



BLATCH NEWS

Blatchington Mill School

Blatch News

Issue 26, February 2010

Up to speed for Spring!

Thank you for your forbearance and patience with the snow. We had to close for three days as we weren't able to guarantee the safety on our site. Our facilities team worked extremely well to clear the site enabling us to open. The students were particularly sensible when they were allowed to play on the snow covered field but it had to be carefully managed and our staff ensured the students' safety very well indeed.

We have had to work even harder and faster in order to make up those three days and we are now fully 'up to speed' barring a few outstanding meetings. We had a very successful parents evening on '**Teenage Issues**' many thanks for such a good attendance and we will be running more of these due to popular demand. We saw '**Blatch has got Talent**' which, once again demonstrated how talented our students are. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Parents were here to find out about the **Year 9 Options** for Key Stage 4. We hope these events serve to keep you informed of our work and focus. You will also have learned about our **on line reporting** and the meanings and reasons for the new colour coded grades. We hope you find these useful too. All of this is to support our drive to make sure parents can have a useful conversation with ourselves and your child. Please continue to keep us informed of ways that we can improve on this.

We look forward to February and the production of '**Billy**' and we will no doubt be ready for the **half term** which begins on Monday 15th February.

Janet Felkin, Head Teacher



January saw a very snowy Blatch!

Diary

Monday 1st February

Year 11 Trip: Poetry Live

Monday 1st - 5th February

National Storytelling Week

Wednesday 3rd - 5th February

Upper school production

Thursday 4th February

Intermediate Maths Challenge

Monday 8th February

Year 7: How well can you re-plan your City

Tuesday 9th February

Year 10 Trip: Tate Modern

Wednesday 10th February

Gifted and Talented Science Function in the Theatre 2pm

Year 7: How well can you re-plan your City

Thursday 11th February

Student Review Day

Friday 12th February

School Closes for ½ term, at 3pm

Monday 22nd February

School Opens 8.25am

Wednesday 24th February

UK Maths Challenge

Thursday 25th February

Keyboard Concert in C1

Student Review Day

Thursday 11th February 2010

Years 7, Year 8, Year 9 & Year 10:

If you have not received your appointment letter, please contact Mrs S Rowley on ext 235

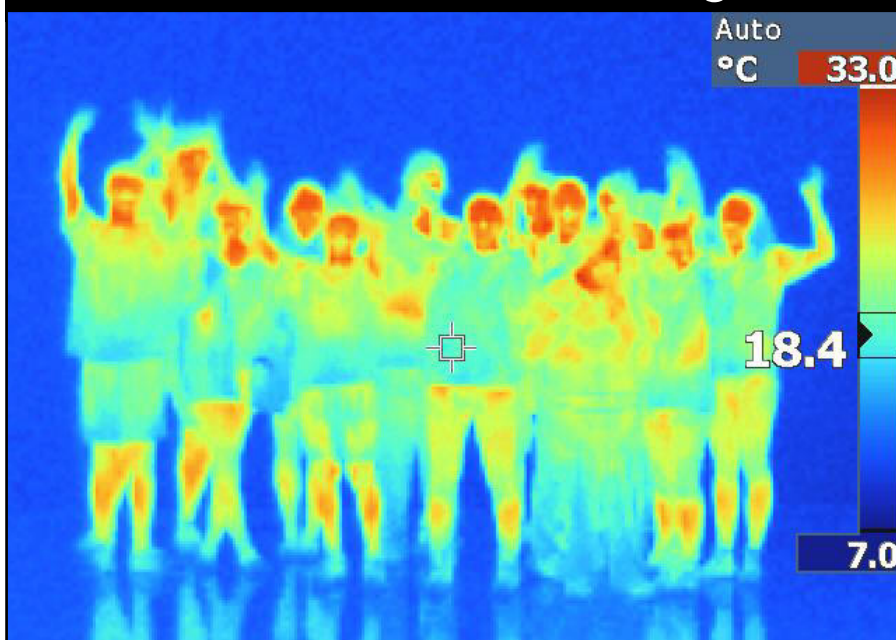
Year 11: Parents will be receiving a letter from Mr McCormick regarding arrangements for the day.

Message from the Chair

Jenny Barnard-Langston,
Chair of Governors

The unusual weather conditions seem now to be in the past and I thank all those who supported the school by ensuring that students had access to work through the portal. Many students, whilst tempted to spend most of the day in arctic conditions did indeed accept that they had work to do particularly those working toward their examinations. As we look forward to the promise of spring there is much to be done for the Governors. We are focusing on how we might continue to improve the sport facilities and extend the successful catering development. The increasing demands made on the aging infrastructure through increasing numbers and the additional adaptations made for those who have mobility difficulties, continue to exercise the Governing Body. We will remain sensitive to the expectations that come with increasing integration whilst balancing the desire to ensure that all students have the opportunity to achieve their personal potential. The delivery of education is changing and we need to be flexible in the way in which we deliver the curriculum. The Education White Paper has placed on schools and the wider community an expectation that we will examine the way in which we work with the community and with other schools to offer the maximum life chances to all. This means that we will, in the next few months be working across the City to explore the variety of ways that we enable the student population at Blatchington Mill to experience the range of opportunities available to them. We already enjoy the support of the parents in all that we do and we will continue to engage with you as we work with the Local Authority and our neighbouring schools.

Stem Sussex visits Blatchington



Thermal image of Blatch students

On Wednesday 20th January an organisation called Stem Sussex based at Brighton University visited the school to run a 2 hour session for Gifted & Talented students in years 10 and 11 from Science and PE.

Students carried out experiments using thermal imaging cameras, measuring heat loss during exercise. They also calculated the velocity of balls being kicked and thrown using specialised digital cameras and redesigned items of sports equipment to improve their performance.

The feed back from the students was very encouraging and it is hoped the event can take place next year.
-Mr Beckwith, PE

Exam News

GCSE MARCH SCIENCE MODULES

Students will receive their Final Exam Timetables during February

GCSE & GCE SUMMER EXAMS

GCSE Students will be receiving their Statement of Exam Entries in early February. GCE students will receive theirs in late February.

Please remind them to check their entries very carefully (any late entries will be charged to the student) and to sign and return the confirmation slip to the Exams Office by the due date.



Safer Internet Day 9th February 2010

A range of activities will be taking place across Europe to help protect young people online. The theme is 'Think Before You Post' and will run from Monday 8th February to Friday 12th February. For more information:

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/saferinternetdayuk/>

Nick Davies in Germany

Nick Davies, President of Blatch 6 Student Union has recently returned from a four-day trip to Bonn, Germany.

He was invited as a fully-funded guest of UK-German Connection, the organisation through which we successfully bid for last year in order to fund our Germany link project.

Nick writes: "By the end of my extended weekend stay in Bonn, I had discovered a fantastic country, friendly people and a place I will have to return to at some point."

The idea of the trip was to improve German and British relations amongst youths, a programme set up five years ago between the two governments. -*Mr Cambers, Humanities*



Looking For Lost Property?

If you have lost something this term, please come to Student Services to look for it. We have lots of unclaimed items. All lost property will be displayed in the east wing hall after school on Wednesday 3rd February 2010 until 4pm. Anything remaining will be sent to charity during the half term break, thank you.

-*Student Services*

Sierra Leone Talk

Professor Tony Binns from the University of Otago in New Zealand will be giving a talk to students about Sierra Leone where he is currently researching ways to help the country recover from ten years of civil war. He will be talking to students in a number of Year 9 Geography classes particularly about the importance of tourism to less developed countries.

-*Mr Cambers, Humanities*

RIC News

Congratulations to Anya Lokmane in 8VA who has won first prize in the Scholastic competition to write the beginning of a story set in the past. The competition was run in conjunction with the Scholastic Book Fair which was held in the RIC during October 2009. If you would like to see Anya's winning entry, please look at our website:

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/win>

4th March 2010 is World Book Day!

Vouchers will be redeemable in the RIC School Book Fair during March.

Opening and Closing Times

Please note that from January 2010 the RIC will close at 3.30pm on Friday afternoons.

Performing Arts at blatchington mill school



www.blatchingtonmillschool.org.uk/performingarts

The Wiz



The Drama and Music Departments will be presenting 'The Wiz' as their lower school production this July.

A more modern version of The Wizard of Oz, with a motown flavoured score - The Wiz will be a funky trip down the yellow brick road and follows the adventures of Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman and Lion as they all search for those things they believe will make them happy....

We would love to see any year 7, 8 or 9 students at the auditions! Come and see Mrs Field for a script and prepare a 30 second song of your choice. All auditions will be in C1 after school.

Audition dates:

Weds 3 Feb - Yr 7

Thurs 4 Feb - Yr 8

Fri 5 Feb - Yr 9.



Freezer Boy Wins!

The film 'Freezer boy' which was made by last years year 8 students has won the Brighton Cinecity Film Festival. The prize is a free workshop from a film company for Blatchington Mill students. The film was highly praised for it's originality and acting abilities.

-Mrs Price, English

Dance Workshops

Vikkie Steege, street dance specialist came in to work with Year 9s and to create a dance with Year 12 for their BTEC assessment.

Robert Hylton led an intensive hip hop contemporary fusion workshop for G&T Year 9s on Jan 20th. This was a joint community venture with Longhill school students. -Mrs Legon, Dance

Billy

Wednesday 3rd to Friday 5th February
The Windmill Theatre • 7.00pm

Billy Fisher lives with Mum, Dad and Gran in Stradhoughton and is an undertaker's clerk - but in his mind he is President of Ambrosia, a film star, a scriptwriter - and anything else that happens to occur to him!

TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

Available from:
Box Office, Windmill Theatre Foyer,
West Wing, Blatchington Mill School

Adults £6.00
Students/Senior Citizens £4.00

Mugged

The year 9 play *Mugged* is up and running and rehearsals are going very well. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school, thanks to everyone giving up their time and getting involed it is going to be an excellent production. Watch this space for performance dates and ticket sales.

-Mr. Rutter, Drama



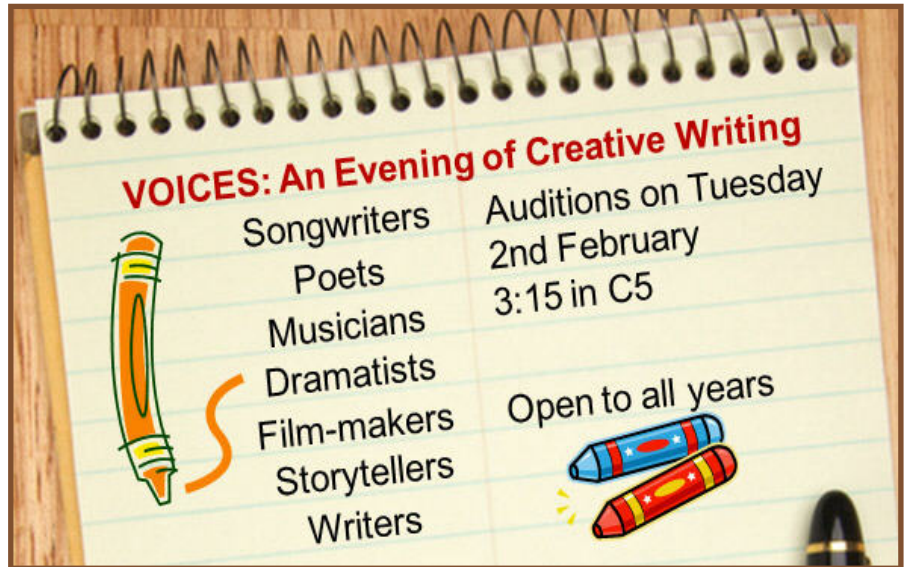
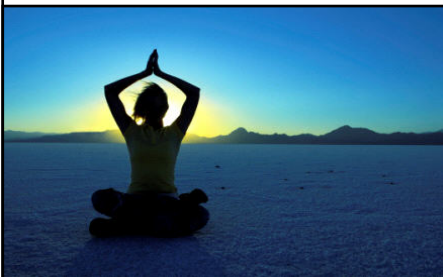
Geography Club

Geography Club runs every Tuesday night in Room 119 from 3p.m. onwards.

-Mr Ewens, Geography

Yoga Classes

Yoga classes have been cancelled this term due to exams and extra curricular commitments, but will resume in the summer term.



connexions PLUS

- Have you thought about what you would like to do after Year 11?
- Would you like to talk to someone about your career ideas and the available options – sixth form, college, apprenticeship, training or employment?

Then come and see Emma, your Connexions Personal Adviser!



Careers Drop-In
Every Thursday after school
In the RIC from 3pm

Emma – Connexions Personal Adviser (Guidance)
Mobile: 07833 401 620
E-mail: ehadder@blatchingtonmill.org.uk

SPORTS AT BLATCH

Outstanding Achievements

Rosie and Katie Cook received outstanding achievements as members of the 226 Brighton Sqn ATC.

-Miss Qureshi, LDO

Under 15 Brighton League Cross Country

Jake Elliot, Charlie and Harvey Noakes and Liam Hurley ran the Under 15 Brighton league cross country race on 16th January.

Archery Unlimited!

A fun 8 week introduction to archery

TUESDAYS 1600-1730
Ages 8-14

@ Brighton Youth Centre

FEB 2nd - MARCH 30th

£2 per session

TO BOOK, PLEASE CONTACT
rowan@aultd.org
01273 681058

A DVENTURE
U N L I M I T E D

www.aaultd.org 01273 681058 info@aultd.org



Blatch reporting goes on-line!

Why the change in system?

Government targets mean all secondary schools are required to move to on-line reporting on attendance, progress and behaviour by 2010. On-line reporting will also give students, parents and carers access to enhanced data to support student progress. This data will be more up to date and can be presented in different ways to help students and home better understand and support achievement, work ethic and progress.

How can I get into this new system?

To access a child's data, parents and carers will need to have a log-on for the Parents portal. For a log-in please contact Network Services on (01273) 736244 ext 228. A username and password will be issued to you over the telephone which will give you immediate access to the portal.

How will reports change?

Student progress checks at Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College are now being delivered on-line. This replaces the previous paper system of progress checks being sent home twice yearly. All students will get a current attainment and work ethic grade for every subject – and this will be updated at least termly. Teacher updates will be posted onto the Parents and Student portals in real-time and will be colour-coded to show progress. Students and home can now check the system at any point to get a snapshot of current progress. The longer, report-style 'profile' that comes out once a year with greater detail on student progress will continue this year to be sent out in paper format.



Where can I get help with understanding the data?



Support materials and guides for understanding what the data means and how this can support student achievement are being posted on the student and parent portals. Training events for parents and carers are being arranged for Spring Term 2010 to support home in interpreting the data. These will then be repeated regularly.



What do the different colours mean?

Current attainment grades will be coloured in four different ways: Blue suggests progress is above that expected to reach the target grade in that subject. Green suggests progress is on track to reach the target grade. Amber suggests progress is currently slightly off track for reaching the target grade. Red suggests there are concerns about reaching the target grade.

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In association with



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