



OLD BUCKENHAM HIGH SCHOOL

'Achieving Excellence Together'



Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems hard to believe that we are already into the second week of 2010. The snow and freezing conditions conspired to disrupt the start of term but contrary to some reports, I cannot be held personally responsible for the worst weather to hit Norfolk in 30 years! By now, the students have got used to seeing me around the school at break- and lunchtime in my boots, hat and gloves. In spite of the weather though, the welcome I have received from everyone has been very warm. I should like to take this opportunity to extend a particular vote of thanks to the Governors for their support and commitment to the school. They are superb and I know they will keep me on my toes.

Thank you all for your cooperation following the early closure on Wednesday 6 January and continued closure on Thursday and Friday along with all the other local high schools. The staff and students are to be commended on the way they worked together to ensure that everyone got home safely and quickly following the blizzard conditions on 6 January. I am very sorry that many of you were unavoidably inconvenienced at short notice.

I do hope you have had a chance to read my first newsletter which was sent home with students recently and in which I set out some of my hopes and expectations for Old Buckenham High School. You will also find a copy of it on the school's website.

As you know, the GCSE results in 2009 were the school's best ever and in terms of the Gold Standard which is 5 or more A*-C passes including English and Maths, Old Buckenham came second out of the 52 high schools in Norfolk. Progress made by students in English and Maths was outstanding as highlighted in the recently published Government league tables. Follow the link below for more information.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performance/tables/schools_09.shtml

As I have said, it is a privilege to be the Headteacher of such an incredible school. There is so much to celebrate. Thank you for making me feel so welcome and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Peter Whear,
Headteacher

Governors' News

It is Governors' undiluted pleasure this month to welcome Peter Whear to the School as our new Head. Peter will be a magnificent leader taking Old Buckenham High School from strength to strength. Some Governors were fortunate enough to attend Peter's first training and strategy day with the staff, and if that is anything to go by Old Buckenham High School has a bright, energetic, organised, intelligent and highly successful future.

Governors are absolutely delighted to welcome two new Parent Governors to their number. Two parents stood for the

two vacant posts and so no ballot was required. Between them David Hicks and John Lucas bring the wonderful bonus of experience in School Building, Accounts, School Management and Strategic Leadership, but more important than all of this, they both bring with them that invaluable and intangible asset—the life of a parent with children at our School. David and John, you are both most welcome.

Since this month's Governor's News seems themed around welcoming—Governors would like to welcome everyone in the Old Buckenham School Community to this frosty start to the new year, with the warmest of wishes for 2010 and the hope that it will be as successful a year for all of you as we are sure it will be for the School under Peter Whear's leadership.

Contact Governors at:
governors@oldbuckenhamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk

Dates for your diary

- 19th January:** Year 11 Parents Eve
- 20th January:** Royal Airforce Band concert
- 28th January:** Mock Art Exam
- 29th January:** Mock Art Exam
- 3rd February:** Year 9 Options Eve
- 7th February:** Production rehearsal Years 7-10 (2 to 5pm)
- 10th February:** Interhouse Music Competition 7pm
- 12th February:** Year 9 reports issued
- 12th February:** Hand in option forms
- 12th February:** Last day of half-term

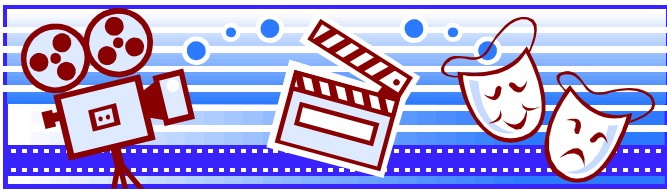
School resumes on Monday 22nd February which is a week A



If you would like to receive a colour newsletter by email, please send your details to: ahassan1@red.esinet.org.uk

Performing Arts Dept Calendar Dates

Wed 10th Feb	Inter-house Music Competition 7pm
Wed 10th Mar	Spring Concert 7:30pm
Wed 17th Mar	Years 7-10 Drama production 7.30pm
Fri 19th Mar	Years 7-10 Drama production 7.30pm
Sat 20th Mar	Years 7-10 Drama production 7.30pm
Tues 30th Mar	GCSE Drama public performance 6pm
Wed 31st Mar	GCSE Drama exam
Wed 7th Jul	Summer Concert 7.30pm



ARTS DIARY

◆ Rehearsals have now begun for our Spring Drama Production, Moliere's 'Don Juan'. Hopefully, the weather will not disrupt things too much.

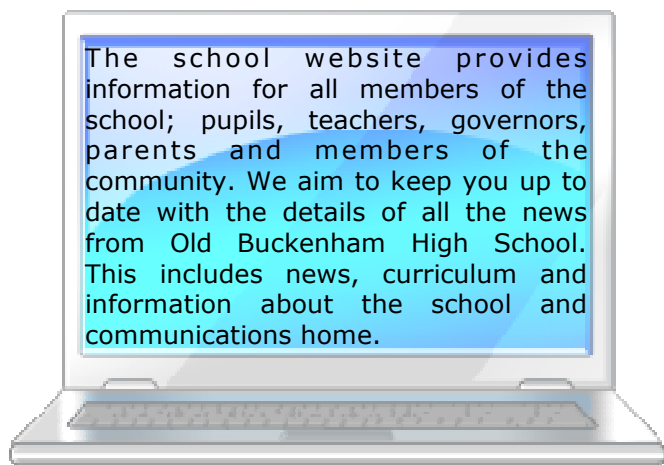
◆ Two upcoming theatre trips: 'Man is Man' by Brecht on January 22nd and 'One-Man Lord of the Rings' on Friday 19th February. Both performances are at Norwich Playhouse. See Mr Lynch for details/letters.

◆ We have begun rehearsals for our upcoming concert 'One Night with Derek': a tribute to Eric Clapton'. The 'gig' takes place on Saturday 30th January at 8 p.m.
Admission: £2 (under 10's, free).

By the way – any parents out there like to play or sing at the gig? Contact Mr Lynch at school.

School website

www.oldbuckenhamhighschool.co.uk



The school website provides information for all members of the school; pupils, teachers, governors, parents and members of the community. We aim to keep you up to date with the details of all the news from Old Buckenham High School. This includes news, curriculum and information about the school and communications home.

Carnegie Book Awards

We would like to set up a book group to shadow the award this year and are asking for avid readers to join in.

It usually requires commitment from pupils to read a number of excellent books, comment on them, and predict which one will win. Meetings would take place one lunchtime every couple of weeks so they can talk about and swap books. Also, if possible, we would like to join in with another local high school to hold an announcement ceremony/party.

Please would any pupils who enjoy reading see Mrs Hassan or Mr Dixon before Friday 22nd January.



OBHS Poet Laureate 2010

After a fantastic year Jordan Bailey stepped down from his position as our School's Poet Laureate for 2009. His successor was announced in a special assembly, and we are very pleased to welcome Gareth Townsend of 10CR as our Poet Laureate for 2010.

His winning poem was read out during the assembly and many pupils and teachers commented afterwards about how poignant it was, with many enquiring as to whether this was written through personal experience. Thankfully it was not, but it shows just how able this young man is at portraying the feelings of so many others. We congratulate you Gareth, and look forward to reading your work over the year ahead.

Why?

Dad should be here with us now

But instead I ask the same questions, why and how?
He was fighting in the mountains of Afghanistan when,
He hit the floor, never to see us, his family again.

That fateful morning, I heard a knock at the door,
I heard the news and fell to the floor.
Tears, streaming down my face.

When my Mother sat next to me with a loving embrace

I sat in my room, oblivious of what anyone else was feeling,
The hole in my heart, still a lifetime from healing.
Why? Was all I could say when anybody offered their support,
Why do people use fighting, even as a last resort?

The day of his funeral arrived, my final chance to say goodbye,
His Commander was there, I couldn't even look him in the eye.
Dad's coffin covered with the Union Flag, his beret was on top,
I was just praying for all this fighting to stop.

As attention was called, the stamp of the boot,
Signalled time for a final salute.

As they lowered him down, the 'The Last Post'
It was that which hurt me the most.

Now Christmas is coming, my wish for all of you,
Is to pray that one day, the carols will come true.
I just hope when ceasefire is called on this horrific endeavour,
That gunfire will cease once and forever.

By Gareth Townsend OBHS Poet Laureate 2010

Interhouse Basketball Results

Year 7

1st	Fry
2nd	Coke
3rd	Townshend
4th	Borrow
5th	Crome

Year 10

1st	Townshend
2nd	Fry
3rd	Coke
4th	Borrow
5th	Crome

Year 8

1st	Borrow
2nd	Coke
3rd	Fry
4th	Townshend
5th	Crome

Year 11

1st	Townshend
2nd	Crome
3rd	Coke
4th	Borrow

Year 9

1st	Townshend
2nd	Borrow
3rd	Coke
4th	Fry
5th	Crome

OVERALL

1st	Townshend
2nd	Coke
3rd	Borrow
4th	Fry
5th	Crome

Tennis effort helps Norfolk to come third!

We would like to second the thoughts of the EDP Sports Reporter on 15th December when we say congratulations to Michael Tudor of 9CR for his efforts in the Norfolk Under-14 boys tennis team. They recently took part in the Hildon 12 Counties Championship and his team finished an admirable 3rd place with only Nottinghamshire and Bedfordshire managing to take higher positions.

Well done Michael!

Interhouse Music Competition 2010

Following last year's pilot, the 2010 competition takes place on Wednesday 10th February at 7pm in the school hall. Each of the five school houses will prepare three musical performances in the categories of Singing, Band and Solo/Duet. Once again the house entries will be co-ordinated entirely by the pupils, who will present their performances before a panel of judges, who will then select a winning house to present with the Governors' Cup, and an individual to receive the Ely Award for the greatest individual contribution. Unlike the sports inter-houses there are no competitions for each year group, but members of all years are encouraged to join forces as part of their House. Rehearsals have already begun! Please encourage your children to participate.

Christmas Eve in Old Buckenham

On Christmas Eve, eight members of the School Choir represented Old Buckenham High School at the annual Carol Service in Old Buckenham Church. Mr Hilton was the organist for the evening, and Mrs Winters conducted the choir. Danni Haylett was the soloist for 'Once in Royal David's City'. The choir performed 'Angel's Song' from the Christmas Show and Mrs Winters played 'In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning' on the trombone, accompanied by Mr Hilton. Over 450 people attended the service, and many commented on how good the school choir was, how professional the evening was and that it was the best carol service to date at Old Buckenham.



Christmas Show

Thank you to all who came to support our pupils—the audience totalled around 230 people, not to mention the 90 pupils and various staff involved. Well done to all the actors, choirs, soloists, band and stage crew who made the evening so much fun for us all.

OBHS EXTRA CURRICULAR January 2010

	LUNCHTIME	AFTER SCHOOL
MONDAY	Year 7 Basketball	PE GCSE Revision School Band (in the hall)
TUESDAY	Years 8 & 9 Basketball Singing Group (Room 30)	Years 10 & 11 Hockey Y7 & 8 Netball Years 7, 8 & 9 Football
WEDNESDAY	Years 10 & 11 Basketball Jazz Band (Room 30)	GCSE Badminton Year 10 Football Years 9, 10 & 11 Netball Years 8 & 9 Rugby
THURSDAY	Basketball - Girls PE Detention	GCSE Trampoline Years 7, 8 & 9 Hockey Years 10 & 11 Rugby Year 11 Football



We were finally able to hold our draw on Tuesday and here are the lucky winners!

1st Prize	£100 One4All Voucher Card	Mr Todd
2nd Prize	£25 One4All Voucher card	Peter Dunsmore
3rd Prize	Tub of Celebrations Chocolates	Mr Downham
4th Prize	Tin of Biscuits	Mr Braithwaite
5th Prize	Bendicks Chocolate Mints	Mr Matsell & Mrs Collins

Thank you once again for your support, Ella-Grace was home in time for Christmas although she still has a long way to go.

Inter-House Photographic Competition launched

Senior students at OBHS are renowned for making the most of any situation, and the recent snow has been no exception. Senior prefects (under the guidance of Mrs C Smith) are launching Old Buckenham's first ever Inter-House Photographic competition...on the subject of snow!

We're sure many of you will have taken some chilly pictures and full details will be available shortly on House notice boards, bulletin and server. In the meantime, speak to the prefects or senior members of your house to find out how the photos will be collected and displayed, and get snapping if we get some more!



Pictured is a rarity for Norfolk—A snowball tree discovered in a garden in Wymondham. Sent in by Mrs Smith

Office opening hours

If you need to contact the School Office then it is open at the following times:

8.15am—4.15pm	Mondays to Thursdays
8.15am—4.00pm	Fridays



In with the new, out with the old!

(extract from the Old Buckenham Village newsletter)

There will soon be a new bank on the village hall car park. VERG (Village Environment and Recycling Group) have been approached by BCR Global to do experimental toy collections. These are in the same vein as the textile collections which already take place with all donations finding their way to third world countries.

Villagers are being invited to put toys still in good condition (or only slightly damaged) into the bank for collection and distribution.

The toy collections will be weighed and VERG will receive recycling 'credits' of £44.90 per tonne.



OLD BUCKENHAM CLUSTER LOGO REVEALED!

Dear All,

We are now in the position to share with you the Old Buckenham cluster logo in its finished state. As you may remember it was designed by a pupil at Carleton Rode Primary School last academic year. We are sure you will agree it was a well thought out design. We loved the idea of the jigsaw and all of the schools being part of a jigsaw that fits together. It really does symbolise what we are trying to achieve with sharing resources and activities across schools to allow more people to access a variety of things on offer. You will see this logo on lots of cluster activities that are arranged in the future.



*Alex Hunter (Extended Schools Coordinator) &
Sarah Jacklin (Parent Support Adviser)*

EXTENDED SCHOOLS NEWS

HOLIDAY CAMPS/ACTIVITIES FOR TEENS

There will be more holiday camps in the New Year during school holidays which I will continue to make you aware of. These are mainly aimed at primary school age pupils but there are also opportunities for various activities run by Breckland Council for high school age pupils. These are often run in local locations and I will advertise them leading up to them taking place.

ESAFETY & CYBER BULLYING SESSIONS

Sarah Jacklin and I would like to thank all of those parents who came to these sessions which we ran at East Harling Primary and Old Buckenham High school on two separate evenings last term. They were run in response to many parents across the cluster saying that they would like this type of session. It was an awareness session to run through some of the safety aspects regarding online use and to provide links to other places where further support and information can be obtained. We hope you found them useful.

We would also like to thank the 5 high school pupils who volunteered to help us at these sessions. They have been rewarded with chocolate and certificates!

OTHER NEWS

Other things I am looking at for this year for the cluster are some more family fun sessions including 'Dads & Lads' and 'Mums & Daughters' sessions (watch this space!).

I will also be working with all of the schools to jointly look at some aspects of community cohesion where we will be looking at countries that schools link up with and sharing some of this information across the cluster. We hope to run some themed evenings relating to some of these countries in the future.

I am also looking into developing a website which would be useful for parents and schools to link into for extended services, activities for children and parents as well as parent support and advice. I will keep you informed of progress as this develops.

Best wishes

Alex Hunter

Extended Schools Coordinator