



Burlington Danes Academy Sixth Form's



SIXTH SENSE

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

10th January 2014

Welcome back BDA Sixth Form

Ms Megaw: It is fantastic to see you all back (and with all your new haircuts!). Mock exams week has really shown an excellent attitude in sixth form students, with revision sessions carried out in classrooms, the study room and even the pitstop. It is fantastic to see that you are rightly taking these very seriously, as they will be providing your teachers with a clear picture of your expected grades in the summer and will be used to inform your summer exam entries.



I have been really impressed by the way you have utilised each other in peer support, which is a fantastic revision tool and will stand you in good stead for your AS and A2 entries as well as in your university experiences (many of which are carried out in groups).



Let's keep up this momentum into the new year to make 2014 a real success for you; remember to consider your own personal motivations and aspirations and how you can channel self-discipline to achieve these.

Head Girl, Elizabeth: Welcome back students of BDA and a happy new year to you all!

I hope you are all aware it's 2014 and enjoying a fresh start! It's been quite a stressful week of the new year with the many exams for Years 12 and 13 and also for Y11 as they wait for their mock results.



Perhaps we should try and remain positive as "all the hard work will eventually pay off". However, if you are in desperate need of motivation, cling on to the prospects of a relaxing summer holiday in the near future and also to the prospect of a university place and career that you really want! It's all about the future!

Let us also continue to represent the school as 'outstanding' in our own conduct and be safe!

The University of Cambridge

The University of Cambridge needs no introduction, but we have to start somewhere. With a history spanning more than 800 years, a truly exceptional academic record, a happy mix of tradition and innovation, and a culture of incredible success, few would dispute its reputation as one of the very best universities around.

Founded in 1208, it is the world's third oldest surviving uni – second oldest in the English speaking world – having supposedly emerged as an offshoot of Oxford, following an exodus of scholars who'd been in conflict with the local townsfolk. Ever since, the two 'ancient universities' have enjoyed a fierce rivalry at the top of the higher-education tree.

Spread across much of the city, the university is the pivotal ingredient in the unique identity of Cambridge, the original 'student town'. Operating a collegiate system, with each distinct college very much its own community, the diverse range of experience available at this famous institution is endless.

Although often thought to offer a disproportionate number of places to typically 'posh' middle-class types, Cambridge is wholly committed to encouraging students from all backgrounds to apply, should they meet the high academic



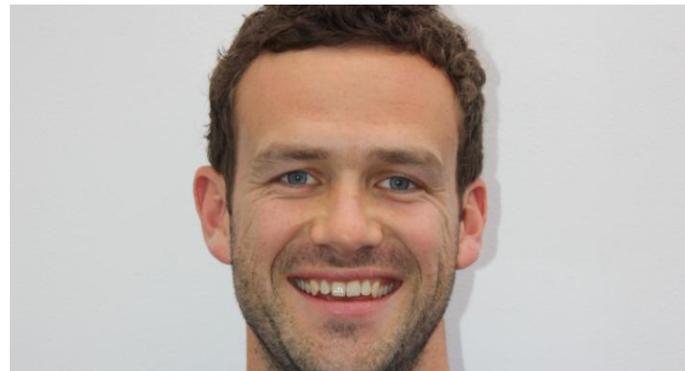
standards required.

Don't be under any illusions: the pressures of studying at a university like Cambridge are intense. You will be expected to work independently to a consistently high standard for three years at least, and that's after the considerable effort it takes to get the grades necessary to secure your place. However, most students do find time to embrace the vast array of extra-curricular opportunities available.

Cambridge itself is an interesting, architecturally astounding city, boasting quaint cycling routes and excellent transport links with London.



Mr Fenn: Welcome back Year 13. I hope you all enjoyed your break and are feeling well rested. As the mock exams draw to a close and you receive your grades, I want you to consider which of your university choices would have offered you a place with those grades. I am sure most would have, but for those of you who fell below target, the next few weeks are vital. What can you do to ensure your grades improve over the coming months? I'm looking forward to receiving your bursary applications. Remember the delaine is on the 17th of this month.



Mr Jennings: On January the 5th Mr Jennings welcomed his new baby boy to the world! After much competition he has been named Stirling William Atacan Jennings, and is without doubt the cutest baby on the planet (bar none). This week we will be sending off the card with all your well-wishes and sentiments, including an amazing quote from Cherry Thain on fatherhood! We wish Mr Jennings, his wife and baby all the best in their new family. As Mr Jennings is on paternity leave for two weeks some key messages I'm sure he would wish to pass on are; well done on surviving mock exam week; just one day left to go! Please reserve your dropping subject discussions for after the mock exams have been marked and continue to attend all lessons as normal. Finally, please be nice to Ms Megaw while I am away J!

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Ms Gardner: Life of Pi is an enchanting and beautifully written book, containing gorgeous descriptions of the events that allow you to become fully immersed in the story. This is what allowed it to be adapted into an incredible film, which contains some of the most aesthetically pleasing imagery I've seen. It begins with an introduction to Pi's life, and discussions of the various different religions that have influenced his thought. Religion is a recurring theme in the novel, but not in a way that feels intrusive – there's no one particular religion that's being argued for, more a spiritual way of thinking.

The middle part of the story is the part that feels most familiar – the story of a boy trying to survive on a lifeboat in the middle of the ocean, alone with a tiger from his parent's zoo. This is the part of the story that (for me) contains the most vivid imagery – both pleasant, such as the descriptions of strange experiences that the characters have, and unpleasant, such as the descriptions of what happens to the other original passengers of the lifeboat. All this allows the story to become fully immersive, not just to what's going on with the plot, but also Pi's state of mind.

But where the book gets truly interesting is in part



three, when different kinds of philosophical considerations and implications come into play. The events of the final few chapters make you look at the rest of the story in an entirely new light; it makes you consider questions about reality, and the reliability of our perception, as well as questions about religion and spirituality that form a cohesive whole with the discussions of religions at the start of the book.

Despite containing strong themes of, and questions about religion this book is not solely for religious people, nor can it only be enjoyed by people who like spending time thinking about these kinds of questions ordinarily. It makes you consider the questions that it raises without you even really noticing, under the guise of a beautiful and enchanting story of survival against all odds.



Residential courses for budding engineers, Mr Lawrence: From Marine Technology to Low Carbon Energy, these courses are as exciting as they are varied. And they all offer young, aspiring engineers the chance to connect with industry professionals and technical specialists.

Based at some of the country's leading universities and other secure venues across the country, courses are available to young people in school years 8-12.

This isn't stuffy, dull classroom work - in fact, many students tell us how intriguing, inspiring and surprising they found their event.

See the website or speak to Mr Lawrence for more details :

http://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=23



Term 2 Bursary payments are currently being processed and will be paid on 17th January 2014.

You must have at least 95% attendance and punctuality between 5th November and 20th December to qualify to receive your bursary.

Students who do not qualify will be notified via their tutors.

Reflection: Baptism of Jesus

Mr Whitlock: The theme of this week is CHOSEN. The Scripture is taken from Matthew 3:13-17 when Jesus arrived at the River Jordan from Galilee. John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, was horrified at the thought that Jesus wanted to be baptised by him as he recognised Jesus as the one who was CHOSEN to bring the Kingdom of God to earth.

"I'm the one who needs baptising, not YOU!" he cried. But Jesus knew better, and realised that he was to be a chosen living example for all people and in order for that to be the case, he had to do what everyone else would do; not because he was sinful and needed cleansing but because he wanted to show the way to the Father.

Straight after he came up out of the water the skies opened and there was a dove that rested above him, before a loud voice declared "This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, I love him and am very pleased."

After this we learn that Jesus had the Holy Spirit and after a period of 40 days in the desert he had the Holy Spirit and "power". It seems that when we are



affirmed and loved, we are motivated to be more than we were before. Success comes from a place of acceptance not performance.

"Whatever I become, will be what God has chosen for me." Elvis Presley

Royal Holloway University 6th Form Politics Conference:

On Monday 16th December Mr Whitlock took some budding Politics students (Jerrell, Feyi, Ahmed & Aminah) to The Royal Holloway University in Surrey to take part in a Government & Politics Conference. They experience first class lectures from Professors on: Should Britain stay in the EU? The Role of Women in Politics, Globalisation and Issues surrounding the Middle East. They formed groups with other students and created a short presentation.

Here you can see Ahmed Osman delivering his group's thoughts on the lectures – Professor Osman then later articulated some excellent questions to the lecturers which caused one of them to pause and reflect for a moment while she gathered her thoughts!



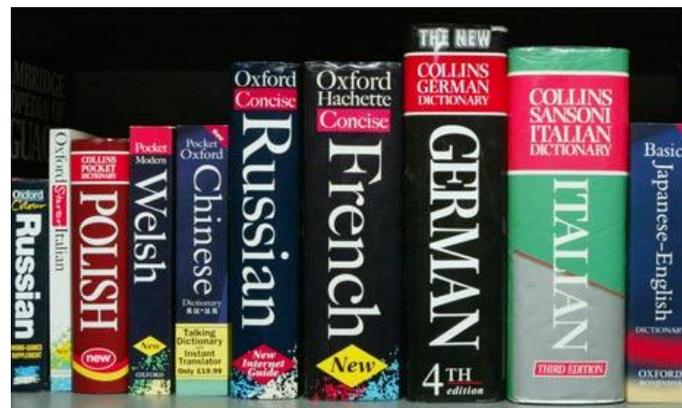
Pic of the Week: People watch as enormous waves break on Porthcawl Harbour, South Wales.



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



Careers in Languages Day

University of Westminster Students interested in languages and various careers in translation.
<http://careersinlanguagesday.eventbrite.co.uk> 25th January . See Mrs. Tanswell in room SO11



Property development workshop

University of Westminster This workshop is aimed at students who might be interested in a career in the property industry and want to find out what it is all about. Contact: Jamie O'Hara at oharaj@westminster.ac.uk



Photography & Digital Imaging Technologies Workshop

University of Westminster Where science meets the camera! The workshop is aimed at science students who may have an interest in photography. Contact: Paul Hampson on hampsopa@westminster.ac.uk



Media Foundation course

The Camden college Year 13 students who are interested in exploring media production as an further option in their career.
ArtsSchool@wmcollege.ac.uk
Or see Mrs. Tanswell in SO11 for further 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



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> **DEADLINE: 15TH JANUARY**