



The Boteler Bulletin

The newsletter of Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School

Authors of the future

The English Department has produced a book full of stories by our pupils - buy it now! See Mr Vallender for details.



Specialist Music College

www.boteler.org.uk

Home Access Grant

As in previous articles, I have been trying to keep everyone informed about the Home Access Grants and our own Laptops for pupils scheme.

Home Access is the government programme which will help to ensure that more children in state-maintained education in England have access to technology at home to support learning. The programme was born out of the recognition that there are still a significant number of learners who lack access to a computer and the internet at home. Turn to page 6.



Name: _____ **Form:** _____

Dear parents,

Year 11 pupils and many Year 10 pupils are in the middle of their mock examinations. All pupils will soon be undergoing tests and assessments to evaluate progress over this first term of the year.

Last year parents and staff were involved in a pilot of new ways to keep you informed about your child's progress. I just thought I would explain this new system, so you know what to expect, when shortly after the Christmas break you receive a report.

Three reports per year will be issued for each child. The timing of these reports is not always the same for each year group. Each report shows how the child has progressed compared with expectations, and there will be a short comment giving guidance on how they can progress further. These comments, spaced out throughout the year, replace the old style written report, which was issued once a year.

The other big change is that instead of holding a parents' evening for each year group, we will be holding a 'Review Day' for all pupils on Friday 29 January, just after the assessments have been issued. Parents involved in the pilot felt that this provided a valuable opportunity to meet with their child's tutor and hold an in-depth conversation about progress. There were a couple of organisational problems last year, but we think these have now been ironed out. We will be contacting you nearer the time to arrange a convenient time for your appointment, but please make a note of the date in your diary.



John Sharples
Headteacher

P.S. Unfortunately, there is no 'Pupil Pages' section this issue due to illness.

Functional English Winners - 20/11/2009



Winners above: Back row: Josh Hindle - Drama, Becky Hipkiss - Special Recognition, Matthew Pennington - MFL, Middle row: Annalise Braide, Sally Jackson - PE, Jessica Stalmach - History, Nathan Hampson - RE. Front row: Luke Gallimore - Science.

Calling All School Council Members!

Your next meetings are currently being arranged and will take place within the next two weeks. If you would like to raise an issue please see your Action Team Leaders. Dates and venues will be posted shortly on the VLE and around school. Make sure you raise your views and help make our school change for the better.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

The D&T department invites all friends and grandparents to our Senior Citizens' Christmas Party on Wednesday 16th December from 1.00pm-2.30pm. We will be having food prepared by the D&T department and entertainment by the music department. Please collect your tickets on a Wednesday or Thursday only from Mrs. Bennett in the D&T department from Wednesday 25th November.

What's On @ The Boiler Room

As we merrily sprint towards Christmas here's just a reminder and a quick snapshot of what's been going on that you can get involved in at the Boiler Room!

Mondays

Dodgeball!! Once again Dodgeball has become one of the most popular and fun activities on at the boiler room each week!! We have a mix of ages and abilities that take part but most of all we have

a top laugh!!! So if you've ever felt the desire to launch a ball at someones head then the ball hall on Mondays at 3pm is the place for you!!

Skipping - The girls have spoken! Starting on Monday there will be skipping in the Ball Hall both solo and Double Dutch style! Come along and learn the basics or complex routines and chants!

Homework Night - Also starting Monday in the Loft is the return of our dedicated Homework Nights. If you need a quiet space and a computer to do your homework come along 3-5pm we also have staff on hand if you need any help or you have questions.

Tuesdays

Blue Peter Club - It was the only name we could think of for a club that does Arts and Crafts each week!?! Starting soon come along to the canteen after school and have fun with whatever Arts & Crafts are on!!

Basketball - Remember if you want to be part of a team either for the school or in a league the best place to learn new skills and improve your technique is coming along to the basketball sessions every Tuesday!!



Wednesdays

Yu-Gi-Oh - Come duel and trade every week in the canteen! Whether you're a newbie or an experienced trader!!

Key Stage 3 Football - If you like football (DOH!) and you're in years 7-9 then go along to the ball hall for some five a side football

Thursdays

Key Stage 4 Football - By now you'll love football!! and if you're in years 10 and 11 then come along to the ball hall for some serious five a side matches!!

Cricket - The cricket season might be over and rained off but inside the ball hall every week the weather can't touch the indoor cricket fun!!!

Fridays

Fashion & Beauty - In the canteen every week the girls will be helping you to design and redesign clothes, they'll also have make-up, straighteners and curlers out helping you to get ready for that friday/saturday out!!

We've also got loads of stuff coming your way soon!! Self Defence Classes, Xtra Curricular Cooking, Handball, Dancing and much MUCH more!

Science Club... Coming Soon!

You will get to do things you don't have chance to in class, involving flashes, bangs, guts, gore and much much more!

Open to Years 7, 8 & 9 and starting after Christmas.

If you are interested in attending then give your name to your Science teacher this week.

We need a name for our club, so get thinking - tell Miss Ghorbani and the winner gets a prize!

Home Access Grant (From Front Page)

- All pupils in KS2 and KS3, who are eligible for Free Schools Meals are entitled to a Home Access Grant. **(limited to one per family)**.
- The Home Access Grant will enable families to purchase IT equipment from a list of approved suppliers ONLY.
- Grants will start to be issued in January.

In conjunction with the Home Access Grant, our school is planning to continue the laptops for pupils scheme we started last year, and we have been awarded a grant from the e-learning foundation to support this. Our project is partly funded by the E-Learning Foundation, School Funds and Parental Contributions. **The laptops for pupils scheme is a voluntary scheme, and even if you are eligible for home access you can still join the schools laptop scheme.**

Therefore as a school we will be contacting all the major suppliers of IT equipment to ensure that the school receives the best possible deal, at the best price to support our laptop scheme.

The Ministerial Taskforce on Home Access recommended that there should be a mechanism to enable local authorities and schools to take a more pro-active role in the programme. Therefore local authorities and schools have the opportunity to run an aggregation scheme where parents 'opt-in' and elect the local authority or school to manage ordering of a package on their behalf.

I am keen for all our Y7 pupils to have the same device, to ensure compatibility with our school network and learning content, therefore I would like to aggregate all the Home Access Grants.

We are planning to have an Information Evening in December to discuss the Home Access and Laptop Scheme, **and will notify you as soon as possible. Please contact Mr Simon Taylor-Jones for more information. Telephone 01925 636414 or email staylor@boteler.org.uk.**



Pressgang English Club Kicks Off



The first session of Pressgang Club started yesterday and there was an excellent turnout. Four of our Year 7 pupils dressed as paparazzi and roving reporters and wandered the school at break giving out leaflets to promote the club.

There are still plenty of places available at the group and we are all excited about our news day which will be broadcast live on the BBC on March 11th, next year. So come along and get involved. **Miss Flynn**

Tai Chi in Geography



The Geography department and Year 8 pupils were entertained by Mr Zhang in their lessons recently. Questions were put to him regarding cultural and topical issues relating to China, which in turned enhanced the pupils' understanding this huge country. The Year 8 pupils are currently heavily involved in an in depth study of China and this partnership was most welcomed - a crash course of Tai Chi helped the classes to relax at the end of each lesson: not to mention Mr Zhang's flying Kung Fu leaps!

Mixed Early Season Results for Basketball



Our first game of the season was against Culcheth, who reached the semi-finals of the English Schools' competition last year. Unfortunately we were without two starting five players and lost 50-31. However, the team played very well led by Ashley Latham. Our man to man defence was

effective for most of the match and interceptions produced a number of scoring chances which we did not manage to turn into points.

This week we played Woolston and the outcome was far better with a 76-40 victory. We had almost a full squad with only Josh Turner unavailable due to yet another injury. "Rocky" is one of our most experienced players having represented the U16 school team for the last three years.

Tom Bate led the team this week and repeatedly imposed himself on the Woolston opposition with powerful layups supplied by excellent passes from Josh Woodward in particular.

The scoring was spread amongst all the players with Declan Clarke (26 points) top scoring this week. We played a five on five off half court man to man defensive strategy which tired out the Woolston team and produced regular gaps in their defence. Michael Lyon, Jake Tarburton and Ryan Armitage all stole the ball regularly and were too quick around the court to be contained.

We were very strong on defensive rebounds with Ashley Latham once again taking control and in transition the opposition had no answer to Ashley Haughton's dribbling skills. New recruit Connor Wright continues to make dramatic progress and came close to scoring several times during the game.

However, with sterner challenges to come we must defend better as a team and deny our opponents any easy shots at our basket. We also need to be more ruthless in putting away our chances. We should have scored 100 points in this match. **Mr H Chambers**

CHRISTMAS MENU

Roast Turkey & Stuffing

with

Mash & Roast Potatoes

&

Sprouts or Carrots

Gravy



Mince Pie

or

Christmas Cake

With Custard or Cream



Juice or Water



Warrington



Primary Care Trust



Healthy Schools
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A Christmas Concert

*Sir Thomas Boteler
Church of England
High School
Specialist Music
College*

*December 14th
7.00 pm*

Tickets £1

Tickets are available from Mrs Fletcher in her office near the new music room