

Old Buckenham High School

Newsletter

October 2007

from the Headmaster



Dear Parents,

With the new school year well underway, it is pleasing to report on how our new Year 7 pupils have settled in. Staff report on how happy and confident they are and on how they have adapted effortlessly to a working day very different from their Primary School experience. I am encouraged by the number of Year 7s who have heeded the advice to use the lockers available, but I would urge still more to join them and save themselves carrying heavy bags, containing virtually all their belongings, around the School all day.

At our first full Governors' meeting of the term, we said goodbye, reluctantly, to two key Governors. Caroline Sinclair has served as a Governor for four years, where her professional experience in the field of Human Resources has proven invaluable to the Personnel Committee. She has now moved with her family elsewhere within the County. We also said goodbye to Jan Scrutton, our Chair of Governors. Jan has served on the Governing Body for six years, with great commitment and distinction. As she moves to California with her family to begin a new life, I extend a huge vote of thanks, both personal and on behalf of the School, for her unswerving dedication to the cause of developing and improving the educational experience for all members of our School Community.

At the meeting the following Governors were elected to serve as officers for the year: Chairman of Governors, Chris Talbot; Vice Chair and Chair of Personnel Committee, Peter Francis; Chair of the Finance Committee, Alison Haylett; Chair of the Curriculum Committee, Cate Harper; Chair of the Premises Committee, Martin Ungless. Thanks are also due to Sarah Jones, who steps down from the role of Premises Chair but remains a member of the Governing Body. All of these officers can be contacted through the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Carole Bradshaw. With their collective help, and yours, we can move the School forward to even greater heights and achievements.

G J Hodson

JUST SMILE

Those of you who watch BBC Breakfast Television may have seen Harriet Gilford (10CO) being interviewed, along with her three friends, following the 'Wham Project' competition. As we reported in a previous newsletter, the girls had worked on a project designed to deal with cyber bullying, a highly topical issue; they won the competition with their 'Just Smile' project and will go on to be involved in Anti-Bullying Week (19th – 23rd November). They also have the pleasure of a Caribbean holiday to look forward to as part of their prize! Well done: we are immensely proud of your achievement.

YOUNG CARERS FORUM

James Kirk (11CR) has taken part in the Young Carers Forum, a group who represent over 175,000 children caring for family members on a daily basis. Invited to take part, James was filmed for a BBC 3 documentary and for an educational and training DVD. As well as helping to inform and guide others, the forum gave James the opportunity to meet other people who, like him, have that extra responsibility outside School. There was some fun involved too: the young carers were kayaking, zipwiring and enjoying other activities which their home commitments don't allow them time to do. Young carers, including James, deserve and need help and backing: it is hoped that the BBC will have helped to open people's eyes.

RADIO STAR

Ellen Nicholls of 11T had the exciting opportunity of appearing on Radio Norfolk on Thursday 27th September. Ellen went along with two people from the Old Buckenham drama group who are performing two plays on October 5th and 6th. She is providing the entertainment during the interval, along with band members Adam and Tom. Presenter, Roy Waller, seemed impressed with her first song and asked for another at the end of the interview. Well done, Ellen, the bright lights are beckoning!

KEEP ON RUNNING

Congratulations to Tom Francis, 10B, who was invited to join the elite competitors in the Junior Great North Run held in Newcastle on Saturday. He covered the 4.5 km distance in 15m 27 seconds, coming 14th out of a field of 2,000. Watch out for Tom in the 2012 Olympics.

FUTURE VENTURES

We are working hard to raise the students' interest in languages. We are currently introducing Spanish as a subject and will be offering all students a 'taster' course in Spanish, German and French during Key Stage 3 to help them choose an option which appeals to them when the time comes. In addition, to improve the students' exposure to different cultures, and particularly to those languages that they are studying, we are hoping to organise links with schools in France, Spain and Germany. Later this week, Mrs Nicholson will be visiting a school in Carcassonne in the South of France, which has already expressed an interest in linking up with us via video-conferencing technology and via email. We are hoping that this friendship could lead to a physical exchange in the next year for those interested in studying French.

Mr Evans reports an excellent response to our proposal for a visit to The Gambia in the summer of 2009. We now have the task of deciding how to shortlist those who want to go!

ARTS DIARY

- Rehearsals have begun for our upcoming musical production which has a final title of 'The Devil and Daniel Foster'. The show will play for three nights in late November; tickets will go on sale after half term.
- On Thursday 18th October, a group of Year 10/11 pupils are off to the Norwich Playhouse to see KAOS Theatre's version of Shakespeare's 'Midsummer Night's Dream'. The company is well known for its radical treatment of classics and a KAOS production always provokes debate. We will review the show in the next newsletter.
- Thanks for the response to our proposed trip to see the new musical version of 'Lord of the Rings' at London's Drury Lane Theatre. Mr Lynch and Miss White will accompany the group. Booking is now closed on this trip.
- On Wednesday 7th November, we are pleased to have, once again, a concert by Clive Gregson. This is Clive's third visit, Old Buckenham now being a regular stop on his UK tour. For those not familiar with Clive: having led 'Any Trouble', a band who made several albums for 'Stiff' and EMI records, Clive joined the band led by ex-Fairport Convention guitarist, Richard Thompson. For several years, he toured with folk-singer Christine Collister (who appeared at OBHS last year) then went solo. He now lives in Nashville, Tennessee, visiting the UK twice a year to tour. He recently played dates with American country star, Nancy Griffiths, and ex 'Dr Hook' singer, Dennis Lacarriere. Clive is a gifted songwriter and guitarist and is well worth seeing. Admission is £6: no tickets will be printed but for advance payment a receipt will be provided, which guarantees entrance. For more information visit: www.clivegregson.com

'Bouncers' – Review by Year 11 Student

On 27th September a group of Year 10 and 11 students travelled to the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds for a showing of the John Godber comedy, 'Bouncers'. It tells the story of four bouncers and what they have to put up with every Friday night. It was enjoyed by all and thoroughly entertaining. We recommend this to all upper school students as a great night out.

MUSIC MATTERS

Our arrangement with the County Music Service has started well, with students from Years 7 to 11 taking part in peripatetic music tuition in Brass, Woodwind, Singing and Drums. We still have a few places left in these areas for additional participants, and we are seeking to introduce Guitar tuition run along similar lines. Please contact Mr Hilton for details of all these opportunities.

SPORTING NEWS

Netball

OBHS 18 – 9 Thetford Grammar

Congratulations to the U16 Netball team who won their first league game of the season away to Thetford Grammar. After a rusty start, OBHS bounced back with some better play to record a convincing win, 18-9.

Jodi-Rae Green - Captain

Year 9 Netball Match Report

On Thursday 20th September the Year 9 Netball team travelled to Thetford Grammar. What was a close match initially soon saw the OBHS girls take the advantage, allowing them to score goal after goal to secure a 9 – 3 win. Well done to all players: Jess Underwood, Jess Wilkinson, Jess Toombs, Christie McKeown, Gemma Humphreys, Victoria Holland, Louise Larwood and Lily Shooter.

Hockey

OBHS 2 – 1 Hartismere

Well done to the U16 Hockey team who came from a goal behind to win their first Hockey match of the league season. Goals in the last two quarters from Imogen Williams and Summer Copeland helped to seal the win. Special mention for goalkeeper, Mollie Foster-Wright, who made some great saves throughout the game.

Vicky Hicks - Captain

OBHS 0 – 6 Diss

Hard luck to the U17 Hockey team who put in a brave performance against local counterparts Diss High School. Despite the scoreline, the girls put into practice all the skills they had focused on in training and played an excellent match. Player of the match goes to goalkeeper, Charlotte Boak, who made some brilliant saves after stepping in at the last minute.

Lucy Hatcher - Captain

Football

OBHS 3 – 4 Northgate

On 18th September the Year 8 Football team travelled to Northgate High School to play in the first round of the South Norfolk Cup, in what turned out to be an excellent game. Northgate started the brighter and opened up a two goal lead by half time, but credit to OBHS who stuck at it and were rewarded shortly after the break with two fine goals from James Holm. This seemed to spur Northgate on to the offensive and they quickly hit back with two more goals of their own. OBHS, however, did not give up and Jack Filby slotted one in to claim the final goal.

Taylor Browne – Captain, Jack Filby

Dates for Your Diary

October

- Friday 5th Gifted & Talented Study Day in London
- Thursday 11th Staff training day – school closed to pupils
Open Evening, 5.30 – 8.00 p.m.
- Tuesday 16th High Schools Choir Festival in Norwich
Post 16 Evening - 7.30 p.m.
- Thursday 18th Friends of OBHS AGM - 7 – 7.30 p.m. in Room 33, all parents welcome
Departure of WW1 Battlefields Trip
Years 10 & 11 Drama trip to Norwich
- Friday 19th School Closes for Half Term
- Saturday 20th Battlefields Trip returns
- Monday 29th School re-opens

November

- Thursday 1st Years 8 & 9 Trip to Global Action Conference