

Batchwood School

make every day count



Newsletter
Spring 2014

Message From The Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Spring Term has been full of learning and progress. It is very pleasing to see the students being proud of their achievements. We are proud of them too. As you can see from the newsletter, we have had some exciting events taking place this term.

We will continue to help the students develop their own enthusiasm for learning, and the resilience and courage to conquer new challenges.

Thank you for working in partnership with us to ensure we *make every day count*.

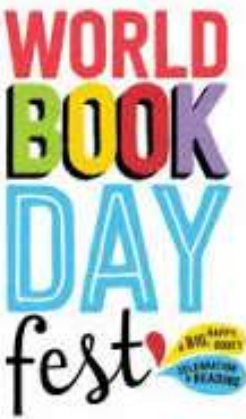
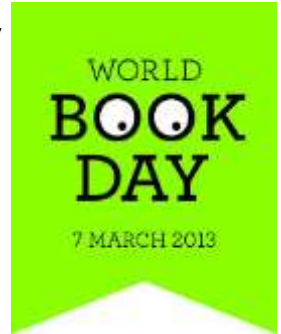
A very Happy Easter to you all.

Anne J. Spencer



Author Visit for World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day on 7th March, each student from Batchwood was given a free book to keep, and students from Year 8 were surprised with a visit from author Kate Maryon. Kate spoke



with the students about the challenges she faced growing up and how they inspired her to write books about young people. Kate read to the group from her book **'Invisible Girl'** and students learned about young homeless people and about the importance of keeping yourself safe by making good choices.



Schools Art Exhibition

In January, students from Batchwood exhibited their work in the Schools Art Exhibition. This was for all schools across the St Albans area. The standard of work exhibited was extremely high and it is a great compliment that work from Batchwood, a comparatively small school, was included in the exhibition.

George
Year 11



Surfaces

An observational drawing on a large scale using mixed media





Schools Art Exhibition
Sat 25th January
10am - 4pm
Sun 26th January
10am - 2pm
Samuel Ryder Academy
Drakes Drive, [redacted]
St Albans, Herts. AL15AR
with thanks to [redacted]
Luton Hoo Walled Garden
& Marc Huggins, Sir John Lawes School



Batchwood Tree Planting Day

On Friday 14th March, the whole of the school took part in a tree planting day. Funded by the



Big Tree Plant scheme, the students planted 240 trees including an Elm, Beech and Oak tree **to represent each of Batchwood's houses.** In our new school orchard, Hertfordshire Heritage varieties of cherry, plum, apple and pear trees were planted. Students also enjoyed a break by the firepit, where they helped to cook sausages and toasted marshmallows. The former England footballer, Alan Smith and Saracens Rugby player, Chris Ashton, who are both mentors at the school, helped students plant some of the trees .





Tree Planting Day

The tree plant forms part of **Batchwood's bid to develop its Outdoor Curriculum**; giving students as many opportunities as possible to learn outside the classroom. The students have been working alongside tree surgeons to clear and restore a stretch of woodland along the edge of the school grounds, in order to improve wildlife habitats. They are also creating a multi-species willow plantation in which they will grow osiers for willow weaving and hybrid willows as an experiment in Bio Fuel production.



The trees planted this term will provide many more learning opportunities for Batchwood students today, and in the years to come.





Harry Potter Studios Visit

Students who had shown exemplary behaviour and attendance over the Autumn Term were rewarded with a trip to the Warner Bros. Studios, where the Harry Potter movies were filmed. Batchwood students were asked to open the doors to the Great Hall, where they found props and costumes used by the actors in the movies. They saw sets, learned about the special effects used in the movies and were able to see the models of the many magical creatures seen in the films. Some students boarded the Knight Bus, had a chance to sit in one of Ford Anglias used in **filming and knocked on Harry Potter's front door** at Number 4 Privet Drive.

All of the students came back to school talking about what an amazing day they had had and the staff on the trip were proud of their good behaviour.



Batchwood News



Lego Club

The school had a small selection of Lego that students would often play with at breaks and lunchtimes. One of our Year 10 students enjoyed playing with the Lego so much that he asked if the school could set up an after school Lego Club. Thanks to Friends at Batchwood, we were provided with some funds and we were able to buy some sets. We have also been given some kind donations of Lego. The club has proved to be extremely popular and our students have been developing their social skills and having lots of fun as they build Lego together.



In March, as a reward for great team work and behaviour, the students in Lego club were taken to see The Lego Movie at the cinema.

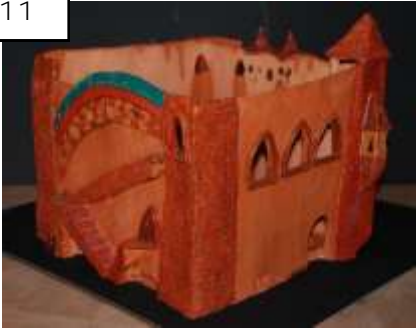
Over the last term, students have made endless creations from Lego; some made from sets, but some have made their own creations, demonstrating both their creativity and problem-solving skills.



Batchwood News



George
Year 11



Ceramics: GCSE Project *Light House*

This "mammoth" piece of clay work can be lit internally and has taken nearly two terms to complete.

George
Year 11



Kayleigh
Year 9



Pueblo Pottery

Mustafa
Year 9



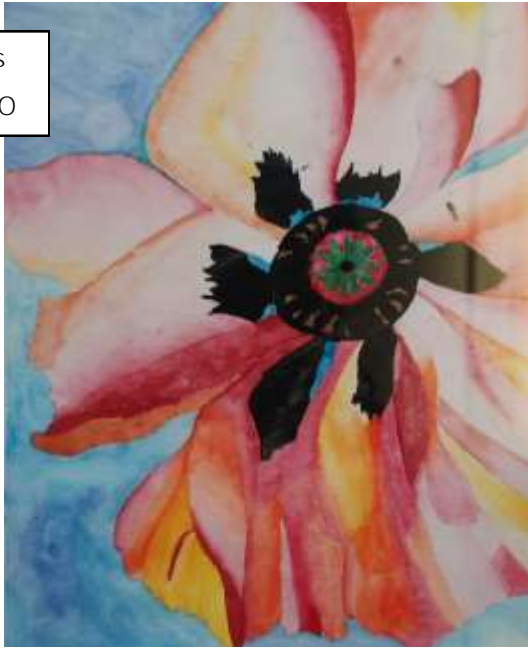
Surfaces

An observational piece using a range of media



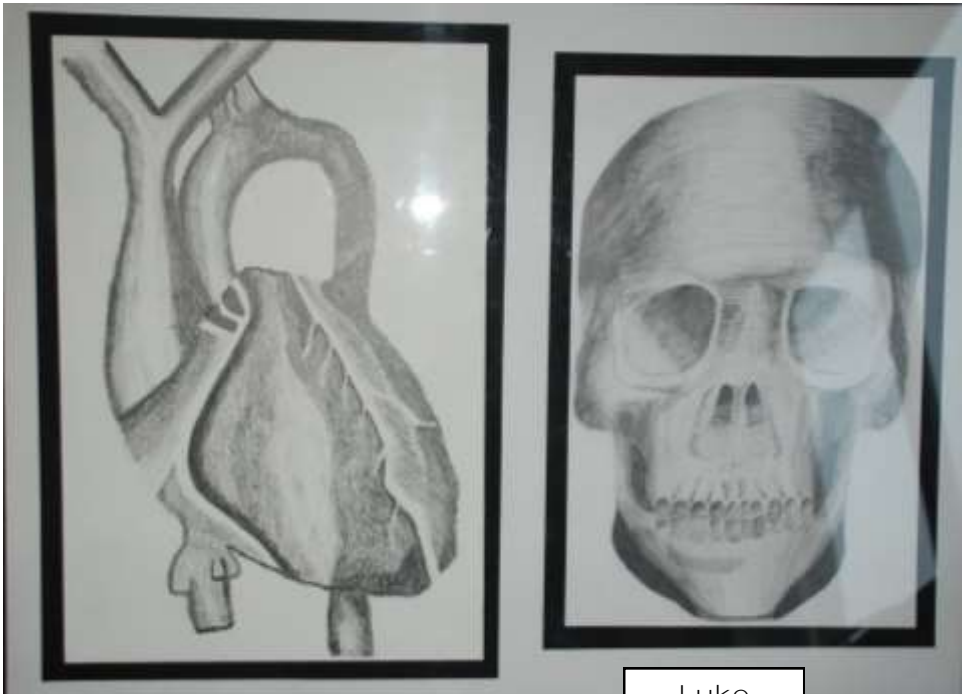
Art & Design at Batchwood

James
Year 10



Structures

The students explored natural or man-made structures using a range of media.



Luke
Year 10



Notices

We have welcomed three members of staff to Batchwood; Miss Johnson, Miss Murphy and Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Taylor joined us from Canada for the term and is now returning. We thank him very much for his contribution to the Music Department and wish him well. We will miss him.

Dates For Your Diary

Summer Term 2014	
Friday 4th April	End of Spring Term
Monday 4th April- Monday 21st April	Easter Break
Tuesday 22nd April	Term begins for all students
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday
Monday 26th May- Monday 31st May	Half Term
Monday 2nd June	Students return to school
Monday 21st July	End of Summer Term
Tuesday 22nd July- Wednesday 23rd July	Inset Days (School closed to students)

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

www.batchwood.herts.sch.uk

