



BATLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL and PRIESTLEY HOUSE



NEWSLETTER SPRING TERM 2008



Audiences voted the latest production of the BGS Drama Society a triumph after two very successful nights during the first week in March. The first night was well-attended, but after word of mouth got around that the show was a must-see, the final night was packed and the box office ran out of tickets. Parents and students sang along to the hits of the 80s including Material Girl, Walking on Sunshine and Girls Just Want to Have Fun.

An energetic cast was led by narrator Nick Walter, who immediately struck up a rapport with the audience and guided them through his final year at William Ocean High School, somewhere in the USA.

BACK TO THE 80s





Appearing onstage ranks as one of the most nerve-wracking of ordeals. Newcomers Robert Carrigill as cool-guy villain Michael Feldman and Jonathan Cook as his zany sidekick Billy Arnold, amazed their friends and relations by not only acting for the first time, but singing and dancing as well. Sisters Natalie and Ellie Firth as twins Mel and Kim were another discovery, as was teacher Ellie Marshall as Miss Brannigan. Drama Society regulars Mark Lajca, Kaiya Stone, Farhaan Shaikh, Andrew Hornby, Frazer Hainsworth, Vicki Glover, Alex Jones and Linzi Greaves sang, danced and acted with their accustomed confidence. Members of the audience particularly commended the harmonies in *Walking on Sunshine* and *Let's Hear It For the Boy* which, as one playgoer commented "made you tingle".



An extra feature was a ballet created by Joanne McArdle (Year 13) and Nicole Mortimer (Year 10). In *Back to the 80s* there are more dance routines than any previous show. Nicole and choreographer Lucy Wilson were presented with a bunch of flowers to thank them for their hard work.

FITTING TRIBUTE TO MR STEVE EMSLEY

On the final night a signed book of photographs was presented to Mr Emsley to mark his last production at Batley Grammar School. Almost every year since 1984 he has mounted a production in the Graves Hall. In a short speech he paid tribute to Jonathan Wilby who had been the main motivator behind *Back to the 80s*. "I know drama at BGS is in safe hands, indeed it is getting better and better, more professional. With Jonny, Simon Lowther on the technical side, Bruce Woodley and Ellie Marshall all involved, the future is bright." He went on to commend the teamwork and initiative of the cast, who would take away many happy memories.

"I have enjoyed this show more than any other," said a member of the chorus. "We all got along so well and it was great fun."



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

INTRODUCTORY WALK IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES

In January the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze students, together with several Chinese 6th Form students, walked for the day as an introduction to the great outdoors.

The weather was good and the group had an enjoyable day. They gained experience of and practised map reading and compass skills. Setting off from Litton (North West of Grassington) the group walked across open countryside, through a valley and saw many interesting landscape features along the way.



SCHOOL BAND WITH A ROYAL APPOINTMENT

This term the school band has, once again, played for royalty. Our first such occasion was for The Princess Royal, later for Prince Andrew and most recently for Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex. The band always gives a good account of itself on these occasions, and is never the victim of uncontrollable nerves – again, this is down to every member knowing what he or she is about, born of proper rehearsal. We don't rehearse to get the music right, we rehearse so that it cannot go wrong.

Twice a week, the band members meet to rehearse in the Graves Hall. The Musical Director is Head of Music, Howard Lorriman and the Secretary is Geoff Bellamy, Head of Religious Studies. Pupils from Years 7 to 13 play, with a wide range of technical abilities, but a common commitment to trying their best and turning up regularly to rehearsals.



Pupils may occasionally moan about the twice weekly rehearsals, but the lessons learnt in band are vital lessons in life. Teamwork, commitment, taking responsibility, leadership, pride in achievement, reliability, all these and other qualities are central to belonging to the band.



Contrast these with the "It'll do" approach and you can see which stand members in better stead as they go into the world of university and work. Band rehearsals are great fun, and we all care for one another as best we can. When a concert goes well, and they do go well, there is a huge sense of joy at having achieved something worthwhile.

Pictured above left are the band rehearsing and above right performing for the Earl of Wessex during his time at Shepley Marina visiting the Safe Anchor Trust and opening a new Duke of Edinburgh facility.

YEAR 1 FASHION DESIGNERS



Budding fashion designers in Year 1 made tabards for their teddy bears, as part of a topic about clothes. They produced detailed drawings to show what materials and fastenings they were going to use in DT lessons. Patterned fur proved very popular for the early Spring season, teamed with a range of belts and sashes in a variety of colours and materials.

Jean-Paul Gaultier watch out!



INTERACT CLUB

Under the Presidency of Year 13 student Hannah Brennan, the Interact Club has had another successful year. Funds have been raised for international disaster relief by a series of events, including a non-uniform day, the sale of Halloween cakes and candy canes, and an Easter Raffle. Sixth Form members of the Interact Club also helped to raise funds for the Blind Institute in Batley with a street collection at the Batley Christmas Lights switch-on, and for Marie Curie Cancer Care at Tesco in Batley. The Interact Club is ten years old, coinciding with



Mr Battye's membership of the Rotary Club of Batley, to which the club is affiliated. Mr Battye would like to thank all members of the Interact Club over ten excellent years for their commitment and support.

TEXTILE GIRLS GO GREEN

This term, the members of the Textile & Crafts Club have been busy making eco-friendly tote bags.

Mrs Harknett and Mrs Hinchliffe and the members of the textile club decided to support the work of the BGS Energy Committee in its efforts to ensure that Batley Grammar School plays its part in conserving and recycling resources.

Mr Renold presented an assembly to the whole school on packaging waste and asked us all to consider ways of reducing our need for supermarket carrier bags. The girls made their tote bags from ethically produced fabric and gave them to their mums for Mother's Day.



AHOY THERE!

Nursery with a sea theme

The new year started with a decidedly nautical feel in the Nursery. The children became pirates aboard a fantastic ship they made, which can be seen in the Nursery sharing the ocean with a grey-blue whale and an adventurous sea snail. The children are also extremely proud of their 'under the sea' scene complete with jelly fish, sea horses, rainbow fish, an enormous octopus and a rhyme they made up about the sea creatures.



INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

This term, it was the turn of our Year 9, 10 and 11 students to take part in the United Kingdom Mathematical Trust Maths Challenge competition, solving problems and logic puzzles.



Jordan Finneran, Jonathan Crewe, John North and Zoe Minnett all achieved a Bronze certificate, and Megan Watson, Tom McKenna, Nazim Andani and Kaiya Stone won Silver certificates. Extremely well done to them all! However, Alex Bembridge stole the show by not only achieving a Gold certificate and Best In School, but also qualifying for a further round of the competition, the Kangaroo heats which take place in April. Students are allowed to participate by invitation only, and inclusion places Alex in the top few percent nationally. This is our first qualifier to this level and only the second Gold certificate to be won since we started participating last year.

Well done also to everyone else who took part. The Junior competition for Year 7 and 8 takes place in April and we look forward to our Year 7 and 8 students having the opportunity to take part.

A BIG THANK YOU!

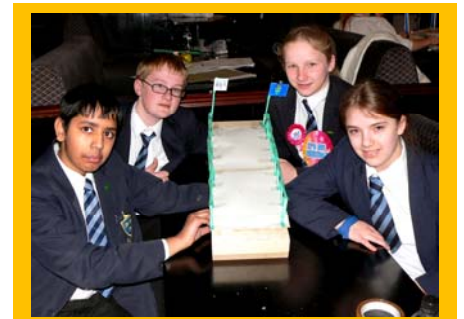


Rarely do we see these ladies taking centre stage and yet they do so much for our school and on so many fronts. A big thank you to Veronica Horsfall, from the Parents' Association, Kay Barker, the school secretary, and Rosie Gregg, the Headmaster's P.A., for their creative skills and efforts to put together an impressive collection of prizes for the Easter Raffle that accompanied our drama production. Our thanks also go to Sally Porter who persuaded so many of you to buy tickets. There were some very lucky recipients of prizes in both Senior School and Priestley House!

Thank you for your support for fund raising for the many extras that the Parents' Association manage to provide for our pupils in school.

TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT AT FRONTIER CLUB

Three teams of year 9 pupils went to the Frontier Club on Tuesday 11th March to enter the Annual Technology Tournament. Their bridge building task, on three different levels proved to be both challenging and fun!



NORTH EAST ENGLAND MUSIC DAY

For the third time, Key Stage 2 children in Priestley House were privileged to accept the invitation to participate in a Music Day on March 12th, at Ashville College in Harrogate. Instrumentalists and singers from Priestley House spent an exhausting but extremely valuable day playing and singing together with two hundred other children from independent schools in NE England. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children to experience the exhilaration of rehearsing with larger forces and learning the skills and discipline required for such an enterprise. In the final half-hour, the children performed a concert of their pieces which they rehearsed that day.

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 2008



We celebrated National Science and Engineering Week from the 7th –14th of March 2008.

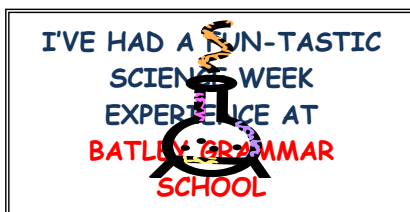
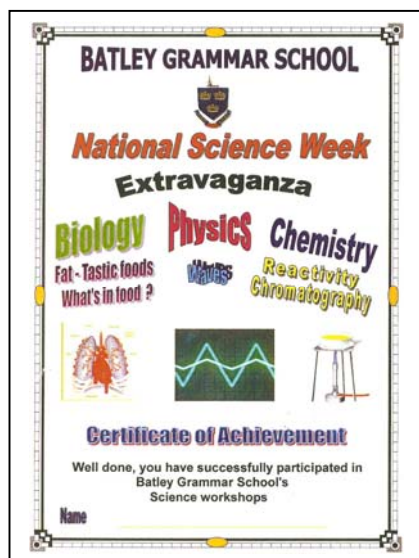
Nationally various centres put on different Science related workshops. This year the main theme of the week was the BIG QUESTION where it was possible to e-mail any science question to a panel of top scientists who would answer it via the National Science Week website.

Batley Grammar School's Science Department were not to be left out. They opened their laboratory doors to groups of enthusiastic and excited Year 5 pupils from some of the local primary schools. They came to take part in an afternoon of Biology, Chemistry and Physics workshops. Three afternoon workshop sessions were run in total for pupils from Batley Parish School, St Saviours, Brownhill, Churwell Junior School and Wakefield Tutorial School at Morley.



In the Biology session pupils examined the fat content of foods and identified the constituents of a particular food. The Chemistry session looked at reactivity and chromatography so there were plenty of bangs and whizzes, while the physicists used oscilloscopes to investigate waves.

After a short break the final session of the afternoons took the form of a quiz on each of the Science subjects with prizes for the best answers and stickers, well done certificates and Batley Grammar School pencils for all those who participated.



In school pupils were encouraged to take part in the BIG QUIZ and years 6, 7, 8 and 9 pupils were invited to enter a competition either producing a poster, a pamphlet or a presentation.



There were a number of topical issues from which to choose: 'What is the fuel for the future?' and 'Do we really need an early warning system to detect asteroids?' to 'The problem of global warming' or even 'Has enough been done for older people for the big switch over from analogue to digital?'

All entries are due in after the Easter Holidays on Monday 7th April.

BOOK WEEK IN PRIESTLEY HOUSE

National Book Week was celebrated in Priestley House with both enthusiasm and enjoyment by all members of the school.

The week began with the launch of our annual Book Fair – the fair was very well attended on all of the opening times and sales generated a healthy commission for the school.

A big thank you to everyone who supported this!



World Book Day began a day early for Priestley House when Year 2 dressed up as well known characters from books for a “Guess Who?” assembly – some characters were easier to identify than others!



On Thursday 6th March – official World Book Day – more characters from favourite stories were to be seen around Priestley House when Year 1 took their turn to dress up – there were many imaginative outfits but Mrs Elsworth as the Snow Queen was very impressive!

An enjoyment of reading and love of books are fostered throughout the school and this was particularly evident in the level of interest in all the events that took place during the week.



Year 1 and Mrs Elsworth dressed up as fairytale characters to mark World Book Day. We had two Peter Pans, one of the dwarves from Snow White, a pirate, Cinderella, a knight, two Snow Queens and Jack and his magic beans. The children brought in their favourite books, made castles for Sleeping Beauty and have been growing their own beans in the classroom. Mrs Elsworth promised they would chop their beanstalks down at the first sight of a giant!



Accompanying this newsletter you will receive a **Bag2School** bag with an accompanying letter explaining the purpose of this collection. If you have been having a ‘Spring Clean’ recently and have reusable items which you are able to pass on then please put them in the bag and return it to school before Thursday 10th April.

Thank you in advance, for your support for Batley Grammar School and Priestley House with this venture.

Three AS level French students visited Brittany as part of their AS course, in December. Emma Carrigill, Chris Furness and Olivia Mortimer were accompanied by Mr O'Dwyer and Ms Thomas for the five-day trip.

They stayed at Mr O'Dwyer's holiday home – a timber framed house in a village near Dinan. The trip included visits to the "Marché de Noël" in St Malo, the Mont St Michel, and plenty of shopping! Mr O'Dwyer organised a day in a local secondary school, where our pupils were the centre of attention as they helped out in a number of English lessons. Ms Thomas also arranged with English teacher, Mme Rouxville, to exchange letters between their respective pupils. The students had plenty of opportunity to speak French, for example when Mr O'Dwyer invited round his friends for a curry evening. They also stopped people in the street to interview them, not an easy task in the freezing cold, as people were rushing to do their Christmas shopping!

Olivia and Emma had already done work experience in Paris in Year 11, and Chris and Emma are planning to do voluntary work at the Relais International de la Jeunesse in Poissy, with which the school has a long-standing partnership. "It's great to take language-learning out of the classroom, and these three students certainly enjoyed using what they had learnt", said Mr O'Dwyer.

FRENCH EXPERIENCE



FRENCH CLUB

French Club this year has been very active in the first few weeks. We are fortunate that Michelle Robertshaw is able to come in and speak French to pupils, giving them the opportunity to have conversations with a native French speaker. Members of the club have listened to a wide variety of French music from pop classics to ballads and recent hits in France. We have also written to our partner school in St Malo in order to arrange pen pals between BGS and Collège Sacré-Coeur so that pupils will be able to exchange letters or e-mails. It is hoped that we will be able to set up an exchange in the future so that we can welcome French students over here and give our pupils the opportunity to spend time in France with a French family.

Saint-Malo Le Pays Malouin 10 janvier 2008 11

Echange linguistique

Le Sacré Cœur reçoit des jeunes de Leeds

Le mardi 18 décembre dernier, juste avant les vacances de Noël, les élèves du Sacré Cœur ont pu participer à des cours d'anglais pas tout à fait comme les autres : ils recevaient pour la deuxième année, un groupe de jeunes de Batley Grammar School, un établissement situé à Leeds dans le Yorkshire en Angleterre.

Une occasion pour ces adolescents français et anglais de mettre en pratique les langues étrangères apprises en cours mais aussi de découvrir, parfois avec étonnement, les habitudes de vie des uns et des autres.

« Mais ce sont de vrais anglais ? », demande un élève de 6ème avant de chanter, avec sa classe, une chanson des Beatles apprise pour l'occasion. C'est ainsi que durant la journée, les jeunes anglais ont assisté à différents cours, répondant aux questions préparées, mais parfois surprenant par leur maîtrise.

Olivia et Emma avec une classe de sixième et Aude Rouxville.

O'Dwyer, professeur de français à Batley Grammar School, a profité de la proximité des fêtes pour expliquer aux jeunes français ce qu'est un Noël anglais. « C'est une excellente occasion de mettre en pratique de façon très concrète tous ce que les élèves ont appris », ont approuvé Aude Rouxville, et Elzbieta Potiez professeurs d'anglais au Sacré Cœur. Elles souhaitent développer un lien avec Batley Grammar School en échangeant lettres, emails et même des podcasts (fichiers sonores électroniques).

Après cette rencontre, James O'Dwyer et Miss Thomas, ont emmené leurs élèves au Marché de Noël de St Malo intra-muros. Ils ont ainsi pu acheter des spécialités locales à faire découvrir à leur famille. La visite du Mont Saint-Michel, était elle aussi programmée. « On espère revenir à St-Malo quand il fera plus chaud », ont dit Emma, Olivia et Chris, parce qu'avec une eau à 5° on a pas vraiment pu profiter...

Les échanges se sont tout naturellement fait autour de la vie de tous les jours : horaires scolaires, goûts musicaux, sport, etc.

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