



THE BLUE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Mr S Jackson

Headteacher

Many thanks to all who attended the recent Y11 Presentation Ceremony. The superb student performances together with Mr Cooper's Valedictory Address combined to set the seal on a very pleasant occasion which was an entirely appropriate send off for a highly regarded year group. We look forward to a similar celebration with Upper Sixth Students at their forthcoming Summer Ball. In the meantime our very best wishes to all students involved in this summer's public examinations.

Our new website is now up and running and can be found at www.theblueschoolwells.co.uk. This newsletter, together with previous newsletters, can be found under the News and Events link and we hope that parents will use this to access future newsletters allowing us to reduce printing. Some parts of the website are still under construction but there are some useful links and information already in place.

Many thanks to the School Governors who subsidised the cost of the photographs for Y11 students. For further orders please visit The School Photography Company at:

www.tspc-shop.co.uk. click on the orange triangle.
username: LY36iU1 password: 9CLES6T

The Blue School

Roll of Honour

Aidan Turner 9WT passed his grade 3 drum exam with a merit. **Jonathan Moore** 9SG passed his drum exam grade 1 with distinction! **Evie Phillips** 10GL achieved Grade 6 merit in her clarinet exam. Well done everyone

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Budge (English) who became proud parents of Evie Florence, arriving on 11.05.09 weighing 6lb 8oz

Leaving the School Site

Mr J Reay

There have been a number of instances recently where an unwell student has left the school site without our knowledge, having contacted their parents who have in turn given their permission for them to go home. For Health & Safety reasons it is essential that students follow school procedures and report to the 1st Aid room when feeling unwell. Staff will assess the illness and will contact parents if the student needs to go home. They will then be directed to the pastoral office to sign out.

We would be grateful for your support in ensuring your son or daughter follows this procedure.

Ski Trip 2009

Mr P Newbery

After a lot of planning, ski fit sessions in the sports hall, ski clobber fittings and a trip to the Dry Ski Slope, the day arrived. On Saturday 4th April arrived and we met up at the bus in Milton. Everybody was there on time and once Siobhan's dad had fetched her ski jacket we were off. The coach journey to the resort was well managed and we arrived early (just as well after 23 hours!). Check-in and the fitting of skis and boots and we were all ready for skiing the next day.

Skiing started the next day – all arranged into 5 groups and lessons started. The slopes were busy but the snow good and the weather just right at the start of the week. During the week, all students improved their skiing. The beginners groups skied on Blue and Red runs during the week and even attempted and successfully came down a steep and lumpy Black run by the end of the week. The advanced group skied and used the snow blades on all manner of routes including a lot of *off piste* routes, managing to get lost on one occasion. The weather remained excellent during the week and we had some good spring skiing – with several students returning with a good facial tan.

The group took part in a number of after skiing activities ranging from swimming, shopping, 10 pin bowling (twice), playing pool, going to a movie (Indian film, in English with French sub-titles!) and 2 excellent games-evenings arranged by Miss Castle and Mrs Holland. The table tennis tournament was fiercely competed and followed by our Crepe evening where the awards for the week were presented (ask Rob Cook or Leon Bennetts!)

This was an excellent visit overall, the snow stayed with us for the whole week and we skied straight out of the hotel in the morning, the lessons were good and students' skiing improved at a good pace, the hotel staff were very helpful and the behaviour was of the usual exemplary standard. Thanks very much for all the hard work by the staff who went and here goes for the next one (watch this space)

Fronter

Mr I Ramsden

Parents or carers that have a concern about cyber bullying or inappropriate use of language/images within Fronter Virtual Learning Environment during a school holiday should send an email to e-concerns@somerset.gov.uk.

Please provide: Name of school Name of child
Details of incident

The Local Authority will take the necessary immediate action and then report the matter to the school involved who will be able to follow up the incident when term recommences.

This email box is only monitored on week days during Somerset school holidays. Any incident which occurs during the school week or weekends during term time should be reported to your child's school.

Yr 10 History Trip

Dr S Jamieson

Just south of the A303, near the village of South Cadbury, a hill rises majestically from the ground. It is a stand alone hill, and offers many advantages over the adjoining Pen Hills which sit close by. It was here that the Iron Age Durotrigian tribe settled, around 900BC. The hill was settled on due to the climatic changes which forced the people from the lower lying areas, which had become boggy, onto the safer hilltop. As the centuries wore on, the site was to become of increasing strategic importance.

The hillfort sits near several major iron age trading routes, and within easy striking distance of Lyme Bay, Bridgwater Bay, and the Glastonbury Lake Villages. This coupled with the fine fertile agricultural land, made this an ideal spot for the Iron Age people to settle. Yr 10 were there to look at the impressive remains, and to complete their fieldwork as part of their GCSE coursework.

The students visited a number of key sites at the hillfort, and were able to speculate on the uses that the Iron Age people would have put them too. We examined the positives and negatives of the site, and compared its location to that of Beacon Hill. The location of the hillfort is so near to being perfect, that if the Iron Age tribes had been given access to Kirstie Allsop and Phil Spencer then surely this is the hillfort they would have chosen for them.

Students were impressed by the size and steepness of the western ramparts, and were able to compare these to the more difficult challenges facing the Iron Age tribes with the eastern ramparts. They were able to view the impressive south western and north eastern entrances, and to consider the efforts required to make the overlapping ramparts, with four wooden gates leading to the hillfort itself. The beautiful weather we enjoyed also allowed the students to marvel at the fantastic view enjoyed from the top of the hill, a clear advantage for the Iron Age settlers.

The students are now working on their coursework, which is a vital part of their GCSE in history

Blue School Council

Mr N Mantell

Our wonderful Blue School Community Council continues to grow, diversify and inspire!

Most teams have carried out their Annual Review and created new plans for the coming year as well as reviewing what has gone well in the past year and what could have gone better. There are now more than **22 active teams** and it is worth sharing some of their plans and 'outcomes' The **Energy Team** were invited to the **Mendip Partnership for Energy** conference where they inspired by sharing their ideas including their innovative '**Carbon Crunchers**' initiative.

Members of the **BSC** were invited to give evidence at the **NEF/Action for Children** citizens jury events in London and Edinburgh.

We have worked with our partner training organisation **LtoL** to put on regular '**Insight Days**' where teachers/head teachers and others interested in our work listen to presentations from representatives of all the teams. These are also a tremendous opportunity for students to develop useful communication skills as well as celebrating their tremendous work for our school community.

Sue Hackman, Chief Education Advisor to the government came to the last one and was particularly excited by the **Quiet Team's** vision of a '**Quiet Garden**' for students who want a quiet/peaceful place outside- she has awarded them a grant of £1000 to get things moving.

The team would love to make contact with a parent who has design skills to help them.

The Shelter Team are moving forward with designs and models for their **Sustainable Shelter** and have already secured a grant of **£3000** to support this.

Archbishop Lord George Cary has kindly agreed to join **The Future Trees Team** and Year 7 students in planting the final phase of the Orchard in which every new tutor group will plant its own tree as has happened for the last 5 years- if you have not yet visited the **Orchard** you've missed a treat!

The Fitness Cuisine Team have just completed their first round of 'The Blue School – pass it on' based on **Jamie Oliver's 'Ministry of Food'**.



They have been invited into **Chewton Mendip Primary** school to do a sports workshop in their drive to help improve everyone's fitness.

The **Buddying Team** are up and running and looking forward to joining our other teams to work with the **Year 6 students** who will be spending the day finding out about the Blue in a few weeks.

The Waste & Recycling Team have sourced some splendid (free) bins which they are going to decorate and promote as a means of helping alleviate the dreadful litter problems we have.

Some energetic Yr 7s have recently joined the **Fundraising Team** and organised a very successful **Mufti Day** last Friday.



Mini Beasts & Reptiles Team recently completed a sponsored walk to raise money to buy their first reptiles.

Beautiful School Team have been collaborating with members of the Art Department to extend the amazing BSC mural growing along Kennion corridor.

The Garden Team have two Polytunnels fully planted up with more plants than ever before and will be expanding their sales after half term.

It's a challenge to keep up with all the inspiring activity of our students and the benefits that it brings to our school community and the multitude of learning opportunities this affords them. It is also particularly exciting that Secondary and Primary schools literally all over the country are visiting the Blue School, talking to our students and going back to their schools to share the 'good practice'.

Careers

Mrs S Barnes

Thales UK site invited Yr 10 Science and Maths students to their Wells site to take part in technical workshops and careers presentations as part of the National Science & Engineering Week celebrations. Students were given the opportunity to use some of the latest technologies developed by Thales including a situational awareness unit currently used in active service by the Army and an Unmanned Air Vehicle simulation system. Students also learnt about Thales as a local employer and were given information on the company's Graduate Training Scheme.

Golf Trip

Mr J Tucker

The Blue School golf team entered the **Somerset Schools Golf Championship** at Worlebury Golf Club, Weston-super-Mare on Thursday 30th April. They made up the 123 competitors from schools and colleges across the county. The course is above Weston and has stunning views across the Bristol Channel which only became visible late in the day as the weather cleared.

Tom Rawlings (11GW) and **Matt Rawlings** (10RC) both scored a nett 80 (the score which accounts for the player's handicap) and the third member of the team **Oli** ('Dennis Quaid') **Smart** (11TL) managed a creditable nett 72 but due to the strict rules of golf being applied to his card this potentially top ten score did not count.

History

Miss E Perkins

On the 23rd of April the History department, along with many other schools from the West, took two sixth form students on a day trip to the Nazi World War Two concentration camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland. This trip was organised through the Holocaust Educational Trust.

The day began with us visiting the barbed fences and barracks of Auschwitz One. The camp was huge and displayed a sickening, slightly ironic welcome sign, stating that '*work will set you free*'. This was attached to the gate and was the first thing we saw before entering the tyrannic site. The area has been converted into a museum and acts as a memorial for all of the victims that had the misfortune of suffering there. We saw many upsetting artefacts as we explored the camp, including the first purpose built gas chamber. We were escorted around by a knowledgeable guide: they provided us with a heartbreaking account of the atrocities that were carried out during the period that Auschwitz One acted as a concentration camp.

After visiting Auschwitz One we moved on to Birkenau: the purpose built death camp. This involved a 5 minute coach ride which highlighted the sheer size of the place. It was an incredible and unbelievable sight. Birkenau has also been maintained as a memorial to its victims. As we wondered through the camp, we walked along the famous train tracks that run through the middle of the site. They have appeared in many films, including 'Schindler's List' to help portray the devastating effects of the holocaust and it was quite disturbing to think about them once being used to transport people to their deaths.

After walking around the colossal camps and taking in the enormity of where we actually were, the group held a memorial service for the 6 million people that suffered in camps such as Auschwitz-Birkenau during World War Two. This was a very moving and, in some cases, unsettling experience for us all.

The History Department and the Sixth Form will be following up this visit by sharing what they have learnt from actually visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau with both the school and the local community.

Cricket

Mr R Wiltshire

The Blue School staff cricket team, the 'Blue Tits', have recently played matches against both the Yr 11 and Sixth Form teams. Both games were extremely close affairs, but thankfully the staff managed to come through for victory in each game. There were a number of fine individual performances, for the staff the most notable being the batting of Mr Pearson, who dispatched the bowling to all parts of what is a fairly small boundary. For the pupils, Jack Moore in Yr 12 threatened to single handedly bat his side to victory, whilst James Cox provided similar resistance with the bat for Year 11. Well done to all pupils and staff who took part. Two thoroughly enjoyable games played in an excellent spirit.

Maths

Mr M Dixon

Junior Maths Challenge

On Friday 27th March four Year 8 students went to Ansford School to represent 'The Blue' in one of the Regional Maths Challenge events. Competing against sixteen other schools they achieved a very creditable 6th place, doing especially well when you consider that many of the students representing other schools were Yr 9. The students who represented the school so well were: Anna Williams, Alex Main, Sam Gooch and Lucy Burgess.

Millfield Maths Challenge

Run on a very similar basis to the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge, the Millfield Challenge involved two Yr 11 students, Matt Law and Douglas Cooley and two Yr 10 students, Tim Grange and Arthur Scammell. All four did extremely well and managed to win the competition an excellent result and one that sets the bar very high for future teams from The Blue School.

Athletics: Combined Events Competition Mr M Dixon

A number of our students representing either The Blue School or the local athletics club, Mendip A.C. did extremely well in the recently held Somerset Championships at Millfield School. Jake Cassell (Yr 9) won the Junior Boys title and two of our Yr 7 girls picked up medals in the Minor Girls competition, Annie McConnell (2nd) and Jemma Archbold (3rd). Well done to all the others who competed over the two days: Lottie McCarthy, Ellie Norris, Beckie Bailey-Vaughan, Henry Mansfield and Toby Wall. Sam Norris would have been a contender in the Intermediate Boys Competition but unfortunately broke his arm a few days before the event took place.

Wells Blue Sports Centre Mr M Daffurn

There is a lot going on at the Wells Blue Sports Centre this summer! Details of our new activities can be found below or visit our website: www.theblueschoolwells.co.uk

Badminton Club Wednesday 20.00 – 22.00

An open adult session for all abilities badminton.

Cost : £3.00 per player, £1.50 for members

A Junior open session on Saturday 13.00 – 14.30.

Tennis Club Monday and Thursday 18.30 – 20.30

An open adult session giving players the opportunity to challenge and play different opponents on a singles or doubles basis. 18th May – 27th August (No sessions on Bank Holidays).

Cost: £3.00 per player and £1.50 for members

Badminton Court

£7.00 Adult , £5.25 Student Over 16 and £3.50 Under 16's
Why not get a group of friends together and have a game of football on our Artificial Turf Pitch.

Artificial Turf Pitch £23.00 Adult,(1/2 Pitch)

£17.25 Student Over 16 and £17.25 Under 16's

Fitness

Get that beach body before the summer! From May we are opening up selected exercise classes to 14 year olds who can attend in the company of a responsible adult! Classes include:

Beginners Aerobics Monday 19.30 – 20.30

Legs, Tums and Bums Wednesday 19.00 – 20.00

Salsa Dancing Friday 19.30 – 20.30

We are pleased to announce the arrival of 3 new pieces of equipment; a new running machine an upright bike and a cable column to strengthen and firm those key areas.

Direct Debit membership at £24.75 per month for an adult member, no strings attached and no tie in contract.

Pilates

New courses starting after May half term. Maximum 12 spaces. New customers can book from 25th May 2009.

Thursday 17.45 – 18.45

Friday 18.15 – 19.15

Saturday 09.30 – 10.30

PTA Update

We'll be holding another Quiz Night on Friday 16 October 2009. Do put the date in your diary and look out for details

closer to the time. The previous one raised about £800 for the school, so please come and support us.

This term, we were really pleased to be able to donate £12,500 to the school towards the purchase of their new, rather splendid 17-seater minibus. So thank you to all who have joined the 100 Club, stewarded at Glastonbury, made a donation at the start of the year or supported any events with which the PTA have been involved. We now need to start saving for the next project!

It is never too late to join the 100 Club. It costs as little as £12 per year, with a draw held every quarter. Contact Jacqui Summerhayes (PTA 100 Club) via the Admin. Office.

The PTA meets once each term and any parents are welcome to come along. If you'd like to be involved but are unable to attend a meeting or would like any more information on the PTA activities, please contact Di Harris (01749 676947 or DiHarris@talktalk.net) or Jo Armstrong (joarmstrong@phonecoop.coop). The next committee meeting is on Tuesday 9 June 2009, 6.30 pm in the Atom Café, Kennion Hall.

Dates for Your Diary

22 May	Half term begins
01 June	School resumes
09 June	Yr 12 Students return (amended date)
18 June	Yr 7 Parents' Evening
26 June	Inset Day 5
01 July	Yr 11 Prom
02 July	Yr10 Parents' Evening
08 July	Yr 6 Induction Day
09 July	Yr 6 Parents' Evening
10 July	6 th Form Leavers' Ball
13 July	Y10 Work Experience week
22 July	End of term
1 st Sept	INSET Day 1
2 nd Sept	Yrs 7 & 12 return
3 rd Sept	Yrs 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 return

School Term & Holidays – 2009/10 Academic Year:

Calendars are available from our website:

www.theblueschoolwells.co.uk

INSETS 2009/2010 are:

1st September	9th October	25th June
22nd July	23rd July	

The Blue School Uniform Service

Term-time opening hours are:

Wednesday 11.30am – 5.00pm

Thursday 11.30am – 5.00pm

Friday 11.30am – 5.00pm

Saturday 10.00am – 12.30pm

Closed for lunch 2.00pm – 3.00pm

The shop will be closed from Saturday 23rd May to Friday 29th May inclusive and re-open on Saturday 30th May