



Banovallum News

May 2018

Head's Message



Welcome to the May edition of the newsletter. Once again this has been a busy term in which our students have performed with credit. They continue to impress me with their commitment to their studies, their extra-curricular activities and their school. Thank you to parents and carers in supporting us and to staff for their absolute desire to provide the best outcomes for the students in their care.

There have been some exciting developments at the school since the last newsletter. Our bees have begun to produce some honey and we will be selling this in aid of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at the school once we have decided on the logo for Bano Bees. We have the very difficult task of choosing the winner(s) of the competition to design a logo from a very strong field. As you can see, I have given myself some wriggle room on the result, given the exceptionally high standard of the entrants from all in the school.

On a much larger scale, we have been successful in securing substantial funding to expand the canteen and kitchen facilities, subject to regulatory approval. This means that we will hopefully be able to double the size of the dining area and the kitchen, improving both facilities accordingly. We will be able to enhance the dining experience for students and be in a position to offer a broader menu, reflecting modern tastes and expectations. Students will be involved in the design of the canteen area and also the development of the menu.

As you can appreciate, this is a major undertaking and will involve some disruption. As the project has to be completed within a very tight time schedule, we are aiming to begin work during or soon after the May half-term. The first phase will involve work within the kitchens. This means that we will be buying-in hot meals from an outside supplier for the duration of the first phase. There will be no extra cost to parents for this.

We would ask both students and parents to bear with us over the works. We will try and make the transition as smooth as possible, but I am sure there will be hiccups along the way. We will aim to learn from these and minimise any unanticipated disruption which happens. Nevertheless, this is an exciting development for the school and one which will bring benefits for all members of the school community.

We are now midway through the GCSE exam period. This is a challenging and stressful time for all involved in the process: students, parents/carers and staff. I have been very impressed with how well the students have adapted to the demands of the GCSEs. This is the first cohort to go through a process in which the vast majority of the GCSEs have been reformed. This means that they are sitting longer exams and more of them, with less of the final grade shaped by coursework or controlled assessments. Congratulations to the students for continuing to work in a mature manner in all their lessons, revision sessions and workshops. All the hard work does pay off in the end. No-one regrets a good set of exam results!

I would like to pay special tribute to all the staff who have put on revision sessions during the school week, at weekends and during the holidays. Those sessions run outside the normal school week are voluntary and staff have been happy to come in to provide further support for the students. I believe this is a testimony to



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their absolute commitment to achieving the best outcomes for the students in their classes.

Another very encouraging development has been the significant improvement in the school's attendance this year. We are currently at 96% for this term and this means that our overall attendance figure of 94.75% is now above the national figure. This is particularly pleasing as we were hit quite badly when the flu came to town. If the students are in school, they are learning and making progress: this will have an impact on GCSE results. Well done and thank you for your support in improving the attendance figures.

There have been a number of notable performances and events which have taken place this half-term. Our Year 11 Drama students produced a thrilling series of performances from a number of challenging and thought-provoking plays for their final assessment. Each of the performances had something important to say about modern life and the students appreciated all the support they were given. Well done to all the students and to Miss Padden for producing such strong performances.

We have had a number of external providers come into the school to deliver courses to students in KS3 and Year 10 recently. Aspiring Minds came into run a day for Year 10 on study skills and stepping outside of their comfort zone. Year 9 benefitted from RAF training on leadership and communication skills. In the past fortnight, we have had a number of agencies in to raise awareness of issues such as anti-social behaviour and internet safety. These have been incredibly useful and we hope the students learn from and act on the information given. We are hoping to incorporate internet safety talks into our Parental Engagement Evenings for 2018 – 19. Once again, the external agencies praised the students on their excellent behaviour and attitude to learning.

The weekend before half-term saw a record number of participants take part in their practice expedition for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. They completed the walk and camping with the minimum of fuss despite a few students having sore feet. They were fortunate with the weather which was neither too hot nor too cold and most importantly dry. Thanks to Mrs Fawcett, Ms MacInnes, Mrs King, Mr Bushell and Mr Casserly for supervising the expeditions. Good luck with the real one which takes place after half-term. On a similar theme, Mrs Fawcett and Mr Kirkman will be taking approximately a dozen Year 11 students to Croatia for Operation Wallacea for a fortnight's science fieldwork and other activities, including scuba diving in the beautiful waters off the Croatian coast. This will be an exciting project, in which the students will develop research, communication and leadership skills. Good luck everyone.

As you can see from the Calendar dates below, we have moved the Awards' Evening to October. This has been to ensure the maximum turnout of students, in particular those who were in Year 11, many of whom took advantage of the post exam period to earn some money prior to the next stage in their education/employment journey or whose holiday commitments meant they were unable to attend. It will also enable us to award prizes to students for their GCSE performance. Hopefully, we will have most of the former Year 11 students who have won prizes attending. More details will be published by Mr Leary in due course.

I have sent a letter to parents detailing the uniform rules and expectations for next year. Hopefully this will clarify matters in good time for September. Further details will be coming out soon but broadly, the principles are as follows:



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- Blazers should be worn unless the temperature rises to a point where this becomes uncomfortable. Students will be advised on this via the student bulletin.
- Ties should be worn at all times with a white shirt.
- Shirts should have the top button fastened and be tucked in to the waistband.
- Black trousers should be traditionally tailored and not be “skinny” fit. They should not be jeans, nor should they be above the students’ ankles.
- Socks should be black, grey or navy blue. Trainer socks of whatever colour are not allowed. White socks are only allowed for sport and should not be worn as part of the normal school uniform.
- The length of skirts, when worn instead of trousers, should be just above the knee and should not be rolled up at the waistband. The Banovallum logo should be visible on school skirts.
- School shoes should be traditional black leather and polishable school shoes. Black trainers, however discreetly logoed are not allowed, nor are canvas shoes. I appreciate that some outlets sell these styles in the school shoes section or aisles, but these are not part of Banovallum School’s uniform.

We are making a slight change to the PE Kit, replacing the yellow polo shirts with black polo shirts made of more modern materials. Hopefully, these will hold their shape better, wash and dry better and last longer. If you have purchased a yellow polo shirt recently, please do not worry as the new shirts will be phased in over time.

Thank you for your continued support on uniform. I believe our students are the smartest of all the local schools and as such, they are our best ambassadors.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE SUCCESS



Banovallum School’s Young Enterprise Team, consisting of Maia-Rose Capps, Jade Flynn, Harvey Hare and Ami Johnson came away with the award for Best Teamwork at the County Finals held at the Showroom in Lincoln on Thursday 19th April. The team competed against 12 other schools, to win the trophy.

THE EMERGE FESTIVAL

Eight months’ of planning and preparation came to fruition earlier in the term as our young person-led Emerge Festival took to the streets of Horncastle. A team of students in Years 7 – 10 worked incredibly hard to deliver a full day of activities and performances celebrating Shakespeare and his works.





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The day started with a 15 minute site-specific interpretation of Hamlet in St Mary’s Church and ended at The Lion Theatre with a variety of performances including a physical theatre Death Montage, poetry, song, monologues and a modern adaptation of Much Ado About Nothing.

In between the theatrical homages to Shakespeare, students produced an all-day wrap-around festival in the Community Centre which included: Drama Workshops, Sword-Fighting Workshops, curation of an Art Exhibition, Art & Craft tutorials. They even organized a Shakespearean photo booth. The students developed not only their creative skills but leadership skills too; by employing local musicians to entertain and graffiti-artists to teach. There were medieval artefacts, refreshments and even sunshine!



Crucial to the success of the project was creative budgeting. Consequently, all activities and performances were free to the public. The festival was a collaboration with The Mighty Creatives, Spirit of 2012 and Eggbox Theatre.

As a result of their fantastic combined efforts the students will also achieve an Arts’ Award qualification.

WORLD AUTISM WEEK

As part of the celebration of World Autism Week, Miss Rutter, our SENCO, hosted former student Daniel Bennison-Pauls in the House Assemblies during that week.

Daniel spoke eloquently about life with autism and how the staff at Banovallum had helped him throughout his time at the school. As a result of Daniel’s hard work and the school’s support, he had achieved an excellent set of results and is now successfully studying A Levels at Branston College.



Daniel’s talks raised awareness of the unique nature of autism and explained how students with autism see the world. These assemblies were emotional, powerful and thought-provoking. They certainly achieved their twin aims of raising awareness and promoting understanding. Well done Daniel!



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ST MARY'S ARTS FESTIVAL

This year's St Mary's Church Arts festival featured some superb contributions by Banovallum students in Drama, Music, Poetry and Art.

An annual event, the festival celebrates and shares the great creative opportunities the town's schools offer to the community. It gives young students from early years Primary to 6th form, the chance to shine on stage at the church to members of the public.

The theme this year was 'Freedom' which inspired the Banovallum students to create artwork inspired by the concept of freedom in its different forms, put on touching performances in Drama, freedom themed music performances and some freedom themed poetry.

The public also took part in an art workshop to create some sketch work which went on display. Thanks to the team at St Mary's Church for hosting and organising such a memorable event.



Mr Bollan, Head of CADT, said ***"this is a prime example of how access to the creative subjects can build confidence, self belief and pride in young individuals. Sharing the experience with the public and the wider community enhances the experience and builds lasting connections***

between the youngsters, the town's schools and the Church."

SLAM JAM POETRY COMPETITION



On the 9th May, a group of students went to De Aston School for the Regional Finals of Slamjam. We were represented by Y7 and Y8 students who performed pieces about cruelty in the world, anti-bullying/peer pressures and how experiences and opportunities can change or shape us.

The students performed very confidently to other schools and judges with Grace Evison coming in the top four on the night; however, we are delighted to announce that all of our students are through to the next stage and will be performing their pieces at the Lincoln Performing Arts Centre (LPAC) on Thursday 28th June. Tickets are available on the LPAC website at a cost of £5.00.

With all of our finalists getting through, we represent more than 25% of the total finalists on the night, demonstrating once again that Banovallum students can compete on even terms with any schools in the county. Special mention must go to Oliver Hirst who came from hospital to compete and has made it to the final as well, despite being in significant pain on the day of the competition. Fingers crossed that we can bring the much-coveted trophy home.



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4 th June	Students return to school
15 th June	Last GCSE Exam, Year 11 Celebration BBQ (Students off-site during p.4)
20 th June	Rewards Trip Year 11 Prom
21 st June	Sports Day
29 th June	Sports Personality Evening
9 th July	Year 10 work experience week Year 6 Induction Day and Parents' Evening
11 th July	Year 5 Taster Day
12 th July	Year 5 Taster Day
19 th July	SMSC Day
20 th July	Last day of term

2018-2019

5 th September	Year 7 students and Prefects return
6 th September	All students return
20 th September	Open Evening
w.c. 25 th September	Open Mornings
4 th October	Year 11 Revision Evening
11 th October	Awards' Evening
16 th October	Careers Fair
18 th October	Year 7 Parents' Evening
19 th October	End of Term
30 th October	Students return
8 th November	Year 11 Parents' Evening
15 th November	Year 10 Revision Evening
29 th November	Year 8 Progress Evening
21 st December	End of Term
7 th January 2019	Students return