



NEWSLETTER

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MATHS AND DT DAY

On Friday 29th June over 30 students from Year 12 took part in the first Maths and DT Day held at TBSHS. The teams comprised of a mixture of DT and Maths pupils working together on a variety of tasks. The DT students first job was to build a catapult from the materials provided, the finish products being almost 2 metres wide and using industrial strength elastic to propel the projectile of an empty drinks bottle. Whilst this was going on the Maths students had to derive trajectory equations and calculate the angles / forces required to hit targets at different ranges.

The target competition itself was great fun, with many teams managing to hit the quite small targets at long range. A distance competition was also held with the successful team catapulting their bottle well over 40m. The victors at the end of the day were Ian Tobin, David Wallis, Tom Wasley, James Williams and Louise Whittington who managed to significantly out score the opposition with some astonishing accuracy.

Hopefully the day will be refined and run again next year as all the students commented on what fun it was to compete. Thanks to Mr Twinn, Mr Colenso, Mr Jolley and especially Mr Dwyer (senior) without whom the whole day would probably not have taken place.

Mr P Dwyer, Maths Department

CODE BREAKING

During activities week last academic year (18th to 22nd June) TBSHS ran a brand new initiative with five local primary schools. This built upon links already established as several members of the Maths department have been visiting these schools to deliver enrichment classes to the year 6 pupils. The five schools (Thorley Hill, St Michaels, Little Hadham, Hallingbury and All Saints) each came in for one day over the course of the week and were split into teams to compete in a treasure hunt.

The treasure hunt involved finding clues around the school that had been encrypted using increasingly difficult codes. Each team was given a map and a help sheet to show them how to decode each message. This really tested their skills of navigation, logical deduction and comprehension as they tried to stay ahead of each other. Clues began with simple substitution ciphers, replacing letters of the alphabet with other letters or symbols. Later clues involved a technique called frequency analysis to find the most common letters in the message and compare these to the English language to figure out which letters had been switched. Most pupils dealt with this very well demonstrated by the fact that the treasure was discovered on four out of the five days.

Feedback afterwards was incredibly positive both by the primary teachers and the pupils themselves. They seemed to relish the challenge and got the opportunity to explore what a secondary school is like. As a

result it will most definitely be run again next year but maybe in a slightly different format.
Mr P Dwyer, Mathematics Department

DEVELOPMENT OF ICT

The Bishop's Stortford High School (as a school holding the ICT Quality Mark) has been pleased to host two short courses in the summer term relating to supporting schools in the development of ICT to aid learning.

The first, Strategic Leadership of ICT. was well attended with over twenty delegates participating in a range of activities that included: reviewing the "journey" so far, identifying "embedded" practice and planning a future strategy.

The second, this time over-subscribed, took the opportunity to investigate how two schools (The Bishop's Stortford High School and The Leventhorpe School) have introduced a Moodle virtual learning environment. The afternoon was spent considering how teachers have used the moodle VLE to support their practice as well as some discussion concerning implementation and technical issues.

The feedback from the events was very positive and as a result the courses will be repeated in the Autumn term. If you are interested in joining them then look out for the publicity materials for these events being distributed next term.

During the summer term The Bishop's Stortford High School provided a number of professional development opportunities for teaching colleagues in the eastern region. They were in support of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and The Cambridge Consortium. The half and whole day courses, designed as part of the School's mathematics and computing specialist status, were to provide a portfolio of programmes that promote the effective use of ICT in schools.

The themes were "Strategic Leadership of ICT in Secondary Schools" and the "Development and Implementation of a Moodle VLE in secondary schools". In excess of 70 delegates attended the courses. Comments made by the delegates after the events included: "*A fantastic introduction to moodle;*" "*Very Good delivery, very helpful staff*"; "*Well done it was worth the journey from Norfolk!*" and "*A thoroughly informative and enjoyable course- thank you.*" These views reflected the highly positive feedback for the courses. It is hoped that these successes will be repeated this year along with a number of additions to the course list including the most recent addition, a half day course investigating creative use of ICT, to support learning entitled "How to set up a Virtual Stock Market in Your School".

Mr A Hood
Director of E-Learning



EXTENDED SCHOOLS

By 2010 the government's pledge is that all children should have access to a variety of activities beyond the school day. The services that Extended Schools will provide include childcare from 8 until 6 all year round, a varied menu of activities, parent support and information, community use of facilities and swift and easy referral to more specialist services. This will not mean all schools providing all the core services. Every school will need to be aware of the needs in their local community for these services and provide access to them. The aim of Extended Schools is to meet the needs of children in their local community and improve their all round well being and educational achievement.

We are delighted to announce that we have become the hub school for the Bishop's Stortford and District consortium of Primary and Secondary Schools. We will become a champion of extended services and offer developmental support to other schools within the consortia.

There will be a strong element of consultation and participation of children, young people and their families in planning and developing services, which along with an audit of current provision in the local community, will support the decision to develop any new services.

As the Hub School, we develop a consortium business plan, which outlines how we will aim to support each school within the consortium to provide access to the extended schools core offer. This will be achieved through building on existing provision and, where gaps are identified, working with partners to develop new provision. The business plan will include a timescale for each school that outlines their progression towards achieving core offer services for children and their families.

The core offer for Extended Schools is set out by the DfES, includes 5 strands, to which all children, young people, families and communities will have access through schools by 2010. The 5 strands of the core offer comprise:

- Childcare
- Parenting support, including family learning
- Menu of activities
- Swift and easy referral to specialist services
- Community use, including Adult Learning.

TBSHS is responsible for promoting quality extended services that impact on outcomes for children, young people and their families to schools within their consortium

We are delighted to announce that Linda Burns has been appointed as the consortium's Extended Schools Co-ordinator (ESCo). If you require any further information about this exciting initiative please contact Linda at the school on 01279 869519.

Mr P Noble, Deputy Headmaster

A Brochure listing the **New Adult Consortium Courses** is available on the School's website now for your information. Students will be bring home a paper version in the next day or so.

CALLING ALL PARENTS

We are keen to build further on our extensive links with local and national businesses and explore ways in which you may be able to:

- Provide opportunities for individuals and / or groups to visit you / your business
- Come into School and share your experience / knowledge

If you are able to help please contact Mr P C Noble on 01279 868686, paul.noble@tbshs.herts.sch.uk with a view to discussing ways in which we can work together.

Stop PRESS

The Bishop's Stortford High School (TBSHS) and St Elizabeth's College

We are delighted to announce that we have extended the partnership with St Elizabeths College to create a permanent learning base in the school. We have equipped Room 22 to provide high quality learning opportunities for students with learning difficulties and / or disabilities in an inclusive, community based provision. Students from the college will share the use of the resource on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays.

Mr P C Noble, Deputy Headmaster

FUSION THEATRE

A new and exciting Youth Theatre will begin in November 2007. For 15 to 25 years old, the company run by Lucy Hughes with the support of ex-student Jamie Fallon is designed to produce original and exciting theatre in Bishop's Stortford. Aimed at all young people in the area we hope to establish a company that gives young people the chance to have greater input into their own performance work. We hope that it will give them a feel for the professional side of drama and intend to produce a variety of work that is innovative and challenging and could be toured around the area and in the future, much further afield.

Places are limited to 40 at present and are on an audition basis. Auditions will take place on Monday 29 October at 6.00 p.m. in the drama block at TBSHS. Two groups will be chosen and those sessions will run on Monday and Wednesday nights from 6.00—8.00 p.m. at a cost of £7 per session.

More information will be available in the coming weeks but feel free to contact Lucy Hughes on 01279 868686

Miss L Hughes, Drama Department.