



The Amazing School Production – Bookworms and Bunions

The production this year was stunning from the opening sequence as the boys entered the stage ready for their first 'lesson' to the incredibly amusing bookworm who gave such sound, invaluable and wise advice on a number of books. The story skilfully brought together over 60 boys from throughout KS3 for an all singing, all dancing story about a little boy who finds himself lost in literature. The pupils took on roles from classics across the ages, including: Hamlet, Shakespeare, Frankenstein and Alice in Wonderland and rose to the challenge of playing well known literary characters as well as learning hundreds of lines. Our starring roles: Enrique Bello, Pacey Martelino, Benedict Owens and Connor O'Neill put on a confident and professional show, entertaining both their parents and their peers. Alongside acting, 15 boys worked tirelessly to put together three polished dances, using songs from the West-End and popular Pop culture.

In addition, we wanted to ensure that the boys working backstage were able to receive 'in house' work experience with a professional lighting and sound company. The lucky group of key stage three students were able to learn how to do some of the coding that controls the lighting, how to control a sound board as well as many other skills that will help them in the working world.

As always the production was memorable, impressive and rewarding for all involved. All the students showed professionalism, enthusiasm and hard work and all three performances were a tremendous success.

The Musical Talents of Gunnersbury



It has been a busy 2016 for the Music Department, as Spring Term kicked off with the preparations for our annual Speech Night, with both the orchestra and Chamber Choir providing beautiful interludes in addition to Daragh Callan's trumpet solo.

Our annual Music Festival in March drew much interest from students from Yr 7 to the 6th Form. Our panel of adjudicators, including our generous benefactor Miss Goldberg and alumnus, pianist Andrew Yiangou who has just completed his postgraduate studies at the Royal College of Music, were most impressed by the quality and musicianship on display. Our congratulations to the winners, who reprised their winning pieces at the Spring Concert: Shaun Woolf and Callum Barnett (Junior), Harrison Dock (Intermediate), Samuel Winner (Senior) and Kyle Constantino (Gunnersbury Young Musician of the Year).

At the start of the Summer Term, our attention was turned to the drama production and Paris music tour, but not before our latest crop of young instrumentalists in the Jazz Band made their debut on the St Joseph's Primary School stage at their summer fete. With our spirits not dampened by the rain, the band performed a set of well-known classics to an appreciative audience before enjoying the community spirit of the afternoon.

Our musical year would not draw to a close without a visit to Westminster Cathedral, where our Chamber Choir were invited to sing amongst students from other schools in the diocese at the Good Samaritan Mass organised by the Catholic Children Society. It will not be long before we return there in September to lead the music at the National Altar Servers Mass held by the Guild of St Stephen.

The Spelling Bees of Year 7

This term Year 7 took part in a Spelling Bee competition, the friendly rivalry between the boys was amazing as they learnt, revised and tested each other in the run-up to the competition. Students of all different abilities who all share in the passion of spelling took part. It was an exciting and thrilling competition with over 20 students taking part. After several rounds and lots of tricky words, Iain Hinlo from 7R was crowned 'Year 7 champion speller' winning the crown with the word 'Kaleidoscope'.

Following on from the competition, Gunnersbury were invited to the London Borough of Hounslow's Year 7 Spelling Bee. Our top 3 spellers from Year 7 took part in two nail-biting rounds to make it to the semi-finals and came third. They were thrilled with the result and worked calmly and coolly under the pressure of the competition. We look forward to returning next year with our next group of Year 7s.



Summer Sporting Successes



The summer term has seen some outstanding Gunnersbury sporting performances. None more so than on the athletics track where we have been triumphant in a number of competitions. The year 7's have had success in a number of sports throughout the year and this was capped off with victories in both the 'Super 8' and 'Quadkids' competitions beating all comers from across the borough. In addition to this both the year

9 and year 10 athletics teams won the borough championships, showing that there is athletic talent across the whole school and gives us high hopes for more success in the future.

One of the stars of the year 9 athletics team is Jak Mensah who has gone on to represent Middlesex at the All England Schools Athletics Championships where he took silver in the 200m with a time of 23.24 seconds. He also was chosen to compete at the London Youth Games and showed his worth as a real team player taking silver in both the 200m and long jump and bronze in the 4x100m relay. Jak competes for the school across all sports and his success on the track is just rewards for all the hard work and commitment he has shown this year.

A special mention must also go to Maximo Libid in year 8 who is part of the GB Taekwondo squad at U14's and recently competed at both the Austrian International Open and the German Open. At the event in Austria Maximo won two Gold medals. One in the Male U14 individual event and one in the team event. In the German Open he went one better winning 3 medals; bronze in the individual event, and gold in the pairs and team event. Clearly Maximo has a bright future and we at Gunnersbury wish him every success.

Duke of Edinburgh Achievements



The year started with a keen and enthusiastic Bronze group completing the sport section with a series of cross country runs on Friday evenings along the Grand Union canal. Hot, cold

and wet weather failed to put any potential participants and even a Sunday morning run was attended by over thirty five pupils. As we could not fault the enthusiasm we decided to offer places in the end to 45 participants, the biggest Bronze group ever for Gunnersbury.

Silver training and assessment had to fit into a very narrow window between the end of the public exams and July when this year's Bronze participants needed to start. We did two three day trips to Purbeck and the Ridgeway national trail.

For the volunteering section of The Duke of Edinburgh over thirty pupils took part in two 19 mile sponsored walks from school to Tower Bridge raising in the process over £3000 for Action Aid. An amazing achievement! Another walk is planned for September.

Cooking Up a Storm

This year has seen the school Cookery club continue to grow in popularity. A group of boys from Year 7, 8 and 9 meet at least once a month to cook a basic meal they could replicate at home. This year has seen the boys produce homemade sausage rolls, pizzas, pancakes, stir fry and the finale was burgers and wedges. The food is always delicious, tasty and scrumptious with the plates left empty at the end of the session.



Headteacher's End of Year Message

It hardly seems believable to me that the end of this academic year is upon us. Once again we've experienced a year of great success, much variety and ambitions realised. The academic achievements of our students saw Gunnersbury ranked by the Department for Education as the Number One Boys' Comprehensive School in the country. These achievements were further acclaimed at our annual Speech Night where the Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, John Sherrington, spoke of our 'amazing' students. In the Arts our boys (and girls) talents have once again come to the fore as exemplified in our fantastic production and concerts. Sport continued in its strength with a host of team and individual successes throughout the school.

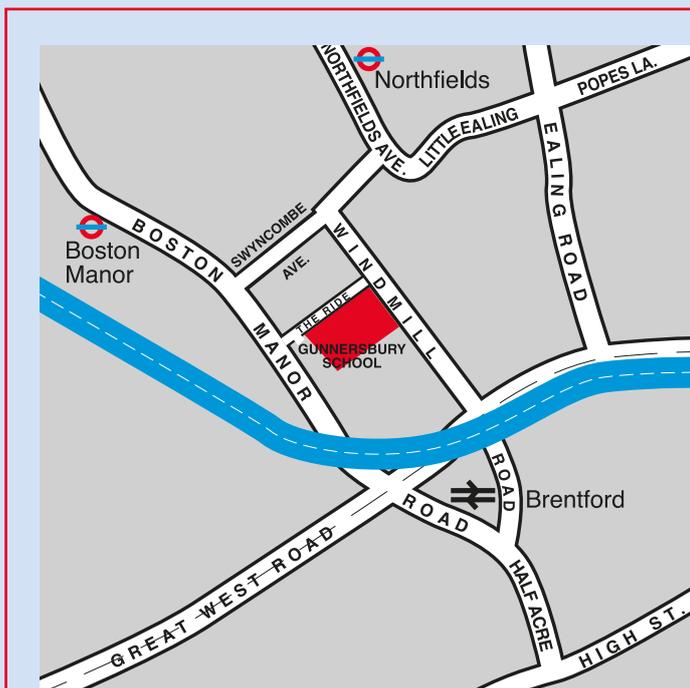
Sadly an integral member of our school is no longer with us. When considering our great achievements it is fitting that we remember James Doyle who died suddenly and unexpectedly in the Autumn term. James' work as Deputy Headteacher and previously as our Assistant Headteacher has been central to our success. His contribution to our school in the 13 years of service that he gave to Gunnersbury was quite simply immense. As a community we owe a great deal to James whilst missing him greatly as a colleague and friend. He will be remembered fondly and with great respect. James Doyle RIP.

I wish you all a lovely Summer with your families, one filled with fun and happiness. We look forward to welcoming your boys back in September.



James Doyle RIP

Kevin Burke
Headteacher



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