

The Beverlonian

www.beverleygrammar.co.uk



December 2012 Volume IV

From the Headteacher's office

We are nearing the end of a very long term and I am pleased to be able to write about the successes we have experienced since the last Beverlonian at the end of the summer term. Now we are entering the depths of winter the magnificent summer of sport really does seem a long time ago.



Whilst on the subject of winter and remembering the very poor weather we have had in recent years please note that if there

has to be a school closure we will inform you by text (we send out texts fairly often and if you have not received any texts we probably do not have your mobile number. If you want to make use of this service please contact the school with your number.) Alternatively you can check the website or listen to local radio.

The Olympic week was a resounding success and there is video footage produced by our student digital leaders supported and guided by Mr Richardson and Mr Hamshaw-Hart on the website. We have also had plenty of sporting success this term with all year groups 7 to 10 winning football and rugby tournaments. The enthusiasm towards sport shown by the boys is a real legacy of the Olympics and long may it continue.

We have had a number of new staff arrive at the school. Mr Vickerman has been appointed as a new Assistant Headteacher with specific responsibility for teaching and learning. Mrs Hughes is the new Head of Music. Miss Ormerod has joined the English department, Mr Valentine the Science department and Mrs Ratcliffe and Mrs Symons the Modern Foreign Languages department with Mrs Groak being internally promoted to Head of Department. In addition Mr Tuohy joined the History department as Mr Webb reduced his number of days in school still further.

Mr Evers was appointed as Site Manager in August to ensure that we keep on top of all the new buildings work and renovation which is planned over the next few months and then to maintain an outstanding learning environment. Mrs Mcilwaine joined our administration management team as an assistant data manager. Alyce Gower, Tom Proud and Alex Starling joined our outstanding Learning Support department as Teaching Assistants, although Alex was offered a professional contract with Hull FC rugby club and left us at half term. He was replaced by Luke Garner. We wish Alex all the very best in his future career.

We also appointed two new apprenticeships with Sam Hill in ICT and Jemma Hughes in the main Office.

In the summer term the following students were voted in as sixth form leaders: Head Boy, Will Clay, Head Girl, Intuorn Hudson, Deputy Head Boy, Geoffrey Ma and Deputy Head Girl, Rosie Cooper. They have made a real impact this term supporting many school events, in particular Speech Night and the Carol Service, both held at the Minster this year and were incredibly successful and wonderful events. Mrs Hughes, our new Head of Music, has worked incredibly hard in her first term, superbly supported by Mrs Turner, to not only ensure the continued success of these annual events but also to introduce a new Young Musician competition evening in October and begin to prepare our students to enter the Rock Challenge competition later this academic year. In addition we introduced a GCSE celebration evening, also in October, where all of last year's year 11 students were invited back with their parents to receive their certificates and celebrate their wonderful achievements. This was so successful that the Governors have recently confirmed it as an annual event. The current year 11 are working hard to emulate this success.

Our results really were very impressive. At GCSE 87% of our boys gained 5A* to C grades, the best ever, and 65% achieved 5A* to C including English and Mathematics. Most pleasing was the fact that every student, 100%, achieved at least 5A* to G grades.

I am also delighted to report another set of outstanding A Level results. The pass rate is 99% with 52% achieving A*/A/B grades. 29% of our results were at A*/A grades. The average point score per student was a very impressive 795.4 the best ever.

The school announced in October that it is changing to a vertical tutoring system from September 2013.

We have since been working with students to ensure that it is implemented in the best interests of Beverley Grammar School. Although there is still some way to go, feedback, following the parents' information evening, has been generally very positive. Please let the school know your thoughts about this change which I firmly believe will enhance the open, caring and friendly ethos of the school by allowing students to support each other across year groups and offering leadership opportunities for our older students.

The much published renovation work has been slowly evolving during this term. The new library has been severely delayed due to the problems encountered when the previously sealed roof space was opened up exposing a plethora of problems.

The estimated completion date is now Easter and a temporary library has been set up on the balcony of the Hall. Building work will start in earnest in January and because of the expected disruption we have had to move the sixth form AS and A2 January exam modules to Beverley High School. My thanks go to the High School for their offer of support during this difficult time.

I would like to end with a friendly and polite reminder regarding a couple of school matters that have caused concerns this term. Firstly I would be grateful if parents could use the drop off area at the front of the school entrance and, unless there are very special circumstances, not bring cars up to the school drive. Secondly, I am not allowed to authorise term time holidays and fixed penalties will be issued through the Local Authority to any student who has five or more days of unauthorised absence in total over an academic year. I would ask therefore that holidays are taken during the school holidays wherever possible, especially in the exam years of 10 to 13.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Grahame Hodson



Young Musician of the Year 2012



Seventeen students competed for the title of 'Young Musician of the Year 12' this term. The competition was split into two age categories, with Junior competitors from years 7 to 9, and Senior competitors from year 10 to sixth form.

Three judges had a very difficult role during the evening, marking competitors on their accuracy, expression and presentation / professionalism. The judges were Mr Vickerman from BGS, Beverley Minster's Director of Music, Mr Robert Poyser and local musician and peripatetic teacher Mr Dave Hughes.

All students introduced and performed a piece of their choice before the judges, who later decided on the winners and runners up. After much deliberation, and a glass or two of wine for the audience, the results were announced.

In the Junior Section, the runner up was Adam Sreeves (electric guitar – 'Download'), and the winner was George Brown (electric guitar – 'The Trooper')

In the Senior Section we had joint runners up – Heather Fell (soprano – 'Se I Miei Sospiri') and Sam Gwinnell (vocal – 'Going Through Changes'), with Ruairi Sinkler winning (drum kit – 'Present and Correct'). Ruairi was the overall winner on the night!

Despite having three runners up and two category winners, there were a great number of fantastic performances. For example, the Junior competitors, Rafiwa Mabote ('cello) played 'Vltava' very emotively from memory; Matthew Wastling (flute) who played 'Tambourim' with real feel of excitement; James Turner (tenor horn) played 'Solvieg's Song' with a lot of expression; and Josh Cartmell (tenor sax) put real feeling into his rendition of 'Your Song'.

The students involved are to be congratulated – professional performances such as those seen at Beverley Grammar School's Young Musician of the Year are the created from hard work, dedication and perseverance.

Mrs Hughes

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-student rescues popstar Mika at live concert



Alex Bampton came back into school recently to tell us about the amazing experience he had after not only winning tickets to see Mika in concert in Sheffield, but also being invited to play live on stage!

After telling the pop-star that he knew how to play a brand new song that the band's own keyboard player didn't, Alex was asked to prove himself. Watch the video news report from a Sheffield newspaper on our website in the Beverlonian section.

Despite having left Beverley Grammar in 2009, Alex has come back every year to offer his help with the end-of-year Showcase concert, and we're delighted that he was given the opportunity to play live with touring musicians.



Speech Night 2012



Speech Night this year was held at The Minster due to the extensive building work being completed in the Main School. The Minster certainly added to the atmosphere and enhanced the gravitas of the evening.

It was a great success with over 100 students being recognised for their effort and achievements. A variety of musical interludes were provided by students and, following impressive speeches given by Chris Bodsworth, Chair of Governors, Grahame Hodson, Headteacher, Reverend Jeremy Fletcher, guest speaker and vicar at The Minster and Will Clay our Head Boy, the evening was rounded off by a rousing rendition of the school song, 40 Years On.

Our thanks go to all the school staff who helped organise the event and to the staff at The Minster for their help and support.

Year 7 Touch Rugby



A cold, rainy evening at Beverley Longcroft saw the Year 7 Rugby team triumph in style to win the 'Touch Rugby' tournament. After a closely fought winning opening game against Longcroft, there was no looking back with two more convincing wins against Hessle High and Drifffield.

Particular highlights included Alex Wright's full length of the pitch try, after some good defending by the centres. Joe Anguish also scored a fantastic try, turning two or three different opposing players inside out before crossing the line. Ryan Hilton was also very impressive, carrying the ball very well, creating plenty of chances for his team mates. All of the lads (Jack Adamson, Joe Anguish, Isaac Gallaway, Ryan Hilton, Tao Morley, Tom Parkinson, Toby Redman and Alex Wright) gave it their all, doing the school proud. Another win for Beverley Grammar School!

Boys' emotional visit to French war memorials



Understanding Second World War Studies



During the Summer Term of 2012, a group of our students made an emotional visit to cemeteries and wartime battlefields on a memorable trip to

Normandy in France. During their five-day visit, pupils saw British, American and German soldiers' cemeteries.

Modern foreign languages teacher Mrs Groak said visiting the cemeteries and the D-Day landing sites, including Omaha Beach, helped the students better understand their Second World War studies.

She said: "The boys found the cemeteries both moving and fascinating and spent a long time reading every headstone."

British and German graves

"Some were particularly affected by the difference between the British and German graves, where there can be anything up to 11 or more bodies in one German plot."

"The German they had learnt this year helped them in reading these headstones."

In the British cemetery, pupils searched for members of the East Yorkshire Regiment.



Mrs Groak said: “The boys looked for soldiers with their surnames so they could go home and find out if any were relations.



“It was great to see 12 and 13-year-old boys taking such an interest in their history and it made it all the more real by visiting the sights.”

Visiting the varied sights

The 43-strong group also visited Bayeux, Caen and Paris, visiting the Musée de la Tapisserie to see the Bayeux Tapestry, the Mémorial de Caen, a museum and war memorial commemorating the Second World War and the Battle for Caen, and enjoying a boat trip on the Seine and a visit to the Eiffel Tower.

Mrs Groak said the annual trip is designed to help pupils become fully immersed in the language and culture of France.

en Francais, SVP!

She said: “The boys have work booklets to complete in French and English each day and all speaking has to be in French. It’s a trip that has run successfully for 14 years and it’s an ideal opportunity for the boys to be immersed in the language and culture of France. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and the students got a lot from it. They were all really keen to speak French. They were



really happy with themselves when they understood something and many were fascinated by the differences in culture.”

Mr Hodson, our headteacher, said: “The visit is a trip primarily to enable the pupils to communicate with local people in their native language and is very important in terms of students’ development and overall progression. It is always very important to get real-life experience outside of the classroom, It’s all right reading about these things in text books but to experience the environment and atmosphere of the battlefields helps to put classroom learning into context.”



Mrs Groak

Marshmallows, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award

Despite the weather having been against us for what feels like the entire year, Beverley Grammar School's first Duke of Edinburgh Award group embarked upon their assessed Bronze expedition in early October.



Tales of the mysterious peg lifter

Although a little on the chilly side, the sky stayed dry and all participants successfully passed the expedition phase of their award. Tents stayed pegged into the ground all night (despite the best efforts of a mysterious peg lifter!) and marshmallows were toasted by the bagful (thanks to Kieran for the endless supply!)

A credit to the school

A huge congratulations goes out to all the students who took part in the weekend – they were an absolute credit to themselves and to the school! We look forward to the upcoming expedition presentation evening and ultimately, to seeing all of this year's participants receive their well-earned Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards.



See more online

More photos from the expedition are available to view on our website (look in the Beverlonian section), also featuring a nicely edited video by Kieran. Please take a look!

Miss Drew



Maths Champs!



On Thursday 15th November 2012, Beverley Joint Sixth took part in the Hull and East Riding regional round of the UKMT Senior Team Challenge. The two teams one from Beverley Grammar and the other from Beverley High school joined 9 other schools and Sixth form colleges at Newlands School for Girls. The event consisted of three rounds where students worked individually, in pairs and in a group of four.

Best Ever Results

Our two teams had their best ever combined results with the Beverley Grammar Team of Simon Choules, Zachary Field, Angus Lamb and Geoffrey Ma who were placed first, just beating South Hunsley (2nd) and South Holderness (3rd). The High School team of Louise Holliday, Eleanor Johnstone, Alex Spafford and Frances Tibble took sixth place.

Congratulations to all the students who took part. The boys will now attend the National Final in London on 5th February 2013.

Analysis at the highest level

On Tuesday 6th November approximately 120 year 12 and 13 mathematicians from the Beverley Joint Sixth took part in the UKMT Senior Individual Challenge. The challenge is a 2 hour multiple choice paper with students using and applying their knowledge to a variety of situations to solve problems. The competition is an international event and the highest achievers are selected to compete for the British Team in the International Mathematical Olympiad. Many universities consider taking part in the challenge as being a key indicator of logical and analytical ability at the highest level.

This year saw some excellent results achieved in the senior competition. Zachary Field achieved Best In School and Best in Year 13; Simon Choules achieved Best in Year 12. Zachary and Simon will be taking part in Round 1 of the British Mathematical Olympiad paper – a three and half paper involving detailed written questions. Eleanor Johnstone, Jonathan Young (both year 13) and Angus Lamb (year 12) will be sitting the Senior Kangaroo paper – a one hour multiple choice.

Gold Certificates

The following students received gold certificates making them in the top 0.1% of students in the country at this level. In Year 13, Zachary Field, Eleanor Johnstone and Jonathan Young. In Year 12, Simon Choules and Angus Lamb. In addition, 5 silver and 33 bronze certificates were awarded. Congratulations to all the students who took part.

Mrs Field

The Carol Concert

Resounding Success

The Beverley Grammar School Carol service 2012 was once again a resounding success with



record numbers of pupils, staff and parents taking part and in attendance on the evening. The Minster is always a magnificent venue for such events with the service heralding in the festive season with the usual Beverley Grammar School spirit.

The format of the service changed a little this year under the direction of Mrs Hughes, the newly appointed, Head of Music. The evening began with a warm welcome from the school Brass Group playing a variety of popular Christmas carols whilst the congregation found their seats. Then the Minster was plunged into darkness as a small group of Y7 choristers processed by candlelight whilst singing the first verse of the classic “Once in Royal David’s City”

Something for everyone

The Year 7 choir this year was made up of almost 130 Y7 pupils

who sang a mixture of traditional carols and more contemporary pieces such as “Mad World” composed by Roland Orzabal and “Lean on Me” by Bill Withers. In addition, there were a myriad of accomplished musical performances during the service by the school Woodwind Ensemble, the String Ensemble, the Orchestra and the Chamber Choir.

Readings this year were conducted by a range of staff and students and comprised of both religious and secular content. The Bible readings were taken from the traditional “Nine Lessons and Carols” Service which tell the story of the nativity. Readings were conducted by a mixture of staff from all areas of the school along with the Deputy Head Boy and Girl whilst prayers for the school, the local community and the world were led by the Head Boy and Girl.

A theme of ‘supporting others’

Secular readings were delivered by the Head Teacher, Mrs Wedgwood and a variety of pupils from Years 9 and 10 and echoed this year’s theme of supporting others. Finally, the evening was brought to a close by a blessing from the Reverend Jeremy Fletcher, a governor of the school and vicar at the minster and an organ voluntary by Robert Poyser, the Director of

Music at Beverley Minster. The school would like to extend its thanks to the Minster and its staff for both allowing the event to take place and making it possible. And we must not forget the contribution of all who took part on the night and parents who



came to support the school. You can listen to clips of the Carol Service by navigating to the Beverlonian section on our web site.

On behalf of all the staff and students at Beverley Grammar School we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mr Dent

Year 8 students create World War I Trench models



Our website, www.beverleygrammar.co.uk, as well as being the place to find out what's going on at our school 'as it happens', is used to showcase the best of our students' work. We thought we'd share some in the *Beverlonian* too.

Year 8 History groups have been making models to support short talks they have planned and delivered on the fighting in the First World War particularly in the trenches on the Western Front. As part of their presentation using the English speaking skills attainment criteria, as well as those from History, they had to explain the reasons behind their choice of materials and methods of construction. This therefore also

used skills and ideas from their technology lessons, as well as significant amounts of artistic talent! There were some ingenious ideas including mini shredded wheat for sandbags!

Take a look at the picture gallery below; see these and many more online!





A second language is a must!

On Thursday 6th December, Kerry Dobson from Routes into Languages came in to talk to Year 9 cohort about the importance of language learning. With Year 9 fast approaching choosing their options, Claire Groak wanted the students to realise the importance nowadays of studying a language at GCSE and beyond. Mrs Dobson works for Routes into Languages, a consortium of universities working together with schools and colleges, to enthuse and encourage people to study languages. She has previously come in to talk to the students and this is always well received.

The statistics were alarming and many of the students said afterwards that they would definitely be considering a GCSE in French, German or Spanish. Many hadn't realised just how important a language would be even if they stay working in the UK or the skills they would acquire associated with learning a second language, such as improving communication skills, building on confidence, improved presenting skills, a better knowledge of English, as well as help with essay writing.

The talk was worthwhile and will certainly help the students with their options decisions to be made early next year!

Mrs Groak

Football Success

A squad of ten year 8 boys braved the cold at Longcroft's 3G all-weather pitch to participate in an inter-school '7-a-side' football tournament.

Six teams took part in the tournament, which consisted of 10 minute games against each of the other teams in a

league format. This produced some very high intensity games, with goals often hard to come by. A sluggish start saw a goalless draw against Wolfreton, which kick started the team into life, winning the next 2 against Hessele & Longcroft. South Hunsley



provided the toughest match of the night, with BGS goalkeeper, Sam Hudson the main reason another goalless draw was achieved – with some amazing saves and a commanding performance.

Going into the final match on similar points to South Hunsley, we knew our team had to equal or better their result to stand a chance of winning outright. Fortunately, Wolfreton did us a favour and defeated our rivals 3-1, whilst we beat Driffield to win the tournament, having not conceded a single goal! Congratulations to all involved; Sam Hudson, Bartek

Kacsmarek, George Acklam, Will Dobson, Will Gibson, Tommy Hudson, Owen Parnaby, Brad Maffin, Matty Mitchell, Harrison Morrow.

This extends the current Year 8 team's fine unbeaten record in all competitions since the start of year 7, winning the following trophies along the way;

Y7 ER Cup, Y7 League, Y7 Champions League, Y7 5-a-side indoor tournament, Y8 7-a-side tournament.....and currently unbeaten in this year's league games.



Mr Lamplugh

...Some final thoughts from the Creative Writing group

The Library

In the past, the library was the home of extra-curricular learning in the school. At lunchtime many flocked to the now desolate room. Since July 2012 the library has been undergoing a temporary rehab in order to expand. Last year the library had a large variety of books. These books are slowly been re-introduced to the temporary library which is situated on the school balcony.

Many activities and items are been offered by the three current incarnations of the library. In the Careers Room computers are available; furthermore the library office distributes stationary for a small fee. The balcony is where book worms will get their reading fix as the majority of fiction books are now available up there. As from next week the balcony will offer non-fiction books as well. The new library is expected to open Easter 2013.

Next year the library will incorporate sixteen computers, a reading area, books and a brand new study area on the 2nd floor. Many students are looking forward to the bright future of the Beverley Grammar School Library.

Toby Wise (Y8)

Creative Writing workshop with author Phil Earle

On Friday we were very lucky to have a visitor from the front line of writing. His name was Phil Earle (the author of Being Billy and Saving Daisy.). I thoroughly enjoyed the visit and it was clear that the other people enjoyed it as well. As soon as I stepped in to Mrs Grimes' room the desks were filling up and before us stood an ordinary man drinking a large cup of tea. As soon as the trickle of people stopped coming he started.

He taught us how to access our ideas and exploit them so that we turned one tiny thought into a vast story, with ways such as giving us a bit of his story and telling us to turn it into our own idea. The bit of his story was that the main character was sneaking in a house, and he stopped outside a door and from that point on we had to make up our own story.

After 10 brain aching minutes, we moved on to another tactic to exploit our ideas. We made a big circle of all aspects of our character's life and his details like what's his name? What are his fears? Where was he born? I think that was the best way to exploit the imitative ideas.

Finally we wrote up our final stories and to top the day off we got bookmarks signed by the

author, and the chance to buy some of his books.

Guy Prew (Y7)

Since I started Year 7

When I first started B.G.S my first impression was 'big' and 'scary' as it was much bigger than my Primary school and a lot more people. Plus it was just really a totally different atmosphere. As the weeks went by since I started to get used to the atmosphere and get used to the rules of the school. With the help of my friends and teachers I am now enjoying my time at B.G.S. and I am certainly looking forward to all my other years here.

Recent events at the school

7F's Assembly: Recently 7F have produced an assembly on 'Respect'. I think that it taught us all an important lesson that it is very kind to respect other people. A quote from Max Wilson: "My form tutor said there were people acting inconsiderately. Miss Grimes had a word with the form and the next day I showed them a presentation called the 'respect' rap. We decided to do an assembly. We had lots of volunteers who were happy to do various parts. We rehearsed it a couple of times then we performed in front of Year 7 and Year8."

Olly Coe (Y7)