

SUMMER 2023



Mark Rutherford School



Welcome to our summer term's newsletter; the final one of this academic year. Each term we continue pack this full of amazing news about our students' achievements, all of which are supported by our dedicated staff. There continues to be something for everybody in our school, both in and outside of the classroom. There is a such an array of articles that recognise the motivation, resilience and success of our school community.

This term has gone by so quickly with a focus on the five-week external examination period for GCSE and A Level students. The students demonstrated their commitment to this process and are now enjoying a well-earned summer break. We look forward to seeing them on results days on Thursday 17th (A Level) and Thursday 24th August (GCSE) to celebrate their achievements. In addition to the busyness of any school week, we welcomed an Ofsted inspection team into the school for two days in the middle of June. We are awaiting the final report which I hope to be able to share with you before we finish for the summer break.

As a Senior Leadership Team we made a number of significant changes this time last year for this academic year. In September there will be some minor tweaks, to include to our Behaviour Policy, as we continue to have high expectations of our students to ensure they are ready for life after school in the modern world. We have also already met our new Year 7 and Year 12 students and look forward to them joining our school community after the summer break.

At the end of any academic year we have a few staff leaving for promotion, due to relocating, career changes and retirement. We know they have loved being part of our school community and are equally going to be sorely missed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work, dedication and the support they have given our students and the wider school community during their time at our school. We wish them all the best for the future.

I am also delighted to inform you that Mr Tyler has recently been promoted into the Deputy Headteacher (Behaviour, Safeguarding and Student Welfare) role. He will continue to support and manage our SEND provision across the school whilst working closely alongside myself and Mrs Spencer as we continue to drive the school forwards to ensure our students get the best education and personal development opportunities possible.

Finally, we start the new academic year on Tuesday 5th September 2023. A letter communicating the arrangements for the first week back has already been sent.

I hope you enjoy reading this term's newsletter and I wish you a lovely summer break.

Mrs K Foster
Headteacher

SMARTIES STEM CLUB



This year has seen the popular Smarties STEM club go back to its roots with a combination of fun STEM activities and the chance for Year 7 and 8 students to earn themselves a bronze CREST award from the British Science Association. Aply run by our Sixth Form STEM scholars Ben, Mackayla, Ellen and Beth, Smarties runs for an hour after school on a Wednesday. The STEM scholars meet every week to plan and devise the activities independently. 'This year's CREST challenge was to investigate how and why materials break, smash or bend in different ways through experiments the younger years students designed themselves', said Ellen. Our Year 7 and 8 students stated that 'Smarties is a delightful club filled with fun and learning. The Sixth Form holding the club are not only helpful, they're kind and funny' and 'It's super fun and unique, you do amazing activities that you don't do in class. The Sixth Formers who run it are really friendly'.

Mrs Baytar



GEOGRAPHY CLUB



The students were asked to plan, locate and create their own sustainable and environmentally friendly theme park from scratch that would have a positive effect on the local economy.

At first, they had to find a location in the UK where their theme park was going to be built and then their job was to create a model sized version of their theme park. However, they had to use only environmentally friendly materials. There were plenty of different themes, which included Disney, television shows and famous film franchises.

There was a lot of hard work put in and the results were fantastic! Well done to everyone who attended the Geography club this year; you have been amazing!

Mr Morgan

MOTIVATED. RESPECTFUL. SUCCESSFUL.

DANCE DISPLAY 2023!



This year's dance display took place on Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th June. The evening showcased the work of GCSE Dance, A Level Dance, BTEC Performing Arts students, as well as works from extra-curricular activities. The evening delivered a range of pieces including our Junior Theatre Festival piece where students performed an extract from 'Matilda The Musical'. The piece was awarded the 'Outstanding Achievement in Dance' award and we were commended on how we used our movement to create imagery. Students worked hard throughout the year creating imaginative and energetic performances which showcased their performance skills. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by both students and their friends and families who came to support.

Mrs Talbot

PRIMARY STEM DAY - STEM SCHOLARS LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE



After a three year hiatus, our highly successful primary STEM day was back! Coinciding with British Science Week, students in Years 5 and 6 from three local primary schools took part; Renhold Primary, Ravensden Primary and Goldington Green Academy. Run by our incredibly able Sixth Form STEM scholars (Ellen, Ben, Beth and Mackayla) with help from some of their peers, the event was themed around a spy training programme. There were three activities involving psychology, building parachutes for an egg drop and extracting banana DNA in the lab. For the STEM scholars, the day was part of a programme resulting in a leadership award run by Villiers Park Educational Trust who said 'It was a pleasure to be there. The whole event was brilliant. The Year 12 students leading the project were so well organised, had thought about every eventuality. The theme and content of all three sessions were well explained and delivered with confidence and clarity'. Quotes from our young visitors include 'I loved doing the DNA I felt like a real scientist', 'I really like the whole day because all the activities were fun and exciting'.

Mrs Baytar



BLUE PERIS TRIP



Forty four Year 7 students embarked on an adventure to Blue Peris in north Wales. The students took part in a range of activities making new friends and pushing themselves to try new challenges. A particular highlight for the students was gorge walking, where they got to climb up waterfalls, slide down different rocks and traverse through pools of water along Afon Ddu. The students were also able to go mining, learning about the history of the local slate mines, and challenge themselves to conquer their fear of heights with rock climbing. All of the students were able to work on their teamwork, leadership and organisational skills whilst having fun and making fantastic memories. Special thanks go to Miss Young, Mrs Bailey, Mr Stokes and Ms Field for supporting the students throughout the trip.

Miss Hulance



MEET THE MARK RUTHERFORD BRONZE INDUSTRIAL CADETS!



Two teams of intrepid students working with Mr Betts and supported by The University of Bedfordshire Aspire Higher programme have just taken part in a regional STEM competition run by EDT, the Bronze Industrial cadets.

Each team was set the task of finding a solution to a problem which was based on the idea that due to climate change, our school had become an island and needed to be self supporting.

The teams had to find out what the school needs were and come up with a solution. Each team had to plan an approach, design a poster, write a report and then present to a group of judges by Zoom... not an easy task as it all had to be done in less than a week!

On 20th June, the teams went to Cambridge University's Department of Engineering for a Celebration, Graduation and Awards giving ceremony. The day consisted of interactive stands, topical STEM talks, opportunities to find out what peers have done during their projects and the chance to find out even more about the future career opportunities that are available. The best part of the day? One of our teams, The Sustainers, received the best teamwork award!

The Sustainers: Frankie, Reece, Helena, Leah, Grace, Amber, Wahid.

The Island Boys: Jack, George, Oliver, Adam, Jack, Jamie.

Huge congratulations to all involved, we are so proud of you, well done Bronze Industrial cadets!

Mrs Baytar

ART



This term has been very busy for Art.

The Year 10 Art GCSE and Year 12 Art and Photography A Level students went on a trip to the V&A museum where they saw a wealth of artefacts from Harry Styles' cardigan to a full-size cast of Michelangelo's David. The trip was extremely successful, enabling students to see and documents objects in the flesh. One student commented that she "just felt rich being here".

All came home inspired and excited having discovered a museum that was new to many.

We were also invited to take part in a pilot project that is a collaboration between Bedford Creative Arts and Aspire Higher. A range of projects with an arts practioner were offered and the students chose to work with Junior Filmmakers, a leading organisation for the development of young film and TV production talent in the UK. Thus, Film Club was established with Years 8 and 9. They are producing, writing, directing, acting, filming and editing a short film over six weeks. This has been a very steep learning curve for the students and we can't wait to see the final product that will be completed and premiered by the end of term.

As the A Levels were completed, the Summer Show was installed in the Garner Lecture Theatre foyer, a space that lends its self so well to art exhibitions. This year alongside A Level Art and Photography, the Year 8 Construction Club's large snake sculpture was featured and the Key Stage 3 Portrait competition winners work was on display. The event was very well attended this year and it was lovely to see so many former students supporting our up-and-coming artists.

Ms Saunders



YEAR

7



ANANDITA



CASEY



MYAH



EMILY



KEIRA



EMILY & MYAH

YEAR

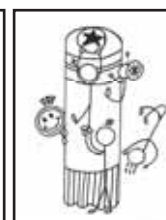
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JESS



BRIGHT



SAVANNAH

TRIP TO BLETCHLEY PARK



We recently took Year 11, 12 and 13 Computer Science students to the Young Women in Stem/Cyber event held at Bletchley Park, the home of the code breakers. The event was in recognition of the contribution of women in the development of code development though the work they did with Alan Turing to decode the Enigma messages. The message decoding is said to have reduced the length World War II by up to two years. While women were first charged with performing clerical duties, their mandate was later expanded to include the codebreaking, typically done by male cryptanalysts. They were soon operating the Bombe machines and Colossus computers, considered the most important auxiliary work.

One of the experts present was Angeliki Patsiavou who has an M.Sc. in Economics from the London School of Economics.

She has a keen interest in innovative transformation programs which aim to redefine the use of technology in businesses using real-time data and user feedback. We hope the students got some inspiration from her career path and success.

BCS CYBER CHALLENGE 2023



Mr Mataire



This year we have successfully run Coding clubs for Years 8, 9 and 10. The aim of club is to develop students programming skills and to inspire them to consider programming and other digital careers in the future. Activities in these clubs include developing Python programming coding skills and basic problem-solving. This also includes writing code to interface Raspberry Pies with different devices such as bugler alarms. The club members also participated in the Cyber Challenge held at Cranfield University on the 6th of July 2023. The competition is a positive way to fulfil STEM benchmarks like linking curriculum learning to careers. This gives students exposure to what is available in terms of technology in schools and higher education post-16. Jack and Alex came first in the Year 9 and 10 competitions respectively. Damien and Lawrence came second in the Year 8 group. Our heartfelt congratulations to these students who worked hard in this competition.



Mr Mataire

YEAR 7 MEET AN EMPLOYER EVENT



This was the final session of the Year 7s opportunity to meet a local employer. The students were enthusiastic and engaged as they chatted to the representatives from the National Health Service, Barclays Bank, Kier, STEM ambassadors, Atlas Converting, RWE Power Station and others. They were particularly intrigued with the insect models that were brought along, and enjoyed having a go with the medical equipment brought along by our health reps.

Could you spare an hour or two to support careers events like this? Get in touch with Mrs Unwin, our Careers Lead at Careers@mrus.co.uk.

Mrs Unwin



CAMPS INTERNATIONAL



In the summer of 2024, 44 students will be embarking on Mark Rutherford School's fifth Camps International month-long expedition to Borneo. Whilst there, the students will be completing volunteer work, where they will participate in a range of community and environmental projects, each of which is aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and designed to make a significant and lasting impact on the region's most critical issues. They will be staying in permanent camps located within the hearts of communities which enables the students to see the direct impact their project work will have, as well as experience the culture of the country. Students are currently fundraising for this opportunity of a life time, carrying out sponsored activities, cake sales, organising and hosting showcases and quiz nights. Please keep an eye out for these events and support wherever you are able to.

Miss Hulance

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY INTERSCHOOLS COMPETITION



On Tuesday 20th March four teams from local secondary schools, including a Mark Rutherford team, took part in a Design Technology Challenge as part of World Water Day held in The Garner lecture theatre. Engineers from Anglia Water and @OneAlliance, together with Mr Jenkins and Mr Redmond, designed a challenge in which the teams had to design and build a water purification system over the course of the day with minimal support from teachers and staff. Each team then had to present its design and test the finished model.

Following judging by the Engineers, trophies were awarded to the top three schools. Goldington Academy took first place, but we are proud to announce that we came second following an excellent presentation by our team of their project. This was the first of hopefully many more such competitions to come as we hope to make this an annual event.

Huge thanks to both Mr Jenkins and Mr Redmond especially for their Herculean efforts in moving all the kit to the Garner Lecture Theatre. Thanks also to Caroline from Anglia Water and her team of engineers for a brilliant day!

Mrs Baytar

SUCCESS FOR YOUNG ENTERPRISE GROUP IN AREA FINAL



A group of Year 12 students has been participating in the Young Enterprise Company Programme this year and were invited to the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Milton Keynes area final in May 2023. Students took part in a three-stage process during the event. The first was setting up their trade stand to show their pet bandanas that have been sustainably sourced by students, and hand made by them. They then had a gruelling interview from two judges who questioned them on the highs and lows of setting up their own business and the team dynamic through the year. Finally, they finished by having to give a presentation on their business and the journey they had with their pet bandanas, to the judges and other schools. The group did incredibly well and won the sustainability award and the innovation award. We are extremely proud of their efforts through the year and at the competition and would like to congratulate them on their achievements.

Mrs McAloone

HARRY POTTER TRIP



Students in Year 8 visited London to see Harry Potter and the Cursed Child (Parts 1 & 2). It was a long but exciting day getting to see two shows. Everyone was amazed and inspired by the magic on stage where people and props were flying, moving by themselves, disappearing and much more. It was a fantastic show that was obviously very well-rehearsed with all the transitions and interaction being seamless. Everyone really enjoyed the show and we had members of the public and theatre staff compliment us on the students' behaviour.

Mr Doughty

GENOME CAMPUS



The Year 13 biologists visited the world-renowned Welcome Genome Campus where they learned about the history of gene sequencing and the application of genomics. This was an exceptional opportunity to see what we had learnt in the classroom being applied in ground-breaking research and development that is able to influence the scientific community throughout the world. The scientists we met during our visit were able to share their passion and enthusiasm for their work, which we all found really interesting and reinvigorated our passion for biology, allowing the students to visualise where they could take their love for biology post A Levels and university.

Miss Hulance

STUDENTS WORK WITH PARAMEDICS



Students have been learning about the work of a paramedic, with hands on experience under the guidance of an expert. The 'accident victim' had fallen off a wall and they were being shown how to treat him, including gory bits like clearing his airway, resuscitation, realigning limbs and inserting a cannula. The students also had the opportunity to talk to nurses, paediatricians, a doctor, radiographers, and to find out about apprenticeships and courses at local universities.

Mrs Unwin



TRIP TO SHUTTLEWORTH COLLEGE



A super day was had at Shuttleworth college visiting the animals both inside and outside. There were some really cuddly animals (rabbits, and guinea pigs and donkeys) and quite a few we were keen to avoid handling spiders and snakes. Our students were able to observe the practical tasks that the Shuttleworth students were doing, and see the buildings and grounds that form the college. They met staff and found out about the courses and what student life would be like at Shuttleworth.

Mrs Unwin





Year 10 Wadham Project

A group of Year 10 students were taken to Wadham College, Oxford by Mr Nicholls and Mrs Unwin on Monday 5th June. Wadham College is our link college at the university and as such we work closely to encourage our students to aspire to higher education. The Students were treated to a range of activities including a tour of the college, a visit to the world-renowned Pitt Rivers Museum and a chemistry-based activity. There was also an information event about progressing through GCSE to Sixth Form and beyond.



In addition, a smaller group of students have participated in three further sessions this year. These have been extension seminars which have focused on Genetics, Philosophy, History of Art and Psychology. The third session was an all-day STEM Day hosted by Redborne School which included a design challenge (marble run) and a mathematics quandary. Advice about progressing to university was also given.

The next part of the project is to read a book from the Very Short Introductions series and present a summary to the group.

Mr Nicholls



Year 12 UCAS Discovery Event at Polhill Campus

On 20th June, Year 12 students attended the Discovery Event or Higher Education Conference at the University of Bedfordshire. Over the years this event has grown from simply being an opportunity to speak with university representatives to one that has a festival atmosphere. In addition to universities providing stalls there were a series of talks about a range of opportunities including apprenticeships, teaching and engineering. On top of this was entertainment and a variety of food for students.

Mr Nicholls



Year 12 Speakers Assembly

The speakers at Mark Rutherford School is provided to enable students to participate in a university style lecture scenario. During the sessions guests speak about their careers and the topic in hand. The aim is to allow students to encounter aspects of the current world which they may not meet during normal classroom lessons. Contributors this year have been varied. David Hoare, Chair of Heart Academies Trust, spoke about his business career and role with Ofsted. On the political front we were pleased to host Mohammad Yasin MP and now former Mayor of Bedford, Dave Hodgson. Dr Peter Clough (Cranfield University) spoke about his journey from Mark Rutherford School to his research into hydrogen. On the creative side, Sadie Hunt from UoB talked about the role of the arts in the UK. Keith Fossey and John Le Hal talked about their charity work. Keith leads a charity helping education in Eswatini whilst John has been involved with a youth leadership programme. Zara Matthews spoke about the Panacea Society and the role of heritage in the economy. We were particularly pleased to have Dr Nicola Darwood from UoB provide tips about extended writing.

Mr Nicholls



Pictured is Ben Wilson assisted by Steve Jephcote

Year 12 Oxbridge Talk

In May, the school hosted a borough-wide event about university applications attended by students from Biddenham International School, St Thomas More School and Wixams Academy. The session was led by Dr Hugh Munro, Access and Outreach Officer at Wadham College. The session discussed how to make a personal statement stand out and how to demonstrate further interest in a chosen subject. Our colleagues at the University of Bedfordshire provided 'goodies' including the very popular coffee mugs.

Mr Nicholls

Year 12 Brilliant Club

Fifteen students enrolled on the Scholars' Programme provided by the Brilliant Club. The programme places university researchers (PhD Tutors) in schools, to provide our students with experience of university-style learning. Sessions are taught through university-style tutorials based around a supra-curricular topic designed to stretch and challenge. This cohort has been examining the Horror-Comedy genre with Kelly Hatley of Falmouth University. To complete the programme, students submit an assignment of between 2000 and 2500 words. This is marked as at university with participants receiving a degree-level classification. To celebrate there is a 'Graduation Ceremony' at the University of Warwick.

Mr Nicholls

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Autumn Term Key Dates:

Monday 4th September 2023	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 5th September 2023	Term Begins
Friday 20th October 2023	Academic Mentoring for all Years
23rd – 27th October 2023	Half Term
Friday 24th November 2023	Staff Training Day
Thursday 30th November 2023	Year 11 Subject Evening

MARK RUTHERFORD SCHOOL MURAL

Mark Rutherford School has been really lucky to have worked with Katie Allen with the design and painting of two well-being murals. Sixth Form art students assisted by students from younger years were involved. Pictured is our latest mural.

Mr Nicholls



SCHOOL DINNERS PLEASE NOTE: FROM SEPTEMBER THE PRICE OF A SCHOOL DINNER WILL BE £2.75.