



# BLATCH NEWS

Blatchington Mill School

Blatch News

Issue 27, March 2010

## Marching ahead to success!

Our major news for February was an Ofsted visit. It was an exacting time with 9 members of Ofsted turning over every stone of our school. We were delighted with the outcomes for the main school:

(1 = outstanding, 2 = good, 3 = satisfactory, 4 = inadequate)

Pupils' achievement and the extent to which they enjoy their learning Taking into account: Pupils' attainment	2
The quality of pupils' learning and their progress	2
The quality of learning for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their progress	2
The extent to which pupils feel safe	2
Pupils' behaviour	2
The extent to which pupils adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which pupils contribute to the school and wider community	2
The extent to which pupils develop workplace and other skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being Taking into account: Pupils' attendance	2
The extent of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	2
The quality of teaching Taking into account: The use of assessment to support learning	2
The extent to which the curriculum meets pupils' needs, including, where relevant, through partnerships	2
The effectiveness of care, guidance and support	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement Taking into account: The leadership and management of teaching and learning	2
The effectiveness of the governing body in challenging and supporting the school so that weaknesses are tackled decisively and statutory responsibilities met	2
The effectiveness of the school's engagement with parents and carers	1

(continued on page 2)

## Diary

### Monday 1st March

'Voices', Windmill Theatre

### Wednesday 3rd March

Year 11 Science Modules

### Thursday 4th March

Year 11 Science Modules

### Friday 5th March

Year 10 Science Modules

(+Y11 retake)

### Monday 8th March

Year 11 Consultation Evening

### Tuesday 9th March

Year 9 Production of 'Mugged',  
Windmill Theatre, 7pm

### Wednesday 10th March

Year 9 Matinee of 'Mugged' for

Year 9, Windmill Theatre, 1pm

Year 9 Production of 'Mugged',

Windmill Theatre, 7pm

### Thursday 11th March

Year 8 Careers Theme Day

### Friday 12th March

Masterchef competition

### Mon 15th – Fri 19th March

Year 8 Geography trip to  
Osmington Bay

### Mon 15th+Tues 16th March

GCSE Drama Practicals in C1

### Monday 15th March

Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

### Tuesday 16th March

Year 10 HPV Vaccinations

### Wednesday 17th March

Year 11 HPV Vaccinations

### Tuesday 23rd March

Rag Show (tba)

### Thursday 25th March

Year 12 Consultation Evening

### Monday 29th March

Year 11 Internal Dance exam

### Tuesday 30th March

Year 11 Reward Trip to Thorpe  
Park

School closes 3pm for Easter Break

### Wednesday 31st March

Inset Day (school closed to  
students)

## Message from the Chair

Jenny Barnard-Langston,  
Chair of Governors

What a week that was!! The week that Ofsted ascended became one of frenetic activity! The Inspectors were impressed by the students and enjoyed much of the teaching they observed. Thank you to all parents and carers who responded to the survey which helped the Inspectors gain insight into what is a large and busy school. In fact the Inspectors only spent two days in the school and commented that at times they had to walk  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile to get from one end of the school to the other – a journey many students and staff take regularly every day!

You will see in the report that many lessons observed and the way in which the school is judged is good with outstanding features. We have challenges in the Sixth form which we will continue to work on. The Governors response is to set up a time limited Task Group to focus on the issues that have arisen. We will report back to you over the period of the focus.

In the meantime well done staff and students alike for the positive way in which you welcomed the visiting Ofsted Team.

(continued from page 1)

The effectiveness of partnerships in promoting learning and well-being	2
The effectiveness with which the school promotes equality of opportunity and tackles discrimination	3
The effectiveness of safeguarding procedures	1
The effectiveness with which the school promotes community cohesion	2
The effectiveness with which the school deploys resources to achieve value for money	3
Overall effectiveness of the 6 <sup>th</sup> form	4

The outcome for the 6th form was disappointing for us in that we had already recognised the need to address issues with our sixth form and are part way into a plan for change, this of course, couldn't be taken into account for Ofsted as we can't produce the results yet. We are extremely confident in our A\*, A and B candidates – they have the appropriate courses, the challenging environment and sound work ethic and will succeed. We are currently addressing the provision, guidance and work ethic of those students who are not so independent and self motivated. The Ofsted team were very complimentary at our resolve and look forward to the results for these students. However, we now enter the world of Ofsted frameworks and the vagaries of protocols, guidance and bureaucracy. The framework takes all key stages into account to reach the overall outcome and have been only able to go as high as satisfactory.

Naturally, this sits uncomfortably for us and does not reflect the school at all. This was accepted by the inspection team too but ... they have to work within the Ofsted framework guidelines.

I have expressed my concern over the inflexibility of the framework and this is now being discussed by the Ofsted hierarchy and the DCSF. We will, however, have another visit next year where we can prove our true worth in a format that the inspectors will understand and regain our rightful status.

In the meantime we continue to provide our young people with opportunities to succeed and excel; as witnessed by outstanding performances of Billy during the Ofsted week. We get results and ensure our students are allowed to grow and develop into successful and delightful young adults. This is what Blatchington Mill is all about and the inspectors will see this in the 6th form too when they next visit. Whilst it has been a trying time for the school over the past few weeks I am grateful for your support – your work with us is outstanding and serves to secure your child's future. Many thanks to each and every one of you.

Janet Felkin, Head Teacher

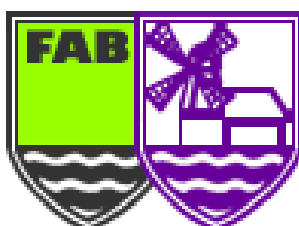
[Click here to view the Ofsted report \(requires portal log-on\).](#)

### RIC Codes Competition

Congratulations to the winners:

Elliot-Gulliver Needham 7NR  
Joshua Drabble 9MZ  
Tyler Hounsome 10AP

Please collect your prizes from the RIC!



FAB raised £54 from our jewellery recycling scheme, thank you to staff and students who brought items in. Future events hope to include our 4th golf event (open to staff, students and parents) and a fashion show. Watch out for further details!



## The Celtic Yarn-Spinners

The Celtic Yarn-Spinners was a surprising and unexpected act that kept showing us so many sides of a very talented man. We all sat down in the cafeteria, expecting something much less than what we got. It was quite exciting and a bit weird, mainly because we'd usually be in normal lessons, but also because the instruments and props that were laid out when we first arrived were quite baffling. I don't think I managed to remember any proper names, but there were drums and tambourines and all sorts. The man himself looked very funny at first, as he was dressed in white, and had black shoes, which was quite an unusual combination choice. He had a great start with a story, disguised by a song, about himself, introducing himself as Johnny half-way through. After that everything went uphill! There was poetry that we got involved in, dancing and making small puppets dance as well. I have a lot of respect for him, as he managed to sing a special birthday song to one of the dinner ladies, who was obviously bashful and shy, and was very kind to her. My favourite bit of the whole thing was when he got us all dancing, because it was fun and showed his humorous side a lot. During the whole hour we had with him, we learnt a bit of poetry, learnt how to dance, and enjoyed his stories about his family, so we got to know him a bit as well. The experience was very enjoyable, and it will probably stick with me for a very long time. At times it was a bit tiring, and we all got a bit hot and bothered, but the majority of the time, we absolutely loved it!! I would recommend seeing him to anyone who likes having a laugh, and who wants to be inspired.

By Charley Jones 7EH

### Important Dates for Sixth Form Students

**11 March 2010 January Module Results**

**15 March 2010 Assessment Week**

All subject staff will be setting an assessment task, e.g. exam, test, piece of coursework for completion during this week. This will then be used to assess progress and to prepare for final assessments. Results will be published and will be used to inform final entry arrangements.

**23 March 2010 Rag Show / Acoustic Night**

**25 March 2010 Year 12 Subject Consultation Evening**

**29 March 2010 Rag Week**

**10 May 2010 AS and A2 Exams Begin**

NB AS students attend lessons until their first exam in each subject. A2 students attend all lessons until half term and then by arrangement with subject staff. Students returning to begin A2 exams will do so after AS exams have been completed.

### BMS Portal News

If you don't yet have a log-on to the Portal, you can use our new live chat to contact a technician who will set up your account. You can find our live chat at: [www.blatchingtonmill.org.uk/portal/portal.htm](http://www.blatchingtonmill.org.uk/portal/portal.htm) (click the link to go there now). Alternatively you can telephone the Network Services office on (01273) 736 244 ext 228 to talk to us. Office hours are between 8:30am and 4:30pm.

# Performing Arts at blatchington mill school



[www.blatchingtonmillschool.org.uk/performingarts](http://www.blatchingtonmillschool.org.uk/performingarts)



“Mugged” is to be performed on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th March in the Windmill Theatre at 7pm. The year 9 students involved have been working extremely well to put on this hard hitting and gritty play which follows the story of six teenagers dealing with a life changing event. The play also looks at the way the media view teenagers and gives the audience a chance to view teenagers differently. The students and the Performing Arts team would love to see you at the show supporting the performers and the school.

Tickets are £3 for adults, £2 for concessions / students. Tickets are available from the Box Office at the West Wing from the 24th February, or you can email [mwalker@blatchingtonmill.org.uk](mailto:mwalker@blatchingtonmill.org.uk)

This play has some adult themes and may be unsuitable for young children. –*Mr N. Rutter*

## Film-making at Blatch!

On the 9th February, professional film-maker Toni Harman came into Blatchington Mill to work with a group of 12 sixth formers. The students enjoyed the opportunity of creating their own mini-documentary centred around issues that they felt were relevant. The workshop involved the students learning the theory behind the making of a film and the considerations needed in marketing and promoting the product. The students really enjoyed the day and have asked if it is possible to continue with the work started in this workshop. Toni Harman from Alto Films was also very impressed with the results made by the students in such a short time. She commented that the learners seemed really inspired and engaged which meant their work was fresh and original. –*Mr J. Price*

A keyboard concert hosted by Rosemary Kemp, a keyboard tutor from Brighton and Hove Music Service, took place on Thursday 25th February. Following this, there was a workshop after school for our keyboard students, and a performance later that evening. –*Mrs M. Walker*

The Winter Concert, ‘Sing For Shelter’ raised £776.53 in December. This was raised from ticket and programme sales, the FAB refreshments, mince pies and mulled wine served during the interval and a bucket collection. There were also booklets of short-stories prepared by students in their English lessons which were sold on the evening in aid of the charity. The cheque has been posted off to Shelter. –*Mrs M. Walker*

## Sixth formers’ court trip

Year 13 A level law students visited Lewes Crown Court on 10th February, where they sat in on a number of serious criminal trials, including the start of a recently publicised murder trial. They were also invited to meet the senior Circuit Judge, HHJ Richard Brown, in his chambers, where he talked about the cases they had seen, and his career as a judge. They asked him a range of questions, to which he gave honest and sometimes amusing replies, and he even let them try on his wig! –*Ms H. Beirne*



# PLTS Skills Days

Throughout autumn and spring terms year 7 have been developing their personal learning and thinking skills (PLTS), through a series of special curriculum days. Every department has taken part in these days so that students can develop their skills across the curriculum. During the first skills day (Independent Enquiry and Self Management) students developed their enquiry skills and utilised their knowledge of the history of Brighton to create power points for Brighton museum. The second skills day (Effective Participant) saw students examining and debating the issue of nuclear power. On the third skills day (Teamwork) students built towers and did a blind-fold assault course to develop their ability to work together. The fourth day (Creativity) saw students developing their skills through a variety of activities in art, technology, music, drama and ICT. This day included the opportunity to make model cars and recycled cities. During the final skills-day (Reflective Learner) students thought about how they learn and how they can improve through their use of French and performing arts. The students enjoyed the days and developed skills essential for the future. These skills will be further developed throughout students' lessons in year 7, 8 and 9. -Miss K. Hovell

## Work experience notice to all Year 10 students.

Book your work experience places NOW. Make sure that you read the details of your placements carefully and check that you will be able to travel to and from your workplace easily. If you do not have a PIN then see me ASAP.

You will need to make a total of 3 selections and then mark them in order of preference. DO NOT submit your choices unless you are absolutely sure that you want them. If you choose more or less than 3 choices we cannot process your application.

Own placements need to be discussed with Ms Manzaroli first to ensure that we do not already have the employer on our database.

Placements in London or outside of Brighton and Hove may be subject to a charge (London visits are £29).

We are continuing to add new work placement opportunities as they occur so make sure that you have a good look on the database before finally submitting your selections.

Work experience 'Drop In' Mondays and Fridays only or during registration every day. Hut 141 is a teaching space also so please do not disturb outside of these times. Email [LManzaroli@blatchingtonmill.org.uk](mailto:LManzaroli@blatchingtonmill.org.uk) to make an appointment at other times. Please check your emails and the portal for further information. -Ms L. Manzaroli

## Year 8 News

1. Well done to all the students who have taken part in the juggling workshops - the standard has been excellent.

2. Please note an email has gone out promoting the parenting seminars in March - please return your reply slips to the year 8 office to secure a place a.s.a.p.

3. Look out for the next inter-form competitions coming up: inter-form badminton and netball.

4. Well done to all students in year 8 - your uniform is excellent! Just a reminder; canvas plimsolls / trainers are not permitted. Jeans (any type which have studs) are also not permitted. -Mr J. King



**Master Chef Competition**  
**'Cooking doesn't get tougher than this'**  
**Celebrations**  
Cook a creative dish or dishes that could be used to celebrate a festival or special occasion from Around the World  
The "Cook Off" for Finalists will take place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March

## Haiti Earthquake Fund

Congratulations, to all students who contributed to the Haiti Earthquake fund, for raising a total of £1300 pounds! Students were asked to wear an item of red or blue clothing and donate a pound towards the tragedy in Haiti.



Well done to all year 8 students who have taken an active part in raising money for the Haiti earthquake appeal. So far they have raised over £500 through sponsored swimming, silence, skating; a jumble sale and cake sales! Thank you to everyone involved.

## RIC News

Thursday 4th March 2010 is World Book Day!

All students will receive a £1 voucher which can be used in local bookshops to buy special £1 World Book Day titles or to redeem against the cost of any other book.

World Book Day vouchers can also be used in the School Book Fair in the RIC 12th-26th March. -Dr D. Ellery

# SPORTS AT BLATCH

## Liam Hurley to represent Sussex in The English Schools Cross Country Championship.

Congratulations to Liam Hurley who came 4th in the Sussex Schools intermediate boys Cross Country Championships.

Liam (year 10) did really well to achieve 4th place having run against boys from both year 10 and 11. He will now travel to Manchester in March to represent the Sussex team.

Good luck Liam!  
-Miss L. Whapham

## Year 8 rugby result

Year 8 rugby team beat Varndean 22-7  
Year 8/9 girls' football beat Brighton and Hove High 10-0 -Mr J. King

## Congratulations to Louis Alexander

Congratulations to Louis Alexander on winning the Sussex Boxing Championship, followed by his win in the Southern Counties Schoolboy Championship. Louis is now in the British quarter finals. A fantastic job - well done! -Mrs S. Fenton

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