



# St Andrew's School Bedford

e-newsletter October 2011

## Girls Go for Gold



On Wednesday 21 September, the two GCSE P.E. groups travelled to Birmingham to attend the Girls Go Gold sports conference. The talks covered subjects such as sport psychology, sport at university and the life of an elite athlete.

The elite athlete in question, Hannah England, who won a silver medal at the IAAF World Athletics Championships a week before the conference, was happy to answer any and all of our questions on her training routine and diet. We also heard from Baroness Sue Campbell, an ex-England netball player and the chair of UK Sport, alongside students from the University of Birmingham.

Later in the day, we had the privilege of hearing Dame Kelly Holmes speak. She spoke passionately about her sport and how she came to be in the sporting world, and we all found her very inspirational.

**Helen, Year 11**

## North Wales Adventure for Years 5 and 6

Year 5 and 6 had a fantastic time on their activity week at the Blue Peris Mountain Centre in North Wales. Ellie in Year 6 writes about her experiences.

"Blue Peris is a wonderful place to learn how to do unexpected things. I liked Blue Peris because I learned a lot and enjoyed working as a team. I learned to build a raft, traverse at sea level, rock climb and mountain walking.

Sea Level Traversing is an activity where you definitely have to work as a team because you have to tell the person



behind you what is coming up, for instance, if there is a slippery bit ahead. We all climbed over the rocks and our instructor Matt stopped us because we were all wondering about the barnacles. Matt explained that when you stand on them they help you to grip on to the rocks. I loved this activity because I liked working as a team."

## Dates for Your Diary

**Tues 15 Nov**  
Year 7 Experience Day

**Wed 16 Nov**  
Year 3 Experience Day

**Fri 25 Nov**  
St Andrew's Day Service at St Andrew's Church

**Sat 26 Nov**  
**PTA Christmas Fayre—**  
**11.00-14.00**



**Fri 2 Dec**  
PTA Christmas Party Disco: Years 5 and 6

**Fri 9 Dec**  
PTA Christmas Party: Years 1, 2, 3 and 4

PTA Christmas Party Disco: Years 7 and 8

**Mon 12 Dec**  
Junior and Senior School Carol Services at St Andrew's Church

## Blue Peris Album



## St Andrew's School Bedford

### Learning Support News

#### WINNER OF THIS YEAR'S APPRENTICE IS DYSLLEXIC!



Tom Pellereau – a classic dyslexic - won the BBC's 'The Apprentice' by using many of the methods we encourage the girls to use in their studies.

Tom kept getting out his 'little book' and noting things down. Like many dyslexics, he has great ideas, but cannot remember things.

His mother said, "He is a trier. He has always worked hard. If you work hard you will get through." Time and again this is proved to be true, and it is the attitude that I would like all our students to have.

Many students I have supported have gone on to be successful, when they have applied the techniques they have learned to reinforce their learning, skills and knowledge. Our students at St Andrews are fortunate, as they are at the centre of a working triangle. The points of the triangle are:

- a caring school with teaching staff that have time to help.
- an active learning support department to give specialised help.
- their parents/ guardians, who help and support the girls' needs.

This triangle works if everybody communicates. Parents/guardians should always contact staff if they feel the working triangle is failing in any way.

**Ann Hepher – Learning Support Co-ordinator  
Years 7-11**

**St Andrew's School PTA**

**Christmas Fayre**

**Saturday 26 November 2011**

**11.00-14.00**

**Stalls galore for all your Christmas needs**

**Save the date!**

## Walmsley House News

### Junior School Breakfast



On Tuesday 11 October Junior School pupils, parents and grandparents gathered for a celebratory breakfast.

A reflection of the family ethos which is so central to St Andrew's, the children and adults spent time together while sharing the delicious breakfast provided by our catering team.

Mrs van der Sande welcomed everyone and spoke about the Junior School charity, the Bana ba Metsi School in Botswana. A collection raised £226. Many thanks to all who attended.

### Nursery are building a Bug Mansion!



Nursery are planning to build a 'bug mansion' to attract beneficial insects to Walmsley House.

The basic structure is made from pallets and the gaps are filled with dead wood, straw, hay, dry leaves and bark.

Hollow stems, such as bamboo canes will provide nesting sites for bees.

If any parents can donate any materials please contact the Nursery Manager, Emma Niro.

### Foundation Class Hunt for Autumn



On Tuesday 4 October the Foundation Class went to Bedford Park to look for signs of autumn.

As the children walked around the lake they noticed the different coloured leaves on the trees.

They crept through the woodland to look for squirrels and to listen to the leaves rustling and the birds singing.

They collected conkers, leaves, cones and sycamore keys to create their own autumn display back in the classroom.

Despite the recent heat wave, the class found out that autumn is very much on its way!

### Year 1 Victorians



This term Class 1a have been finding out about the Victorians and the houses and homes they lived in.

We looked at photographs and a video illustrating Victorian life at home and then went for a walk in the local area around St Andrew's. We found many examples of Victorian houses and the children were able to see for themselves the differences between houses built in Victorian times and modern houses.

## Meet the Governors

- a monthly column introducing the School's Governing body with topics of interest.

**Roger Willis: Chairman of the Staff and Curriculum Committee**



Roger has served as a governor since 2008 and is currently Chair of the Staff and Curriculum Committee. Roger is a retired head teacher, who worked in Bedfordshire schools for twenty five years. He and his wife Jane are members of the Bedfordshire Golf Club and he will serve as club captain in 2012.

He and the other members of this committee meet once a term to receive reports from the Head and Deputy Head on curriculum development, academic achievements, extra curricular activities of pupils and matters relating to the school teaching and support staff. Roger and the committee were delighted with the excellent exam results achieved in recent years.

The committee have recently met staff responsible for Information Technology, Mathematics, English, Art and Technology to discuss their teaching philosophy and subsequently to visit classes to observe pupils at work.

Members of the Governors Staff and Curriculum Committee are available to consult with staff groups or individuals by prior arrangement through the school office.

Note: Full profiles of all the Governors can be seen in the Governors' Annual Report.

## Year 11 Graphics GCSE Industry Visit



On our visit to Copypoll we were able to witness all of the printing processes and see them in action, from the plates being made to the packaging being processed as a final product.

We were amazed at the speed of the machines. We also spent time in the board room where Mr Tollman informed us of all the technical information to do with printing.

This will be invaluable for our GCSE Graphics controlled assessment. A big thank you to Mr Tollman for this opportunity.

Natasha and Olivia

## Year 7 and 8 Trip to Snibston Discovery Museum



Snibston was one of the best school trips I have been on for a while. We tried to use the right force to get a boat to travel through water and to make a ball float in mid-air.

At the mine it was very interesting to see all the equipment they used to use.

*Abigail, Year 7*

Snibston was very interesting. A miner took us around and showed us the cages that he would have gone down the mine in. I learnt that people as young as seven went in to the mines. The mines were a dangerous place to work, especially for children.

*Fleur, Year 7*

Our trip to Snibston is something I will never forget. It helped me learn new things and we had so much fun.

We did all sorts of interactive experiments and practical activities from wild water, about water pressure, to going through tunnels collecting coal. As Snibston used to be a mine we saw the places where real miners worked from the 1800s to the 1990s. It was really interesting as we were told about the explosives they used.

*Sylvie, Year 7*

## Italy Music Tour to Tuscany—23 to 29 October

**Good luck to all the girls who will be performing in Florence, Pisa and San Gimignano**

## GSA Cambridge Conference Macmillan Coffee Morning on Careers in Science



On Monday 3 October some of our GCSE Scientists attended a conference in Cambridge about women working in scientific careers.

It proved to be a fascinating day. The women presenters worked in a wide range of careers, from civil engineering to hydrology, to earthquake engineering to research.

A practical session on nanotechnology showed how important an area to science and industry this is.

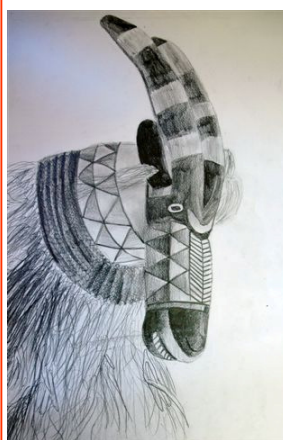
There was a very challenging presentation from Valerie Gibson, a professor of Physics who works at the Large Hadron Collider in CERN about the search for the Higgs Boson particle.

The most interesting talk was from two scientists who work in the Antarctic, Melody Clark and Professor Elizabeth Morris OBE. This was an inspiring presentation because both women had persevered against considerable prejudice to achieve their ambition to work in the Antarctic.

The Head Girl team and Year 11 organised a very successful Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care.

Cakes were donated by girls from all year groups were sold at break time and over £183 was raised.

### Year 9 Art



## News of Former Pupils

The 2009 leavers have just completed their Sixth Form Studies and are off to University.

Of the girls who went on to BMS, **Lois Carlisle** is at Birmingham studying Business Management. **Hannah Frost** is reading Law and Criminology at Sheffield. **Claire Hillier** won a place studying Mathematics and **Annabel Prentice** a place studying Architecture, both at Nottingham University. **Micha Staines** is at Nottingham Trent reading Criminology.

**Emma Hind** and **Gabbie Farrow** completed their A Levels at Dame Alice and are both going to Leeds Metropolitan University to study International Business.

**Grace and Helena Burt** studied at the High School. Grace is off to Nottingham Trent to read Fashion Management and Helena to Sheffield to read Urban Studies.

**Georgie Hamilton-Briscoe** went on to board at Uppingham School and is off to Newcastle to read Countryside Management.



Four of our former pupils visited to talk to Year 11