



Burlington Danes Academy Sixth Form's

# SIXTH SENSE

AN **ark** SCHOOL [www.burlingtondanes.org](http://www.burlingtondanes.org)

24<sup>th</sup> January 2014

## Dame Sally to take up new role

After six and a half remarkable years at the helm of Burlington Danes Academy, Dame Sally Coates will take up a new role at United Learning – another academy group – from September.

Since joining in 2008, Dame Sally has taken BDA from strength to strength. Results have soared, reaching record heights in the summer, while Ofsted judged the school outstanding in every category at the end of last year. It has been an incredible turnaround.

Chair of Governors Lord Stanley Fink said: "On behalf of the whole school, I want to thank Sally for her hard work and the inspirational way she led our school. From a challenging beginning, Burlington Danes is now one of the best academies in the country."

Lucy Heller, Chief Executive of ARK, said: "Sally will be much missed by parents, staff and students for the inspiring and exceptional way she led Burlington Danes. It is testament to Sally and her team that Burlington Danes has been transformed to an outstanding academy having been in special measures in 2006.

"We are sorry to see her go, but wish her every



success in her new role. She leaves Burlington Danes in a position to excel as we appoint her successor."

Dame Sally said: "I will really miss the wonderful friends that I have made at Burlington Danes amongst staff members, parents and of course students. I have no doubt that you will thrive as an exceptional school over the coming years."

A new exceptional principal will be in post at the beginning of the new school year.

### Portuguese Minister pays a visit to Burlington Danes

Portuguese Minister of Education Nuno Crato paid a visit to Burlington Danes Academy on Wednesday.

The university professor, researcher, mathematician, economist and writer – appointed a cabinet member in 2011 – toured the school and spoke with Dame Sally about the strategies that have contributed to BDA's success.

He took time out to pose for a photo with a few of our Portuguese students and was full of praise for the academy. Mr Crato even invited Dame Sally to Portugal to see how schools are run over there.



# The University of Edinburgh

If you are planning on heading far afield to study after BDA Sixth Form, why not go the whole hog and consider the world-famous University of Edinburgh?

Founded in 1583, Edinburgh is the sixth oldest university in the English-speaking world and has established an excellent academic reputation both nationally and internationally, known also for a large and diverse student society. The city itself is as bustling as it is beautiful. Steeped in history and culture, Scotland's capital is bursting with impressive architecture, green spaces and all the joys of a vibrant cosmopolitan community.

Currently placed 17<sup>th</sup> in the world in the QS rankings, 11<sup>th</sup> for arts and humanities by The Times Higher Education Ranking, and 15<sup>th</sup> most enjoyable by the Global Employability University Ranking, it's fair to say this Russell group institution is doing alright. It is particularly well regarded for world leading research in medicine, veterinary medicine, informatics, linguistics and English literature.

Edinburgh also boasts an incredible range of facilities, including: 17 libraries, state-of-the-art gyms, fantastic lecture theatres and two remarkable buildings worth a total of £80m – home to the vet school and the Roslin Institute. What more could Edinburgh have to offer, you ask? You'll find it in a simply wonderful country.



Next Thursday, Governor Ken Bromfield will be talking to a group of sixth form geographers about Thomas Malthus' theories of population and sustainability.

Malthus was born in 1766 and died in 1834, during which time he developed many ideas about the effects of an increasing population on quality of life and our ability to adapt and progress. His thoughts are still the subject of much discussion today.

He once wrote: "The power of population is indefinitely greater than the power in the earth to produce subsistence for man."

Students will be organised into think tanks and will be responsible for driving the seminar.



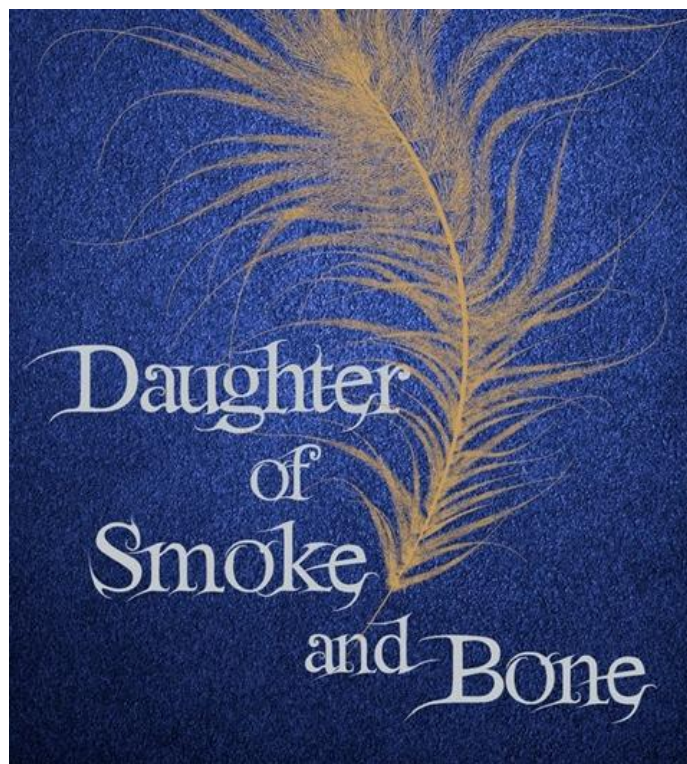
## NEW WEBSITE

Burlington Danes Academy will be launching a new more dynamic and user-friendly website over the coming days. Please be sure to visit and explore the new site for a view inside our school. The address should stay the same – check twitter @burlingtondanes for updates.

# Daughter of Smoke and Bone, by Laini Taylor

**Ms Hartnett:** I thought this book would be like my usual favourites, an easy to read, action-packed, but ultimately light book about demons, a few assassinations and a strong female heroine – and I was partly right. However, Daughter of Smoke and Bone is one of the best books I have read in this genre.

It's set in Prague, following Karou, a mysterious 17 year old art student with naturally bright blue hair, as she deals with her arrogant ex-boyfriend. So far, so predictable. Until, suddenly, she is summoned by Brimstone – her demonic adoptive father – for an errand. We are catapulted into Elsewhere – a secret world with Chimera (creatures made from many different...well, creatures) such as Issa, part snake, part woman, the gruff but protective Brimstone and a mystery we want to solve as much as Karou does. Brimstone deals in teeth – and trading them for



wishes, little wishes like Karou's hair, or bigger wishes like being able to fly – though Karou has never had enough for that.

I don't want to give too much away, as the plot is quite intricate and there are so many twists and turns – but this book is well worth a read. If you're a fan of fantasy, adventure or dark romance – please give this book a try – it's definitely worth it!



Hello Year 13. We have now reached the half way point of yet another busy half term. As always, I want to really encourage you to start investigating accommodation at your firm and insurance choice universities. Knowing how much you are required to pay will really help you budget your money early on. I'd like to congratulate Lia Stephenson, who is now the world record holder for her age group in the triple jump. As the week draws to a close, ensure you are being honest with yourselves about your mock grades. Over 60% of you hit your targets, but for those that did not it is vital you think about why this is not the case. Enjoy your weekend. Mr Fenn.



It's really nice to be back amongst all of you and be immersed once again in sixth form life. Now you have all received your mock exam results it's time to reflect on what is and is not working for you. You are all individuals and will work effectively in different ways but if you are in need of any advise I would encourage you to seek help from your peers. Ithiel, Rachel, Rokhaja and Hirra are all exceeding their end of year targets and if I was you I would be asking them how they are getting it so right.

# This weekend: Inside Llewyn Davis

If you're at a loss for something to do this weekend and have a spare two hours between all your homework and revision, why not take a look at the latest Coen brothers movie?

Joel and Ethan have been churning out unique features of their own strange brand for more than a quarter century, and they rarely disappoint. The pair's filmography explores a range of genres, from gangster and crime thrillers to straight up drama and even farce, with works that never fail to retain something distinctly Coen about them – always slashed with vicious humour.

For their latest venture they've turned their attention to the music industry and the day-to-day life of a talented artist trying to make his way in a cut-throat folk scene.

*Inside Llewyn Davis* – the third piece in the brothers' somewhat loose 'serious man' trilogy – promises a great deal. Having opened to rapturous praise at Cannes Film Festival last year, it's received nothing short of an exceptional critical response since. It's sure to be well worth two hours of your time.



England's **secondary school league tables** were published yesterday, confirming Burlington Danes Academy's impressive progress in a year that saw an overall drop in the UK's exam results. The tables show BDA's rise to 77% of pupils achieving 5A\*-C at GCSE (including English and maths) against the national average of 59%.

Dame Sally said: "I'm delighted that Burlington Danes Academy has achieved its best results ever. This is particularly satisfying within the context of more challenging grade boundaries."

To compare BDA Sixth Form's performance with that of other schools in the local area please visit:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/cgi-bin/schools/performance/group.pl?atype=LA&superview=p16&no=205>

For ARK's report on record achievement please visit:

<http://arkschools.org/news/pupils-ark-schools-post-record-gcse-results>



**Mrs Tanswell:** On the 14th February 2014 we are holding our annual 6th Form Future Success day to prepare students for higher education, apprenticeships, school leaver programmes and employment.

There will be a timetable of events for all students that will incorporate personal statements, university finance, a future fair, careers workshops and alumni talks as well as much more.



**Notice for Year 12:** If you haven't yet picked up your GCSE certificates, please do from Ms Morson in the key stage 4 reception.

# Notices and Opportunities...

See Mrs Tanswell for more details



**Network Rail Advanced Apprenticeship Open day**  
**Students interested in apprenticeship schemes.**  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January. West Ealing depot, Manor Road, W13 0HR



**Politics Masterclass - 11th Feb 1pm-4pm**  
**Anthropology and Sociology Masterclass - 12th Feb 1pm-4pm.** See Mrs. Tanswell for further details



**PWC Work Experience programme is now open** Year 12 Business students interested in a valuable work experience placement. [news@fspdirections.org.uk](mailto:news@fspdirections.org.uk)



**Medicine Careers Day at Keele University.** 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014. See Mr Whitlock for application details.



**Improve Your Chances of Becoming a Doctor (8 February, 1 March and 29 March)**  
**Improve Your Chances of Becoming a Lawyer (15 March)** One day careers event for Year 12 students who would like to become a doctor or a lawyer. For full details, including costs and to apply, see [www.epoc.org.uk](http://www.epoc.org.uk)



**Physics Work Experience scheme at Imperial College University.** Year 12 students with a keen interest in Physics. The application form, and further information, can be found here: <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/physics/about/outreach/workexperience>