



# KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH NEWS AND EVENTS

# AROUND BURNWOOD

www.burntwoodschool.com

Issue 36 – July 2008

## 'DESIGN UP' DAY FOR YEAR 7 Spectacular Science

Year 7 students spent a day working on how Burntwood School could look a few years from now. With the help of experts in engineering and architecture, students came up with some innovative and thoughtful designs. The environment and energy conservation were central to their plans. These included the installation of solar panels to provide power for the school, using collected rainwater wherever possible and positioning recycling bins and compost heaps throughout to cut down on the amount of waste generated.

'Design Up' is a project supported by the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network. It gives students the opportunity to contribute to the future planning and remodelling of their school buildings and grounds. It also complements government plans to rebuild or renew most secondary schools in England with the Building Schools for the Future programme.

### Year 9 Physics Challenge

Students from Ernest Bevin College joined Burntwood students to take part in a Physics Enterprise Challenge with scientists from the Institute of Physics. Students were given the task of designing a stage set for a music festival complete with sound, lighting, special effects and pyrotechnics. Students were divided into teams and competed to come up with a design that was visually impressive, as well as cost efficient, environmentally friendly and technically sound. The event concluded with the teams presenting their designs to a panel of judges. The winning team from Burntwood School was awarded with certificates and book tokens.

This year, as part of its Science Specialist status, Burntwood School has provided an extensive programme of classes and activities for pupils from its link primary schools. Burntwood's Primary Science Coordinator, Catherine Taylor, ran a set of very successful Gifted and Talented masterclasses held at Burntwood, and visited schools to deliver a chemistry 'Flashes and Bangs' show. She has also provided support for primary teachers and pupils in the delivery of the Science curriculum.



At the end of June, over 200 pupils from local primary schools, together with Year 7 students, enjoyed a science lesson with a difference. They found out about the force of gravity, air resistance, friction, equilibrium and gyroscopes by watching Dr Ken from the Inspirational Science Theatre Company perform his circus skills Science show. He explained a range of scientific concepts using some amazing and entertaining juggling and unicycle tricks.



*This month's Jack Petchey Award winner is Year 7 student Ani Ali. She was nominated for the Award by Mrs Holden for her determination to succeed in her school work.*

## CHINA WEEK

This month students and staff at Burntwood School enjoyed a week-long celebration of its new links with China and the forthcoming Olympic Games in Beijing.

Highlights included daily competitions and morning Tai Chi exercises and the flag of the People's Republic of China flew all week. Students also designed postcards wishing China good luck in the Olympics to send to Burntwood's link school in Tianjin. The week culminated in a spectacular performance of a Chinese Lion Dance by the Bailing Acrobatic Group accompanied by live music.



# CURRICULUM PLUS

Curriculum Plus is a two week programme of lessons and activities to extend and enrich the curriculum. This enables subject areas to teach in longer blocks of time, allowing a greater variety of activities to take place in and out of school, and for speakers and organisations to visit.

A number of very successful projects and visits have taken place over the fortnight, and every subject area has provided students with new educational experiences and challenges.

During Curriculum Plus, the 'Cycle To School' Roadshow visited Burntwood as part of the PE Department's programme. Students from Years 7, 8 and 9 had the opportunity to learn about road safety, cycle maintenance and were able to practise their cycle skills around an obstacle course. The Roadshow was run by Evans Cycles and the Metropolitan Police Youth Engagement Team, supported by Wandsworth Council. All the students who took part were able to enter a competition to win some fantastic prizes provided by Evans Cycles. Year 9 student Safia Didi won a mountain bike; runners up Saba Mehmood and Yasmin Cherfi received a selection of cycling accessories. Prizes were presented by Inspector Clive Lett and PCSO Paula Thornburn from the Youth Engagement Team.



Rommi Smith, poet and playwright, worked with Year 9 students on a project based on the theme of changes and new beginnings. The work produced included two stunning installations, a 'poetree' and a 'tree of desires and wishes', as well as screen savers and chapbooks.

Holocaust survivor, Rudi Oppenheimer, came to Burntwood to give an extremely moving talk to Year 9 students about his experiences during the Second World War. As his sister had been born in Britain, the family were classified as 'exchange Jews', meaning that they were amongst the last Jews to be 'resettled' out of Amsterdam. The family was sent to Bergen-Belsen, where Rudi's parents perished, but miraculously, Rudi and his siblings survived and were reunited after the war.



Year 8's Art lessons used African Masks for inspiration.

Year 7 students worked on producing a newsletter over the two weeks reporting on some of the events and activities that took place. Students interviewed Mrs Dorfman about her views on Curriculum Plus.



Year 12 Physics students visited the Thames Barrier to see London's flood defences in action. They then spent time at the Greenwich Royal Observatory as part of their Astrophysics course.

The Science Department had Hollywood Science as its theme for Year 8's Curriculum Plus. Students watched excerpts from *Dante's Peak* and *Shanghai Noon* and then investigated whether the scientific theories used in the films were fact or fiction.



Year 9 students enjoyed a wonderful visit to Paris. They spent a day absorbing the culture of the city followed by an exciting day at Disneyland Paris. The trip provided plenty of opportunities for students to practise their French speaking.

Images from this year's Art and Photography Show can be viewed on the website [www.burntwoodschoo.com](http://www.burntwoodschoo.com)