



Burlington Danes Academy Sixth Form's

# SIXTH SENSE

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

28<sup>th</sup> November, 2013

## All set to travel the world

At the beginning of the academic year, Marcella Cilia, Year 13, applied for a scholarship as part of a gap year scheme offered by the Royal Geographical Society.

The scheme involves travelling around the world to select destinations and working with specialists across various disciplines. The scholarship offers financing of up to £4000 to cover costs throughout the year, including air travel, food and accommodation.

With hundreds of applicants vying for a place on the exciting scheme, Marcella was one of just 25 to be shortlisted for an interview, with only 12 scholarships offer. After days of waiting, it was finally confirmed at the beginning of this week that Marcella is to be one of those 12 – a fantastic achievement that is testament to her dedication and talent.

She said: "It was one of the best feelings... with hard work and passion, great things can happen."

Marcella will begin her travel in September 2014 and will return in August 2015, when she will enter university to study geology and geography.



We are all incredibly proud of Marcella and look forward to hearing all about her incredible adventures.

## BDA Christmas Concert

*Our annual Christmas Concert is to take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December in the Dennis Potter Theatre. The performance, which will explore a range of musical styles, will commence from 7pm.*

*If you need a little something to get that seasonal spirit going, or just want to watch some of our excellent and enthusiastic young musicians at work, please contact our music department for ticket information.*



## Burlington Danes Academy's Christmas Concert

# Much Ado Take Two

Following BDA's acclaimed performance of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Shaw Theatre earlier this month, the cast and crew took to the Dennis Potter Theatre for a final in-house encore on Friday.

The team's creative adaptation went down just as well a second time as it did the first, with the combination of dance, drama, music and comedy proving as relentlessly entertaining as any show you're likely to see.

Testament to the initial performance's excellent reception, an excited audience of staff, parents, students, governors and members of the ARK team filled the auditorium.

We were also lucky enough to host Dom Fitch, the artistic director of the Shakespeare Schools Festival, who said: "The performance was a true celebration of the performing arts... the cast were not a group of students before us, but a company of actors."

Well done again to every member of the cast and crew, all of whom played a significant part in putting together a fantastic production and delivering it



with originality and professionalism.

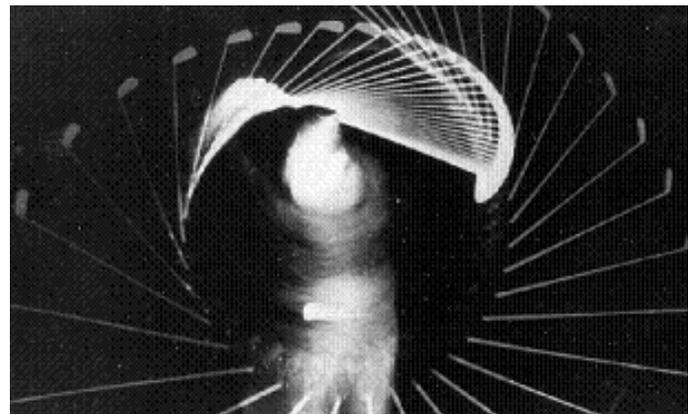
Special thanks must go to Mr Rowlands-Roberts and the performing arts department for yet another excellent piece of work. We can't wait for the next!

# Physics in Action at Uni of London

A group of Year 12 and 13 students visited the University of London to enjoy a day exploring Physics in Action on Tuesday.

The attendees heard from speakers at the cutting edge of their fields, whose expertise and infectious enthusiasm for their work is sure to have inspired some scientists of the future.

The day consisted of talks about bionic brains, cosmic dust, the physics of medical imaging and the surprisingly amazing applications of bubbles, all brought to life on stage by the excellent lecturers.



## Headstart courses for Y12

Headstart offers Year 12s the opportunity to enjoy some first-hand experience of what it is to be a university student and allows a little taste of the various courses on offer. It is the perfect chance to explore the options ahead of UCAS deadlines and make some new friends along the way.

Any students considering studying Physics, Engineering, Maths, or Computer Science at university should seriously consider attending one of these taster courses. See Mr Lawrence for more info.

**Year 12?**  
**Try Before You Apply**

**2014 Programme**  
STEM\* experience courses at university for Year 12 & S5 (16-17 year old) students

Headstart  
EDT

\*Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

# London School of Economics

The UK's only university to specialise in social sciences, the London School of Economics has an international reputation as one of the very best of its kind.

Those who study at LSE are known as ambitious, hard-working and high achieving, so competition is extremely high; any of you interested in gaining a place will require top grades and a little something extra.

Over half of its student population are postgraduates, while just about a third are from the UK; LSE welcomes more people from overseas than any other university in the world, making for a diverse and thriving international community.

Graduates enjoy some of the best employment rates and starting salaries in the UK, thanks to strong links with industry and businesses as well as rigorous attention to career development.

With a social sciences library larger than any other in the world and a borrowing rate four times that of the national average, it's fair to say that students are expected to fully commit to their studies, so be prepared for a busy few years.

Located in the heart of London, opposite King's College – with whom it enjoys a fierce rivalry – LSE offers easy access to the West End, Bloomsbury, Waterloo



and the river – a perfect point from which to explore the city.

Just right for any students interested in the social sciences and not wanting to venture beyond London after sixth form, LSE is certainly a university worth aiming for.

## The Greatest Show on Earth, by Richard Dawkins

**Ms Gardner:** It's easy to dislike Richard Dawkins for being so overly aggressive when debating and arguing against religion, particularly Christianity. However, in the scientific community he is equally, if not more, well known for his work on evolutionary biology as he is for his atheism.

If you read *The God Delusion* and got put off by the unrelenting attack on religion, you may have more luck reading *The Greatest Show on Earth*, as it's written as more of an explanatory text, rather than a defensive one. In this book, Dawkins very clearly lays out and explains the existing evidence for the theory of evolution, with very little mention of religion at all. It's written in a way that's very easy to understand, and supplemented with inlays of beautiful photographs and images.

If you've heard people say that evolution might not be true, and are interested in finding out the evidence for it, or, if you know a little bit about evolution and are interested in learning more about the intricacies of how it works, this book should answer any questions you have on the topic. Once you get past the first introductory chapter, it's also easy to forget whose book you're reading, as



Dawkins is actually very good at explaining concepts in an easy to understand way, and relating them to real world examples.

It's a great book to read if you want to learn more about the way evolution works, as long as you don't mind it being a very one sided read – don't expect any discussion of anything other than Dawkins own views.

# Things to do this weekend



Why not get into the Christmas spirit with a trip to the Tower of London ice rink for a frosty afternoon in the glare of one of London's most famous and imposing landmarks. Located in the dry moat, an afternoon on the ice will cost in the region of £10-15.



At the Photographers Gallery, near Oxford Circus, Elina Bortherus is exhibiting a fantastic new selection of images exploring themes of motherhood and identity. Viewing this provocative and powerful series will cost you absolutely nothing. Well worth it!



If you're in the mood for some big budget, blockbuster entertainment, a trip to cinema for the latest instalment of the Hunger Games might just be your weekend sorted. Jennifer Lawrence is back for the eagerly anticipated sequel that has had critics raving already.



Southbank's traditional German-style Christmas market is up and running and expecting a visit. The old wooden stalls offer a range of seasonal goods, from heart-warming grub to toys and gifts for all ages. If you don't want to spend money, it makes for a good walk by the river (dress up warm).



You could always throw the boat out and make your way to Any Amount of Books (Charing Cross), one of London's best second hand bookshops, to spend some quality time browsing the shelves for that masterpiece you've been waiting for. If you can find a copy of *Sons and Lovers*, it goes down particularly well at this time of year!



If you're considering renting a film and want something with a real feel-good factor, why not try *Untouchable*? This fantastic French film about an ex-convict who finds himself caring for a paraplegic millionaire offers a generous dollop of drama, hilarity and warmth in equal measure.

# Notices and Opportunities...

See Mrs Tanswell for more details



## UCL Uni-link

Preparing for University programme. For Year 12s, see Mr Whitlock



**Law and Criminology Taster Day at West London Uni:** take part in an interactive mock courtroom criminal case 'Murder: Cannibalism in the Dock'. Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 1, 3:15pm-17:00. For further information or to book your free tickets visit [www.uwl.ac.uk/taster](http://www.uwl.ac.uk/taster)



## Want Morrisons to pay you to go to University?

We are partnering Bradford University and have developed a unique programme that will allow you to work, earn and learn while studying towards a BSc (Hons) in Management and Business. For 6<sup>th</sup> formers interested in school leaver programmes.

See Mr. Whitlock for more details



**Sutton Trust US Programme - application deadline 22nd Jan:**

For all Sixth Formers. See Mr. Whitlock



## CAREERS AT LUNCH

Students who need advice/help with their career options. See Mrs. Tanswell or Mrs. Finnet every Tuesday lunchtime in SO11



**KPMG school leavers event and programme: All Sixth Formers. See Mr. Whitlock.**