

Batchwood School

make every day count



Newsletter
Summer 2015



Message From The Headteacher

Dear All,

This term has flown by with lots of exciting events taking place. As you can see from this wonderful newsletter, the majority of the students have done extremely well; learning to take responsibility for their actions, as well as making progress in all subject areas. This is a very important aspect of school life in order to prepare them for their future at college or work.

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

We look forward to seeing you all in September.

Best Wishes

Anne J. Spencer



Year 9s Visit Wembley Stadium

We're the mighty Batchwood School and we're going to Wembley!

On Friday 26th June Mr. Hillman and a two Year 9 students headed by train to Wembley for a tour of the stadium and a slap up meal at **McDonald's**.



Highlights of the tour included seeing the crossbar that was struck with eleven minutes of extra time gone in the 1966 World Cup that England went on to win 4-2, running onto the pitch via the tunnel, taking questions in the press room and climbing the famous Wembley steps to be presented with the FA cup.

It was a fantastic experience and a tour that we would recommend to any football fan.



Railway Children Theatre Trip

On Wednesday 24th June, the English Department took a group of ten students into London to watch a production of *The Railway Children in London*.

Our day began with a train ride into London before a picnic by the canal. The show took place in a purpose-built theatre around a real train track and featured a vintage locomotive. All the students thoroughly enjoyed the show and were talking about it all the way back to school.





Fundraising for Nepal Earthquake Appeal

On Friday 22nd May, students and staff raised money for the victims of the Nepal earthquake by paying to wear home clothes for the day.

The students also made cup cakes and caramel popcorn in their Food Technology lessons which were then sold at break time. The stall was very busy and the students were happy to be raising money for such a worthwhile cause.



Top Golf Trip

A group of Year 8 students went on their tutor trip to Top Golf to perfect their golf skills as a reward for attendance and good behaviour.

The competition was high and the winner of the competition was Brooke with a total of 50 points closely followed by

Harry and then Charlie. Some of the students had never been to a driving range before, there were a few lost balls and at times the ball never left the golf tee after a swing, but overall the students did really well to achieve such high scores.



Owl Visit to Batchwood

Four rescue owls from Wings of Love Rescue Centre came to visit Batchwood on Tuesday 23rd June.

Students were given a presentation about the owls detailing their key characteristics, where they came from and why so many had to be rescued. Students were really impressed to find out that a barn owl can hear the heartbeat of a mouse from half a mile away and that owls with dark eyes hunt at night and owls with bright orange eyes hunt during the day. After the Q&A session, students were allowed to handle the owls and really enjoyed looking closely at the patterns on their feathers.



A Year 8 student said, "I was impressed by the colours on the feathers and how friendly the owls were, I really enjoyed holding them. I think the school should get a pet owl as our mascot." Although Batchwood isn't planning to

adopt an owl anytime soon, it was great to learn about them at school.'





Art & Ceramics Exhibition

On Thursday the 18th of June, Batchwood School celebrated the achievement of our Year 11s completing their Art & Design and Ceramics GCSE courses with an Art Exhibition.

Their friends and family were invited to view all their work on display and congratulate them for all the dedication and effort they each made towards their Art & Design & Ceramics GCSEs. Members from the local community were also invited to the champagne reception, including representatives from neighbouring schools.

Everyone was very impressed by the quality of work on display, and the students who exhibited should all be very proud of the work they have produced over the last two years.





PGL Trip

Day
One

On the 17th June, sixteen students and five members of staff made the journey to Marchants Hill PGL Centre in Surrey for the annual residential trip.

When the intrepid group of adventurers arrived on site the staff arranged a big game of football and games of ultimate Frisbee, and then a well-earned picnic!

It was then on to the first activities. The students were split into two teams. One team faced the perils of abseiling down a 25ft wall, while the other group used deductive reasoning to solve problems of increasing difficulty.

In the evening we split into teams to play Ambush, a huge game of hide and seek in the woods

surrounding the PGL site. It was led by a PGL **instructor called "Bagpipes" a former military man** who taught the students the art of camouflage and of being very still and quiet. After the game we went back to our rooms where some of us showed off our musical talents and sung songs and played guitar. Some students joined in but most were content to sit in the sun and just listen.





PGL Trip

We woke up to beautiful weather on the second day which was perfect for all the outdoor activities. Students and staff competed in archery tournaments, with many students stating it was the first time they have ever used a bow and arrow. It was then onto a high trapeze with some students conquering their fears and some climbing up but not willing to jump. All the students gave each other lots of support and encouragement by shouting and chanting their names to try and help them get through it. One instructor said it was the loudest example of team work he had ever heard at PGL and it really helped the students to overcome their fears. We then made our way to the longest zip wire at PGL. The students even encouraged Mr Hurley to overcome his fear and he completed the zip wire challenge. When he touched the ground the students gave an almighty cheer and congratulated him, showing another example of great teamwork and support for each other.

After a well-deserved supper, we went to the Oasis, a room with pool tables and air hockey. Some students also watched a film or played basketball, while others were content to sit outside and look at the stunning views from the balcony.

Days Two
& Three

On the final morning we took part in air rifle shooting with most of the students shooting rifles for the first time. The instructor was very impressed at how well the Batchwood students listened to safety instructions and followed them to the letter.



The trip offered some great opportunities for students to challenge themselves and try new activities. As we packed our bags ready to return home, a couple of the students said, **“When is the next trip and can we stay longer?”**

The staff and students would like to thank Friends at Batchwood for all their hard work raising the money for this trip; without them this trip would not have been possible.



Fishing Trip

On Wednesday 17th June, six students visited the Riverside Fishery in St. Albans for a day of fishing. Each student spent the day with an experienced fisherman. The students were taught how to hold their fishing rods correctly, what type of fish they may catch in the lake; these included roach, perch and bream, and how to attach maggots to the fishing hook. It was a beautiful, sunny day and everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We stopped for lunch and enjoyed a barbeque which was provided for us.

The students caught a variety of species and size of fish. At the end of the day the students were presented with certificates. Two students from



Batchwood also earned a medal each. One Year 9 student was presented with a medal due to the amount of fish he caught during the day and another received a medal for the largest fish as well as his behaviour and attitude throughout the day.





Willows Farm Trip

Some Year 8 students went on a tutor reward trip to Willows Farm this term. First of all, they went to the bouncy castle area and had a great time, jumping up and down and going down the inflatable slide. Afterwards, the students visited the animals followed by a train ride.

In the afternoon they watched sheep racing and placed bets on who they thought was going to win, as well as having a sponge ball war in the play area, and going down massive slides. Overall the students said they had a fantastic day out.



The students said that the best part was when they went into the animal feeding centre, and got to hold and stroke the guinea pigs. They also enjoyed seeing the baby pigs and feeding the goats and horses.

Quotes from the Students

"I really liked seeing the animals."

"My best bit was seeing the baby pigs."

"The funniest part was having the war with the sponge balls and shooting at Miss Watson."



"I really enjoyed feeding the goats down the tubes and the goats' mouths were funny."



Chicks at Batchwood

On Monday 29th June, a representative from the Living Eggs company brought an incubator to the Batchwood Science Department, along with a dozen live eggs. He also brought a brood box and all the food and equipment we would need to hatch our eggs.

Staff and students waited with anticipation until Wednesday, when the first egg cracked and the first chick fought to get out. When it got out it was wet and bedraggled and needed a rest. It soon dried and fluffed up. Soon six eggs had hatched and we had three brown chicks and three yellow ones. Due to their breed, we knew that the brown ones were female and the yellow ones were male. Later that day four more eggs hatched and we had four brown and six yellow **chicks altogether. The last two eggs didn't hatch** but we were advised by Living Eggs that three or four were likely not to hatch, so a total of ten was a very good result.



Once all the chicks were dry and fluffy they were moved from the incubator to the brood box where they could run around.

After the weekend, the chicks were taken outside to a special pen for a few hours and everyone who wanted to could come and hold them. The students all enjoyed observing and handling the chicks.

The brown female chicks went to live with Miss Matthews, who keeps chickens at her family home, and the yellow male chicks were rehomed by Living Eggs at a free-range farm.



Music

This year in music lessons, the students have covered many topics; including the blues, pod-casting, hip-hop and live sound. They have all shown an excellent level of musicianship and supported each other throughout their learning.

In our after-school music club, the students have formed small groups and been practising songs for our school festival **"Batch Fest"** which is taking place at the end of term.

The KS4 students have also have also produced some excellent work this year which can be found at:
www.soundcloud.com/batchwood-music



The Blues

Year 8 students performing and recording vocals



Music at Batchwood



A Year 9 student practising setting up a live sound P.A. system.

Drum Practise



Notices

We are very sad to see Miss Watson and Miss Wiggett leave to develop their careers. Miss Watson is going abroad to teach in an international school in Kenya and Miss Wiggett is going to Sandringham School where she will have the opportunity to teach A Level English.

We welcome Miss Wagstaff into the English Department and Miss Tripp into the Maths Department who will both be joining Batchwood at the beginning of the Autumn Term.

In addition, congratulations to Miss Johnson who will be teaching History, and Miss Smith who will be teaching English from September.

Dates For Your Diary

Autumn Term 2015	
Wednesday 2 nd September	New Year 7 students only until 12:00pm
Thursday 3 rd September	New Year 7 students only until 3pm
Friday 4 th September	All students return to school
Monday 26 th October - Friday 30 th October	Half Term
Monday 2 nd November - Tuesday 3 rd November	Inset Days (school closed to students)
Wednesday 4 th November	All students return to school
Thursday 17 th December	End of term 12:30pm
Friday 18 th December	Occasional day (school closed to students)

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

www.batchwood.herts.sch.uk

