

Lucem anni

December 2020

www.stbarts.co.uk

Issue no: 5

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WELCOME

Welcome to the St Bartholomew's Alumni Newsletter. The last 9 months have been very demanding within school and we know that our friends in the wider St Bart's community will also have faced significant challenges during this time. Our best wishes are extended to you all and we hope that the various stories shared with you in this Newsletter will bring some cheer and respite at the year's end. In times where our movements and possibilities are so limited, we are conscious that many people are looking to reconnect with old friends and we are keen for you to reconnect with us too. When current restrictions are lifted, we are resolved to find more ways of involving our Alumni in the wider life of the school. We would love for you to be part of that. There really are exciting times ahead so please do keep in touch.

Inside this issue

Spring Term

Teaching and Learning during Lockdown

During the School Shutdown

Back in School - Keeping students safe

Back to School: Autumn Term

Keep in touch

SPRING TERM



January

Cyber First Competition

A number of girls tried their hand at the fiendishly difficult Cyber First competition. Run by the GCHQ led National Cyber Security Centre, the puzzles are designed to challenge the students problem solving and coding abilities [Read more...](#)

National Orchestra Places Awarded to Students

Two St Bart's students were offered places in a national orchestra which only has 164 places nationwide. Musicians wishing to apply to NYO need to be between 13 and 18 years old and of a standard equivalent to that required to pass Grade 8 with distinction. [Read more...](#)



Y12 Geography Residential Field Trip to Wales

Sixth Form students travelled to the Welsh village of Betws-y-Coed in the Conwy valley. They stayed in the Rhyd-y-Creuau Field Studies Council Centre. The tutors at the centre covered lots of the A Level Geography specification, including carbon and water and "Miss Pope was always on hand to surprise us with facts, figures and theory about the physical geography," said one student. [Read more...](#)

February

Sixth Formers Plant Cherry Tree

For their termly sixth form tutor project, E3 decided to raise some money to buy a tree they could plant in the nature reserve and see from their tutor room. They decided on a cherry tree. [Read more...](#)



House Art Competition 2019/20



As part of the 2019/20 House Art Competition KS3 entrants produced pieces linked to the theme of House Colours & Communities. KS4/5 students chose to create a new piece of work based on the KS3 theme or they could enter a piece of existing coursework. The House Art & Graphics captains selected 2 pieces of work from each year group which were put to the judges: teachers and guest judge, local artist, Aaron Miles. The overall winner was Patterson. [Read more...](#)

The Big Bang Fair at Winchester Science Centre

A number of Year 7 and 8 students attended the Winchester Science Centre's Big Bang Fair. They explored the Science Centre looking at all the stalls, taking part in experiments, testing our problem solving skills and watching a show in the planetarium. *"It really gave us an insight into the jobs available in Science and inspired us to pursue STEM careers in the future,"* said one student. [Read more...](#)



March

Berkshire Lacrosse Tournament



The Year 7 lacrosse team took part in their first ever Berkshire tournament. They won 2 out of 5 games, finishing in 3rd place. The Year 8 team also played exceptionally well, winning 4 out of 5 games. Securing an amazing 2nd place. Finally, the Year 9 team won 2 out of 5 games, beating St George's, 4-2, and Heathfields, 3-2, achieving 5th place overall.

Year 7 Girls 5-a-side Football

The Year 7 Girls 5-a-side Football team played in the South of England Finals. They won 3 games, drew 3 games and lost none in their group. They even beat one of the finalists along the way. They finished 3rd in South of England, on goals scored, after losing 0-1 in the semi-final. This was a brilliant performance from all the girls; 17 goals were scored in total.



Young Enterprise Groups Attend Trade Fair



Our three companies attended the Young Enterprise trade fair at the Kennet Centre in Newbury. An early start was required to get their trade stands set up and ready to sell to the public at 9am. A lot of work was put in prior to the event which was an excellent opportunity for students to discuss their products with the general public and some sales revenue was also generated! [Read more...](#)

Later on in the year 'Muddy Paws' were virtually declared winners in 3 categories: Sustainability Award, Best Business Plan and best performance at the Trade Fair.

Year 7 Boys 5-a-side team

The Year 7 Boys 5-a-side team represented Newbury schools in the South of England 5-a-side football tournament in Eastleigh last Tuesday. They played matches against the best schools from Berkshire, Devon, Dorset, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands, to name a few! Well done to all boys who played in this prestigious tournament.



Polo Club Taster Session



A number of students tried their hand at Polo in a taster session at the Hampshire Polo School. The students showed real promise and enthusiasm. Students were a real credit to the school. Tricia Ray, school governor, was also kind enough to attend. [Read more here and here...](#)

Students Play in London Irish Academy Team

Luke (10P3) and Josh (10C1) were named in the London Irish Academy Team v Worcester Warriors, as part of the Developing Player Programme. This led to the opportunity to play at the Hazelwood site alongside the First Team who were training at the same time.



Oxbridge University Offers Made to Students

Seven offers to study at either Cambridge or Oxford University, were made to Year 13 students. The places were to study English and German, Natural Sciences, Psychological and Behavioural Sciences and English. [Read more...](#)

The Spanish Exchange

The week before half term, 15 of our students returned from the annual Spanish Exchange trip. The students spent a week with a host family in the beautiful coastal town of Salou, an hour from Barcelona. The students took part in organised excursions during the day to learn about the culture and history of the region as well as having opportunities to practise their Spanish in shops and cafés. In the evening and at the weekend the students stayed with their Spanish Exchange partner and family and so were fully immersed in the Spanish way of life. [Read more...](#)



TEACHING AND LEARNING DURING LOCKDOWN

Very abruptly, we found ourselves teaching students remotely. We were able to rely on already established systems for sharing assignments online but alongside this, there was a concerted and energetic move to upskill staff to deliver live content online using both Microsoft Teams and Google Meet. Colleagues managed this against often very challenging circumstances at home and many teachers were teaching their own children, running a household and caring for elderly relatives alongside the remote delivery of a full timetable of lessons. There was a terrific sense of camaraderie and colleagues were quick to support each other at an emotional level and also provided training to each other on key online platforms. The same levels of support were, of course, extended to students and our House teams played a crucial role in this. As with the rest of the world, this support and guidance all had to take place through online meetings. We did support students of key workers within school throughout the period and were delighted to welcome back Year 10 and Year 12 students on site when this was allowed in June

Arriving at 'Centre Assessed Grades' for GCSE and A Level grades was a huge challenge, particularly when we were all working in isolation, but the professionalism and efficiency of all teachers was outstanding. The August results season was unprecedented in its chaos and in the demands it placed on students and staff. It was a particular delight that 181 students emerged from this to take up places at university, and many others secured places on hugely competitive Apprenticeships.

DURING THE SCHOOL LOCKDOWN



PE

Throughout lockdown our PE department found new and innovative ways of encouraging students to stay active in a potentially sedentary period. St Bart's took part in the Berkshire Virtual School Games events. Fifteen West Berkshire Secondary and Primary Schools signed up to take part in the weekly challenges. Students took part at home, sending their results and photos to their teachers to contribute to the schools' entry. Each week the winners from West Berkshire went on to represent Berkshire County, achieving some excellent results, with one or more year groups often winning their category in West Berkshire and Berkshire as a whole. In each week of the challenges St Bart's was awarded the "Spirit of the Games" certificate reflecting the large number of students that we had competing in the games.

Fundraising

During the school lockdown lots of St Bart's students were inspired to raise funds for those affected by the pandemic. One of the first was [a group of Sixth Form students](#). They donned their outrageous outfits, including a strawberry, a banana and a watermelon and pounded the streets of Newbury. Matt, Ben, Ellie, Kate and Josie raised over £500 for our NHS heroes. In April Patterson students and staff raised funds for Guide Dogs, the Patterson House Charity by taking part in a [new World Record for the Biggest Virtual Tea Party](#).



Many charities have suffered in 2020 as a result of having to put their traditional fundraising events on hold. One of our Year 11 students, [Matthew](#), [decided to support Newbury Christian Aid](#), who could not carry out their usual door-to-door collections, by creating and uploading a musical presentation encouraging over £1000 donations to the charity. Other students got involved in printing PPE at home or making House colours facemasks to raise funds for their House charity. [Holly, now in Year 7, raised over £650](#) for her House Charity, before even starting at St Bart's, by having 12" cut off her hair! We are so proud of them all, for finding a way to make a positive difference in the face of adversity.

Home Cooking Heroes

Just like the rest of the nation, St Bart's students and their families found that cooking can be a satisfying, fun and rewarding experience, bringing cheer in challenging times. Mrs Eastman and the Food department created a new St Bart's online recipe bank for St Bart's families to use while they were at home. Many of the recipes were those usually cooked in school but they also added new, low cost family recipes based on store-cupboard ingredients. Throughout the Summer term we were treated to tasty recipes from the



collection published in [BartholoNews](#). And students sent in their own recipes and photos of their creations, including Jake Tillen (9C3) who made these delicious looking scones. He used his Mum's recipe folder, which she collated from St Bart's recipe sheets when she was at school over 40 years ago! Parents seemed appreciative of the Food teachers' efforts; "I just had to say how amazing my son has been in helping with

cooking at home... I have been quite stressed and my son, without prompting, has taken the lead to help with cooking with his younger sister... Just 'leaving the kids to it', while I am working at the kitchen table, has improved their skills so much."

April

St Bart's PPE Production



Our Product Design Department joined in a collaboration with Wallingford and Mary Hare Schools to produce face shields which were delivered to local hospitals and care homes. Each of the three schools were manufacturing approximately 200 face shields per day and these were distributed throughout Oxfordshire and West Berkshire to trusts and other charities who were struggling to procure PPE. Organisations to benefit included West Berkshire Community Hospital, Sue Ryder Hub, Argyles Care Home, Duchess of Kent House and Didcot Ambulance Service.

[Read more...](#)

Easter Activities for Children of Keyworkers

During the Easter holidays St Bart's, like many schools, was open for a small group of students who enjoyed varied activities. Mr Brennan and Mr Brooker decided to construct a trebuchet which was successfully launched at the end of the holidays.



May



Dozens of St Bart's staff took part in a video to show the students how much they were missed and how proud staff were of them. You can view the video [here](#). The project was initiated and put together by Miss Allwright, from the PE Department. Posted across school social media, the video was welcomed with comments like, "So touching, thank you all for your effort, such a lovely video," and, "Thank you, I think you are missed too."

Student Chalks Rainbow to Thank NHS

This photo of St Bart's student, Emily (12P5) and her younger brother, William, was viewed by more than 8700 people in less than 24 hrs and was one of the top stories of the day on the Newbury Weekly News' website. The siblings chalked a giant rainbow on their street. They wanted to do something to say "Thank you" to the NHS and in particular the carers who have been visiting their neighbour twice a day throughout the pandemic. [Read more...](#)



Thomas' EDM Music Tipped to go Far



The release of Year 12 student, Thomas', electronic dance music (EDM) album was applauded by the Newbury Weekly News. Their article reflected on how music helped Thomas cope through lockdown, his performances at St Bart's, plans to take his Grade 7 drumming exam and a desire to teach in the future. [Read more...](#)

Virtual Induction Day

We were unable to host our normal Induction Day for new Sixth Form students. Instead, we hosted two live sessions with students and developed [a dedicated website](#) to provide students with a real glimpse into Sixth Form life.



Year 13 Virtual Leavers' Assembly

In a similar vein, we were unable to host the usual leaving celebrations for Year 13, instead opting for a virtual assembly with touching messages and of course a finale of Cha Cha Slide and the Macarena!

[Read one student's moving account](#) of saying farewell to her school of seven years.

PE 2020 End of Year Celebration

Sadly PE were unable to launch their planned Sports Personality of the Year Awards Evening and so they put together a sporting review which presented reports for each sport and team from Year 7 through to the Sixth Form. [Read more...](#)

Physical Education	
2020: End of Year Celebration	
Contents	
Introduction	1
Year 7	2
Year 8	3
Year 9	4
Year 10	5
Year 11	6
Year 12	7
Year 13	8
Year 14	9
Year 15	10
Year 16	11
Year 17	12
Year 18	13
Year 19	14
Year 20	15
Year 21	16
Year 22	17
Year 23	18
Year 24	19
Year 25	20
Year 26	21
Year 27	22
Year 28	23
Year 29	24
Year 30	25
Year 31	26
Year 32	27
Year 33	28
Year 34	29
Year 35	30
Year 36	31
Year 37	32
Year 38	33
Year 39	34
Year 40	35
Year 41	36
Year 42	37
Year 43	38
Year 44	39
Year 45	40
Year 46	41
Year 47	42
Year 48	43
Year 49	44
Year 50	45
Year 51	46
Year 52	47
Year 53	48
Year 54	49
Year 55	50
Year 56	51
Year 57	52
Year 58	53
Year 59	54
Year 60	55
Year 61	56
Year 62	57
Year 63	58
Year 64	59
Year 65	60
Year 66	61
Year 67	62
Year 68	63
Year 69	64
Year 70	65
Year 71	66
Year 72	67
Year 73	68
Year 74	69
Year 75	70
Year 76	71
Year 77	72
Year 78	73
Year 79	74
Year 80	75
Year 81	76
Year 82	77
Year 83	78
Year 84	79
Year 85	80
Year 86	81
Year 87	82
Year 88	83
Year 89	84
Year 90	85
Year 91	86
Year 92	87
Year 93	88
Year 94	89
Year 95	90
Year 96	91
Year 97	92
Year 98	93
Year 99	94
Year 100	95

BACK IN SCHOOL: KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE

Students have been in year group bubbles since September. This has meant that Y12 have had to be separated from Y13 and the Sixth Form Common Room is strangely quiet as a result! Tables are wiped down before each lesson and teachers are encouraged to work within a very limited 'box' but beyond this, lessons have been remarkably normal. Students have been terrifically cooperative and much work has already been done to allow students to consolidate learning completed during lockdown and, with the support of Houses, to catch up wherever necessary. Extra-curricular activity, especially any that would involve the merging of 'bubbles' has been very hard hit with the artistic and sporting life of the school particularly affected. With characteristic determination, however, work has been done to create a Carol Concert and a House Music Competition online.

Trying to make sure that each year group has access to food, to some fresh air, and to some dry space at lunchtime has been particularly challenging but the erection of a [new canopy and seating area](#) together with the installation of [two 'Bart's Bites' food kiosks](#) have enabled us to ensure that students continue to have a fairly conventional school day, even if they now have to navigate the school through a one-way system.

We have managed to keep open throughout the term. Y12 were 'self-isolating' for one day and two Y7 Tutor Groups have had to self-isolate for a short period. The Covid cases that have emerged have been addressed swiftly and effectively and where students have been self-isolating, we have been trying to reach them directly by broadcasting 'live' lessons from the classroom.

BACK TO SCHOOL: AUTUMN TERM

Virtual Events

Like much of the world, St Bart's has had to adapt its annual events to make them work online. The first of these challenges was our September Open Day events for the 2021 Year 7 intake. A live streamed presentation from the Headteacher, Ms Mortimore, interspersed with students talking about their school experiences was supported by a new microsite. [This dedicated site](#) provides links to subject specific videos and virtual tours. The site remains accessible and the live presentation also available, allowing parents to take their time making their decision.

The Sixth Form Open Evening in November followed a similar format. The [Open Evening website](#) features videos from our Heads of Department, as well as thoughts from our fantastic student subject representatives. The Sixth Form team held a Live Talk Event led by Head of Sixth Form, Ms Allen. Parents and students met the team, were able to submit questions and listened to Ms Allen interview one of our current Sixth Form students.



September

House cup awarded to Curnock!

Students were excited to learn that the House Championship Cup 2019/20 was won by Curnock! This year the competition was so tight for positions 1 and 2. The announcement was made during a first for St Bart's, as the assembly was streamed live into students' tutor group classrooms. [Read more...](#)



Our Innovative Living Wall

Before heading off to university, former students, Gareth Lewis and Ciara Beale visited St Bart's, to view the groundbreaking project that is their legacy, a living wall. As Head Boy and Head Girl the pair have brought the idea, picked by the School Officer's following a full school survey, to life. With school strikes against climate change prominent in the headlines they wanted to pick an endeavour with environmental impact. Installed in the Hub area, which all students access, the living wall stands almost 4m tall and 2.5 wide on the south wall. [Read more...](#)



Capturing Autumn 2020

Early in the term the Year 10 Photography group decided to try and capture some of the chilly but sunny weather in their photographs. This is a thoughtful image that reflects on the simple joys of a flower, but also on the restrictions we still have in school.

European Day of Languages

On Friday 25 September students in the MFL department celebrated European Day of Languages. Hundreds of students took part in the bunting making competition and a wide range of languages were showcased through the artistic triangles. [Read more...](#)



National Fame for MFL Teachers



In the summer term the St Bart's MFL faculty were approached to help set up languages lessons online with the Oak National Academy, who have been at the forefront of lockdown educational provision. Funded by the government, its aims were to have the majority of the National Curriculum online by September in readiness for another lockdown.

Their lessons are now live on the Oak website, proudly representing St Bart's!

[Read more...](#)

Annabelle's Miles for Refugees

Year 13 student, Annabelle, ran and swam 72 miles during September as part of The British Red Cross "Miles for Refugees" campaign. Her challenge represented the journey taken by refugees fleeing Damascus to Beirut and she raised almost £600! [Read more...](#)



October

New Distance Record for James



On Sunday 11 October James (8C3) threw his javelin 37.5m, which not only beat his PB, but also proved to be the current leading distance thrown in the UK for his age category (U13). He was representing Team Kennet at a competition in Portsmouth. James, his coach and parents were all over the moon.

Congratulations! You can see the amazing throw [on our Facebook page.](#)

Black History Month

This October, we marked Black History Month with some school-wide activities. The History and English departments were particularly active and displays featured key historical characters and [25 especially](#)

[notable poets](#). Responding to these displays, students conducted some fascinating research and completed their [own poems which you can read here](#).

November

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day at St Bart's is always a significant occasion in our calendar, one where the whole school gather in the Hub together with former students, governors and members of the Parents' Association and Old Newburians' Association. This year we had to adopt a different approach made the outcome was no less poignant.



Streamed online, the service was screened to students in tutor groups and available to members of our wider community from home. In her opening address Ms Mortimore welcomed everyone and expressed that even though we are in the middle of a pandemic, and experiencing loss in a different way, it is still important to look back with pride and respect to those who made ultimate sacrifice. [Read more...](#)

Set to Swim the Channel!



Darcy (9P2) is currently in training to swim across the English Channel in July next year to raise funds for Solent Mind, a mental health charity. She will swim in relay with five teammates from Winchester City Penguins swimming club. [Read more...](#)

Photo from Phil Cannings, NWN.

Keep in Touch

How can you get involved?

Work experience opportunities have all but disappeared over recent months. Our Alumni partners, FutureFirst have come up with a terrific idea which encourages former students to provide some detail on their own careers and, in so doing, provide some [Lockdown Work Experience Suggestions](#). Please complete this [brief survey](#) to help with this.

We would like to create a really significant display that highlights the achievements of our Alumni. There is a [template for creating your own poster](#) - it's easy, honest! Please send any posters to us at lrumens@stbarts.co.uk

We love hearing from old students so if you have any news about your career since St Bart's or photos you would like to share please get in touch with "Lucem anni" Editor, Lucy Rumens (lrumens@stbarts.co.uk).

As soon as circumstances allow we are looking to involve our network to support the school by:

- speaking in assemblies and 6th Form Enrichment
- acting as 'mentors', ideally face-to-face but potentially remotely
- bringing expertise directly to the classroom as a visiting speaker/lecturer
- providing work experience/shadowing/insight day opportunities

Please email lrumens@stbarts.co.uk if you are able to support any of these initiatives.

Are you in touch with old school friends who have not yet signed up to our alumni network through Future First? Please point them in the right direction so that they can receive this newsletter too. The portal is at: <https://bit.ly/3837fjP> or just click on this box!

You can manage your subscription and data preferences in your Future First (www.futurefirst.org.uk) profile area, or by sending your request to info@futurefirst.org.uk with subject line 'Data request'.

Find us on

We now have an Alumni page as well as the [main school Facebook page](#)

Finally, our celebration of the 10th Anniversary of our new building was postponed because of the pandemic. When circumstances allow, we will be looking to celebrate this, mark some very notable staff retirements and will, above all, want staff and students to feel the good times returning. We will be extending invitations to our Alumni to join us in this. Keep in touch

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