papers; which themselves are longer and more demanding than hitherto. Students in Y11 and 13 have coped admirably with the pressures. They, along with colleagues have worked incredibly hard over the last two years and we look forward to seeing those efforts rewarded in August. Just as important are the end of year exams and assessments which have taken place in Y7-10 which will inform and underpin students' and colleagues thinking and planning in the new academic year.

The school calendar—and indeed this Bulletin—reflect the many and varied opportunities and activities which take place outside of timetabled lessons. Sports Day was a fitting culmination of the first year of the House System—congratulations to Blackman House for winning Sports Day and also to Parks as overall winners of the inaugural House Competition. As I write we are in the midst of Enterprise Week—with students engaged in a range of visits and activities. At the end of the academic year I am both humbled and inspired by the energy and commitment of both staff and students in planning and engaging in such a richly rewarding and enriching array of activities.

This time last year I commented on our existence in challenging and fast changing times. Plus ça change! You will be aware of our progression towards opening the Boys' School. We are delighted that we have a full roll—and are also seeing the first benefits of economies and

efficiencies of scale across budgets. These are crucial in what are the most straitened of financial circumstances in the public sector. This has enabled us to maintain a truly comprehensive curriculum programme across the whole school. Colleagues' and Governors' commitment to this remains undimmed—to ensure, that whatever the challenges we face, we continue to work relentlessly to secure the best opportunities we can for your daughters and sons. Your support is a crucial element in that and myself and colleagues are grateful for that—it helps to ensure we sustain an ethos of 'Can do' and 'How to'.

Much as though we savour the prospect of a well earned break, July is tinged with sadness 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 thanks for their contribution to the school, which accumulated represents many years hard work and many thousands of students' education and lives improved.

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Mrs Tester (MFL)   | Mrs Humble (Science)   |
| Mrs Gudge (Art)    | Mrs Faulkner (Science) |
| Miss Beggs (Maths) | Miss Russ (HoY10)      |
| Ms Doughty (Art)   | Mr Runacres (Maths)    |
| Mr Frost (Science) | Mrs Willis (Science)   |
| Mrs McCarthy (PA)  | Mrs Tang (DT, Geog)    |
| Mrs Tayler (Maths) | Mrs Fenwick (PE)       |

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 staff 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 you my best wishes to you all for a happy and relaxing Summer holiday.

**Ben Greene**





## ***The Churchill Public Speaking Competition***

On Friday 22nd June, two groups from Year 12 competed in the annual Churchill Public Speaking competition at Chartwell. We all thoroughly enjoyed the process of working together to form speeches based around ideas Churchill raised in his own speeches. In addition to performing what we had created, we were given a tour around Winston Churchill's house – some of us wishing we could live somewhere so beautiful! - as well as having an informative educational workshop on speech writing. All of us are extremely grateful to Mrs Haslam for the opportunity to take part in this as we had such a great time being able to work together whilst gaining valuable academic and life skills.

**By Annie Mercer Y12**

### **Speech 1**

We like to view history as a painting; an image complete and finished that we can store away and bring out as we choose- something decorative, something to accent a piece of furniture or back up an argument. But History is not a painting and it is certainly not finished. History is a building. It takes one form at one period in time, but its pieces can be dismantled. They can be taken apart to form a structure- an elaborate temple or a bare frame merely a shadow of the previous construction.

Like a building, history can be moulded to the craftsman's will and can represent their dream or want. It can be knocked down to bare ruins but like the ruins of Pompeii covered for hundreds of years under lava, traces of the original building will always remain. History will tell the truth and record time- a reminder for those to come to not to repeat the mistakes of the past.

The value of history is evident through the very grounds in which we stand. Its inhabitants and visitors have inspired individuals, swayed opinions and influenced generations, each leaving behind a lesson we can build on in the future. Because, as Churchill wisely said, 'The further backward you can look, the further forward you are likely to see'.

They're desperate to hold onto it and as soon it hits the ground they're desperate to get it back. You gently place it back in their tiny grasp and their protests fade. But as we grow up there are no more caring hands to correct our mistakes, soothe our pain, and carry the weight of our responsibility so we learn from history and stop throwing our toys out of the pram.

But society has not grown up. In 1917, Vladimir Lenin convinced the Russian people that his caring hands could raise them into the golden glow of prosperity if they threw out the individual liberty that they clung to. But once it fell from their grasp, these promises of loving protection were

shadowed as the nation was plunged into a blinding darkness that instead handed them 70 years of devastation and desperation. Instead of learning from this mistake we have repeatedly thrown away our freedom to powerful individuals who promise us falsehoods- continually re-entering the same cycle yet expecting different results. According to Einstein this is the true definition of Insanity.

But, 1917 was over 100 years ago and globally we have made great strides in individual liberty (fact) but this is only one aspect of learning from our past.

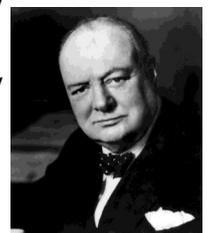
WW1 was named 'the war to end all wars', yet less than 20 years after soldiers were raised from the dark confines of the trenches, London was shrouded in darkness once again. Currently only 11 countries are completely without conflict. We continuously try to achieve peace through war and seek light through darkness. We up our lives. We give up our dignity. We throw down our freedom. Then like a dummy covers a child' cries we willingly forget history to pacify our inability to change.

Iraq. 174,000. 2 men. Vietnam. 2 million civilians. 1 man. Falklands. 904. 1 woman. Lives ruined, families broken apart, communities destroyed. Now the fate of millions of people is down to the decision of a dotard and a rocket man –Can we really believe that we have learnt from history?

In Saudi Arabia, the lessons of the Arab Spring that taught the Saudi people the power of their protest which flowed swiftly and strongly through history breaking through the dam of oppression so that in 2018 women were finally allowed to possess a driving licence. Like the river Ganges that flows from a source less than a metre wide to a width of over 105,000, a small action of retrieving our power can nourish the opportunities and freedom of generations to come. A single footstep can march a nation. A single blow can tear down a wall. A single book can write our future. A single mind has the power to reflect on our past and learn from it. This mind is yours.

It is time for us to grow up, tear away the pacifier and to open our eyes to our past. How many more wars, how many more deaths and how many more broken families do we need before we realize the truth; 'those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it', because the truth is that our freedom and our lives are not toys and we simply cannot afford to throw them away any longer.

Every child grows up. It's time for society to grow up too.





## ***The Churchill Public Speaking Competition cont....***

### **Speech 2**

The late Margaret Thatcher once said, 'If you just set out to be liked you'd have to be prepared to compromise on anything, at any time and you would achieve nothing.' Now, it may seem strange to use the words of one of our country's least liked leaders as an opener to a speech about popularity, but her words hold much truth. Because, whilst a leader needs the people's support and admiration to be elected, there will always be situations which require the making of unpopular decisions.

We need to trust and respect leaders not like them. We count on our leaders to make the difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions, for the greater good of the people. The world isn't always pretty and, if we are to thrive, tough actions are needed. This means that leaders have to risk being disliked. Sometimes, this can mean making decisions that seem to be on a collision course with the views of the most popular of a leader's supporters. As we saw yesterday when Donald Trump - a leader whose popularity mystifies me - and maybe you - risked the scorn of much of his popular support when he overturned the cruel separating and caging of immigrant children in American detention centres. Let's just hope that the attempted Jagger strut and the pouty kiss of the Stars and Stripes makes up for turnaround from the tycoon 'who's not for turning'. Let's face it, leaders are often striving to be liked, rather than respected, and so they can lose credibility, confidence and support. Leaders who focus on being popular over all else may be liked, but are rarely respected.

We believe that chasing popularity inhibits effective leadership. Witness Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the Labour party, influential and popular, but ineffective in many ways. Despite his popularity, under his watch, the party has been implicated in the evil of anti-Semitism and has suffered over 50 resignations, 23 from members of the shadow cabinet. Corbyn's strongly left wing or new age socialism has made him popular with younger voters who particularly relish his promise to abolish university fees. However, Corbyn has alienated much of the support for the party harnessed by Tony Blair's 1997 victory with his more centralist brand, New Labour. What relaunches of labour can we expect over the next decade? Will the champagne or the donkey jacket prove more popular? For many, Jeremy Corbin seems to have forgotten that he is the leader of the labour party in his efforts to sustain the White Stripes legend of Glastonbury 2017. The difficulty of sustaining popularity was starkly contrast last weekend by the flop of JEZ Fest, the Labour live day festival held in North London last Saturday. The event was so poorly attended that party members in Manchester were emailed with free tickets and a free coach to boost the numbers and bolster Corbyn's image.

Striving to be liked can be an effective strategy if you expect

your tenure to be short-lived or your team to be in transition. Problems start to emerge when such a leader sticks around. What becomes obvious to everyone is that a popular leader is an inconsistent leader. To satisfy one group means going against another, and, before you know it, you are juggling more balls than you can manage, and are dedicated into the satisfaction of contradicting groups, thus putting the public into confusion, when they support and do not support the policies you bring. Witness Brexit mayhem! But because people kind of like you, they often don't work very hard to replace you. After all, who wouldn't want a leader who is always working hard to earn your vote, but also having to work hard to earn the vote of a group you do not support? It is critical to understand that just because they are liked, it doesn't mean they are respected or respectful of you and your values.

It isn't only with your team where your respect starts to diminish but also the reputation across any organization affiliated with you can suffer. Someone who is well-liked, good with people, but not very effective ultimately causes suffering. When the leader's standards and expectations lax as a group the performance is not at the same level as your peers. People start to realize that, even though issues are pointed out, and you acknowledge them, you never actually do anything to correct them. Your career stalls or drifts. And you don't know why.

We've all heard the old saying, "Here today, gone tomorrow." It summarizes the idea of how transient popularity is in modern society. From football players and movie stars to political figures and CEOs of major companies. They all have one thing in common: they were popular, and then they fell from grace. Popularity is not eternal - public opinion shifts, in the age of twitter, on a minute by minute basis.

Ultimately, the most popular politicians are those that create a change for the better - and better is not always - at the time - popular. Those we rate, the Washingtons, Lincolns, Roosevelts and Obamas, we rate because they were strong leaders who were dealt strong hands, won big, and left their country better off than it was before. Marking your place in history is dependent on the legacy you leave behind from the decisions you made when you gained the responsibility of leadership. Popularity is fleeting, a good leader remains.





## Thorpe Park

On Monday 18th June students in Year 7 who had achieved 100% attendance got to go to Thorpe Park.

When we arrived we were told where a teacher would be at all times and allowed to set off with our friends.

There were many rides to go on and other rides for those that do not enjoy rollercoasters.

We all had a wonderful time and would definitely recommend this trip. I hope we get 100% next year, so we can come again in Year 8.

By Shaani Goering and Libby Folkard Y7



## Year 12 Theatre Workshop

During the Summer Term, actress Maggie Bain came into school to lead a physical theatre workshop for the A-Level Drama classes. Maggie Bain is a practitioner from the theatre group Frantic Assembly who are known for their stunning theatrical works such as *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* and *Fatherland* currently in the West End. Frantic Assembly focus on the importance of movement and how it can not only enhance a performance, but also become the main method of telling a story.

The energetic and experimental nature of the theatre company was made evident from the very beginning of the workshop with an intense warm up to prepare the body for the crazy few hours which would follow. Throughout the workshop students were pushed to their limits being taught a variety of aerial lifts and movements which were then strung together in a sequence to help convey a story.

## STEM at Grass Roots

After the final bell on a Friday afternoon most students pile out of the gates, chatting happily about their plans for the weekend. In the Science block, however, a large group of Year 7s have been gathering in S8, looking forward to whatever may be happening that week. STEM Club has been very popular this year, with the girls enjoying both the variety of fun activities and the social aspect of the club.

Everybody rose to the challenge each week, whether it was a competition to make the most interesting Rube Goldberg machine or the Bright Ideas Competition run by Shell. For Bright Ideas, we had two fantastic teams, the Speedy Streets and the Kinetic Club, both of which came up with ingenious strategies to solve big energy problems. We were incredibly impressed with the work that our teams had crammed into such a short timeframe.

Through a variety of exercises, students learnt to trust one another and over time the sequences we developed became more and more complex. The purpose of the workshop was to learn how to convey a story through movement as well as how it is important to take risks and make mistakes in order to create the best piece imaginable. Overall, all the students had a very fun, yet exhausting, workshop and will be able to consolidate what they have learnt into their own future performances.

by Abbi Assock, Year 12 Drama student

**frantic  
assembly**

We saw the regional finalists of the Bright Ideas Competition at the Making The Future Live event held in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Even though it felt like the mercury was hitting triple figures, or as the girls said, "meltingly hot", hundreds of Year 7s took part in the various activities and listened to scientific talks around the park, glad of the air-conditioned transport to and from the event. The singing and giggling on the coach home, as well as during the final meeting of STEM Club, were testament to how much the girls have enjoyed this year's STEM activities.

Mr Flagg



## Friends of Bullers Wood (FoBW)

Thank you to all the parents who have supported us this year. It has made a real difference. We have raised over £2000 in sponsorship from local firms and we've been able to support many more events at the school this year.

We aim to use funds raised to purchase items that will benefit every student in the school. We listen to parents, teachers and the school council to understand what the school needs.

If you'd like to make a donation to support the girls you can **complete the voluntary donation** Click here for [DONATION FORM](#) and return the original copy to the school.

For 2017/18 we have purchased:

Replacement computers for the art department £26,000

Replacement equipment for Home Economics £1,000

New equipment for Design and Technology £3000

History GCSE text books £600

Science equipment £300

E-safety training for students £300

In 2018/19 we'll be raising funds for text books and key infrastructure such as toilet refurbishment however we are in discussion with the school and students to identify other potential projects that benefit as many students as possible.

If you'd like to get involved we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch at [friendsofbullerswoodgirls@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbullerswoodgirls@gmail.com).

## Term Dates

### Autumn Term 2018

Y7 – Y11 return on 5<sup>th</sup> September

Y13 return on 6<sup>th</sup> September

Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September – Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> October

**\*Half Term Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October to Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> November – Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> December

### Spring Term 2019

Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> January – Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> February

**Half Term Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> February to Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> February – Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> April

**(Good Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April and Easter Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April)**

### Summer Term 2019

Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> May

**(Bank Holiday 6<sup>th</sup> May)**

**Half Term Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> May to Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> May**

Monday, 3<sup>th</sup> June – Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> July

### Training Days

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019



## Science Week 2018

This year the focus of Science Week was ‘Plastic waste’ Students were asked to consider the reduction of single use plastic in particular, and on encouraging others to do the same. Many, many letters were written to people they thought could make a difference- replies were received from 10 Downing Street, The Department of the Environment, Sadiq Khan, Bob Neill, HRH the Queen and Mr Green.

On the suggestion of some students an Eco Council has been set up and funds raised to equip the site here at Bullers Wood with recycling bins from next year. Staff and students alike have reviewed the use of plastics in our daily life and tried to make changes; lots of students have stopped using disposable water bottles and bought refillable ones, for example.

So the impact of that one week in March will extend to the daily life here at Bullers, with some even more ambitious plans still to be put in place. I wonder what next year’s Science Week will bring?



## House Champions

Our new House System has promoted a great sense of identity, community spirit and healthy competition. All 8 Houses have worked hard all year round gathering house points for their Houses across three main categories: attendance, academic and extra-curricular achievements and from Sports Day. It was heart-warming to feel the euphoria in the main hall during the award assemblies when the final results were announced. Final Results are as shown below:

### FINAL HOUSE POINTS LEADERBOARD 2017/18

| HOUSE         | ATTENDANCE | COMMENDATION | SPORTS DAY | TOTAL       | POSITION   |
|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| <b>PARKS</b>  | <b>400</b> | <b>6555</b>  | <b>408</b> | <b>7363</b> | <b>1ST</b> |
| GREY-THOMPSON | 350        | 6329         | 427        | 7106        | 2ND        |
| LOVELACE      | 400        | 6218         | 443        | 7081        | 3RD        |
| ANGELOU       | 350        | 6233         | 428        | 7011        | 4TH        |
| WATSON        | 50         | 6202         | 448        | 6700        | 5TH        |
| SEACOLE       | 50         | 5850         | 433        | 6353        | 6TH        |
| BLACKMAN      | 50         | 5641         | 455        | 6146        | 7TH        |
| SHILLING      | 50         | 5125         | 453        | 5628        | 8TH        |