

# The Beverlonian

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Welcome to the summer edition of the Beverlonian and I must say it has at least felt like a proper summer recently! Following the very disappointing Ofsted report in May, everybody associated with the school has been working incredibly hard to start to make the necessary improvements and I am confident that the first HMI monitoring visit held on the last Wednesday of term has been a success.



Staff are already ensuring that students are making sustained progress through enhanced marking and feedback and plans for

September are taking shape which will raise the quality of teaching and learning in line with the very challenging new Ofsted framework. I will be contacting in September the parents who have expressed an interest in joining a parents' focus group to help the school in these challenging times and my thanks go to all of you who have volunteered.

Alongside the post Ofsted developments the school is still committed to successfully implementing the new vertical tutoring system and I am very confident that this will happen following a very successful induction day for our new year 7 students. The current year 10 students excelled themselves by proudly showing their new tutor group arrivals around the school and this was

followed by a really positive tutor time in their new groups for next year. The day really did emphasise all that is positive about the open, caring and friendly way our students can support each other under the careful guidance of our excellent tutors. We also had a very successful Vertical Tutoring/ House day on the last Thursday with years 7, 8 and 9 competing in a variety of team building activities.

I am also pleased to note, following my announcement this time last year, that we have now begun to sell the V-neck sweatshirts to students in



years 7 to 10 as replacements are needed, with year 11 students now able to purchase black V-neck jumpers with logo. The round neck sweat shirts will still

be allowed and phased out over time as more V-necks are purchased. I hope that the introduction of V-necks will enhance the uniform and enable the boys to take pride in their smart appearance.

Uniform is important and could I please remind all parents that black jeans are not allowed, trousers should be black school trousers and footwear should be plain black. Belts should also be plain black, ties always worn to the correct length and shirts tucked in. A good attitude to learning is the key to success and leads to being able to make excellent progress. A student's attitude is set up by taking a pride in their appearance and having a positive outlook and a "can do" philosophy.



We have said goodbye to year 13 who have now all completed their examinations, had a very successful prom organised by Head Boy, Will Clay, Head Girl, Intourn Hudson, Deputy Head Boy, Geoffrey Ma and Deputy Head Girl, Rosie Cooper where the entire year group demonstrated how they have all matured into fine young adults and I wish them all the best in whatever future route they decide to take. Year 11 have also completed all their GCSEs and they also showed a growing maturity as they approached these exams with commitment and determination.

It has been another successful term for the school in terms of events. You will be able to read about the Chamber Concert elsewhere in The Beverlonian, but it was a tremendous evening with outstanding performances from the many students involved. My thanks go to all the staff who helped with the organisation which ensured that the students were able to demonstrate their talent and, in particular, to Mrs Hughes whose tireless effort, commitment and determination was the driving force behind the whole show.

The Showcase was another roaring success with a wide variety of students being able to "showcase" their talents in music, theatre and magic! You will also be able to read more about this elsewhere in The Beverlonian but my thanks goes to all the staff involved and, in particular, Mrs Wedgwood whose drive and passion was an inspiration to us all and she was ably assisted this year by Mrs Hughes who was able to enlist professional help for the sound and transition between acts which enabled the evening to pass incredibly smoothly..

Our students were successful again at the Solar Boat Challenge held at Elvington Air Museum, this year going one better than last by winning all of the 4 prizes. This is a real achievement for members of our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Club and my thanks goes to Mr Gosling and Mr Oldridge for

organising this. This followed STEM success earlier that same week when two year 8 boys, Maccsen Sherer and Tom Brown, represented the school in the national finals of the Team-tech competition with their goal line technology project which drew the attention of celebrities James May and Janice Long as well as gaining a commendation from their fellow competitors

Charity work has continued to be a key part of what we do here at Beverley Grammar and with the drive and support of Ms Drew and her team, our students have raised money for the Muscular Dystrophy recently with a non-uniform day and cake sale following assemblies to raise



awareness of this debilitating illness by a former student.

The trip to France left on Monday morning with Mrs Groak, Mr Webb, Mrs Good and Mr Coull accompanying over 40 year 8 students. This followed two very successful visits abroad at Easter to Valencia for football organised by Mr Scott and skiing in Italy with Mr Elvidge, although the delay in leaving Leeds/Bradford airport due to snow was certainly unforeseen and very unfortunate. My thanks go to all of the staff who organise



and support these activities in the best interests of our students who gain so much from their experiences.

We have a number of staff leaving us at the end of this academic year with a number of retirements of very long serving staff. Mr Webb joined the school in 1978 and has served the school as Head of History and a valuable member of the Senior Leadership Team before initially going part-time a couple of years ago. He has also been very committed to organising many educational visits all over Europe over the years and will be sorely missed by us all. Mr Coull is also retiring having joined the school in 1984 and worked tirelessly as Head of Business introducing and developing the courses that have become key choices at both Key Stage 4 and 5. Mrs Doolan first worked at the school in 1991 as a maternity cover and went on to create, develop and drive our outstanding learning support department alongside her fellow SENCO Mrs Smith. She then became Head of RE and, with her drive, enthusiasm and commitment built that department into a highly successful area of the school. When Mrs Smith left us, Mrs Doolan returned to the Learning Support Department as SENCO and also joined the Senior Leadership Team where she has ensured that BGS continues to be a beacon of inclusivity.

Mrs Van Wren has also been a valued member of the learning support department in her eight years here as a specialist SEND teacher and she has also decided to retire this year. The final member of staff who has decided to retire is Mr Leonard, a very valued Technology technician for the past four years, who has managed to carry out much repair work around the school in addition to his invaluable work within the Technology department.

Ms Drew, who has been at the school for three years, has gained a position at a College of Further Education in Darlington to teach Biology having successfully building up the provision of Space across the school in her role as Head of Department.

She will also be sorely missed as the driving force behind the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme as well as devising many innovative resources for tutor time and promoting much charity work. Two members of staff who have been teaching in the Modern Foreign Languages department Ms Symons and Mrs Ratcliffe are both leaving us at the end of their temporary contracts.

Also, within the learning support department we are sad to be losing two teaching assistants; Mrs Gosling, who has been at the school eleven years, is moving to Drifffield School and Ms Gower who has just completed her gap year with us before heading off to University.

We have employed two apprentices this year Gemma Hughes in the main office and Sam Hill in ICT, as part of our commitment to provide training and work opportunities for young people. Both have successfully completed the course and I wish them both well in the next stage of their development. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our leavers every success with their future plans.

And finally I draw your attention to the details of the start of next term. Following two staff training days on Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September the school opens for students on Wednesday 4th September. To help with the introduction of vertical tutoring the school will have a staggered start with Year 7 and 11 arriving first at 8.50. Years 8, 9 and 10 needing to arrive for 9.45. (If students in these years are on school buses and arrive early they should make their way to the drama studio.) In light of the move to Vertical Tutoring there will be a slight change to the school day with morning registration taking place in period 1 (similar to afternoon registration which currently takes place in period 4). It is therefore very important that all students arrive at school for a prompt start to period 1 at 8.50am. I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

**Mr Grahame Hodson**

# Library open evening

Beverley Grammar School celebrated the opening of their refurbished Library and Resource Centre on the evening of Thursday 16th May. Jonathan Meres, author of 'The World of Norm' books officially opened the Centre whilst Year 7 and 8 students performed poetry celebrating reading, books and libraries. A musical interlude was provided by students Will Clay, Ruairi Sinkler and Ben Wadsworth.



Headteacher Grahame Hodson said “We had been awarded a grant to upgrade the structure of the building and whilst that work was in progress we decided to improve the learning facilities available for the students”.

The new improved library offers 17 Mac computers and a quiet study area for sixth form students on the mezzanine floor. Downstairs new shelving blends with the traditional oak tables and chairs donated by past staff and students over 50 years ago.

“Access to various electronic journals and subscription databases is available to enhance the learning experience of our students.

Fiction books are also available as e-books and provide an alternative reading experience.”

The year 7 students enjoyed an afternoon of comedy when Jonathan entertained them with tales from his 'World of Norm' books. Jonathan also read from his next Norm book, 'May require batteries'.

**Mrs Hambleton**



# SHOWCASE 2013



## **Stylish, slick, and finishing on time. Was this the real Showcase?**

As the staff band and 50 students filled the school hall with the sound of Fleetwood Mac's hit *Don't Stop (thinking about tomorrow)*, our Grand Finale, at 9:30pm on Thursday 11th July, it struck me that this Showcase had passed in significantly more of a blur than usual! It was a fitting song, as the school looks to the future, and this concept of progression was exemplified in the backstage crew that made this evening run so smoothly. So, unusually, I will start with praise for the non-performers; Paul Rodley (Stage Manager), Caleb Lucas (lighting), and Mr. Dan Robinson (sound) were all exemplary and well complemented by Jaidon Rymer, Sam Kelly and Will Clay.

This sterling effort allowed the performers to come to the fore, and what a show they put on for a full school hall. The usual theme of a variety show with the atmosphere of a rock concert was very evident despite the show featuring many younger students performing. Their amazing talent bodes well for future Showcases, with every student involved, without exception, raising their game for the evening. A few personal highlights - Isaac Binnington's accomplished Violin playing belied his years, and the Y9 band 'Iron Fist' made light work of heavy metal classics from Deep Purple. As always, Angus Lamb (Y12) played his 7-string baritone guitar with unbelievable technique, and Katie Evans & Joey Langfield (Y13) sang excellently in their last showcase. They will both be missed by BGS.

More photographs from the evening are available online. See you again next year.

## Physics Olympiad



Four Y8 Physicists went to St Peters School York on Wednesday 19th June. They took part in a series of 5 challenging activities and very tricky Physics quiz. There were 35 schools at the event and our Y8 boys: Matthew Wastling, James Quigley, Nathan Fish and Tristan Gray, came out 3rd in the overall event.

The tasks ranged from building the highest lego tower to hold a box of 12 creme eggs, build the longest rollercoaster for a ball bearing, create the fastest solar boat, measure the density of 10 household objects only using a meter ruler and a displacement can, and lastly score the highest points on hitting a target using an elasticated firing mechanism.

Not only that the boys had to tackle the 'Fermi Quiz' which involved questions such as, 'How many dice would it take to cover the entire surface of the Monaco Grand Prix Track?' and 'How far do you (and the Earth) travel while you are asleep?'

The day was made even better by the incredibly well organised event, the friendliness of St Peters School and sixth formers and the amazing prizes the school gave out for each student participating (not just winning). Thank you St Peters School. And well done boys!

**Mr Scott**

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## TeenTech challenge winners inspired by day out

On the morning of 18 June, Y9 students from Beverley Grammar School enjoyed free range of the Diggerland Yorkshire park.

Their VIP visit was awarded as a prize for winning the Humber TeenTech challenges. No attractions proved unpopular with the pupils. Rides included being swung around in the shovel of the Ground Shuttle, going on 'safari' through thickets and over rough terrain past 2 unperturbed Wakefield ponies, and being lifted 50 feet in mid-air to enjoy spectacular views of the park and beyond. All activities also provided real experience of what working on a building site involves, and the different skills needed. The students appeared to discover that digging the dirt is not just an activity confined to celebrity media but is far more satisfying when real dirt and real diggers are involved.



Students then moved on to the Wakefield College Skills Xchange for a buffet lunch followed by a guided tour of the Construction and Engineering workshops led by College tutors, who explained the various routes and different levels of qualifications available, such as the higher apprenticeships offering a route either directly into the industry or on to a foundation degree.

Mark Butcher rounded up the tour by asking the Beverley Grammar students if they had any more questions. Clearly inspired by what they'd just been shown, more than one student responded with, "When can I start?"

# A cacophony of sound

So many musical events have taken place this term, it has been very difficult to document them all! Below is a little taster of things organised by Mrs Hughes and Mrs Turner in the Music Department.

## Arts Award

59 students have passed their Bronze Arts Award! Students from years 7 and 8 have been completing their portfolios over the last couple of months, and their hard work has paid off, with all Bronze portfolios passing the strict criteria set by the exam board, Trinity. Within the Award, students have completed four projects: taking part in an arts project (e.g. guitar workshop, Fairy Queen performance, band rehearsals), review an event (e.g. a gig, art exhibition, play or musical), research an artist, teaching a skill (e.g. teaching a group to play guitar, keyboard, to draw etc.).



It has been fantastic to see so many students sharing their arts skills and ideas with each other over the past few months. They have learned so much from each other, and it is clear to see that they have enjoyed learning a range of new skills and new nuggets of knowledge connected to the arts from each other!

Look out for a review this time next year when some of these students will have completed their Silver Award!

## East Riding Battle of the Bands



Students went to Bridlington for the annual Battle of the Bands on Monday 8th July. Students competed against a range of schools from East Riding, performing two covers and one original song to the judges and audience. BGS' entry, Apocalypse, performed Robbie William's 'Candy', their own composition 'Grammar Blues' and finally the rocking track, 'Pumped Up Kicks'.

The band, consisting of Matthew Wastling (lead vocals), Tom Foulkes (backing vocals, tuba), Dan Kitson (guitar 1), Harry Loney / Peter Woodmancy (guitars), Milton Ashbridge (bass), Peter Riggs (drum kit) and Ruairi Sinkler (percussion) came an

amazing 3rd in the competition! Perhaps the numerous games of beach rounders and fish and chips beforehand helped the students to relax into their performance?

**Mrs Hughes**

## Orchestral Collaborations



The Fairy Queen Revisited – A Collaboration Between Beverley Grammar, Beverley High, York University, the National Centre of Early Music, and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.



The end of the spring half term was a very exciting one for 52 year 7 and 8 boys. They spent three days making music and performing with musicians from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (oboist Cherry, violinist Hetty, double bassist Cecelia, and harpsichordist / pianist Rob), assisted by MEG (Music Education Group) students from the University of York. Within the 'Fairy Queen Revisited' project, they also joined with girls from Beverley High for the last couple of days of the collaboration. At the start of the project, the boys did not really know what they were in for, but there was an air of excitement in the rehearsal space on the first morning. This was the same excitement

that was felt in the final performance at St Mary's Church three days later!

The performance in the evening was amazing. The students and professionals worked together exceedingly well to produce the best possible outcome. The 360-strong audience was very complimentary of the performance, with some even shedding a tear of two! A lot of the audience were quite shocked by the level of performance skill displayed, with the professional beginnings and endings to songs, as well as the dedication and focus of the students involved.



Read much more about this fantastic collaboration, and see more photos, on the BGS website at <http://goo.gl/37XIp>

# Chamber Concert photo gallery





## **Sporting prizes in raffle for brain tumour charity**

In aid of Brain Tumour research Society, Tom Marton in Year 10 decided to organise a whole school raffle with some amazing sporting prizes! First prize was a John Terry shirt worn in a Belgium/England friendly and then signed by both Roy Hodgson, England Manager, and Ray Lewington, assistant coach. Second and third prizes were signed rugby league balls from both Hull FC and Hull KR. Other prizes included signed Hull City players photos. Tom J in year8 won the England shirt and Mr Gosling, coming second, chose the signed Hull KR ball. Bradley Pugh in year7 won the Hull FC ball. Tom Ashton in year10 chose the signed Hull City photos and Mr Goodwin won a set of Cardiff City signed pictures!

Tom underwent an operation to remove a brain tumour in February 2012 and has been recovering well ever since. He has been back at school full time since September 2012, full of life and energy. He undertook a series of assemblies to raise awareness of BTRS and also organised a whole school event on 19th April. Wear a hat day encouraged all staff and students to wear a hat for the day and make a donation to the charity.

Together, the hat day and raffle raised over £730 for Brain Tumour Research – a fabulous amount that will go a little way towards such a worthwhile cause!

**Mrs Groak**

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## **Paired Partner Success**

The Paired Partner Programme has once again been a fantastic success with outstanding results of improvement in reading, spelling and mathematics amongst younger students assisted by our Sixth Form team.



An initiative with true mutual benefit, the student volunteers have made their CVs and university applications much more attractive just by making the time to take part.

A big thank you to everyone that was involved with the programme.

**Mrs Fairless**

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## Students' food hygiene success



Congratulations to the boys in Y10 studying GCSE Food, as they have all recently passed an industry standard certificate in food hygiene, with flying colours. After

studying the 7 hour intensive course they all then chose to sit the examination to gain industry

## Y9 consider the impact of WWII from an unusual perspective



Year 9 History students were encouraged this term to explore not only the impact of the war on soldiers and civilians in an international and long term context, but also how the war has been interpreted in film, comics, computer games, popular songs and indeed science fiction and fantasy.

On the BGS website, in the Beverlonian section, you can view the models, websites, presentations and videos that students created for their final history assessment of Key Stage 3. They therefore have developed their historical skills and

recognition of their hard work. They will not only be putting their knowledge into practice as they develop a product for their controlled assessment work for the GCSE Food qualification, but this certificate ensures they are so much more employable, should they wish to choose part-time work in local catering firms, for work experience and for 'weekend jobs'. More photos are available on the BGS website under 'Beverlonian'.

**Mrs Leonard**

knowledge whilst also practising methods of presentation and explanation which are vital in the 21st century workplace.

## French Drama

On Thursday 11th July all of Y7 were treated to a French play in the Drama Studio. Mrs Groak thought that it would be a nice end of term treat for the Y7 group, who have been studying French since starting at BGS in September, to put to use the skills they have been taught!

The play was provided by a company called Onatti who specialise in performing plays in target language to students in Key Stage 3 or 4 in French, German and Spanish. There were 2 actors, one who acted in English and the other entirely in French (she was actually French so that helped!).

The play lasted 45 minutes and invited audience participation and all the boys were taking part, cheering and jeering when requested and laughing throughout.

The feedback from the staff and



students afterwards was extremely positive and it is certainly something we would look to do again for other year groups and different languages!

## Green Zone

The Green Area of Student Support is available to pupils who would like to come and talk if they need to and feel they cannot talk to anyone else. Mrs. Chisholm is the School Social Worker and is based in this area. Mrs. Todd is Senior Team in overall charge.

Please be aware our Child Protection and Anti-bullying policies are available on the school website.

## Outstanding engineering wins the day for BGS



The Big Bang STEM event hosted in the Elvington Air Museum, York brings together Yorkshire's finest young engineers to show their talents and compete.

Incredibly boys from Beverley Grammar STEM Club (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) won all four of the possible categories at the Solar Challenge event, which is unheard of.

“The challenge for the boys was to design and make four different types of solar powered boats to enter in four different classes of time trials. The

boys faced immense competition from the region's best state and private schools. Their enthusiasm and outstanding engineering skills won the day - It's fantastic their hard work paid off.” said their teacher Mr Oldridge.

Mr Gosling Stem Co-ordinator and Head of Design and Technology at the school commented, “We are committed to nurturing young engineering talent wherever possible. It's a well deserved and an excellent result for the boys and the school.”

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## ...and finally

### a stylish farewell to a fantastic Year 13

Staff and students came together for a huge celebration, marking the end of an era, at Cave Castle earlier this month for the Sixth Form prom. Will, Intuorn, Geoffrey and Rosie did a brilliant job organising a fancy-dress photo booth, pic-n-mix sweet bike, a great DJ and a night to remember! This followed a day of celebrations led by Mrs Walters, Miss Challis and Mrs Mayfield, that featured an awards ceremony and the first (and last?) performance by the Sixth Form tutors' band 'Speshul Measurz'! We look forward to welcoming students back at the reunion evening in December and wish them the very best for the future.

