



# BATLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL & PRIESTLEY HOUSE

*Autumn 2014 Newsletter*



## Year 11 boys reach Semi-Final of National Cup!



Batley Grammar School's Year 11 footballers have reached the semi finals of the English Schools' FA Small Schools' Cup sponsored by Playstation.

The boys have played against schools from as far away as Lincoln and Chester to reach this stage. They have scored a total of 23 goals and conceded just 4 in the 5 games they have played. One of the most pleasing aspects of their performance has been the commitment and desire shown throughout; the team have stuck together in some really tough games battling through and playing some outstanding football.

A real challenge awaits them in the semi final, one which we look forward to embracing!

## CCF Peru Expedition

17 cadets and 4 staff took part in a 3 week expedition to Peru during the summer holidays. The group was divided into 2 teams, each carrying out a project in the local community. One of them rebuilt a greenhouse at a local school, in a remote mountain village, whilst the other laid a concrete path around the buildings of the Azul Wasi orphanage.



Each team also carried out a 4 day trek in the Andes Mountains, reaching heights of 4600 metres as well as walking through the jungle. The expedition culminated in a visit to one of **the new "Seven Wonders of the World"** Macchu Picchu, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site.



The cadets had worked extremely hard to raise the £3500 for the trip and reaped the rewards of this great opportunity by developing their leadership, teamwork and self-confidence as well as thoroughly enjoying the once in a lifetime experience.

If you are in the CCF and this sounds like the kind of activity you would like to be involved in then watch out for details in the New Year of the next expedition, to Malaysia in 2016.

## ABsolutely Catering

ABsolutely Catering, who will take over the catering provision from 1 January, were in school for us to sample some of their food. Students and staff enjoyed the food—with many comments from students complementing the selection of foods with their different flavours.



## Key Stage 2 Reading Club

On Wednesday 10 December, the Reading Club performed their play in assembly. It was an excellent performance which had been written, produced and directed by the four girls in Year 5 who run the Reading Club.

Reading Club meet on Friday lunchtimes and the girls have planned and carried out a variety of activities including reading books, performing poetry and all of this culminated in the performance in assembly.

We have all been really impressed by their commitment and dedication to running the club and all the work they have done to ensure that each week the activities are fully prepared. Well done! We look forward to seeing what they can achieve next term.



## Building Refurbishment

Over the summer break, a number of contractors were on **site improving the school's facilities. The most exciting work** that was undertaken was the refurbishment of the front of the building—providing a new, bright and secure Reception area for visitors where the Finance Office used to be. The building work also included the creation of several new rooms around the Reception area—including an On Call room and a new SENDCO room. This marks **Phase 1 of the school's on going capital investment**—which will see the development of a new cross-phase Library and additional teaching spaces in the near future!

The work also included repairs to the school roof and the installation of digital signage across the site.



## Winmarleigh Hall



The Maths department took 51 Year 9 students on a Maths Educational visit to Winmarleigh Hall on the weekend of Friday 14 to Sunday 16 November. The visit was designed to allow students to see Mathematics being applied outside the classroom as well as including activities to improve their team building skills. This was a huge success with lots of complicated Maths being undertaken by everyone.

Students managed to improve their skills in problem solving as well as using data collected from the Giant Swing to produce graphs in a computer based lesson. Whilst abseiling, they discovered how to work out the height of the tower they had just abseiled down by using measurements taken on site and applying Trigonometry; a new skill.

Evening activities included a campfire where students enjoyed chanting to a number of different songs and also a disco where we celebrated the birthday of one of our students.

Although very cold at times all students were fully engaged in the activities and learnt a lot about themselves; particularly in terms of their tolerance for heights. Winmarleigh Hall staff were impressed with the behaviour of the students and have invited us to return again next year.



## Dirty Dancing

On Thursday 20 November, nine sixth-formers enjoyed a night out at the Leeds Grand Theatre **to see the West End show "Dirty Dancing"**. Organised by the Head Girl, Rachel Bocking, the **trip's aim was to promote the sense of community** in the sixth form while having a great time experiencing theatre. The students were amazed by the brilliant performance and were even treated to an encore at the end when the cast returned for yet another song! Overall, it was a huge success and something the students hope to do again in the near future.



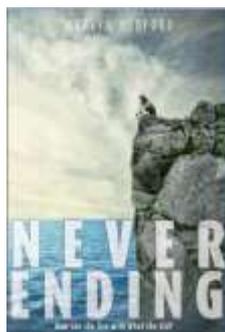
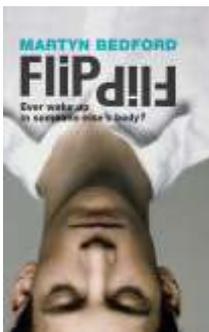
## Martyn Bedford's Visit

The author, Martyn Bedford, spent a whole day working with students and staff in the Secondary Phase.

Martyn Bedford had written several novels for adults before publishing 'Flip', his first book written especially for teenagers and young adults. 'Flip' is a brilliant read and was shortlisted for the Costa Book Awards. It won several book prizes and, Martyn's latest teenage novel 'Never Ending', published earlier this year, looks set to be another best seller! The books have been translated into 15 languages and sold worldwide.

The author, who also lectures in creative writing at Leeds Trinity University, gave an entertaining presentation to students in Year 10, held a book signing in the school library at lunchtime and throughout the day, worked with students from Years 8 to 12 in creative writing workshops.

The visit was part of a Literacy Focus Day organised by the school's English Department and Learning Resource Centre. Parents were invited in to school to take part in their own workshop on how to better support reading at home. Reading for fun has a high profile at Batley Grammar School. Authors working with children in this way contribute at many levels to student learning and development and it is always exciting to meet a famous author face-to-face. The day was very successful and enjoyed by everyone who took part.



## PE Roundup

An excellent autumn term for the PE department at Batley Grammar School with noticeable gains made in many of the different age groups and sporting disciplines. There have been 22 football fixtures since the start of September, in which a vast number of students have represented the school from all age groups. Fixtures in the Spen Valley Cup saw a number of age groups in the draw for the quarter final stages and students have also represented the **school successfully in the West Yorkshire Schools' Cup where, most notably, the Year 8 football team beat Roundhay High School scoring some superb goals.** These are often fantastic achievements for our students especially when facing schools that can sometimes be quadruple the size of Batley Grammar School.

One of the highlights of course has been the Year 11 (Under 16) football team who have been playing some superb football and are through to the Last 4 in the country!

Great commitment has been demonstrated by both girls and boys for their extra-curricular clubs, they have attended regularly even when the weather was abysmal. We look forward to seeing you all returning after the New Year and, hopefully, in some warmer weather. All of our extra-curricular clubs will be taking place as usual, so make sure you make every effort to attend. All are welcome!

In the previous newsletter, before the summer holidays, we explained that some of our **students had designed the new girls' kit to be used for fixtures. Since its arrival, in September, this has been very well received and the girls are now looking really professional when playing their fixtures.** A special mention has to go to Abbie Inwood (Year 9) and Hawaa Hamzah (Year 11) whose designs we put together to create the new kit. Well done girls!

## Aladdin

On Tuesday 16 December, pupils in the Primary Phase were thrilled to take a trip to the pantomime without ever leaving the building! A professional travelling theatre company presented "Aladdin" in the Graves Hall to a completely enthralled audience. We followed the thrills and spills as Aladdin went in search of a magic lamp and met the Genie who could make his wishes come true. We booed and hissed at

**the evil Abanazar and sang along with Princess Jasmine, "Let It Go" from the Disney film "Frozen" at the tops of our voices.** There were tubs of ice-cream at the interval, kindly provided and served by BGS Parents Association. Everyone agreed that they had had a brilliant afternoon of entertainment and a marvellous Christmas treat. Thank you to the PA!



## Year 4 Visit York Minster and Roman Baths

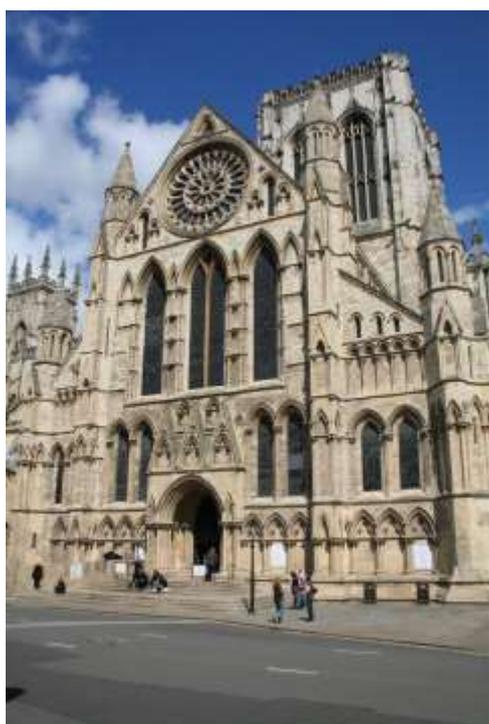
This term Year 4 have been learning about the Romans and Places of Worship. In order to support our learning, we visited the York Minster and the Roman Baths.

We explored the minster and learnt about it as a place of worship. Additionally, we learnt about the Roman links with York.

**Saniyah was impressed by the Rose and the Five Sisters' windows and commented that they looked 'amazing and beautiful'. Daniel wanted to add that, 'at the minster we learnt many facts and we were surprised by the size of the building.'**

At the Roman baths we joined the Roman army, marched around the square and then investigated the history of **the baths. Luke commented that, 'at the Roman Baths I loved marching around the square.'**

Overall, the children represented the school excellently and were commended for their behaviour by the learning manager at York Minster. Thank you Year 4 for a fantastic trip!



## Mirror, mirror on the wall ...

Audiences, earlier this week were treated to a couple of excellent performances of Snow White. Secondary Phase students from Years 7 to 13 excelled as they displayed their thespian talents on stage and their skills at backstage and technical crews, under the guidance of Miss Parkes, Mr Griffiths and Miss Beesley. A great deal of hard work and commitment had been invested by staff and students alike.

Well done to all - it was a most professional performance and one of the best we have had the privilege to watch!



### Dates to Remember

Monday 5th January 2015  
Start of Spring Term

Tuesday 13th January 2015  
Year 10 Parents' Evening

Monday 19th January 2015  
Young Voices (Sheffield Arena)

Thursday 5th February 2015  
Intermediate Maths Challenge

Monday 9th to Friday 13th February 2015  
Year 10 Practice Exams

Wednesday 4th February 2015  
Year 9 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 11th February 2015  
Year 9 Subject Options Evening

### The Big Event

At the beginning of term, students enjoyed a trip to Flamingo Land as a reward for good behaviour throughout the previous academic year. Students really liked the fast rides, theme park games and the range of animals in the zoo.



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