

Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy
A National Teaching School

NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS – March 2013
(Issue 49)

March 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian

It gives me great pleasure to send you our latest newsletter. As with all schools there are staffing changes and last term Mrs Lane was appointed Assistant Headteacher with a particular focus on teaching and learning. As you know from a previous letter we have been acknowledged as being one of the top 100 non-selective schools in the country this year but we don't rest on our laurels and are constantly looking at ways to improve. With this in mind we held a staff INSET on Friday 15 March run by the renowned educationalist Paul Ginnis on maintaining excellence by ensuring at least good progress for all students. The day was very thought provoking and challenged all of us to be more reflective teaching practitioners.

On Thursday 28 February and Friday 1 March we had a SIAS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools) Inspection. This was a minimum notice inspection run by an independent OFSTED inspector who inspected our worship, leadership, Christian distinctiveness and RE. We were graded outstanding in all four categories which is one better than our last SIAS inspection which graded RE lessons as good and this is testimony to Reverend Swindells and the RE team's dedication to continuous school improvement. The inspector was exceedingly complimentary about our school stating that relationships across the school community fully expressed a Christian understanding of values. She also said that the headteachers and governors had a clear vision of our future as a Church School and was particularly impressed by our achievements in RE and the excellent pastoral systems in place for the whole school community. As you can imagine we were delighted by her report which will go on the website once it has been officially published.

Our Executive Headteacher, Mr Davies, continues to 'fly the flag' for Bishop Rawstone on a national level. He is working with a number of schools across the region as part of his role as a National Leader of Education. This also involves members of our own staff who gain a lot of experience from supporting colleagues and I must add, we get a significant amount of funding for this support work. This funding has enabled us this year to set aside approximately £380,000 to build a 3G pitch on our old 'all weather pitch'. If you are wondering where we are up to, we are currently in the consultation phase prior to submitting a full planning application and would hope to have the pitch in use by the end of the summer term as long as there are no delays with planning and the weather!

As you know we have also been able to redevelop 3 Science laboratories, the prep room, a Science classroom and the Science corridor this year and all rooms are now in use. We are currently in the middle of our boiler replacement project and I thank all of our students and staff for their support and patience during this unseasonably cold spell that would have to happen now!

This year has also seen the appointment by the Blackburn Diocese of Paul Lock as Director of Education. Paul has not been in post very long but has already been a great support to the school. He shares our vision for the future of education for the young people within the diocese and is just as excited as us by the opportunities developing in the ever changing educational landscape. Paul and Bishop Rawstone will be working closely on a number of projects over the coming months and we will keep you informed of developments in future newsletters.

I have been in interview mode for the past week having read through over 170 applications for 6 posts ready for September. I am pleased to say the calibre of the new recruits is excellent with outstanding teaching observed across the board. It's the least our students should expect and under my leadership remains my number one priority – to ensure our students continue to be taught by the best teaching team in the country.

This will be our Year 11s last newsletter at Bishop Rawstone and I wish them well in their exams. Thank you for your continued support and I hope you all have a very happy and peaceful Easter.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Cowley
Headteacher

Runshaw Maths Challenge



On the evening of Thursday 7 March four of our Year 11 students entered the Runshaw Maths Challenge. This prestigious event involves teams of top mathematicians from schools all

across Lancashire, competing against each other to solve a variety of everyday maths puzzles. This year's event played host to 29 schools and I am pleased to announce that our team of Jared Metcalf, Molly Winnard, Abigail Hayes and Tom Chatwood finished second, just one point behind the overall winners. Congratulations to them on a superb performance.

Astronomy Club

A group of 11 students from Years 7-10 have been participating in the Astronomy Club.

The club has involved many activities such as looking at the moon and planets such as Jupiter during the winter months and now creating mini mars rovers and refracting telescopes from old glasses. Students have also been given the opportunity to share their sightings with the group and have produced presentations to help others to find celestial bodies in the night sky.



Holocaust Memorial Day



Each year Runshaw College in Leyland runs a competition for Holocaust Memorial Day for its feeder secondary schools. The theme is the inspiration of Sophie Scholl a young girl who spoke out against the Nazis and along with her brother and friend were executed as a result of their endeavours. At Bishop

Rawstone Church of England Academy we teach a unit of work on the Holocaust in Year 8 and the best homework pieces are entered in the competition. We get a range of things including music compositions, poems, prayers, letters, art work and 3-D models. Runshaw display the winning entries and host an afternoon tea where the winning entrants are invited to receive their prizes. This year Desiree Silcock won first prize overall and the following were highly commended: Anna Semple, Kate Murphy and Beth Spear. The girls won certificates, Anne Frank books and Easter eggs. Desiree additionally won a £25 Amazon voucher.

On a separate occasion several year 10s attended a Gifted and Talented Day at Runshaw where they had a taster of Religious Studies and Philosophy A levels.

Year 11 History Students' visit to Krakow, Poland

During the February half-term break 45 Year 11 students participated in a visit to Krakow in Poland. This included a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp. They visited the Galicia Jewish museum in the city and were given a talk by a survivor of the Auschwitz camp. They also enjoyed a guided tour of the city, including the Jewish quarter which was the setting for 'Schindler's List' and the historic market square. The visit was an immensely powerful experience for the students and staff involved and one which they will remember for the rest of their lives.



Science and Engineering Week



A number of KS3 students have celebrated National Science and Engineering Week by participating in "The Egg Drop Challenge".

This took place in

lunchtimes during the week of 18th-22nd of March. Students thoroughly enjoyed the challenge.

Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge

Over the past 7 weeks Ethan Cawthorn, Luke Hodson, Mark Power, Abigail Brooks, Cameron McFarlane, George Raggen, Ryan Armstrong, Megan Ackers, Kate Harrison, James Smith and Louis Fitch have been competing in the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge. As well as winning prizes along the way we are hoping that at least 4 of our students will qualify for the Regional Mega Final. Winners of this then compete in the Northern Gigafinal, finally finishing with the Terafinal. Results will be announced on 27 March.



Fusion – Student e-zine

You can now view our brand new student magazine in the 'Letters & Forms' section of the school website. Fusion is an exciting new magazine project based at Bishop Rawstone. We aim to combine news and reviews that matter to you, the students, with original writing from some of our most talented young people. All the work featured in the magazine is by the students here at Bishop Rawstone. If you're a budding journalist or are interested in photography, magazine design, fiction or non-fiction writing, please get in touch. We need your work to drive the magazine into its next issue. Send any articles, creative work or ideas to fusion@bishopr.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you!

End of Year Concert



The Music department will be holding their annual end of year concert on Thursday 2 May 7:00pm start. It will involve the band, choir and many individual and smaller ensembles. Tickets will go on sale after Easter and they will be £1.

All the money will go towards buying new music for the band and choir. This will be the last time Year 11 students will perform for the school so come along and help us thank them for all their hard work and dedication as well as supporting the other musicians involved.

Young Enterprise

This year's Young Enterprise group have been busy raising money for Abbie's Fund. The group would like to thank everyone for their donations of selection boxes and Easter eggs, as well as supporting the group Easter Bingo evening. The group's next event will be a Summer Ball on 17 May 2013 to be held at Shaw Hill, where all proceeds will also go to Abbie's Fund. Parents/Guardians will have received letters regarding the purchasing of tickets for the event. Additionally, if anyone is willing to donate any raffle or auction prizes for the ball, these would be gratefully received.



Marathon Challenge



Mr Hosker is raising money for Rosemere Cancer Foundation this year by running ten marathons between April and October. The student council have also voted to support Rosemere and will be deciding upon a fundraising

event later in the academic year. Mr Hosker's challenge begins in Blackpool on 7 April and ends in Newcastle on 27 October, by which point he hopes to have raised £2000. Should anybody wish to sponsor Mr Hosker, the link to his Just Giving site is as follows:

<http://www.justgiving.com/Rob-Hosker>

Thank You

We have received a letter of thanks from 'Cancer Research UK' for the donation of £1318.46 which was sent to them following last year's summer fair.

Design and Technology Trip to London.

Mrs Loveday, Miss Abbott and Mr Rockley took 22 Year 8 and 9 students to London in the middle of March. The trip was primarily to explore career opportunities in the Design and Technology Industry. As well as seeing The Lion King and enjoying a meal at the Hard Rock Café, students visited the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Design and Technology Museum and thoroughly enjoyed a walking food tasting tour of the East End, visiting the world famous Bagel shop on Brick Lane and sampling the best chips in London at Poppies in Spitalfields. The students and staff all agreed it was a very successful trip!

Easter Cookery Club

Students in years 7, 8 and 9 have been enjoying making Easter treats including Easter Bunny Cupcakes and Sticky Chocolate Nests. On



Wednesday they will be taking part in a chocolate workshop, decorating eggs and making chocolate lollies - it promises to be a lot of messy fun!

Pancake day

Mrs Loveday, Mr Twinn and some students from 10M raised £78.00 for the Joining Jack Charity by selling pancakes with different toppings to celebrate the start of Lent. 'Over 150 were sold and we could have sold double that!' comments Mrs Loveday 'we will raise our game next year and try for 300 pancakes!'

Forest School

Jack Otter, Stirling Silcock, Helena Gordon, Ryan Armstrong, Alice Anderton and Dani Morgan have successfully completed a 6 week programme learning through outdoor experience, camp craft, nature trails and knife skills.

Sporting Achievements

Year 8 girls Emma Whittingham, Caitlin Jackson, Sophie Holt-Rogers, Flossie Dickinson and Emma Ryding represented Chorley at the School Sports Hall Athletics tournament and after winning they then represented Lancashire in the Finals.

Swimming

Rachel Thompson, Caitlin Thompson, Emma Whittingham, Ellie Cameron, Leah Hamer, Jack Hardman, Brandon Davies, Sam Ball and Dominic Lewis competed in the Chorley Schools Swimming Gala and as champions went on to represent Chorley at the Lancashire Schools Gala in Blackpool where between them they successfully brought home a gold medal in the Year 8 'Fly', a gold medal in the 'Back Crawl' a silver medal in the 'canon relay' and a bronze medal in the 'boys freestyle'. Our congratulations go to all of them.



Football – Congratulations to our Year 7

and Year 10 Football teams who successfully made their way to the Chorley School Finals. The Year 10s were narrowly defeated 1-0 by St Michael's in their final. They were particularly unlucky hitting the woodwork three times in a terrific final which was hard fought. Congratulations to the Year 7s who won 4-2 in their final. All the lads representing school were a credit to themselves. A special thanks to Mr Smart, Mr Edwards and Mr Platt for



coming to support the Year 7s. It was encouraging to have their support despite being outnumbered by the Chorley-based contingent. Good luck to Mr Hornby's Year 11 team in their last game ever in a Bishop Rawstorne shirt.

Netball – Congratulations to our Year 10 netball team who became Chorley School League winners and they also gained 4th place at the Stonyhurst Invitational Netball Tournament.

Dancing – Year 8 dancers Laura Hazeldine, Bethany Charfe, Imogen Stopforth and Kate Dalton successfully gained bronze medals at the Chorley Schools Dance competition with their under 14 'Urban' act.

Updated Contacts

Please ensure that school is provided with any changes to your data, including addresses, work phone numbers and mobile phone numbers etc. These need to be kept updated so that we are able to make contact should an issue occur in school.

Absence

Parents **must** inform the school office of their child's absence by 9.30am on **each** day that their child will not be present in school. A letter should be sent on return to school. Letters are also requested for hospital and dental appointments.

Holidays

It is essential that we enlist parental support to improve attendance. The legal position with regard to holidays is that parents may request permission to take children with them on family holidays for a **maximum of up to ten days** on one occasion in any one academic year, and then only in **'unavoidable circumstances'**. An application form from the school office should be completed. We strongly urge parents to avoid taking children out of school for holidays during term time. **Any request for holidays during term time due to work commitments must be accompanied by written support from the employer.**

Seatbelts on school buses

Could we please ask parents to remind all students who travel to and from school on a bus that they must wear their seatbelts at all times.



Medication

Should it be necessary for a student to bring medication into school they must hand it in to the main office immediately upon arrival. It is the student's responsibility to call at the office at the appropriate time to take the medication. We also ask that parents supply instructions of the times at which the medication is to be taken. Under no circumstances must a student carry medication around with them whilst in school.



Mobile Phones



Mobile phones must be switched off and kept in students' bags at all times whilst in school.



Term and Holiday Dates 2013 - 2014



AUTUMN TERM 2013

STAFF INSET DAY (School Closed)	Wednesday 4 September 2013
School re-opens on	Thursday 5 September 2013 Years 7 and 11 only
	Friday 6 September 2013 All Years
STAFF INSET DAY (School Closed)	Wednesday 2 October 2013 (Open Evening – 1)
Closure after School	Friday 25 October 2013
School re-opens on	Monday 4 November 2013
STAFF INSET DAY (School Closed)	Friday 29 November 2013
Closure after School on	Friday 20 December 2013 at 2.00pm

SPRING TERM 2014

STAFF INSET DAY (School Closed)	Friday 3 January 2014
School re-opens on	Monday 6 January 2014
Closure after School on	Friday 14 February 2014
School re-opens on	Monday 24 February 2014
STAFF INSET DAY (School Closed)	Friday 21 March 2014
Closure after School on	Friday 4 April 2014 at 2.00pm

SUMMER TERM 2014

School re-opens	Tuesday 22 April 2014
May Day Holiday – School Closed	Monday 5 May 2014
Closure after School on	Friday 23 May 2014
School re-opens on	Monday 2 June 2014
Closure after School on	Wednesday 23 July 2014 at 1.15pm

Please note that any leave of absence will only be granted in very special or exceptional circumstances. We strongly urge parents to avoid taking children out of school for holidays during term time. The Headteacher remains the final arbiter for any requests made.