



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone had a good half term, particularly those students who went on the school visits to Italy skiing and to Washington. I know they have returned very enthused about their experiences.

May I also thank everyone for the support during our recent Ofsted inspection before half term. The outcomes will not be published until a few weeks, but the inspectors were impressed by all our students and said they were a pleasure to meet. They passed on their thanks, particularly to those who spoke to them at breaks and activity times. They also said that the Sixth Formers they met were some of the best they have witnessed and a privilege to speak to; they were excellent ambassadors for the school. Well done to you all.

Thank you also to all the parents who returned the questionnaires. The response received was high which helped inform the inspection.

We now look forward to the report which we will distribute to everyone when it arrives.

In this second half of the spring term we now move closer towards the examination period for many of our students so our focus, as always, will be ensuring the students prepare themselves adequately to succeed to their potential in the summer.

We also look forward to a busy calendar of events, music and dance performances and sport.

Ms J Mortimore, Headteacher



DATA COLLECTION SHEETS

The Data Collection Sheets were sent home with students on 23 February. This is a reminder to return them by Tuesday 3 March to the Form Tutor.

Please check the details we currently hold with great care, noting any changes as needed. We would be particularly grateful if you would check that the priority contacts and the email addresses we hold for you are accurate.

Mrs M Sims, Deputy Headteacher



THE BILL BRYSON PRIZE Run by the Royal Society of Chemistry

Have you ever tried to explain something you learned in class to a friend or your parents? If you have, then you're a communicator – and if that something happened to be about science, you're a science communicator!

The Bill Bryson Prize is a creative science communication competition. It is open to students around the world from ages 5–18. Your entry can take absolutely any form you want, and you can choose to enter individually or in a team. The theme for 2015 is Chance. From the Big Bang to evolution, from probability to penicillin, all kinds of scientific concepts relate to 'Chance'. This is your chance to tell everyone about your favourite. Previous entries have included videos, songs, sculptures, posters, poems, press articles, cartoons, games, magazines – even plays and podcasts!

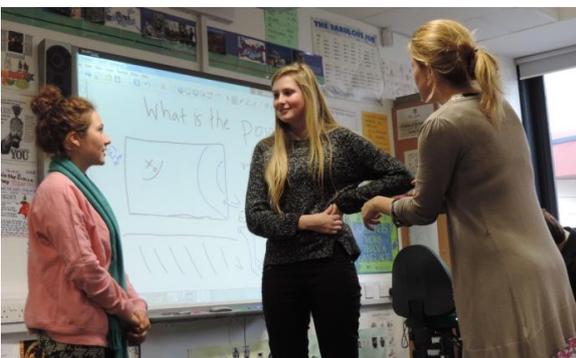
For more info see the website <http://www.rsc.org/competitions/bill-bryson-prize> or speak to Dr Alonzi in Science.

ENGLISH WORKSHOP

As part of the A2 English Language and Literature course, Year 13 students are studying, analysing and interpreting '*Waiting for Godot*', an Absurdist play, that endeavours to explore ideas around existentialist philosophy. The play was written and published originally in French in the late 1940s by Samuel Beckett, a famous Irish novelist, playwright, theatre director and poet. On Tuesday 3 February, this group of Year 13 students was privileged to participate in a two hour workshop conducted by Beth Flintoff from The Watermill Theatre in Newbury.



Beth arranged the classroom to give a small acting space where students were selected to act out scenes from the play. Students were assigned characters and performed their interpretations of the character(s) in a particular scene. Interestingly, students had different ideas as to what the stage would look like, and how characters behaved. This gave the class an insight into inter-personal relationships between characters, allowing the students to make more complex suggestions by seeing the perspectives of others.



From this experience as a class, we have been able to see that solely reading the play can limit the way we approach and interpret this drama text. Acting it out enables us to get a real sense of character, voice and state of mind, all crucial especially in the context of this Beckett play.

Charlie Brown 13P3

WEST BERKSHIRE PEER MENTORING CONFERENCE Wednesday 4 February 2015

Last week a group of other Advanced Mentors attended a Peer Mentor Conference. The aim was to give us the skills that we needed to look after our mentees who we work with every other week.

The conference took place at the West Berkshire Council chambers and it was a very enjoyable experience that was attended by other schools around the Berkshire area.

The day started off with a quick talk from the leader of the conference. Then schools were instantly mixed into three groups and after that we were sent off to do three different workshops (Restorative Justice, Personal Statements and Cyber Bullying and Awareness). Each workshop lasted around one hour and then there was a quick interval between each one.



Personally I found this to be a very useful and enjoyable day that really increased my awareness of things that I used to not care about and I hope to be able to apply the skills that I've learnt from the workshops to further help my mentee. It also helped to bring the students together from each school to discuss their ideas and opinions on the skills and workshops.

I would recommend to any of the current Year 9 to become Advanced Mentors when they reach Year 10 as it's a highly enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Joseph Stevens 10P3

CURNOCK NEWS

House Evening

Curnock recently held their annual House Evening which, as always, was a great night for everyone. The evening started with a rousing rendition of 'Let me entertain you' played by the Curnock House orchestra and conducted by Katherine Valentine. This was our winning entry for House Music so it was lovely to hear it again.

As usual the acts were of an exceptionally high standard and we enjoyed instrumental pieces (piano, guitar and harp), singing sketches, gymnastics and two magic acts. One act that was enjoyed by all was The Great Teddy with his slightly useless, but hilarious, assistant Mrs Mounsey! We look forward to this becoming a feature for years to come.

As you will be aware, at the end of this year Mrs Mounsey will be standing down as Head of House and so it was only right that her service to Curnock House Evening over the past 18 years be recognised. At the end of the evening Mrs Kempster and the comperes presented her with the first ever Curnock Oscar which had been made by our Design & Technology Department.

The evening is our main fund raising event for the House charity, Newbury and District Cancer Care Trust, and we were delighted to have raised over £1,250.

House Drama

Curnock has also done very well in the recent House Drama Competition where we came second. This year's production was very different to anything we have done before. 'Exposure' was written by Harriet Penna and explored many current social issues. The ending was particularly powerful and owed

much to the direction of Harriet and Christa Harwood, together with the technical support of James Murrell. Stage management was smoothly done by Dan Green, Will Davidson and Eileen Graham and the programme produced by Charlie Oretti.

Our Year 10 performers were exceptional, acting very mature parts. We were delighted that drama colours were awarded to Dan West 10C1 and Harriet Roach 10C2 for their performances.

Punctuality

On a less positive note punctuality still remains an ongoing problem for some Curnockians! We would like to see a big improvement in the second half of term and

would urge parents and students to make every effort to be in school on time.

House Dance

The next big event for us is House Dance, which after a slow start has now taken off with lots of volunteers. Rehearsals are in full swing and we are keeping

fingers crossed that we can do well on the night!

School Colours

We were pleased to see a number of our students receive their School Colours and following their contribution to House Evening we were able to do a late House Colour Award to Dan Eggleton and Ruby Hornsby 11C2. Congratulations to them.

Wishing you all a good half term.

**Mrs Mounsey and Mrs Kempster
Mrs Palmer and Mrs Hamblin.**





DAVIS DIARY

Welcome back! We hope that you have had a good half term break.

Charity News

Thank you to the following who raised money with their cake sales

7D2	- £33.60
8D1	- £24.07
8D2	- £39.09
10D1	- £7.30
10D2	- £37.15

Joe Pollard, Sam Purton, Louie Pass and Thomas Grant organised a spin game and raised £45.60 at the Davis charity disco.

Dan Beck and Ben Wells raised £67.35 by organising a film marathon – seven films in 12 hours.

Mr Matthias raised £43.40 busking in the hub.

Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded School Colours:

Maia Brown, Alex Davis, Anna Dean, Harriet Denton, Izzie Dixon, Howard Drury, Alex Forsyth, David Goldberg, Rory McNeill, Amy Pattenden, Cait Prendergast, Alice Thomas, Susannah Winsor

Davis House Drama Champions 2015

Congratulations to all who took part. We are very proud of you!



Mrs Hodgkin, Miss Thorne and Mrs Lee



EVERS NEWS

Welcome back! We hope you had a good half term break and are well rested. Before half term Evers had a very successful and entertaining House Evening. All acts were absolutely fantastic and we raised £1,180 for West Berkshire Mencap – an amazing amount! Thank you to all students who performed, helped out back stage, were waiting staff or baked delicious cakes.

Congratulations to the students below who have been awarded their House or School Colours:

House Colours

11E1 – Divya Thomas 11E2 – Lyndon Darling, Hamish Dodridge, Lucas Gore

11E3 – Bayleigh Angel, Will Monjack, Sam Nightingale, Oliver Hassell-Collins

School Colours

11E1 – Thomas Carr, Grady Beckett, Adam Taylor, Michael Hannafin 11E2 – Ruby Jones, Freya Lynch, James Glen, Jack Macindoe, Victoria Knights, Rebecca Wilshaw, Amy Bowen, Jessica Hudson, Henry Hutchins, Jesse Emetulu 11E3 – Eden Hemphill

11E3 – Eden Hemphill

Mr Edens and Miss Midgley



YEAR 9 PARENTS' EVENING

Tuesday 3 March

The online booking system is now open for the Year 9 parents' evening. Appointments can be made until 1 March at 23:55. Should you wish to make any changes after this date please contact your child's House office.

A Schoolcomms email has been sent giving full details. To book appointments visit

<https://stbartholomews.parenteveningsystem.co.uk>

DIARY DATES



- Tues 3 Mar Y9 Subject Parents' Evening,
4.30-7.00pm, Curnock Block
- Thurs 5 Mar House Dance, Hall, 7.00pm
- Fri 13 Mar Patterson House Evening,
Hall, 7pm

CALENDAR UPDATES

Please note the following additions to the calendar:

Wednesday 25 February

Y11 GCSE Music Performance Day – P113

Monday 16 March

A Level PE Practical Coursework Moderator
Visit Day

Please note the following amendment to the calendar:

Wednesday 11 March

A2 Economics Student Conference, London,
all day, is cancelled.

BOYS' PE

Y8 Football v Kennet

The Year 8 team played against Kennet and after losing their first two games they were determined to get a result. In the first half there were no goals, but a tense game nonetheless. Before the break St Bart's looked as though they had the edge over Kennet. Sure enough, in the second half Josh Young scored to put St Bart's in the lead. Not long after Harry Brooker popped in a powerful shot, just outside the box and St Bart's dominated the rest of the game winning 2-0.

Josh Young 8P3

GIRLS' PE

Lacrosse v Godolphin and Heathfield

Results and players of the match

- 1st lost v Godolphin 13-6 Yasmin Ryder
- 2nd lost v Heathfield 9-2 Katie Clements
- Y10 lost v Godolphin 6-2 Annabel Mangan
and Issi Sanderson
- Y9 lost v Godolphin 10-3 Issi Lainsbury
and Millie Pope
- Y8 lost v Godolphin 9-7 Otilie Sanderson,
Izzie Hole and Abi Livingstone
- Y7 lost v Godolphin 7-2 Maddie Barnes
and Lola Callaghan

Year 7 Lacrosse Report v Godolphin

On 7 February the girls played against Godolphin and even though the team played very well they lost 7-2. The players of the match, Lola and Maddie, were awarded for determination and excellent playing.

Team – Francesca Smith, Molly Harkness (captain), Casey Willoughby, Maddie Barnes, Jess Harrison, Hattie Smithson, Lola Callaghan, Freya Owen, Charlotte Dobson, Esme Layton, Melissa Congerton, Frankie Paynter and Elsie Overend.

Netball News

Before half term the Year 10 and 11 netball teams played league matches against Kennet. Results and players of the match follow.

Y10 won 25-3 Georgie Sanderson

Y11 lost 14-12 Olivia Lockyear

Friendly matches were played against St Gabriel's earlier this month and the results and players of the match follow.

Y7 drew 6-6 Jess Harrison

Y8 lost 19-1 Sophie Stancombe

Y9 won 21-9 Alice Points

ATTENDANCE HOTLINE

For all years, including Sixth Form

If your child is absent from school please
ring the hotline number

01635 576372

Leave a message with the following details:

- Your child's name and tutor group
- Reason for absence
- Likely date of return
- Contact telephone number