



BLATCH NEWS

Blatchington Mill School

Blatch News

Issue 22, October 2009

A month of success

We are now a whole month into the autumn term and your children are continuing to thrive and strive. The expectations and standards we set at the beginning of term are still being adhered to and there is a real sense of purpose around the campus. We have recruited incredibly well to our sixth form (Blatch6) and are delighted with the influx of bright, intelligent and youthful exuberance which now permeates our whole school. We celebrated 30 Years of Blatch. We opened the school and welcomed past students and staff to a feast of memories, trips down memory lane, re-established past relationships all against the background of music and dance. It was a pleasure to hear previous colleagues and students comment, positively, on how the school has changed and I hope your children have informed you of those changes which have taken place over the summer holiday. We are very proud of our new facilities and know the students will appreciate the difference they will make. We have already met parents of year 10 and year 12 and look forward to meeting many more of you throughout the year. I would also remind you to continue to check the portal for your child's information as we will shortly be launching the facility for you to check on your child's progress on line and in real-time. We will alert you to this new service as soon as it is ready. We were also delighted to welcome the Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Education and who took time out of their busy schedule to see what we were doing with regards to our Social Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) approach to students' behaviour management. It was a very worthwhile visit and one that the school will remember for many months to come.

Janet Felkin, Head Teacher



Above: Prime Minister Gordon Brown visits Blatchington Mill during the Labour Conference. **Left to Right:** Mr J Browning, Ms J Felkin, Mr Ed Balls MP, Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Head Girl Hannah Dobson and Head Boy Sam Hiscox. GCSE Media students Anastasia Stevenson and Holly Isaacs also interviewed the PM on their own. The students throughout the school were superb - attentive, intelligent and engaged. Our guests congratulated us on being such a wonderfully calm, innovative and inspiring school.

Diary

Thursday 1st October

Auditions for Stars in Their Eyes
Yoga for adults, 4pm, Dance Studio

Friday 2nd October

Y7 Humanities Trip to Brighton
FAB Quiz Night, 7pm, Theatre

Sunday 4th October

Strictly Come Tea Dancing,
2pm to 5pm, Windmill Theatre

Monday 5th - Friday 9th September

National Children's Book Week
Y7 Humanities Trip to Brighton

Monday 5th October

Sixth Form Art Trip to Tate Modern

Tuesday 6th October

School Council Meeting
Sixth Form trip to Duke of York

Wednesday 7th October

Y10 Auditions for "Billy"
Junior School Masterclass (morning)
Dance visit to the Dome (evening)

Thursday 8th October

School closed for students
Prospective Parents Evening, 6.30pm

Friday 16th October

School starts at 9.45am
Y11 and 6th Form auditions for "Billy"
Book Fair in the RIC

Monday 12th to Friday 16th October

Work Experience Week

Monday 12th October

Open morning for prospective parents

Tuesday 13th October

Open morning for prospective parents

Wednesday 14th October

School closes at 12.15 for
Work Experience Visits
Sixth Form trip to see Mother Courage

Thursday 15th October

Yoga for adults, 4pm, Dance Studio

Friday 16th October

Comedy Workshop

Monday 19th October

Sixth form visit to Brighton University

Tuesday 20th October

FAB Committee Meeting, 7pm

Thursday 22nd October

Y7 New Parents Evening, 7pm
Yoga for adults, 4pm, Dance Studio

Friday 23rd October

School closes for Half Term at 3pm

Message from the Chair

Jenny Barnard-Langston,
Chair of Governors

So, we are starting the adventure of another school year and we begin with the news of our great GCSE results. I am confident that those students who have moved on to colleges will be taking with them the skills and a strong determination to continue their success. Our staff can be proud that their focused efforts to ensure that the students achieve their potential have reaped rewards and we congratulate them. More students have chosen Blatch6 as their preferred college option – there is much to be said for continuity and we welcome them back! We have three new KS3, KS4 and KS5 Associate Student Governors elected from among their peers and we look forward to their valued input to the governing body. The Government White paper “Your child, your schools, our future” will be exercising the governors and influencing their work programme for the next few months! We have a strengthened duty to challenge performance and extend partnerships and new developments in order to improve the achievement and well being of our students. There will be improved training for governors to help them with their duties. We look forward to a continued and developing partnership between home and school to enable us to meet the expectations and to benefit the students and wider community. Don't forget that governors are all volunteers so much of this work will be done in their free time!

School closed

School closed to students on
Thursday 8th October

Prospective Parents Evening

Thursday 8th October
6.30pm, Windmill Theatre

School starts at 9.45am on
Friday 9th October

Early Closing

School closes at 12.15pm on
Wednesday 14th October
for Work Experience Visits

Half Term

School closes on
Friday 23rd October for Half Term
School re-opens on
Monday 2nd November at 8.30am

ELECTION RESULTS

KS3 Governor: Iftexhar Ahmed 9GF

KS4 Governor: Fahim Ahmed 11VH

KS5 Governor: Amer Alaiwi 13SR

Y11 Year Reps: Alec Garrett 11EF

Jazz Malkin 11SP

Y10 Year Reps: Karl Martin 10BK

Ayesha Begum 10BK

Y9 Year Reps: Cameron Faulkner 9MZ

Isabel Lowe-Zinola 9GF

Y8 Year Reps: Zoe Harmar 8RW

George Pryer 8GL

Sixth Form SU Election Results

Student Union: Nick Davies

President

Student Union: Amer Elaiwi

Vice President

Y12 Reps: Mica Coom

Sam Rickman

Well done to all students who ran in the elections!



Lulu Arnett Morrice wins “Design a sweatshirt” competition

Lulu, 10CL, designed a logo for a sweatshirt that will be worn by students taking the new diploma courses. She came first place in Brighton and Hove and won an MP3 player. Well done!

- Mrs N Allan, Textiles

Ready Steady Cook

Produce an interesting British dish using British food produce

This competition will be launched in assemblies early in October. The students will be asked to trial the recipe idea at home and take a photo. The chosen finalists will be invited to cook their recipe in school in November. Entry forms from Mr Stone or Mrs Whitby in Food Tech.



connexions PLUS

What's next? 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, training or employment?

Then come and see Emma,
your Connexions Personal Advisor!

- I am available in school every Wednesday and Thursday in the Connexions Office, which is above the dance studio (M32).
- Or come to the **Careers Drop In** every Thursday after school in the RIC from 3pm.
- For more information on Connexions Plus visit www.connexionsplus.co.uk



How to contact me:
Emma Hadder,
Connexions Personal Adviser
Connexions Office M32,
Mobile: 07833 401 620
E-mail:

ehadder@blatchingtonmill.org.uk

Visit the [Careers Drop-in](#) site on the portal

Exam Headlines

KS3 Results 2009

- KS3 results are now internally assessed after the national withdrawal of all KS3 SATS exams. Teacher assessments at the end of Year 9 saw Science, Maths and English all achieving over 83% Level 5 and above
- 39% of students achieved Level 6+ in English, 65% in Maths and 52% in Science
- Over 33% of our students reached Level 7 or higher in Maths, over 17% in Science and 12% in English
- The breadth of curriculum success at KS3 continues to be a key feature of our results. Seven subjects achieved over 90% Level 5 and above; Art (97%), Design (98%), Drama (97%), Music (93%), PE (92%), French (97%)

KS4 Results 2009

%	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
5 A*-C inc EM	64.5	64.4	55.0	56.0	N/A
5 A*-C	80.3	80.1	75.0	66.0	73.0
5 A*-G	95.8	95.1	96.0	95.0	94.0
1 A*-G	99.7	98.0	100.0	99.0	97.0

The number of students achieving the key government benchmark of 5A*-C grades at GCSE including English and Maths reached the same high level as last year, exceeding our target at 64.5%. Students achieving 5A*-C exceeded last year's figure, moving up from 80.1 to 80.3%. Students achieving 5A*-G grades at GCSE rose from 95% to our target of 96%. Students achieving 1A*-G reached 99.7%, just short of 100% target.

Our core subjects largely held on to last year's significant rises. In Science double award 83-85% of our students reached A*-C, with A*/A hitting 35 and 43%. English Language results rose at A*-C, up from 72 to 75%, with English A*/A rising from 15 to 29%. Maths A*-C results were down slightly at 72% from 75%, but above target, and Maths A*/A rose from 15 to 21%.

32% of our results were A*/A or equivalents in 2009. Subjects performing especially strongly at A*/A include BTEC Music, BTEC Performing Arts, ICT, Media (51%), Child Development (44%), Statistics (61%), Spanish (48.5%), Double award Science (35 and 43%), History (38%), Art and Design (33%), Geography (30%), Textiles (30%) and English Language (29%). Like last year, the strength of our results reflects our students' achievements in core and non-core subjects alike.

Non-core subjects exceeding 80% 5A*-C GCSE grades included Drama, Spanish and Media, all higher than 90%. Other subjects exceeding 80% 5A*-C included ICT, History (88%), Art and Design (86%), Food Technology (82%) and German (83%). The gender gap at GCSE also narrowed further this year. At 5A*-C including English and Maths the difference between girls and boys fell to 8%. The gender gap also narrowed at 5 A*-C to 4% from 8%.

KS5 Results 2009

Our A2 results were similar to last year, with 60% of students achieving A-C grades. A-E grades rose to 94.5%. The number of students reaching A-B grades was also stable at 31.5%.

Eden Munday wins Historical Fiction Competition

Eden Munday's historical fiction essay won the Y9 category of Historical Association's national historical fiction competition. A judging panel made up of teachers, museum professionals and staff from the HA judged entries from schools across the country. The Historical Association said "In the best stories pupils deliberately drew upon the historical fiction writer's devices to write well." The school also won a Historical Association subscription. You can see the results on the Historical Associations website www.history.org.uk. Well done Eden an excellent effort!
- Ms K Hovell, History Dept.

Your school restaurant:
Now known as "Chartwells"
New name,
same great service!

EAT
LEARN
LIVE



Bridge Club go to Loughborough

During the last weekend of the summer holidays a group of students from Y8 to Y11 went up to Loughborough University for a weekend of bridge competitions, lessons and just general fun! The weekend went so quickly including Saturday when we had a choice of going swimming our taking part in the Rounders competition that takes place there every year. Thanks to Mr. Davies, Dave and Jill Armstrong for a great weekend, we really enjoyed ourselves. Good luck to Chris Derrick and Felix Dibb-Fuller (from Varndean) who are going to be part of the England U20s for England - Mr M Davies, Maths.

October is
Black History Month
Find out more at:
www.black-history-month.co.uk

Performing Arts at blatchington mill school



www.blatchingtonmillschool.org.uk/performingarts

Lamda Award

London Academy of
Music and Dramatic Art

The world renowned
awarding body
for acting training

A great opportunity for all
Upper School performers

In each session you can
work on your own or in a pair
while:

- ✓ Learning monologues and duologues
- ✓ Gain a nationally recognised qualification
- ✓ Improve your performance skills
- ✓ Gain confidence
- ✓ Improve your movement and voice skills
- ✓ Work on audition pieces

Please get a letter from
Mr. Rutter, C1 to apply

Closing date:

Wednesday 14th October

Strictly Come Tea Dancing
with Ragroof Theatre
Sunday 4th October & Sunday 15th November
2.00pm - 5.00pm
Windmill Theatre, Blatchington Mill School, Nevill Ave, Hove BN3 7BW
Tickets: £6.00/ £4.00 concessions
From: Dome Box Office, 29 New Road, Brighton Tel: 01273 709709

Coming Soon!



Auditions for Upper School Musical **'Billy' - based on Billy Liar**

Y10 auditions

Wednesday 7th October, 3pm in C1

Y11 & 6th Form

Friday 9th October, 3pm in C1

You will have to sing a song and perform a speech from a play lasting no more than one minute. Preferably the speech will be performed in a Northern accent. Speeches are available from C1

- Mr A Fitzpatrick, Drama



Letter from New York

Miss Holland has returned from teaching in New York where she took part in a Fulbright Teacher Exchange working in collaboration with The British Council. The experience was great and gave her a chance to develop her own teaching skills in addition to sharing her own knowledge of the English system. She said "Teaching English in New York, I found the curriculum to be quite different focusing mainly on fiction with a heavy emphasis on 'British Literature' for those working toward the International Baccalaureate. The extra curricular activities were incredible with most students staying after school daily to partake in team activities such as baseball, basketball and American football". She found the students to be respectful, hardworking and lots of fun to work with. Mrs Karen Malone, her exchange partner, also enjoyed her time at Blatch where she was joined by her daughter, Jessica. Since returning home Ms Malone reported back that she "had a great experience - the staff and community were so welcoming." Miss Holland and Mrs. Malone intend to continue the link between Blatchington Mill and Commack High School.

Left: Mrs Karen Malone (left) and Miss E Holland outside Capitol Hill, Washington.

Parent and Carer News

BMS Parents' Portal Accounts - Update

Blatchington Mill is setting up a temporary telephone hotline for parents to call to receive their logon details for the BMS Parent Portal. This is available for all registered parents / carers whether you have previously completed an application form or not. If you are a new parent who has completed an application form and are awaiting logon details or you are an existing parent whose account details have expired or been forgotten, then please take the opportunity call us on the hotline to gain immediate access to the portal.

Please call either of the following numbers

07740 177642 or 07525 127026 during

Monday 5th October to Friday 9th October between 9.30am to 3.30pm each day.

Please note these numbers will not be available outside of these times / days

You will be asked to provide us with the following information when you contact us:

- 1) Your name, home address and email address
- 2) Your child / children's full name
- 3) Your child / children's date of birth
- 4) Your child / children's form group
- 5) You will then be asked to provide a security question and answer for future validation purposes.

The call should take no longer than two minutes. When you have provided us with the information above, you will be issued a username and password over the phone that will give you access to the Parent Portal.

Please note: After Friday 9th October this hotline will no longer be available. If you are unable to call us during that week then email portal@blatchingtonmill.org.uk at any time to request account information.

You can email for details of your new account or for a reminder of your login details for existing account holders.

You can access the BMS Portal from any computer with Internet access using a secure login at: www.bmsportal.net

Registered Blatch parents and carers can find out about school events, check your child's homework diary, follow class attendance lesson by lesson, see behaviour feedback from teachers, read school reports and academic progress and communicate with other parents online - *Network Services, Blatchington Mill School.*

Texting Service

As you are aware the school has been using a text service to advise parents if their child is not at morning registration. Parents are then able to text a reply with the reason for the absence. The mobile number used for this service is linked to the school's computer system. We are now using this service to advise parents of half hour or hour detentions that their child may have been issued with.

If your child has a detention they are always given a parent copy to bring home which gives more details of who has issued the detention, the reasons for the detention and the date it is to be served. If they fail to attend the detention then a further text will be sent to you. You will not receive a text for short detentions (of less than 20 minutes duration).

Student Services



Parking Notice

Please avoid driving down or parking in Frant Road at the start and end of the school day as this causes major traffic congestion and problems for our neighbours. We would remind you that it is illegal to park on the zig-zags at the school entrance as these areas need to be kept clear for students to cross the road safely. The police have informed us that they will be visiting on a regular basis and will ticket cars that obstruct visibility near the Zebra crossing.

Job Vacancy:

Web Administrator

Required a.s.a.p. 42 weeks a year. Actual salary, £17,847 p.a.

We require an enthusiastic and well organised person to support the ongoing development of our online portal website, and to manage other school websites. Reporting to the Network Services Manager, this role includes hands-on web development and maintenance, as well as collaboration with staff / students, training and administrative support. Please visit the [school website](#) for further details and an application form.

Closing date:

Wednesday 7th October (12pm)

Interview date:

Friday 9th October

SPORTS AT BLATCH



Y11 Cricket

Congratulations to the Y11 Cricket team who are State School Cricket Champions. We won the final by beating Tideway at East Grinstead Cricket Club. We knocked out Oathall and Imberhorne en route to the final - *Mr P Beckwith, PE Dept.*

Left: The Y11 Cricket Team look sharp in their cricket whites

Year 8 Boys Football

After recovering from being behind in their first league game the Y8 boys did extremely well in their County Cup match away at Kings Manor. As we won the league in Y7, we decided to enter the competition again as Y8. A superb performance from the whole squad saw the team win 7-3 with hat tricks from Dan Huet and Sam Rice, who was also Man of the Match. The other goal was an own goal after a superb cross from Gurdeep. If it wasn't for all the competition for places in the squad for each match day created by all 30 boys turning up to training, the team would not be so good. Keep up the hard work boys and well done for such an impressive start to the season.

- *Mr P Howforth, PE Dept.*

Boys Tennis

This summer we entered a boys team into the Aegon U13 Team Tennis National competition. Sam Cissell, Sam Rice, Miles Healy and Ben Jones won the local area league to gain a place in the regional knockout stage. They were then fortunate enough to get a walkover in the first round which means they are now in the last 16 of the South East and last 64 in the whole country. Their next match is against the Judd School in Tonbridge for a place in the third round. Good luck! - *Ms L Whapham.*

Pardis Kianoush: Queen of the Court again!

Pardis is the Sussex U18 Open Tennis Singles Champion. She also played in the U16 County singles competition and finished as runner up. She recently played in an U16 Tennis tournament in Bournemouth where she also finished runner up having beaten the No.2 seed on her way to the final!

- *Ms L Whapham.*

News from the RIC

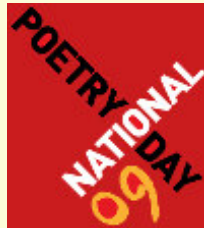
Schools Book Fair

Please support the Schools Book Fair in the RIC from **Friday 9th to Friday 16th October**. Your child will have the chance to browse and buy exciting new fiction books. All commission earned is used to buy new books for the RIC library. The Book Fair is open at break, lunch and after school. Come in and have a look!



Children's Book Week
5-11 October 2009

This year's theme is Words and Pictures



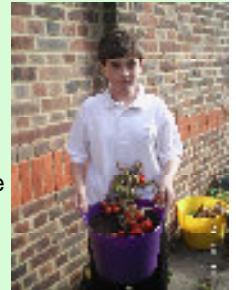
Thursday 8th
October 2009
www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk

The RIC BOOK QUIZ

Quiz sheets available in the RIC or on the Portal. Closing date for entries: Friday 16th October. Win prizes!

ECO CLUB

3.15pm
Every second
Tuesday,
(Week 2)
Room 30



Right: We have just harvested our first Blatch tomatoes!

Eco Schools Event

We are proud to host the Eco Schools / Sustainability Training Session on Thursday 15th October. Eco teachers and support staff from schools around Brighton and Hove come together to share green ideas and good practice, meet other green staff and our Eco Club, Eco Reps, Bike-It Club and Forest Rangers. The event is organised by the BHCC Sustainability Team.

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In association with

