



KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH NEWS AND EVENTS

AROUND BURNWOOD



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Season's Greetings

Issue 30 – December 2007

CELEBRITY CHEF COOKS AT BURNWOOD

Paul Rankin, celebrity chef and restaurateur, well known for his regular appearances on the BBC TV programme 'Ready, Steady, Cook', visited Burntwood at the end of November. As well as meeting students in the Refectory at lunchtime, he gave a very informative masterclass to 6th Formers on 'Cooking at University'. Mr Rankin showed students how to cook a quick and easy three course meal incorporating healthy, cost effective ingredients. 6th Formers had the opportunity to ask questions and taste the prepared food which they unanimously declared 'delicious'! Mr Rankin then attended Burntwood's Cookery Club where he showed Year 7 and 8 students how to prepare a fruit strudel. The visit was arranged through Sodexo, Burntwood's catering partner, as Paul Rankin works with the company on a variety of projects as a consultant chef.



Paul Rankin with Year 12 students
Ellie Boxall and Josh McLaverty-Williamson

Successful Science Masterclass Programme

Burntwood's Science Masterclass Programme provides an exciting opportunity for students to extend their scientific knowledge through a variety of practical activities. This term's Science

Masterclasses have attracted record numbers with Burntwood students from Years 7, 8 and 9 and students from Ernest Bevin College and Chestnut Grove School attending. 'Flash, Bang, Roll' launched the programme in spectacular fashion with a dramatic chemistry show followed by an exploration of Newton's First Law of Motion using marbles. Then the 'Dissection' Masterclass looked at the history of dissection prior to some practical activities. Finally, in the session 'Barnchester Poisoned', students enjoyed playing detectives in a forensic science Masterclass that sought to find out who was responsible for poisoning an entire town. Masterclasses take place on Saturday mornings and next term's dates are the 2nd & 9th February and the 8th March.



The 'Flash, Bang, Roll' Masterclass

Geography Action Plan The Geography Department has been taking part in the Action Plan for Geography, a two-year programme funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The Action Plan aims to raise the profile of geography as a subject relevant to the 21st century, helping young people to become informed about the world around them, and also to be responsible and active citizens. Dr Cabral, Head of Geography at Burntwood, is very involved with the project and was invited to a reception at Speakers House, House of Commons at the end of November to celebrate the success of the first 18 months of the Action Plan. Guests included members of Parliament and the House of Lords, members of the Royal Geographical Society and the Geographical Association and Michael Palin, who helped to launch the Action Plan and continues to support its work.

**Burntwood
Christmas
Concert**

**Tuesday 18th December
7pm**

**Adults £5.00
Concessions £3.00**



Visit to The Roman Baths

Latin students had the opportunity to visit the best-preserved Roman spa from the ancient world when they visited The Roman Baths at Bath. As well as taking an audio tour of the Baths, students heard, in a teaching session provided by the Roman Baths Museum, how Bath became an important Roman settlement because of its natural hot spring. The session, linked to the Cambridge School Classics Project studied at Burntwood, also gave students the chance to handle Roman artefacts excavated from the site. Some even tried the hot mineral-rich, but strange-tasting Spa water that still rises from the Spring at a temperature of 46°C.

The Drama department has been busier than ever this term with trips to see a wide variety of theatre; Year 13 has been to see 'The Bacchae' and 'The Women of Troy', Year 12 has seen 'Cabaret', Year 11 saw 'Looking for JJ', Year 7 Drama Club saw 'A Christmas Carol', 6th Form theatre club has seen 'Citizenship' and 'Chatroom' and the 'Bugsy Malone' cast has seen 'Wicked'. Students have also been rehearsing every week for Burntwood's musical production of 'Bugsy Malone'. If any parents would like to help with costumes, props or any other backstage task, please could they contact Ms Dunn or Ms Clarke.



Burntwood School recently updated the lighting equipment in its Main Hall and Drama Hall. To help students use this equipment more effectively in their lessons, Mr Farish attended a 3-day course on Technical Theatre and subsequently, Year 12 AS Drama and Theatre students have been working with award-winning lighting designer, Natasha Chivers, to build their knowledge, skills and confidence in using lighting within their own drama work.

In November, thirteen students, Ms Dunn and Ms Clarke spent the day at the Ashstead Business Centre in Hertfordshire with 'Fame Academy' vocal coaches Carrie and David Grant. Students were taught exercises to help them to sing, project and perform and how to analyse their characters' motivation for wanting to sing and perform. It was a truly inspiring day and a once in a lifetime opportunity. Here are two Year 10 students' thoughts on the day: "The day inspired me to follow my dreams. Carrie and David gave us very useful tips on our singing. Meeting them was incredible and Ashstead College was magical." *Esme Green*

"Ashstead College is a beautiful building, very grand and old, and meeting Carrie and David Grant was amazing. They are lovely, down to earth people with interesting stories and they really encouraged me to follow my passions and dreams." *Daisy Steere*

Enterprise For Year 10 National Enterprise Week takes place in November and is an annual week of activities and events aimed at giving young people the confidence to develop their entrepreneurial skills. Year 10 students took part in an Enterprise Week challenge run by the company ShP Solutions, an organisation that recycles mobile phones. The challenge was to devise a business plan for a hypothetical company recycling electronic waste. Students were asked to consider the social and environmental impact of their business plan, as well as ensuring its economical viability. They enjoyed the challenge and came up with some exciting and creative ways of marketing their schemes. Students learnt that it is possible to be entrepreneurial and ambitious while at the same time make a difference to the world around them.

Academy Success The Burntwood School Cheerleading Academy is nearing the end of its first very successful term. Both the Peewee and Junior squads are at full capacity and boys and girls from the local and wider community are training to compete at next July's International Cheerleading Championships. The squads train for 90 minutes every Monday with Coach Paul assisted by Year 11 student Alicia Wedderburn-Graham, gym coach Vikki Burns, and Head of PE Miss Potter, and both have made fantastic progress. There is a waiting list for places at the Academy. Please contact Coach Paul at paul@dance49.co.uk for details.

