A Word from the Head Teacher

Yesterday evening I joined our Yr 11s and their teachers at their Leavers Prom at the Mercure Bankfield Hotel. It was a really enjoyable evening celebrating all that they have achieved in their exams and their time at Bingley Grammar.

Many of our Yr 11 students will be returning to our Sixth Form in September but to those who have chosen a different path I would like to say thank you for all your hard work and your contributions to our Bingley Grammar community and good luck for the future.

As one year group leaves us, another joins and we are looking forward to meeting our new Yr 7 cohort and their families next week. We have a series of transition days and evenings where students will be able to get a feel for the school, meet their fellow classmates and begin the settling in process so they are ready to go in September.

Parents will have a chance to meet with our senior leadership team, the Yr 7 Head of Year Mrs Roberts and Mrs Faunch our student support officer who will be guiding the students through their first year at Bingley.

Mr Luke Weston
Headteacher
On Friday 26th May, just before half term, our Year 13 gathered at Oakwood Hall in their finery to celebrate their time at Bingley Grammar School as their final few weeks approach.

This fantastic evening started with a three course meal for staff and students. Following this, the achievements of some selected students were recognised in our “famous” awards ceremony. The glittering array of categories included such titles as “Most likely to become Prime Minister”, “Most likely to become famous”, “The person in the year who looks most like a polar bear” and finished with our “Prom King and Prom Queen” awarded to Callum Attrill and Lucy Topham. After the tables were cleared away our students danced the night away with our Sixth form team and form tutors.

Throughout the evening, the weather was beautiful allowing us extensive use of the picturesque gardens at Oakwood Hall. It provided the perfect backdrop to many group photos with students and staff as they celebrated their achievements to date and looked forward to what is to come. The Sixth form team would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Year 13 not only on their contribution to such a wonderful evening, but also upon all of their hard work and determination to succeed across the two years in Sixth form. A really big “well done” and “all the very best for all your future plans and dreams”.

To view more photos from the evening visit our school website >>
Bradford Uni STEM Team  
Forensic Work  
On Thursday 22nd June, we invited Bradford University’s STEM team into school to carry out two workshops on analytical chemistry techniques.

Our top set Year 10 scientists and our Year 12 A-Level Chemists took part in Forensic Workshops to discover the cause of death of a murder victim. They used some really high tech analytical techniques to analyse different substances including paracetamol and different poisons (right down to a molecular level!). The students were supported by three fantastic University teachers using techniques including: infrared (IR) spectroscopy; NMR spectroscopy (similar to an MRI scanner); and spectrophotometry.

This was a unique opportunity for the students to be really inspired, stretched and challenged whilst using equipment usually only found in University science departments. The NMR machine is a new ‘mini’ version of a machine normally the size of a phonebox, and the IR machine even contained a flawless £8,000 diamond in it! Both groups were really involved and produced some excellent work in identifying the culprit!
Bright Sparks Treasure Hunt

On Monday 21st June our Health and Social Care students, with the help of Mrs Williams and Miss Frankland, held a Pirate Treasure Hunt for the children who attend our school-run playgroup, Bingley Bright Sparks.

Our Yr 12 students set out the pirate treasure hunt along the canal ready for the children to find the treasure and we were blessed with a beautiful day to enjoy it.

Our Yr 10 and Yr 12 HSC students helped the tiny pirates find clues along the way. Everyone got a pirate medal and gold coin from the treasure chest. The group had a well-deserved rest and a picnic at the Five Rise Locks before walking back. Mrs Williams said,

“Our students were fabulous helping the toddlers all morning - everybody had a lovely time. Thank you to Miss Frankland for organising the event.”
‘A Healthier You’

Last Wednesday our Restaurant held a fantastic event called ‘A Healthier You’ offering students a chance to try new foods and have a health check whilst there.

Catering Academy’s Nutritionist Louise Goodall said, “The event was focused on increasing knowledge and awareness of healthy eating amongst the students. We drew special attention to promoting the uptake of fruits and vegetables with a range of free salads for students to try and with the use of the ‘smoothie bike’.”

The smoothie bike was a great hit with the students! It encouraged some healthy competition and is a great tool for helping our students learn to love fruit. For both the salads and the smoothies, recipe cards were provided so that the students could take them away and try them at home!

Students in all year groups had the opportunity to measure their blood pressure to raise conversation about the link between diet and blood pressure. We looked at the amount of sugar within various popular soft drinks that are available in shops and discussed the consequences of a diet high in sugar. There were also leaflets and booklets available which looked at healthier eating and quick changes you can make within your diet. Louise said, “We carry our eating habits with us from adolescence through to adulthood and it is so important that healthy eating habits are established during these teen years. Having this healthier lifestyle reinforced within a school setting every day will further assist in ensuring the students develop into healthier adults. I love that I can meet with students and facilitate this within the schools we cater for through my job role with Catering Academy. The students were great today - very enthusiastic and keen to try out new things!”
Ms Boyd nominated for Best Arts Project in the National Lottery Awards!

Ms Boyd, our part-time Art Technician, created The Creative Butterfly Project as a Community Artist, for women survivors of domestic abuse.

Her aim was to enable the participants to increase their confidence and self-esteem to rebuild who they were after surviving adversity. Using expressive art processes they have created work that shows how strong they are now, and they have had several exhibitions at various venues in Bradford, such as Bradford College, Kala Sangam and a planned exhibition at Shipley Library in August.

Ms Boyd initially presented her idea of facilitating just 3 creative workshops (voluntarily) to the Bradford based charity ‘Staying Put’ in May 2016. The Creative Butterfly Project was a great success and Staying Put applied for lottery funding for it to run for a year.

The Creative Butterfly Project has been nominated for a National Lottery Award, which celebrates good causes and community projects across the country.

It is one project out of seven in the Arts Category that the public can vote for to win the overall prize of £5,000 (for the project) and a trophy, as well as appearing on The One Show!

To watch a short video Ms Boyd has created sharing her group’s thoughts on the Creative Butterfly Project, visit the News section of our school website.

>> Click here to vote for The Creative Butterfly Project >>
Healthy Eating Week

During Healthy Eating Week the food team and students have been organising events to raise awareness of the importance of eating a healthy diet.

On Wednesday 14th June the Food department opened a pop up Healthy Snack Bar at break time to encourage students to try something new and healthy for free!
Helped by the Yr 7 Gastronauts (Mrs Wilkinson’s Food Science Club) we welcomed approximately 200 KS3 students through the door to try the ‘subway style’ salad bar, crudité dipping station, smoothie iced lollies and high fibre (oat and cranberry) biscuits.
Students had a great time walking round the department making their own deli salad and chatting to other students about healthy eating. The aim was for students to try something new, increase their five a day portions of fruit and vegetables and to learn some great ideas for healthy snacks they could make themselves at home. Over 200 students sampled the food and healthy products - we even had a takeaway service for our students who are fasting at the moment.
All the snacks went down really well and Mrs Wilkinson was extremely impressed by our students’ behaviour and good manners – well done and thank you to the Gastronaut helpers who made the event a success.
Breakfast Muffins

To mark the end of Healthy Eating Week, on the Friday morning Mrs Wilkinson baked a huge batch of healthy breakfast muffins which her students delivered to as many form groups as possible during morning registration. The muffins were packed with fruit, wholemeal flour and oats providing students with lots of slow release energy they need for the school day. We hope they gave you extra energy for learning throughout the day! If you would like to try the muffins for yourself, here is the recipe:
Last week in their Spanish lessons Yr 8 enjoyed receiving the second instalments of their pen friend letters that have been sent to us all the way from Spain.

Each of the 21 students in the class have now written two letters in Spanish to send to a Spanish student who is studying English in Madrid. We write in Spanish and they write back in English. We have enjoyed learning about their families, hobbies, school, exams and even their musical tastes (it turns out quite a few of them don’t like Justin Beiber, much to our dismay!). We will now start to write back to them in Spanish and await their next replies. Here are a few personal accounts of the project so far:

Yasmin says, “I love sending and receiving the letters because I am very interested in what they are up to. It also improves my Spanish, instead of writing it in a book we are talking to real people”

Shumi says, “I think the pen pal letters are a great way of making friends in Spain. It is also a great way of communicating. We help them with their English as they do with our Spanish vocab.”

Maria says, “Throughout the year we have been doing a pen pal project, in which our Spanish class has been sending letters to Spain. By doing this, it has improved my Spanish vocab as well as their English.”

Yr 8 Receive Letters from Spain!
Yr 12 Biology Trip

Last Wednesday (21st June) our amazing Yr 12 Biologists visited Myrtle Park as part of their practical work studying different environments.

The students looked at the impact that managing the fields for events and the public has in Myrtle Park, as compared to a wild habitat in the same area.

We also look at the effect of human impact on the invertebrates and life in the river. The students learned different ways to sample living organisms in their environments and in the river without harming them.

The trip was finished off with coffee, cake and a picnic - thank you to all the students for your mature attitudes and fantastic behaviour.
Primary Science Days

Over the last couple of weeks we have welcomed students from Eldwick, Crossflatts and Saltaire Primary into school to take part in our annual Primary Science Days ‘Cow Do You Do?’

The primary students took part in group discussions, experiments and practicals explaining the importance of Genetics and DNA. The students worked on their own DNA identity cards complete with fingerprint and code name, extracted DNA from a strawberry, made large scale DNA chains and designed their own breed of Cows! Lastly the group created DNA bracelets for a range of animal and plant life. Mr Langan even managed to squeeze in his favourite Methane bubbles experiment!

Both days were a huge success engaging students with lots of big ideas and plenty of fun. Everybody had a great day and we hope the Yr 6 students have a good idea of what to expect in their Science lessons next year when they move to their chosen upper schools.
Textiles Exhibition

Miss Ellis has been extremely impressed by this Year’s A Level Textiles practical work. The moderators came to assess the work this week and we received very complementary feedback. Miss Ellis decided to keep the work on display, some of which was undertaken during the controlled assessment, and over the last few days our teaching staff from other areas of the school have enjoyed seeing the end results of lots of hard work and creativity.
‘Bad Day at Bingley Grammar’

In March 2017 we celebrated World Book Day with a whole week’s worth of fun events including treasure hunts, quizzes and visits by published authors. One activity involved a number of Y7 and Y8 pupils spending a day writing a collaborative novel. The result, ‘Bad Day at Bingley Grammar’ is being published in paperback by the school in a first run of 500 copies. These will be on sale soon for £2 a copy. We also intend to make the story available in e-book format via the online Amazon book shop. If you are interested in obtaining a copy tell your son/daughter to look out for an email from Mr Crawford.
Notes from the Teachers:

FREE West End Dance Workshop!
Miss Mawson and Mr Bellenie have arranged for a special workshop on Wednesday 5th July 2017. It will take place in G8/G9 for two hours 3pm -5pm and it will be run by a friend of Miss Mawson’s who has danced in several West End shows! This is a Golden opportunity to work with and also chat to a Professional dancer - please email Mr Bellenie if you are interested. Did we mention IT IS FREE!

CPLD & HSC
Congratulations to all the year 13 CPLD & HSC students they have worked really hard achieving fabulous work placement reports and a great set of results. Good luck for next year - Mrs Williams

NHS York Study
Over the past couple of months a group of Year 10 and Year 13 Health and Social Care students have been taking part in an NHS funded research study called TRECA (TRials Engagement in Children and Adolescents), which is run by the University of York and has been assisted by Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust. The TRECA study has developed multimedia information resources (MMIs) to improve the information that children, adolescents and their families are given when they are invited to take part in health research. The MMIs, which look like websites and contain text, video, animation and diagrams were tested by our students to make sure that they are easy to use and that the information in the website was easy to understand. Well done to all the students who took part and provided the TRECA team with really useful feedback. If you want to find out more about the TRECA study, please visit http://rdcu.be/tksB.

Restaurant News
We would like to welcome our new Head Chef, Lee Mortimer, who is joining our Restaurant Team on Monday 3rd July - we are looking forward to working with you.

Mr Langan
Mr Langan will be leaving at the end of the year, and would like to say thanks to all students, parents and staff he has had the pleasure of working with here at Bingley Grammar.
Well done to our Year 7 Drama club who have been involved in the RSC Tempest performance this week following 4 months of rehearsals after school every Thursday with Miss Mawson.

Our students performed in collaboration with Yr 5 Eldwick students and Miss Greenwood has been liaising with Eldwick Primary school regularly to bring this fantastic performance together.

Parents and teachers gathered together on Wednesday 28th June in our Drama studio to watch the performance which was incredible. Miss Mawson has been amazed by the hard work of such young students and would like to thank all involved.