



Barnwell Bytes

NEWSLETTER DATE

6th March 2009

ISSUE

182



Headteacher's Letter

Dear Parents

I was very pleased to see so many parents and students at the recent Year 9 Courses Evening. With an attendance approaching 95% of the year group it was very encouraging to see the level of support for the students. It augers well for their success over the next couple of years and beyond in the sixth form.



The move from Year 9 to Year 10 is an important one for students but all of the key moving on dates at school are becoming less significant. With students starting GCSE courses now in Year 9 they are not making such a change as used to be the case.

Equally, almost all students stay in education and training at age 16 and for current year 7's this will become compulsory until at least 17 years of age.

It means at age 14 and 16 the question to answer is "What next on my journey through education?" - that will probably continue for the rest of your life. Not—should I continue to study and take the exams and further qualifications.

For the rest of their working lives our students will be competing for jobs at career opportunities with an increasingly well qualified population.

That's why the level of support at our Year 9 Evening was so satisfying.

Mr R Westergreen-Thorne - Headteacher

Top News Story

Barnwell Rocks n Rolls!

Over 60 students took place in the regional heats of the National Rock Challenge competition last week and won three awards resulting in third place position.

Performing a piece entitled "**Sex & Drugs & Rock'n'Roll ...? Warning: Stardom can seriously damage your health**" the students impressed the judges to win the following awards:

Chiltern Radio award for **Best Soundtrack**, the **Cultural and Educational Achievement award**, and Hertfordshire Police award for **School Community Support**.

A full round up can be found on the website in the Dance section under the P.E. department area.

Congratulations to all the students involved—both on stage and behind the scenes. Also a big thank you to the staff involved including *Miss Brown, Ms Pellen* and *Miss Gentry*.



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Dates For Your Diary

Mon 9 & Tue 10 Mar –NT Connections

Play “Success” on East Campus

Tue 17 Mar—Year 9 Parents Evening

Thu 19 Mar—Luminosity Middle School Party

Fri 20 Mar—Occasional Day—**School Closed**

Wed 25 Mar—Year 9 Parents Evening

Mon 6th Apr—Fri 17th Apr—Easter Holidays

Thu 23rd Apr—Learning Review Day

Learning Review Day Reminder

If any parents have any specific requests, please contact *Mrs Appleby* at the school.

Questionnaire Results

The results of the questionnaire completed by many parents, students and staff have just arrived in school. We will provide highlights from the reports in the next edition of Bytes.

Year 11 Mock Module 5 exams

All students in year 11, other than Y2 and Y3, have a full module 5 maths exam during March. Paper 1 (non calculator) will have taken place today (Friday 6th March) and Paper 2 (calculator) will take place on Friday 13th March during periods 1 and 2.

Students hoping to take the higher paper must sit the higher papers in this exam and a decision will then be taken based upon the grade achieved in the mock.

Ms S Bowles—Learning Leader of Mathematics

The importance of a second language

On Wednesday 11th February we held our 5th annual talk to promote the importance of learning a second language.

Each year we invite speakers from the world of business who use a language other than English in their daily work to come and speak with our year 9 students. The idea is to encourage students to study a language to GCSE and beyond.

This year we were lucky enough to not only have some very good speakers from a recruitment agency, a student teacher and a teaching assistant we also had a DJ from a local radio station.

His very light-hearted approach to learning a language was an inspiration to us all. Thank you to all our speakers for giving up their time.

Sustainability in the Built Environment

The Level 2 Construction and the Built Environment Diploma students visited the Building Research Environment (BRE) in Watford to help them with their coursework on sustainability in the built environment. BRE has been building a better world for almost 90 years through cutting edge research, consultancy and testing services. Students had a presentation in the “Re-thinking” School which showcases the design and construction of an inspirational learning environment with excellent sustainability features and then had a tour of the Innovation Park. Around the Park are various houses demonstrating many of the latest developments in sustainable construction. The students looked around houses featuring houses that had an air source pump that converted the energy of air from indoors or outdoors into heat supplying the internal needs of the house to a rainwater harvesting system to provide water to flush toilets. The visit was a great opportunity for the students to see in practice what they are learning through their study of the built environment.

SPOTLIGHT ON.....

Name: Mr Amundsen



Role: Teacher of Health
& Social Care

I drive: Toyota Truck

Movie heaven: The Rocky films but not the last 2

Comfort eating: Chocolate

If I had time to myself: Exercise or socialise

You wouldn't know it, but I am good at: Western Style Riding

When I was a child I wanted to: Be a cowboy

I wish I'd never worn: Earrings

My spare cash goes on: Travel

It's not fashionable but I like: Country Music

If I were the Prime Minister I would: Increase pay for teachers

Party in the Dark!

Several Sixth Formers are organising a Glow in the Dark Party for Middle School students.

The party is due to take place on Thursday 19th March. With the next day (Friday 20th March) being an occasional party day the Party begins at 6:30pm and will go on until 9:00pm.

Tickets are priced at £4 each and includes two free drinks. There will be a DJ, bouncy castle and plenty of Glow in the Dark goodies for sale at low prices.



Miss Gentry will be on hand to decorate students with UV body paint! Get your tickets NOW! Available in the School Shop or

from Sixth Form (East Campus).

Half Term Coursework days and Easter booster classes

For the last eight years we have offered students in GCSE years the opportunity to attend booster classes during the Easter holidays. Every year those students who attended the Easter booster classes have achieved more highly in their exams than those who did not. Students were provided with the opportunities to work in smaller groups and to 'kick start' their exam preparation with intensive revision sessions, past exam questions and to make use of the ICT facilities within the school. Registration for the booster classes is free and students can attend as many sessions as they wish. Each session is scheduled to last for two hours but a break will be taken during this time. It is essential that all students book for each session that they wish to attend as this will enable staff to prepare the correct amount of resources. It is also important to ensure that the class is suitable to the tier of entry of the student.

Pre Prom Evening 2009

On Thursday 12th February we held our second pre prom evening, despite even more snow; we had a fantastic attendance with both students and their parents enjoying the entertainment.

The evening started with a fashion show, some of our year 11 girls modelled dresses from Jane Bolton in Hitchin and the boys modelled suits from Moss Bros in Stevenage.

At the end of the show, the students and their parents were given the chance to walk around and sample jewellery by *Nina Fletcher*, have a makeover by *Helen* from Beauty by Helen, book their hair appointments with Stone Hairdressers in Stevenage or book their transport with Classique Cars of Stevenage.

By the end of the evening many of the students had a good idea of what they would like for their prom in July.

We would like to thank all of the exhibitors for coming into school and a massive thank you to *Ms Coyte* for organising the event.

If anyone would like any further information on the exhibitors please contact your Head's of Houses on the East Campus or *Ms Coyte*, Business and Enterprise Coordinator for Barnwell School.

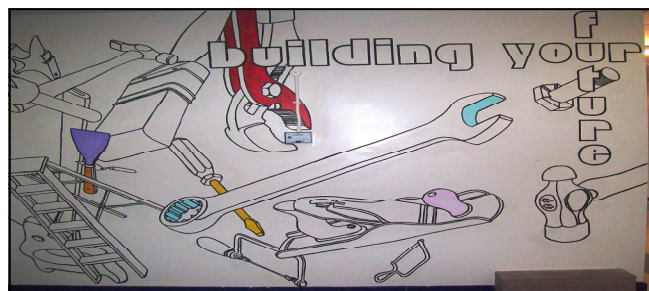
Paint the Wall!

The Technology Department is running a competition in which the whole school can take part.

The Construction Area in S block on the East Campus has two walls with murals that are currently only outlines. The idea of the competition is to make the wall as colourful as possible—or not—depending on the design.

The Technology Departments both have entry forms or they can be found on the website under Department > Technology > Construction >Resources.

The deadline for finished designs will be Thursday 19th March. A teacher of technology and art will act as judges. One entry per student please.






| Key Dates | Study Tips | Information | Key Dates | Study Tips | Information |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Friday 6th March</p> <p>Deadline for Yr 9 students to hand in final option choice forms</p> <p>Tue 17th & Wed 25th March</p> <p>Year 9 Parents Evenings</p> <p>Friday 20th March</p> <p>Occasional Day</p> | <p>"Keep in mind that our community is not composed of those who are already saints, but of those who are trying to become saints. Therefore let us be extremely patient with each other's faults and failures"</p> <p>(Mother Teresa)</p> <p>ACE underpins our school ethos and as such the 'community' aspect at school is hugely important.</p> <p>Empathy for others really does create the conditions where every student can come and learn in a safe and supportive environment.</p> | <p>Today is deadline day for the Year 9 Options choices. We now start the process of fitting the students to their options.</p> <p>The great percentage of students will be allocated their first choices but there may be the odd student whose choices will not fit so their reserve choice may be allocated.</p> <p>It is an important time for all students in the Middle School. Please can you all ensure that your child is well organised at home in regards to providing the appropriate conditions suited for extended learning, whilst also ensuring they have everything they need for school each day.</p> <p>(Please refer to student planner for list of necessary items)</p> | <p>Mon. 16th March – Fri. 20th March</p> <p>Year 10 yellow route work experience week</p> <p>Mon. 27th April – Fri. 1st May</p> <p>Year 10 blue route work experience week</p> | <p>How to handle Stress</p> <p>Exercise –get moving!</p> <p>Seek advice</p> <p>Control your time</p> <p>Plan in rewards, fun and relaxation</p> <p>Work in 'chunks' not 'wholes'</p> <p>Balanced diet and eat sensibly</p> <p>Get enough sleep and rest</p> <p>Talk positively to yourself</p> <p>Plan goals and dream them!</p> <p>Don't vegetate –do something worthwhile</p> | <p>Year 10 yellow route students will shortly be going on their work experience placements. Good luck to them. Hopefully it will be enjoyable and useful.</p> <p>Year 10 blue route students should currently be selecting their placements from the web view. Anyone who needs help and support should see Miss Biggar or Miss Pritchard.</p> <p>Year 10 red route students will be contacted nearer the time of their placements and given relevant information.</p> |
| <p>Mr Patching – Senior Leader</p> <p>KS3 'Learning and Achievement Co-ordinator'</p> <p>m.patching@barnwell.herts.sch.uk</p> | | | <p>Mrs Latta – Senior Leader</p> <p>KS4 'Learning and Achievement Co-ordinator'</p> <p>r.latta@barnwell.herts.sch.uk</p> | | |

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