

# BartholoNews



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## AN EXCEPTIONAL WEEK

Over the year, you occasionally get exceptional weeks in education, and last week was one of those.

### Congratulations from the Minister of State for School Standards

Firstly, we were delighted to receive a letter of congratulation from Nick Gibb, Minister of State for School Standards, for our achievements for the second year in a row. This is excellent recognition of the hard work all the students and staff put in here at St Bart's to ensure high standards are consistently achieved, and this should not be underestimated. I would like to share the letter as follows:



Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP  
Minister of State for School Standards

Dear Ms Mortimore

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils for the very high standard of achievement of your school in the English Baccalaureate in 2016.

Your school's results, as published on 19 January, show that you are amongst the top state-funded schools in England for the percentage of pupils achieving these core academic subjects. These subjects are vital for giving pupils the best start in life and ensuring they have the widest range of opportunities available to them.

Thank you for your work in continuing the drive towards high standards of educational achievement, and congratulations again to you and your staff for your hard work and professionalism.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Nick Gibb MP

## House Drama Competition

Secondly, last Tuesday night saw House Drama take place. The standard this year was exceptional and everyone who attended was entertained by outstanding performances in productions based on 'Much Ado About Nothing' (Davis), 'Blackadder' (Evers), 'The Great British Bake Off' (Curnock) and 'Harry Potter' (Patterson). Over one third of Year 10 students were involved in the performances and they were produced and directed by Year 12. The talent shown by all our students was something of which we should all be very proud.

## British Science Week

Lastly, throughout the week we celebrated British Science Week, and it was tremendous to see so many students get involved in the many activities, such as the Chemistry Whizz Bang Show, the dissection of a pig's head, the Big Bang Fair and a number of quizzes and competitions. Hopefully, this may encourage more students from St Bart's to become budding scientists in the future.

It is this wider participation within school life that adds to students' engagement and learning in school, and it is so important, and therefore it is excellent to see so many students enjoying themselves in this way.

All of this makes us proud to be part of St Bart's, and we continue to move forwards and work together to ensure all our students reach their potential, wherever their talents lie. I look forward to sharing further successes with you throughout the year.

**Ms J Mortimore, Headteacher**





## RED NOSE DAY FRIDAY 24 MARCH

Red noses are now on sale from the House Offices. This is a non-uniform day, £1 donation. The funds raised will be shared between Comic Relief and The Rosemary Appeal, a local charity. Friday will also see the Houses raising money with a combined cake sale in the Hub at Activity Time. Any donations of cakes will be gratefully received. **Comic Relief** first began in 1985. It is a major charity based in the UK, with a vision of a just world, free from poverty.



**The Rosemary Appeal** is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the West Berkshire community to change the lives of local cancer sufferers forever. Named after local benefactor Rosemary Rookes who donated the land for the existing West Berkshire Community Hospital, the Appeal aims to raise £4.5 million in order to build an extension to the present hospital buildings which will include essential cancer treatment facilities. This will include chemotherapy treatment, a CT scanner plus a Renal unit providing opportunities for dialysis and other services such as purpose designed spaces for counselling and rehabilitation. This facility will take the stress out of travel to Reading and beyond.

## EVERS NEWS

Well done to Mr Harmer who has raised nearly £40 for Evers House charity, West Berkshire Mencap, by organising Activity Time events in support of running the London marathon this year. Thank you to everyone who got involved. Congratulations to all the hardworking Y12s in this year's Evers House Play production of 'Blackadder', an outstanding effort and you should all be very proud of yourselves. Special congratulations of course go to the Y10 students who gave a magnificent performance on the night – your dedication at rehearsals really paid off, so well done.

Tutees of 9E1 raised a phenomenal amount of more than £70 in their fundraising cake sale last week. This was a very busy Activity Time so thank you to everyone who baked and help.



## St Bart's Parents' Association COFFEE MORNING in the Town Hall, Newbury

**SATURDAY 25 March**  
**10am-12 noon**

Please join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a delicious homemade cake and encourage your friends to come too!



If you haven't been there before, the Town Hall Chamber is an historic, impressive room with a high vaulted ceiling, stone fireplaces and many other original Victorian features. A perfect place to take a break from your shopping!

All fundraising proceeds will go towards supporting the students at St Bart's.

## CLASSIFICATION GARDEN

The Plant Classification Garden has been completed. The Y10 Horticulture team fixed the signage into position last week so that students can find out about all the different types of plants, why they are important and how they evolved. There are examples of the main types of plants, with colour-coded labels.



The amazing artwork on the signs was created by Alex and Sam Jarman (Y13) and the brick edging to the garden was laid by last year's Horticulture Team, now Y12. The garden will be used to support aspects of the science curriculum, in addition to providing a general interest area within the school site.

Thank you to the PA for contributing towards the funding of this project.



## EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

At St Bart's we have always taken pride in supporting our students with their emotional needs and mental health, alongside outstanding academic performance.

With an increased national focus on mental health it is timely to remind all members of the school community what help and support is available.

Our community is exactly that. A community in which we value and respect one another.

In every House Office and elsewhere through the school there are Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSA's). Many staff throughout the school have also completed the Emotional First Aid course.

In the Sixth Form we have a group of students trained as Mental Health Leaders, who are looking at supporting positive activities throughout the school under the banner of 'Strive to Thrive'. A positive and active approach to mental health. Look out for more information on this!

Mrs K Story is our School Counsellor and Family School Support Worker. Information opposite explains both her role and the process of making a referral.

Mrs H Straszewski is the school nurse who also works individually with students and also offers a 'drop in' service.

There are also a range of specialist and higher level organisations who operate locally with whom the school has very close and positive working relationships.

Confidentiality is key to this area of work. If you would like to discuss any aspect further or explore possible support for a young person in confidence, please contact the House Office, Mrs Story or of course, myself.

**Mrs M Sims**

**MSims@stbarts.co.uk**

## ST BART'S SCHOOL COUNSELLING SERVICE

### What is Counselling?

Counselling is a confidential service where young people can talk about worries or problems they are experiencing with a qualified counsellor. They can gain new and different perspectives, this can lead to changes in how the young person feels about themselves, their relationships with others, thinking and behaviour. What is spoken about will depend on the individual, but common themes are stress, relationships, change and distressing traumatic events.

### Who is the School Counsellor?



Our school counsellor is Kelly Story. She holds a level 4 diploma in therapeutic counselling and has many years of experience in emotional support work, at St Bartholomew's School, working with young people and their families.

Kelly is a registered member of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (MBACP)

### How can students request to see the School Counsellor?

Students can request to see the school counsellor by:

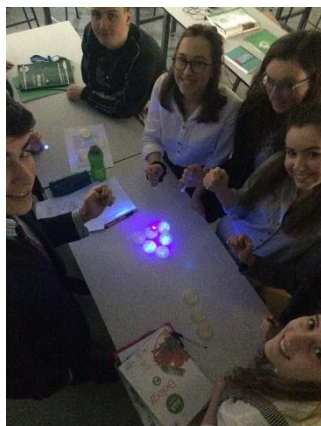
- Dropping a self-referral form into room E132 (self-referral forms are available from room E132, house head offices, and the sixth form office)
- Emailing [kstory@stbarts.co.uk](mailto:kstory@stbarts.co.uk)
- Asking a member of staff to support them and make a referral on their behalf.
- Asking a parent/ carer to get in touch on their behalf.

### I am concerned about my child. Can I contact the school counsellor?

Yes! You are welcome to contact the school counsellor by email or phone via reception.

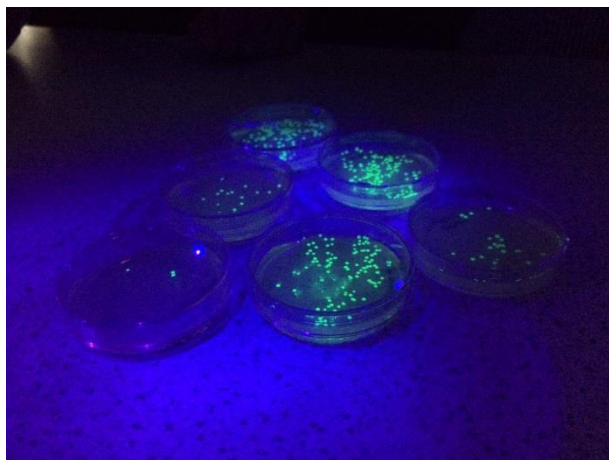
*Information sheets are available for students and parents/carers with more details about St Bartholomew's School counselling service. Please request a copy from reception, house head offices, or the school counsellor.*

## GENETIC TRANSFORMATION



**Year 13 genetically transform bacteria with a gene from a jellyfish so that they glow green.**

As part of the A Level Biology curriculum, the Year 13 students introduced a gene (originally extracted from a jellyfish) into bacteria.



Those bacteria which were successfully transformed in this way, expressed the protein product of this jellyfish gene, which glow luminous green under UV light. A really exciting way to learn about DNA technology!

**The Biology Team**



### CALENDAR AMENDMENT

Please note the following amendments to the calendar:

Tuesday 28 March, Spring Concert Rehearsal, Hall, All Day will now take place on Tuesday 4 April.

Wednesday 29 March, Spring Concert, Hall at 7pm will now take place on Wednesday 5 April.

**TERM ENDS**  
**Thursday 6 April**  
**at 3.20pm**

Friday 7 April is a  
Staff Training & Development Day

## SOUTH BUCKS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

**Sunday 12 March at High Wycombe**

Several of our students represented St Bart's at the recent South Bucks Volleyball Tournament and did exceptionally well by winning.

Congratulations to Sasha Howgate, Keian Ho, Alistair Swain, Clara Gilmour, Lottie Lee-Delisle and Sam Nadin – an excellent achievement.

Congratulations also to Alistair Swain who is now taking part in the second round of both the U15 and U16 National Championships with Cherwell School.

## NETBALL NEWS

Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form netball teams played in league fixtures. Results and players of the match follow.

St Bart's v Theale Green

Y10 won 16-6 Sophie Stancombe

Y11 won 16-6 Niamh Watson

6<sup>th</sup> form lost 21-12 Tosin Sonubi

St Bart's v St Gabriel's

Y10 lost 32-14 Daisy Dijksman

Y11 won 21-13 Alex Earle

6<sup>th</sup> form won 17-12 Abi Stamp

## FEEL INSPIRED GOLF ACADEMY

The Berkshire Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Golf Partnership runs the Feel Inspired Academy for boys and girls aged between 11 and 18 years with physical, visual or hearing impairments or learning disabilities. If you are interested there is a FREE taster session. No previous golfing experience required. See Mrs Leach in PE for details or email her at [lleach@stbarts.co.uk](mailto:lleach@stbarts.co.uk)