



Beaverwood
School for Girls



Spring Term 2014

In this issue

School Newsletter

'I wandered lonely as a cloud', as Wordsworth said in his famous daffodil poem, which epitomises this time of year. The school gardens are a wonderful sea of yellow and summer is just around the corner.

As you can see from the articles contained in this term's newsletter, staff and students have been as busy as ever. Obviously, a main focus had been upon exam preparation, controlled assessments and practicals.

We are really pleased with the outcomes so far, as identified at our Assessment Point 2 for Years 11, 12 & 13. These bode well for the 'real exams' in the summer. On behalf of students and families, I thank all of the teachers for the extra effort and time which they dedicate to our students above and beyond their normal lessons: including Easter revision sessions.

We have also enjoyed some excellent additional and enhancement activities, including the ski trip and 'Practically Perfect', our annual production, to name but two. Again, staff give of their all, including weekends and holidays, in order to give your daughter these excellent opportunities. They are to be thanked.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for helping us to maintain our high expectations and standards, including uniform and attendance, as we take our journey towards being an outstanding school.

Happy Easter.
With kind regards.  Mrs K J Raven
Headmistress



'Practically Perfect' Dance Production
This year's Dance Production based on the well-loved Mary Poppins story ..[read more inside.](#)



Raising money for Delmza
24 Hour phone switch off. ..[read more inside.](#)

www.beaverwood.bromley.sch.uk 020 8300 3156



Practically Perfect

Earlier this term, over 80 students at Beaverwood School for Girls stepped back in time and took part in our school dance production of 'Practically Perfect' based on the well-loved story of Mary Poppins. Staff and students gave up many hours of their time to put on the show over the course of 3 performance nights, including inviting local primary schools Dorset Road Infants School and Chislehurst Primary to come to watch the full dress rehearsal.

"Beaverwood's productions are always of a very high standard and often of a West End quality. This year's 'Practically Perfect' was no exception and indeed, I believe it to be one of our best ever. The Mayor of Bromley, Cllr Noad was full of praise for our students and staff as he was warmly welcomed to our Champagne Reception and performance, as a VIP on our Gala Night".
- Mrs K. Raven Headmistress



The production was a huge success and was watched by over 800 people throughout the week. Audiences were entertained and moved by dancers from Year 7 through to Year 13 all working together to produce this wonderful show.

Dance teachers Mrs Brash and Miss McRoberts want to congratulate the students.

"They put on a supercalifragilistic show, well done to all involved"

To find out about more events at Beaverwood School for Girls visit the website www.beaverwood.bromley.sch.uk

Upcoming Dates for 2014

Easter Break	4th - 22nd April
Year 9 Exams	23rd - 29th April
Year 10 Exams	6th - 9th May
Half Term	26th - 30th May
GCE/GCSE Yr11,12,13	12th May - 25th June
Year 7 Exams	2nd June - 6th June

Mind Games

Year 10 GCSE Religious Studies students were inspired by a Philosophy and Ethics Conference at Newstead Wood School for Girls in February. The event included seminars on Medical Ethics, Religion and Morality and Philosophy for Children.

The ten students completed a range of activities designed to intellectually stretch and challenge; one of which 'Thought Experiments' was used to help illustrate complicated philosophical concepts and certainly required some mental agility.

The students also worked collaboratively with Year 10 pupils from Newstead Wood School to create their own philosophical questions followed by a debate about the issues raised.

"Our students were excellent ambassadors for Beaverwood, employing perceptive arguments during the debates and exemplary conduct throughout the day".

-Mrs Patience: Trip Leader



Back to the Future

Beaverwood students are well aware of our school's rich and prestigious past because Mrs. Raven celebrates the School's birthday with us every October.

During this celebration she always reminds us of our history because it has helped to make us the excellent school that we are today.

As a consequence of this rich history, Governors have decided to revert to our former school name of Chislehurst School for Girls. We have removed the 'Sidcup' and 'Grammar' for obvious reasons.

This change will come into effect from September 2014 and will appear on all literature, stationery and signage in the future.

There will be no changes required to uniform, as the school emblem and motto will remain the same.

We look forward to many more successful years as *Chislehurst School for Girls*.

John Ransley
Chair of Governors



Year 9 Forensics Day

It's murder at Beaverwood School – This time it's for real. Harry Styles was murdered and all the science staff are suspects. Year 9 agents were asked to analyse the evidence from the crime scene and identify the murderer.

One student commented:
"It felt like we really were the detectives"

Chemicals, DNA, fingerprints, and soil samples were all tested to reveal the truth. At 2.30 pm the agents had identified Mrs Shimmin as the murderer. She was arrested, locked up and is awaiting trial for bad acting. A great day, and just one of the many exciting ways of teaching science skills to our students!

Students commented:
"My favourite enhancement day, but the sunglasses looked terrible"



World Book Day

In celebration of 'World Book Day' students were invited to dress as their favourite fictional characters on Thursday 6th March 2014.

In order to prepare for this event, students researched their favourite fictional characters, finding out as much as possible about them before they came to school 'in character'. They paid £1 to their house charities in order to dress up on the day. Characters ranged from Tracey Beaker to Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz, complete with her own Toto; a coven of witches in the English Department and a brilliant example of a "Zombie Queen of Newbury High".

Form tutors awarded Merits, Rewards and Achievement Points in form time for the best costume. House points were awarded for the forms with the overall best costumes and for those who have raised the most money for charity.

History visit to AUSCHWITZ- BIRKENAU

Forty Year 12 and 13 students from Beaverwood School travelled to Krakow Poland to visit the Nazi extermination camp at Auschwitz earlier this week.

The Sixth Form History students had a busy three day trip visiting the old Jewish quarter in Krakow, the old ghetto, Oskar Schindler's factory and the death camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau.

The trip was an intense and emotional experience for all. Walking underneath the iconic entrance gate with 'Arbeit Macht Frei' overhead was a sobering moment, with miles of electrified barbed-wire fences in either direction. Huge piles of shoes, suitcases, human hair, baby shoes and pots and pans, gave a small indication as to how many people had been murdered here. The group then went into a gas chamber and saw the trapdoors in the ceiling where canisters of Zyklon B pellets were dropped down on to the victims below.



Student George Adams, 17, who aspires to a future career in the Royal Marines said;

'The experience has changed me as a person. I had no idea of the impact this visit would have on me. It has made me want to go out in the world and create a society where incidents like the Holocaust cannot happen again and where people cannot just be by-standers.'

All students agreed that it has deepened their determination to challenge racism in their local area, as they have seen where it can lead.

History teacher, Ms Singer said *'I was extremely proud of the way that students have embraced the message of this trip. Beaverwood School is committed to the importance of education in building a fair and tolerant society.'*

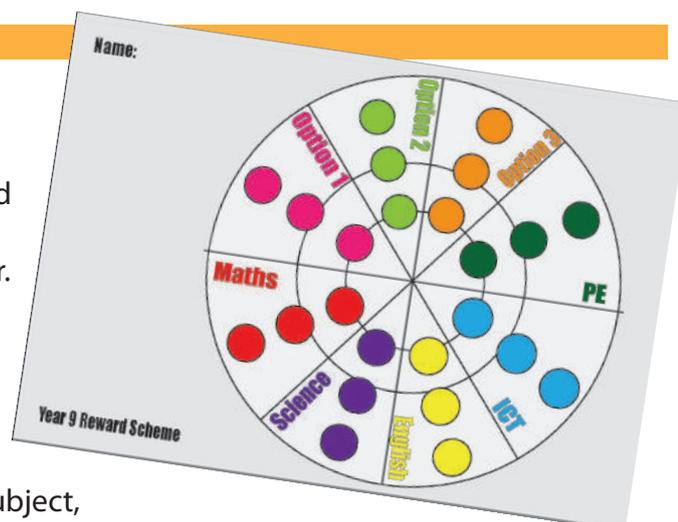
The students will be carrying out extensive outreach projects in the local community later in the year.

Year 9 & 10 Reward Scheme

Earlier this term, we launched a new reward scheme for Year 9 and 10 to promote the outstanding effort of students within the classroom. The reward card is presented in a trivial pursuit manner.

Each subject has a bronze, silver and gold level. When a pupil has filled in all the sections for all their subjects, a prize will be presented to that pupil.

Additionally, if the individual has completed all sections for one subject, a postcard will be sent home by the class teacher to inform the parent.



French exchange at Beaverwood

An Entente Cordiale was very much in evidence, in the afternoon, on Thursday March 13th, as we welcomed over 50 pupils and their teachers from our French exchange school, le Collège St Julien.

Their excursion in London culminated in a visit to Beaverwood School. Some old acquaintances were rekindled and new connections were established. We look forward to the next exchange this autumn.

Many pupils have already expressed the wish to take part in the exchange again, as besides the warm welcome they received, they felt it was of tremendous cultural and linguistic benefit to them. Details of the next exchange will be out shortly.



Encourage your child to learn computing

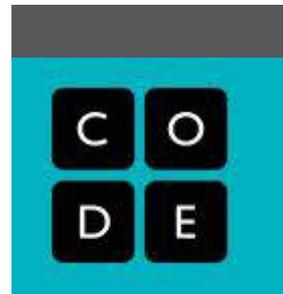
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/kodable/id577673067?mt=8>

Kodable is a free educational iPad game offering a child-friendly introduction to programming concepts and problem solving. For children ages 5 and up, and tools for grownups too!

<http://code.org/learn>

Kodable is a self-guided iPad game that introduces children 5+ to programming basics. Having a teacher or parent nearby is optimal, but not necessary.

Learn the basic concepts of Computer Science with drag and drop programming. This is a game-like, self-directed tutorial starring video lectures by Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, Angry Birds and Plants vs. Zombies. Learn repeat-loops, conditionals, and basic algorithms. Available in 20 languages.



Year 9 Geography trip to Sevenoaks

Earlier this term, the Year 9 Geography students went to Sevenoaks for the day. As part of their GCSE foundation year, they have been doing a unit on fieldwork and skills. This day was an opportunity to test out some of these skills. Pupils gathered data on whether Sevenoaks needs a new bypass and this involved walking the route of the bypass through Knole Park and then into the high street where the students conducted traffic and pedestrian counts, questionnaires and parking and traffic surveys. This day then formed the basis of a piece of controlled assessment which is similar to the project they must do in Year 10 for their actual GCSE. The weather was lovely and the girls were fantastic! They have produced some stunning pieces of work as a result of this and hopefully gained some experience and confidence in preparation for the real thing next year.

Year 10 University Trip

Eighty Year 10 students visited two London University campuses during Enhancement Day to find out about courses, student life and finances at University. The students walked the site and had question and answer sessions with two students. Students said that it has made them feel more confident about going to University and motivated them to achieve the grades that they need.

24hr Phone Switch Off!

Beaverwood Girls Give up their Phones for Charity

For 24 hours a group of Beaverwood School for Girls prove that life can go on without social media. Sealing their phones into bags that were signed by their teachers, they carried proof of their commitment with them all day.

Friends and family sponsored the girls to go "old school" in order to raise cash for Demelza House, a children's hospice in Bromley.

"Last year we raised over a £1,000 in this one event for the amazing charity and the girls were keen to beat that with this year's event. We look set to achieve that goal, as one girl alone has already raised over £100!" said Ms Lowing, Head of Bronte House.



Mrs Raven, Head Teacher said,

"Once again the girls have taken a fabulous opportunity to raise money for their community and prove their worth. Beaverwood girls have raised thousands of pounds each year for a range of charities both national and local. These were simply two examples of the many activities collaboratively arranged by staff and students in our community both for charitable causes and to enhance the curriculum for our girls."

Oxford Application Workshop

Mrs Jones took some of our top students to a Oxford Application workshop on 4th March. The day covered: Making a competitive application, mock interviews and subject-specific interview workshops. Students were split into three subject tracks – Humanities, Sciences and Social Sciences. Then they were given individual advice on how their interviews would be undertaken.

Humanities students discussed scenarios like 'would you rather destroy the Sistine Chapel or the Grand Canyon?' Politics, Philosophy and Economics students were asked questions like 'How many petrol stations are there in America?' The idea behind these questions are to see how students tackle the question, not in getting the correct answer.

Over lunch students were given the opportunity to speak to current undergraduates and tutors about studying at Oxford or Cambridge.

In the afternoon there were Academic sessions for Humanities/Social Sciences/Science.

These were run by Oxford tutors and focused on giving students an insight into teaching at a University level.

Overall, it proved to be an unusual and inventive day.

Year 10 & 12 Primary Visits

Year 10 leaders and year 12 BTEC students have developed their leadership skills this term with visits to local primary schools. Weekly visits have been carried out to Edgebury Primary School and Old Bexley Primary School where students have had the opportunity to teach dance and a variety of games to year 1 and year 2 pupils.

The students have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and have been a real credit to the school.

Year 10 Visit Bodiam Castle

Year 10 History students visited Bodiam Castle on both 11th and 12th May to undertake a site investigation as part of their History GCSE Controlled Assessment. Both days went very well despite having to brave the cold on the first day.



We were very proud of the positive attitude and behaviour of all our students on both days. They were pleasant, polite and respectful to their teachers, each other and members of the public. They followed instructions and took a genuine interest in the castle and the work that they were required to do.

Students have now started to use the site evidence that they gathered to answer the questions for their Controlled Assessment. They began the high control element of this task recently and despite some nerves they have shown great maturity in coping with the pressures of writing up their answers under examination style conditions.

We are extremely proud of them and we wish them every success with this task.

History Department

Beaverwood Ski Trip - Andorra

6pm Saturday and 18 students and 3 staff arrived at the school excited for their trip to Andorra. The excitement was curtailed by the storms and a 4-hour wait in Dover Docks, made worse still by the fact that there was no food left in WH Smith's and Burger King pulled down its shutters just as our girls got to the front –nobody was impressed!

Our arrival at our upgraded 4* Hotel - Magic Messana was a little later than anticipated, but once we had sorted skis, boots, helmets, rooms and the most important thing our dinner, everyone went to bed feeling exhausted but a little happier.



The next morning we walked over the road and hopped onto the gondola lift; it certainly was a treat not to get onto the coach every day. The trip had 4 hours of ski lessons a day, for six days, with hot lunches provided in the cafeteria on the slopes. The choice of food was extensive and there was a fish and vegetarian option at every meal. Andorra may be the smallest country we have visited but they undoubtedly offer the most variety of foods.

We also managed to squeeze in an evening trip to the bowling alley and a quiz. As well as a shopping trip to the capital, where we spotted Andorra's Mini Shard as well as their wide variety of shops. All we had to worry about was how we were going to pack all our purchases into our cases before our trip home.

Our final morning was a little rushed because some of us had to empty our rooms and leave it all in a new space so that those rooms could be made ready for the next arrivals (and to enable us to shower before getting back on the coach!) Up on the slopes we were the only ones around and it enabled us to make snow angels and pose for a Team Beaverwood Pic!

This year there were more laughs than ever, especially in the evenings. Miss Hosken, Miss Waggett and I certainly had fun taking lots of pictures every day and uploading them to our ski trip blog regularly.

We hope the girls gained more than learning how to ski from their week away and we look forward to seeing one or two of them in the USA next year, or perhaps on our return to Andorra – whenever that may be.

For anyone interested, there are still a couple of spaces left on the USA trip.

Viva Nigeria!

The Swift Weavers Project

As Part of our continuing involvement in the Swift Weavers Project involving schools in Nigeria, Bromley and Zimbabwe, we were visited on March 19th by 11 students and 2 staff from Spring Secondary School in the Kano Province of Nigeria.



The Swift Weavers Project has now been running for three years and as a result of the project we have developed a deeper understanding of life in these countries and have shared experiences with our partner schools. Mrs Tellick has visited both Nigeria and Zimbabwe and shared her experiences with students at Beaverwood and other local schools.

As a result of our participation in the project, we have:

- Shared information about our culture and school life
- Developed our knowledge about life in other countries and cultures
- Taken part in basket weaving and soapstone carving workshops
- Participated in a "happiness project"



Our visitors from Nigeria challenged our preconceptions about life in Nigeria. They were from a well financed private school with class sizes of 15 and access to the latest technology – a far cry from the state schools that Ms. Tellick had witnessed during her time in Nigeria where students practised their IT skills on cardboard cut-out computers. The visitors shared with us some of their traditional songs and clothing and were keen to learn all about the different educational culture in England. The Senior Student team joined with our Nigerian visitors to plant native Nigerian trees which we hope will grow so as to serve as a symbol of the links between our two countries.

Thorpe Park Trip

On Thursday 27th March six Year 13 Travel and Tourism students and eight Year 9 Leisure and Tourism students set off on their journey to Thorpe Park at 8.15am. The Year 13 students were feeling quite nervous, not from the thought of going on scary rides, but being in charge and leading a trip that they have been planning as part of their A level course since last September. The students had planned every part of the trip from choosing a destination, planning a lesson to be taught on arrival to the Year 9 students, creating handbooks for students and teachers, creating risk assessments, booking tickets... the list goes on.

All Year 13 students completed their roles on the trip to a high standard and were caring towards the Year 9 students when it started pouring with rain, helping them to dry off under the hand driers! The Year 13's did a great job of trying to get the Year 9 students to think about work for themselves and were great at praising the responses given.

All students on the trip had a fantastic time on the rides and despite the rain in the afternoon had a great educational and fun visit to Thorpe Park. A big well done to the Year 13 students for a well-run trip.

End of Term Arrangements

Friday 4th April

P1 and 2: lessons as normal - Extended break: 10.25 to 11.00

Dismissal from forms at 12.10/12.15

First day back: Tuesday 22nd April at 08:30am



Happy Easter

FROM ALL OF US AT
BEAVERWOOD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS