



# Banovallum News

October 2018

## Head's Message



Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. As usual, this has been a busy term and we find ourselves at half-term before we know it.

I would like to praise the students across all years for the excellent start they have made to their studies this year. The learning atmosphere has been calm and businesslike and has impressed the many visitors who have toured the school. I would also like to pay tribute to their appearance. They are all wearing their uniform with pride and this reflects well on them and the school in the wider community.

Attendance continues to improve and we have built on last year's exceptional figure. Currently, we are above 96%, which, in turn, is above the national figures. Good attendance improves grades and provides a strong grounding for the world of work. Last year, Banovallum students with good attendance achieved a GCSE score of half a grade more than those with poor attendance. A huge thank you to parents and carers for your support on this.

The new Year 7 students have made an excellent transition from their primary schools to "big school." They have settled quickly and are playing their part in lessons, working hard and trying their best. Their superb start was highlighted by the extremely positive Year 7 Settling In Evening we held this week.

Congratulations are due to last year's Year 11 students for their excellent set of GCSE results. Most of the students have gone on to their first choice of education or work and I would like to praise them for their hard work and dedication

to achieving the best possible results. Special congratulations to Henry Burgess and Amy Bachelor for securing a number of Grade 9s in their exams, placing them amongst the best GCSE students in the country.

This leads us nicely on to our Awards' Evening which we held on Thursday 11 October. This year, it was decided to move the event to the autumn term to enable us to credit the students who performed best in their GCSE exams.

Outgoing Head Girl, Amy Bachelor and Head Boy Josh Chapman spoke eloquently about their time at Banovallum and what the school means to them. Guest of Honour was the Mayor of Horncastle, Brian Burbidge, who spoke passionately about his educational journey which took him from an apprenticeship in the Nottinghamshire coal fields to a successful international businessman, working in Bangladesh, Nigeria and Guatemala and saw him acquiring two degrees along the way. The key theme of Brian's speech was that of the need to always keep learning and adapting to challenging situations with resilience, good humour and flexibility.

It really was a special evening which demonstrated the best that Banovallum students have to offer. On the evening we awarded an incredible 100 prizes, celebrating a wide range of achievements from academic, to sport, music and the arts and the students' contribution to the school and wider community.

Our current Year 11 students have made an excellent start to their final year of studies at Banovallum. We had a successful evening for parents and students in which we discussed revision techniques and ways to manage stressful situations with Sue Lewis who runs similar sessions for Blue Chip companies. Sue is



# Banovallum News

October 2018

hoping to work in partnership with Banovallum and hopefully, in the coming weeks, we will have a link to a new Twitter feed, providing tips on managing exam stress. Further exam details and revision information are available on the school website:

<https://www.banovallumschool.co.uk/page/?title=Revision+Guidance&pid=130>

Building on the exam successes, our Open Evening proved to be very popular indeed with approximately 300 families visiting the school and seeing us at our best. Hopefully, it will lead to a growing number of students joining the school in September.

## Uniform

A huge thank you to parents and carers for your support with the students' uniform. Almost every student wears their uniform with pride and every time we have visitors to the school, they comment on the smart appearance of the students.

I would like to ask that parents & carers maintain this support as the year progresses. The uniform policy has been sent to all parents and carers but I would like to emphasise a few factors that may come into play as we enter the colder part of the year and the festive season. Hoodies are not part of the school uniform and therefore not allowed. If your son/daughter is feeling the cold, they should wear the school jumper. Similarly with highly decorated or colourful nails. Please hold off until the school holidays begin before getting these done.

## Friends of Banovallum

Congratulations to the Friends of Banovallum for securing the Co-Op Community Champions until Christmas. This means that the FoB will receive monies from the Lincolnshire Co-Op to help them continue their support for the

school. If you are interested in joining the FoB, please contact them via the school.

## Lego Appeal

Are you fed up standing on Lego? If so, would you like to donate your unwanted Lego to the school. Lego therapy is an increasingly common way to build social, communication and team-building skills and we have a range of clubs using Lego to foster these skills. Please contact Lynne Armstrong and/or bring your Lego to the main reception.

## Horncastle Memorial Pin Badge

Horncastle will be commemorating the centenary of the end of the First World War over the Remembrance weekend of 9 – 11 November with a number of events, starting with the Banovallum Brass Concert on the Friday night at the Stanhope Hall. There will be a series of events on the Saturday in the market square and the weekend will culminate in the annual Remembrance Parade and Service on the Sunday morning and the beacon on the Scrivelsby estate in the evening. For further details please search on Facebook for **Horncastle WWI 100 Years of Remembrance**.



Pupils in all the local schools were invited to design the pin badge and we were delighted



# Banovallum News

October 2018

that Heather McNeill and Lottie Odlin finished first and third respectively in the competition. They are pictured with their awards at the Horncastle War Memorial. All pupils in Horncastle's schools will receive the commemorative pin badge after the half-term

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

One of the strengths of the school is the breadth of extra-curricular activities on offer at the school. One of the central components is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, often shortened to DofE

This year Banovallum's DofE group has had 31 students completing their Bronze award. There were five expedition groups, the last of which completed their qualifying Bronze Expedition in mid-September in the Lincolnshire Wolds. This year the DofE group was fortunate enough to receive sponsorship from the Friends of Banovallum, George Jobson's Trust and the Michael Cornish Charitable Trust, to replace failing equipment, but also introduce new equipment such as the rainproof covers that staff and assessors are able use to identify the different groups from a distance. Other



equipment that was purchased included; cooking stoves, new tents, rucksacks, sleeping bags, sleeping mats and compasses.

This year the DofE is even more popular: approximately 40 students have signed up and we are now offering the Silver Award. If any students are interested, they should contact Mrs Fawcett. Thank you to all the staff who

continue to offer the students the opportunity to take part in this life-changing award.

## Operation Wallacea

In July, twelve students from Banovallum School went on expedition with Operation Wallacea to Croatia. The students had worked hard to raise the money they needed to attend the expedition through a range of activities; including a race night, chocolate bingo and fashion show held at Banovallum School, but also by having Saturday jobs, getting sponsorship by writing to local trusts and companies, and putting birthday money



towards their trip. Two students and Mrs Fawcett were even interviewed by BBC Radio Lincolnshire to promote the expedition.

They spent their first week inland in Krka National Park, about 2 hours north of Split. The students were working with scientists, collecting data about the distribution and number of animals. They were particularly interested in finding out the number of different species that are endemic to the area, adapted to the specific conditions only found in this region of the world. Other investigations that the students participated in collecting data was examining the reptile population; not only snakes and lizards but also tortoises. These animals are often nocturnal, so evening walks to find these animals when they are hunting for food in the cooler evenings, meant that the expedition days were often long.



# Banovallum News

October 2018

After a week in the mountainous region of Croatia the group moved to the marine section of their expedition, located on Mljet Island in southern Croatia. Here, most of the students completed their scuba diving PADI open water qualification. Some of the students also worked with several marine biologists collecting data through snorkelling, looking at how anchor damage is leading to a destruction of the seagrass beds, which results in less areas for young fish to grow. They were also examining the distribution and species types of sea urchins.

## Further Expeditions



Students in Years 9 & 10 are beginning to plan for an exciting expedition to Morocco in which they will explore Marrakesh and the Atlas Mountains.

They will be fundraising at school events this year so look out for specific events which will be raising money for the trip.

## Sport

### Netball



Congratulations to Evie Brooks and Gracie Danby on being selected for the County Netball Squad.

### Powerlifting



Lily Belsher competed in her first National powerlifting competition at Moulton college in Northampton on Saturday. She competed in the British Junior Women's Championships competition with her coach Marc Giles from Horncastle Powerlifting Club. The results were as follows: Bench Press 32.5kg; squat 55kg & Dead lift 75 kg

She came second in the Sub-Junior section, U-16 52 kg class and took 4 North Midland's records. Lily has only been lifting a year. The commentator at the competition said "She has a great future ahead in the sport".

### Jazz Workshops

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September Banovallum School hosted a Jazz Band Workshop, inviting students from Tattershall Primary School and Horncastle Community Primary School to play with Banovallum's own jazz band. The jazz trombonist David Pearce, ran the workshop inspiring 40 young musicians on a variety of different instruments, including drum kit, keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, alto sax, trumpet, trombone, baritone, French horn and tenor horn. With David's help the children learnt to play in an ensemble, to give the music a swing feeling and how to improvise based around different scales. The day concluded with a short concert allowing the pupils and parents to listen to David play and improvise on a jazz





# Banovallum News

October 2018

standard and then show off what they had been working at, including some children volunteering to play an improvised solo. This was a great day, the Banovallum music department is already looking forward to working with both primary schools and David Pearce in the future. Next up is a collaboration with the QEGS big band.

Activities such as this have resulted in the school being awarded the Music Mark. Congratulations to Mrs Smith (formerly Miss Herd) for all the hard work involved in achieving this award. Well done to the young musicians in the school for their contribution to securing the Award.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 2018-2019

30 <sup>th</sup> October	Students return
8 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 11 Parents' Evening
15 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 10 Revision Evening
22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Art Trial Exams
28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Photography Trial Exams
29 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 8 Progress Evening
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Year 11 Trial Exams begin
14 December	Year 11 Trial Exams end
21 <sup>st</sup> December	End of Term
7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Students return