



Easter 2024

# Newsletter

## A word from the Headteacher



There has been great excitement at BGN this term as our builders finally took down the fencing and handed over our new buildings. Even though the grass is not yet growing and our netball courts are currently just a mud bath, we can at last see the vision the architects had in mind, and the drawings we have been looking at for so many years have finally come to life. The reaction of our students as they peer into our new buildings and marvel at the size of our new assembly hall has been a joy to witness, and certainly worth all the hard work. We will have a planned move into the new buildings over the next two terms as our furniture and other items arrive. We are delighted that Archbishop Bernard Longley will be joining us for our BGN Day celebration in November, when he will officially bless our new buildings.

This year we welcomed David Clarke [Cover Supervisor], Jane Kennedy, Helen Kirk, Mara Moss [LSAs], Martina Saccaro [MFL] and Michelle Fisher who returns from maternity leave. Sadly, we also say goodbye to Marina Dunstall [MFL], Ian Jeffs [Caretaker] and finally to Trevor Buzzard who has worked tirelessly providing our IT support for 19 years. We wish them all well in their new ventures.

I do hope you have a lovely Easter break and I am hoping too, that when we return to school, we may be able to enjoy some drier weather!

Niamh Dolan—Headteacher

### NOTICE

Please **DO NOT** drive down Addison Road to drop off or pick up students.  
This is for the safety of all our students.

Please ensure your contact details are up-to-date so that you don't miss out on important communications, and should we need to contact you in an emergency.

## Important diary dates

**Thursday 28 March**

School closes at 12.30 pm for the Easter holidays

**Monday 15 April**

School re-opens at 8.40 am [Week A]

**Monday 6 May**

Bank Holiday  
School closed to all pupils

**Thursday 9 May to  
Wednesday 26 June**

External exams

**Thursday 16 May**

Year 13 Leavers' Mass

**Thursday 23 May**

Year 11 Leavers' Mass

**Monday 27 May to**

**Friday 31 May**

May half-term

**Monday 3 June**

School re-opens at 8.40 am [Week A]

**Wednesday 19 June**

Yr6 Information Evening

### **Parish of St John The Evangelist, Banbury**

#### **Maundy Thursday 28 March**

Mass of the Lord's Supper @ 7 pm

#### **Good Friday 29 March**

Solemn Liturgy @ 3 pm

#### **Holy Saturday 30 March**

Easter Vigil @ 8 pm

#### **Easter Sunday 31 March**

Mass @ 8.45 am and 11.15 am

### **Parish of St Joseph The Worker, Banbury**

#### **Maundy Thursday 6 April**

Mass of the Lord's Supper @ 7 pm

#### **Good Friday 7 April**

Solemn Liturgy @ 3 pm

#### **Easter Sunday 9 April**

Mass @ 10 am

### **Parish of the Immaculate Conception, Bicester**

#### **Maundy Thursday 28 March**

Mass of the Lord's Supper @ 7 pm

#### **Good Friday 29 March**

Solemn Liturgy @ 3 pm

#### **Holy Saturday 30 March**

Easter Vigil @ 6.30 pm

#### **Easter Sunday 31 March**

Mass @ 9 am and 11 am

### **Sacred Heart and Our Lady, Aston-le-Walls**

#### **Maundy Thursday 28 March**

Mass of the Lord's Supper @ 7 pm

#### **Good Friday 29 March**

Solemn Liturgy @ 3 pm

#### **Holy Saturday 30 March**

Easter Vigil @ 8 pm

#### **Easter Sunday 31 March**

Mass @ 9 am at St Peter and St Paul Church, Kings Sutton

Mass @ 11 am at Aston-le-Walls

[Please check the Parish Newsletter for any updates]



## If your house was burning, what would you take with you?

In May of 2011 budding photographer Foster Huntington had a random thought pop into his head: *'If your house was burning, what would you take with you'*?. He neatly arranged his ten most cherished items on his bed, took a beautiful shot and posted it online. *"It's a conflict between what's practical, valuable and sentimental. What you would take reflects your interests, background and priorities. Think of it as an interview condensed into one question."* Huntington got tons of responses and decided to start BurningHouseProject.com so others could document their treasure items. For 13 years now, thousands continue to submit their images to be displayed on the website

Students were first asked to watch a helpful tutorial on using natural light to improve their photography. Using what they had learned, they then gathered their most treasured possessions and took some beautiful images to submit for the competition. Each Photography Challenge seems to grow and the submissions just keep improving. This challenge definitely proved we have many wonderful young amateur photographers amongst our students.

This time our winner from Year 7 was Caeden, with Zachary being the Year 8 winner and, once again, Marcia was the Year 9 winner. There was a particularly beautiful entry from Otilie, which will reign as our Champion for this challenge. Her skilled use of natural light on her collection of treasured items made her the clear winner!

We look forward to the next challenge: *'Light and Dark'*, the deadline for which is 28 March. This is currently open for submissions on the VLE.

[Mrs Castle—Art Department]



## French play: Le Cours d'Art

On 20 February 2024 we were very lucky to have been able to watch the newest 'Onatti Productions' play called 'Le Cours d'Art'. Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 were captivated by the two French actors and their amazing talents.



From the beginning of the play, we were introduced to the characters and soon learned the theme: finding personalities. It was an immersive play and lots of fun. The two actors spoke in a way which everyone could understand, or at least understand the main idea of the play.

The actors even got me to join in with the performance, which was 'incroyable' making it a very memorable play, and one which I hope everyone enjoyed.

[Alfie—Form 10 Edith Stein]



## Spanish play: Reserva Duplicada

This entertaining play was based on the idea of a double-booked Airbnb.

I thought the Spanish play was very good and taught common phrases. I thought the actors were very professional and were clear, slow and understandable. I would recommend watching it to any young Spanish learner who wants to improve their Spanish and help with memory. I would also like



to thank Madame Savin and all the MFL staff for organising it.

*[Eloise—Form 10 Assisi]*

Coming up in the MFL Department next term...

**School Trip To Normandy**

Dates: Tuesday 19 - Friday 19 July 2024

Contact: Mme Savin

Subject: French

Year Group: Year 9 and Year 10

Halsbury travel FRANCE ABTA

## Year 9 Modern Languages trip to Oxford University

On 29 February 2024, we had the privilege of being invited to a Modern Foreign Languages day at The Queen's College, Oxford, part of Oxford University. This gave us a wonderful opportunity to indulge in a variety of languages and activities.

First was a workshop on subtitling a short film. This was about using past knowledge and new vocabulary to create descriptions for such a film. There were workshops in French, German and Spanish – ours was in French.

This was followed by an invitation to a presentation about why we should study languages. In this presentation we learnt about how significant Modern Foreign Languages are for our future career paths. We then had an activity which was learning a new language in thirty minutes. We learned some Brazilian Portuguese. The lecturer began by talking to us about the widespread array of countries where Portuguese is spoken, then we practised pronouncing certain letters and words. We were also invited to learn Norwegian in thirty minutes. Firstly, we were taught the cultures and the two types of Norwegian language. Later on, we were taught how to say our names, goodbye and thank you: *'Jeg heter Bethy'*.

One of the final activities was a short presentation on the intriguing application of language studies that is linguistics. We were given a brief explanation of the field and the presenter was very informative and concise, and also very clear. We really enjoyed it.



[Gracie, Caitlin, Krissa, Bethy and Benedek—Year 9 students]

## Language Leaders

*Language Leaders* is a programme for Year 10 students. In this programme the pupils who sign up create three lessons of different languages in groups. They are assessed on these lessons by their teacher and given feedback. After completing all three lessons the students are awarded a certificate, along with a badge.

This year we have three groups: a Spanish group which consists of four students; a French group which has three students; and finally a Polish group with two students.

For the first lesson the students presented to their fellow Language Leaders. All the groups completed their first lesson successfully and received positive feedback. Hopefully, by the end of March 2024 they will have made their first trip to a primary school and taught the lesson they have prepared to a small group of children.

*Language Leaders* is an enjoyable experience centred around fostering leadership skills. Through this programme we have been given the opportunity to develop our leadership skills and cultivate essential qualities like communication, collaboration and making decisions.

*Language Leaders* provides a platform for personal growth and development. It is truly a rewarding experience and I am grateful that I have been given this opportunity.

[Taqwa—Form 10 Assisi]

[Picture by Camilla—Form 10 Calcutta]



## The sky is the limit for Year 13 student...

It was amazing to see one of our Year 13 students on *BBC Question Time* in January this year; you may also have read about her in the Banbury Guardian and the Oxford Mail, or heard her on BBC Radio Oxford!

Zainab joined our Sixth Form in 2023 as a Year 12 student and has continually impressed us with her commitment to being an ambassador for youth voice. Last year she undertook work experience with Victoria Prentice and was able to see parliamentary processes from the inside. Her political interests and enthusiasm did not stop there. She was invited to appear on *Question Time* when it was filmed in Oxford in January and her question focussed on challenging the panel members in their appeal to undecided young voters.



Zainab is also a Youth Ambassador for the Duke of Edinburgh Award which she credits with enabling young people from diverse backgrounds, like her own, to experience opportunities which would otherwise not be available to them. She has also just been invited to Buckingham Palace in May as an Ambassador for the DofE Award. When she was 16, Zainab found out that she needed major heart surgery which, now she is fully recovered, has led to her being asked to become an Ambassador for the British Heart Foundation. In February half-term she was asked by the Department of Education to meet with the Secretary of State, Gillian Keegan, to discuss the government policy for young people, and the priorities for funding if they win the election. After her A Levels this summer, she plans to take a gap year and is aiming to secure an internship with the Adam Smith Institute, researching within government policy. Following this, she is aiming for university to study History and Politics.

Zainab is a role model to our students, a true ambassador for youth citizenship and student voice. We are very proud of her.

[Mrs O'Donnell—Head of Sixth Form]



## Five days of freezing fun for our Year 8s at Glasbury

The second week of term saw 41 Year 8 students and 5 staff [namely Mr Parrish, Mr Thornton, Ms Burak, Ms Smith and Mr Williams) travel to Glasbury. A week of fun-filled outdoor activities awaited, as too, did the cold but bright Welsh weather.

During the week students took part in caving, canoeing, mountain walking, climbing walls and high-ropes, night walks and orienteering in the dark. On some mornings it was  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Woodlands Centre, and we were told to expect  $-13^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the mountains. It is a good job we were prepared for the cold weather as up to six layers were needed to keep warm outside.

Canoeing took place on the canal and for most of the journey ice had to be broken to allow the journey to advance. However, the caves were a balmy  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$  inside! Over the course of the week, students were presented with challenges to overcome and were pushed to do their best. It's safe to say that many went beyond what they thought was possible. At first, some of the challenges were scary, but as time passed and confidence grew, the challenges became fun and a sense of achievement, and self-belief was developed.



## Five days of freezing fun [continued]

### What did the students think?



My favourite activity at Glasbury was the caving. I enjoyed the thrill and watching the water in the underground rivers. I also thought canoeing was fun. The rooms were really comfortable too.

*[Amelia Jeffs—Form 8 Calcutta].*

My favourite activity at Glasbury was mountain walking because it was nice spending time with my friends. I also enjoyed the rock climbing because of the adrenaline. The rooms were nice and spacious.

*[Elsie Locke—Form 8 Assisi]*

My favourite activity was caving. At first, I was nervous about the small holes we had to go in, but when I got there it was not scary at all. Everybody was really nice and I got to talk and work with people I never really talk to. The food was very nice and I enjoyed it. I would definitely recommend it to Year 7 for next year. You get to talk to lots of new people and I had a really good time and would love to go again.

*[Millie Jelley—Form 8 Calcutta]*

*[Mr Parrish—Head of Humanities]*



## PE Department news

Since the start of the new year we have seen real success across all year groups in both football and netball. This term's standout girls' teams were the Year 7 football and Year 10 netball teams, both of whom made it through to the County finals. In addition to this, I am pleased to report that the Year 7 boys' football team has continued to impress. It has been great to see Mr Woodham so inspired this football season, even if he still thinks the ball is the 'wrong shape'. Mrs Thornton, who recently joined the PE Department, has hit the ground running with some great netball results, as well as gaining fantastic attendance to her afterschool clubs. Miss O'Neill's high standards have not changed since the last Newsletter as, upon hearing of her netball team reaching the County finals, her response was "standard really—I expected nothing less"!

In core PE there has been great reception for awards where we, as a PE Department, highlight and celebrate the incredible efforts shown across all year groups in cross-country, with certificates being awarded to students for their hard work and 'can do' attitude. Below are photos of some of our 'Platinum' students who achieved the highest awards possible due to their resilience and effort.



# PE Department news [continued]



A final word must be said for Mr Woodham’s Fitness Club, which has seen an incredible take-up from both our KS3 and KS4 students. Mr Woodham would obviously appreciate an even higher turnout, but should students not be able to attend, they can find his YouTube channel entitled: ‘*Workout with Woodham*’ where he has various videos which, if not a valuable fitness session, will at least provide some entertainment value!

[Mr Walker—PE Department]



Yr10 Girls County Netball Team

## Intermediate Maths Challenge

Last term, we had around 100 mathematicians participate in the Intermediate Maths Challenge held on Wednesday 31 January. It was a pleasure to see the excellent standard of mathematical problem-solving on display and I would like to thank all those who took part.

Congratulations go to the certificate winners who were as follows:-

### Gold Certificate

James	Year 11	[Best in School]
Abhinav	Year 11	
Benedek	Year 9	[Best in Year]

### Silver Certificate

Josemari	Year 11	
George	Year 11	
Leon	Year 11	
Lily	Year 10	
Kamil	Year 10	[Best in Year]

### Bronze Certificate

Camryn	Year 11	Lanna	Year 10
Daniel	Year 11	Lily	Year 10
Julia	Year 11	Sophie	Year 10
Pietra	Year 11	Markus	Year 10
Daniel	Year 11	Leika	Year 10
Christopher	Year 11	Dylan	Year 9
Harry	Year 11	Sophie	Year 9
Rachel	Year 11	Chris	Year 9
Sean	Year 11	Maximillian	Year 9
Alan	Year 11	Julia	Year 9
Luke	Year 11	Anna	Year 9
Szymon	Year 11	Bianka	Year 9
Ewelina	Year 11		
Benjamin	Year 11		

A special mention as well for James and Benedek who both qualified for, and competed in, the Kangaroo competitions— excellent work!

[Mr Pike—Maths Department]

## What has been happening this term?

### Year 11

All Year 11s have had an interview with senior members of staff at BGN to get them thinking about their plans for after GCSEs and beyond. We had some really interesting conversations; and we also have some really ambitious students here at BGN!



All Year 11s need to have applied for where they want to go after their GCSEs. If they have not applied anywhere, this **MUST** be done over the Easter Holidays. If your child is still unsure of what they want to do or how to apply, they should speak to their Form Tutor or Mrs Harris.

#### Upcoming Open Events

Banbury & Bicester College:	Wednesday 24 April	4.30-7.30 pm
Blackbird Leys Technology Campus:	Wednesday 1 May	4.30-7.30 pm
City of Oxford College:	Wednesday 8 May	4.30-7.30 pm

### Year 10

#### Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience is taking place from 3-7 July 2024. All students need to have found a placement and hand their signed forms in as soon as possible. Forms are available on the BGN website, the VLE and in the LRC.

### All Year Groups

All BGN students can access the EClips website to find out more about different careers. The website address is: [www.eclips-online.co.uk](http://www.eclips-online.co.uk) The password you will need is: CGFY923

If any student would like a careers advice appointment they should speak with Mrs Russell in the LRC or their Form Tutor.

[Mrs Harris—Careers]

## Altar Servers' retreat to Alton Castle

Sarah in Form 8 Edith Stein and Leika in Form 10 Bakhita went on the recent Diocesan Altar Servers' retreat to Alton Castle, which was organised by the Kenelm Youth Trust. This weekend-long retreat was an opportunity for young people who serve at Mass to meet each other and deepen their faith.

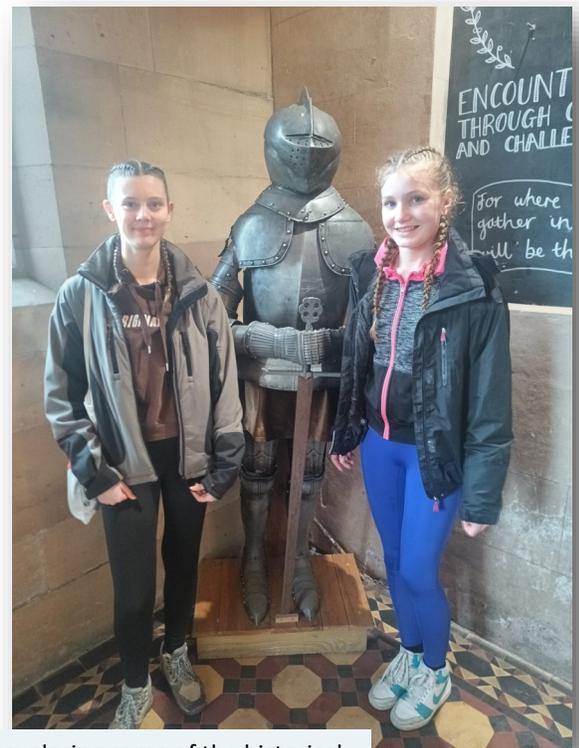
Sarah said of the event: *"I loved my visit to Alton Castle; it was eye opening and inspiring to listen to all Jimmy Mitchell's talks about his journey through his faith, and how we can find our vocation. My favourite part of the retreat was when I got to go for adoration and a candlelight walk, although it did get windy. The whole church was filled with light and was a beautiful end to my day. Leika and I also made many new friends along the way and I hope we can meet again".*

Leika added: *"It was an amazing experience which I would highly recommend to other altar servers. We were given the opportunity for confession, as well as Mass and adoration and always started and ended the day in prayer and reflection. The leaders were so inspiring, sharing stories about their own faith, while also helping us to strengthen ours".*

To find out more about altar serving, just go to the sacristy before Mass in your local parish church. You will be most welcome.



Sarah, Leika and Leika's sisters with Father Craig outside Alton Castle



Leika with Sarah exploring some of the historical treasures of Alton Castle

## News from Year 7

It has been another busy term for Year 7 pupils, and it is wonderful to see so many taking up the challenges of the Gospel values around our school and community. It feels like they have all been a part of our BGN family for so long, rather than just four terms!

Many of our pupils have enjoyed all the extra-curricula activities on offer and have been such great ambassadors for our school during sporting events, embracing leadership opportunities by co-ordinating many children from local primary schools and teaching them the joys of sport, games and working together as a team.

During Lent we have joined the '*Big CAFOD Walk*' to raise money for such a worthy charity. The pupils have risen to the challenge and enjoyed fresh air and healthy competition between each other and their tutor groups, to see how many laps of the playground they could complete.

Please note all sponsorship money needs to be handed in by **Friday 19 April 2024**. There will be prizes awarded for their efforts and I want to say a huge thank you in advance for all your contributions and donations. This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to truly live out Catholic Social Teaching and do something positive to support others less fortunate than ourselves. If you would like to know more about this charity, please do visit their website [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk)

Over the holidays, I would urge you to talk with your child about their social media usage and keep an eye on group chats and image sharing on platforms such as WhatsApp, Snapchat and TikTok. Year 7 pupils need advice and monitoring on how to use social media sites properly so that they do not offend or upset others and can protect and safeguard themselves. Thank you for your continued support with this.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Easter.

*[Mrs C Phillips – Head of Year 7]*



## News from Year 9

Congratulations to some of our Year 9 girls, namely Emily, Caitlin, Krissa, Milly, Bobbi, Olivia and Niamh for being selected by the PE Department to become a member of the Oxfordshire Coach Academy. This programme is designed to



To the lives of young people in and through Physical Education and Sport

work with young people in schools to develop confidence and leadership skills, enabling them to deliver physical activity sessions for less active students in schools. The overall aim is for the pupils to run fun and engaging sessions within schools to make sure that everyone enjoys it so much they come back next time with their friends!

The coach academy programme is split into four stages:-

- Stage 1** *Online training.* Three sessions delivered virtually to a small group of students in each nominated school.
- Stage 2** *Delivery.* The trained leaders will lead a minimum of four physical activity sessions in their school aimed at less active students.
- Stage 3** *Evaluation.* All leaders, participants and school staff complete an insight survey to track the success of the sessions.
- Stage 4** *Future impact.* We will have a face-to-face training day, bringing all the girls together to plan how they build on the skills they have developed to help others. This includes formal First Aid training.

This is a fantastic achievement – Well done to everyone!

[Mrs Terry and Mrs Thornton—Year 9 Form Tutors]

Meanwhile, some of our other students in Year 9 have been busy pewter casting in their Design Technology lessons this term. Below are some examples of the wonderful work they have produced.



## News from Year 9 [continued]

On Thursday 8 February this year 21 Year 9 students supported the BGN Cluster Year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics Competition as Sports Leaders. Our students provided guidance and help to the athletes taking part. I am very proud of their achievements and think they were excellent role models.

[Mrs Terry and Mr Mawn]



# British Society for Gene and Cell Therapy, Oxford



On Tuesday 19 March 24 Year 12 A Level Biology students attended the 'British Society for Gene and Cell Therapy' Symposium held at the Oxford University Natural History Museum. The students had the opportunity to learn about cutting edge research on gene and stem cell therapy in a variety of conditions, including cystic fibrosis and spinal muscular atrophy. Students learned about gene delivery viral vectors and the use of CRISPR in gene editing. It was wonderful to hear from a young lady who had leukaemia and had recently been successfully treated with CAR T-cells; this treatment had saved her life. The students then had an opportunity to peruse the Museum displays and activities including making 3D models of DNA, getting temporary tattoos of DNA and viral vectors, practising DNA complementary base pairing through making DNA bracelets and having a virtual reality look at a gene therapy laboratory. They also talked with scientists and clinicians from a range of backgrounds. The day had excellent links to the AQA A Level Biology specification, including the application of immunity, stem cells, virus structure, genetic modification and gene therapy.

BSGCT

British Society for Gene and Cell Therapy

The Year 12 Biologists found the experience interesting and educational, helping them to consider the career options that are available after degree level. The day consisted of five speakers who came from a range of professional backgrounds, followed by a panel Q&A session and online opinion poll. Students gained experience about the ethics of research, the scientific community, how it is funded, and the aims of many different researchers to cure disease. Students also enjoyed the opportunity to speak with PhD students, post-doctoral researchers and professors to gain a better understanding of life as a research scientist or clinician.

[Dr Reed—Science Department]





# English Department news [continued]

## Friday Reading Café

To finish off the busy week, we ran a reading café in the English Department. We transformed one of our classrooms into a café. Not only could pupils come in and read, but they could also enjoy a hot chocolate. What a wonderful way to end the week! Pupils enjoyed having a quiet place to read so much so that they have asked if we could do this again. Below are some pictures of the event.

[Mrs Sharpley—Head of English]





### Sickness

Please notify the Attendance Officer of your child's absence on 01295 264216 extension 518 or email: [absence@bgn.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:absence@bgn.oxon.sch.uk) **by 9.30 am each day**. As duty of care to students is paramount to us, should we not hear from you, we will send a text to remind you to contact the school regarding your child's absence. If we still have not heard from you as to why your child is absent, we will telephone you as student welfare is a priority. Any unexplained absences will be marked as unauthorised.

### Prolonged illness

Unless requested, we do not normally need to see medical evidence for absences for illness. However, if your child is away from school for an illness which means they miss school for five or more days, we do require medical evidence such as a doctor's appointment card. Should your child have prolonged periods of time absent due to ongoing illness, a letter from the doctor is required stating clearly that the student is unfit for school.



Wrap around care available at St Mary's, Bicester



## St Mary's Primary School, Bicester with full wrap- around care from September



We are pleased to introduce Mr O'Connor as the new Headteacher at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. St Mary's prides itself on providing a Christ-centred curriculum that fosters academic excellence, personal growth, and character development. It is a feeder school for BGN.



**From Summer 2024 the school offers wrap around care  
from 7.30 am to 6 pm every day.**

We still have some places remaining across the school and reception 2024 admissions. Please do not hesitate to contact the school to book a tour.

[www.st-marys-bicester.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys-bicester.oxon.sch.uk)

**Telephone: 01869 252 035**



# BGN 200 Club



Why not join our 200 Club? For just **£5** a month you have the opportunity of winning **£100** every month whilst donating to a very worthy cause – your child's school.

We currently have spare numbers available, so if you are interested or require any more information, please contact our 200 Club Administrator at [finance@bgn.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:finance@bgn.oxon.sch.uk).

*congratulations!*

December's winning number is **138**

January's winning number is **84**

February's winning number is **19**

## Sport leadership

It has been another busy term with BGN students supporting numerous primary school competitions and festivals. 61 KS3 students displayed their leadership skills through delivering activities in Year 1 Multi-Skills and Year 2 Shooting Stars Football Festivals. They also officiated at two Sportshall Athletics Competitions. Over 600 primary school children took part in the various events.

On Thursday 25 January, 12 Year 7 and 41 Year 5/6 Student Leaders provided a range of skill-based activities for 280 Year 1 children. The activities focused on developing agility, balance, co-ordination, and team building challenges.



*"Today I really enjoyed being a Student Leader. It was noisy but fun and a lovely experience. I also developed my confidence and was brave."*

[Keeva]

*"I enjoyed being a Sport Leader as I was able to assist the children in developing new skills. I was quite nervous at first, but as it went on, my confidence grew."*

[Safia]

*"I enjoyed seeing the children happy. I really like leading, and I hope I can do it again."*

[Pola]

In February BGN hosted and delivered two Primary Sportshall Athletics Competitions. 20 Year 9 Student Leaders expertly timed, recorded and measured at the BGN Cluster event on Thursday 8 February. 9 Year 8 Student Leaders, along with Warriner and Gosford Hill students, confidently officiated their track and field events at The Partnership Finals on Thursday 29 February.

On Friday 8 March Blessed George Napier celebrated International Women's Day by taking part in the 'Biggest Ever Football Session', with 475,000 girls taking part. 20 Year 7 and Year 8 girls delivered Disney-inspired active story telling games from the shooting stars programme. 135 Year 2 children took part and had fun developing their fundamental moving skills.



## Sport leadership [continued]

Fourteen Year 7-10 BGN Student Leaders had a wonderful day supporting Banbury Rugby Club's Primary School Tag Rugby Festival on Friday 22 March. Our students worked together to referee matches for 25 teams from 12 schools across North Oxfordshire. Rugby's values of 'Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship' [TREDS] were demonstrated by all players and Student Leaders throughout the day.

Banbury RFC also provided all students and staff with delicious BBQ food from Hook Norton Butchers. After lunch, World Cup winner, Jason Robinson, visited the festival and gave an inspirational talk. BGN students were then given an opportunity to speak to Jason and pose for photos.

[Mr Mawn—School Sports Co-ordinator]





### **'Born for This'**

Our biannual performance of *'Born for This'* has taken us on a spiritual journey as part of our preparation for Lent. Our initial taster day began the week before Lent and we were delighted to see so many students wishing to take part. Some felt that it wasn't for them, which was a shame, but we really do appreciate everyone that decided they would try it. A lot of hard work went into the preparations and our first live performance took place to a full St John's Church in Banbury. The following day we took a coach to St Thomas More Primary School, Kidlington on our Mission to take the message of Easter out to the parishes. In Holy Week, our stu-

dents are performing this version of the Stations of the Cross at the Immaculate Conception in Bicester, followed by Marston St Lawrence. The final performances take place on Maundy Thursday for our very own BGN students, along with Year 6 visitors from St John's Primary School, Banbury and St Mary's Primary School, Bicester. This is such a fabulous way to prepare to celebrate the Easter Triduum and be truly moved by the nature of Jesus' sacrifice.

Our grateful thanks go to Mr Wilson who has taken the students through everything and enabled them to perform in ways that they might not even have felt capable of. Likewise, we thank our talented Drama teacher, Miss Bellingham, for her expertise, direction, encouragement and support with the performances.

### **Meanwhile...**

As part of our Lenten journey, the whole school have been offered the service of reconciliation. We are so grateful to our local Priests who give freely of their time, with the understanding of how important it is to offer our young people the Sacrament of Confession. During the service, we were given the time to reflect on our relationship, both with God and with each other. To be able to offer this service is a privilege, and shows in the hundreds of people who took part in receiving this Sacrament.

### **Also...**

Our Pupil Leadership Team have led the whole school every Monday morning during Lent. They put a great amount of work into their assemblies, so our students left each week with a clear message of how they could best live their lives during Lent.

We are not always in school for this amount of time in Lent, but it has been really fruitful. We are well and truly ready to celebrate the sacrifice Jesus made for us as we approach this Easter weekend - and of course we are ready for those eggs too!



[Mrs Mawn—RE Department]

## Spring into Bingo

Our Easter Bingo event organised by Mrs Wagstaff and the Friends of BGN was a huge success, resulting in a bumper **£401** raised for the school. The hall was full of families of all ages trying their luck and enjoying the event. The all new digital screen and Bingo caller was very popular with the younger children.

There were baskets of Easter eggs and other 'eggcellent' prizes to be won on the night. We are most grateful to Morrisons and Britannia Joinery Ltd for their very generous Easter egg donations.

Double the crowd = double the prizes = double the money raised.

Thank you to everyone who attended and if you didn't make it to this one, we look forward to welcoming you next time...

*[Mrs Mawn—Assistant Headteacher]*

