



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 8, APRIL 2007

SUMMER TERM COURSES

Hertfordshire County Council (Children, Schools and Families) will be running two courses at The Bishop's Stortford High School and details are shown below. For more information please contact Sue Smith on 01279 868686.

E-learning and English, improve your own ICT skills and learn about activities you can do with your children at home to support their literacy / English skills. This is a four week course starting on Thursday 7 June 1.00 p.m. - 3.15 p.m. or 12.45 p.m. - 3.00 p.m. This is an ideal course for parents who are not confident when using computers.

Muddle Free Maths. This four week course, starting on Thursday 3 May, will help you understand how maths is taught today, brush up your maths skills and get ideas on how to help your children

MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE UPDATE

On 1st February the Intermediate Maths Challenge was held, which again involved almost 80 of our top students from the middle school. Special mention must go to Liam McCullaugh (year 11) and Aaron Pinnock (year 10) who achieved joint best in school, also receiving gold awards. Other gold winners were Tom Watts and Seth Baker (year 11), Fraser Elliot and Simon Dewhurst (year 10) and Nicholas Mulvey (year 9). In addition to that there were 18 silver and 23 bronze awards making it our most successful year ever.

Liam, Aaron and Nick all qualified for the next round, The Kangaroo Challenge, which took place on 15th March (we are still waiting to see how they got on.) Also on the 20th March four boys (Nicholas Mulvey, Simon Baker, Joe Kitchen and Sam Colclough) went to Cambridge University to compete in the team maths challenge against other schools in the region. They achieved a respectable 22nd out of 35, hopefully we can aim higher next year.

MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS DAY

The Bishop's Stortford High School Mathematics and Physics Departments are proud to present a joint venture: **A study of aerofoils.**

For one whole day in the Summer Term, Gifted and Talented students from Years 7 and 8 will study the Physics and Mathematical equations that have made aerofoils indispensable to modern living. From the down force needed to keep Formula One cars on the track, to the lift that keeps aeroplanes in the sky, aerofoils are used throughout modern engineering.

Students will have an opportunity to design and build their own aerodynamic models before testing them in the purpose built TBSHS wind tunnel and also to build and fly their own boomerangs. For your interest the equation that governs how a boomerang flies is detailed below.

The emphasis of the day will be placed on encouraging pupils to see the mathematics behind the machinery and nurture their enthusiasm for material beyond the curriculum and forms a crucial part of their Truly All-round Education.

$$\frac{4J}{\pi\rho C_L a^4} = R$$

J = moment of inertia

C_L = lift coefficient

a = radius of the boomerang

GEOGRAPHY AND MATHEMATICS FIELD TRIP

The Geography and Mathematics Departments combine their considerable talents within both departments to provide a Year 7 programme that offers the students the opportunity to develop skills in planning an investigation, data collection, presentation and analysis.

The field trip to **Loughton Brook**, near Epping Forest, plays a central role in this programme by allowing us to teach and assess these skills whilst investigating the physical characteristics of a river environment. The Field Studies Centre provides excellent equipment and the expertise and experience of qualified field tutors.

This year we were blessed with mild weather on both days permitting the students to enjoy the exploration and gain the experience of measuring the flow of a river without getting too wet. The investigation focuses on identifying how the characteristics of Loughton Brook change with distance from its source.

My thanks go to Miss Moollan, Mr Cook, Mr Chamberlain and Mrs Cameron-Mowat for their help and support in leading this venture.

MATHEMATICS EASTER REVISION CLASSES

Congratulations to all those who attended the revision classes held during the Easter holidays. Their hard work will certainly pay dividends in the summer examinations.

ICT DEPARTMENT

To provide a more interesting and up to date curriculum, the ICT department are offering some exciting new curriculum developments for next year.

In years 7 and 8 boys will be introduced to video and sound editing techniques on the PC, which will



provide them with the skills required to allow them to incorporate both types of media into all aspects of the KS3 curriculum such as interactive presentations and web site design.

At KS4, ICT is offered at two levels:

OCR Nationals – this is a new qualification equivalent to two A*-C grade GCSEs offering skills such as web design, web animation and web graphics using the Macromedia suite of design tools.

GCE AS Vocational ICT is now being offered to boys entering KS4 who are considering Single or Double Award GCE ICT in KS5.

Due to the interest shown in Macromedia FLASH, a lunchtime FLASH club is being held to teach advanced animation and gaming techniques.

BUSINESS EDUCATION

A series of visits to *Hayters* in Spellbrook by Year 10 Business Studies and Business and Communication Systems students provided a realistic understanding of some of the key production and ICT application issues the students learn about in the classroom. A big thank you to a British manufacturer who has bucked the trend and is making money from manufacturing things locally and selling nationally and into Europe.

Young Enterprise students (Room 19) produced an excellent School Teacher Calendar last term which made lots of money. Thanks to the local businesses that sponsored printing the calendar: Dominoes Pizza and Challenge Gym. Room 19 are planning a Football Pizza Quiz night on Friday 4 May. Tickets available from the Managing Director Gabby Godfrey and Marketing Director Luke Heskett.

One of the Lower Sixth Applied Business groups studying enterprise have sent letters out to parents offering the chance of buying a School Jubilee Commemorative Plate. Oli Northrop has led this project and it now awaits customer response. They hope to sell 200 plates and are donating a quarter of the gross profit to the School for its contribution to making this happen—thanks particularly to Frank Butler for his tireless efforts in making sure the quality of the letter and letter distribution was to a professional standard.

Thank you to all the staff and students in the Department for making it a happy place and coping with the challenges of the exam board's marking and moderation or standardisation process. We all need to learn from our mistakes and we can and should continue to do that with the right attitude.

REVISION HELP ON THE WEB

With exams looming large on the horizon for all pupils at whatever level, students are advised and encouraged to make full use of the SAM Learning revision web site. TBSHS pupils can use the site for **FREE** at home or at School.

The site is packed with examination activities and has sections for Key Stage 3 SATs, GCSE and A-Levels.

Visit the site at <http://www.samlearning.com>. Only three details needed to log in:

School ID : CM23 BS4

User ID : date of birth followed by two initials; first name then last name. Example : 010885DJ is the User ID for David Jones born 1st August 1985

Password : Initially same as User ID, you should change your password as soon as you log in.

Accounts were set up for all of our pupils during the last academic year. For these pupils, passwords have not changed. Forgotten passwords can be retrieved through the web site or by seeing Mr Atkinson at School.

THE TURING SUITE

The Turing Suite is a fully equipped ICT resource used by our pupils for lessons and revision on a daily basis. It has increasingly been used by local businesses during school holidays and more bookings are being taken for the forthcoming summer holidays.

For more information on the facilities that Turing provide and booking arrangements please contact Sue Smith on 01279 868686.

STOP PRESS

There was strong demand for the recent *Integrating your ICT to Meet School Needs* course at The Bishop's Stortford High School. The day included themed tours of the school, seminars, practical sessions and input from some of the school's inspirational teachers who have embraced the vision and embedded ICT into their everyday practice.

Delegates commented *"Great food for thought that will have practical application ... Very well constructed day by excellent presenters ... Made even better by being in a school ... Thoroughly motivating!"*

ICT EXCELLENCE AWARD

The school has been short listed in the Leadership and Management category of the ICT Excellence Awards. We await the outcome of the adjudication visit planned for later this term.