

## *Headteacher*

As I am writing this it seems that Spring has finally sprung. For a week now we have enjoyed balmy temperatures above 0 degrees! It is a term which will live long in the memory, the last month of which has been dominated and punctuated by the weather. None of us can remember a spell of weather quite so bitterly cold and disruptive. Notwithstanding the inevitable challenges posed by closures and changes to arrangements we are pleased with the way in which students responded; particularly in the examination classes – where in almost every course now students are following the new more challenging specifications. Less than a month ago the school was closed because of wintry weather. As we close for the Easter break some practical examinations which form part of the ‘Summer’ exam season have already taken place. With this in mind please remember revision courses which are provided over the Easter Break <http://www.bwsgirls.org/easter-revision-2018/>

I am incredibly proud of the fact that the large part of the content of this newsletter consists of articles written by students reflecting on activities and achievements which have taken place both in school and out. I have enjoyed reading and collating these as they have been submitted. Each one reminds me of just what a privilege it is to lead this community of talented, engaging and ambitious young people. At the same time I also reflect on how privileged they are to study and be taught by such inspiring colleagues – so many of whom find the energy and time to support students in extra-curricular endeavours and additional interventions.

Parents and carers will be aware of our high expectations in terms of students’ behaviour both in school and outside. Our students overwhelmingly meet if not exceed these expectations all of the time. In the last week the Leadership Team have carried out extended duties after school – monitoring the main routes that students take on leaving school in the

afternoon; visiting shops and speaking to bus drivers and rail staff about how our students behave. We were delighted to hear how positive the comments were – and from members of the public. The only concern which was raised was in relation to crowding at Bus Stops as and when buses arrive. We will be reminding students to be mindful of this, to be courteous at all times to members of the public – and to be conscious of their and others’ safety.

The end of term is bittersweet as it is a time when colleagues can depart for pastures new. This term we say goodbye to two colleagues, Mrs Smith in Business and Economics and Mrs Ramesh in Maths. We wish them well for the future and thank them for their contribution in their time here.

When we return after the Break we will of course be entering the final and third term of the academic year. I have already mentioned impending external examinations for students in Year 11 and 13 – but for students in all years it is important to ensure we maintain our focus and commitment in the final term to ensure we end the year and go into next year with solid foundations. With this in mind I hope all members of the Bullers Wood community enjoy a peaceful, restful and warm break!

**Ben Greene**  
**Headteacher**





## Great Ormond Street Donation

On Saturday, 3rd March, I took it upon myself, along with my brother (Mark) and brother-in-law (Aaron), to climb all 36 floors (828 steps) of London's Walkie Talkie building, all in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital. After 10 minutes 50 seconds, I had reached the 36th floor to a much needed glass of champagne! Oh and of course the medal! Once at the top, it had really hit home, the amazing work that we did which filled us with a much needed feel good feeling to fight off the thumping pain in our legs! We had chosen to support GOSH as we are all aware of the fantastic work they do, which rely heavily on public support. All three of us who took part, amongst over 200 other participants, could each name somebody different who has been affected by the work at Great Ormond Street. After weeks of pushing for donations we exceeded our target of £250 and raised £372 for such a great charity! To top it off, I was delighted that the Sixth Form offered to sponsor us to the tune of an additional £100 to give us a grand total of £472! It has

been really humbling to raise so much to continue on the brilliant work for Great Ormond Street Hospital.



Photo of myself, my brother, and brother in-law.

By Matthew Wilkinson Y13

## Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!

The Speak Out Challenge, which first started as an excuse to miss a day of lessons turned out to be a competitive challenge and enjoyable experience. The challenge consisted of 3 stages. The first stage was open to anyone in Year 10 and was a course aiming to improve our self-confidence as well as our public speaking skills; offering tips and hacks, to give an effective speech. This was a very comfortable environment due to being surrounded by familiar faces in addition to having a friendly and engaging mentor. At the end of this course students would be chosen to go onto the next stage.

Surprisingly, I was one of the lucky students chosen to move onto the next stage which is to perform the same speech in front of the entire year in the year assembly. The idea was very nerve-racking considering there were 6 other very talented speakers against me. The rest of the year group then voted on who should move onto the final stage which I

was delighted to be chosen for. With the help of Mrs Haslam, my speech had been improved so that it was suitable for the competition.

The last stage was, at first, very intimidating because I was in an environment that I was not familiar with, surrounded by unfamiliar faces. There was a variety of characters and personalities, but I was quick to make friends which made the experience much easier. Speaking on the stage was daunting, however, I realised that everyone else was in the same position as me. Although I didn't win, I thought it was a fun and educational experience where I met new people and learnt new things.

By Amber Grandidier-Nkanang 10





## Imperial College STEM Potential Programme

### Blog #2—Monday 12th Feb 2017

Today I attended my second session at Imperial College. We met at 9:40am in the Blakett Laboratory, Physics department.

To start the day off we had a Maths lecture about infinite numbers. How root 2 cannot be a fraction and identified several patterns within recurring decimals. For example,  $1/7$  as a decimal is 0.142857, this number doesn't just stop here it continues following the pattern '.142857, .142857, 142857'.

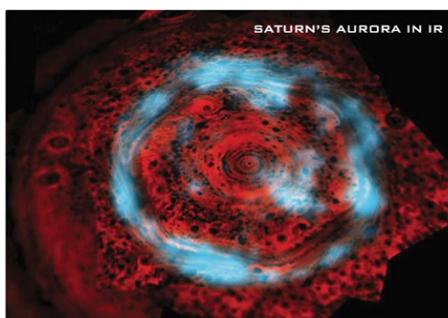
Straight after we had our Physics session. Here we mainly focused on careers involving Physics. This was very interesting as it gave me an insight into how important Physics is in today's society. It's everywhere! For the other half of the session we spoke about light. The different types of light involved in observing outer space. Infrared waves have longer wavelengths than visible light and can pass through dense regions of gas and dust in space with less scattering and absorption. Thus, infrared energy can also reveal objects in the universe that cannot be seen in visible light using optical telescopes.

Because the university was open to all the students there, when it came to lunch there were a lot more people about making it very realistic spending the day at Imperial.

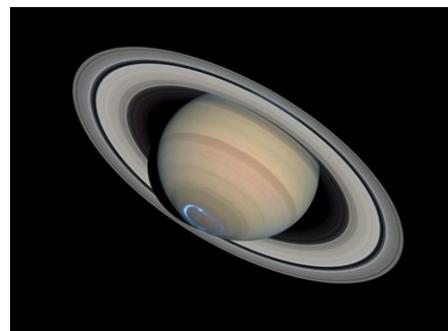
After lunch we had our first Chemistry session, the whole session was spent doing practical work which was fun. We made blueprints by coating a piece of A5 paper with a solution of two soluble iron(III) salts. The two iron salts do not react with each other in the dark, but when they are exposed to ultraviolet light the iron(III) ammonium citrate becomes an iron(II) salt. The iron(II) ion reacts with the potassium ferricyanide to form an insoluble blue compound,

blue iron(III) ferrocyanide, also known as Prussian blue. We also observed a few solutions which when exposed to an ultraviolet light were fluorescent. Did you also know that if you grind spinach up with a pestle and mortar, add some acetone acid (most commonly known as nail varnish remover) ... filter this to retrieve a greeny solution, this can then turn into fluorescent.

Imperial are planning on taking us out for a trip soon which I'm looking forward to—the next session is the 24th March.



Here is an image of Saturn's Aurora through infrared light.



Compared to Saturn through a telescope using visible light.

By Elle-Mae Wood Y10

## Year of Engineering



A team of pupils from Ravens Wood and Bullers Wood Schools represented the borough at the Southern England Science and Technology final at Queen Mary University earlier this year.

They won first prize after taking on challenges which involved programming a robot to navigate a maze and delivering a presentation on the future of robotics.

Well done Ella Killeen and Scarlett Summers.



## Kacey Walters Y8

Kacey has started competing as a new under 15, (even though she just turned 12 on in August! She knows it will be hard this year as she will be against stronger and much more developed girls, but she will persevere and just do her best.

Following on from the pentathlon Kacey took part in in August, she started wanting to train for sprint hurdles individually as well, and she absolutely loves it, (even more so than high jump!) Kacey is slowly starting to get there with the technique, she made the transition from the under 13s hurdle heights and distances to the under 15s pretty smoothly. At the moment she is still training in shot putt, with a 3kg shot putt and she will be picking up on her high jump training again. In the meantime she is still sprinting and hurdling as well, and keeping up with her long jump training, (around 4.30m at the moment in training) as she wants to be able to enter both multi-event competitions as well as individual event competitions. Kacey is currently Kent County under 13s high Jump champion, and she also placed 3rd in the shot putt event at the same competition.

There are a few indoor championships coming up (namely the London Indoor Championships and the Kent Indoor Championships). We look forward to hearing more of her achievements over the Summer.



## Acrobatic Competition

At the 12th Maia International Acro Cup, Zoey Nok and her gym partner had a real challenge. In the qualification rounds they placed a fantastic 3rd.

In the finals the 12 remaining teams stepped up a gear and so did Zoey and her partner who have been together for just 5 months. They did a beautiful clean routine scoring the second highest place which made them end up on the podium with an amazing silver just behind the European Champions!

We are obviously very proud of Zoey. And all her hard work and our travelling 5 days a week to Heathrow is paying off as she is now getting the results she always believed she could achieve.





## Magistrates Competition

On Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018 fifteen students from Years 8 and 9 won the Bromley round of The Citizenship Foundation's 'Mock Magistrates' Trial'. The team comprised: lawyers - Luciana Joy, Georgina Bevan, Isabelle Parkins and Sophie-Rae Ingle; witnesses – Florence Rumbold, Ipek Kilic, Amelia Ashwood and Charlotte Moran-Hollis; legal advisor – Milan Shakespeare-Simms; usher – Angeliki Georgiou; magistrates – Lola and Summer Wareham, Holly Robertson and Amie Butcher; court reporter – Lily Jones.

In getting ready for the competition, we committed to two months of demanding preparation, familiarising ourselves with a fictional case of possession of a bladed article in a public place. From an outline of the case and witness statements, we had to create the full range of roles that make up a trial in a magistrates' court. Students playing

lawyers had to prepare legal examination in chief, cross examinations and speeches; witnesses had to understand their character and role in the 'crime'; the legal advisor and magistrates had to understand the legal process; the court reporter had to make detailed notes for the ensuing media article and the usher had to take control of the court and its procedure.

After the competition, we all agreed that it had been an exciting and, at times, challenging event. The lawyers and witnesses found having to think of what to say spontaneously, in the cross examination, the most demanding part of the event. For the magistrates, stating their views in the retiring room to determine the verdict required giving confident and detailed evaluation of what had been heard during the trial.



## Uniform

Many parents will be replacing items of uniform over the holidays as students grow or wear out their existing uniform. Please can I outline a few reminders regarding our uniform expectations.

Please check that your daughters' skirts are of knee length or below. Your daughter's skirt should fit around the waist and should not need to be rolled down at the waistband in order to fit properly. This not only shortens the length of the skirt but also breaks the zip on, what is, an expensive garment. Alternatively, you may wish to purchase the new school trousers.

School coats should be of a plain black fabric with long sleeves. No hoodies or sweatshirt fabric jackets with hoods. Large logos, denim, leather, suede, hoodies, PVC and fur coats/jackets are not permitted.

Shoes or low ankle boots should be black, sensible, low-heeled and of a traditional style, (with black laces if

appropriate). No trainers, canvas shoes, open-toes, flip flops, sling-backs or casual style footwear are permitted.

Jewellery, make-up, false and/or coloured nails and eyelashes are not permitted.

The only items permitted are

- one pair of small, plain silver or gold stud earrings for pierced ears (one earring in each lower ear lobe) and/or

- a small chain with a religious symbol, if appropriate.

- a watch (which is encouraged).

We therefore ask that parents and carers exercise careful judgement in matters of uniform and that they check with their Head of Year any potential purchases that might prove controversial and expensive with us beforehand.



## **Rugby Funding**

We gained highly sought after funding from the RFU for a 2 year plan in the hope that we encourage more girls to participate in Rugby. We have actioned the following from this bid:

High level coaching in Monday's lessons from qualified RFU coach and official

Extra curricular club with qualified RFU coach and official every Thursday evening at the field

Links with Beckenham Rugby club, encouraged to attend on Sundays

Festivals and inter school mini competitions

CPD for PE staff to develop staff's understanding of how to safely teach Rugby in a fun and positive way.

Delivery of a Rugby ready course suitable for all staff.

Rebecca and I have really enjoyed rugby so far. We have loved learning new skills especially tackling.

We think it's really important for girls to be encouraged to play a sport which has been traditionally seen as a male preserve. We love getting outside in the fresh air and being able to be taught a sport by a professional.

Lilly Geheran and Rebecca Kearney Y7

**Chris Speeding and a Year 7 PE class in the rain**



## **Diving Competition**

Recently I have been entering diving competitions in many different places. I competed in Norway which was my first GB competition. This was an amazing opportunity for me because I was being coached by a 3-time Olympian, Rebecca Gallantree. I was against people from Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, France and many more – all the other divers that I was up against were at least 2 years older than me. In the end I came 7<sup>th</sup> in Europe.

My next completion is in Plymouth and then I am off to Dresden in Germany to do another GBR competition.

**By Evie Smith Y8**

## **Tennis Competition**

Nell Miller Y13 and Sasha Hill Y12 played the Tennis U18s Kent County Cup in Bath and won the groups overall, to become National Champions along with the rest of the team. Nell played at no 1 spot and Sasha no 2.

In November they also won the Ladies County Cup for Kent as part of a team- again National Champions.

Congratulations—we look forward to seeing how they progress over the Summer.



## **Bullers Wood School for Boys**

We were absolutely delighted when the Secretary of State for Education agreed to sign out funding agreement and we were able offer secondary school places on Thursday 1st March. The School will now open at 1 Westmoreland Road. This will be our temporary home for one year. It was originally an office block and part of it will be refurbished to reflect the needs of a secondary school. The site has been used previously for educational purposes.

We have already visited the site and are satisfied that there will be space for our intake of Year 7 boys. We are also confident that we will have the facilities and resources to deliver our curriculum. We were also reassured that boys will be able to access the site safely by using the pedestrian controlled crossings on both the High Street and Westmoreland Road.

An appeal relating to the refusal of the second planning

## **WW1 Battlefields**

On 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March the History department took year 10 students on a trip to the WW1 Battlefields in and around Ypres in Belgium. The one day trip was designed to give GCSE students an insight into what life was like for soldiers during the war and how the army dealt with the horrific injuries and diseases that the soldiers suffered from. In the morning we visited Hill 60 (the site of a mine crater) and Sanctuary Wood where the students could see for themselves the damage done to the landscape and experience what trenches were like. In the afternoon we visited 3 cemeteries to look at the graves and monuments themselves, but also to listen to our guide explain the medical history of each site. This included a trip to Essex Farm cemetery where John McCrae served as a surgeon and wrote the famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'. The favourite stop for many, however, was perhaps the Chocolate shop in the centre of Ypres! The students really gained a lot from their experience and this will support their study of the Historic Environment: The British sector of the Western Front 1914-18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.

*'I really enjoyed Belgium. It made me realise how many lives were lost. Seeing the thousands of graves and even more names on the memorials it really hits you. One of the highlights of the trip was the trenches. It's one thing that you can't get from photos is how small and claustrophobic they are. It scares me to think that all men had for protection were the really low walls and small, water-logged trenches. It's astonishing thinking that men lived and died in these conditions.'* **By Monica Rutherford**

*This was a very moving, powerful and quite shocking trip as we came face to face to the places where so many brave and courageous people lost their lives. We were shocked to find*

application for the permanent building at St Hugh's is about to be lodged and a third planning application is being prepared. These plans will also be shared with you at a future consultation event.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who fought so hard to make this school open in September. Without your support and direct action, the opening would have been deferred until September 2019. Now, the main focus of our work is to ensure that we provide an outstanding educational experience for boys, whilst continuing to progress towards securing our permanent building at St Hugh's.

For further information and key dates for your diaries, please visit: [www.bwsboys.org](http://www.bwsboys.org)

*out that around 70% of people who had died, could not be formally identified. However, these are just figures and they definitely hard to process unless you have been to see the rows of graves, and thousands of individual names for yourselves. Therefore we are all so very grateful we had the time out of school to go to such a special place where so many young people confronted War.*

*Thank you also to all the History teachers that helped to plan such a fantastic trip, we thoroughly enjoyed it!*

**By Megan Platford**





## ***'A Night at the Musicals'***

This term, Bullers Wood presented one of their biggest productions yet 'A Night at the Musicals' ~ 7 well-known musicals fitted into a 2 hour show. Several hundred students were involved in: Acting, singing, dancing, gymnastics, costume and prop design, stage management, lighting and sound.

There could only be so many 'main characters', but with everyone involved, all of us stood out in one way or another. I felt very privileged to be one of the actors in the Lion King. I am sure that everyone else who performed in the show will agree that we were having a wonderful time, doing what we love! It didn't matter whether you were one of the main roles in the show, or a smaller role in a scene: everyone had a part to play in the production and it represented our school community working together. Likewise all of the featured musicals were very different but what linked them all was that each story represented communities uniting. This was certainly a very positive outcome of our Bullers Wood community. We can't wait for the next show!

**By Jasmine Hutton Y10**



## ***House Points Standings as of 20th March***

| House           | Points | Position        |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| PARKS           | 5120   | 1 <sup>ST</sup> |
| SEACOLE         | 4761   | 2 <sup>ND</sup> |
| LOVELACE        | 4700   | 3 <sup>RD</sup> |
| GREY - THOMPSON | 4621   | 4 <sup>TH</sup> |
| ANGELOU         | 4362   | 5 <sup>TH</sup> |
| WATSON          | 4248   | 6 <sup>TH</sup> |
| BLACKMAN        | 4024   | 7 <sup>TH</sup> |
| SHILLING        | 3748   | 8 <sup>TH</sup> |



## ***Parent Parking***

I am writing to ask you to be mindful of local residents and other road users when driving your daughter or son to and from school. In particular please be mindful of road markings and signage and adhere to these. Please do not park across any driveways and do not drop off at the entrance of St Nicolas Lane or park in the lane as there is very restricted access.

As a School we encourage as many students as possible to walk or use public transport to get to school – if you are driving your child to or collecting from school please consider dropping/collecting them a little further away from school. This will allow them to walk the last part of the journey. This will ease congestion and also be good exercise for them!

## ***Term Dates 2018—2019***

### **Autumn Term 2018**

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

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

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

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

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

**\* Please note: 2 week half term**