

BartholoNews



22 March 2016



www.stbarts.co.uk

Issue No: 790



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

This term was marked by the recognition we received from the Department for Education through the letter from Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Schools, congratulating us on the high standard of achievement of our students in their GCSEs last year. The percentage of students gaining five or more GCSEs at A*-C, including English and Mathematics, and the percentage of students achieving the EBacc, put us in the top 100 non-selective state-funded schools in England – that is in the top 3% of schools on both measures.

This was excellent news and a result of the hard work and dedication of our students and staff. As a school we always encourage all of our students to achieve their best, and we will continue to build on this success.

Term Highlights

One of the highlights of this term was last week, seeing so many students join in our activities to raise money for Sport Relief – see page 5. My thanks go to the PE Department and Sixth Form School Officers for organising the events.

It has also been pleasing to see so many students and staff involved in many other activities across the school. Many of these have been featured in BartholoNews and assemblies this term, including Science Week, World Book Day, BBC School Report Day, Pi Day and the Spring Concert. House competitions were also closely fought and the standard of performances has been extremely high. Patterson won both House Drama and House Dance competitions, Curnock won the Junior House Debating and Evers won the

Senior House Debating. It always makes me so proud to see the exceptional talent and achievements of our students that contribute to the great school we are.

Examination Season and Punctuality

As we move towards the main external examination season, may I ask that you encourage students in examination groups to make use of the Easter period to focus on their revision and attend the Easter revision sessions that we have put on, as appropriate, to ensure that they will achieve their true potential in the forthcoming examinations.

May I remind you that punctuality to school is important at all times, as any lateness represents lost learning time, which is invaluable. Therefore, can we please ask that you ensure your sons and daughters arrive at school promptly before 8.40am every morning. There will be a focus on this next term.

Farewells

Sadly, at the end of this term we are saying goodbye to two members of staff, Louella Walsh, Science Technician, is retiring after working 100 terms over 33 years at St Bart's – quite an achievement, and Mrs Evans, PE Teacher and Davis House Progress/Achievement Leader is moving on to an opportunity outside education. We wish them both well.

Easter Break

Lastly, may I wish everyone a happy and restful Easter break, and I look forward to seeing everyone back and ready for a successful and productive summer term.

Ms J Mortimore, Headteacher



JUNIOR HOUSE DEBATING

This year's Junior House Debating was won by the Curnock team - Isaac Fernandes 10C2, Sam Harris 10C3, Rebecca Lane 8C3 and Molly Robbins 7C1.



In the heats we debated the controversial topic of whether we should ban school uniform. We argued in favour of a ban. Isaac was very passionate when he argued that uniforms made it hard to express our individuality and that if we wore our own clothes, teachers would know and understand us better as people. We came second in this round and went through to the finals against Evers.

In the final round we argued that the Internet does more good than harm. This was a very close debate with lots of to and fro between the teams. At times the chair found it hard to keep up with us! In the end, the judges, Mrs Sims and Mr Randall, spent a very long time deciding between the two teams – apparently there was only one mark in it – but the winners were the Curnock team; Isaac was awarded the debater of the day award for his closing speech summing up everything that had been said in the debate.

We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Sims and Mr Randall for their very thorough judging and to Evers for such an interesting debate.

Debating takes place on Wednesdays after assembly in C012. It's lots of fun and anyone is welcome to come and listen. You don't need to say anything until you want to!

Rebecca Lane 8C3

TERM ENDS AND START OF SUMMER TERM

Thur 24 Mar Term Ends, 3.30pm

Mon 11 April Staff Training Day

Tues 12 April Term Starts –

Normal school day for all students



EXAM STRESS AND ANXIETY

**Wednesday 23 March 2016
6.00pm in the Hall**

**Session Open to all
Parents/Carers and Students
Any year**

**Identify a range of strategies to help
you and your child cope**

Delivered by Kate Pike and Amy Law –
Educational Psychologists



SCHOOLS BIBLE PROJECT

Fancy a visit to the Houses of Parliament?
Tea at Westminster?

£500 prizes for you?

See your RE teacher about entering the Schools Bible Project 2016.



MEDLEY LECTURE

**Lord George Carey
Former Archbishop of Canterbury**

**Thursday 28 April at 7.30pm at
Downe House School**

“.... in the face of the reality of needless suffering”

Can Giving Permission to Die Ever be Right for the Terminally Ill?

A medical ethics discussion on assisted dying.

We have 12 tickets available for students from Years 10 – 13, on a first come, first served basis. See your RE teacher if interested.



SCIENCE WEEK

As BartholoNews goes to press Year 8 students are visiting the Big Bang Science Fair. Meanwhile, Year 7 students have taken part in various science activities in school. See our Twitter feed about the Explorer Dome, @St_Barts_School A full report, and photographs, will be in the first issue of BartholoNews next term.

OLD NEWBURIANS' ASSOCIATION BALL



**SATURDAY 16 APRIL 2016
7.00pm for 7.30pm Dinner**

At St Bart's, Hall and Dining Room

**All staff and friends
of the school community are
welcome**

Three course meal and coffee
Cash Bar
Black Tie/Lounge Suit

To purchase tickets email Tricia
president@oldnewburians.co.uk
by 23 March latest (dinner and dance)

Tickets £30 for dinner and dance
Disco only tickets £10 (book by 15 April)



CULTUREFEST COMING TO ST BART'S 16 July 2016

An inclusive community event is taking place at St Bart's on 16 July from 12 noon to 4pm. CultureFest is organised by All2gether and they will be inviting voluntary, community and charitable groups, new, growing and established businesses and any organisation that wishes to participate in this sensational and diverse day. It is a great platform to promote your projects, increase group membership, fundraise, perform, exhibit or simply raise awareness of your achievements and vision.

CultureFest is All2gether's flagship community event, showcasing culture, heritage, diversity, community achievement and success through performance, music, dance, arts and crafts, workshops, stalls, exhibitions and food from around the globe. It promises to enthrall and entertain guests. If you would like to participate in this vibrant and diverse event please contact All2gether for a booking form.

The organisers are also keen to hear from organisations or businesses wishing to sponsor CultureFest 2016. They are also looking for volunteers to help on the day.

Put the date in your diary. Connect with your CultureFest community
#CultureFestNewbury
www.facebook.com/CultureFestNewbury
www.all2together.org.uk
email Waheeda@all2together.org.uk or ring 07900218618

YEAR 7 SUBJECT PARENTS' EVENING Thursday 21 April 2016

Curnock Block
4.30pm – 7.00pm

Information about booking appointments will be sent by Schoolcomms email.

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT

On Monday 14 March, the European Youth Parliament Team went to the Oxford Union to attend the European Youth Parliament regional debate. There were three schools there: two state and one public. We had to debate issues regarding security and defence, the refugee crisis and on European economic policy. Our team was selected to propose a resolution on how to solve the refugee crisis – Ashley delivered the opening speech and Patrick the closing. Both of them did extremely well, and the group as a whole answered questions and countered criticism from the other schools with informed responses based on a lot of research. We had to not only prove to the judges our debating talent, but also our teamwork skills in order to reach the next round and I believe the judges were impressed with our constant rotation of post-it-notes with ideas throughout the team.



The team is pictured with Mr King and Ms French at the Oxford Union.

Both the state schools progressed to the next round, the national final, taking place over a four day period in September at a yet to be determined venue in the UK.

Andrew Evans 12D1

AUTHOR VISIT

Well known author, Ali Sparkes, gave presentations to Year 7 students inspiring them to develop their own creative writing.

Students were able to buy signed copies of Ali's books. Among them was Car-Jacked, which is up for awards across the country.



CURNOCK NEWS

Curnock students have worked hard so far this year to raise a total of £2231 for Newbury and District Cancer Care Trust. The

House Council are currently planning a fundraising quiz where students will be asked questions about staff based on photos of them when they were young. Students will pay 50p to enter and the winning answers will get prizes, which are yet to be determined by the House Council.

It is now the time of year for students to start applying for their awards and House colours. Students are being encouraged to do this so that Curnock collect the most points for the House Championship. But also I have promised the tutor group with the most award entries Dominos pizza!

I hope to see students being credited for everything they do to contribute to the school and House system - but also I hope to reduce the boxes of badges I currently have taking up space in the House Office.

Good Luck Curnockians

Mrs Hodes, Curnock House Head

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Last Wednesday evening the Young Enterprise groups, Ink and Thirteen 40, took part in the Young Enterprise Area Final. Both teams set up their trade stands and answered some tough questions from the judges. They also gave a presentation outlining their business activity, which they both did very well.



Ink won the 'Best Marketing' award sponsored by Apple Print who commented that the marketing was very well targeted. They were also impressed with the branding and the use of social media.



TWITTER

Be the first to get the news and follow us.

@St_Barts_School
@curnock_barts
@davis_barts
@evers_barts
@patterson_barts

SPORT RELIEF

Last Friday the school supported Sport Relief and organised a mile challenge and a star jump extravaganza.

Students arrived sporting red and white clothes (the Sport Relief colours) ready to take part in the fundraising activities.

Years 7, 8 and 9, some Sixth Formers and staff donned their trainers and ran, jogged or walked the mile challenge on the Luker field, organised by the PE Department. The overcast and chilly conditions did not deter people from entering into the spirit of the occasion.

Well done to all these students who participated and particularly those in Year 7 who stepped up to the challenge to beat myself, Mr Sharpe or Mr Cook.

A special mention must go to Mr Munday who ran ten miles before 10.00am, before completing his mile with the students.



Mr Hart leading the warm-up

Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form faced a different challenge as they took part in a mass star jump extravaganza. To loud music they gathered in the Hub and jumped for ten minutes, thankful it ended with Activity Time. See page 7 for more photographs.

The money raised is being counted and will be published in BartholoNews next term.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise the events and supported Sport Relief.

Ms J Mortimore, Headteacher

BOYS' PE

Rugby

The Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 rugby teams entered the Perins Invitational Sevens Tournament in Hampshire recently, a new competition featuring some strong teams from Hampshire, Berkshire and the London area.

All teams performed very well in an intense and hugely competitive tournament. The Year 10s fought bravely through a number of injuries and a tough pool featuring Westgate (Winchester), Portsmouth Grammar School and Oaklands to finish seventh overall.

The Year 9s battled with injuries but did very well to finish in third place, narrowly losing to Salesian's College.

The Year 8 team also performed excellently to finish third, losing only to the finalists Perins and PGS.

Finally the Year 7 team continued their fine season, beating Orleans Park, Richmond three tries to zero to win the competition undefeated and only conceding one try.



Congratulations to all the boys who competed and showed an excellent attitude throughout. We look forward to continuing to develop the 7-a-side game at St Bart's over the coming years.

Football

1st XI beat Theale Green 2-1

2nd XI drew with Blessed Hugh Faringdon 1-1 with Luke Parkes scoring. Man of the match Ben Prosser.

Year 11 lost narrowly to Park House

Year 9 beat John O'Gaunt 6-1. Man of the match was Josh Douglas for some superb goalkeeping.

Years 7, 8 and 9 played against Reading Blue Coat on Saturday 5 March. Year 7 fielded A and B teams. Congratulations to several boys for whom it was their first experience of representing the school.

Players of the match were:

Year 7 A Alfie Letman

Year 7B Aidan Kriel

Year 8 Kris Reddin

Year 9 Harry Donne

GIRLS' PE

Netball

Well done to the Year 10 netball team who got to the semi final stage of their Area netball Tournament last week.

The Year 11 and Sixth Form teams played in league fixtures against The Downs last week. Scores and players of the match were:

Year 11 lost 22-8, Abby Graham and Ellie Fell
Sixth Form lost 14-13 – Lottie Woodley

ATTENDANCE HOTLINE

If your child is absent please remember to report this on the attendance hotline.

This is for students in all years, including Sixth Form.

Tel: 01635 576372

SPORT RELIEF PHOTO GALLERY



Year 7 on the field for the mile challenge, joined by staff, sixth form and sports leaders.



Sports leaders bucket collecting



Star jumps in the Hub