

Link

The news magazine of Boston Spa School

Connecting classrooms

Our students become global citizens

A path to the future for all

Enrichment activities across the curriculum

I AM delighted to introduce the launch issue of our new-look magazine.

We hope to bring good news stories to your attention, recognising some of the very exciting things that are happening in our school. These celebrate the admirable achievements and qualities of our young people and also the commitment and professionalism of the staff that serve them.

For this edition, we focus on the theme of extension and enrichment activities for different groups, and you will be able to see some of the ways in which we are meeting the needs of all students through additional activities.

Mr Christopher Walsh, Headteacher



Courting success: Ed Balls with Christopher Walsh and Colin Burgon and Boston Spa students.

Ed Balls sings our praises

IN March, we welcomed Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, to our school.

During his visit, Mr Balls announced funding for a new tennis centre, which will include two indoor courts and a refurbishment of the existing outdoor courts. The tennis centre will form part of our new £500,000 sports development, almost £400,000 of which has been provided by the Government. Work is expected

to be completed in the autumn.

Mr Balls said: "This is a school which has seen its results shoot up. It has done so because it has done things which other schools around the country are copying. It has taken the passion and ambition young people have for sport. Our sports schools are actually the fastest improving schools."

The Cabinet Minister also ate lunch with a group of Year 12 Politics students. See their report on the back page.

Award for Investors in Pupils

BOSTON Spa School picked up its second Investors in Pupils award at a Leeds Education ceremony last month.

Our school is the only secondary school in Leeds to have been given the Investors in Pupils award, which is equivalent to the

well known Investors in People award given to businesses. The award recognises young people's development as a whole person and the skills they learn to equip them for the work environment.

Following this success, the school hosted a training day for headteachers and staff from schools across the

country. Twenty students took part in the event, which was organised to identify what other schools need to do to achieve Investors in Pupils status, and what to expect from an assessment.

Headteacher Mr Walsh commented: "The development of the whole person is at the heart of the continuing improvement in our school."

Megan Turner and Jordon Danby, Year 10



Good ambassadors: Twenty students flew the flag for Boston Spa School.

Healthy competition

YEAR 9 students Gemma Lunn and Bethany Coombes have won a national competition organised by the NHS.

The students joined a lunchtime group run by Mrs Green, our Business Partnership Co-ordinator, to explore different careers in the NHS. These

included healthcare assistants, health service management, and accident and emergency doctors. The students had to produce a job advertisement, job description and curriculum vitae for each occupation.

Gemma and Bethany investigated

a career in dentistry, and produced a website to encourage people to apply for a job with the NHS.

The NHS Careers team will present the pair with their prizes – a laptop each and £50 of Amazon vouchers – at an assembly in June.

Job 'prescription': Gemma Lunn and Bethany Coombes, Year 9.



Acrobats in national championship

YORKSHIRE Acrobatic Champions Jessica Ward and Emily Wardman have achieved success in the National Sports Acrobatic Finals after coming third in the championship.

The Year 7 students specialise in women's pairs acrobatic gymnastics, which combines choreography and complex acrobatic skills, performed in partnership on a standard gymnastics floor area.

CD raises cash for children's home

A HUGE thank you to all our parents who supported the sale of the Boston Sparkle Christmas CD.

The CD, featuring the school's soul, jazz and brass bands, was produced to raise money for the Amani Children's Home in Tanzania.

We had tremendous support from local shop owners and primary schools, who helped us to sell 500 CDs and raise £1,255 for the Home.

Sophie rocks!

STUDENT Sophie Cooper-Connelly has been asked by Garforth Town Council to present an award at a football gala in June. This follows Sophie's experience of being 'Mayor for the Day', after her manifesto was voted the best in an online poll.

Sophie met councillors in Leeds to present her winning manifesto, 'Let's Get Leeds Rocking'.

Sophie, 13, told the council meeting: "Our proposal would be to build an arena for sporting events and concerts. It's time for Yorkshire to have a prestigious venue to attract top artists to Leeds. Special buses would reduce the amount of traffic going to the site, and out-of-town park-and-ride facilities would be in operation."

Megan Turner, Year 10



Citizens of the world

International links and trips abroad both encourage and enable our students to widen their horizons and broaden their experience

Global leaders in the field of sport

AS a successful Sports College, we have been invited to take a lead in a £9 million investment programme that is designed to support sporting projects in five developing countries around the world, with each project representing one of the Olympic rings.

Entitled the 'International Inspiration' programme, it is designed to engage, inspire and transform the lives of millions of children and young people in schools and communities across the world through sport.

We are leading the 'International Inspiration' programme for Bangladesh. The other pilot programmes are taking place in Azerbaijan,

Brazil, Palau and Zambia, and project work has already started in each of these countries.

Led by UK Sport, UNICEF, the British Council, the FA Premier League and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the programme will also provide opportunities for us to raise awareness of the issues faced in the developing world through our school links in the UK.

We invited West Oaks to join us on this important venture, which began with an initial visit by Mr Swales and Mr Walsh, and Mr Hodkinson and Mr Smith from West Oaks, to build links with schools in Bangladesh.



Helping to transform lives: (l-r) Mr Hodkinson, Mr Swales and Mr Walsh with the shirts they took to Bangladesh as part of the football shirt amnesty.



Activities for all



DURING the Easter holidays, the PE Department took 36 Key Stage 3 students to the Dordogne in France for a five-day, multi-sports tour.

The students took part in a variety of activities, from canoeing, sailing, boarding, orienteering and climbing to problem-solving, team games, initiative games, shooting and archery.

Everyone had a great time.

Project encourages global exchange

BOSTON Spa School is one of ten schools in Leeds selected by the British Council to partner with schools in Tokyo, Japan, and Busan in Korea.

The 'Connecting Classrooms' project encourages students to explore what it is to be a global citizen, and helps them to develop and express their own values and opinions while listening to, and respecting, other people's points of view.

During the first part of the project, Year 9 students made a video of their school day, which was shown to students at schools in Tokyo. In addition, Mrs Green visited Korea to build links with three schools in the city of Busan.

In the future, we hope to arrange visits to our partner schools but, in the meantime, the British Council has set up a website to enable students to communicate with each other.

French exchange

IN March, 32 Year 9 French students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the culture of France when they visited Nantes and La Rochelle, and stayed with families in La Roche-Sur-Yon in the west of France.

Then, in April, the French students visited Boston Spa School. Highlights included visits to Howarth, York and Tadcaster, and they were guests of honour at a special leaving party organised by our students.



Art trip to Amsterdam

AFTER the success of their Art trip to Paris last October, 37 A-level, AS and GCSE Art students visited Amsterdam.

Starting with the Van Gogh Museum, students enjoyed a comprehensive body of work spanning Van Gogh's entire life. At the Kröller-Müller Museum, there was the chance to admire works by the Dutch painter Piet Mondrian.

At the Rembrandthuis Museum, highlights included watching demonstrations of etching and paint preparation once

practised by Rembrandt.

Paul Boulton, Head of Art, said: "It is always thrilling to see young people interacting with great pieces of artwork."

The most spectacular experience of the trip was the Rijksmuseum where students had the chance to view a selection of works from the Golden Age by the Dutch masters Rembrandt, Vermeer and Franz Hals.

The school is planning to return to Paris next year.

Ellen Adams, Year 12

A gift for business

ENTERPRISE Teacher Miss Manning has set up a unique partnership with Leeds Grammar School to encourage entrepreneurs in Year 10.

Eight students from Boston Spa School are working with eight students at Leeds Grammar to set up a 'company' and produce a Father's Day gift.

The students have split into four groups, and have already pitched their gift idea to a panel of judges to win £60 of funding.

The students will set up a stall in the White Rose Centre in Leeds to sell their product the weekend before Father's Day.

Adam Kerrigan, Year 10



Chick mate: Year 7 students (l-r) Jenny, Rima and Dan, care for their newly born charges.

Into the 'Dragons' Den'

YORK University and Leeds Aimhigher have launched 'The Big Deal 2009', which includes two teams of students identified as gifted and talented from Boston Spa School.

Over the course of the ten-week enterprise competition, the teams will complete an online curriculum, with mentoring support from professionals who work at some of the country's most successful businesses.

Competing against 14 other schools, they will then pitch at a *Dragons' Den*-style event, and the winning team will have the opportunity to go on a business trip of a lifetime to New York City.

Science students learn new skills

THE Science Department has been commemorating the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth by encouraging students to develop their independent thinking and leadership skills.

Activities have included a group of Year 9 students attending a workshop entitled 'The Trouble with Science is Ethics', during which they took part in a mock court case on assisted death and acted out issues around genetic research. Student Bethany Coombes said: "It helped me to learn about new developments in Science from different viewpoints. I was interested to learn about nanotechnology and how it may

affect my future career in medicine."

Meanwhile, in Year 7, students became surrogate parents to a group of newly hatched chicks. Their research included carrying out experiments with eggs – studying the fragility of the shell, the contents of the egg, and investigating questions arising from seeing the chicks hatch.

Mr Coombes, Head of Science, said: "Science is a great vehicle for developing independent thinking and reflective learning. There are numerous opportunities to build on the leadership skills developed by our Sports Department."

Chemists rise to the challenge

FOUR of our Sixth Form students entered the Chemistry International Olympiad exam for the first time this year.

Via the internet, the students were linked with a mentor, who set them work, marked it, and gave them feedback.

The four students performed admirably. Ian Rodger and Emma Nunn achieved the silver award, Joshua Reid achieved the bronze award, and Peter Walker received a commendation for his work.



Dance showcase

SIXTH Form Dance students are showcasing their BTEC Dance Award performance work for parents and the community on 17th June, from 7pm.

Dance Teacher Miss Granger said: "As

well as giving students the opportunity to explore a range of dance styles and study different choreographers, the event will give them the experience of organising a show, including the publicity and stage management."



Height of achievement

THE Year 8 basketball team were runners-up in the York Basketball League after losing 34-22 in an exciting final match against Fulford School.

The Year 11 team continued its success from last year, winning the York Basketball Shield.

A delighted Mr Colley said: "The team has trained every lunchtime, and this has given them great cohesion. I'm very proud of their performance."

Hockey team competes to win

THE Year 7 girls' hockey team reached the semi-finals of the Leeds Schools Tournament after a successful first season.

The girls trained every week after school, and Teacher Miss Jones commented: "I am delighted with the commitment the girls have shown, and their hard work paid off in the tournament."

Girls sign up to football

LEEDS United FITC (Football in the Community), in partnership with Boston Spa School, is recruiting female footballers aged 16-19 for its 2009 Football Development Programme.

The programme will give young players the opportunity to carry out their academic studies at the school and also represent Leeds United in the English College League.

Students will be able to choose from an extensive range of academic and vocational courses, including the BTEC National Diploma, and AS and A2 courses in more than 30 different subjects including Sports.

Football teams pitched to succeed

THE Year 7 football team has shared the Leeds Schools Cup after a last-minute goal against Cardinal Heenan in the final at South Leeds Stadium. After extra time, the teams were 1-1, and agreed to share the cup.

The Year 11 Under 16s team were also runners-up in the Leeds Schools Cup after losing 2-3 against Garforth School in the final. Teacher Mr Lynskey said: "I'm very proud of the team spirit and enthusiasm of the boys. They are an example to all."

Cup winners: The Year 7 football team.





WHILE Year 11 students prepare for their GCSE exams, naturally their thoughts turn to the next year and joining the Boston Spa Sixth Form.

The Sixth Form curriculum has been significantly redeveloped as a result of a survey of student interests and aspirations to include photography, uniformed and public services and the introduction of the extended project for the more academic students.

Assistant Head of Sixth Form, Nick Young, expressed his excitement at the large uptake of the new curriculum – particularly UPS and photography.

“The initiative will be a major boost to the personal development opportunities open to the students,” he said.

MPs lunch at Boston Spa

IT'S not often, as an AS-level Government and Politics student, one gets to have lunch with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Ed Balls. When he arrived, accompanied by fellow Labour MP Colin Burgon (Elmet constituency), he proved very approachable.

During lunch, we were able to ask questions of both MPs, although as a member of the Cabinet, Mr Balls was a little more reserved with his answers!

For me, the experience opened my eyes to the political world, revealing the fast-paced lifestyle of Government ministers like Mr Balls, and I feel extremely privileged to have been given this opportunity.

Anna Shlinder, Year 12

Young entrepreneurs mean business

IN November, Sixth Form students teamed up to accept the challenge of *The Apprentice* star Kristina Grimes to demonstrate their entrepreneurial talents in exchange for £300 tickets for the 'Raising the Bar' business conference at the Harrogate International Centre.

The four students succeeded in the challenge, and met Kristina again

in Harrogate, where she introduced them to 1,000 business people as the country's future business entrepreneurs. The students listened to presentations from Jack Black, one of the UK's leading authorities on personal development, and Richard McCann, a motivational speaker on 'Change, Challenge and Leadership'.

Abigail Disley, Year 12

Student apprentices raise the bar: Gareth Evans, Matt Carr, Katie Bryant and Abigail Disley.

