

THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD HIGH SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST IN MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING

NEWSLETTER

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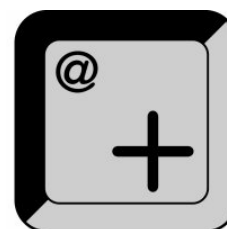
PRIMARY SCHOOL SUPPORT

The summer term saw the conclusion of the mathematics support lessons that were being delivered to some of our feeder primary schools, namely Northgate, Thorley Hill and St Michael's. The lessons were designed to support the needs of each individual school in the form of either a maths club or booster lessons to enable students to prepare for their Key Stage 2 exams. Reports seem to indicate

that the Key Stage 2 results show a definite benefit for students.

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OUT OF (THE CLASSROOM AND INTO) AFRICA?

On Friday 10 June, 120 Year 6 pupils from our partner Primary Schools Northgate, St Michael's and Thorley Hill came to TBSHS to take part in a Creative Arts Day with our Art, Music and Drama departments.

The School is constantly striving to improve curriculum continuity between Key Stages 2 and 3 and as such a themed day (in this case Africa) had been in the pipeline for some time. Creative Arts Day not only enabled us to address the issue of curriculum continuity but it is hoped it went some way to exposing Year 6 pupils to a slice of the secondary school curriculum and some secondary school practices (moving between classrooms, learning with different teachers and using dinner tickets). In addition, Africa Day was yet another step forward in our attempt to share resources and expertise with other schools in the consortium. The pupils designed and printed t-shirts, created montages and freeze-frames and made lots of very loud music! If the thank you letters from the pupils and the praise from the staff is anything to go by, then the day was a successful one.

It is hoped that next term, we will host another Year 6 day, this time with a Maths and ICT focus. Watch this space for more news.

Geography and Maths Day 2005

A collaboration between the Geography and Mathematics departments challenged Year 7 pupils to study rivers and their behaviour over the course of several weeks in June, culminating in a day of fieldwork at the Epping Forest Field Studies Centre.

The goal of our joint project was to encourage pupils to understand how the skills they are developing in Mathematics can be applied in a Geography context and how their knowledge of Geography can be used to interpret the results they collected.

Pupils began the day in classrooms where the hypotheses for our project were outlined, the safety briefing given and an overview for the rest of day provided. We then moved to our first outdoor site to discuss the origin of rivers and determine the factors involved, including an analysis of the soil in the area. (see right)



Moving on to two sites on Debden Brook, pupils were able to record an abundance of river data, including dimensions, speed, tangent and the height of the banks (See Left)



The staff from the Field Centre were able to supplement these results with knowledge of the local area, motivating the pupils to consider why the river has formed as it has.

The day was followed up in school with dedicated lessons in both subjects; collating results, discussing other rivers, producing graphs, analyzing results and drawing conclusions about the River Roding and its tributaries.

Geography and Maths Day 2005 was a resounding success, staff in both departments recognizing the achievements made and understanding gained by their students of all abilities, as well as the enthusiasm that they brought to the project as a whole. Already planned for 2006, the day will include a more rural site to accompany the urban ones and greater use of ICT in the analysis of pupils' findings

ANNUAL MATHEMATICS LECTURE

Dr David Acheson, Jesus College, Oxford

Tuesday 27 September, School Hall, 4.15 p.m.—5.30 p.m.

Parents and friends of the School are invited to this event which has grown in popularity over the years. David Acheson is well known for his innovative lectures, which include playing the electric guitar to demonstrate the mathematical theory of vibrating strings. It will be a lecture you will remember. Please let Mr Burani (second in Department) know if you plan to come so we can keep track of numbers. To find out more go to www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/~dacheson. We are also hoping there will be the opportunity to purchase / order his book "1089 and all that" after the lecture.

ICT Technicians at TBSHS

Continued ICT support has been given to our Primary Consortium School Partners over the last academic year. Much work has been carried out in the schools including some cabling, new installations and general computer maintenance.

Future plans in place are the development of a new ICT suite for one school and the expansion of one in another. With the start of the new academic year we are increasing to include All Saint's, Little Hallingbury and St Elizabeth's. This will bring new and exciting challenges which we will work closely with each school to overcome.

A New ICT Course: DIDA

Eight students from Year 10 have started work towards the new Diploma in Digital Applications. DIDA is a paperless vocational qualification in the use of ICT and students work towards a qualification made up of 1, 2 or 4 units, each unit being equivalent to a GCSE. Instead of submitting coursework on paper and sitting exams, students complete projects written by the examination board and present their evidence in the form of a web site. DIDA is a welcome addition to the broad range of ICT courses on offer in the School.

Introducing CAME to TBSHS

The CAME project is a national initiative that is now in its eleventh year of intake. It stands for Cognitive Acceleration in Mathematics Education and is essentially billed to schools as an opportunity to promote "thinking maths" in the classroom. The idea is to run CAME lessons (at a rate of about four per term) mixed in with normal lessons across KS3. There are 30 lessons in total that get steadily more difficult and cover a

majority of the curriculum. A CAME lesson at its most basic is simply one designed around an investigation where pupils are encouraged to work in groups to discover new mathematical concepts themselves rather than relying on the teacher to provide all the answers. They work especially well with mixed ability groups, promoting discussion and thought through a wide range of activities. The technique has been proven to raise achievement in

many schools giving pupils a much more solid understanding of the way maths works before heading into KS4. Recent OFSTED reports have praised the use of CAME and its unorthodox approach to help pupils of all abilities access almost any area of the syllabus.

As part of its specialist status the TBSHS now has the opportunity to jump on the CAME bandwagon to see if it can enhance our already fantastic results. However its not all about

the data, CAME lessons can also help to promote greater enjoyment of the subject which most pupils always dislike because they dismiss it as too difficult. The project is long term however and its effect will not be noticed immediately. It will be introduced to year 7 and 8 in September and hopefully it will prove successful in changing the way our pupils perceive their maths lessons and how they use it in their every day lives.



NUMERACY commencing Tuesday 20 September

In partnership with Hertford Regional College and Next Step we are delivering FREE classes in *Move on with Maths* and *Managing Family Finance*

Move on with Maths

This course is aimed at Parents and Children together or Adults only.

Learn how to use numbers well, cope with fractions, decimals, percentages, measurements, shapes, reading and dealing with mathematical information. Classes are small and friendly and the Tutor is understanding and supportive. You can, if you wish, move towards a City and Guilds qualification (Adults) or just get better at Maths!

Time : 4.00 – 5.00 p.m.

Family Finance

This course is aimed at Adults only, learn how to use your money wisely. Learn how to handle your family's finance in a positive way, the classes are small and friendly.

Time : 5.00 – 6.00 p.m.

Improve your Maths

This course is being run at NextStep Bishop's Stortford on Thursday afternoons from 15 September., 1.00—4.00 p.m.

Courses for the public in “The Turing Suite”, commencing **Monday 3 October**

Web Design

The Internet is growing at such a rate that all companies and groups can have their own space on it. Writing a functional and interesting web page is very easy with the tools now available, and in this course, we introduce the best tools for the job and how to make good use of them. From total beginners to competent web designers in a few hours. A hands on course that will produce instant results.

Time : 6.00 – 7.00 p.m.

ECDL – The European Computer Driving License

This is a vocational certification. It teaches a good standard of use of Word Processors, Spreadsheets, Databases, Graphics and Email. Self paced learning and instructor assistance. Exams are multiple choice and taken when the students are individually ready.

Friday 7 October., 11.10 a.m. – 12.50 p.m. , (with Sixth Form students), £5 per session, exam after 4 – 5 weeks, 7 exams (but see Word and Powerpoint below)

CCNA – Cisco Certified Network Associate

This is a high end certification for people interested in networking and how networks function. It is an industry standard certification, and is a credit to a CV. Requires a high level of understanding, and practical use of Routers is a large part of the course (50 sessions). This Course will not commence until Easter 2006 but A+ and then Network+ would be required before undertaking CCNA.

A+

A course for the more adventurous student. In 2 parts, hardware and operating systems, the course teaches how to build a computer and then how to configure and maintain it. The Operating systems module demonstrates how to manage the working computer, and how to maintain the good order of the machine. Two Modules: Hardware and OS Technologies. Hardware includes understanding how a computer is put together, and which parts manage which jobs. Configuring the components inside the computer Peripheral devices Connectors, Plugs, Sockets and Cables. OS Technologies includes Maintenance and Troubleshooting, Operating Systems, Windows 98, NT, 2000 and XP Installation and Configuration DOS and Command line operations Filing systems and Utilities Preventative Maintenance Boot Processes and Files Device and Configuration files Troubleshooting and Conflict management, 2 exams are required for this certification. These can be taken as part of the course, or at any time thereafter.

Time : 4.00—5.00 p.m. or 7.00 – 8.00 p.m., £50 for 10 sessions + 2 exams of £100 + VAT

Build your own computer

Based on the A+ hardware course, this has the additional feature that, when the course is finished, the delegates can keep the computer they have been working on. A very nice way to build a PC and understand how it works and how to keep it working.

First 10 weeks of A+

Word

An introduction to the powerful Microsoft Word processor. Word has many useful features that often go unnoticed, like enhanced typefaces, mail merging, tables and columns as well as autocorrect and autotype. Using these features makes Word a delight to use and can create really professional documentation.

Time : 6.00 – 7.00 p.m., £25.00 for six sessions

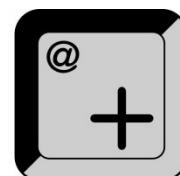
Powerpoint

A very under used part of the Office suite, this application is capable of so much more than just black and white slides. Allow us to show you how to make animated and colourful presentations that will make people sit up and pay attention.

Time : 7.00 – 8.00 p.m., £25 for six sessions

Advanced Excel

To commence after six weeks of Word and Powerpoint



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Family Learning at The Bishop's Stortford High School

Hertfordshire Adult and Family Learning Service is delighted to be able to deliver family learning to parents and carers at The Bishop's Stortford High School. Our team of direct delivery teachers are specialists in supporting adults in improving their own literacy, language and numeracy skills. This enables parents/carers to become confident in supporting their children's learning.

Hertfordshire's family learning teacher will deliver an exciting maths programme that focuses on Year seven maths. Learners who attend this free of charge course, will have the opportunity to find out what their strengths and areas for development are. They will then address their needs through a series of five two hour sessions. The course will include topics such as the mathematical vocabulary used in schools, calculation strategies and ideas about how to support children with homework. A recent study has shown that parental/carer involvement in homework has shown to be the strongest predictor of better grades. The course will be launched with a taster session during Family Learning Week.

Adult learners on other courses have gone on to achieve recognised qualifications and employment. As one recent adult learner commented,
"Great time, good fun, well worth doing!"

The Taster Session will be held on 11 October, 6.30 – 8.30 p.m. with a five week session starting on 1 November until 29 November.



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Business Networking at TBSHS

The Business Links committee at TBSHS are holding two networking events in November to which members of the business community are cordially invited.

Our first **Business Breakfast meeting** will be held on Tuesday November 15th at 8.30am. This event is part of Enterprise week – a government initiative aimed at spreading the message that enterprise is vital for the future of the UK and all young people

Networks work best when they are based on shared interests, experiences and set of values. We wish to share the experiences of students who follow our dynamic Sixth Form curriculum and explore new ways of developing a mutual relationship with our partners. There will be an opportunity to visit The Turing Suite, a high-quality learning environment equipped with the latest educational learning tools and ICT resources. The cost for this event will be £5.

The **12th Annual Business Links Lecture** takes place on Wednesday November 30th at 6.30pm. We are delighted that Professor Christopher Bishop – Deputy Director of Microsoft Research - has accepted our invitation to deliver this year's lecture on the future of computing. The lecture will be preceded by a short reception and a two-course dinner. Although we are not charging for this event, we would appreciate a contribution of £10 per person towards our catering costs.

If you are interested in these events please contact Sue Smith at the school.