

BHSA Newsletter

Autumn Term

2019

Edition 05



Welcome

Welcome to our October 2019 Newsletter. We have had an incredibly busy and positive start to this academic year at BHSA. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the many opportunities the girls have embraced so far this term. It is virtually impossible to select any favourites, but a real highlight in the Senior School was welcoming Deana Puccio from The Rap Project UK to BHSA. Her presentations to all girls from Years 7 to 13 were both powerful and inspiring, delivering an important message to every single one of us. The girls are still talking about her visit. This was made possible through funding from the GDST and we are very proud to be part of this movement in girls' education. The highlights in the Junior School are too many to mention, but the new art work and displays throughout the Juniors show the wonderful end products from the numerous collaborative, creative workshops this term. As always, the girls never cease to amaze me with their confidence, talents and determination. This was seen in abundance at our recent Open Events and there were many proud moments on receiving the glowing feedback about our girls from the record numbers of visitors. I hope you enjoy a relaxing half term break and I look forward to welcoming the girls back on the 4th November. Thank you for your continued support.

Rebecca Mahony



New junior school council

Introducing the 2019-2020 School Council



Daisy Adams, Seham Ahmed, Kate Booth, Sofia Paci,

Jessica Morris, Ellie-May Seed, Halle-Mae Upton-Thomas

Charlotte Mackie, Georgia Holthofer, Masie Darlington and Nia Roberts

Representing your views

Sophie the TRex came to visit!

Did you hear about the dinosaurs visiting our school? Sophie the T-Rex came to visit! Our infant girls were immersed in a Jurassic world where they learnt paleontological and archaeological skills, and everybody had a superb (and a little bit of a scary) time!

Wow! What an exciting morning KS1 and Reception pupils had on Tuesday 24th September. We had a very special visit from Sophie the Tyrannosaurus rex. She stood at a huge 8 foot tall and had very big, sharp teeth. Later, Reception pupils enjoyed acting as Palaeontologists, uncovering fossils from hundreds of years ago.



Bike to School Week

Junior School celebrated Bike to School Week from 23rd to 27th September. Girls from Y2 to Y6 enjoyed cycling to and from school helping to maintain a healthy lifestyle and reduce pollution and traffic congestion around school.

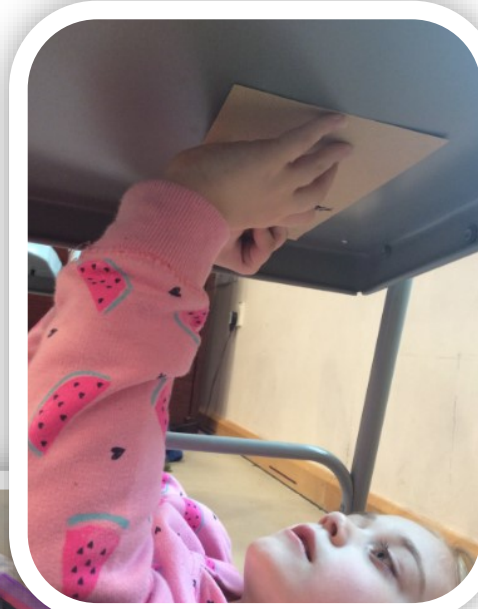
Junior school assemblies rocked in October when all girls took part in our Rocksteady live music assemblies. The girls were able to sing their favourite pop songs whilst learning about the different instruments needed to create a rock band.

Girls in Y2 to 6 enjoyed an introduction to playing brass instruments given by our peripatetic brass teacher Miss Baker and one of her pupils. Well known tunes were instantly recognised by the girls played on the trombone, cornet and trumpet. This has inspired five of our girls to take up the challenge of learning to play the trombone.



Stone Age Art

Year Three had an exciting morning working on their Stone Age Art. The children made cave paintings, up side down, to imagine they were inside a real cave. The girls produced some Stone Age jewelry imagining they were making their beads out of teeth and bones. The girls looked at images of Stonehenge and created their own pieces of Stonehenge. Finally, they produced a whole year piece of art made from real sand and sand paper, this is now in the main hall in junior school.



Reading Discovery 2019

Reading Discovery 2019 has launched with more pupils taking part than ever before. From Nursery to Year 6, the whole of Junior School is reading every Thursday morning and creating a buzz and excitement across the whole building which is incredible to witness. More than 60 Sixth Formers volunteer every week to share their love of reading with the Junior girls. The relationships Sixth Form are forging are priceless and the Junior School girls are really benefiting from their enthusiasm. Shared reading is spilling out from classrooms onto corridors and even Rita is taking part! World Poetry Day was celebrated with the girls sharing their favourite poems with each other.



Big Draw Festival

As part of the Big Draw Festival, girls in Years 4, 5 & 6 had the wonderful opportunity to work alongside local artist, Faith Bebbington. The aim was to produce a 3D display which brings our BHSA values to life. All the girls involved had a fantastic experience; it was wonderful to see our sixth-formers working with our Junior girls in order to create what will be a stunning relief sculpture in our foyer. We very much look forward to showcasing this work, once it is complete.



Crossports Tennis

This term girls in Reception, year 1,2,3 and 4 enjoyed the opportunity to take part in tennis sessions provided by 'Crossports'. They developed their hand-eye co-ordination, throwing, catching and dribbling skills. The girls showed great sportsmanship and encouraged one another to keep on trying. Great fun was had by all!



Languages Bake Off competition

The students were asked to decorate a cake to celebrate a different language or country. We had 62 entries in total across the whole of KS3 and we were really impressed with the effort the girls put into their cakes and the overall standard!



The Luminelles

Starting the year off with a busy few weeks, the Luminelles have continued to perform at some amazing events! On Sunday 8th September, they sang twice at the Wirral Food & Drink Festival in Birkenhead Park, having their first performance with Kaboodle Community Choir on the main stage whereby the Philharmonic Orchestra had performed the previous night.

TODAY

Wirral Food & Drink Festival

Free Entry

2:15PM

CHOIR

The Luminelles

The Luminelles are a female vocal group aged 14-18 based at Birkenhead High School Academy who are expanding to performing at private events...led by musical director Matt Lammin.

How was it put together
We were asked to put together a small group of singers for a flash mob at Liverpool John Lennon Airport in 2015.

What makes you different from other choirs? We are a modern, energetic, vibrant and youthful group with the ability to adapt to all sorts of vibes, styles and atmospheres. We take pride in our creative approach and our professional sound.

What do you offer? We are a versatile ensemble and can provide music for all audiences. With an eclectic mix of songs under our belt, we can cater for any occasion. We have performed at weddings, theatres, cathedrals, charity concerts, arenas and we also have an extensive Christmas repertoire.

What are the benefits of singing in a choir? You

are doing what you love most with like-minded people who share the same passion of music as you do. It makes what you do so much more enjoyable by having others to share it with, you make friends for life and it feels like a second family. It is so inclusive whilst you also learn so many new skills with the experience you gain.

What's the most unusual gig you've been booked for? Performing for visiting dignitaries as they arrived on the train at Liverpool Lime Street for Culture Liverpool's 'Sgt Pepper At 50' celebrations was quite unusual, but possibly singing Hans Zimmer's 'Planet Earth II' composition at the Liverpool Echo Arena in front of giant screens showing footage of whales from the series was the most unusual!



What training do you need? Most of our singers have private tuition with our musical director. Many have also completed pop vocal grades with London College of Music.

How many hours a week to do practice? We meet regularly on Fridays for just an hour a week, but we have extra rehearsals prior to gigs.

They will be performing at The Positive Awards on 20th September.

Facebook: The Luminelles
Instagram: @the_luminelles
Twitter: @the_luminelles



The Luminelles also had a wonderful time at The Positive Awards in the Hilton Hotel in Liverpool, singing for guests during their arrival and the drinks ceremony. The event was set up by Amanda Moss, an award-winning journalist who also gave The Luminelles an article in her Lifestyle Magazine.



On the 2nd of October, the girls performed at Together In Harmony at St George's Hall. This was an event produced by UK-China Culture & Education Foundation, and was a part of their students' Festival of Music & Dance 2019.



PROUDLY PRESENTS

UK-CHINA STUDENT'S FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND DANCE 2019
LIVERPOOL, WIRRAL, ISLE OF MAN & CHINESE STUDENT'S

TOGETHER IN HARMONY

A unique artistic vision where culture and education inspires music and dance.

02/10/2019

ST GEORGE'S HALL

Concert Room, St George's Place,
Liverpool, L1 1JJ

SHOW STARTS: 7.00 PM

An exciting project The Luminelles have been working on this term is their promotional videos. They spent a day working with Spy Music filming many videos of songs such as; Songbird; I'll Be There For You; Higher Love. Be sure to check it out on:

Twitter: @the_luminelles

Instagram: @the_luminelles

Facebook: @theluminelles

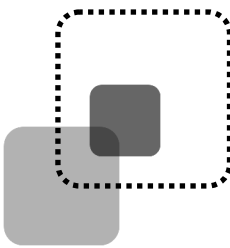




Poetry



I ♥ E-Poetry



Gothic Extravaganza

Many thanks to our wonderful year 7 helpers who sent shivers down the spines of our open evening visitors, all the while making them feel most welcome - no mean feat! Our Gothic Extravaganza proved frighteningly popular and we can't wait to visit Shiverpool and try our very best scary faces once again.



Shiverpool

Our intrepid students braved the haunted and maleficent cobbles of Liverpool's streets for the 9th year running. This time Year 7 were the valorous opponents of ghosts, ghouls and demons sent to test their wits and their nerves. A brilliant time was had by students and staff and the Gothic unit was brought to a climactic close.

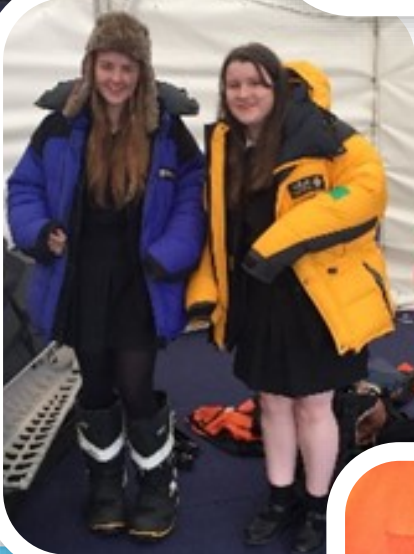
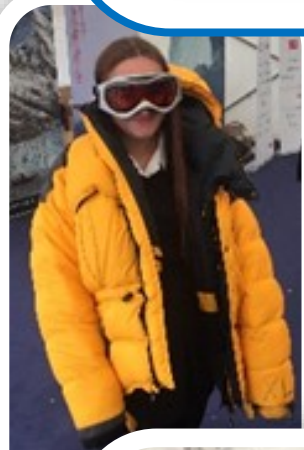


Ice Worlds event

A group of 50 BHSA design and technology students enjoyed a thrilling session, despite the torrential rain, at the Ice Worlds event hosted by Cammell Laird Ship Builders in Birkenhead. The day after the Royal naming ceremony for the RSS Sir David Attenborough, students were able to tour many exhibition stands ranging from mechanical and industrial process used in the fabrication of the ship to animal and insects from the polar waters.

BHSA students took the opportunity to use virtual reality devices to practice welding, fly a drone and tour the control deck of the Polar Explorer. Some tried the clothing worn by scientists visiting the ice regions and snuggled in the well-insulated tents. Even Mr Langton had a go at driving the remote submersive vehicle which he thinks could be used to clean the swimming pool!

Students listened and questioned the truly inspirational young female scientist Dr Ella Gilbert who has visited and studied climate change in the Arctic region. Between (torrential) rain showers students managed to have a picture with the ship in the background and no one was too disappointed to discover that Boaty-McBoatface (the autonomous underwater vehicle) is actually not being made at Cammell Laird.



The cadets finished off last year by attending their annual camp at Warcop training area. During the week they were regularly complemented by both permanent staff and other contingent staff on their courtesy and on their drills. Nobody could believe they had only been going for 5 months! During the week cadets completed a number of activities, from adventure training (including mountain biking, kayaking, river scrambling, rock climbing and others) and fighting off the zombie apocalypse to TIBUA (training in built up areas). The cadets really shone throughout the whole week and were a credit to themselves and to the school. I'm proud to say they were mentioned as one of the stand out groups for the whole week by the organisers of the camp in my final staff debrief.

Since we've been back this September, we've already attended another TIBUA training weekend at Swynenrton camp, where the cadets developed their ability to search a building complex for enemy and hostages, which takes an immense amount of communication and control, particularly for our NCO's. Our main focus for Wednesday parades has been to prepare for our very first Remembrance Parade, to be held at Holy Trinity with Palm Grove church this November. The cadets have already taken their responsibility seriously and have undergone some intensive drill practice. Our NCO's have also attended extra training in their own weekend time to learn how to take drill properly so they can lead our cadets on this parade.

In between this, the cadets ran a stand for our open evening, demonstrating all of the core values of the cadet movement and they made a real impression with visiting parents and pupils alike.

2Lt Grealis and 2Lt Nelson have recently completed their M Qual, a week long course that allows them to run blank firing exercises for the cadets. They are also completing their short range course this November, which allows them to run a shooting range for the cadets.



Finally, we have 2 of our cadets attending Ex STEM challenge down in Salisbury Plain this half term, where they will witness the British Army Power Demonstration and learn about the STEM capabilities of British forces. 2Lt Nelson is also attending this as part of the presentation team for the army, to link what is being taught to the curriculum they see in school.

As you can see, both staff and cadets have been incredibly busy over the last term and as always it only remains for me to ask if you feel you would like to be a part of what we do, then please do contact 2Lt Nelson to discuss opportunities via email on ccf@birkhs.gdst.net. We always need as much help as possible to ensure that we have all of the staff necessary to give our cadets the best possible experience.





World Challenge Tanzania

This summer a group of students from Years 11, 12 and 13 had the opportunity to travel across the globe to Tanzania for a once in a lifetime opportunity. The whole trip was designed to put the girls in leadership roles and to discover how their actions can really have an impact on those around them. From the offset the girls were responsible for fundraising, and once they were in country they were in charge of organising everything: food, transport, accommodation and the budget.

During the expedition itself, the group were really lucky to experience a range of opportunities: trekking with the Maasai in the Savanah, going on safari in the famous Ngorongoro Crater, working with a local community, exploring the South Pares mountains, and finally, some relaxation on the Swahili coast.

The most memorable part of the trip for all involved was the community project phase; the students worked with the charity Green Lion to help build a school/women's community center in an incredibly deprived area of the country. For the villagers that they met, this project will be life changing: it will offer children, particularly young women, the opportunity to access education for the first time in their lives. The school itself will also guarantee to provide every child that attends a meal: in an area where food is not guaranteed, this could mean the difference between life and death for children as young as two.

This trip was not a holiday and the girls were made to challenge themselves and put themselves outside of their comfort zone but everyone came away a little bit stronger for the experience.



Football news!



Well done to **Maddie Robinson** who has been selected for Merseyside schools football.

Our KS3 football team attended the first ever GDST football tournament. Out of 18 schools, we are proud to say we were runners up—Well done all!



6th Form Open Evening

Wednesday 20th November 2019 - 6.00pm-8.00pm



www.birkenheadhigh.gdst.net

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