



BATLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL and PRIESTLEY HOUSE



NEWSLETTER SPRING TERM 2009



MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING





This year the Drama Society raised the bar once more. They performed a wonderful production of William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* on two evenings in March. Audiences were amazed when they walked into the School's Graves Hall to see it transformed into a 'theatre in the round'. The play, which was set in a courtyard of a Mediterranean villa even featured a working fountain. The professionalism and confidence of the performers was clear for all to see and showed just how much work everyone had put into this show.

It was wonderful to see so many new faces on stage this year with at least half the cast appearing, on stage, for the first time at Batley Grammar School. Mr Jonathan Wilby praised the efforts of all those who were involved in the production in some way, whether it be via performing, choreography, providing stage crew support or stage management. Very well done to all!



BTEC in PUBLIC SERVICES



Twenty six members of Batley Grammar School's CCF were awarded their BTEC in Public Services this week, 10 of them at Merit level, 6 at Distinction level and 10 at Distinction* level. The BTEC, worth the equivalent of 4 A*-C GCSE passes, forms part of the cadets' weekly training programme. It consists of six units: a project on Uniformed Public Services employment, leadership and teamwork skills, health and fitness, map reading and first aid, adventure training and expedition training.

GOING FOR GOLD!

This term saw a momentous achievement in our **Batley Grammar School Reading Award Scheme**.

Our student reading policy at Batley Grammar School is one of the areas in which our Learning Resource Centre has attracted the attention of the Yorkshire Museums, Libraries and Archives Council in recent years. It is one of a number of initiatives introduced in our Senior School library chosen to be included as an example of 'good practice' in a guide available to other school librarians.

In the Batley Grammar School Reading Challenge, KS3 students, under the supervision of Mrs Harknett, the librarian, and the English Department, are encouraged to work towards Bronze, Silver, Gold and even Platinum awards in each academic year.

In order to gain a Gold award, a student must read and review at least twenty fiction books from the

List of recommended titles. Whilst we have had students reach gold and platinum standard in the past, we have never presented *five* gold awards in one school assembly! Collectively, these five students have read and reviewed a staggering *133* fiction books since September. This represents a tremendous achievement and they are to be congratulated on their success.



Habel Khan, Scarlett Allen, Aisha Khan and Luke Heseltine are pictured with their gold certificates. Amber Masud, not pictured here, also achieved gold.

MOTHERS' DAY FLOWERS

Priestley House sold plants to all the children in school as gifts for Mothers' Day. This venture was to help raise money for Cecily's Fund, the charity Miss Wilson is helping by completing a sponsored cycle challenge in Vietnam later in the year. The flower sale helped raise over £100. Well done to everyone!



ANNUAL EASTER FUN DAY

This event is now in its ninth year and continues to be an extra special event for all the children in Priestley House. The children take part in competitions in egg rolling, jarping (egg bashing!), decorating eggs, Easter bonnet making and egg and spoon races. The children's efforts are rewarded with prizes of chocolate Easter eggs.



JARPING



TRAINING FUTURE DELIA SMITHS!

Children in Priestley House have been busy developing their culinary skills. Year 1 pupils have regular cooking lessons with Mrs Legood and have been learning the basic skills of baking, producing mouth watering Fairy Cakes! Meanwhile, as part of their History topics, Years 3, 4 and 6 have been making dishes from the Roman, Tudor and the Second World War periods, respectively. Surprisingly, the dishes ranging from stuffed dates fried in pepper and honey to cakes made with mashed potato and no sugar, were extremely tasty!

ASIAN FOOD BAZAAR

Friends of Priestley House organised an Asian Food Bazaar at the end of March. Sweet and savoury items were kindly provided by parents in Priestley House and sold to both Senior and Junior School pupils.

START COLLECTING – BAG 2 SCHOOL
IS COMING BACK NEXT TERM



Thank you for supporting for the **Bag2School** collection in the past. We will be having another collection next term so if you have been having a 'Spring Clean' during the holidays please save your items.

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

WILDLIFE WEEK



Everyone, from Nursery to Year 6, spent a whole week in March studying the different wildlife areas be found in the school grounds. Work included pond dipping, putting up nesting boxes, visits from the RSPCA and a hedgehog sanctuary, planting flowers to attract butterflies and developing a wild area to encourage minibeasts. The week proved to be a great success and helped the children understand and appreciate how we can encourage and care for the natural things around us.



A STEP BACK IN TIME

On 30th March, Year 2 children stepped back in time when they took part in a Medieval Day as part of their 'Castles' topic. After dressing up in an array of costumes the children took part in a variety of activities including making leather purses, writing with quill pens and cooking. At the end of the day the children sat down together in the candlelit Great Hall (the Old Library) and enjoyed a banquet of medieval dishes that they had prepared during the day.



SPONSORED 24 HOUR BADMINTON

Jonathan Cook, who has attended Badminton club for many years and took part in the last 24 hour Badminton event, decided the club should repeat this sponsored event in aid of local charities. Nine of the players actually took up the challenge. They included Jonathan Cook, Farhaan Shaikh, Robert Carrigill, Mohamed Seedat, Chen (Chris) Zhu, Jack Firth, Afeef Patel, James Forsbrook and Zac McKeown. They duly arrived in the Sports Hall with all the food and drink necessary for survival during the 24 hour period (although take-away pizzas did arrive part way through the evening!) When the rest of the school left to enjoy their weekend, at 4 pm on the Friday night, these pupils set up the courts and the drinks and food station in the Small Gym and started to play badminton. They continued, in shifts, to play throughout the night and all day on Saturday until 4pm.



This was a superb effort considering that they had already been awake from early on Friday morning and had been in lessons all day. They should be congratulated on their willpower and endurance to continue playing when they were suffering from a combination of sleep deprivation and 24 hours of continual sport. Several even took a little time off to play soccer for the school's 1st XI team against Rishworth School, only to return to complete their task. Thanks must also go to Mr Sanderson, Mrs Rollinson, Mr Hargreaves and Mr Bellamy who gave of their time on Friday and Saturday to help ensure that the event ran smoothly. However, what the players also achieved, which is equally impressive, was raising in excess of £400 to be donated to the charities of their choice.

A MORE UNUSUAL HOBBY!



Weekends may typically see Jessica Smithson, in Year 7, taking part in a more unusual hobby than most. Jessica races her Siberian husky, Yana. Recently she has been successful securing 3rd place in the Siberian Husky Club of Great Britain, Sherwood Pines Competition.

This sport is traditionally a winter one and Jessica has her future sights set upon success in the National Competitions in Aviemore.



JOGGING CLUB



This term has seen the birth of a new extra-curricular club as two sixth formers (Liam Chisholm and Husain Passwala) from the 1st XI soccer team, approached Mr Turnbull to see if he would start a jogging session to help improve their fitness.

The Jogging Club started on a Wednesday lunch time and the perimeter of the school fields has proved to be a good training ground with its rough terrain and many slopes. Over the weeks the membership has increased as other pupils have joined to improve their fitness levels. Different pupils are now running at their own pace and distance and each week there are, on average, about ten participants. Mr Foster has also taken up the challenge and, more recently, Miss Thomas has given up the tread mill for the outdoors. Other regular joggers include James Hirst, Cameron Pye, Mohammed Seedat, Hasan Passwala, Luke Heseltine, Edward Crewe, Thomas Keogan, Hakeem Ishtiaq, Mariam Daji and Mariyah Ahmed.

Annabelle Mason, pictured here, was one of the first to join the group and, even as a year 7 pupil, she sets the pace at the front. Annabelle has received a number of trophies for her fell running, the most recent being 1st place in the Ilkley Moor U16 Junior Fell Race where she also broke the course record, previously set in 2005. For the future Annabelle has her sights set upon success in the Yorkshire and English Junior Fell Championships.

IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE – BATLEY WINS ALL CLASSES

Batley Grammar School teams won all three trophies at the Batley Rotary Technology Tournament last month. Three Teams competing against twenty nine other teams from twelve local high schools won all three levels; basic, intermediate and advanced. Each team was set the daunting task of creating a launch pad simulation. The object of the task being to launch a pod a set distance and have it land precisely at the given location. The Batley Grammar School teams seemed to have a slow start, with other school teams beginning to construct their launchers within minutes, however this slower and more considered approach paid off. Each of the Batley Grammar School teams created a well thought out portfolio, developing different ideas and including isometric and third angle project drawings.



The Judges were particularly impressed by the quality of teamwork displayed by the Batley Grammar School entrants; they showed high levels of constructional skills and an eye for detail in the design process. Pictured with their trophies are Cameron Pye, Christy Kavanagh, Farah Khaleeq and Avneet Cheema making up the Basic Level team; Harrison Lill, Zoe Minnet, Philip Swift and Alastair Hepworth of the Intermediate level team and Danny El-Koussy, Olivia Mortimer, Afeef Patel and Hassan Passwala of the Advanced level team.

LAKE WINDERMERE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY EXPERIENCE



On Thursday 19th March, thirteen children from Priestley House Year 5, and three members of staff, travelled to the Lake District for a fun filled outdoor adventure. We arrived just before lunch for what turned out to be a glorious day with a mini bus full of excited participants ready for the day's activities. One group headed towards the King Swing and Obstacle Course whilst the other group took a short hike to a crag to learn how to rock climb and abseil down a thirty foot wall. The activities were challenging and clearly took the participants out of their comfort zone but they all attempted each activity with smiles on their faces and a determination to succeed.



The highlight was clearly the King Swing; this was exhilarating and involved being hoisted thirty feet into the air before a free fall drop into a swing.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable trip and certainly a camp which we will visit again.

Well done to all the children who took part - a great experience for all involved!



YORKSHIRE SELECTION

Ellis Lill, from Year 6 in Priestley House, who recently trialed for the West Yorkshire girls' U11 squad, has just received news of her selection in the team. This will require her to commit to training on both Fridays and Saturdays. Ellis was also selected, as a reserve, for the U13 team without even having to attend those trials, so very well done to Ellis!

ANNUAL BOOK FAIR



Pupils from years 3 to 6 have taken part in a project in partnership with Edward Jones. David Hartley, who is a stockbroker and financial adviser here in Batley, set the scene with a talk about savings for pupils.

Mrs Hawkes thought it was so refreshing to see the pupils really excited about savings and getting to grips in their early formative years with the principles of investing rather than spending. The project was continued via workbooks into the classroom and finished with each class selecting a portfolio of shares, in a 'fantasy investment fund manager'. Mr Hartley kept the classes updated with a regular report on who was in the lead, which kept the children's attention until a prize presentation of piggy banks to the winning class was made. The children certainly enjoyed taking part and the class teachers enjoyed the friendly rivalry!

David Hartley said, "Educating the public to make the right decisions for them to meet their long term goals is what we are about, and the children are the first building block laying the foundations for financial planning. If we can bring some fun into it for the children as they learn, then that is just great.



The annual Book Fair took place in Priestley House from the 4th to the 9th of March and, once again, proved to be a great success. All the pupils, from Nursery to Year 6, were able to choose books at lunch time and after school. A total of £740 was spent by Priestley House bookworms and the commission for this will be spent to further enhance the class and library bookshelves.

SAVVY SAVERS!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH ACTIVITIES AND CCF SPRING UPDATE

This term the CCF has recruited thirty year 9 pupils (out of a year group of thirty nine) and they have been busy undertaking their basic Drill and Weapons Training. During the Field Day, this term, the majority of cadets went paintballing near Wakefield and had a most enjoyable day. The remainder of the cadets, accompanied by Mr Bownass who has recently been commissioned into the RAF section, went flying.



At the end of February, twenty seven of the twenty nine Year 10 CCF cadets began training for their Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition. The first event was held at Strensall Barracks, north of York, where cadets had the chance to brush up on their target practice and combat skills using the DCCT indoor range. This is similar to a big arcade game, and is used to train regular soldiers. Further Duke of Edinburgh training was done in the classroom on the Saturday morning. This involved being given examples and demonstrations of things such as equipment, emergency procedures, expedition food and the Country Code. Cadets then embarked upon a 10km walk to practice navigation and walking skills. The weekend also involved some First Aid training with cadets learning how to resuscitate a casualty and treat wounds and other injuries. Cadets have since been examined individually on their skills, in order to gain a First Aid certificate as part of their CCF involvement.

The second training exercise was held in Saddleworth Moor where the cadets went for a 17km walk in varied terrain – an ideal way to gain more navigation experience! The weather held off, and all cadets were spared the traditional D of E drenching! All this training will culminate in a two day practice in the Dales, in May, before the final expedition in Scotland, during Adventurous Training, at the end of May.

The take up of both the CCF cadets and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has been very strong this year – giving students the opportunity to broaden their life experiences whilst at Batley Grammar School. Meanwhile Sixth Form cadets, pictured here with Mr Renold, collected their Award certificates at a ceremony in Huddersfield.

AWARDS CEREMONY



SCIENCE CLUB INVESTIGATES!



How did we do this?
Join the Science Club and find out!

Science Club meets regularly during Wednesday lunchtimes, attracting a loyal and enthusiastic following, all eager to carry out a wide range of activities. High temperatures have been associated with exploding jelly babies, making your own volcanoes and writing with fire. Very low temperatures have been investigated using dry ice, during which pieces of cucumber and banana have, in just a few seconds, been turned into rock-hard blocks of frozen vegetation. We have experimented with changing the colour of hen's eggs - a green egg seems very odd and as part of an on-going project, we are growing some particularly beautiful crystals.

SCIENCE WEEK GOES WITH A BANG

Mr Bownass gave a couple of spectacular demonstration assemblies, with plenty of bangs and smoke, to both Senior School and Priestley House during National Science Week in March. The theme ? Why, none other than Joseph Priestley of course, to whom the discovery of oxygen, amongst other things, is attributed.



SPLAT THE TEACHER



RED NOSE DAY

KITCHEN STAFF JOINED IN



PICTURE GALLERY



6th Form Classics visit to London



Events 2 Go Young Enterprise Company



Football coaching in Priestley House

Distinction for these two musicians in their Associated Board exams



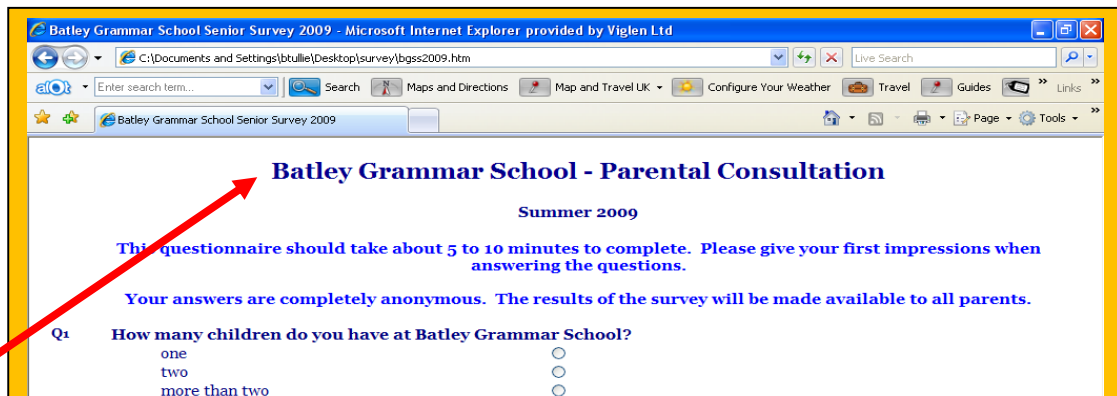
More Red Nose Day

Priestley House Valentines Disco

Year 8 Classics projects



PARENTAL SATISFACTION SURVEY!



Available online will be a Parental Satisfaction Survey, for both Senior School and Priestley House. This will go live at the beginning of next term when you will be notified how to access it and we would like all parents to complete it please.

Batley Grammar School, Priestley House Junior School Parental Consultation

Summer 2009

This questionnaire should take about 5 to 10 minutes to complete. Please give your first impressions when answering the questions.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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