

B. E .S. T.

Issue 8

Bridgnorth Endowed School Times

October 2012

Dear parent, carer, student and friend of Bridgnorth Endowed School, welcome to this edition of BEST magazine; an opportunity to celebrate the great progress students have made over the last 8 weeks, both academically and otherwise. We are moving ever closer to our expected Academy Conversion date of 1st December. Governors and senior staff are working hard to complete all necessary paperwork having been given the green light because of our excellent track of improving GCSE outcomes for students. There have been a few hiccups along the way that have threatened to delay the conversion, normally associated with information gathering from the local authority, but they are very supportive and we continue to believe that 1st December is a realistic date. You will see very little difference in your experience of school between November and December, but behind the scenes will be a far more efficient business model that ensures that every penny spent goes towards improving outcomes for students.

Mr Gove, Government Education Minister, continues to cause ripples in the educational landscape. The fiasco regarding English grade boundaries last summer has not been resolved to anyone's satisfaction, and we look forward to announcements soon that ensure fairness across the border with Welsh students who sat the same examination. His ideas about GCSEs in general have given us much food for thought and you are likely to find that our options system for year 8 students will be tweaked to ensure that the basket of qualifications they achieve in the next three years gives them equivalency to the examination system from 2015 onwards. There is likely to be a particular focus on the English Baccalaureate subjects, in line with Government thinking. As a school that is on the cutting edge of educational development, we are used to thinking through, evaluating and implementing new systems to help our students gain the best educational outcomes they can, so you can be confident in any new changes we bring into force.

Some things can come out of the blue, such as the substation breakdown this last week. It is at these times when the progress the school has made in areas beyond the academic are clear to see. The students were excellent in the way they managed the change, with staff all working well together to ensure that what was a catastrophic event was dealt with in a calm and measured manner. I do apologise to those of you who had your plans rearranged last minute, but thank you for your forbearance and support at a difficult time. We hope that the power company and the local authority will work together to make the necessary repairs so that we can go back to main line power as soon as possible.

I hope you have a pleasant break and look forward to welcoming students back to school by 8.40 on Monday 5th November. Please note two key points: 1. fireworks night is something that happens outside of school; anyone found to have brought fireworks onto the school site will be dealt with most severely. 2. Monday 3rd December is a staff INSET day and the school will be closed to students, as previously advertised.

Mr Loveday

*School closes on Friday 21st December for Christmas holiday, returning (for students) on Tuesday 8th January 2013.

*Monday 7th January 2013 is a PD days.

The **BEST** of things

This is an opportunity to celebrate the many successes of our students over the last few months and a look at future events.

- We were delighted to welcome back two ex-sixth form students who came to talk with our current Yr 12's. Rachael Abbis (currently completing a PHD) and Matt Robbins (currently on a gap year from university working for Google) kindly volunteered their spare time to talk about their experiences so far, as well as passing on some advice on how to be successful when applying for jobs or university. We thoroughly enjoyed their company and fantastic presentations.
- In July, 30 students and teachers from the Bridgnorth Sixth Form Partnership travelled to Honduras to support a scientific organisation, called Operation Wallacea, with vital conservation studies. The first week was spent camping in hammocks deep in the jungle of the Cusuco National Park, where the group collected data for the United Nations REDD programme into reducing carbon emissions. The students worked with leading field scientists to take DNA from amphibians in order to identify a new species and to understand more the spread of the deadly chytrid fungus. We dodged lots of venomous snakes and insects and endured hours of hard walking and climbing. The second week was spent on the island of Cayos Cochinos, a marine protected site on the Meso-American Barrier Reef in the Caribbean Sea. The group qualified as PADI Open Water divers, and spent time collecting data on the health of the reef. There were encounters with nurse sharks and barracudas, but it was well worth it to live on the beach of a desert island for a week. It was an amazing trip - educational and inspirational!
- Children in Need - Friday 16th November - more information to follow from the sixth form after half-term. There will be a non-uniform day on the 16th November, the theme is cartoon animations.

- European Day of Languages - Wednesday 26th September was the European Day of Languages which we celebrated it in style at BES. We held an online poll which revealed that students and staff at BES speak more than 16 different languages. Our brilliant new Language Leaders ran an event at lunchtime in the library, where approximately 100 students came to sample delicious European foods and complete a language quiz. Staff and students learned how to greet each other and even answer the register in a new language. Thank you to everyone for their enthusiasm and willingness to get involved!
- The Creative Arts Department were thrilled to announce this year's whole school musical production of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, which will be performed in March 2013. Over 100 students auditioned, with main parts going to students from year 7, all the way up to the 6th form. With a strong supporting cast and chorus and other opportunities for students to get involved on the horizon, the Creative Arts Department are very much looking forward to bringing staff and students together from across the school to create something magical and exciting.
- Year 11, 12 and 13 students attended a very successful 'Dare 2 Engage' conference held at the Baptist Church. They were treated to an excellent art exhibition and a day session with Lat Blaylock on the theme of Rage, Hope & despair,
- 30 GCSE and A-Level music students attended a workshop at St Leonards Church where they were given the opportunity to play the harp, one of the most difficult instruments to master. It was such a rare opportunity to have so many harpists in one place at the same time! Together they performed an ensemble arrangement of a piece of music, with everybody working together as a team to make a top class performance! The pupils really enjoyed the experience, with one A-Level music pupil saying, "I've never had the opportunity to even see a harp, let alone play one! I found it really challenging, but loved it!"
- Congratulations to the GCSE Food Technology students who last Friday, as part of National Baking Week, created some lovely cakes which they sold at break and lunchtime. They managed to raise a total of £148.54. Option Group A (£76.09) managed to beat Option Group B (£72.45). Elliot Watters (Opt A) and Megan Tate (Opt B) were the first pupils to sell all their cakes. The money will be used to buy some new digital scales and other equipment to help the pupils with their Controlled Assessment practical work.
- Congratulations to the year 7 cross country team, Cam Minifie, Ellie Shotton, Ellie McAdam, Olivia Bicknell, Camilla Oliver, Millie Webster, Will Morgan, Harry Morgan, Luke Richardson, Connor Kehoe, Max Evenett and Jacob Thomas have made a great start to the season competing in the Telford League races. Their next challenge is the Area Competition after half term.

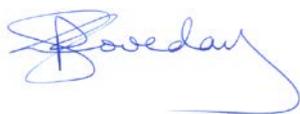
FUTURE EVENTS

- Wednesday 7th November – BES PTA meeting – room 17
- Thursday 8th November - Sixth form Open Evening
- Friday 16th November – non-uniform day for Children In Need
- Monday 28th November – 7pm BES PTA AGM - Library
- Friday 7th December – 7.30pm BES PTA Christmas Quiz
- Monday 17th December – 7pm Carol Service, St Mary's Church

BES PTA

- BES PTA would like to invite you to the AGM on November 28th 2012 at 7pm in the school's library. As a parent, carer or member of staff at the school you are automatically a member of BES PTA.
- Christmas Quiz: 7th December at 7.30. £3.50 per person or £10 for a team of 4. Primary school-aged children are free. There is a complimentary winter drink and a mince pie with every ticket. Refreshments (soup and a roll) will be available to purchase.
- 21st December – BES PTA organised Cinema trip, hopefully to see the Hobbit (this replaces the summer Cinema visit).
- BES PTA will be supporting The Lion, The Witch and Wardrobe, school production in March and would appreciate volunteers for each evening's performance to assist with serving refreshments and selling raffle tickets. Raffle prizes can be donated directly to the school or alternatively, please email BES PTA at endowedpta@gmail.com to discuss donations, volunteering, ideas or questions.
- BES PTA will meet in room 17 on 7th November and in the library on 28th November. Please come along and join us to help raise funds for those extras for our students.

Kind regards



Mr P Loveday
Headteacher