



MAGNUS



May/June 2010



The Newsletter of
Great Baddow High School



Headmaster's Letter



The summer term is always a busy one for schools. At present our students are sitting internal and external examinations and they will continue until late June.

Our programme of GCSE examination revision classes was a huge success. Feedback from staff and students was very positive. I am grateful for their commitment and enthusiasm for these after-school sessions. Hopefully this will give the Year 11 students confidence and motivation to reach their potential in their GCSE examinations.

During June and July we will be hosting numerous Day in a Secondary School taster sessions when we will welcome Year 5 pupils from local primary schools. We are also holding induction days for current Year 6 pupils who will be joining us in September.

We have several events to look forward to in the second half of term, including:

- Geography field trips to the Wye Valley
- Year 12 Business Studies and Modern Languages visit to Berlin
- Year 9 and 10 German Exchange
- **Year 11 Leavers' Ball**
- **Year 13 Leavers' Dinner**
- Annual Art Exhibition
- Sports Day
- District Sports
- Music Department visit to Disneyland Paris
- Visit by author Paul Cookson

We are also looking forward to the school's production of "We Will Rock You" from 7th to 9th July. Tickets for this event will go on sale after half-term.

I hope you will enjoy reading all the news articles in this edition but would in particular like to draw your attention to the section entitled Important Information for Parents, **which includes details of changes to the students' school uniform.**

I would like to remind parents that Friday, 25 June has been designated an INSET (non-pupil) Day.

It only remains for me to wish you all a very enjoyable half-term break.

Roger Hunton

IMPORTANT MESSAGES FOR PARENTS

Super-short skirts!

The fashion for wearing extremely short skirts in school is becoming unacceptable.

In order to ensure that our girls are wearing suitable skirts we are introducing a new school skirt. In accordance with your comments we are certain that the majority of parents will be grateful that we have taken this step.

The skirt will be black and plain with a simple pleat at the back and small side pockets. The design of the skirt prevents the students from rolling-up the waist band, therefore maintaining a regulation length. To avoid variations the skirt can only be purchased from Pope and Smith in Chelmsford.

The new skirt or formal black trousers must be worn by all girls in Years 7 to 11 from September.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ms K Bousfield
Deputy Headteacher



Footwear

Our school uniform policy states that footwear should be "Formal black shoes - backless, high heels and trainers are not permitted."

Unfortunately, some students are wearing a variety of inappropriate footwear to school. Examples of this includes plimsolls and black trainers.

If parents have inadvertently purchased inappropriate footwear, we would respectfully request that these are replaced in time for the start of the new academic year.

Hairstyles and Jewellery

Hairstyles must not be extreme. We do not permit punk styles, fashion colours or hair patterns (tramlines).

Jewellery must be limited to one ring and a maximum of one plain stud earring per ear. Jewellery in other facial piercings is not allowed.



Behaviour for Learning

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our students on their good behaviour and attendance this year, which we know will further improve their learning.

However, to ensure this continues we have reviewed our Behaviour for Learning programme and have identified the need to extend the length of a period of isolation (C4) to finish the school day at 4.15pm instead of 3.25pm. This will be implemented with effect from 7th June 2010. Strict rules are in place within the isolation room and the school will issue a fixed-term exclusion for students who do not abide by these rules.

These changes will affect only a very small minority of our students but it is important that a C4 period of isolation serves as a deterrent to poor behaviour and missed detentions.

School Attendance and Requests for Leave of Absence

In an attempt to maintain and improve our attendance rate, we are aiming to reduce the number of holidays taken by students in term time. The DCSF has carried out studies which show a strong link between attainment and attendance. For your child to achieve their potential they must attend school regularly.

Could I please draw your attention to the school policy regarding requests for leave of absence? We greatly value the positive relationship between parents and the school and we do not want the issue of holidays to create a conflict in this relationship.

Parents do not have a statutory right to leave of absence during the academic year. The school will consider approving a leave of absence request only if there are exceptional circumstances, for example severe illness or family bereavement.

Register Sweeps

Please be aware that our school works in partnership with the Education Welfare Service and is committed to improving the attendance and attainment of all students in the school.

As a matter of good practice, register sweeps will now be conducted on a regular basis.

Punctuality

A small minority of students are late to school. All students should be on the school premises by 8:40 am. Morning registration starts at 8:45. If pupils arrive after this time they MUST sign in at student administration. Please provide your child with a note stating the reason for lateness, without which your child may be given a late detention of 30-minutes.

Security

For reasons of security, child safety and confidentiality, we ask that parents who have reason to visit the school, always report to reception. Under no circumstances should parents go to other areas of the school without having first signed-in. This also applies to student administration. If you need to see a member of the student administration staff please ask at reception.

First-Aid/Illness

Please remember our first-aid staff are not medically trained other than to deal with **minor accidents and injuries**. **Therefore if you have any concerns about your child's** health you must contact your GP as school staff are not allowed to make judgements about medical matters. If your child is unwell, please do not send them to school.

SUDDEN ILLNESS DURING THE DAY

With regard to illnesses that develop at school, the first aid staff will make a decision as to whether the student is well enough to return to class or needs to be sent home. If a student needs to be sent home, the school will contact the parents so that you can make the necessary arrangements to collect them. Please note, we will never send a child home without parental agreement.

It is not acceptable for a student to contact you directly to request to be picked up during the school day (first aid staff will do this on their behalf if necessary). Students who are unwell must report to the first aid staff in the student administration office. If this requires a student to leave a lesson, the teacher will issue them with a pass to allow them to visit the first aid staff.

LONG TERM CONDITIONS

If a student has a long term condition (allergies, anaphylaxis etc.) full details must be notified to the school, together with clear instructions on how you wish us to deal with a problem, should one arise. Asthma pumps and epipens must be clearly labelled and accompanied by a signed letter from the parent.

SIGNING –IN

If your child's mobility is impaired due to an injury or operation, and they are having to use crutches, they often have to undertake their normal lessons in venues on the ground floor. For this reason, if your child is unable to attend their tutor room for morning registration they **MUST** sign-in at student administration.

Road Safety

Please may we remind parents not to bring their vehicles on the school site either when dropping off students in the morning or collecting them before 5.00pm. The site is congested and additional vehicles increase the possibility of an accident.

There is space along Duffield Road or Dorset Avenue for students to be dropped of or collected and coming onto the school site is not an acceptable alternative. Thank you for your cooperation.



Primary Links

Primary Tea: We recently hosted a tea for primary head teachers and Year 6 teachers to meet with their former students in Year 7 and look at displays of their work. Students and visiting teachers thoroughly enjoyed the tea this year. Feedback included comments about how much progress students had made and how happy they are at Great Baddow.



Primary Transition: We have had very positive feedback from our students about their transition from primary school to Great Baddow. As we are currently planning for the new students starting in September, we would very much appreciate any comments that would aid their smooth and successful transition. Please forward any comments to Ms K Bousfield, Deputy Headteacher.

Year 7 Survival Guide: A group of Year 7 students has been helping to update the Survival Guide for Year 6, ensuring that student views are included.

YEAR 11 – GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK!

After five years of hard work, excellent effort and lots of fun, the students of Year '05 are preparing to move on from Great Baddow High School. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you all on your fantastic contributions to the school, and to thank your parents and families for their support and interest in your school careers.

Whether you return to us next year, look towards college, or make your way into the world of employment, I hope you will keep in touch and remember your times at GBHS with fondness.

I wish you all every success in the forthcoming exams, and for the bright and happy futures you deserve.

I'll miss you! Take care.

Miss Bond



Gifted and Talented Maths

Earlier this term Great Baddow hosted three local primary schools for the Jaguar Maths in Motion Challenge 2010. On offer was a place in a national competition and the opportunity to pit the students mathematical skills against other British schools.



The challenge involves setting up your own formula one racing car and driver and preparing them to race around the actual tracks used by Jenson Button and Lewis Hamilton.

Pupils are asked to calculate race speeds, fuel amounts, bend angles, track distances and ensure that the correct tyres are used according to an on screen weather forecast.



The winning team was St Michael's Junior who then went on to beat all the other schools in Essex and reach the national semi finals. The team

unfortunately weren't quite fast enough to win this round and qualify for the final.

In a similar competition for Year 10 and 11 students, Karl Harris and Ethan Starmer-Jones of Year 11 also made the semi-final stage. beating all Essex schools in the process.

The boys have gone one stage further however, and following a race of their car around the German Nurburgring race track in the semi finals have reached the national final. The final will take place in June at the Heritage Motor Museum in Birmingham. Please wish them luck.

Race Report

Result of Shanghai Grand Prix

Pos	Driver	Team	Grid Pos	Time
1	E. Alonso	Renault	1	1:27.04
2	D. Coulthard	Red Bull	2	1:27.22
3	K. Glock	Williams	3	1:27.44
4	R. Kubica	BMW Sauber	4	1:27.51
5	N. Heidfeld	BMW Sauber	5	1:28.01
6	M. Fisichella	Force India	6	1:28.19
7	G. Di Gregorio	Force India	7	1:28.17
8	C. Ecclestone	Williams	8	1:28.31

Shanghai Grand Prix

Butterworth **2nd**

 Elongeri **1st**

 Cheah Boi **3rd**

Park Farms



Signing Club News



The Great Baddow Signing Choir continues to go from strength to strength. Since September we have been extremely fortunate to have worked alongside Dr Paul Whittaker OBE, artistic director of Music and the Deaf. Dr Whittaker has visited us here and joined us on our visits to several schools to develop a buddy scheme between us and Mildmay Primary School.

Pupils from Great Baddow Signing Choir visited Mildmay Primary School in November to teach songs to the junior school children, which was a great success.

In February we visited Bishops Stortford College where students from Cottenham **Village College (our "buddy" secondary school)** joined us. We spent the day learning various skills and songs from each other and we also taught songs to the students who attend Bishops Stortford College.

Mildmay Primary School visited us again in March, along with pupils from Tanys Dell School, Lambourne Primary School and Howbridge Junior School, all of whom have students starting here in September. Over thirty students from all schools involved **thoroughly enjoyed the day and Dr Whittaker's** enthusiasm for music empowers the students to teach others.

Dr Whittaker returned on 12th May, along with two musical colleagues, Jeff Borradaile (singer) and Andy Smith (composer). Jeff and Andy worked with the signing choir to develop **their 'singing' skills, some of which involved** using non musical instruments to create sound, learning an African song in three parts and continuing to extend their signing skills in several new songs. Paul, Jeff and Andy inspired everyone involved in the day and the staff and students all went away with fresh ideas for the future.

More exciting news is that we have now **"buddied up" with Larkrise Primary School** to create a signing choir with Key Stage 2 pupils

which we are running there after school every Wednesday. We started this on May 4th and the response has been excellent. Eleven pupils have joined so far, with more students enquiring about the choir. Students from the Great Baddow Signing Choir are also coming along to support the staff and teach songs to the primary school children. The aim of the primary choir is to get the children to take an interest in signing songs and then when they start here in September, they will then transfer to the Great Baddow Signing Choir.

Paul, Jeff and Andy accompanied our signing choir to Larkrise Primary School on 12th May and they joined in with the pupils. They have promised to return to both Larkrise and Great Baddow High School, something we will eagerly anticipate.

Here are some comments from our students:

"I was very nervous at first, but as I got more involved, I became more confident."
Abi Whitby 8C

"I enjoyed learning about music and signing. I would like to do something like this again."
Amber Whittlesey 8S1

"I really enjoyed the day. It was exciting and lots of fun. Andy, Jeff and Paul were really enthusiastic." Jemma Smith 8E1

"I enjoyed doing Lean On Me. I enjoyed signing it more as I found singing it very hard."
Jodie Ruffell 10E1

"I found it a bit hard when they asked me questions because I had missed some of the morning. I thought it was good, though."
Saskia Black 10E1

Remember **you don't have to sing to be in THIS choir!** We meet every Thursday after school in Link 1 from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

Miss Payne, Miss Wheeler and



Let's build a set - Jeff Borrardaille and Andy Smith encourage the signing choir to help them build a set.



Dr Paul Whittaker helps Katie Rolfe and Lucy Kings sign their part of a three part round.



Team work - Jeff Borrardaille teaches Josh Looney and Jack Gair to sing their part of the song, whilst Josh and Jack teach Jeff how to sign it!



Katie Rolfe, Jodie Ruffell and Saskia Black wait to see what is going to come next.

Andy Smith leads a Warm-up.



Parent Portal

We know that you want to know how your child is doing at school without **having to wait until a parents' evening, so we are very pleased to announce** the development of the Great Baddow High School Parent Portal.



With the Portal, parents and students will have real-time access to student attendance and progress report information. This will enable you securely to access your child's current grades and attendance via the Internet. The service will shortly be available to all **parents and those with parental responsibilities. By using the Portal you can gain access to your son's or daughter's:**

- Attendance record
- Timetable information
- Behaviour and achievement
- Grades and results
- Special needs information

The Portal is planned to be available to parents after the half term holiday. In order to ensure that you are able to successfully join us in this exciting venture we must have accurate records of who has parental responsibility for each student and your contact details, including your email address.

Parents who have already provided us with an email address should shortly be receiving a letter giving their account details followed by an email with their password. If you do not receive a letter, or have not provided us with an email address, and wish to have access to the portal, please send us an email from your main email account to data@gbhs.co.uk. The email should include your name in the subject field and state your email address, the name of your child(ren) and their tutor group in the message body. Many of you have already done this. Thank you.

Please may I once again remind you that it is vital that the school is made aware of any future changes in your contact details in order to keep our records accurate.

Catherine Kibble

Dining Cards

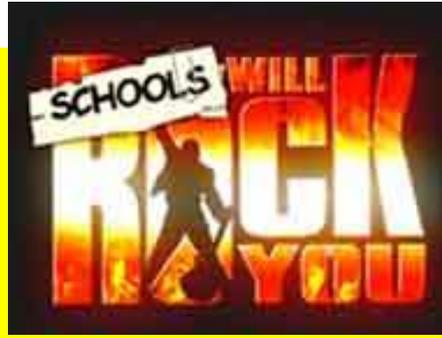


Please would you remind students of the need to look after their dining cards and not damage them in any way. Unfortunately we cannot swipe **damaged cards because they can harm the till equipment. If your child's card is not suitable for use you will need to purchase a new one at a cost of £4.00.**

COVER ARTWORK

A Level test piece
Beth Williamson Year 13





Great Baddow High School

is proud to present

We Will Rock You

Wednesday 7th July to Friday 9th July 2010

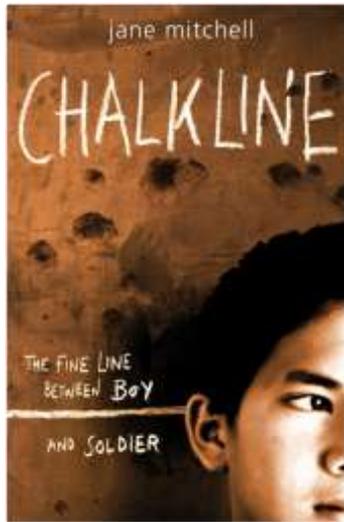
7.30pm

Primmer Assembly Hall

Tickets on sale after half-term:
£5.00 (concessions £3.50)

Be prepared to Rock!





Lining up at school takes on an entirely new meaning...

How would you feel if a local militia group stormed into your school, stood you up against the wall and, if you were taller than the chalk line, took you away to train as a boy soldier? This is exactly what happened to the main character in *Chalkline*, by Jane Mitchell, which is the winning book in this year's Essex Book Award.

Chalkline proved to be a great favourite in school and on Thursday, 20th May ten of the students who had played a part in reviewing and rating the shortlisted books were lucky enough to attend the Award Ceremony. They met and questioned Jane Mitchell about her gripping, topical story, which, incidentally, had also won the approval of Amnesty International.

This is what the students thought of the event:

"On 20th May a group of us went to the Essex Book Award presentation. It was a great pleasure to sit and listen to Jane Mitchell. She was a very good presenter and was amazing to listen to. She gave us many good tips and really engaged us all."

Bethany Bushby 9S2

"It was a really good morning. I enjoyed learning about Jane Mitchell's travels and she has inspired me to write my own books."

Abigail Neave 8S2

"I had a great time. It was fun and interesting. The author is a great person to talk to and she told us some really interesting and useful stuff."

Matilda Wanless 7C

"The book *Chalkline* was really sad and it is surprising how the author got her ideas for it."

Maddie Tredgett 7C

"The presentation was really interesting and when she spoke about her ideas you could tell it was aimed directly at the students. She also made it fun and not boring. I got my "*Chalkline*" book signed, had a biscuit and then we left on the minibus back to school."

Lucy Gardner 8S1

"I had never been to an awards ceremony before so I did not know what to expect. We got to meet Jane Mitchell, which was very good. She was very interesting and inspiring because she told us all about her travels and the wonderful things she had seen and experienced. I enjoyed it a lot and would like to go again."

Jessica Baldock 8S2



Cake Sale

On Friday 14 May the Learning Support Department organised a cake sale in aid of our Kenya project. The sale raised £249 and I am grateful to all the staff who made cakes and all the students and staff who either bought cakes or helped to sell them.



Year 8 Sleepover

On Friday 21st May a group of fourteen Year 8 students raised an amazing £369 for our Kenya project.

The evening was led by Miss Lynch, on behalf of Mrs Law. It was a fun-filled evening of **teambuilding games**. **Everyone enjoyed themselves and the students' behaviour was fantastic.**

I would like to thank all the students for supporting the event and to the staff who helped during the evening and so generously gave up their free time.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Mrs S Neale, Teaching Assistant



The Learning Support Department wishes you all a very happy half-term!



Sports College News

The summer term should be the start of the summer sports but we have found ourselves finishing off many competitions from the winter season. In netball, the U16 girls following their success in the national competition, beat Barking Abbey in a closely fought match to become Essex Cup champions. Year 10, 11 and 13 girls won the league titles. In football, the school reached five district cup finals, with the results being :

Year 7 girls – beat Ursuline.

Year 8/9 girls – lost to Shenfield on penalties.

Year 8 boys – won 4 - 1 to Chelmer Valley.

Year 11 boys – won 5 - 0 to William de Ferrers . This was the fourth time they had won this.

Year 12/13 boys lost to Plume 6 - 3.

In basketball, the boys' Year 8 development league was won by 41 points to 22 against Hylands School and the Year 7 team lost in the final to Shenfield by four points. In girls' basketball, the Year 10,11, and sixth form teams were still in the national England basketball finals and were qualifying for the national finals. The first couple of weeks back saw lots of long trips around the country to play the qualifying matches and in the end the U16 team lost by eight points to Northampton School for Girls and the U19 team were knocked out by a basketball academy in Loughborough by five points. The Year 10 girls did make it to the national finals, beating Northampton School for Girls by a comfortable margin. At the national finals, they lost in their semi finals to a well drilled team from Manchester and then beat Bardon School (Nottingham) to finish third. Year 8 boys enjoyed a two day last eight national tournament and finished as **National Champions beating St. Margaret's 58 to 28.**

And so on to the summer sports...



Athletics has started with a vengeance with a number of pupils training hard. Mid Essex trials for junior (Years 8 and 9) and Inter (Years 10 and 11) athletes have taken place and we are waiting to hear how many students will be selected to represent mid Essex at the Essex Championships. At the time of going to print the Year 7 trials are still to be held.

The first round of the nationals has also been held. All four teams (junior boys and girls and inter boys and girls) did well and have got good scores hopefully to qualify for the regional round of the National Schools Competition. Progress in this competition, as well as looking at all the scores around the country, can be tracked at www.esaa.net. Click on 2010 and then go to track and field cup competition and results index. The next round will take place the week commencing 14th June.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ben Clarke (Year11) who is currently flying up the national rankings in athletics in a number of disciplines. Last weekend he claimed the top spot for his age group in the Octathlon (multi events) and is currently ranked fourth in the country in long jump. The website for looking up all athletics events is www.thepowerof10.info.

Although it is very early in the season, a couple of the school athletics records have already been broken. Charlotte Bennett (Year 7) has beaten the previous discus record, throwing 20.84m.



Matt Hughes broke the Year 10 javelin record with a throw of 47.84m and ran 400m in 53.0s.

Well done both of you.

Other important athletic competitions that are coming up are:

Friday 18th June – Sports Day

Wednesday 23rd June – District Sports.

Saturday 3rd July – National Athletics final (if we qualify in Gateshead).

We will also be looking to have a couple of friendly athletic competitions.

ROUNDERS

Our sixth form girls are close to leaving the school but they take with them the title District Rounders Champions, captained by Hannah Kinsella. This group of athletic girls have played a number of sports for the school and will be greatly missed when they leave. The Year 11 girls were knocked out in the semi finals.

District events in rounders for the lower age groups have not taken place yet but training is on Monday lunchtimes (Years 7 and 8), Wednesdays after school (all age groups) and Friday lunchtime (Years 9 and 10).

CRICKET

U13 boys have won their first round match in the Essex Cup and all the other age groups are currently in the initial stages of the district competitions. Year 7 and 10 have won the first round of the district competition.



TENNIS

District competitions will be coming up in late June and early July. Training in tennis is on Tuesday mornings and Friday evenings. Everyone is more than welcome.

Erratum: In the last edition of Magnus I reported that Sam Dunsdon had become a Sports Ambassador for the school - this should have read Sam Robinson. My apologies to both of you.
Mrs Ferguson

GREAT BADDOW HIGH SCHOOL
ART EXHIBITION

Friday, 25th June 2010

All Welcome!