



BASTON HOUSE NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Headteacher	1
Important dates	1
English & Media	2
Math's Trip	3
Young Ambassadors	3
Football	4
Clinical Team	5
Careers	6

We have arrived at the Christmas holidays after one of the longest terms that a school can have. The biggest event was our Ofsted inspection under the new inspection framework. I am pleased that everyone's hard work has been recognised and I'm confident that we have the capacity to improve further.

Several parents came along to our post-Ofsted coffee-morning to discuss the report and I was delighted to show them around the new accommodation. We still await some of the design technology kit to arrive but there is light at the end of the tunnel and we can look to start teaching lessons in there next term.

In our Ofsted report, there were so many positive comments about how well teachers' subject knowledge in one subject supports another, for example, in mathematics and science ... with well-chosen activities so that pupils can apply and deepen both their mathematical and their scientific knowledge, but "*this approach is not used consistently enough in other subjects.*" We have already started to do more of this in other subjects, including a strong emphasis on writing, so the whole curriculum builds into a memorable experience for all our children.

Other highlights include:

The Headteacher's high aspirations are shared by staff, governors and families.

Pupils respond well to leaders' and teachers' high expectations.

Staff expect all pupils to achieve highly.

Staff provide exceptional support for pupils' personal development which is outstanding.

They learn many strategies to help them face challenges resiliently.

The school is friendly and welcoming. Relationships between staff and pupils are excellent.

Pupils trust the people who work with them.

Leaders' work is sharply focused on ensuring that pupils receive a high-quality education.

They work with families and the relevant authorities to deal with concerns as quickly as possible.

Teachers and the therapy team work closely together to support pupils

Subject leaders plan subjects carefully and make ambitious choices about what pupils should study

Pupils achieve well in reading. Leaders have invested in high-quality resources to develop pupils' reading abilities.

Pupils learn strategies that they can use to manage their behaviour and feelings. From a young age, leaders encourage pupils to take on leadership roles.

The school has a strong safeguarding culture. All staff receive regular training. They are vigilant and respond quickly to any concerns that arise.

There's been a fantastic response to our 3 planned residential trips and we are also hoping to add another as the GCSE History group will make a visit to Auschwitz next year. They are hoping to be our first students to fly on a school trip! More news about all our residential visits next term. If spaces become available we will let you know as soon as possible.

The Group's national Christmas card competition saw Henry Dunne win a prize as our regional winner! His card was chosen from many entries and demonstrates humour and excellent use of white, grey and blue to convey the colours of a winter scene.

In the New Year, we will update you about the post of Parent Governor as entries are about to close.

On behalf of the staff here at Baston House School, I'd like you all a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Wednesday 8th
January** — Pupils
return to school

**Thursday 6th
February**—
Parents Evening

**17th—21st
February**—Half
Term

**Thursday 26th
March**—Options
Evening

NEWS FROM ENGLISH AND MEDIA

It's been another busy year! A large number of students gained accreditation in English in the summer and this was the culmination of lots of hard work and dedication by all concerned. Next summer many of these students will have the opportunity to improve on their grades, along with a new wave that will be facing external exams for the first time. Rest assured we shall do all we can to help them get ready. Parents and family can help too – revision tips are coming in the New Year. In lower school we continue to deliver a varied and relevant curriculum that gives every student the chance to develop and stretch their English skills. Secondary and Primary teachers work together to ensure that English is effectively delivered throughout your child's time here at Baston House.

In Media Studies, students have been working on completing their Practical Productions, either creating a DVD cover/poster for a teen film or coming up with a new Lifestyle magazine. The GCSE course covers everything from Taylor Swift to The Archers, so there's always plenty of variety in a Media lesson!

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you for all your continued support this year and wish you and your family a peaceful and safe Christmas.

READING AND LITERACY

It's that time again when I ask for your help to increase your child's confidence and proficiency in Literacy. The most straight-forward way you can do this is to encourage your child to read regularly. Even for just ten minutes at the end of the day or during the daily commute to school, there is enough evidence to strongly suggest that children who read regularly rapidly improve their literacy. When it comes to writing, encouraging your child to write regularly will build up their stamina and confidence. It could be a letter to a relative or an account of an event or trip. As with reading, regular practise will only aid their progress. Finally, verbal communication is a vital life skill. Being able to adapt language and tone to suit a certain situation will really aid your child in their school life and beyond. Of course, verbal communication isn't limited to speaking, as the ability to listen, evaluate and formulate a response is a key part of everyday life. Thanks in advance for all the help you give – it really can make a difference!

Christmas Jumper Day raised the Grand Total of £122 for Save The Children. Thank you to all the pupils and staff for taking part.



Save the Children

MATH'S TRIP

In early November the Maths department organised a trip to the Imagination Lab as part of the Mayor of London, London Curriculum programme, London Events, give young Londoners the chance to take on real life coding challenge to build coding and creative problem solving skills. The theme was called 'Code London' and it was about making a robot to tackle some of our City's challenges. This STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activity enabled Students to work independently or in a pair. The aim was to use Lego to build a robot. Then they used software on an iPad to make the Robot grab rubbish to recycle. Students were able to further develop their fine motor skills when building the robot. This was a cross curricular activity as it included elements from Geography, Science, DT, Maths and IT. It was a great success!

The organiser was so impressed by one of our student's robots that he took photos and a video of the robot to share with his group on Twitter.

Snapshots of a few robots made by our students.



YOUNG AMBASSADORS

Incredibly proud of our young ambassadors presenting their 'Plastic is not Fantastic' to a panel of judges in City Hall! Primary students applied for The Team London Small Grants competition organised by the We School Programme.

They presented with confidence and answered some difficult questions from the judges. We have just found out that we have been awarded a grant of £1000 for our own WE School community project.



KENT FA FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Key Stage 3 results and scorers

Grange Park 1-0 Baston House School

Grange Park 0-3 Baston House School—Scorers- D. Leplar (2), M Gayle

St Anthony's 4-1 Baston House School- Scorer – M Gayle

Ifield 1-2 Baston House School—Scorers – D. Leplar, M Gayle

Portal 3-0 Baston House School

Rowhill 1-4 Baston House School—Scorers – D. Leplar (2), M Gayle (2)

As a new team, the Key Stage 3 five-a-side football team acquitted themselves superbly. Working hard for each other, showing grit, determination and some real football skills throughout. This is the first time that the boys had played together in a competitive situation and this could be seen from the nerves they showed in the first game, conceding the lead in the very first minute and not really recovering from there. However, this was obviously just the warm-up that they needed as they were playing against the same opposition almost straight away. This time, with a renewed resolve and determination to put things right, there was only one winner as Baston House dominated from start to finish Leplar (2) and Gayle (1) supplying the goals in a 3-0 victory. Further wins and goals came against Ifield and Rowhill, 2-1 and 4-1 wins respectively, again the goals coming from the boots of Leplar and Gayle. Particular highlights from this deadly duo was a strike by Leplar from the halfway line and a left foot volley into the top corner from Gayle. But this wasn't just a 2 man effort. Superb goalkeeping from Lamina, courageous play from Kirrage and non-stop running and effort from Jah meant it was a true team effort. All 3 were making their debut for the school but by the end they looked like they were born to their roles.

We look forward to seeing this team develop even further in the future.

Key Stage 4 results and scorers

Grange Park 0-4 Baston House School—Scorers A. Hackett (3), G. Cole

Rowhill 0-2 Baston House School—Scorers – G. Cole, A. Hackett

Portal House 0-0 Baston House School

Portal House 2-0 Baston House School

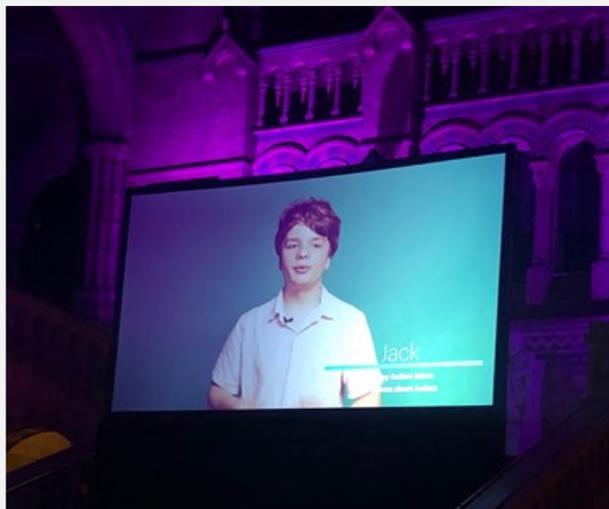
Grange Park 0-1 Baston House School—Scorer S. Scott-Zakorka

A great effort and performance from the Key Stage 4 five-a-side team, with 3 wins, 1 draw and only one defeat. The boys made a blistering start in the first game, going 2 goals up within a couple of minutes. The team continued to dominate and finished as 4-0 winners with Hackett scoring a hat-trick. Another win soon followed as Baston House controlled the game against Rowhill and came out 2-0 victors, with a goal each from Cole and Hackett. Then came Baston House's two toughest fixtures against a very solid opposition in the form of Portal House. The first game was end to end and it was a real surprise when the referee blew his whistle and the game was goalless.

The second game, however, produced 2 goals, sadly for us, they both went to Portal House School, although this only told half the story. The Portal House goals were their only 2 shots on target and Baston House School bombarded the opposition goal with shot after shot. Unfortunately every one of them were blocked, hit the woodwork or found the goalkeeper in inspired form. The final game saw a much stronger effort from their earlier opponents, Grange Park. There was to be 4-0 domination this time, however, the only difference was a goal from Scott-Zakorka who finished clinically after a barn-storming run which started in his own half.

Both teams were very well behaved and represented the school impeccably. Football was definitely the winner. Look out for more fixtures and tournaments in the future.

You may remember reading in our last issue about one of our pupils Jack Long who was placed on a Summer Internship at the Department of Trade for developing countries at Whitehall. As part of the Internship they gave him suitable work knowing his abilities and support needs. He was one of the featured boys at the fundraising event standing for Pride, capability and willingness to contribute to the workforce.



NEWS FROM THE CLINICAL TEAM

The term started with the wonderful news that Anna, Occupational Therapist, has given birth to a healthy baby girl. We wish her all the best for her maternity leave.

We have offered two parent training sessions this term focusing on 'social thinking' and 'gadget use.' We would love to welcome more parents to attend the training as we hope it would be useful to you in supporting your child. It also provides continued opportunities for us to work together with you and share the therapy interventions we offer in school. We advertise training on Class Dojo and in the Newsletter.

Zones of Regulation

Turing class have now completed their Zones of Regulation therapy sessions and have been given their toolbox. We would like to offer training on this approach to Turing class parents and any other parent that has missed this training previously. Please join us on the **21st of January at 2 -3 p.m.** to support the use of this intervention in the home environment.

Please RVSP by calling the clinical team on 02084621010 or clinicalteam@bastonhouseschool.org.uk.

We finished the term with Crompton Class winning the Daily Mile with Ash and Willow Class close behind. Congratulations to these classes and to all other students who have committed to the daily mile - rain or shine! Please could we kindly remind parents to send old trainers or wellies in to school if possible, so that we can encourage our students with the 'daily mile' in all types of weather.

- **Zones of Regulation - 21st January 2020 14:00-15:00 PM**
- **Exam Prep - 7th February 2020 18:30-19:30**
- **Social Stories and Comic Strip conversations - 5th May 2020 14:00-15:00**

CAREERS

This term we welcomed 'TFL Safety & Citizenship' into school. The aim was to promote safe, responsible and respectful behaviour on and around London's transport system. Presentations and resources were differentiated to support our whole school.

The presentation was a success and all students listened and questioned their concerns of transport today in and around London.



We planned a visit to 'Skills for London Event', being the biggest jobs and careers event for students in the UK. There were over 250 organisations exhibiting and helping students with ideas for their career paths.

Our group of students benefitted from this day by attending the event and being given the opportunity to understand the different routes available to them.



Tesco Christmas Packers

Three small groups attended Tesco Elmers End superstore to help with Christmas packing they also joined the Christmas Choir. This proved a success and also raised money for Cancer Research. The students gained an insight into work experience within the community.

