

Batchwood School

make every day count



Newsletter
Autumn 2014



Message From The Headteacher

Dear All,

This term has been full of exciting events with students making good or excellent progress. The students have continued to develop their own enthusiasm for learning, and their ongoing resilience and courage to embrace new challenges.

We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter as much as we have. The students all have a lot to be proud of. As a school, we are all very respectful of the **students' achievements.**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents, carers , staff, the volunteers, FAB and the governors for all the support and help you continue to give, to ensure that the students succeed in their learning and that they are fully prepared for their next steps in life. It is always a pleasure when former students visit the school to share with us how well they are doing at college, and this shows our current students what opportunities await them when they leave Batchwood.

We look forward to welcoming you to the school anytime in 2015.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year

Anne J. Spencer



Students Attend Talk by Author, Andy McNab

At the beginning of November students attended **a talk at Parmiter's School in Garston given by the author, Andy McNab.** He spoke about the difficulties he experienced in his early life before he joined the British Army and became a sergeant in the SAS. He later published an account of his time in the SAS; the bestselling book *Bravo Two Zero*, and went onto write many other fiction and non-fiction books.

Some of our students asked him questions about his life and career and they were able to get their hands on signed copies of his latest book before it is released in January.



Batch Fest 2014

At the end of the Summer Term Batchwood held its first music festival. Live music was provided by the students and the Music Department, who had been rehearsing for weeks in preparation for the big day. Students took part in a variety of other activities including: circus skills, face painting, craft, camp fire and the Food Technology department provided festival themed refreshments throughout the day. The event was a resounding success and was enjoyed by the students, staff and visitors alike.





Miss Johnson Takes Gold

For the fourth year running, Miss Johnson, a member of our Maths and Science Departments, made the trip to Manchester to compete against the best in the country at the British Taekwondo National Championships, bringing a gold medal in the Senior Female +73kg division back to Batchwood School.



Hannah, who is ranked 114th in the world, also recently competed for Team England at the Commonwealth Taekwondo Championships in Scotland, where she won a bronze medal in her division. We are all extremely proud of her achievements and the example of hard work and commitment that she provides to everyone at Batchwood.



Wear It Pink Day

As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Batchwood participated in the Wear It Pink Day on 24th October. Money was raised from non-uniform day donations and many students and staff wore pink on the day. Further money was raised through a biscuit and cake sale, where some students kindly baked cakes at home and brought them in to sell. The Food Technology department also helped students make and decorate Halloween themed cookies for the sale. All money raised was donated to breast cancer charities.



Year 11 Enterprise

In an effort to buy equipment for their common room, the Year 11s have been coming up with ways to raise funds. They started off by washing the cars of visitors and staff,



which was very successful, and they went onto set up a tuck shop which is run at break times. They have learned about buying and tracking stock, money keeping, and even conducted some market research to find out which products students and staff would most like to buy.



Visit from Fred Abbot

In November, Batchwood students had the privilege of meeting and chatting with Fred Abbot from the band Noah and the Whale. Fred came to visit our Music Department and talk about his experience touring the world with the band as a multi-instrumentalist. Fred also spent time playing music with the students and gave us a sneak peak of an



upcoming project. Students were able to talk with him about what it means to work as a full-time musician. He shared stories of touring with bands such

as Phoenix and Vampire Weekend, and also sharing a stage at The Isle of White festival with Tom Petty playing to around 100,000 people. The students who met Fred could all tell that he had a high standard of musicianship and he expressed how it was



all down to hard work and commitment.



Visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor

As part of the R.S. curriculum this term it was arranged for a selection of students from all year groups to visit Bhaktivedanta Manor, Hindu Temple in Aldenham. Highlights of the day included dressing up as Hindu princesses and warriors and having traditional Hindu patterns painted on their faces. They were treated to a cart ride around the farm to see the sacred cows and oxen, followed by a delicious vegetarian curry for lunch. Some students enjoyed their visit so much they asked to revisit the following Friday during their enrichment.

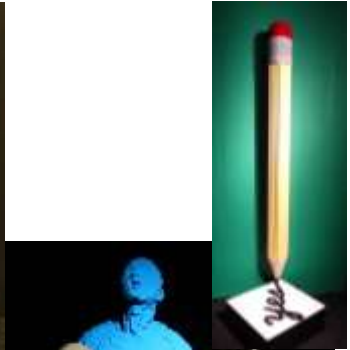




Lego Exhibition

In November, members of Batchwood's Lego Club travelled into London to visit The Art of the Brick exhibition. This unique exhibit featured over eighty sculptures created by artist Nathan Sawaya using over a million Lego bricks. The students were amazed as they explored the exhibits before entering the interactive zone, where students had the opportunity to build their own Lego sculptures. The whole group thoroughly enjoyed the day, and found the exhibit incredibly inspiring.





"Dreams are built...one brick at a time."
Nathan Sawaya



Royal Air Force Museum Trip

This term, in conjunction with their study of war poetry, the English Department took ten Year 8 students to the RAF Museum in Hendon.

Their host, David Keen, talked to students about the conditions on the Home Front during the Blitz and the differences between life then and now. The students were able to visit a reconstruction of a 1930s shop, look at ration cards and walk around a typical house of the time.

David also let the students wear gas masks and try on original RAF uniforms. They were then led into a reconstruction of an air raid shelter to experience what it might have been like during an air raid. David then led the group to the main hall where they were able to explore the incredible collection of planes.

All the students had a great day and it was fantastic to see them engaging in these unique activities.





Year 10 at Oaklands College

Every Tuesday afternoon, our Year 10 students attend courses at Oaklands College, St Albans Campus, working towards qualifications in either Construction, Catering or Animal Care.

The students have found this to be a valuable experience, preparing them for their continued studies when they leave Batchwood.





Romeo and Juliet at the National Theatre
In November, the English Department took a group of eight students to see a production of **Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet at the National Theatre** in London. This trip greatly supported their understanding as they studied the play this term. Students and staff had a great day and really enjoyed the experience.



Natural History Museum Visit

As a reward for excellent behaviour and attendance this term, a group of students visited the Natural History Museum in London. The students enjoyed visiting a variety of



exhibitions including the Dinosaur and Mammal galleries and the new Volcanoes and Earthquakes exhibit where students had the opportunity to learn about them and how

tectonic plates affect our planet.

The students were all very well behaved and helped each other whilst travelling through London. They were respectful and courteous to other visitors and all the students had a wonderful time walking around the exhibits and learnt a great deal about the world around us.



Anti-Bullying Theatre Production

On the 19th of November, The London Bus Theatre Company visited Batchwood. This was one of the events organised for Anti-Bullying Week where the whole school took part.

They produced a memorable and thought-**provoking performance of the play 'Nutter'**. After the performance there was an open forum where the students could discuss aspects of the play and the characters within it.

The play was based on real-life events and offered the students and staff an insight into the criminal justice system. It left everyone aware of where bullying and threatening behaviour can lead you, and that we need to take every opportunity given to us to change and grow into better people.



Friends At Batchwood Quiz Night

The annual Friends at Batchwood quiz night took place on Friday 26th September at Batchwood School, with a record number of quizzers coming out in support of the charity arm of the school.

For the second year running, ex-England/Arsenal footballer and Sky Sports presenter Alan Smith, who volunteers as a mentor at the school was quiz-master.



Headteacher Anne Spencer and Deputy **Headteacher Matt Hillman said: "The quiz was a huge success and raised over £4,000, which will be used to fund student participation in a range of extra-curricular enrichment activities and residential trips."**

Highlights of the night included the raffle for a limited edition signed England rugby shirt donated by **another of the school's volunteer** mentors, Chris Ashton of Saracens and England RFU.



Mrs. Spencer and Mr. Hillman thanked Friends at Batchwood for hosting the evening and for their continued hard work and support.





Nat
Year 11

Ceramic jug in
the style of
Grayson Perry



Year 10

Rock Face



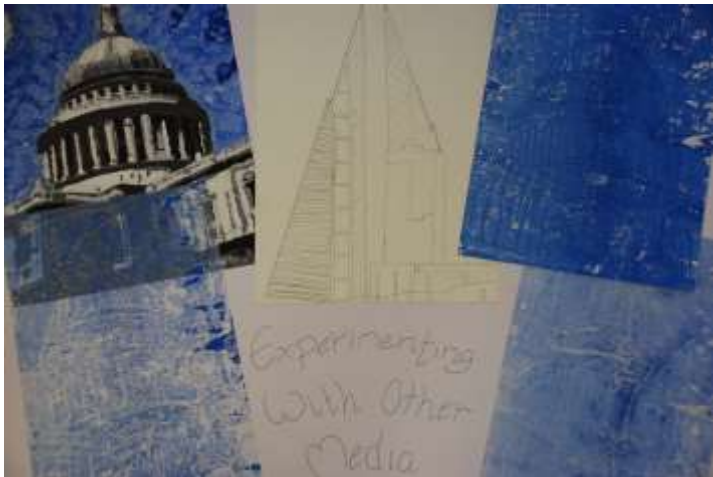
Art & Design at Batchwood



James
Year 11

Structures

Observational pieces using a range of media



Sean
Year 10



Mo'Nique
Year 8

Painted Objects

Based on a project looking at the work of artist, Michael Craig-Martin



Notices

Severe Weather Guidance

In the event of severe weather conditions the following website lists the status of Hertfordshire schools. Please **check this and the school's website for information.**

www.imodus.com/summary.aspx?company=99

Dates For Your Diary

Spring & Summer Terms 2015	
Monday 5 th January	Inset Day (school closed to students)
Tuesday 6 th January	Term begins for all students
Monday 16 th February- Friday 20 th February	Half Term
Monday 23 rd February	Students return to school
Friday 3 rd April	End of Term 12.30pm
Monday 6 th April- Friday 17 th April	Easter Break
Monday 20 th April	Term begins for all students
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday
Monday 25 th May- Friday 29 th May	Half Term
Monday 1 st June	Students return to school
Friday 17 th July	End of Term 12.30pm
Monday 20 th July- Wednesday 22 nd July	Inset Days (school closed to students)

For the most recent news and information please visit our school website:

www.batchwood.herts.sch.uk

