



From the Headteacher.....

It is hard to believe that we have reached the halfway point of the Autumn Term already. That said, I know many of you are certainly looking forward to a two week break.

Thank you to the PTA for organising the Quiz Night last Friday evening and to those of you who supported the event. All proceeds will be donated to the Duffus Cancer Foundation.

I have enjoyed meeting with pupils over the past two weeks during the course of the school day. I heard all about the Year 9 trip to Calais and looked at some of the wonderful projects that had been individually produced. Well done to Latoya, Olivia, Francesca and Jacob.

There is a lot going on in the music department at present, thanks to Mr Flanagan. No doubt the rehearsals for the Wizard of Oz are in full swing now and we look forward to watching the performance during early February. On Wednesday pupils in Year 7 and 8 were able to showcase their singing talents. I am pleased that the parents had the opportunity to gain an insight into the work being achieved in music at Key Stage 3.

On the charity front, Mr Lohan led our Harvest Festival last week for junior and Key Stage 3 pupils. Thank you to the parents for your generosity in donating food supplies for Bromley Food Bank. We will be running the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal again this year. If you would like to be involved in the appeal, please bring in your contributions before 7th November.

Pupils have experienced a number of exciting trips including the Natural History Museum and School of Rock for Year 8, Kew Gardens for our budding biologists in Year 12 as well as a Year 11 retreat to Kintbury and a Year 5 and 6 retreat to Aylesford. A group of students undertook their practical expedition as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award last weekend. The students braved the wet and windy weather in the New Forest. My thanks to all the staff who have enabled these visits to happen.

Wishing you all a wonderful break. School will resume on Monday 5th November.

Paula Anderson



Senior News

Year 8 Natural History Museum Visit



On Tuesday 9th October, Year 8 visited the Natural History Museum in London. Pupils experienced, amongst other things, The Earthquakes and Volcanoes Gallery, The Dinosaurs gallery and The Vault. They took part in an educational session where they investigated an artefact of choice. They had to describe the object after observing it under a microscope or with a magnifying glass. Pupils then had to raise questions about certain aspects of the object they were studying. For example, why did the orange shell have white dots? Or why did the geode have a hole in the middle? They then had to suggest answers.

Thank you to Mrs Marpadi, Dr Bovell and Miss Ruston for looking after the pupils during the visit.

Dr Piccio



National Physical Laboratory



On Wednesday 3rd October, gifted students in Physics were invited to the National Physical Laboratory, NPL, the UK's Measurement Institute. First, we participated in an interactive demonstration presented by Andrew Hanson, CPhys. Students explored their senses and linked them to measurements and SI units of for example mass, length, temperature. We were then invited for lunch and had discussions with the apprentices working there. We finished by a lab tour where we saw a whole range of testing equipment to calibrate load cells. The forces exerted were ranging from a few newton to several meganewton. We also visited a lab where the infinitely small is analysed to find out the composition of solid samples. It was a great thought provoking day out.

Dr Piccio



Senior News

Year 8 - School Of Rock



On Thursday 3rd October, Year 8 pupils went to see Andrew Lloyd Webber's School of Rock musical in London. Based on the hit movie, the stage play stayed faithful to the plot of an aspiring rock star turned supply teacher who forms a rock band of A-grade students. They go on to win a battle of the bands competition and thrill their audience.

The talented cast brought their rocking energy to the stage, which made it a great show to watch.



Sixth Form News

Year 12 Biology Trip to Kew Gardens

I found our trip to Kew Gardens to be an enjoyable and educationally beneficial. It provided an opportunity to experience a diverse range of tropical and exotic plants that you cannot see anywhere else. I also thoroughly enjoyed the specially arranged class held by an expert from Kew Gardens, which provided a deeper insight into biodiversity.

Hugo – Year 12 Biologist



We all had a great time visiting Kew Gardens; last Friday. It was very interesting to see the unique plants that were able to grow in the gardens. Additionally, the skills that we learnt during our practical, where we observed the variety of plant species in different areas, were very practical and will help us in the future.'

Martha – Year 12 Biologist

I had a great time at Kew Gardens; it was very enjoyable and I learnt a lot about the species that occupy the land there. It was a very educational trip, as we learnt to use quadrats and transects. I hope to return soon.

Dylan – Year 12 Biologist

Junior News

Junior iPads



The Junior Department has purchased 25 new iPads. These are stored centrally and are being used by all classes across the junior school. This has caused much excitement among both pupils and staff and we look forward to using them to further enrich our curriculum and challenge all our pupils.

Mrs Nixon
ICT co-ordinator

Junior Science

As part of Year 3's science topic, we have been looking at the skeleton, how it helps us move and what it is for. We made our own dancing skeletons and copied their poses.



Junior Travel Ambassadors

Isaac and Amelie from Year 5 had an exciting day with Mr FitzGerald when they travelled to the Bromley Civic Centre to undertake Junior Travel Ambassador training. This involved how to plan activities, how to present to an audience and ideas on competitions they could run to promote walking and road safety.

To top this off, they got to meet the mayor of Bromley who gave them shiny JTA badges.



This week our Junior Travel Ambassadors, Amelie and Isaac, introduced themselves in their new roles to the rest of the Junior school. They talked about the importance of staying bright during dark evenings whilst travelling. They also introduced the Autumn JTA Competition, which is to design a bright bicycle bell. The deadline for the competition is the Friday after half term.

Year 3 English



Year 3 made woolly mammoths as part of our English unit on instructions, as well as our history unit about prehistory. These were made from recycled plastic milk containers and it was interesting to see the pros and cons on the instructions we used, as well as how well we followed the instructions.

Mr FitzGerald

Nursery News

Harvest Festival



The children in the Nursery attended Harvest Festival. For some children this was the first time they have been to a whole school event and their behaviour was wonderful.

The children and their families have been collecting food for the Bromley Food Bank. We have been nominated as a "tinned meat school" and as such we have seen a variety of tins coming into school to help out those who are not as blessed as ourselves. Your support is much appreciated.

Well done children; it was lovely to join in with all of the other children in the school.

Ms Ludlam

Extra Curricular

Remembrance Coffee & Craft

Congratulations to Beatrice (Year 3) who won three cups in an Irish Dancing competition on 8th October.

1st Place - Reel

1st Place - Slip Jig

2nd Place - Hop Jig

4th Place - Light Jig

She attends the Irish Dancing Club at Bishop Challoner on Wednesdays with the McSloy School of Irish Dance.



Notices

Educational TV Programme Recommendation

Magic Numbers: Dr Hannah Fry's Mysterious World of Maths, BBC i-Player (BBC4)

I would highly recommend watching this series, and as with all programs/films, parental discretion is advised.

Mathematics is the driving force for so many aspects of our daily lives, to the extent that modern life would be unmanageable without it. In this series, Dr Fry explores the question 'Is it invented like a language or is it something discovered and part of the fabric of the universe?' Mathematicians fall on both sides of this debate, that is to say the jury is very much divided.

In the first episode, Dr Fry delves back through history to discover why the Ancient Greeks were so fascinated by the connection between music and maths. Further, she explores the patterns that are found in nature. There are those that claim maths is something the human race has invented. To see if this is true, the presenter has her brain scanned. Dr Fry also looks at experiments being conducted with infants, which suggest that all of us are hardwired to do maths.

In the second episode, Dr Fry sets out to explore Newton's theories on gravity and Maxwell's theories of unified ideas of electricity and magnetism. More strong evidence that maths is something we discover.

In the 19th century, new types of geometry are invented, suggesting that maths is more like a complicated game where we can change the rules, leading to the notion that maths is something we invent. To delve further into this, we are presented with the idea of Georg Cantor who showed that there are different sizes of infinity.

This is a fascinating series that delves deep into the past and the philosophy of mathematics to answer the question, 'Is maths invented or discovered?'

Dr J Samuel

Head of Mathematics

Fundraising

PTA Quiz Night

The PTA would like to thank everyone who supported the Quiz Night on Friday. Great fun was had by all and an amazing amount of **£1,040.40** was raised of which **£755.00** will be donated to the Duffus Cancer Foundation.

Wear Something Pink



The winners of the Wear it Pink raffle are as follows:

Boys hamper: Tristan A (Year 6)

Girls hamper: Eva (Year 2)

Teddy Bear: Isabella (Year 1)

YuYu bottle: Mrs Salisbury (YR)

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this great cause.

£575.00 raised for The Royal Marsden Breast Cancer Care

Mrs Long

Diary Dates

Monday, 5th November

- * Pupils return after half term
- * Y11 Maximise Study Skills session
- * Y11&12 Careers Week begins
- * U13 Football vs Hayes School, 3pm
- * U15 Football vs Hayes School, 3pm
- * Y11&12 Careers Evening

Tuesday, 6th November

- * Y12&13 UKMT Maths Challenge

Wednesday, 7th November

- * Community Mass

Thursday, 8th November

- * Y12&13 Physics in Action Trip
- * Remembrance Service & Alumni, 8.45
- * U14 Football vs City of London Academy

Friday, 9th November

- * PTA Meeting, 9am
- * Globe Theatre Players visit to school

Sunday, 11th November

- * ISA London Swimming Gala