

Batchwood School

make every day count



Newsletter
Summer 2016

Message From The Headteacher

Dear All

As you will see from the newsletter so many wonderful activities and events have happened during this term. The students have developed in all aspects of school life.

I know Batchwood will keep moving in a positive direction under the new leadership with Miraz Triggs as Head and Sharon Coubray as Deputy.

Thank you so much for all your wonderful support over the years, I will miss you all!

Best wishes,

Anne J Spencer



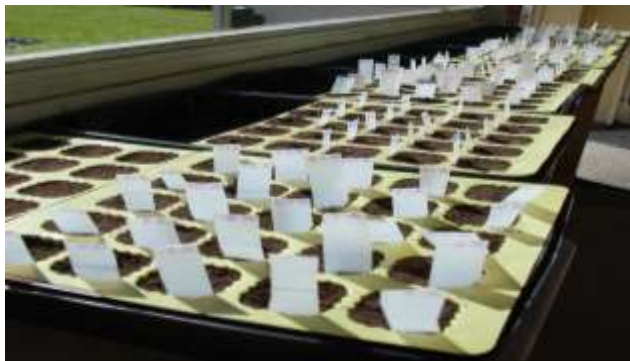
Waitrose Grow and Sell

This year Batchwood worked together with Waitrose in an Enterprise scheme that allowed the students to grow and sell vegetables. They thoroughly enjoyed growing the vegetables and learning how to do so. Some of the staff and students got the chance to go to the store to sell the produce they have grown. This was a very successful day. All the produce was sold and together £97 was raised. All the funds will be going towards our Outdoor Learning and Forest School's curriculum.



Science Experiment

On 2nd September 2015, two kilograms of rocket seed travelled to the International Space Station. The seeds have been stored in microgravity by Tim Peake before their return to Earth in the spring of 2016. All schools that participated received one red packet and one blue packet of rocket seeds each containing a minimum of 100 seeds. One contained seeds that travelled to space and the other contained ones that had remained on Earth. We were not told which seeds came from space so there was no bias.



The students sowed and grew the seeds and measured and recorded similarities or differences in plant growth between the two seed packets on the Measurement Chart. At the end of the experiment the results were entered in the national database where the findings were analysed. We were invited to make a prediction based on the evidence we gathered as to which packet contained the space seeds. We thought the blue ones came from space as they were smaller and we thought radiation or microgravity may have had an impact on growth. It was later found that the blue seeds were the ones on the space station!



Challenger Troop

Over the past term, 10 students have all taken part in the Challenger Troop course which aims to test the students and implement good self-discipline in a military setting. Although many found this difficult at first, all the students have progressed extremely well. This course has enabled the students to take part in a number of exciting activities, including, rock climbing, fire lighting, shelter building, archery, first aid and above all, teamwork. Challenger Troop is a fantastic course in which students can build self-discipline, integrity and can even earn them a Level 1/2 BTEQ by completing the course.

These students 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 had to use map reading skills in order to locate a pack which contained all the necessary equipment to last the night. The students 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 many 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 to try and find the enemy camp and **capture the enemies' supplies and return them to the camp** without being eliminated. The following day, we all took part in a number of territory games.

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. Also, a special thank you to Mr Hurley, Darcie and Robin for their continued effort on the residential trips.



Food and Nutrition at Batchwood

Students have displayed some wonderful skills in food and nutrition this term. Mrs DeGale has helped the students learn how to delicious food that not only looks good, but is nutritious too.



Students have also been learning about the new 2016 Eatwell Plate and have displayed great knowledge about healthy food choices and lifestyles.





PGL Trip to Osmington Bay

On 15th – 17th June 14 students were taken on a PGL trip to Osmington Bay in Weymouth. This trip was for students who have had good attendance, been working hard in lessons and displayed positive behaviour around school. On arrival; after admiring the beautiful view from the rooms, everyone was split into two groups and got stuck straight in to the activities.



First up was archery and rope swing. Archery proved that we have many naturals among the PGL group and so in Mrs DeGale, **Miss Matthew's and Selena's group** we put on a competition; Boys V Girls. Of course the staff on this team were extremely happy that the girls won!

Students abseiled, used their team work and strength to climb to the top of Jacobs ladder and also built rafts, although neither of the groups managed to stay out of the water and even managed to drag some of the staff in with them.



On the last day students got to go on a beach walk. The weather was horrendous but not one complaint was made. The students were content being sat on the beach which was so enjoyable.



Many of the students and some staff conquered fears and truly pushed themselves to do things they would not normally do. It was great to see the students working together as a team and supporting each other through the activities. Much fun was had by all and after a couple of late nights and many exiting yet strenuous activities, everyone was very tired on the long journey home!



Fishing Trip

On Wednesday, 22nd June, Batchwood School was invited by The Masonic Trout and Salmon Flyfishing Club, to their annual fishing event, at Riverside Fishery. We took along six students and the weather was perfect for fishing.



The fishermen explained how to fish correctly, showing the students the different techniques and bait to try and catch the fish. The bait consisted mainly of maggots, which can take a little getting used to if you

haven't been fishing before.



There were various types of fish caught on the day – Roach, Crucian Carp, Rudd, Perch and Tench. Ez and Freddie caught a huge Mirror Carp – one of the biggest the fisherman had seen in a while.

There was a great BBQ organised for lunch by the volunteers and then after another hour of fishing everybody gathered together to receive their certificates.



As we were leaving the volunteer fisherman who had spent the day with our Batchwood students all commented on their excellent behaviour and good manners and said they had enjoyed their time with them, during the day.



Athletics

On Thursday 30th June Batchwood took part in the annual athletics meeting at Wodson Park. Seven schools competed in the activities, which included: high jump, discus, shot put, javelin, long jump, 100m, 300m, 400m, 800m and relay. Sixteen students from Batchwood went along to represent the school.



It was a very enjoyable day and it was noticeable how much the students encouraged each other with lots of positive comments. The day also meant that Batchwood students got the chance to meet pupils from other schools and discuss what was going on and how they were all doing during the day. We felt extremely proud as a school when we heard that two of our pupils had broken two current records. Ez broke the current discus record, he threw 27.26m and Josh jumped 1m40cm in the high jump – both new records. Everyone who participated received a certificate to remember the day. Everyone enjoyed the day and tried their very best.



Catering Manager of the Year Award

We would like to congratulate the wonderful catering team at Batchwood who won the Catering Manager of the Year Award. The award was well deserved and it is a great achievement for all their hard work throughout the school year.



Alton Towers Trip

On 30th June **to celebrate the year 11's hard work** this year, they were rewarded with a two day residential trip to Alton Towers.

On the first day after a very early 7am start we arrived at Alton Towers just after 10am. The day was spent on the exhilarating and thrilling rides, many of the pupils conquering fears to go on certain rides. As the park closed we made our way to our hotel in Stoke and booked into our rooms. The evening was spent relaxing, over a lovely dinner, in the hotel restaurant followed by an early night ready for the next day.



The second day started with another early start and a delicious Mc Donalds breakfast. The morning was spent going on all the students favourite rides before we left to travel back to school.



It was lovely to see the students enjoying each other's company one last time before they go their separate ways. The staff on the trip commented how well the students behaved and what a pleasure it had been to accompany them on their last Batchwood School trip.



Lions of Zululand Visit

On 7th July we were privileged to have a visit from The Lions of Zululand. The Lions of Zululand are a cultural group of musicians and dancers whose aim is to expose the wonderful richness of traditional Zulu culture.



The day started with a fantastic dance and singing performance which captivated both students and staff alike.



The day included and number of workshops which included learning traditional dances, how to speak the Zulu language and sing cultural songs, art and got the chance to see and purchase some of their beautiful handmade jewellery and key rings.



The general opinion of all the staff is that it was one of the best groups that we have ever had to visit the school. We were amazed to see children, who at times have great difficulty engaging in new things, transfixed by the dancing and music. During the **workshops the Zulu's energy was contagious** and nearly every student participated in some way or form throughout the day. It gave our students a great insight into the Zulu culture.



We have already booked them for next year as we believe the whole experience benefited all of our students. We look forward to having them back.



Sports Day

On Wednesday 13th July Batchwood held Sports Day. There were many competitions and races that both students and staff took part in. The three houses; Oak, Beech and Elm were in competition with each other. It was a great day and a lot of fun for everyone involved.





Notices

At the end of this term we are sorry to see a number of our wonderful staff members leaving Batchwood. Amy Jones, Robin Hunter, Miss Tripp, Mr McCarthy and our Head, Mrs Spencer. You will all be greatly missed but we wish you all the best in your future ventures.

Dates For Your Diary

| Autumn Term Dates 2016 | |
|---|--|
| Friday 2nd September 2016 | Year 7 students only 8:55 - 12:00pm |
| Monday 5th September 2016 | Year 7 students only 8:55 - 12:50pm |
| Tuesday 6th September | All Students return to School |
| Friday 21st October | End of half term - School closes at 2:50pm |
| Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October | Half Term |
| Monday 31st October | Inset Day - School closed to students |
| Tuesday 1st November | All students to return to School |
| Wednesday 9th November | Year 7 and New Students open evening and tea party |
| Monday 5th December | Occasional Day - School closed to students |
| Tuesday 20th December | Christmas/End of Year Concert 6pm - 8pm |
| Wednesday 21st December | End of Autumn Term - School closes at 12:30pm |

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

www.batchwood.herts.sch.uk

