



# BATLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL & PRIESTLEY HOUSE



## Spring 2016 Newsletter

### World Book Day

On Thursday 8 March, pupils in the Primary Phase dressed as their favourite book characters to celebrate World Book Day. The Harry Potters arrived with several Hermiones; Willy Wonka brought along an Oompah Loompah and Verucca Salt; Stick Man popped into Reception; Wally went missing in Year 3 – let us know if you can find 'Where's Wally?'; Paddington visited Year 4 but couldn't find his marmalade sandwich! Thank you all for the effort you put into your costumes.



### Batley Big Sing

On the evening of Thursday 17 March, children from six local primary schools arrived at Batley Grammar School for the annual singing spectacular the 'Batley Big Sing'. Now in its third year, the event was a huge success with the children performing to a packed audience in the Graves Hall. The massed



voices created a powerful sound as they sang five songs together: 'Happy', 'I'm a believer', 'One in a million', 'I just can't wait to be King', and 'Power in Me'. Several schools also performed individual items, and there were engaging performances from the young musicians of Batley Music Centre Choir and Wind Band.

Pupils from Batley Grammar School's Primary Phase had taken part in a workshop with Sue Bennett from Kirklees Music School and rehearsed songs in assembly to prepare for the event. For the first time, our Primary Phase pupils also performed a song on their own. Musicians from the Secondary Phase's GCSE Music class worked with pupils to rehearse and perform 'Paradise' by Coldplay. The collaboration repeated their performance in the Primary Phase assembly on Tuesday 22 March.

## Reading Success

This school year has seen some outstanding achievements in our Key Stage 3 Reading Award Scheme.

In the BGS Reading Challenge, Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) students, supported by Mrs Harknett, Miss Chappell and the English department work towards Bronze, Silver, Gold and even Platinum awards in each academic year. This is a key part of our literacy strategy and our overriding aim is to encourage all our students to develop a positive reading habit and to find enjoyment in their personal reading.



Competition is keen to be the first to reach each stage and momentum is maintained to the end of the school year! Already this year, SEVEN of our students have reached the Gold standard. In order to receive a Gold award, a student must read and review twenty fiction books of which, half must be from a list of recommended titles.

At the end of this term, two of our Year 7 students have progressed to achieve their Platinum awards! Haarisah Hussain and Ebrahim Variava each went on to read a further ten classic fiction novels and have been presented with their well-earned Platinum Reading Certificates.

We invite parents and carers to support our efforts by encouraging students to read, at home, on a daily basis. They can track their child's reading progress in the student planner where reading choices and reviews are recorded. We are proud of our record of reading success at Batley Grammar School and we congratulate ALL our readers on their achievements this year

Our motto which has pride of place on our library counter is:

**Remember... The best book you've ever read is probably still out there. So, KEEP READING!**

## Sands Bake Sale



A recent cake sale, held at school, raised £350 for Sands – Stillbirth and neonatal death charity, the charity that provides support for bereaved parents and their families. The ladies, in our Dining room who organised the sale, Mrs Leybourne and Mrs Gibbons, would like to thank everyone who supported the event, it was very successful.

## Panache Gymnastics

Batley Grammar School has recently opened its doors to Panache Gymnastics who are now regularly using the Batley Grammar School Sports Hall to run their clubs on an evening from 4:30pm. The P.E. department are especially pleased and grateful as this partnership provides the opportunity to use Panache Gymnastics specialised equipment both in lessons and for extracurricular activities.

Panache Gymnastics Club offer well structured classes for school aged boys and girls of all levels and abilities from recreational to competitive gymnastics. We believe that the sport of gymnastics sets beneficial foundations to help children to succeed throughout life'.

We look forward to a continuing partnership and hopefully many more Batley Grammar School students benefiting from this opportunity. To find out any more information visit [www.panachegymnastics.co.uk](http://www.panachegymnastics.co.uk) or [www.facebook.com/panachegymnastics](https://www.facebook.com/panachegymnastics).

## Year 11 Student's Business Success



Mohammed Ali, known as Ali, has been building websites for the past four years, and is now designing an app for currency dealers and share traders - all before he has even taken his GCSEs.

Now 15, the Batley Grammar School pupil employed several other programmers as the owner of web development company Flaming Sites, and in 2014 he was given a shout-out on BBC Radio Leeds when he made a web page for Keighley-based singer Harper.

Ali, the son of a Dewsbury taxi driver, regularly travels from his home to meet clients in London, and is currently working on World Currency Gold Rates, which uses maths and Java language to provide gold, diamond and platinum rates to Forex users and people buying and selling shares. He has also designed a game, Project 2006, which attracted up to 200 users a day, and hopes his success story can inspire other youngsters to take up programming.

"I want people to know that starting a business at a young age is in fact a really good way to make money instead of asking your parents, and I am from an average family - my dad is a taxi driver," said Ali, who sits his GCSE exams this summer.

"From doing this myself I can say I have gained the experience to lead a business after my GCSEs, A Levels and university, where I want to study maths and computer science. I already have enough money to fund myself when I am there."



## North Kirklees Indoor School Games

Students in Years 7 and 8 recently participated in the local indoor athletics competition at Batley Sports and Tennis Centre on Tuesday 12 January 2016. They each showed tremendous spirit throughout and represented the school in an excellent manner; additionally there were many excellent individual performances for which they should be congratulated .



The Year 8 boys' team and the Year 7 girls' team were particularly excellent on the day and have managed to progress to the next round of the competition. The Year 8 boys missed out on 1st place by just 2 points. Well done to all our participants!

## Sports Leaders

A message from Mick Troop, Schools Games Organiser at St. John Fisher, regarding our amazing Sports Leaders.

"I thought I would just drop you a line to say how appreciative we are for the three events we have held recently at Batley Sports Centre which have been excellently supported by young sports leaders from Batley Grammar School. We could not host



such events without the continued support of secondary schools young sports leaders. Your young leaders have been exemplary in their behaviour, attitude, understanding, maturity and enthusiasm."

## Bagshaw Museum

As part of our study on "Ancient Egypt" some of the Year 8 students working with staff in the Student Support Centre visited the Bagshaw Museum.

We had great day learning about Egyptian gods, mummies and King Tutankhamun. We made papyrus bookmarks and wrote our names in hieroglyphics. Some of us even took the opportunity to dress " like an Egyptian" !



## Too Much Punch for Judy



Operetta Theatre Company visited Batley Grammar School to perform the award winning play 'Too Much Punch for Judy'. The play was specifically chosen for the GCSE Drama students as it is a popular set text and often used to represent theatrical form. Sixth form students were also invited to attend because the message of drink driving is appropriate for their age range and some of the more able Year 9 students were also invited to see a professional company performing a GCSE text.

The award winning documentary play is based upon the theme of drink driving and the consequences of this dangerous behaviour. With an explosive and comical start following the journey of the characters, the play drives home the emotional and painful reality in a thought provoking and powerful drama. The play was followed by a discussion based workshop which allowed opinions to be bounced across the room and pivotal questions to be asked as well as considering the current drink drive laws and consequences of drink driving. Students were invited to become the 'jury' in the court case following the accident, and were required to deliberate the nature of the crime and the suitable punishment.

The play was a great opportunity for students of different ages to witness a real-life event and the consequences involved in this decision to drive whilst under the influence of drink. We observed how two sisters, having had an innocent drink in a bar, went on to have a serious car crash in which one of them lost their life. The students were engaged throughout the harrowing performance, and this is a credit to Operetta Theatre Company.

## Sport Relief

On Friday 18 March, the whole of the Primary Phase took to the playground to take part in the Sport Relief Dance. 200 children and all their teachers waved their arms and jumped up and down to show their support. Thank you also to the parents who joined us.



## Former Student Published

A second year Biomedical Science student (and past student of Batley Grammar School) writes about her experience of doing work experience at Dewsbury and District Hospital and how this led to her co-writing an article that has been published.



Farah Andaleeb undertook a hospital work placement during the summer holidays with a Consultant in Diabetes and Endocrinology at Dewsbury and District Hospital. Experience within the hospital has shown her the importance of clinical management requiring cooperation and support from both health professionals and patients. Additionally, she has had the opportunity to write articles on topics in regards to Pregnancy and Obesity during the summer of 2014.

"Last summer I was told to co-write an article to be published in 'Diabetes in Practice'- a journal for healthcare professionals managing people with coexistent diabetes and obesity. The research for this article; 'Weight Management in University', was carried out using various sources to gain more insight into the topic, as well as talking to peers," she said. You can read the full article at [www.bradford.ac.uk](http://www.bradford.ac.uk).

## Science Week

On Friday 18 March, as the culmination of Science Week, we crammed 200 children, the staff and many parents into the Old Library to share in the wonderful science work we had done during the week. Topics included: tornados; the water cycle; nebulas; Joseph Priestley; the Hubble telescope; lava lamps; Fahrenheit and Celsius; micro-organisms, Edward Jenner and yeast; chromatography. I think we all learnt something new this week and we hope you enjoy carrying out your own experiments at home!



## Reception and Year 1 Waterproofs

Many thanks to the Parents' Association for their contribution to the Primary Phase which allowed us to buy waterproof suits. These are being shared between the children in the Reception and Year 1 classes. They have been in regular use since then and this enables the children can play outside in all weathers, including building a fantastic snowman on a snowy Friday this term!



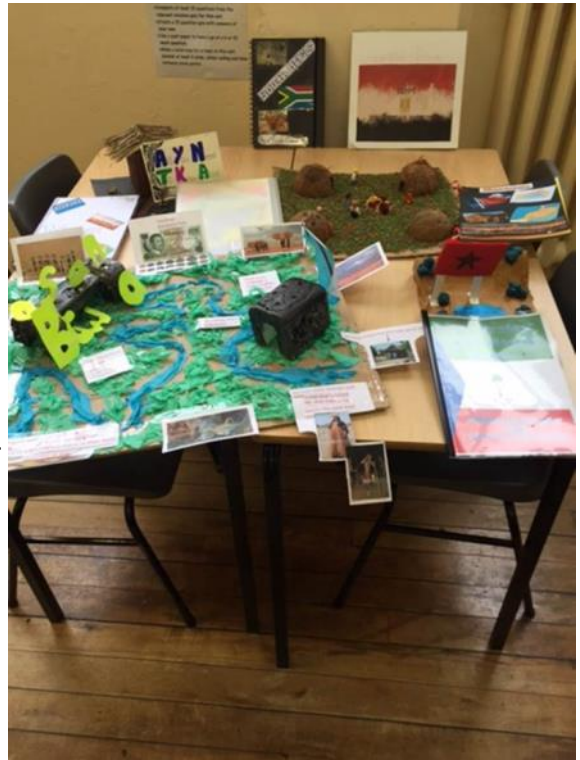


## Year 8 Geography Projects

The Geography Department are delighted to reveal only a small cross section of the fantastic work produced by our Year 8 students on their African Country home learning projects.

The students had quite a tight two week timeframe in which to research their chosen country and produce an informative, yet creative piece of work. A whole host of projects were created by Batley Grammar School students including model housing, native African villages and a bird's eye view of Botswana!

The Geography staff consider that these creative, curious learners deserve all the praise we can muster; and that this is just another example of the love for learning being developed at Batley Grammar School.



## Hi5 Netball

Following their success at the local tournament last week, our team progressed to the Batley Families' final, which was held at Batley Sports and Tennis Centre. The children played excellently and have now secured their place in the Kirklees final next week.

The children worked brilliantly as a team, showed good sportsmanship and displayed their adaptability when playing different positions on court. The scores were as follows:

BGS v St Patricks 1-2 (loss)

BGS v St Peter's 1-0 (win)

BGS v Ravensthorpe 0-0 (draw)

BGS v Orchard 4-1 (win)

Remember you can keep up with our sports events by checking out our Sainsbury's School Games blog:

<https://www.yourschoolgames.com/your-school/profile/slug/batley-grammar-school>

Well done to all those who took part and good luck in the next round!



## Year 4 visit Batley Park

On Monday 14 March Year 4 went to visit Batley Park. The children walked to the Bagshaw Museum entrance where they carried out a mini-beast hunt. They also completed a picture orienteering course before walking down through the woodland to the play area. Three Year 10 students, Faaziah Karolia, Maariyah Bhika & Ambrina Khan, accompanied the trip as part of their Social Care studies.



## Bikeability

A group of children from Year 6 were invited to take part in a 'Bikeability' course which focused on developing their bicycle skills and road safety understanding. The course was delivered by Legacy Sport, in conjunction with the North Kirklees Schools' Sport Partnership.

The children commented that they enjoyed, 'going on the road, learning to do a U-turn, playing mini-games, passing parked cars safely and learning new skills about cycling.'

Congratulations to the following children for achieving:

Level 1: Talhah, Ibrahim, Luke & Raheema

Level 2: Olivia, Solomon, Caitlan, Dawar, Hasan, Zayn, Bilaal, Rayaan, Asim, Tehream and Rebecca.



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