

The Bishop's Stortford High School Specialist Schools Newsletter Spring 2009



Dragons Meet TBSHS Demons

Four groups of our GCSE year 10 business studies students recently competed at Leventhorpe School in a Dragon's Den situation. They had prepared and presented a power point business plan seeking finance with a promise of profits to the Dragons.

The four teams presented their ideas really well. They included a new TV screen with streamed real time digital footage of interesting exotic places from around the world, an organic healthy crisp manufacturer who cared enough to give you a full packet of crisps and a really good idea relating to setting up a new venue for teenagers including music and soft drinks.

The winning team was ably lead by William Elliot and included Adam Brady, Alex laight and Stephen Riggs who also plan to set up a pawn shop in the local area. The judges particularly liked the way they had spotted changing economic circumstances, and the gap in the market locally. Well done!

Three Young Enterprise companies were set up in September ably led by Aaron Darnell, Joe Sumner and Ronan Laycock. Their products have included:

- a packet of sweets for Halloween sold on a local estate,
- a tbshs coloured wrist band, a rather dangerous stick with chemicals in it which one of our year 7 customers accidentally split into his eye when breaking it (we withdrew the product as soon as we realised this could happen);
- a film about entrepreneurs,
- a set of teacher trading cards which year 7 and 8 went mad over,
- Christmas wrapping paper.

Interesting ideas, some more profitable than others. Most companies appear to have just about broken even when comparing the cost of participating in the scheme and the profit after their share investment is taken into account. I am glad so many students participated in this scheme and hope it will continue to operate at least as successfully in the future. Downturn, what downturn?

A huge thank you to John Barfoot and Ian Hudson of Copyzone and Charles Payne of Business Link.



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UK Maths Challenge Update

This year has been very successful for TBSHS in the Maths Challenges. Back in November James Brierley got a gold award, and best in school, in the senior challenge with another 13 students picking up Silver awards and 24 Bronze. This was then followed by one of our best ever hauls of certificates in February in the intermediate challenge (for years 9, 10 and 11.) In total there were 8 Gold's, 16 Silvers and 19 Bronzes with an unprecedented 6 students scoring so highly they qualified for the follow on rounds (only the top 5% qualify nationally.) Congratulations therefore to Simon Baker, Alex Medhurst, Joe Kitchen, Andrew Smith and Marcus Alexander for getting that far but there must be a special mention to Tom Kitchen who then went on to achieve a Merit award in the Olympiad challenge (something only very rarely achieved by our pupils.) Hopefully we will be in for more success when the results for the junior challenge, held at the end of April, come in.

If all that wasn't enough, we also enjoyed massive success when 4 boys from years 8 and 9 went to Cambridge University to compete in the team Maths Challenge event. Regional finals for this event are held all around the country and Cambridge is one of the toughest finals to qualify through.

Breaking News

In the past we have always come around 10th place out of the 30 or so schools but this year we managed 2nd, which was good enough for us to qualify for the national final in London on the 22nd June. Only 70 out of the 1500 schools who entered managed this feat so it is a fantastic achievement!

Well done to Oliver Philcox, Tom Dickerson, Tom Kitchen and Will Readshaw for doing so incredibly well and demonstrating what a high level of Mathematical talent we have at TBSHS.



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Maths GCSE Easter Revision:

This year on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th April the Maths Department once again hosted a successful series of GCSE revision sessions attended by students at TBSHS. Over 70 Year 11 and Year 10 students volunteered to devote some of their well-earned Easter holiday so that they could come in for an intensive two days of exam preparation. This annual event is now a regular fixture on the TBSHS calendar, and has proved in the past to significantly help boost students' confidence, and hence their final exam grades. As always the response from students were positive, with the overall feeling being that the sessions were a helpful in aiding revision and gaining experience of exam technique. Some of the responses include:

- "I liked having a different teacher – I learned different ways to tackle problems"
- "It's a good way to go over work"
- "Great throughout!"

As a specialist school with a commitment to our local community, next year will see the maths department offer students of our consortium schools the opportunity to attend the Easter revision sessions. Special mention must go to the dedicated team of maths teachers who gave up their time to lead the sessions, namely Mr Appasamy, Mr Burani, Mr Chahil and Miss Tudo.

R Burani



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Upcoming Maths Events:

The summer term is always incredibly busy but the Maths Department still finds time to put on cross-curricular days to push and engage our students. The year 7's will be going on the Maths and Physics trip where they will look into some of specifics of aerodynamics by visiting Duxford museum and experiencing a wind tunnel first hand. Also when Year 12 return from study leave they will participate in the ever popular Maths and DT day, now in it's the third year. Students will use their knowledge of projectiles to build a catapult in order to out score the competition in a series of events

Maths Puzzle Day

Birchwood, Herts and Essex, Leventhorpe, St Mary's Newport and Mountfitchet have been invited to bring a group of pupils to TBSHS to look at how Mathematical Puzzles can help improve problem solving and thinking skills.

Summer School

Year 6 pupils who are transferring to TBSHS in 2009 have been invited to attend a one week Summer School based on the theme 'Out of Africa'. This is a course that will allow pupils to learn about Africa through classroom based skills, ICT and a visit to the Rhodes Centre.



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Specialist and Extended Schools Agendas

Charities

Home Farm Trust, Kickstart, Cornerstone, CVS and Actability have all been contacted with regard to making TBSHS's ICT and other facilities available to the wider community. Proposed activities range from acting for disabled people to exercise for Home Farm Trust residents, and ICT courses for Cornerstone helping single mothers return to work.

Business

TBSHS has attended a number of Business meetings including The Stansted Lunch Club, Bishop's Stortford Chamber of Commerce and Harlow Chamber of Commerce in order to promote the schools facilities to both business and charities.

Independent Trainers and Training Companies

A number of Trainers and Training companies have visited the school with a view to renting ICT and other facilities.

Laptop PC's for Residential Homes

The School has now purchased three laptops to provide training for residents in local residential homes. St Clare Hospice has expressed an interest and the provision of a laptop will allow patients to correspond by email or web cam to relatives and friends worldwide.

“Green” Training for BS Consortium Primary School Head Teachers

TBSHS hosted a training session for Primary Heads and support staff in Room 22. By providing ICT facilities support and hosting the training locally rather than in Stevenage, all participants saved a tremendous amount of time and travelling costs in addition to reducing their carbon emissions.



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TBSHS Community Courses



Fusion is currently running on a Thursday night from 5.30-7.30 p.m. currently with a group of gifted and talented students and we are workshopping ideas in preparation for putting on a production of Journey's End. The group currently consists of only TBSHS students but we would love to involve students from outside of school as well.

Yamaha School of Music



Keyboard classes are held on three evenings a week and Saturday mornings, giving the opportunity to:

- Learn in a small group of 8-10
- Develop the skill of playing in a "band with other people"
- Participate in Yamaha Music School special events
- Prepare grade examinations in association with the LCM
- Develop keyboard skills to compliment work done in class music lessons
- An active learning style
- Evening/weekend lessons mean none of the school day is missed
- A friend, sister, brother, parent or grandparent may take lessons at the same time

Cost: £91.00 per term (10 lessons)

If you would like more information, please telephone Claire Jonas in the School Office on 01279 868686.



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