

Old Buckenham High School

Newsletter

September 2006

from the Headmaster



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to all our familiar faces, and a special welcome to our new Year 7 pupils, who are already proving themselves to be an energetic, entertaining but hardworking group of pupils. The new purple ties, representing Fry House, have caused a stir, and are indicative of the popularity of our ever-increasing School.

Welcome also to new staff members:

Mr Boyce, who is with us for the Autumn Term teaching Maths; Mr Brandreth, Librarian; Mr Crane, Maths; Mr Hilton, Cover Supervisor; Mrs Ireson, Teaching Assistant; Miss Mead, Teaching Assistant; Mrs Minton, Art; Mrs Mortimer, Cover Supervisor; Mrs Oslavio, Teaching Assistant; Miss Pathmaranjan, Teaching Assistant; Miss Smith, Science and Miss White, RE. We hope you all enjoy working within Old Buckenham High School.

You may have seen press releases over the summer holidays regarding our exam successes for Summer 2006.

Our Year 11 GCSE students performed well, with 63.4% achieving 5 or more higher grades. Our top performer was Rebecca Chapman, who achieved 10 A grades and 1 A, our best ever performance at GCSE. Danielle Dunsmore, Rhian Hector, Rachel Daniel and Gemma Green also achieved 11 grades at A* or A. Matthew Walker was our top performing boy, with 6 A* and 3 A grades. In addition, over a quarter of our new Year 11 began the year with up to 3 GCSE grades as a result of the spectacular success of our express groups in English and RE Short Course. The ten English students achieved 10 A* and 10 A grades between them in Literature and Language, with double A* grades for Patrick Daniel, Eleanor Mumford and Katie Pavid. 10 A grades were also achieved in RE.*

It is pleasing to know that, in a world where pressures are constantly mounting, the OBHS staff remain as driven, dedicated and generous with their time as ever. With new 'A' and 'AS' level initiatives now firmly underway, we look forward to our most exciting year yet.

END OF KEY STAGE 3 RESULTS

The results from the Key Stage 3 English Tests are now in and Year 10 students will receive an amended summary along with this Newsletter. National concerns expressed about standards in Core subjects of English, Maths and Science cannot be applied here. As a group they met or exceeded ambitious targets in all three disciplines, enabling Year 10 to begin their GCSE studies with great confidence.

'SHELTER FROM THE STORM' CONFERENCE AT NORWICH CATHEDRAL

As part of the School's commitment to 'Gifted and Talented' pupils, on Friday 8th September, Mr Knight and Miss White are taking ten Year 11 pupils to this prestigious and nationally covered event in Norwich. The main purpose of the day is to debate the relationship between science and religion in the context of tackling climate change. A full account of the day will appear in the next monthly Newsletter. The pupils representing the School are:

Tristram St John Cooper, Timothy Coates, Joshua Peaks, Katie Pavid, Thomas Le Cornu, Ben Palmer, Patrick Daniel, Katy Walker, Rachel Lismore-Burns, Lauren Razavi.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY LESSONS

For many years, Old Buckenham High School has helped provide ingredients for practical Food lessons. However, due to changes in lesson length, there will no longer be time to weigh and measure during the lessons. Pupils are, therefore, asked to bring all ingredients to lessons already weighed and prepared. The School will provide eggs and milk, should pupils wish to purchase them for lessons. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but hope it will facilitate the smooth running and efficiency of practical Food lessons.

SPORTS DAY

Sports Day was held on 5th July 2006. It was a great success with over 90% of the School participating in either a track or field event. The results of Sports Day are as follows:

1 st	Borrow	788 points
2 nd	Coke	760 points
3 rd	Townshend	745 points
4 th	Crome	722 points

This year was also a great year for School records to be broken. The new records set are as follows:

Yr 7 Boys' Long Jump, Jordan Ely 7CO	4.10m
Yr 8 Girls' 200m, Leanne Parker 8T	29.57 secs
Yr 8 Girls' 300m, Leanne Parker 8T	45 secs
Yr 8 Boys' 1500m, Thomas Francis 8B	4.49 mins
Yr 8 Boys' Long Jump, Callum Anders 8CO	4.55m
Yr 9 Boys' Discus, Spencer Butler 9T	33.70m
Yr 10 Boys' 100m, Alex Kelsall 10T	11.44 secs

The School has also awarded two pupils, a boy and a girl, with the titles of Victor Ludorum and Victrix Ludorum. These are given to those pupils who have performed to a high standard in a number of events. These are normally given to Year 10 pupils but an exception was made this year for the Victrix Ludorum, which went to Leanne Parker. The Victor Ludorum went to Alex Kelsall.

Congratulations to all the above pupils and well done to everyone who participated.

SPORTS CLUBS

The PE Department is offering various clubs this term. Every pupil is welcome to join the clubs but only those who train regularly will be selected to play in the School teams. The clubs are as follows:

Monday:	Lunchtime:	Years 7 & 8 Basketball;
Tuesday:	After School:	Years 10 & 11 Hockey; Years 7, 8 & 9 Netball;
Wednesday:	Lunchtime:	Years 9, 10 & 11 Basketball league; Years 7 & 8 & 9 Hockey;
	After School:	All Years Girls' Football; Yrs 10 & 11 Boys' Football;
Thursday:	After School:	Years 7, 8 & 9 Boys' Football; Years 10 & 11 Netball.

THEATRE AND MUSIC EVENTS

Forthcoming theatre trips abound, with a wide variety of shows on offer, open to all Year Groups.

- Christine Collister in Concert, CB2, Cambridge Saturday 23rd September. "One of our greatest voices." says Radio 2's Bob Harris; "Not to be missed." says Mr Lynch.
- Craig Ross presents 'One Man Star Wars Trilogy' at Norwich Playhouse, Friday 29th September, 7.30 p.m. The fights, the music, the dialogue - all by one guy!
- 'Spamalot' - the Monty Python Musical at Palace Theatre, London, Saturday 11th November. Now you can sing and laugh along with Brave Sir Robin, King Arthur, the French Knights, The Knights who say "Ni!" and other favourites from the 'Holy Grail' movie.
- 'Wicked' - the smash Broadway hit about Oz's Wicked Witch of the West. Victoria Theatre, London, 9th December.

Letters for all these trips are available from Mr Lynch. Places are limited, so get in soon.

In addition, there will be a rock gig in the School Hall on Saturday 30th September, featuring a set from some talented Year 11 musicians, plus a tribute to punk rockers, The Clash. 7.15 - 9.00 p.m. Pay £1 on the door.

NESTLÉ BOX TOPS OFFER

Nestlé cereals are giving schools the chance to build for free a collection of high quality educational books. All we need to do is collect the tops of special packs of Nestlé breakfast cereals and cereal bars, and once again we are asking for your support. Box tops can be handed in to the School Office during School hours. Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 12th September: Year 11 Art trip to National Portrait Gallery and Tate Modern;

Wednesday 13th September: Whole School photograph;

Thursday 14th September: Year 11 GCSE Geography trip to Southwold;

Friday 15th September: Year 11 GCSE Geography trip to Southwold;

Monday 18th September: 'Blood Brothers' trip to Ipswich Regent. Depart OBHS 5.45 p.m.; return by 11.15 p.m. approx.

Saturday 23rd September: Christine Collister Concert at CB2 Cambridge. Depart OBHS 5.30 p.m.; return 11.00 p.m.

Saturday 30th September: Rock gig in the School Hall 7.30 p.m.