

Batchwood School

make every day count



Newsletter

Spring 2016

Message From The Headteacher

Dear All

It has been a very successful term. The staff have worked very hard to ensure that all students progress and develop their skills for life and learning. Thank you so much for your continued support to ensure we all work in partnership together.

Please can I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy holiday. Please do not hesitate to contact me any time.

Best wishes,

Anne J Spencer



Christmas Concert

At the end of last term the Students and staff put together some fantastic performances for the Christmas Concert, which showcased the brilliant talent that we have here at Batchwood. These included the Batchwood Choir, solo performances, street dance and cheerleading.

Well done to all those that took part and a massive thank you to the staff that took the time to create such wonderful performances. Also a big thank you to everyone that came to watch and support students at Batchwood.



Christmas Concert



Chris Ashton Saracens star is a regular visitor at Batchwood School along with Alan Smith, an ex England and Arsenal footballer now Sky Sports Presenter.

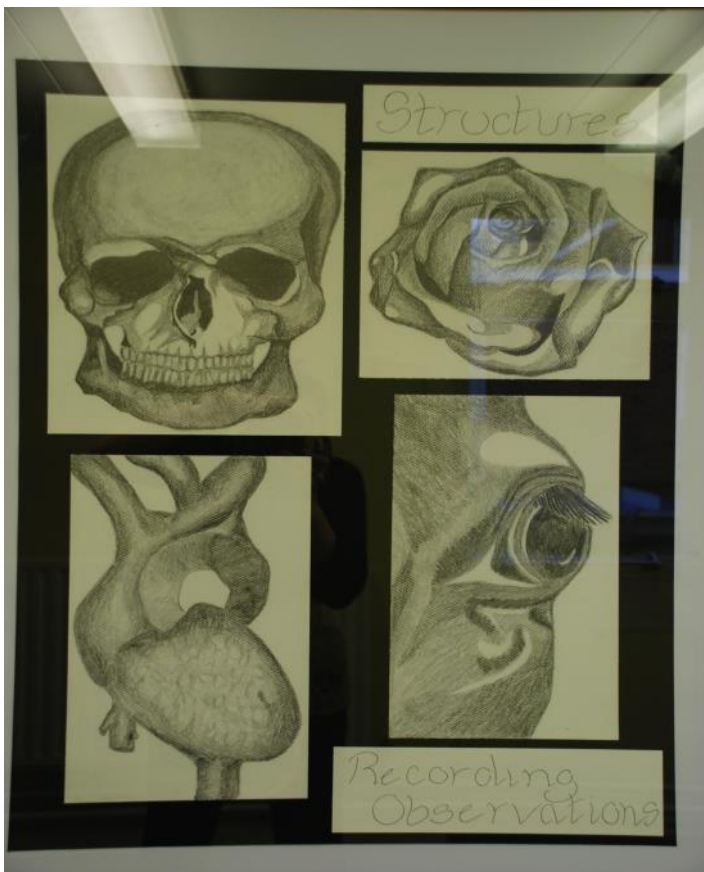
Both men give up their time on a regular basis to mentor the students at the school. Chris and Alan are an inspiration to all the students and support them with their learning and progress.

Chris joined in with a PE lesson for the Year 10 students who were filming for their Btec level 2 award in sport.



Art Exhibition

On Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th January, students from Batchwood exhibited their work in the Schools Art Exhibition at the Samuel Ryder Academy. 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.



Georgia Year 11



Kayleigh Year 11



Shanah Year 11



Catering Manager of the Year Award

The Batchwood School kitchen team, Nev, our head chef, and her assistant Kerry, have been nominated for a special award for their wonderful catering.



Nev and Kerry are both integral members of Batchwood School and both take accountability for providing balanced meals for all students and staff, in turn contributing to the overall well-being of our students and their ability to concentrate and learn. Nev's personality is as colourful as her food. Both Nev and Kerry go above and beyond to ensure that the needs of everyone are met. They are much loved and respected members of the Batchwood team, by staff and students and they deserve to be recognised for the role they play in student's day to day lives.



Nev's passion to deliver amazing food stems from her early childhood where she would delight in watching her father cook. He was an inspiration to her, as an accomplished chef at the Dorchester, before going on to run the family restaurant. Seeing the pleasure and the social side of the dining experience has remained with Nev and underpins her



approach to the provision of school meals. Nev knows the students and staff so well. She listens to students preferences and provides delicious creative twists to HCL

menus, incorporating a diverse range of food from across the globe; embracing and celebrating the cuisine of many cultures. Her signature dish is her roast dinner which are legendary, worthy of this claim, as those on packed lunches can't resist joining the weekly roast dinner sitting; some students have even been known to pay with their own pocket money.

Congratulations on your nomination Nev and Kerry.



Cinema Trips

On Wednesday 27th January some of the students who had shown exceptionally good behaviour got the chance to go out on a day trip to the cinema. There were two groups one of which went to see "Creed" and the other that went to see "Star Wars the Force Awakens". This was a great day out and well deserved for those pupils that were chosen to go. Well done.

Italian Day

On the 4th March we celebrated Italian day. We looked at the Italian culture and traditions, made Italian food, researched Italian music and artists and celebrated people from Italy's rich history.



Enrichment

This term the students had the chance to take part in a number of exciting enrichment activities including Ice skating, Mega Jump trampoline park, bowling, sledging, fun rings and many more.



These activities have been great rewards for the students for all their hard work and good behaviour in and around school this term.

An enrichment activity that was particularly enjoyable was sledging. On Friday 11th March, five staff members and 12 students went to Phasels Wood in Kings Langley.



Due to the students good behaviour from the week, it was decided that they would be taken to enjoy the Cresta Run activity. The Cresta Run is a 50 metre long man-made run where participants raced in their sledges.



Students and staff all practiced in groups of four first, then proceeded to have a group tournament. Overall, the students and staff really enjoyed the activity and will hopefully be going back next term.



Challenger Troop

Over the past term, 10 pupils have all taken part in the Challenger Troop course which aims to test the pupils and implement good self-discipline in a military setting. Although many found this difficult at first, all the pupils have progressed extremely well. This course has enabled the pupils to take part in a number of exciting activities, including, rock climbing, fire lighting, shelter building, archery, first aid and above all, teamwork.

These pupils were given the opportunity to showcase these acquired skills during a residential trip to Thriftwood Scout Camp where they had to build their own shelter for the night, out of nothing more than a sheet of canvas, bungee cords and some bits of wood found on the site. The capabilities of these shelters were put to the test that night when all the elements were against them. During the trip, each student was issued a pack which contained all the necessary equipment to last the night. The pupils were also issued a laser gun to take responsibility of. The students had to survive on army ration packs which they learnt how to prepare and cook during the term. There was much swapping of dinners and deserts until everyone got the one they wanted, except the staff of course.

During the evening, the students had to organise a patrol route and try and find the enemy camp and overhear the enemy's plans for the following day's battle which everyone enjoyed taking part in.



The pupils were all recognised for their achievements during the Passing Out parade on

March 17th, in which Challenger Troop staff, parents, Batchwood staff, chair of governors; Kerry Pollard and the Mayor of St Albans; Salih Gaygusuz were all invited. The pupils were able to show off the skills they had attained during the term when they performed an army drill which highlighted the discipline they had gained. 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.



Sport Relief

On 18th March some students at Batchwood raised money for Sport relief. So far they have raised just over £200, however this is not the final total as there are still donations to be collected.

The students did a great job at raising money and did it by washing staff cars, bouncing on a trampette continuously for one hour and others did a sponsored swim, attempting as many lengths as they could in an allotted time. This raised money for a great cause and everyone at Batchwood is very proud of those that took the time and put in the effort to take part.

Talent Show

On 31st March Batchwood held an end of term talent show where students from all years performed in front of school students and staff. There was a judges panel including Mrs DeGale, Miss Murphy, Mrs Spencer and of course the music department's Mr Wheeldon and Mr McCarthy.

Students had to rehearse in their own time in preparation for the show and did an excellent job at entertaining everyone. The show was a great success and a fantastic way to end the term.





Notices

In the summer term there are a number of trips. The PGL residential trip to Dorset, the Year 11 leavers Alton Towers Trip and a reward trip to Cadbury's World.

Dates For Your Diary

Summer Term Dates 2016	
Monday 18th April	Sumer Term begins for all Students
Monday 2nd May	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Thursday 5th May	School used as Polling station for Local Elections - School Closed for years 7 - 10. Year 11 students required to attend
Friday 27th May	End of half term - School closes at 2:50pm
Monday 30th May 2016 - Friday 3rd June 2016	Half Term
Monday 6th June	All students to return to School
Thursday 23rd June	Polling day for referendum (School closed to students)
Wednesday 20th July	Parents evening/Leavers Ceremony 6pm - 8pm
Thursday 21st July	End of Summer Term - School closes at 12:30pm
Friday 22nd July	Inset Day (School closed to students)
Monday 25th July	Monday 25th July (School closed to students)

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

www.batchwood.herts.sch.uk

