

Burton Borough School Monthly Newsletter

November 2019



Dear Families,

What a fabulous month it has been at Burton Borough! Our students continue to think about how they can make a difference to the wider community and I am so proud of them! The four students in the photo below ran a football festival at St. George's primary school and students of Chetwynd Small School raised £1400 for the Telford Young Carers charity. In addition to that, our school continued to raise awareness of the importance of good mental health and wellbeing by wearing yellow on the 10th October as part of the #helloyellow campaign that Young Minds, a mental health charity for young people, was running. I am also delighted to say that the work we are carrying out in this area continues to gain national recognition with Mrs Heins (Head of Wellbeing), Mrs Price (Head of Chetwynd Small School) and me being invited down to the Google Digital Academy in London to host an event and speak along with Edukit on Vulnerable Learners. Mr Morgan (Vice Principal) and Mrs Kane (Head of Professional Studies) also spoke at an event in London on the work we do around Sex and Relationships Education.

Our first Enrichment and Extended Learning (EEL) Day was a huge success with students doing various exciting activities including year 7 learning about adaptation and evolution with the Animal Lady who brought in many exotic animals to year 10s studying Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* and looking at Puritanism and life in 1960s Salem. Other students had the opportunity to test out their sporting skills with wheelchair basketball and year 9 had a go at robotics. Year 11 had a wonderful day at the Your Futures conference where they dressed up in business attire, looked at careers and participated in some mock interviews. I would like to thank our governors, support staff and volunteers from different organisations for carrying out such an important and worthwhile activity for our students – there was some excellent from everyone involved! This month also saw our very successful Careers Fair and the excellent work we are doing in this area was recognised through the Silver Award we achieved for meeting six Gatsby Benchmarks. Thanks go to Mr Ackers (Governor) and Mrs Kane for helping us to gain this!

It has been a very busy month for our MFL department with staff taking students to Madrid to learn alongside our Spanish partner school and also a Parent/Carer engagement workshop for languages. Thank you to everyone who attended this event – at Burton Borough School, we believe that learning a language can bring some incredible opportunities and we hope that activities such as these will continue to encourage our students to opt a language for GCSE.

Once again, we have had many sporting successes, with our year 7 rugby team winning their first rugby game and our year 9 girls winning both their team and individual races in cross country! One young man (below pictured with Mr Chandler) has done exceptionally well – by winning gold at the British Boy's Taekwondo Championships! Congratulations! What an incredible achievement! In addition, our PE department received the Gold School Games Award!

Finally, I had another fantastic Philosopher's Tea Party session with our great thinkers (below pictured with me). The topic of discussion this time was 'should some books be banned at school'. What articulate, critical thinkers we have! My brain was hurting after that session!

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter!

Yours sincerely,
Krissi Carter (Principal)



Upcoming events

2nd December 2019
Year 8 and 9 Meet the Tutor Event

11th December 2019
KS3 Christmas Drama Club Show

16th December 2019
Christmas Concert

20th December 2019
Last day of Autumn Term

7th January 2019
First day of Spring term

8th January 2020
Year 9 Parents'/Carers' Evening

4th February 2020
Year 7 Parents'/Carers' Evening

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Enrichment and Extended Learning (EEL) Day



The Animal Lady came with lots of exotic creatures to teach year 7 about adaptation and evolution.



Year 11 participated in the Your Futures conference and took away some valuable information about careers as well as having the chance to have some mock interview practice!



"It's the best profession in the world"

LISA KANE, 49, from Telford teaches at Burton Borough School in Newport

Lisa Kane qualified 18 years ago and now trains the next generation of teachers.

As head of professional studies at Burton Borough School in Newport near Telford, she looks after a fresh cohort of trainees every year.

The 49-year-old, from Dawley, who previously had a career as a photographer before becoming a maths teacher, says it's a rewarding role.

"It's meeting a completely different set of trainees every year and seeing the new things that they bring to the classroom that we can all learn from and getting to work with the next generation."

"I don't think there is anything better than when you first see a trainee teacher who was really timid at the start but six months later is brimming with confidence in the classroom," says Lisa.

Lisa, who is currently overseeing six newly qualified teachers and seven associate trainee teachers at Burton Borough.

"I enjoy seeing them grow in confidence and in their subjects and becoming excellent teachers," says Lisa.

She qualified as a maths teacher in 2001 and continues to teach subject knowledge enhancement courses in maths.

"I still absolutely love maths - it's beautiful. It's a universal language and it blows people's minds," says Lisa.

For her being a teacher is "the best profession in the world".

"It's the most rewarding job working with young people and seeing the moment the penny drops and they finally get it. You're making a difference to them and there is no better feeling," says Lisa.

Mrs Corbett (Head of Maths) and Mrs Kane (Head of Professional Studies) were interviewed about the teaching profession for the Shropshire Star! (Left)

"There's variety in every week"

VERITY CORBETT, 36, teaches at Burton Borough School in Newport

Verity Corbett has been teaching for 15 years and loves the variety the job brings.

She is head of maths at Burton Borough School in Newport, near Telford and recently supported pupils during the 2019 STEM Challenge.

"I have always loved maths and really enjoyed working with young people, during my degree I would regularly find myself helping others and trying to explain the parts they didn't understand in a more straight forward way."

Towards the end of my degree I looked into graduate schemes and different jobs but none gave me the mix of maths and helping others," says the 36-year-old.

There are many reasons why she enjoys being in the classroom.

"There's always a huge variety in every week. I love seeing the pupils' confidence grow as they understand more concepts and seeing them grow as individuals," says Verity, who lives in Brockton, near Shifnal.

But she says there are challenges that come with the role due to the "complexities of young people today and the struggles they face well beyond the classroom".

"It is hard sometimes to convey to a pupil that learning, say, Pythagoras should be a priority to them when just getting up and to school in the morning is hard enough," Verity says. "But having said this we owe it to them to believe that they can still achieve despite any difficulties they are facing and to maintain high expectations of them which will hopefully support them in succeeding in the real world beyond school."

It is the best job in the world on a good day so I would recommend it to others - but only with caution and ensuring that they are not naive of the difficulties and pressures it also brings with it as a profession."



Mrs Price, Miss Carter and Mrs Heins were very excited to host the Vulnerable Learners Teach Meet at the Google Digital Academy office this month! Our work on inclusion, mental health and wellbeing is known nationwide!



We wore yellow as part of the #helloyellow campaign on World Mental Health Day to raise awareness and to remind ourselves of the importance of good mental health and wellbeing



Our students are excellent at raising money for charity. Chetwynd school raised £1400 for Telford Young Carers (left)! Well done!

Our students have been conducting fieldwork at Carding Mill Valley for Geography!



We achieved the Gold School Games Award! Well done to our PE department!



We have had a very successful time with Cross Country! The ladies on the left are winners of both the year 9 girls' individual and team races. Well done!



Our Nepal Expedition Fundraising Curry Night was a huge success. We can't wait to hear about the trip which takes place in Summer 2020!



A great turnout to our Parent/Carer languages engagement evening! Thank you to our MFL department for organising it!



It was brilliant to see so many year 10 and 11 students at our 2019 Careers Fair. Thank you to all further education exhibitors too – we loved seeing lots of our ex-students who came back to promote their organisations! #BBSFamily



Thank you to the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) and the English Department for organising the Book Fair!



We are very proud to announce that we achieved the silver award for achieving six Gatsby Benchmarks for good careers guidance! Thank you to Mrs Kane (Head of Professional Studies) and Mr Ackers (Governor) for all of your hard work around this!



The MFL department took some of our students to Madrid to work alongside our partnership school. We also had a brief stopover in Amsterdam on the way there! Students presented together with Spanish students and we even won the Kahoot competition!



This newsletter only contains a selection of photos and news so make sure you follow us on Twitter and Instagram @BurtonBorough for daily updates, more photos and videos!

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