



Friday 12th February 2010  
Volume Three - Issue 10

# The Boteler Bulletin

The newsletter of Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School

## Stand up!

Year 7 pupils Aaron Ashton and Nathan Edwards presented their own stand up comedy routine with BBC sitcom star Tim Vine. (Turn to Page 6)



Specialist Music College

[www.boteler.org.uk](http://www.boteler.org.uk)

## Review Day Feedback

Dear parents,

### **REVIEW DAY**

From your evaluations, it appears the vast majority of parents found Review Day very useful and liked the way it had been organised. The turn-out was significantly higher than for the previous years' Parents Evenings and we think the event was a great success. My thanks go to all the staff who worked so hard to organise the event so efficiently.

This feedback means that we feel we should continue with this format and there were some excellent suggestions for improvements for next year. We realise too that it did not fully meet the needs of some parents and we are discussing ways to solve this problem. I will be able to report back to you in more detail in the next bulletin.

Since the event, the staff you met have been working hard to follow up your concerns, suggestions and requests. Please contact us if any issues have not been dealt with. (Turn to Page 2)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Form:** \_\_\_\_\_

## (From Front Page)

### TEACHING AWARDS

I'm delighted to tell you that we now have three teachers who have been nominated for a Teaching Award: Mrs Coleclough, Miss Ghorbani and Mrs Kelly. I am now going to endorse the nominations, and I would like you to help me. Please post, email or hand in positive comments about any of these teachers and I will incorporate them into my reference. The deadline is Monday 1st March. There is still time to make more nominations at [www.teachingawards.com](http://www.teachingawards.com).



John Sharples  
Headteacher

### Brandon Hedge - Year 8 Homework Incentive Scheme iPod winner



## Homework Incentive Scheme

Homework is an important part of school life and a key part of each subject's delivery. Completing homework encourages the pupils to build on knowledge learnt in lessons, extend their existing skills and improve their much needed independent research abilities.

I have therefore set up a Homework Incentive Scheme to reward pupils who complete outstanding homework and also those who complete homework consistently week in week out. Each week on a rota basis subjects have been nominating pupils in those two categories in Year 8 and 9. Each pupil nominated receives a certificate in assembly and a letter of congratulations is sent home.

At the end of each half term the pupils are entered into a prize draw 1 in each year group.

This half terms prizes are iPod shuffles which are awarded in the last assembly of the week. See below for a full list of pupils nominated in the last two half terms - congratulations to all and keep up the great work.

### Mr Jones

#### Associate Leader for Home Learning & Middle School Progress Leader

Year 8 & 9 Pupils nominated:

Heidi McElwaine, Owen Roberts, Jack Haselden, Leah Salisbury, Analise Braide, Abbie Jo Jarvis, Katie Jackson, Jordan Moore, Niamh Petre, Nathan Weaver, Kayleigh Taylor, Rachel Rochford Morris, Jack White, Edward Simpson, Kylie Allen, Luke Barnes, Megan Crosby, Holly Waters, Bethany Taylor, Jade Harper, Emma Gibbons, Rachel Heesom, Emma Clarke, Emily Jones-Dobbs, Harry McDonald, Sean Wells, Bethany Price, Molly Lynch Nichols, Megan Hipkiss, Gemma Wernham, Kathleen Newans, Alex Cullen, Reba Russell, Connor Hunt, Natalie Berry, Hannah Conception, Tom Platt, Abbie Lockett, Lucy Howard, Lucy Williams, Billy Ashurst, Tia Maine, Rowan Arnold, Lindsey Watson, Jack Wheeler, Liam Burgess, Nathan Harrop, Tom Albiston, Chris Gough, Brandon Hedge, David Smith, Davida Kelly, Sam Reynolds and Rose Bibby.

## School Council News

Here is a summary of the projects which our five Student Action Teams have been working on this term.

### **THE WAY AHEAD**

The team are in the process of organising the forthcoming Junior School Conference for school councillors in our Associate Junior Schools.

Some of the team have also been on a project visit to Manchester, organised through the Sorrell Foundation. This was a follow-up to their London visit and focused on developing our thinking about the furniture, colour schemes and layout of our school as it develops over the next few years.

### **HEALTHY SCHOOL AND SPORT**

The team has been analysing feedback from the most recent school meals survey and also discussed ways of raising funds to purchase new sports equipment.

### **SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**

The team continues to oversee recycling in the school and issues related to the smooth running of the system are being dealt with. Applications for potential new managers of the scheme have been assessed and students recruited to take over from Y11 as their examinations approach.

### **CHARITIES**

The total amount of money raised through Christmas charity events was almost £500. This will be going to El Shaddai and Alder Hey Hospital. This term the Charities Action Team will be coordinating our support for Sports Relief. There has also been fundraising for the Haiti earthquake victims.

The Citizenship Group and canteen staff are focusing on Fairtrade Fortnight after half term.

### **EFFECTIVE LEARNING**

Delegates from this team plus other student representatives are due to visit Knowsley Learning Centre after half term to see how this BSF funded establishment is organised. They will be investigating specific aspects of what goes on there with a view to passing on the information to other SATs for analysis and possible new projects.

THE NEXT STUDENT VOICE STEERING GROUP MEETING IS DURING P2 ON WEDNESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY. THIS IS FOR ACTION TEAM LEADERS AND MENTORS ONLY.

## Need help with your French?

If you are in Year 7 or Year 8 and you want some help with your French, contact one of the MFL Student Consultants and they will arrange for someone in Year 10 to help you out. You can visit the French help site by browsing to the Modern Foreign Languages site on the Pupil VLE. Choose one of our Year 10 GCSE French students to email and they'll arrange some help for you to get you on your way. Très bien!



## Governors Go Back to the Classroom

A delegation of school governors changed places with our pupils last week to sample lessons in the Maths, English and Music departments. The visit was planned to improve their first hand knowledge of how teaching is evolving and although they were initially apprehensive they all survived the challenges put in front of them and thoroughly enjoyed the morning, assisted by pupils to help them out when they got stuck!

Mr Thompson introduced the governors to the modern environment of the new Maths room before Mrs Hughes combined old with new in bringing together Chaucer and Rap Music and after a well-earned cup of tea with the staff, the reward was a "hands on" session on the African Drums with Mr Clarke. Finally, our guests sampled the lunchtime atmosphere of the canteen and were able to exchange views with pupils over their meal.

The event was a great success and really helped our visitors understand how things are moving forward at Sir Thomas Boteler. It was good of them to make yet another commitment to the school in this way and we plan to repeat the exercise later in the year for those who were unable to attend this time.



## Parents of Year 10 and Year 11 Pupils

This week letters have been posted to you to tell you what exams the school has entered your son/daughter for this summer. There was a covering letter, a timetable personalised for your son/daughter to say exactly when their exams will be, and a sheet with a space for you to sign and return that sheet only to me at school and I should be grateful if you would do that straight away please. Please keep the other sheets so you know when your son/daughter should be in an exam. Thank you.

**Mrs M Miller, Exams Manager**

## Year 9 History Visit to Keele University

On Wednesday January 27th a group of Year 9 History pupils visited Keele University to take part in a series of lectures and seminars about the Holocaust. The visit allowed the pupils to access the Year 9 syllabus outside of the classroom and in an interactive environment.

Pupils were given an insight into the experiences of Jewish victims of the Holocaust. The visit was of great interest to the pupils and even allowed them to meet with a Holocaust survivor and ask her some questions. Pupils will now have a foundation to build on when they study the Holocaust after half term.

**Mr J Welsby**

## Year 7 Is Full of Comedians!

Two budding stand up comedians gave themselves the ultimate challenge of seeing if they could make a professional comic laugh, last Friday.

Aaron Ashton and Nathan Edwards in Year 7 have been writing their own stand up comedy routines in Pressgang club and went to the Parr Hall to perform it for the star of BBC 1 sitcom 'Not Going Out' Tim Vine. The boys got lots of tips on their routine and asked him questions about his career so far. The interview will be shown on the BBC on March 11th, as part of the BBC Schools News Day.

## School Canteen News

The week beginning 22nd February 2010 is Fairtrade week. At breakfast we will be giving away Fairtrade tea so come along and try it! At dinner time there will be home made tea bread, cakes, muffins, all made from Fairtrade products. The week after, on 1st March, we will be celebrating St David's Day with a Welsh theme!



## Community Enterprise Project

The following Year 11 pupils - Jake Buckley, Adam Chambers, Danny Leah-Wilcock, Ailish Hampton, Jack Powell, Catherine Dutton & Chloe Houghton - are taking part in a community Enterprise project. They have decided to deliver a short presentation to our local primary schools on the dangers of under-age drinking.



In-line with their campaign they have designed - with help from local business man, Norman Thompson - a logo that they will attach to pens, and then sell to the young pupils to get their message across.

They have worked really hard so far and are looking forward to delivering their presentation soon. We'll keep you posted about any further developments but can we say a BIG well done to the group.

### Mrs Whitney & Mrs Povey

## A Plea - Claim Your Lost Property!

So far in 2010 the following items have appeared in our LOST PROPERTY!

10 Blazers – 10 x £20 = £200

5 ties – 5 x £2.50 = £12.50

24 shirts – 24 x £4 = £96

14 pairs of school trousers 14 x £10 = £140

5 school jumpers – 5 x £10 = £50

8 red PE tops – 8 x £3 = £24

All prices are approximate replacement costs at a total of £522.50!

There is also a large number of non-uniform assorted tops, jumpers, coats, trousers and even footwear!

Please claim your items back before half term. Everything is currently on display in the main hall.

***MAKE SURE YOU  
GET YOUR STUFF  
BACK -PUT YOUR  
NAME IN  
EVERYTHING!!***

## Injury-hit Boteler Team Too Strong For Penketh in 55-33 Victory

With just one win against Penketh in the last four years, we were keen to keep this season's momentum going by building on last week's demolition of Lymm High School. However, problems were mounting with Declan's ankle injury whilst playing for Chester Jets already depriving us of one top scorer and then during the day Ryan (knee) and Jake (flu) had to pull out too. Tom was carrying a slight back injury and Ash Latham picked up a knock in judo during the afternoon



**Michael Lyon - Tough defence**

but still led the team passionately in his third game as captain.

In many other years this would have been too much to deal with but our strength in depth in basketball this year is such that we could still field eight regular players who have all scored in the league this season. We knew that Penketh would base their game around one player and had a strategy to contain him, a job which Mikey and Ash Latham shared during the match. In spite of their excellent man to man defence he still scored 28 of their points!

We started better this week, with tough marking and rebounding, but several times possession was thrown away by sloppy passing in transition. Our guards were not breaking wide enough and Penketh were quick to intercept even though they lacked the skill to convert possession into points. Tom kept us in the game with more unstoppable drives to the basket and Rocky brought an outside shooting dimension to our offence which was missed during his injury lay off.

Having achieved a 7 point lead at half time we were looking more comfortable. Josh(TJ), David and Connor came on to give Mikey and Ash Haughton a rest whilst Tom and Ash Latham alternated through the third quarter. Surprisingly for a big school, Penketh had

### Tom Bate - Top scorer again



only 6 players and as we wore them down with a relentless half court press, their energy levels began to drop towards the end of the match. Time and again our players stole the ball in mid-court and the fast break was on almost very time, although we are still not ruthless enough and should have easily scored another 10-15 points.

Towards the end we were in total control with Rocky, Josh and Ash Haughton, who played practically the whole game, running the offence comfortably. With the game won we began to play some quality

basketball with David , Tom and Ash Latham getting quality passes in scoring positions. Connor also came close and won a number of loose balls which he recycled sensibly. Rocky and Mikey both regularly out jumped Penketh players at both ends to win the ball and block shots. We used up the clock sensibly at the end and Tom finished the game with a three pointer on the buzzer.

We were once again well supported by our resident cheerleaders and a number of other supporters from all years. Dec, Tasha and Tom Davidson handled the scoring table and as usual the match was played in the right sporting spirit by both teams. Our next challenge is away at Great Sankey.

**Mr H Chambers**

## Table Tennis Review of the Year So Far

Over the last 4 weeks there has been lots of table tennis taking place and a lot of credit must go to the pupils for their behaviour and their performances during these weeks, giving up time in their own weekend to represent the school on many occasions.

### Saturday 16th January

Round 3 of the National Junior League, at the Halton Stadium, Widnes, five of the team went to compete in the third round of this competition with the school lying in mid table, in division 2. Again there were some good performances from all the boys, Dominic Acomb was again excellent playing at the number 1 ranked position and Martin Brown now of Priestley College also showed excellent form at the Ranked 3 position. This was also an opportunity to give Matthew Walker from year 7 an experience of this level of competition, making a very good debut and learning in lots of areas on his technique. With the 4th Round to come later in the year the team is in a good position to consolidate its position in division after promotion from division 3 in our 1st season.

**Team: (Ranked order) Dominic Acomb, Ryan Rowland, Scott Hackett, Martin Brown, Matty Walker.**

### Saturday 23rd January

This was the Zonal Final of the English Schools Table Tennis Association Team Competition, with the school U13s Boys Team, there to represent the Cheshire Zone as their number 2 team, with Wade Deacon the Cheshire Number 1. With a number of teams not turning up to the event in Accrington on the day there was less opportunity for games on the day after 2 heavy defeats by the Cumbrian representative schools the boys lost a narrow match 3-5 to Bramhall, representing Greater Manchester. For many of the pupils involved this was their 1st chance to play at this level and a good grounding to move into the Schools National League Cadets Team in the coming year. Again all the boys showed a great attitude and behaved really well all day.

**Team: Josh Carmichael, Sulaiman Shahzad, Stephen Daniels, Troy Holcroft, Alex Green.**



## Girls Football

**Every Tuesday 3-4pm**

**Come and join in with  
Miss Ghorbani and Miss  
Griffiths.**

**Open to all year groups!**

**Sunday 24th January**

This was the Zonal Final of the English Schools Table Tennis Association Team Competition, with the school U13s Girls Team, there to represent the Cheshire Zone as the Regional Champions. There were fewer teams here with less girls playing table tennis

than boys, and although the girls lost all 3 games by fairly big margins there were some excellent performances and all the girls enjoyed the competition and showed great improvement, attitude and poise over the day. Performance of the day was when school number 1 Natalie Berry took a player from Bramhall and England to 9 - 9 in the 5th and final game of her match only to lose 11-9 in this pulsating game.

**Team: Natalie Berry, Chelsea Ann Tracey, Kathleen Newens.**

**Sunday 31st January**

This was round 3 of the National Cadet League (u15s), held at the Halton Stadium, Widnes. Before the start of the round we were lying in 2nd place in division 3 in our 1st year in this competition. This was our best day so far in National League competition with a day without defeat, winning 3 and drawing 2 of the matches played over the day. There was a magnificent effort by Scott Hackett playing 5 matches and 10 games over the day and winning all 10 games, giving him a season average of 90% wins for the year so far. It was also the first time the team has achieved two 6-0 wins in the same day. These were against Wirral Table Tennis Club and St. Helens TTC 'C' team. There was also a fantastic draw 3-3 with league toppers Oldham, a 4-2 win again Warrington TTC 'C' team and a 3-3 draw with Rhyl table tennis club. At the end of the day the team are lying second in the league and are able to push through to division 2 next season and also gives the boys a shot at winning the league on the final day.

**Team: Callum Hill, Sulaiman Shahzad, Scott Hackett, Matthew Walker.**



## Thursday 4th February

This was the Cheshire School Table Tennis Association Individual Championships. It was decided to open this up to the top players from each year, plus any girls who wished to compete, with the school ending up taking 36 players in 3 age groups and also taking down with us Adrian Dzielewski and Martin Brown who had both represented us in the National Junior League, but in this case represented Priestley College. Again there was success not only in the amount of numbers taken by the school which was double any other school, but also in the fact that many of the boys and girls made it out of their groups and into the knockout stages, this is a good achievement with 40 boys at each age U13s and U16s. there were less girls and u19s boys these were played as round robins with a Final.



In the U13s Boys, Alex Green, Josh Carmichael, Reece Harris and Kieran Jones made the Quarter Final Stages, with Kieran Jones making the semi final only to lose narrowly in 4 sets. In the U16s Boys where the competition was a lot stronger Ryan Fazackerley and Dominic Acomb, both made the Quarter Final, but failed to progress with a number of boys making the last 16, 2nd round.

In the Girls U13s competition again there was success for our pupils with Natalie Berry retaining the title she won last year and progressing to the National Finals as Cheshire Representative in Doncaster in April, also in competition Kathleen Newens came runner up to Natalie. Both girls had gained experience earlier in the team competition which they were able to take into this event. In the U19s former pupil Martin Brown who is also a member of the school's NJL team which is u18s, got into the boys u19s final and was unfortunate to come runner up in the event. In the final even the Girls U16s it was good to see Stephanie Doran competing as our best female player, giving a creditable performance and finishing 3rd in her age category. Again all the pupils were outstanding all day both in skill, attitude and behaviour this was commented on by Mr Ken Tonge the organiser on the day and was a nice compliment for the pupils. I would also like to thank Miss Stringer who also accompanied me to this event and allowed more pupils to be able to attend the event this year.

The players' attitude and behaviour was fantastic - it was a pleasure to take them!

**Mr A Wood**