



Burlington Danes Academy Sixth Form's



SIXTH SENSE

AN **ark** SCHOOL www.burlingtondanes.org

31st January 2014

BDA's royal audience

Talented students from Burlington Danes Academy had a chance to act for a royal audience on Wednesday.

They performed an extract from last year's successful adaptation of *Much Ado About Nothing* for Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall at Southend's Palace Theatre.

Sixth form student Fred Gill said: "It was an honour to perform in front of Prince Charles and to talk to him afterwards about the variety of dramatic events we put on at Burlington Danes. He seemed really interested in what I had to say."

The Prince and Camilla took time during a tour of Essex to watch youngsters from six schools perform scenes from various Shakespeare plays. The royal couple then joined the actors and their teachers on stage for a meet and greet.

Speaking about the Burlington Danes performance, the Prince said: "I particularly enjoyed the last one from *Much Ado About Nothing* when they all danced. I think it [SSF] is empowering and it builds confidence in children."

Burlington Danes Academy's head boy, Jadon Guthrie, said: "What was perhaps most inspiring about the day was how genuine and enthusiastic Prince Charles was."

The Shakespeare Schools Festival is the UK's largest youth drama festival, providing students from all backgrounds the opportunity to perform Shakespeare in professional theatres.

Chief Executive Penelope Middelboe said: "Shakespeare Schools Festival is about sharing something so extraordinary that people find the courage to stand on stage and speak some of the



greatest words ever written.

"We are so excited to share this with Their Royal Highnesses in this very special year for Shakespeare," she continued.

Head of Performing Arts Mr Prout said: "Performing Shakespeare in its original form was as exciting for our students today as it has been for the generations of professional actors that have come before them."

The Burlington Danes ensemble will visit 11 Downing Street next month for a final rendition in front of government ministers.

Governor joins student-led seminar

"We don't, in a sensible world, want to hand on an increasingly dysfunctional world to our grandchildren, to leave them with the real problem. I don't want to be confronted by my future grandchild and [have] them say: 'Why didn't you do something?'" – Prince Charles

BDA Governor Ken Bromfield joined sixth form geographers this week for a student-led discussion on the theories of Thomas Malthus and their relevance to modern issues of sustainability.

Students were split into groups representing hypothetical countries of varying economic and industrial structures. They were then tasked with presenting a plan for sustainable development in the face of a dramatically increasing population.

During the session, students thought hard about key factors such as aid and climate change, and came up with a range of intelligent ideas. The group coped extremely well with some very difficult material.

Mr Bromfield said: "It was rewarding for a governor of Burlington Danes Academy to be working with students who responded to the challenges posed by the Malthus axiom and its relevance to sustainable development."

Well done to Gary for coming up with a particularly apt metaphor whilst arguing that we need to



moderate our consumption of resources.

"If a lion is sitting in the shade and there are other animals playing around it, it doesn't always eat them, only when it is hungry," he said.



Head Boy Jadon Guthrie: Good afternoon BDA! It's been a great week at BDA! On Wednesday the cast of *A Much Ado About Nothing* performed at Southend in front of HRH the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall – Camilla Parker-Bowles.

This was an amazing opportunity for BDA pupils and the performance was outstanding. Prince Charles was said to have commented on how funny and professional the performance was. Well done to the Performing Arts Department staff and all the cast for months of hard work in preparation. Apparently this was a treat for the people of Southend who have not had a royal guest in four years.

This is all from me this week but just a quick reminder that the Student Council Meeting is Period 7 next Friday. Peace and Love! xxxxxx



NEW WEBSITE

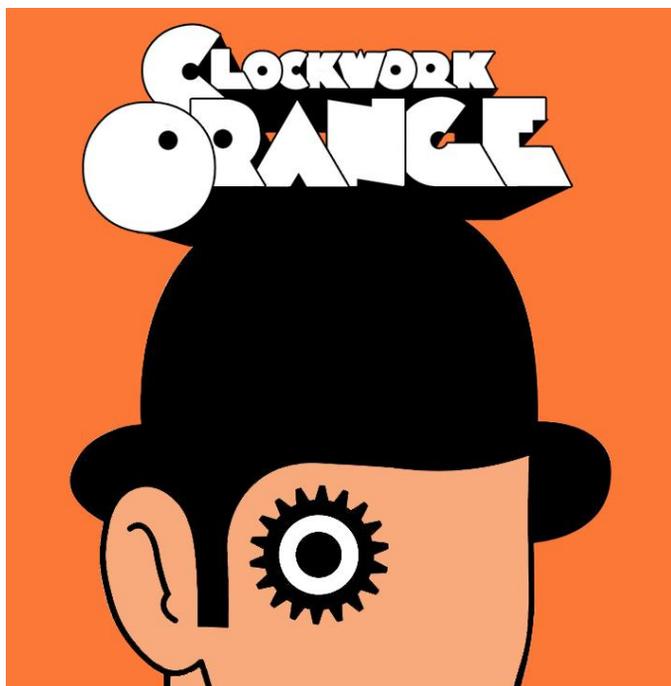
Burlington Danes Academy will be launching a new more dynamic and user-friendly website over the coming days. Please be sure to visit and explore the new site for a view inside our school. The address should stay the same – check twitter @burlingtondanes for updates.

A Clockwork Orange, by Anthony Burgess

"Is it better for a man to have chosen evil than to have good imposed upon him?"

Ms Gardner: This book raises the question of which is more important: the free will to choose to act morally, or the moral actions themselves. The protagonist Alex lives a life consisting of 'ultra-violence' – rape, murder and assault all feature heavily in the book. He's aware that his actions are immoral, but simply has no desire to be 'good' – he chooses to be bad. Later on, this choice is taken away from him after he undergoes treatment to modify his behaviour, which causes him to associate violent acts with extreme nausea. This means that he cannot even defend himself against violent acts done to him.

It seems to me that the author is implying that it's the freely made choice to do good that makes an action moral, rather than the act itself. It's easier to make this point the other way around – you cannot be held responsible for an act that you have to do, such as killing someone because you're being forced to at gunpoint. In the same way, Alex is not morally responsible for his 'moral' actions at the end of the book, such as not responding when he is being attacked, as he has no choice in the matter. Does this matter, or is it just important that people do act in a morally and socially acceptable way?



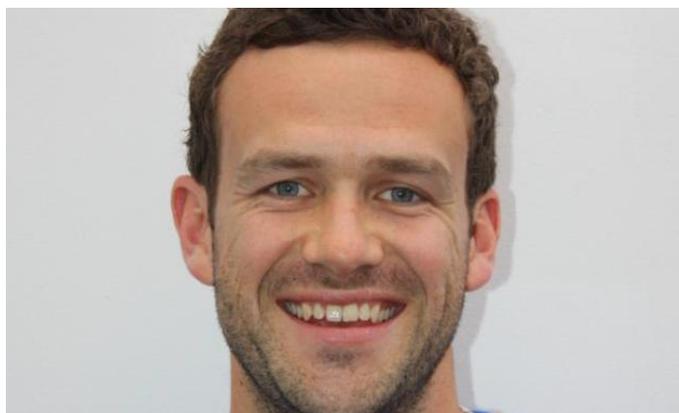
Other than the interesting ethical themes in this book, A Clockwork Orange is worth reading for the experience created by the 'Nadsat' language that it is partially written in – a fictional form of slang created by the author that the main characters speak in. Although this can make the book difficult to read when you first start – as can the long and detailed descriptions of horrific violence – it's worth getting over this barrier in order to understand the book as a whole.



Mr Fenn

Hello Year 13. The student finance window is now open. This means you can now apply for student loans. Please follow the advice from today's assembly. The sooner you apply, the sooner it is all sorted. It is often the case that this can be a slow process due to the amount of financial evidence required on behalf of your parents.

Have a lovely weekend. Mr Fenn



Mr Jennings

Although we have only completed one term of sixth form and our focus is very much on the present we do need to start looking at what happens next. The application process for University is relatively long but incredibly important. This needs to start with you considering what courses interest you and where you think you would like to study. Please use the next few weeks to research the possibilities in your own time, in the designated UCAS tutor sessions, speak to the year 13 students, your parents and even teachers. I know some of you have very specific ideas whilst others have no idea at all, but, whatever your situation at this stage, keep an open mind.



Known for attracting an eclectic range of students, the **University of the West of England** is open to applicants with all sorts of qualifications and experience.

Thanks to fruitful partnerships with high profile employers, including the BBC and Hewlett Packard, the university boasts an impressive graduate employment record. It also runs its own somewhat trailblazing graduate development programme – well worth getting involved with.

With easy transport links to the centre of Bristol from its main Frenchay campus, UWE offers not only the student-community experience but a true taste of city-living outside London.

Bristol – the largest city in the south-west – is busy, vibrant and stacked full of culture. Its thriving music scene ensures there is always something fun to do when you're not working, but if that's not your thing then perhaps exploring a labyrinth of street art, tasty restaurants and fascinating buildings will suffice; not to mention a trove of excellent shops.

UCAS

Just a quick congratulatory roundup of those students who have now made their firm and insurance university choices:

Emmanuel – Business at Brunel (Portsmouth insurance)

Janine – Psychology at Birmingham (Queen Mary insurance)

Kyran – Psychology at Anglia Ruskin (Abertay Dundee insurance)

Yusra – Psychology at Hertfordshire (Birmingham City insurance)

Diego – Computer Science at Brunel (Keele insurance)

Esmail – Economics/Accounting and Finance at Kent (Birbeck insurance)

Manal – Computer Science at Greenwich (Westminster insurance)

Laura – Sports and Exercise Science at Brunel (Hertfordshire insurance)

Almas – English at Bristol (Exeter insurance)

Hamsa – Business Management at Royal Holloway (Westminster insurance)

Jemma – English Literature at Exeter (Southampton insurance)

Debbie – Psychology at Greenwich

COMMENDATIONS

Max and Zainab Year 13: "I just wanted to pass on my feeling that they are both just incredible students and make me feel so humble – they are working so hard, using fantastic revision techniques and are both absolutely determined to succeed this year. They have stepped up to Year 13 in an amazing way, and really do set an example to all in terms of how to work hard and achieve highly in A-levels. They both deserve to achieve straight As this summer (if not higher) and have their opportunities opened up for them in terms of wherever they want to study and whatever they want to do in the future. They make me feel so proud and really make it feel very worthwhile being a teacher. Both students set such an excellent example that I hope this can be recognised." Ms Stanger

Ithiel Year 12: "I just want to pass on how impressed I am in general with Ithiel. His attitude and manner is perfect for that of a sixth former, I actually think he would make an excellent mentor for children lower down the school!" Ms Hitchcock

Farah Year 13: "Just a note to say that Farah has shown vast improvement in Y13 English, and her mock has impressed Miss Morris and myself no end! She has been extremely diligent with her coursework too, and has met every deadline so far which is immensely pleasing." Ms Pretzell



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



Not Going to Uni?

If you are planning on taking a gap year or would like to look into alternative education visit:

<http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/>



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



Medicine Careers Day at Keele University. 12th March 2014. See Mr Whitlock for application details.



Pure Potential School Leavers Event

Thursday, 20th February 2014

Venue: King's Cross, London

Timings: A choice of morning or afternoon session

Book a place here:

<http://www.purepotential.org/events/pp--school-leavers>



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>