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**Annual Art and Photography Exhibition**

The annual Art and Photography exhibition this year will be taking place on Tuesday, 24th May from 6pm to 7.30pm. Leaflets will be given to learners after the Easter break.

**Art Department**

Learners in Years 10 and 11 will be attending a very exciting large canvas project. This is to replace the canvasses that have been in the hall previously. Howard Fisher, local artist and curator of the Neoartists Art Gallery in Bolton will be directing the project alongside Miss Boardman and Miss Sowerby. Mrs Lawlor will also be involved in the day.

There are 8 canvasses which are 4' by 8' and the event will be covered by the Bury Times. The theme for the canvasses are departmental areas in Castlebrook and they are a celebration of the curriculum in school.

**Easter School**

Revision classes for Years 9, 10 and 11 are running over the Easter holidays. Specific learners have been invited into school to take part in these classes which include English, Sociology, Art, PE, Performing Arts and French. ALL learners should be revising!!!

**Staff climb Snowdon for Christie's**

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April, five SSAs and one ex-colleague did a sponsored climb of Snowdon to raise money for breast cancer. They are hoping to raise £2,000 which will then be donated to

Christie's. It was a very big challenge on the hottest day of the year so far but they all managed to get to the summit. A big thank you goes to all colleagues for their encouragement and sponsorship. Pictures will be on Christie's website and an article has been sent to the Bury Times.

If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please contact any of the members of staff who took part.



Mrs Ferguson, Mrs Brown, Miss Nunn, Miss Glover, Mrs Bamford and Miss Cason arrive at the summit!

**Music Department**

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March, three ensembles from Castlebrook visited Unsworth Primary School where they performed for the Year 6 pupils and then took part in a combined performance with the Unsworth Primary vocal group for the infants. The afternoon was a great success with several requests to go back, from both schools. The next BTEC performance is the 12<sup>th</sup> May—tickets available soon!



## Science Week at Castlebrook 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March

Since becoming a Specialist Science & Technology College, Castlebrook Science week has become a permanent fixture in the school calendar. Over the last four years we have been part of the Ogden Trust Bury Science Partnership, providing a wider range of activities, as well as a vital source of funding to make these opportunities happen. Our partners include Bury Grammar Schools (Boys & Girls), Derby High School, Woodhey High School and Holy Cross College. Our sincere thanks goes to the Ogden Trust for their continued support, and to the staff from all the partners that make these extra curricular experiences happen.



**Members of the Egg Descent Challenge - Year 8**

### **Science Activities so far this academic year:**

- October 2010 — Science Ambassadors Dinner at BGS for girls.
- October 2010 — Horrible Science Show at the Palace Theatre, Manchester.
- December 2010 — A-Level Chemistry Taster at Bury College.
- December 2010—Christmas Flash Bang Show at Manchester University.



**Year 7 3D Experience**

## **Activities during Science Week 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March:**

- The Egg Descent Challenge at Woodhey High School.
- Enzyme Lecture at BGS for Girls. Lecture given by Professor Nigel Scrutton, who is currently the Director of the Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre at Manchester University.
- Science Made Simple Show at Derby High School.
- 3D Science Experience – 200 pupils (primary & Secondary) were able to watch a 20 minute 3D experience, which included a journey to the International Space Station, Life on Mars and a wasp up close!
- Whole School Science Quiz. Whole School winner was Briony Gardner (3 Furber). Staff winner was Mrs Banks (Simpson House). House Winners listed below.

House	Winner	Runner up
Hemmingway	Lynsey Kobarg	Abbie Maidment
Furber	Briony Gardner	Sophie Polkinghorne-Burrows
Foster	Abbie Shoreman	Treacle Manwaring
Simpson	Joint Winners	
	Adil Aslam	Alicia Stonefield
	Cyrus Hanlon	Grace Davidson

### **Castlebrook S3 Science Club (led by Miss Freedman & Miss Ayris)**

S3 club meets weekly on a Wednesday after school. The club combines Science, Technology & fun, with a focus on 'hands on', experiencing activities learners would not have come across in lessons. Some of the activities for this academic year include:-

- Reinforced Jelly
- Geodesic Domes
- Spaghetti Bridges
- Sustainable Bottles Gardens
- Manufacture of Soap & Bath Bombs.
- Inside DNA (trip organised in April)

If your son/daughter wishes to join the S3 club, there are places available. Please ask them to see Mrs Freedman or Miss Ayris.

### **S3 STEM Club enjoys trip to Liverpool**

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April members of the S3 STEM club visited the World Museum in Liverpool to see the 'Inside DNA' interactive exhibition as part of the science aspect of the STEM club. The group also explored the other galleries at the museum and watched a show in the planetarium. The group were fantastically well behaved and wonderful ambassadors of the school!



STEM club outside the Museum in Liverpool

### **IGO Pass — Important information regarding travelling on buses—URGENT! Act now!!**

In our December Newsletter, we informed parents/carers about a new young person's concessionary travel pass which has been introduced by GMPTE called an igo pass. From 16 May 2011 children aged 11 to 16 years must have an igo pass to pay the concessionary fare (currently 80p) on buses in Greater Manchester. The existing GMPTE ID16 will no longer be accepted and bus companies will charge higher fares if an igo pass is not shown to the driver. The igo pass is only available to children who live in Greater Manchester, or attend full time education at a school in Greater Manchester. You can find out more and download an application form at: [www.gmpte.com/igo](http://www.gmpte.com/igo)

### **Acorn Adventure Trip**

There are still a few places available on this Year 8 trip which is taking place from 27<sup>th</sup>—31<sup>st</sup> May 2011. For more information, please contact Miss Ayris.

### **Ski Trip to Austrian Alps 2012**

There is one place available on the ski trip to Obertauern in the Austrian Alps from 10<sup>th</sup>—18<sup>th</sup> February 2012. Please contact Mr Brookes if your child is interested.

### **Oxbridge Conference at Bury College**

Ten of our Year 11 learners recently attended an Oxbridge Conference held at Bury College. The purpose of the conference was to encourage and support more young people from state schools to apply to these prestigious universities.

Head Girl, Nicola Williams attended the course and said *"I really enjoyed the trip to Bury College and found it very interesting to hear from people that work and teach at Cambridge and Oxford Universities. It gave us a valuable insight into applying for Cambridge and Oxford Universities and we learnt what they look for in an applicant. We also had the chance to talk to the visitors from both Universities on a one to one basis for them to answer any questions we had. I now understand the term 'Oxbridge'. I think we all thoroughly enjoyed the trip."*

### **History Department News**

The Home Front in WW2 has been brought to life for Year 8 learners over the last few weeks. All learners have taken part in various activities linked to this topic. This has included listening to popular songs of the time and examining footage of bombing and evacuation.



They have worked in groups and analysed evidence from the period including WW2 posters and ration books in carousel work.

For some learners the most exciting aspect was acting as government advisers in the war effort in a Blitz simulation game. For others it was trying to dive for cover when the air raid siren sounded.



All the learners have worked in an extremely positive manner and been incredibly enthusiastic. V Ross, Head of History Department.

## **Exams**

As we approach the GCSE exams, it is vital that all learners arrive fully prepared with all the equipment necessary. In particular, learners need a scientific calculator for their Maths exams. Please ensure you have a black pen as well as a spare one. Too many learners are turning up unprepared and we would ask you to ensure that your child has the all the necessary equipment before the first exam on Monday 16th May.

## **Support Bury FC!**

Bury Football Club have informed us that for their League 2 clash between Bury and Barnet this coming Saturday, 16th April, under 16s can gain entry for just £1 on the turnstiles. As they bid for promotion to League 1, they would like as many youngsters as possible to support this fixture! Why not go along and show your support!

## **School Uniform**

As detailed in previous Newsletters, uniform is compulsory for all learners and the co-operation of parents/carers in ensuring a high standard of dress is requested. No jewellery or make-up is to be worn except a watch and at most one small stud in each ear for pierced ears. Outer coats should be plain black or blue and must not be worn inside the school building. Hoodies, leather or denim jackets are not allowed.

Suitable footwear should be worn by all learners, ie sensible black leather shoes. Boots, trainers, pumps or canvas shoes are not suitable for school.

## **Dates for your diary**

Day	Date	Time	Event
Fri	15/4	3.05	School closes for Easter holidays
Tue	3/5	08.45	School re-opens
Fri	6/5		Junior UK Maths Challenge
Fri	27/5	3.05	School closes for Spring Bank Holiday week (27/5-6/6)
Fri-Mon	27/5-30/5		Year 8 Acorn Adventure Residential

## **Easter Holidays**

School closes on Friday 15th April at the normal time of 3.05pm and re-opens on Tuesday, 3rd May at 08.45am. We wish all our learners a Happy Easter and a safe and enjoyable holiday.



**Please sign your child's Learner Planner to acknowledge receipt of this Newsletter.**

**Past copies of Newsletters are available on the school website and also from the school reception.**