

# Batchwood School

make every day count



Newsletter  
Autumn 2015

# Message From The Headteacher

Dear All

This term has been full of learning with students making progress in all their subject areas.

The students continue to embrace new challenges taking hold of the opportunities given to them.

**Through 'Friends At Batchwood' and the funds they** have worked hard to raise, we have been able to take part in two residential trips, a number of tutor trips and varied activities each Friday afternoon for Enrichment.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Hillman who is leaving to develop his career as a Deputy Head in a different setting. We will keep in touch and we wish him the very best in his career path towards Headship. We thank him very much for his contribution and his commitment over the past 5 years.

May we wish you a very happy Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year.

We look forward to welcoming you to Batchwood at anytime.

Best wishes,

Anne J Spencer



## Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 23rd September Batchwood took **part in Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee** Morning event. This event takes place every year in order to raise money for people battling cancer. This UK based charity has raised over £138 million since it first began in 1990 and this year the wonderful students and staff at Batchwood helped add to that.

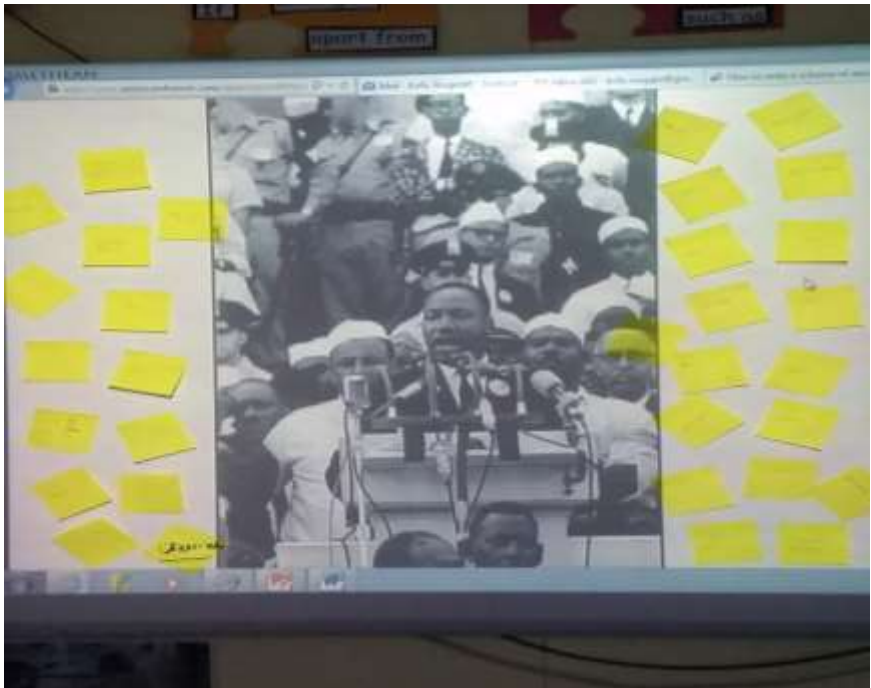
The students and staff baked a selection of delicious sweet treats and the whole school came together to enjoy an hour of fun for a fantastic cause! Some students performed songs and there was a raffle for students and staff with lots of great prizes. The event was a great success and we raised over £300 for Macmillan.



## Black History Month

October is recognised across the world as Black History month and this year the students at Batchwood School joined in the celebration in recognition.

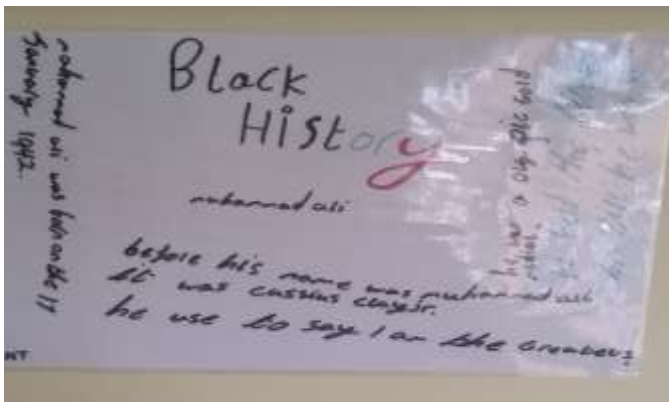
Black History month saw our KS4 History students explore black role models in their History lessons. Researching and creating Black History Month posters celebrating role **model's contribution to black history**. These were displayed proudly around the school telling the story of role models such as Barack Obama, Martin Luther King Jnr, Will Smith and Rosa Parks.



Black History month was concluded by a whole school assembly held by Miss Johnson and Mrs DeGale. Students were introduced to the history of the slave trade, Black Lives Matter and the history of the battle for racial equality celebrating black role models in the current media eye.



Overall the whole month was very informative and all the students were engaged in the topic.



## Caribbean Restaurant Visit

On Wednesday 4th November students from year 10 and 11 went on a trip to a Caribbean restaurant called Turtle Bay where they got to experience different types of Caribbean food and drinks.



It was brilliant to see all the students trying something new - even if some of them did find the food a bit on the spicy side!

# Turtle Bay

*Caribbean social*



## Mechanics

Some of the year 9 and 10 students attend a weekly mechanics course held at Falconer school where they are working towards a City and Guilds qualification. The students get the chance to work on real cars from actual clients, as well as learning through theory.



## Senior Boys' Dodgeball Tournament

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November, nine students from Batchwood travelled to The Valley School in Stevenage to take part in a senior dodgeball tournament, playing against The Valley School and Garston School. In the morning they played in the tournament and came 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The boys played with great enthusiasm and energy and a year 10 boy, in particular, entertained everyone with his agility and great dodging ability (plus he never stopped smiling!)

Another of the year 10 boys, also did so well and was last man standing in not just one but all of the dodgeball games. After the tournament all teams took part in a modified version of dodgeball. It was every man for himself and whoever had the ball could get another player out.

At the end of the tournament all the boys shook hands. The games were played with great honesty and gamesmanship. It was a real delight to see **that everyone's attitude was so positive and friendly** towards opposing team members.

Well done boys!

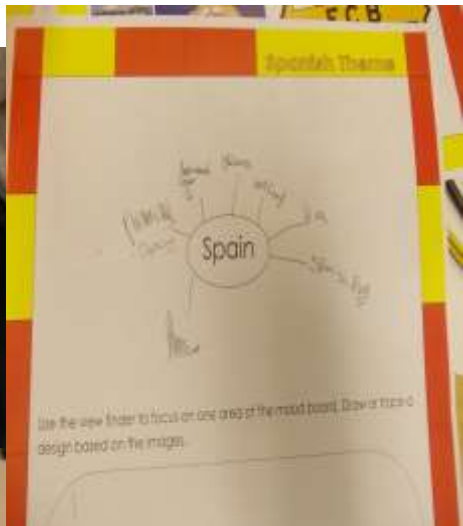






## Spanish Day

On the same day, Friday 6th November, everyone at Batchwood celebrated Spanish Day. For Spanish day students had lessons based around Spain and Spanish culture. They also helped to draw and colour pictures that were then used for wall displays that were shown in lots of classrooms throughout the school.





## Roald Dahl Museum

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November Year 8 students enjoyed a trip to the Roald Dahl Museum. The students made their way around the museum visiting the Boy and Solo gallery and then spent some time in The Story Centre before heading up to enjoy a workshop lead by one of the staff from the museum.



The students were able to look through different pieces of work and read about different aspects of **Roald Dahl's life to find out fascinating facts about** him and how his earlier years lead to him being such a great author. Different interactive activities were on offer around the museum which allowed the students to learn in different and exciting ways.

The students took a walk through the town to visit **Roald Dahl's grave**. All students thoroughly enjoyed the trip and were excited to show off what they had learned when arriving back at school.







# Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 9th November was the start of our Anti-Bullying Week. This week was filled with lots of activities for students and staff at Batchwood. Staff and students were split into teams and had to complete challenges working together. Everyone had a brilliant time and displayed great team-work.





## Children in Need

For Children in Need all of those at Batchwood came together to raise money for **one of the UK's biggest fundraising events**. We had a non-school uniform day and together raised £81.86 for a great cause.

## Friends at Batchwood Quiz Night

On Friday 13th November Batchwood held the annual Friends at Batchwood quiz night. The evening was led by Quiz Master and ex-England footballer Alan Smith. Together the quiz raised an amazing £3500!



There were plenty of fantastic prizes up for grabs and the quiz participants enjoyed a delicious dinner followed by a fun filled quiz. Batchwood would like to thank everyone who came and supported the school and the students will benefit from the generous sum raised.





Enrichment activities are a reward for excellent behaviour and effort in lessons. This year a number of new ideas have been put forward for Enrichment on Friday afternoons. Students have had the opportunity to enjoy lots of different fun activities including bowling, trips to the cinema, paint balling, ice skating, top golf, XC skate park and many more.



Again, we would like to thank Friends at Batchwood for helping to make trips like this possible.



## Challenger Troop

Over the last 12 weeks, 8 students have participated in and completed an army influenced course. The programme has been provided by Challenger Troop whose aim is to challenge and stretch participants emotionally, physically, socially and intellectually in a safe structured environment, whilst implementing a military ethos.



At first, the students found the structure and discipline difficult, but as the weeks progressed they took it all in their stride. The students have learnt and improved many skills such as, fire lighting, shelter building, air rifle shooting, first aid and above all, teamwork.

These skills were put to the ultimate test when the students took part in an overnight residential stay at Thriftwood Scout Camp. The students built their shelters for the night, survived on ration packs and worked together on a mission to track down and patrol towards an enemy camp.



The enemies were two staff members from Batchwood School and the attack was settled the following day with many laser gun battles.

The students represented the school well throughout the course and should be very proud of what they have achieved. To ensure these achievements did not go unnoticed we held an awards ceremony after their final day with staff members, The



Sergeants, parents and carers all invited. Every student passed their first aid course and received a certificate to show their achievements as well as one to commend their completion of Challenger Troop.



Thank you to all who have helped and supported along the way and again well done to the students.



## Woodrow House Residential Trip

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, 10 students and 4 members of staff visited Woodrow house where they took part in a number of team building activities.

The pupils were split into two teams and were tasked with designing and building a catapult using only a few resources at their disposal. Each team designed unique structures in which to launch balls at a target and both made use of the clover and square hitch knots, which they learnt that morning.



The second team building activity scheduled was to design a parachute device to stop a water balloon from bursting after being dropped from the top of Woodrow House. The three teams jumped straight in and using only a cardboard box, paper, string and a couple of straws, all made cases which would hopefully protect the water balloon. After reaching the top of the building, the three balloons were released and two of the three parachutes managed to prevent the balloon from bursting.

That evening, the students and staff embarked on a ghost walk through the grounds of Woodrow House. During this tour, our activities manager Josh told us the tale of the Lord and Lady of the manor and how it is believed that the ghosts of the couple would walk the very same path.





The group later enjoyed their final activity of the evening, sitting around a campfire signing camp songs and roasting marshmallows on the fire. Particular note should be made on the impressive dancing that a number of the pupils displayed during the singing! Students were taught how to make a bonfire and Josh treated the group to some fire cooked popcorn!



The final activity of the trip was the eagerly anticipated archery session where the pupils and staff were shown how to correctly and safely use a bow and arrow. The trip provided a large amount of unique opportunities for the students to participate in new challenges and the staff were all impressed with the enthusiasm shown by all.

We would like to thank Woodrow House and particularly our Activities Coordinator Josh for all their hard work in providing the group with this fantastic opportunity and a truly enjoyable trip. We would also like to thank Friends at Batchwood for all their hard work raising the money for this trip, without which, this trip would not have been possible.



## Sea Life Centre Trip

On Monday 23rd November, Mrs Spencer and Mrs Farenheim went to Sea Life in London with some year 9 students. They had a wonderful day and saw lots of different sea life including cuttlefish, dog fish, sharks, an alligator as well as piranhas and turtles.

The train journey was fun and we stopped at Blackfriars to walk along the embankment. This gave the students the chance to see all the street artists as well as paying a visit to the dodgems in the arcade by Sea Life before they came back to school. It was a day to be remembered.



## Work Experience

**Some of the year 11's have been doing work experience this term which has been really successful. We hope for this to continue next term.**

## Tree Planting

On Saturday 5th December we had a tree planting ceremony in memory of the wonderful **Anne Rider. Anne's family, staff from Batchwood and Governor's** attended to plant a **Mirabell Plum Tree** and a group of **Anne's** walking friends came to initiate the planting. A student from Year 11 also bought a rose to **plant in Anne's memory. It was a very special day.**



# New Food Technology Room

After a long wait, Batchwood was finally given the go ahead to refurbish the Food Technology room which looks fantastic.



We also have a lovely plaque in memory of Eve Davies who was a Food Technology teacher for 20 years. Eve worked extremely hard towards getting the refurbishment started. We were joined by her family for the official opening.





## Schools Art Exhibition

On Saturday 23rd January there will be an Art Exhibition held at the Samuel Ryder Academy in St Albans. This will be a chance for students from a number of schools in St Albans to display their beautiful art work.



Skulls by Georgia Year 11



## Christmas Dinner

On Thursday 12th December we had our very own Christmas dinner cooked by our wonderful chefs Nev and Kerry. The hall tables were made to look very festive with red table covers and Christmas crackers, whilst everyone enjoyed a delicious roast and listened to some Christmas songs.



Merry Christmas  
Everyone!





Notices

At the end of this term Mr Hillman will be leaving us; we wish him every success in his new job and all the best for the future.

We have welcomed six new members of staff to Batchwood this term. Miss Tripp who has joined us all the way from Canada and is now part of the Maths Department. As well as five new teaching assistants; Selena Jeyaratnam, Darcie Jackson, Stephen Johnson, Robin Hunter and Amy Jones.

Dates For Your Diary

Spring Term Dates 2016	
Monday 4th January	Inset Day (School closed to students)
Tuesday 5th January	Spring Term 2016 begins for all students
Wednesday 10th February	Parents evening Year 10/11 6pm-8pm
Friday 12th February	End of half term - School closes at 2:50pm
Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February	Half Term
Monday 22nd February	All students to return to School
Friday 25th March	Good Friday (School closed to students)
Monday 28th March	Easter Monday (School closed to students)
Wednesday 30th March	Parents evening Year 9 6pm-8pm
Friday 1st April	End of Spring term - School closes at 12:30

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

[www.batchwood.herts.sch.uk](http://www.batchwood.herts.sch.uk)

