

HORTICULTURE SHOW GARDEN COMPETITION

The culmination of the KS4 Horticulture experience that runs on Friday afternoons as part of St Bart's enrichment offer is the judging of the Show Gardens that students have been working on in Year 11. The concept is that students learn a range of propagation and planting techniques, along with landscaping and construction processes, whilst maintaining and enhancing the school grounds, and then use these skills, along with their considerable creative talents, to produce a Show Garden.



This year the theme was a 'Garden on a Shoestring'. The students were asked to imagine that they'd moved into a new house and needed to create a garden for less than £30. The gardens were judged by Mrs Sims who awarded points for the concept, planting, finishing and sparkle, with representatives from each team presenting their gardens. The overall winner were Rebecca Shaw (pictured) and Adrienne Van Vuuren, whose pirate ship inspired garden included white tulips, under planted with forget-me-knots to represent the ocean waves, a sandy-floored cabin, with recycled benches, pots of 'gold' and a home-made pirate flag. There was even a plank, which extends out across the 'sea'!

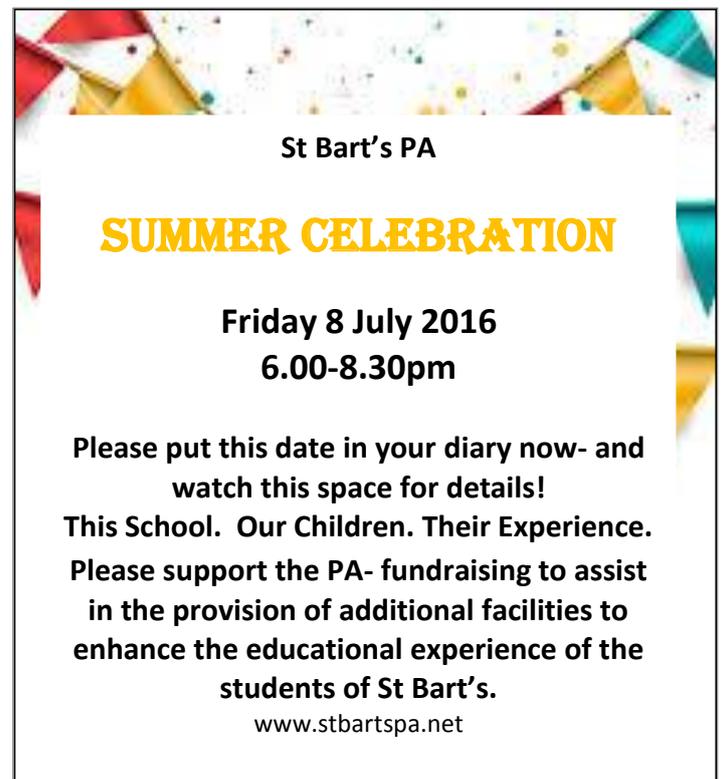
Dr D Fitter, Deputy Headteacher



PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

Following the recent call for nominations for parent governors, we have received more nominations than vacancies which means that we will proceed to an election. Please look out for ballot papers which are being sent home today via the eldest current student in each family, unless you have requested that your ballot paper is posted to you. Votes should be returned to the school by **4.00pm next Tuesday, 17 May**. This may be done by sending them via your child (please ask them to hand to their tutors), they can be posted or they may be hand delivered to Reception by the deadline. Votes will not be accepted after this time.

Mrs H Sutherland, Returning Officer



St Bart's PA

SUMMER CELEBRATION

Friday 8 July 2016
6.00-8.30pm

Please put this date in your diary now- and watch this space for details!

This School. Our Children. Their Experience.

Please support the PA- fundraising to assist in the provision of additional facilities to enhance the educational experience of the students of St Bart's.

www.stbartspa.net



JUBILEE NETWORK

The Jubilee Network is a network of secondary Headteachers from ten schools, ages 11-19, which are good/outstanding and successfully run in the South East/Central England regions. This initiative is about bringing together secondary school Headteachers of similar schools across a region in a bespoke, facilitated, small intimate network to address common secondary school leadership issues in a way that is mutually supportive and inspiring. It is a forum in which excellent practice is shared and developed.

As a member of this network St Bart's recently welcomed Headteachers to the school and the day included a tour led by some of our students. The Headteachers were very impressed with all they saw and complimentary of all the students and staff. It was lovely to receive such positive feedback about our school.

Ms J Mortimore, Headteacher

OPEN MEETING

Raising Achievement by Adjustment to the School Day

The Open Meeting, as noted in the letter sent to parents/carers last week, is on Wednesday 11 May at 7.00pm in the Hall to which all parents are invited.



DIARY DATES

- Fri 13 May Graduation Day for Y11
- Mon 16 May GCSE/AS Exams Start
Y12 Study Leave begins
Y11 Revision Lesson Programme begins
- Mon 23 May Y9 Practice Exam Week
- Fri 27 May Y13 Last Day of Formal Teaching
- Half Term – Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June
- Revision School – Tuesday 31 May to Friday 3 June
- Mon 6 June Y13 Study Leave begins

SPEED CUBING

The first annual speed cubing competition to be held at St Bart's with invited students from Kennet School to show how fast they could solve different Rubik's puzzles. While many reading this would probably say "I peel off the stickers", or "It's impossible", I assure you that it's more impressive to solve a Rubik's cube in under 10 seconds.



Solving the 2x2x2 cube is all about technique and dexterity. Kennet's Mark Cheung achieved the fastest average with an impressive 4.71 seconds and Toby Thomas (8P1) came second with 9.08 seconds. The 3x3x3 is the most popular puzzle and the world record currently stands at 4.90 seconds held by 13 year old Lucas Etter from the USA. Today, the quickest to solve this was again Mark Cheung with an average of 10.71 seconds and a fastest time of 7.361 seconds. Toby Thomas came a very close 3rd with an average of 36.71 seconds, which is still an impressive time. The third puzzle to solve was a tetrahedron called the pyraminx. All average times were under 20 seconds, and congratulations goes to Toby Thomas with the winning time of 7.59 seconds.

Thanks go to all the competitors and hopefully interest will grow for this unique hobby before the competition next year. The club continues to be held every Friday activity time in C111 with Mr Amblin.



EXPLORING QUORN

On Wednesday 27 April, representatives from Quorn visited the Food Technology department to give talks and food tastings, firstly to staff at activity time then to the two Year 7 Food Technology classes. Here are some reflections from the students.

‘Today we tasted some extremely delicious food from the company Quorn. Quorn is made from a type of mushroom called mycoprotein and mixed with egg whites. It is a healthy, sustainable alternative to meat and some vegetarians eat their products. We are advised to eat less meat because the price of meat will start to increase and become rarer. We learned all about why we need five a day (fruit and vegetables) and that five portions is the least you should have (the more the better)’.

‘The talk was by Ita and the amazing cook was Lizzy. The food we tried included sweet potato curry, coronation wraps, Quorn three bean chilli, sausage rolls, meatballs, Thai green curry, Quorn dippers and burgers. All these products were very low in fat and amazing for your health. Most people gave the food the thumbs up!’

‘The Quorn company could get young people into Quorn by putting some of their meals on the school dinner menu. The burger would be a popular meal and many people would want to try it. The sausage rolls would be a good snack at break’.

‘I really enjoyed the sweet potato curry. It had lots of different vegetables. This made it a very textured curry, with a sort of saucy, savoury soup dribbled all over it. My favourite part was all the different vegetables. Overall everything was very tasty and I think in future I will eat more things like this. It was also a very good way of teaching us to eat healthily’.

‘We were given a selection of foods ranging from curries, sausage rolls and burgers. One of my favourites was the Quorn Thai green curry. It included Quorn pieces in a creamy sauce, the Quorn had a juicy, tender taste which the majority of the class liked’.

‘My favourite was the Quorn burger because it tasted just like a meat burger. I learnt that Quorn is made from a fungi similar to mushrooms. It is really good to include in your diet for variety’.

‘We tried a variety of recipes including Quorn chilli, sticky sausages, Quorn spaghetti bolognese, Quorn chow mein, coronation wraps and sweet potato curry. They were all really delicious and we could take away the recipes for these dishes. This is great for your diet as they are much healthier than meat based recipes, lower in saturated fat and higher in fibre. I will be asking my Mum to cook these at home’.



Overall the food was really well received and most students suggested Quorn was definitely introduced into our school lunches.

Contributions from Georgie Tibbenham 7E2, Thomas Whitehead 7P1, Archie Seamons 7P2, Isabella Wlaznik 7E3, Scott Wilkinson 7P1, Ella Mc Carthy 7E1, Maisie Lainsbury 7E2, Kara Keates 7E1



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Make a difference to a child's life and volunteer.

The Summer Reading Challenge is a national scheme and delivered free throughout West Berkshire Libraries. It is designed for children aged 4-11 to read six books over the summer holidays, encouraging a lifelong love of books. They are looking for enthusiastic people aged 15 or over to provide support, give out incentives and share the joy of reading.

If you are interested apply online at www.westberks.gov.uk/volunteer or ring 01635 519533 or email gemma.taylor@westberks.gov.uk

ROYAL ALBERT HALL CONCERT 2016

Congratulations go to all of St Bart's young musicians who took part in the fabulous Royal Albert Hall Concert on Sunday 1 May. It was a very full on weekend for students and staff but the end result was absolutely amazing.

Saturday was spent rehearsing the West Berkshire Secondary schools choirs alongside Berkshire Maestros Symphony Orchestra under the professional baton of internationally renowned conductor Ben Parry. This enabled us to feel fully prepared for the big event!

At 7.30am, on Sunday morning, two coaches of students and staff set off for London. We arrived in good time and were able to enjoy a brief stroll around Hyde Park for breakfast, before entering the Royal Albert Hall. The sun was shining and you could feel the buzz of excitement beginning to develop.

We were shown to our dressing room before entering the auditorium to be seated ready for rehearsals. It is a most breathtaking sight to see so many seats before you, and such a wonderfully rich environment to perform in. The red velvet curtains, exquisite box furnishings and state of the art sound engineering made for a pretty impressive start to our day's work.

Following a busy rehearsal we enjoyed a variety of hot pizzas, delivered via four motorbikes, directly to our door. We ordered



17 pizzas in total and no one had to be asked twice to help themselves to seconds.

The afternoon was subsequently spent touring the Victoria and Albert museum in the glorious sunshine. Our travels began in China, then on to Japan, we toured the Middle East and

Europe all within two hours. Many students also took the opportunity to paddle in the pool and enjoy an ice-cream in the gardens too.

Upon our return to The Royal Albert Hall there was much chatter and excitement as the realisation dawned that we were actually going to perform now. We took our seats and were treated to a concert from a variety of Berkshire Maestros ensembles for the first half. These also featured a number of St Bart's instrumental musicians and as a school we were certainly well represented across the entire evening.

For the second half it was the choir and symphony orchestra's turn. You can hear a recording of the concert on YouTube at the moment, and the sound generated from such young musicians was simply breathtaking. The music was chosen from the BBC Ten Pieces repertoire, and will feature as part of the BBC's initiative on their website at a later date. Judging from the smiles, laughter and sheer excitement at the end of the evening, from students and parents alike, I think everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Thank you to the students for participating in all of the rehearsals, and committing to music at St Bart's. Thank you to the parents who supported the venture and came along to witness the event. Thank you also to the staff who gave up their entire Bank Holiday weekend to ensure that our students could join in with this amazing opportunity. We hope you all enjoyed it and that music really did make magic.

The Music Department





SUPER CAMPS 2016

Super Camps, the UK's no.1 for childcare during the school holidays, will be running holiday activity camps at St Bart's during summer 2016.

Super Camps has a fun-packed schedule lined up for summer 2016, and with guaranteed water-based activities, each child will go home smiling after a fantastic day. The emphasis is on participation and enjoyment with enthusiastic Super Camps staff on hand to help children acquire new skills and confidence, and make new friends.

Camps are open from 8am – 6pm, Monday to Friday.

To celebrate 20 fabulous years looking after children across the UK, Super Camps is offering parents a year-round 10% discount off standard rates.

Use discount code 'PARENT16' when booking online or over the phone.

www.supercamps.co.uk 01235 467300

BOYS' PE

Football

St Bart's lost to Park House in the League Final last week. Man of the match was Ben Djekic again for his relentless effort of chasing every through ball. Lewis Hayman was the players' man of the match with his fine skills displayed throughout the game. Well done all.

Y11 Win League Final

Year 11 beat John O'Gaunt in the League Football Final. After going 1-0 down the boys scored two goals to take the lead, a fine individual shot and a free kick, both by Jamie Leavesley. John O'Gaunt equalised with just two minutes to go and it remained 2-2 after extra time. St Bart's won the penalty shoot-out with man of the match Harry King slotting the winning penalty.

Cricket

Year 7 County Cup v Kennet

Kennet 82-4, St Bart's 74-6

Pick of the bowlers – Aarav Garg and Will Conington

Batting performance – Noah Day

Incrediball Cricket Tournament

St Bart's hosted an incrediball (soft cricket ball) cricket tournament last week and several Year 7 students represented the school at cricket for the first time.

St Bart's played the semi final against a team of St Bart's and Trinity players to make up St Trinity.

St Bart's team won their semi final and played Park House in the final. St Bart's boys were very close, but lost in the last over to Park House. Well done to all the Year 7s involved.

Year 8 won their **county cup cricket** game against Reddam House. Reddam House got 65-8 off 20 overs. St Bart's reached the required runs of 68-1 off 8 overs.

Year 9 beat Park House in the **county cup**. Park House 161-3. St Bart's 163-3 won it in last over). Man of the match was captain Poom Narongpun.

GIRLS' PE

Rounders

Well done to our Year 11 rounders team who won the Year 11 Area Rounder's Tournament held at St Bart's this week. We beat Theale Green and Kennet to be overall winners.