



KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH NEWS AND EVENTS

AROUND BURNWOOD

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Christmas Concert 2006



BURNWOOD'S annual Christmas Concert combined both traditional and modern pieces to provide a most enjoyable evening of seasonal music.

This year's programme included a wonderful performance by the Choir and Orchestra of the Prologue from Bioto's 'Mephistopheles'. Accomplished solo and ensemble pieces from students and staff, combined with audience participation in the singing of carols, ensured the concert's success, as did the hard work and dedication of many members of staff, in particular Ms Owen and Mrs Clark.



Planting for the Future at Burntwood

Burntwood students, aware of the effects of global warming on many of our native species, are keen to develop a part of the School grounds into an area to encourage wildlife. This month the Student Council planted trees and hedges donated by the conservation charity, the Woodland Trust. These will provide natural habitats and a sustainable area at Burntwood that will not only support wildlife but will also provide a teaching and learning environment for students and the wider community. The Student Council was assisted by construction company Willmott Dixon, who helped to dig the 60 holes needed for the plants. Assistant Principal, Dr Bandara, said, "The Student Council and Groundswell, Burntwood's charitable partnership dedicated to improving the School's grounds, are working hard to promote a greater interest amongst students in their environment. This is a great way to launch our plans to improve the grounds for the benefit of our school community and we are delighted that Warren Lubin, Community Liaison Manager at Willmott Dixon and his team were able to help us get the project underway."

Year 9 Shoebox Appeal

Year 9 students have been taking part in the charity CAFOD's 'Operation Christmas Child' appeal. Students collected toys, stationery, clothes and toiletries and



packed them into brightly decorated shoeboxes to be sent by CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, to orphans in Europe, Africa and India. Students have managed to collect enough to fill 50 shoeboxes. Geography teacher Ms Sheldon said "The response from students to the 'shoebox' appeal has been fantastic. They have worked so hard to fill and pack the boxes, giving up their breaks and lunchtimes to work on the project".

Shakespeare Festival

Rehearsals for Burntwood's Spring Term drama productions are already well underway with students working on two exciting projects to be performed in the Spring. Ms Dunn is staging 'The Taming of the Shrew' which can be seen in February at the Secombe Theatre, Sutton as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival. At Burntwood it will be staged as part of a double bill with Mr Farish's production of 'DNA', a new play written for the Shell Connections Festival with the National Theatre. This will also be performed by Burntwood students at the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith in April.

Burntwood Choir News

The Chamber Choir has again been accepted to compete at the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen. As part of a fundraising programme there will be an Auction of Promises with musical entertainment on the evening of Wednesday 31st January. The catalogue isn't available yet, but wherever your tastes lie, there will be something to tempt you! Do please come along and bid.

Season's Greetings



Science Roadshows for Year 8



In November, medical students from St George's, University of London brought Nursing and Prosthetics Roadshows to Burntwood for Year 8.

Poetry Performance

Performance poet Adisa visited Burntwood this month. As well as performing his work to Years 7 to 10, Adisa held workshops for students in Years 7 and 9, exploring with them his techniques and method for poetry composition. He brought poetry to life for the students, giving them the confidence to attempt writing some poetry themselves. Adisa means 'the one who makes meanings clear' and students agreed that his visit was inspirational and helped them to have an understanding of how poetry can be relevant to them.



Energy Competition In November Tutor Group 9 : 8 invited Ann Link local environmental campaigner to Burntwood to help them to enter the competition 'Shout About - Friends of the Earth'. To win the first prize of a wind turbine for the School, students had to find out what is being done locally to combat climate change. Ms. Link, who promotes using alternative methods of energy in the local community, talked to students about how they can save energy at home. The group recorded an interview with Ms Link and prepared a PowerPoint presentation to enter the competition.

Geography Trips

Year 12 Geography students spent three days in Abergavenny, Wales. They endured snow, wind and rain to carry out field work on the River Caefanell in the Brecon Beacons National Park. They donned hard hats to descend the Big Pit coal mine, now a museum, and also visited the Great Llwgy farm to investigate the changing nature of British farming threatened by the globalisation of the food industry.



Year 13 Geography students attended a conference on Natural Hazards which examined the impact of global warming on the increasing frequency of hazards such as hurricanes and flooding. Students also took part in discussions on where and when the next catastrophic tsunami is most likely to happen.