

Headteacher

Long and busy as this term has been—and as this Bulletin bears witness—there's no denying that it is indeed 'beginning to look a lot like Christmas'! Last week staff and students enjoyed Christmas Dinner—confession time: some of us had this on both Wednesday and Thursday! This week the excitement is building amongst students in anticipation of Friday's *Buller's Got Talent*, which is a perfect way to mark the end of term. On Thursday evening the Main Hall will host the Christmas Concert—tickets for which are still available.

Amidst the decorations and strains of carols, however, hard work continues. Y11 students are in the second week of their mock GCSE exams and Y13 will be sitting their A Level mocks upon our return in the New Year. We are pleased with both years' progress this term—their current and predicted grades comparing favourably with their counterparts last year. The mock exam results will provide further guidance to allow fine tuning over the last 6 months of study before the Summer exams.

In recent weeks we have had one or two chilly blasts of weather but perhaps not the full depths of winter. However, we only have to think back to the last week of February to be reminded of the potential for disruption should there be any significant snowfall. We monitor the local weather forecast carefully in winter—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.

I frequently have cause to remind parents and carers about due care and attention on those occasions when they drive to and from school to drop off/collect. In recent weeks there has been an increase in the number of concerns raised by local residents about inconsiderate driving and parking—in particular where there are yellow lines restricting parking/stopping and also in front of 'dropped' kerbs. Logs Hill, Mavelstone Road and Chislehurst Road can all be busy in the morning and afternoon with a lot of commuter traffic as well as ourselves and other local schools. If you do have occasion to drop off/collect, please do consider doing so a little further from the school to allow your daughter/son to walk the final part. The health benefits are obvious and it will help to dissipate congestion.

At the end of a long term I am especially grateful for the unflagging commitment, energy and enthusiasm of colleagues in providing students with the many additional opportunities alongside the planning and delivery of lessons. Similarly I am also grateful for the support of parents and carers, and on behalf of all of all colleagues at Bullers Wood I would like to thank you for your support this term and wish you a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. We look forward to seeing your daughters and sons back in school for a 10.30 start on Monday 7th January.

Best wishes for a restful and peaceful break.

Ben Greene
Headteacher





Iceland 2018

During the October half term, the Geography department gave the fantastic opportunity for Year 11-13 to go to Iceland for 5 days. Iceland's unique, exquisite landscape is very different from any anywhere else in the world, and is something fascinating all of us were excited to see.

Our itinerary was jam packed — we got to see up to 6 different sites a day. One of the first locations we went to was Reykjanesbær... which none of us could pronounce! There we stood between the 'Mid-Atlantic Ridge'. This is the boundary between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. We also went to 'Gunnever', Iceland's largest mud pool that was surrounded by steam vents created by a geothermal reservoir. It was an amazing sight! We were all surprised about how remote Iceland really is, we rarely saw any trees, wildlife... even people. How we could be looking at hills of green yet just behind there were mountains full of snow!

On the second day we visited multiple waterfalls, one of which was just in front of the 'Eyjafjallajökull' volcano that erupted in 2010. One of the highlights of the trip was being able to hike up a glacier with our funky crampons on the bottom of our shoes and our ice picks. This was around a 2 hour hike where we were able to walk to the peak on the glacier, drink fresh natural water and even visit some ice caves. Although it was foggy, it still made for some incredible pictures.

Further on through the week we were able to visit two more waterfalls, beautiful black sand beaches, and a volcanic crater lake. On our final day we visited the

Sasha Hill

Congratulations to Sasha Hill in Year 13 who has been offered a full four year scholarship to attend Florida State University.

Sasha will play on their Division 1 womens' tennis teams while she studies for a degree. Florida State

Secret Lagoon, which is a naturally heated (geothermal) pool, then we went to a dairy farm for homemade ice-cream and finally off to the Hard Rock Café — which was the perfect way to end such a lovely trip.

For anyone that gets the opportunity, whether in or outside of school and I hope I speak for everyone that went, go and experience Iceland!

Megan Platford, Year 11



University offers amazing facilities and opportunities for elite tennis players. Sasha hopes to major in Psychology and her ultimate goal is to play tennis professionally. We wish Sasha all the best for her studies in the US.



STEM Ambassadors Student Leadership Programme

Over the half term I had the honour of reading through students' applications for the new STEM Ambassador Student Leadership programme.

STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines — Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics — in an interdisciplinary and applied approach. Rather than teach the four disciplines as separate and discrete subjects, STEM integrates them into a cohesive learning paradigm based on real-world applications.

After the initial meeting and delegation of roles, the last 3 weeks of this half term have been extremely busy for the ambassadors. All Year 12 Ambassadors are providing in-class support or revision and mentoring support in their preferred subject areas across all key stages. This is providing valuable help to staff members, and students are responding well to the ambassadors. In addition to this, our Year 10 and 11 Ambassadors are organising their own Personal Development session on revision guidance for Science, Technology and Maths in the lead up to their mock exams. This will be delivered shortly to all Year 11 form groups.

The STEM Ambassadors organised their own STEAM stall at the 6th Form Open Evening, with the addition of A for Architecture due to popular demand. This stall was co-ordinated by Ruth Ou and Veronica Agaeva along with the help of the other ambassadors and Mrs Lenihan to supervise. They were situated in Inglewood and provided visitors with valuable information about careers and extra-curricular opportunities at Bullers Wood. The students put a lot of time and consideration into this display and are to be commended.

"I strongly believe women should be encouraged to take jobs within this field - as it is mainly a male centred career choice. I plan to study medicine in a top university (hopefully), as I have always wanted to help people and I definitely want to help the school with more activities surrounding STEM for girls/

Year 11 Geography trip to Stratford

Visiting Stratford with the Geography Department was extremely interesting and exciting. It was surprising to see how big a difference there was between Carpenters Estate and East Village, and useful to get an insider perspective about the services and resources of each place. My favourite part of the entire trip was visiting the Olympic Park and seeing how the green space brought life to the area and how it was used. I enjoyed watching cyclists practice in the velodrome and wondered how they seemed to be suspended in the air as they got faster and hovered higher up the side of the course.

women." *Ines Khair, STEM Ambassador 2018/19*

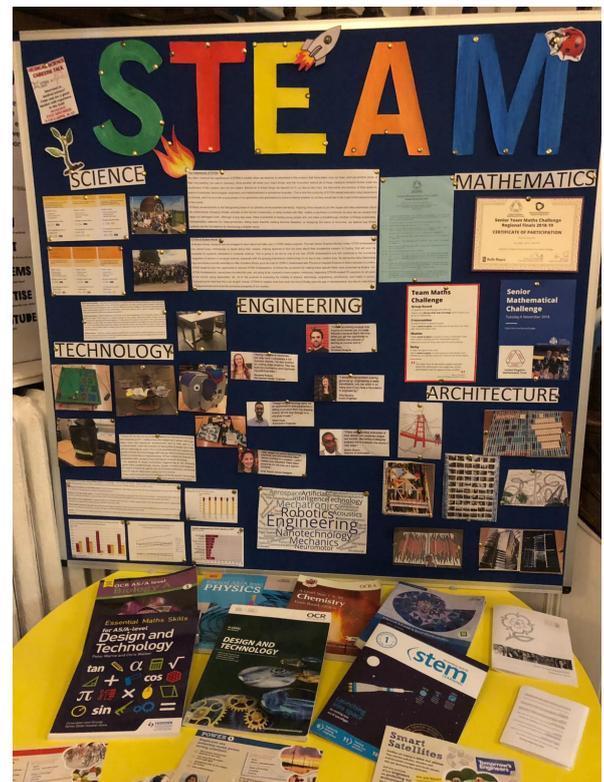
"As this is a girls' school I think that it is especially important to promote STEM, as the worlds of science, technology, engineering and maths need more women and girls to be involved, and this is the perfect environment to help make that happen."

Jenn Martin, STEM Ambassador 2018/19

The young ladies who are partaking in this leadership programme are benefiting from valuable discussion, learning and teaching based around leadership principles, and putting these into action via various roles and responsibilities. They are showing great enthusiasm and commitment to this school wide project. Well done to these future leaders!

Miss Wainwright

STEM Co-Ordinator for Design and Technology



Seeing Stratford in person and comparing with our previous research was very useful as it truly put into perspective the differences between each side of Stratford and the reasons for these differences. There were some similarities I didn't expect, such as the housing in East Village and Carpenters Estate being rated exactly the same in our quality of life questionnaires. Overall, I enjoyed the trip a lot and it has been my favourite Geography trip so far.

Ciara O'Connor, Year 11



Young Carers' Bowling Trip

On Monday 3rd December, the Young Carers' group, accompanied by myself and Mrs Driver went to The Pavilion in Bromley for an evening of bowling followed by a meal. The trip was funded by one of the student's Jack Petchey award money (Millie Benians in Year 13) . Millie wanted to spend the funds on something fun for the group and was an important part of the organising process.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the chance to socialise with different year groups; we might not have been the best bowlers but we did have a laugh! The girls loved being able to take part in something fun and switch off from their demands at school and home.

The Young Carers are planning other events this year to continue to raise awareness and the visibility of the group. We meet every Thursday break time in the library and all are welcome. The girls really appreciate the support network the

group offers them in school, a chance to share common experiences or simply chat about what's been happening that week (often biscuits are involved!) I have really enjoyed leading the group this term; the girls continue to inspire me.

Miss Buckingham



London Schools Trampoline Competition

A long and cold Sunday (but at least no snow this year!) The London Schools Trampoline Competition went well with all students representing the school performing and behaving well. We received some lovely comments on their performances and the potential they show, as well as everyone loving their leotards (the best dressed competitors there!)

U15A team 1st:
Jessica Teague
Phoebe Hoang
Mila Rudetsky-Keat
Emma Sefton

U15B team 2nd:
Freya Sheath
Lucy Gosling
Tallulah Sitwell
Leena Benaboud

U13A team 1st:
Lilly Geheran
Zara Turkel
Kitty Smith
Esme Beaton-Skillman



These three teams will progress to the next round representing London at the South East Zonals on the 19th January.

U13B team all performed well but missed out on a qualifying place:
Cordelia Parker
Eva Armitage Woods
Emma Gosling
Olivia Inman

Miss O'Hanlon



In the individual competitions we achieved two very good placings for

U19 Intermediate: Yasmine Fella 5th
U14 Elite: Sophie Birch 5th

In the U13 Novice, Esme Beaton-Skillman came 3rd and will progress to the next round.



Engineering Award Opportunity in Design and Technology



In Design and Technology we have recently applied to host a new award at Bullers Wood School for Girls. The Secondary Engineering Leaders Award will be open for all year groups to apply. Lower school students will benefit from a one off lesson to prepare them to submit their work for the award, whilst upper school students are expected to work on and submit their application independently.

The award centres around the question "If you were an Engineer what would you do?" and students will be asked to design a product that solves a specific problem they have identified. This problem could be anything, from struggling to close your school bag to always losing one of your socks! The design must be coloured and annotated with explanation about how the product solves

their problem, what it would be made from and how it could be made. Students will then provide a letter to support and explain their design further.

All applications must be submitted to Miss Wainwright by 30th January, with a completed student entry form. For upper school students wishing to apply, an entry form can be obtained from Newton House. Once all applications are in, 30 students will be picked to be put forward to the award panel. Should a student be successful in their application, they will receive an invitation to Kingston University in London where they will be able to present their design and have it made into a real working prototype!

All students who enter will receive a certificate of application along with a house point, and although this is not a qualification and does not count towards UCAS points, sixth form students are highly recommended to participate as there are many higher education establishments who monitor and supervise these awards. What a fantastic thing to put on a UCAS or college reference!

If your daughter is interested in applying please email swainwright@bwsgirls.org for further details.

Miss Wainwright

Year 8 TES Kids' Lit Quiz Success



On the 19th November, Bullers Wood entered two teams for the South East regional heats of the Times Educational Supplement's Kids' Lit Quiz. Both teams gave strong performances, with one achieving a commendable second in the regional heat of this prestigious international competition. The winning team consisted of Suzanna Wade, Josie Woods, Maddie George and Vivienne Vogel and our second team of Sophie Birch, Cordelia Parker, Lauren Hutchinson and Lyan Attia. Isabelle Brighton supported the teams and acted as reserve. Many congratulations to all the students who competed fiercely and conducted themselves impeccably throughout.

Mrs Haslam



Churchill Public Speaking Competition

On Thursday 15th November, Year 10 students Laila Brook Martinez, Tara Almushatat, Leonie Kirwan-Pearce, Georgina Gibson, Scarlett Summers and Ella Smith, and Year 12 students Gemma Robinson, Ellie Brown, Zoe Hemming-Clark, Madison Clark and Emilio Hasa took part in the initial workshop of the annual Winston Churchill Public Speaking Competition. We gave impromptu speeches and received feedback from visiting speaker Ann West who organises the competition, as well as from our peers. We will now choose a quotation from Churchill's repertoire of speeches to develop our own speech, with relevance to today's society, to deliver at the competition to be held at Churchill's former home, Chartwell, in June.

Laila, Tara, Leonie and Georgina

Year 9 Public Speaking Training

On Wednesday 14th November, thirty Year 9 students participated in a workshop designed to deliver confidence and skills in the art of speaking in front of an audience. Following a morning of taking on impromptu roles and speaking informally in groups, the afternoon saw each student deliver a two minute talk on a subject of personal interest or importance. Topics ranged from musicals and school trips to the need to fight for equality and the environment. The students conducted themselves superbly, were full of enthusiasm and made great progress. Georgina Bevan and Phoebe Nainggolan were selected to represent the school at the Bromley Schools Public Speaking Competition to be held at Bullers Wood on 12th February.

Mrs Haslam



Scottish National Diving Competition

Congratulations to Brooke Ryan who took part in the Scottish National Diving Competition in Edinburgh last week. Despite being unwell, Brooke performed well and placed joint 8th in the 3m springboard and 7th in the 1m springboard. Competing at this level and training with Olympian divers was a massive achievement for Brooke and an experience she will never forget. Brooke's highlight was having a selfie taken with Tom Daley.



Year 7 'A Christmas Carol' Trip - Student Reviews

Haylie Kariyakarawana, 7 Lovelace: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Year 7 went on a trip to watch A Christmas Carol on Wednesday 5th December in Beckenham Odeon. We went there because we have been reading the book so we needed to visualise the story.

Ebenezer Scrooge who was a tight-fisted old man was changed on the night of Christmas Eve by his dead partner Jacob Marley. He was also visited by 3 spirits of past, present and future. After seeing them he decided to change and become kinder.

The most exhilarating part of the film was that it was in 3D and there were special effects which were jaw-dropping. Also you could see the difference between now and the Victorian era.

Personally, I liked going out with my friends and it was really good because it was my first trip.

Bo Darkins, 7 Blackman: ★ ★ ★

Year 7 went on a trip on Wednesday 5th December in Beckenham because Year 7 are studying it so we were able to see the difference between the film and the book.

The film was about Ebenezer Scrooge, who was a tight-fisted man. Three spirits visited him. Jacob Marley told him the spirits were past, future and present.

I liked the special effects and how it was in 3D which showed what it was like in Victorian times.

I enjoyed spending time with my friends and how it felt really nice and Christmassy.

Vikki Trufcheva, 7 Lovelace: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Year 7 went on a trip to the Beckenham Odeon on Wednesday 5th December because Year 7 were learning about it and this helped us to visualise the story better.

It was about a man called Ebenezer Scrooge that was an old, miserable, cold-hearted man and he had a partner called Jacob Marley who was dead. There were 3 spirits to tell Scrooge to change.

I liked that it was 3D and when Jacob Marley was telling Scrooge to change that his jaw dropped and that there were some jump-scares in the film.

I liked that I was with my friends eating sweets and snacks together and that we were all sitting together when we were on the coach.



Ritangle Competition

STEP Club has been taking part in a national competition called Ritangle. It starts with 25 questions released over a period of 2 months which give clues for the grand final. The team leader writes:

Ritangle was a wonderful experience that I had the pleasure of being a part of. Our small team had a good time solving all the puzzles and challenges this competition set us. It was challenging, but also a lot of fun. The competition encourages you to use technology, which enabled us to use and experiment with different methods, such as coding, graphing, algebraic, geometric, modelling with software and many more. This makes you realise just how vast the field of Mathematics really is. This challenge is aimed at sixth formers, however the final question didn't require any knowledge past

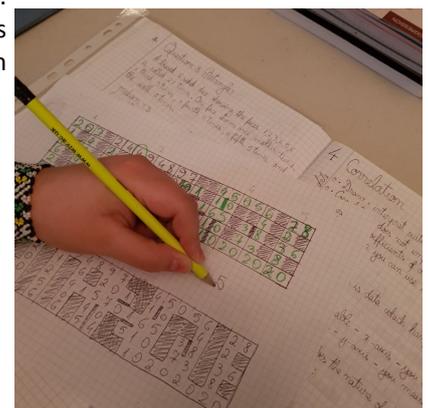
GCSE. You can still go and try the questions at <https://integralmaths.org/ritangle/>; and even check your answers, as solutions are provided.

My favourite questions were one and five from the final challenge.

Integral sets a new Ritangle challenge every year. Why not try it yourself?

Fun Fact: Ritangle is an anagram of Integral.

Sorana Marin Y13





The Poetry Pages

We are pleased to present some more of the entries from the National Poetry Day competition, on the theme of 'Change'.

Autumn

By Esme Taylor 8PK

Golden rays of sunlight stream down, shining through clouds of morning mist, casting rainbows.

The last leaf drifts down from its gnarled branch, floating high above the forest below.

Spider webs hang between trees, each thread encrusted with dew that is like diamonds, flashing in the pool of sunlight.

The crisp wind carries leaves of red, gold and brown which cascade down in a bright waterfall of colour.

Almost concealed between clusters of trees, a lake shimmers, the fiery hues of the falling leaves reflected in the water.

As the cold breeze brushes the branches of the trees, the forming frost glitters.

The last leaf drifts down from its gnarled branch, floating high above the forest below.



The Change of Aurora Borealis

By Rosie Hickley, 7PK

Ballerina Borealis,
Your beauty darting through the night,
Your green and red dress of flames
That fills the night with sheer delight.
Your verdant green illusions, neon and bright
Your fierce blood red is sure a fright,
Don't ever let your colours change.

Change

By Freya Williams-Ward, 8WT

It's not as simple as waking up one day,
To a sky that is more blue than grey.
It's not as simple as just to smile and see,
How the sadness simply flows astray.
And it's not as simple as saying you're fine,
And the depression fades away.

I don't see it as simple to wake up one day,
To a sky that I see is more blue than grey.
I don't see it as simple to just smile one day,
And my sadness simply flows astray.
And it's just not as simple to say I'm fine,
And to see my depression fade away.



Change

By Bella Ward, 8LV

Inspired by the book 'Stone Cold' by Robert Swindells

They say that wanting to make a change comes from within,
But to make a change you have to be strong, and not just in.
They say that life is here to test us,
When you're living on the street you're always restless.
No food, being cold, abused and forgotten,
The complete definition of feeling rotten.
Everyone who's homeless is someone's daughter or son,
Nameless, moneyless, their address is anon.
They're people with hopes and desires and dreams,
From where they are now it's impossible it seems.

The homeless might look scary at close range,
Spare them some change to enable that change.

Change

By Alice Kirby, 7BL

Morning comes, a bright new day,
I won't let my fears stand in my way.
As today is a day unlike any other,
Thoughts whirl through my mind, one after another.

Today's my first day of secondary,
I say I hate change but mum says it's necessary
It won't be anything like old school,
What if I embarrass myself and look like a fool?

Change is described in many ways,
Change is the thing that is common to all days.
Change can be good, change can be bad,
Change can be scary and change can be sad.

Change is the blazing sun on a bitter rainy day,
Change is the team game you're learning to play.
Change is the new subjects you'll study,
Change is a stranger who then becomes your best buddy.

So, on that day of nerves and dread,
With clouds gathering and swirling like fog inside my head.
I see a quiet clearing in the distance,
Focused on it, I walk in with my head held high, as change
can be the thing makes you flourish and fly.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 7 th January	School starts for students at 10.30am. Breakfast available from 10am.
Monday 14 th January	Friends of Bullers Wood Moon Watch
Thursday 17 th January	Y10 Parents' Evening
Thursday 31 st January	Y11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 7 th February	Project Presentation Evening
Thursday 14 th February	School closes early due to staff training
Mon 18 th to Fri 22 nd February	Half Term
Thursday 28 th February	Y9 Parents' Evening
Friday 1 st March	Staff Training Day (School closed to students)
Thursday 14 th March	Y9 Information Evening
Thurs 21 st and Fri 22 nd March	Dance Show
Thursday 28 th March	Y12 Parents' Evening
Mon 8 th to Mon 22 nd April	Easter Holiday