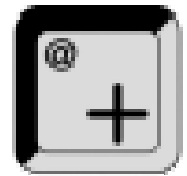


THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD HIGH SCHOOL
SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING SCHOOL



Maths &
Computing

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 10, DECEMBER 2007

STOP PRESS

TBSHS are joint winners of BECTA's Leadership and Management Award of ICT for 2007. On Monday 5 November members of the ICT Strategy Team attended a prestigious ceremony at the NEC in Birmingham to receive the award. For more information and to view a brief film please visit the School website.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN A SPIN

Mathematics students from The Bishop's Stortford High School were in a spin last week at the London Road school's annual Maths lecture. Visiting speaker Dr. Hugh Hunt, from the Engineering Department of Cambridge University, entertained an audience of around 150 students and teachers with his talk entitled "Boomerangs, bouncing balls and other spinning things". By means of various interesting demonstrations, some of them involving volunteers from the audience, Dr. Hunt showed the importance of spin and the gyroscopic effect in Applied Mathematics, showing its relevance to "Superballs" and rotating ice skaters. He even explained how cats always land on their feet by instinctively spinning the two halves of their body in opposite directions.

Dr. Hunt hails from Melbourne and ended his talk appropriately by throwing boomerangs around the hall and considering some of the equations involved in making them fly.

Head of Mathematics, Neil Chamberlain said, "This was probably our best Maths lecture yet. We were pleased to welcome a number of schools from both the local area and as far as North London. Dr. Hunt was brilliant at bringing Maths to life and he completely dispels the nerdy image that some people have of the subject".

Mr N Chamberlain, Subject Leader for Maths

ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AT TBSHS

To reflect the needs of the community identified in recent surveys we intend to offer the following courses during the Spring Term:

Digital Photography, commencing Tuesday 15 January at 7.00 p.m. for 6 weeks at £50

'Teenagers with Attitude' less shouting, more cooperation!, 4 weekly workshops commencing on Monday 18 February—Monday 10 March between 7—9 p.m.

Yamaha—Play for Keeps; dates and times on application to Claire Jonas

Fusion Community Theatre; dates and times on application to Sue Smith

Use of Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Website Design; dates and times on application to Sue Smith

Calling all parents!! If you are interested in acquiring a greater understanding of the Mathematics and ICT curriculum your son is following please can you contact Sue Smith. We would like to offer classes in supporting you in this.

Mr R Meredith, Director of Community Education

TWILIGHT INSET, MATHS

The Maths department was pleased to work with nearly every other department in the school in its Twilight INSET last month. This meant furthering our cross curricular days. We now work with nine other departments and our Stockmarket day (organised by Peter Stone and Ian Simmons) is now receiving the attention of a number of schools wanting to copy our model and emulate our work. We are building our gifted and talented Maths/Physics day and this year will be introducing Maths/Art and Maths/History days. As Head of the Maths Department I would very much like to publicly thank my team for leading most of these sessions and just as importantly thank the teachers we worked with who were very supportive and happy to be supported spreading and developing numeracy across the curriculum.

Mr N Chamberlain, Subject Leader for Maths

INTER-SCHOOL MATHS CHALLENGE

The first Inter-School Maths Challenge took place at TBSHS on Tuesday 4th December. This inaugural event saw participants from Birchwood, Leventhorpe, Herts and Essex and TBSHS take part in a series of challenges comprising of individual, paired and team rounds. There were four students representing each school, two each from Years 8 and 9, answering a series of fiendish but fun mathematical problems with a cash prize of £40 at stake. An early lead was taken by Herts and Essex, with the other schools close behind. The second round saw the gap behind the leaders close, and a storming final round from TBSHS saw the team snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. Congratulations to the winning team which comprised of Tom Kitchen, Will Readshaw, Sam Colclough and Joe Kitchen.

We all know it's the taking part that counts, although the valiant runners up are keen to return next year to challenge the champions in what we hope will become a regular TBSHS fixture. We hope that next year St. Mary's, Hockerill, the College and possibly Stansted will also be up to the challenge.

Mr R. Burani, Second in Maths Department

MOODLE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Government has stated that all schools, both primary and secondary, must have an 'online learning space' by 2008. At TBSHS we have been using Moodle as our VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) for a number of years and the amount of material available to students is growing year on year. However, as a specialist school in Maths and Computing we have a responsibility to promote the use of ICT in primary schools and the wider community. Therefore, we have offered to design, install and host Moodle sites for all the primary schools in the Bishop's Stortford area. Many primary schools are taking us up on our offer and we are also committed to training their staff to use Moodle effectively.

The Moodle system is also being used to develop a consortium wide transition site for use by students and parents. It will allow all students to view and interact with transition materials before they move into secondary school. The site will also provide parents with information on how to support their child through the transition from primary to secondary school. We will let you know how to access the site when it is up and running.

Mr G Gunn, Head of Maths, Computing and Business Faculty

**SUPPORT BEING GIVEN TO OUR CONSORTIUM PRIMARY SCHOOLS, includes:****Digital Recording**

Pupils came from Little Hadham Primary School to use our Digital Recording facilities to produce an entry for a National Songwriting Competition.

Maths Enrichment

The Programme for 2007/2008 has begun. Mr Chahil and Mr Dwyer will be teaching enrichment classes at All Saints, Hillmead, Little Hadham, Little Hallingbury, Northgate, St Michaels and Thorley Hill schools in the next six months.

ICT Support

Mr Field and his team are now supporting five of the above schools by offering two hours of ICT support each week. The work has proved to be invaluable and has helped each Primary School maintain and develop their ICT capabilities.

Mr R Meredith, Director of Community Education

STOCK MARKET DAY

In October the Maths and Business Studies Department held its annual stock market day with Year 9. The stock market day is an opportunity for all Year 9 students to understand and be part of a “virtual” stock market. It is designed to allow students to understand how the stock market works and what maths and ICT skills are needed to succeed in business. It is also designed to encourage teamwork and leadership skills. The day itself features a training video recorded by the students, a live four-sector market, news feeds from members of staff and a website hosting up-to-the-minute prices. The winners this year were the elite team of: Ben Camburn, Lewis Camp and Tom Campbell, many congratulations to them.

Mr P Stone, Maths Department

A VERY HIGH FLYING STUDENT

Joe Kitching was given a special prize in Assembly on 20th November to reward his continuing excellence in Maths. Along with his younger brother Tom he has shown great mathematical talent and significant hard work in the time he has been at the School. Joe fully earned the two tickets each entitling him to an hour's introductory lesson at the Bodyflight freefallers' wind tunnel near Bedford. Well deserved fun!

Mr N Chamberlain, Subject Leader for Maths

TWILIGHT INSET, ICT

At the recent ICT Inset, the ICT Department presented a number of techniques used in the department to other departments in the school.

Electronic Marking and use of the Homework Folder.

A demonstration was given of how to use the MSWord Reviewing feature to electronically annotate Word documents with comments in either text or sound. This technique has removed the need to print out coursework after every revision and ensures that teacher feedback is always available. The use of the new Homework Submit/Retrieve folder was covered which allows staff to receive and return student's work from a secure folder. Synchronisation of the folder is also possible to allow remote marking on a laptop.

SurveyMonkey

SurveyMonkey was presented to departments which is a web based survey site that can be used for carrying out surveys in class groups, year groups, whole school etc. Links to the generated surveys can be added to the school website or emailed to groups. Results are automatically generated and can be downloaded at any time from a live survey in a spreadsheet format allowing detailed analysis of responses.

Using MP3 recordings for iPod Revision

A workshop on using the free Audacity sound recording software was available to staff to demonstrate how students can record their own revision notes and play them back through their MP3 player. Students can then share files through a central resource.

Mr S Abbott, Subject Leader for Computing and ICT

BUSINESS EDUCATION**Year 7 Olympic Day**

All of Year 7 were off timetable on Tuesday 13 November as part of National Enterprise Week. Design and Technology hosted and designed the materials for the event with support from Business Studies. The students' brief was in a design consultancy team of four people, to create and produce packaging design, poster, advertising storyboard, logo and justification presentation to try to win the job of doing this for a manufacturer aiming at introducing a new energy bar for the 2012 Olympics. An excellent day with creative juices flowing and a simple introduction to team-working in the creative world of marketing.

Year 10 Make Your Mark Day (National Enterprise Week)

Students produced a presentation on developing an ethical/green product or service. The whole of the year group was off timetable for the day and the brief was delivered to them at the start of the day. Schools from across the country participated.

The students came up with a range of weird and wonderful ideas including: a recycled paper wrapping business proposal, a green taxi service using renewable energy for powering the taxis, an eatable cup to avoid waste, a shop that specialised in domestic renewable energy devices and many more.

**Women's Enterprise Day**

Eleanor Kleiner (Business Education Trainee Teacher) organised and facilitated this event on Wednesday 14 November. Four local business women (Sian Lloyd—NLP Solutions, professional trainer; Linda Johnston—Academy of Learning professional trainer; Susan Morland—Price Bailey Chartered Accountant; Carmen Tarry—Wedding Cake maker) came into School to help our female sixth formers think about and be inspired to become young entrepreneurs.

Year 10 GCSE Business Studies and Business Communication

Students were invited to participate in a local school's competition which was to be hosted this year by The Leventhorpe School. Seven teams competed in front of their fellow students on Friday 16 November using power point. The winners were a Golf Shop, a Sandwich Shop and a small manufacturer of energy saving electronic equipment. They will go on to represent the School at The Leventhorpe School next term against teams from The Leventhorpe and Herts and Essex High Schools.

Young Enterprise

We have two companies set up this term both of which are aiming to sell items to Primary School children: one is an Art and Craft pack; the other is a grow it yourself plant kit. Advisers from Copy-zone, Ian Hudson and Jon Barfoot have been welcome supporters of this process.

Mr M Beran, Subject Leader for Economics and Business

PARTNERSHIPS WITH HERTFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY

There are a number of interesting partnerships being developed with Hertfordshire University. Of particular interest is the post-16 Curriculum, we are looking to provide enhancement programmes for sixth form students in some subject areas, this would allow students to access the University and its resources for "extension" courses that supplement their "in-school" programmes. Accreditation for these programmes is being sought through the Open University and would provide points towards approved programmes beyond School. Taster sessions for this initiative are being planned for the spring term.

In addition we are working closely with the School of Computing and Electronic Engineering at The University. In the first, we are lucky enough to be the subject of a final year student's dissertation looking at the development of a "version 2.00" Moodle VLE for the School. This it is hoped will have a more refined user interface and enhanced facilities that will allow users to better access the ICT tools that are now part of our everyday experience. Second, we are designing a number of development tools that will allow system administrators to automate some parts of the software setup for quicker implementation of installations, for example, our primary partners that want to use the system. The third area is creating a number of user help tutorials. These online videos will show users, how to get the most from the VLE.

Mr A Hood

LAPTOPS FOR STUDENTS

The school continues to encourage sixth form students to use their personal computing devices on the school wireless network. There are increasing numbers of sixth form students bringing their laptop computers into school for use in their lessons. Many of them have a network licence. This allows them to get full wireless access to their own network drives and to the internet. This has proved beneficial in personalising their learning. This initiative is being further promoted through December's sixth form open evening, raising awareness of the potential that the technology provides students in becoming independent learners with access to resources and communications at any time.

SAM LEARNING

Access to SAM learning revision resources remains free for the time being. There is currently a review of the funding of the resource provided by Hertfordshire County Council. It is hoped that the school will be able to continue to offer access beyond this year's January and June examinations. Students and Parents will be kept informed of any changes to the situation.

EXTENDED SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT – December 2007

DFES Extended Schools Target; half of all primary schools and a third of secondary schools to deliver core objectives by end of 2008! Extended Schools is supportive of the duty to promote Community Cohesion.

ASPECTS (Consortium 12)

Aspects is the name Consortium 12 Extended Schools programme is to be known, this was derived from 'A School Partnership Engaging Community Throughout Stortford & district'. The Consortium consists of twenty primary schools and six secondary schools (largest across Herts) with a wide geographical spread from Furneux Pelham, the Hadhams through Bishop's Stortford, and Sawbridgeworth to High Wych.

An initial visit of schools within the consortium has already taken place indicating many schools already offer a wide range of quality activities for pupils in attendance. Consultation has taken place with the distribution of a questionnaire to all parents of children attending a consortium school (10,000+). We are currently asking children and young people to participate through established school councils, and are forging strong links with parents through associations (PTA).

Web site (www.aspects.org.uk) currently under construction, expected launch date March 2008.

Provision Update—Childcare

An after school need has been evident for approximately two years for a primary school in Sawbridgeworth, they are now working closely with an external provider to develop wraparound care before and after school.



Parent Support and Family Learning

The Extended School Co-ordinator (ESCO) has implemented a working group to deliver parent and family learning in line with needs determined by survey undertaken. The following form the working group; Family Learning Senior Development Officer, Parenting and Information Officer, Children's Centre Manager, District Partnership Officer and ESCO.

Initially, one primary and one secondary school shall deliver workshops on Positive Family Communication and Behaviour Management in the Spring Term. Family First Aid / Health & Safety have also been determined as a need and in addition this shall also be addressed within the Spring Term.

The ESCo is currently working with an established group to address needs identified with regard to transition between primary to secondary school. Moodle has been offered to all Primary Schools within the consortium, with technical support from TBSHS and funding from the Extended Schools budget.

Menu of Activities

The ESCo is currently establishing effective links with representation for young people. This is to involve school councils, the Bishop's Stortford Youth Council, and working in partnership with Sawbridgeworth Town Council to establish a Youth Council and provision for young people at the Bullfields Centre in Sawbridgeworth. Links have also been established with current providers of Youth Provision, Connexions and the Chysalis project based in Bishop's Stortford.

To address the needs that are beginning to arise, £10,000 has been allocated from the Extended School budget for grant allocation via a bid process to all Primary and Secondary schools across consortium. This will enable individual schools to promote their commitment to extended schools and allow them opportunity to address projects specific to their community.

Community Use and Adult Learning

The Consortium already has an established group looking after delivery of adult learning throughout secondary schools. Response received from recent survey with regard to adult education has been noted by the working group and will assist with offer of courses for academic year 2008/2009.

In addition ESCo has attended the Adult Learning Forum and coordinated a smaller group of individuals who wish to work in partnership and enhance adult learning across Bishop's Stortford and District.

Corporate Responsibility

Local business forms an important part of the community, in particular to work carried out in secondary schools with regard to future careers. ESCo has attended local Chamber of Commerce events and is developing relationships and forging links with local business.

Linda Burns, Extended Schools Coordinator

EXTERNAL INSET PROGRAMME: Cambridge Consortium and Specialist Schools and Academy Trust (SSAT)

Starting Early in the academic year with Creative use of ICT – Setting up a Virtual Stockmarket in October and drawing on the success of last year, the school has planned an ambitious programme of INSET training that is being offered to schools across the eastern England. Some of the courses in this year's prospectus are new, we are hoping to offer "Media across the curriculum" and also to coordinate the very first eastern region moodle annual conference. The programme for these events is as follows.

PROGRAMME OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES to be delivered at TBSHS in 2008

10th January - Cambridge Consortium Course:

Virtual Learning Environments: Extending the Boundaries of THE CLASSROOM

16th January - NCSL/BECTA Conference:

Leading learning in the 21st Century -personalising practice in ICT

17th January - SSAT

Strategic leadership of ICT, Planning for the BECTA ICT mark.

22nd February - Cambridge Consortium:

Integrating Your ICT to Meet School Needs

24th April—SSAT:

Using Film and Media Technologies across the curriculum (Tony Lupton)

12th May - Cambridge Consortium:

Music Technology: Creative Approaches to AS/A2

23rd May - Cambridge Consortium School Visit:

The Creative Use of ICT in the Classroom - A Virtual Stockmarket

19th June - SSAT:

Moodle

30th June - Cambridge Consortium Music:

Using ICT to Enliven Your KS3/KS4 Teaching

10th July - SSAT:

Regional Moodle Conference to be led by TBSHS at a conference centre to be arranged

11th July - Cambridge Consortium School Visit:

Creating and Delivering a Strategic Vision for the Us

