

SPRING 2023



Mark Rutherford School



Welcome to this term's newsletter and we hope you like the new format.

We have had an excellent Spring term and achieved lots outside of the classroom in addition to all that is achieved in curriculum time. I continue to be very grateful of our hardworking and dedicated staff who go above and beyond every day to support our students in achieving academically whilst also providing a wide range of additional personal development opportunities. This term we have continued to have trips and sporting fixtures every week; the penultimate week of term also saw us lead on six STEM activities for British Science Week. The wide range of articles in this edition also demonstrates how talented our students are.

When we return from the Easter holidays we will soon be into the summer exam period for our GCSE and A Level students. Students have been working hard to prepare and have undertaken mock exams this term too. Over the Easter break there will be revision sessions for Year 11 and we will also look to offer something similar for Year 13 in the May half term break. With such an intensive few weeks coming up it is important that during the holidays students get the right balance of revision with rest and recovery.

I am pleased that the new uniform we introduced at the start of the academic year is being worn with pride. We have had lots of positive comments from visitors about how smart our students look. A couple of weeks ago we undertook uniform checks to ensure we consistently maintain the high standards we expect from our students. I kindly ask that you continue to support us in ensuring your child is meeting our uniform expectations for the start of the summer term. In addition, if you have any unwanted items we would be grateful for these to be donated via Main Reception to support families who may need some support.

Attendance and punctuality to school is also very important and I am pleased that our overall attendance percentage, which we monitor weekly, is above the national average.

I hope you enjoy reading this term's newsletter and I wish you a lovely Easter break. We look forward to welcoming students back for the start of the summer term on Monday 17th April 2023.

Mrs K Foster
Headteacher

Success for students at the Women in STEM conference in Milton Keynes



A group of Year 8 and 9 students were invited to the Women in STEM conference hosted by Anglia Water and Alliance, as part of this year's British Science Week. The theme of British Science Week this year is 'connections'. The Women in STEM event was a unique opportunity for our students to explore the world of water and hopefully inspire the next generation of young women to achieve their potential and understand how STEM is applied throughout the water industry and linked careers. During the day, the students had the opportunity to take part in a range of challenges as well the chance to meet Anglian Water and Alliance staff who were able to showcase STEM careers and the important role women play in the field.

Our students were an absolute credit to the school and several students were praised for their attitude to the day and how they participated. Our students worked politely and positively with those from another school. Three girls took home a £10 voucher for getting all the questions right on the careers in the Anglian Water quiz, and Emerson was given a £50 voucher in recognition of her positive attitude and ability during the day. She was identified by several staff in the three different events we took part in. We are extremely proud of all their efforts at the event and would like to congratulate them on their successes.

Mrs Baytar



STEM



On 14th March we went to Milton Keynes for a conference to find out what the work life of women in STEM careers is all about. The speakers were welcoming and kind and had great stories to tell. All the women worked in STEM for Anglia Water and explained the working world of STEM, how they got their jobs and what it was like to work for an engineering company. We also had fun taking part in some mini games with a physics and engineering theme. Firstly, we built a water tower then after break we looked at different aspects of engineering and found out some interesting facts about pipe design and CAD - Computer Aided Design. After lunch we headed off for the final challenge which was all about teamwork and efficiency. We had a few attempts and achieved the quickest time in building a little Lego house! It was great working with other schools and showed us the importance of collaboration. My favourite part of the day is hard to decide but I'd say the tower building challenge came top for me. I liked the take on real life and of course we won! I felt really comfortable asking questions because of how passionate the engineers were about their jobs which created good role models for us. The freebies were great and the smiles on faces greater. It was a fantastic day out and encourages more girls to go into STEM careers. There really are so many opportunities, there's a place for everyone.

Phoebe (Year 9)

ASPIRE. BELIEVE. CREATE.



COMPUTER SCIENCE



We recently took Year 7 students to the Powering Transformation Dell trip at the University of Bedfordshire. The event is designed for students to spend a day at a university campus to gain an insight into higher education and the world of work, whilst taking part in a problem-solving challenge which focuses on solving social and environmental issues using technology.

The event was fully facilitated by a Dell Computers facilitator, and students had the chance to engage with mentors and university student ambassadors who supported them throughout the day. The students had a direct opportunity to ask questions about higher education and the technology sector.

During the innovation session our students came up with fascinating invention ideas ranging from the design of robots that eat plastic, to mobile homes that can be used for the homeless. One group explained how technology could be used to deliver food to endangered animals using drones. Another group explained how filtration of rain water could be used on a large scale to provide water in areas that have regular droughts.

Coming up in the summer term is the BCS Coding competition to be undertaken by Years 8 and 9. We have traditionally won this competition and this year will be no different...we want to win this!

Mr Mataire

CULTURE CLUB



Earlier this term a focus group of Year 9 students was set up to discuss a pilot project with Bedford Creative Arts and Aspire Higher. They had an intense session with Elaine and Ami from BCA, discussing what is meant by culture, how it is accessed in school, the value it has in our lives and the types of careers it can lead to. BCA have taken the results and based on the feedback and interests shown, offered five options for projects ranging from a music video, a short film, a live show, magazine or brand design. The project will be delivered at school led by an artist. The final outcome will be showcased at the University of Bedford. We are currently awaiting students' responses to the proposals and look forward to the launch of the Culture Club after Easter.

Ms Saunders



SIXTHFORM STUDENT VOICE VISIT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT



Members of the Sixth Form Student Voice had the exciting opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament last month.

Students enjoyed an immersive tour of the House with their very own guide. As the tour progressed, it was clear that the students

considered the history of the building and the traditions of the law-making process by asking insightful questions. Highlights of the day included visits to live debates in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, where students watched attentively from the public gallery.

The day finished with a workshop on laws and a twenty minute Q&A session with Bedford MP for Bedford and Kempston, Mohammad Yasin. This time allowed students to ask questions about important issues concerning their local community.

Mrs Croucher

FRIENDS OF MARK RUTHERFORD



Support us through
easyfundraising

Our newly formed **Friends of Mark Rutherford** are looking for support from parents and carers to help with fundraising. We would like more covered outdoor spaces for our students to use during social times.

It won't cost you a penny. Please simply join easyfundraising and every time you buy something online they will donate funds to our school.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend of Mark Rutherford please contact the school.

Mr Briggs

BERLIN 2023



On Friday 10th February at 2am, Year 10 history students arrived at school excited about the trip to come. Berlin was such a beautiful city with so many historical attractions, so for a history trip it was not only educational but a once in a lifetime experience. I think I can speak for most of the students who went by saying that the TV tower was one of our favourite spots to visit; the mesmerizing view of the city was one you could not find anywhere else.

My favourite place was the tour of the concentration camp in Sachsenhausen. We were escorted by a very educated guide; the whole experience for me was incredibly moving and educational. The entire trip brought about a new perspective for us about life under Nazi rule and Weimar Germany which we would have never experienced through a textbook.

Alongside the amazing opportunities that were provided for us, the connections and unexpected friendships that were made throughout provide support for why this trip will forever be an unforgettable experience for us all.

Millie W (Year 10)





VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE



On Wednesday 18th February, ten students, many of whom have been involved with the Geography Club, attended the Climate Change Summit at the University of Bedfordshire. This was a large scale event that involved seventeen other schools from Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Milton Keynes and Essex and numerous stakeholders in the climate change industry. Alongside the in-depth and informative workshops, the students were also treated to a marketplace style exhibition, allowing them to meet and greet sustainability representatives from a number of exciting businesses, including Microsoft, STEMPoint East and Unilever. Our students did us proud and got thoroughly involved in the activities and asked lots of thought-provoking questions. The whole day was a resounding success and it really had our students thinking about the challenges and potential opportunities that climate change poses. We will be looking to implement some changes ourselves in the coming months to make positive steps to reducing the carbon footprint in school. More information on the day can be found on the UoBs website, link below.

<https://www.beds.ac.uk/news/2023/january/university-hosts-climate-change-summit-for-region-s-youth/>

Mr Morgan



Wadham Project

Year 10 students have attended two lecture sessions this year. The last one included a talk that explored art history, led by our own Mrs Saunders. Our next outing will be to a STEM day at Redborne School.

Mr Nicholls

Twenty-four students are participating in this year's Brilliant Club Scholars Club. In this project students work with a university lecturer on an extended research project. The method is very much a university style approach and involves tutorials over several weeks.

Raising Aspirations Bedford is a new scheme to help students to achieve their best by cultivating their leadership skills.

To help with this, students attended a conference at Kimberley College to explore ways of improving and extending their autonomy. The Year 12 Speakers' programme is moving ahead providing our students with access to people from all walks of life. Recent visitors have included the Mayor, Dr Peter Clough, Zara Matthews and John Le Hal. Peter spoke about his academic career since leaving Mark Rutherford School, whilst Zara spoke about the Panacea Society and her career in museums.

John built a successful business in public relations and has now become heavily involved in social action.

Mr Nicholls



GREEN CAREERS EVENT



Student feedback was very positive:

It gave a good insight into the different avenues of geography and sustainability.

I have learnt how to be more sustainable in work, how to cut down a huge predicted temperature rise and how water can bring about many jobs.

Useful varied career advice and space to ask all questions.

New perspectives and different career paths I hadn't thought of before.

How important sustainability is in industry jobs and how the area is growing.

I have more direction into what area I would like to go into.

The Green Careers Event opened with speakers from the industry, to include: National Highways, Anglian Water and the University of Bedfordshire. Then the students were given the opportunity to circulate round to the companies and talk to them about careers and opportunities in their industries and how the businesses were achieving their sustainability objectives.

Mrs Unwin

HAIRDRESSING TRIP



We took six students to Bedford College's Hairdressing and Beauty department. The students spent the whole day there and had a tour of the building, then had practical sessions with one of the lecturers on how to wash and blow dry hair on a mannequin. In the afternoon they experienced filing nails and applying nail varnish. They learnt a lot about how the course would run and about the hair and beauty and barbering industry, and had the chance to talk to lecturers and students at the centre. The students were totally engrossed in their activities as you can see from the photos.

Mrs Unwin

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 27th April 2023
Take Your Child to Work Day for Year 8 students

Reminder the deadline for forms to be in is **Friday 19th April 2023**

For more information contact Careers@mrus.co.uk





YEAR 7 MEET AN EMPLOYER EVENT



It's never too early to start thinking about jobs and careers! We put this theory into practice by organising for a group of eighteen employers to come in to school and talk to our Year 7 students in a speed networking event. There was a hum of chat from the room as the Year 7s quizzed the employers about their companies and what they did for a living. Some employers had bought activities or equipment in to stimulate questions.

The employers were impressed with the students' engagement:

"The engagement was fantastic...the enthusiasm of the pupils was infectious!"

"I thought they were a wonderful group of students."

"The students were polite and showed real interest. Whilst some had clear ideas many didn't and this type of event is a good opportunity to broaden horizons."

The feedback from the students was positive too; they were impressed that there were lots of jobs that they never knew about. We will be holding another of these sessions in June; if there are any businesses who would like to join in, please contact the Careers Lead on Careers@mrus.co.uk

Mrs Unwin

STRING GROUP AT BEDFORD FESTIVAL



On Thursday 9th March, Markato string group performed at the Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama, and won their class! A diverse programme comprising classical music and a rock medley including 'Thunderstruck' by AC/DC was received fantastically well by the audience and adjudicator, who awarded a distinction. Describing the performance as creating a 'wonderful pensive atmosphere from the outset', with a 'good sense of articulation', the adjudicator was keen to see how this group continues to develop and returns next year!

What an accolade, thank you Ms Kirby and all our congratulations to all our string group.

Mrs Jones



CHOIR AT BEDFORD FESTIVAL



On Saturday 4th March, Nova Voce Choir performed at the Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama and received some lovely feedback from the adjudicator who marked them in second place!

A fantastic and expressive performance of a medley from 'Les Miserables' was hugely enjoyed by the performers and audience alike. 'Heartfelt singing from small forces' which 'entertained and sustained interest' were some of the positive comments about the performance. Congratulations everyone, we are so proud!

Mrs Jones



To keep up with our Performing Arts faculty, follow us on Instagram:
[@MarkRutherfordPerformingArts](https://www.instagram.com/MarkRutherfordPerformingArts).



Box Office for all productions:
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/mark-rutherford-school>
Email: BoxOffice@mrus.co.uk

SIX: Teen Edition

Students across Key Stage 4 and 5 (Years 10 – 13) had the opportunity to perform in one of the most popular musicals of the day. SIX tells the story of the wives of Henry VIII in the form of a concert. With only a small cast of six (although we doubled this to twelve) the cast had an incredibly challenging job to be on stage throughout the entire show, performing multiple songs and energetic dance numbers. The performance was supported by a live band of students and has been nominated for an award from NODA for Best Youth Production. We find out the results very soon.

SIX Trip

Following on from the success of the performance of SIX at school, students in the cast, crew and band were able to travel to London to see the show in the West End. It was fantastic to see it and brought back all the memories of the show.



Matilda

Back in December, students in Key Stage 3 (Years 7 – 9) to put on their performance of 'Matilda' that they had been rehearsing since September. In this musical retelling of the Roald Dahl classic, Matilda goes to school, comes face to face with the Trunchbull and discovers herself. Our younger students did an amazing job of performing this with so much energy and enthusiasm. Thanks go to ex-student Jake Field who now works for a professional rigging company who returned to assist us with the swings that famously go with this production so our cast could go all out. A huge congratulations also needs to go to Able who played the Trunchbull and was awarded the title of Best Young Performer from NODA across multiple performances from across this region.

Mrs Farnsworth



CONNECTIONS



Every year the National Theatre runs its Connections Festival. Plays are specially written for this and performed by groups up and down the country at their home venue and then at a professional theatre. This year our piece is called Innocent Creatures and has students from across the school working together on and off the stage. It will be performed at school on Monday 20th March. Tickets for this and all upcoming productions available online:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/mark-rutherford-school>

Mrs Farnsworth

YEAR 11 WOMAN IN BLACK



'Woman in Black' at the Fortune Theatre has been a feature of London's West End for the last thirty three years. Sadly this giant performance which has been wowing audiences for so long has come to a close. Our Year 11 students were fortunate to be able to watch one of the performances in the final week, in preparation for their GCSE Drama live theatre exam. This show had so much going on both on and off stage that it will give them a lot to analyse, evaluate and learn from, while also being a great piece of London's history that they were able to experience.

Mrs Farnsworth

BTEC TO SHEERHATCH PRIMARY



Recently our BTEC Performing Arts students visited Sheerhatch Primary School to give a performance as part of their BTEC qualification. Not only did they perform for the children, they also discovered what it is like to teach and lead a group of young people through a series of workshops based on Drama, Dance and Music. Everyone had a good time and learned a lot.

Mrs Farnsworth



Monday 17th April 2023 Term Begins

Tuesday 18th April – Wednesday 28th June 2023 Year and 13 External Examinations

Thursday 20th April 2023 Year 8 Virtual Parents Evening

Thursday 27th April 2023 Year 10 Supporting Success Evening

Thursday 25th May 2023 Year 9 Tutor Evening

29th May – 2nd June 2023 Half Term

Thursday 8th, Thursday 15th & Wednesday 28th June 2023 Contingency Dates for All

Monday 19th June – Friday 30th June 2023 Year 12 Mock Examinations

KEY DATES



Wednesday 21st June – Friday 7th July 2023 Year 10 Mock Examinations

Wednesday 28th June 2023 Year 7 Virtual Parents Evening

Monday 3rd July – Friday 7th July 2023 Year 12 Biology Field Trip

Friday 21st July 2023 Staff Training Day

Thursday 17th August 2023 Year 13 External Examination Summer Term Results Day

Thursday 24th August 2023 Year 11 External Examination Summer Term Results Day