

Belle Vue Girls' School

Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher

We begin the term with lots of exciting news. The most impressive of course is the outstanding achievements of our Year 11 students in the summer examinations. The girls once again achieved the best BVGS performance ever for GCSE with over 70% 5A*-C and 47% including English and Maths.

Year 13 also produced good results, moving onto an impressive range of courses and universities for further study. Year 12 results were slightly disappointing and we are looking at strategies to support study skills and transition from GCSE courses. A number of new staff have joined the school and they are now very much part of the family of BVGS. Of particular note are the three new teaching staff joining the English faculty. We are confident that they will strengthen the faculty and our attainment in English. We also welcome a Polish teacher who is working with Eastern European students and is already making a significant impact.

Planning permission for our new buildings is now confirmed and the Local Authority has agreed to support us with some additional funding. This will include eight new classrooms, a sports/dance

studio and the conversion of the old gym to music, art and extended dining facilities. We look forward to the building contractor's arrival.

On 29 November we hosted our annual open evening for prospective year 7 pupils in 2012. This was very well attended with over 100 families. The parent exit survey produced many very positive comments including teachers being described as "wonderful". The activities in subject areas were clearly enjoyed.

Also, on that evening, year 11 students had the opportunity to talk to subject staff and year 13 students to gather information for courses that are on offer in the sixth form. This is just the beginning of a number of events and occasions to help girls make the right choices for continuing education.

Year 11 have also attended work experience this month. Although, as always very successful, we are finding it increasingly difficult to secure suitable places and we will be reviewing the time of year, length of time and need for all to partake in work experience in the future.

As you are aware, Belle Vue Girls' School was judged by Ofsted as an outstanding school in 2009. I hope you will agree that it is an excellent place for student learning and

certainly an excellent place to work. We have now been invited to convert to Academy status, which would give us greater control of our curriculum and finances. It would also ensure the continued vision and ethos that is Belle Vue Girls' School. Many schools are taking advantage of this conversion to ensure that they are in charge of their own destiny and able to meet the needs of the community which they serve and the young people that attend the school. As part of the consultation parents are entitled to express their views. Therefore the governors and I are holding a discussion meeting on Tuesday 18 October at the school. Please see the letter and response form attached. I look forward to hearing from you.

Even though it is early in the term we have already won two competitions, as outlined below, and had a number of major trips/ events, including over 180 year 7 students visiting Nell Bank. There are also one or two events which happened late last term. I am sure you will enjoy reading about them

Year 7 Trip to Nell Bank

Another historic year for the annual visit to Nell Bank. This time we exceeded the record of 179, when 182 students attended. This was also another record for Nell Bank as no other school has taken so many students in one day.

The weather was brilliant - certainly a sunglasses and hat day. Students arrived with a real enthusiasm to 'get stuck in'. Groups were quickly organised and set off on their respective activities. These included orienteering, the trust trail, rescue the duck (a firm favourite), sports and the ever improving assault

X-Y Factor Competition

As part of National Science Week, twenty eight girls from year 10 took part in the X-Y Factor competition. The aim was to create a multimedia presentation with a mathematical theme. Girls from the Diploma Functional

Maths group and the Music BTEC group spent several lessons working together on the presentation. They took part in musical workshops and spent time videoing and photographing the school environment to highlight the many mathematical patterns around us. They also created their own original music to accompany the video, with rhythmic patterns and sampling



course. Our ex-student Tayyaba Khaliq was specially invited to join in the day, breaking off her studies at Leeds University.

At lunch time there was a big surprise when out of retirement sprung one Mrs Hutchinson to add her expertise and experience to the day.

Our staff were absolutely fantastic as always. Perhaps this had something to do with 28°C heat and the 'trolley dollies' with the refreshments. Added to this was the positive input from Nell Bank staff as their enthusiasm knew no

mirroring the mathematical content.

Out of all the schools in West Yorkshire that took part, the entry from Belle Vue Girls' School was judged to be the winner! The girls were invited to an awards ceremony at the National Media Museum in Bradford to celebrate their success. There were a variety of mathematical talks which the girls actively took part in. Then all girls received individual prizes and a very impressive trophy for the school to keep.

Mr Mulligan

bounds.

It was slightly disappointing to hear that the attendance was down the next day and as a result we will be going on a Friday to give the students the weekend to recover. Enthusiasm always comes at a cost!!

Mrs P Stanley Russell and Miss C Bickerdike

Future House Art Gallery Winter 2011 Winners

Ayesha Zahoor Year 13 was 2011 Winter Winner at the Future House Art Gallery with her portrait of *Jill*, together with a Special Joint Award – The pupils and staff of Belle Vue Girls' art department for outstanding achievement in portrait and fabric work. A presentation will take place on 7 December 2011 at the event, winners will be presented with prizes and the work of all contributors will be celebrated.

Congratulations to Ayesha.



BELLE VUE GIRLS' SCHOOL
A Specialist School for Languages, Applied Learning
and Science with Maths



Headteacher : Mrs M Copeland M Ed Thorn Lane, Bingley Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD9 6NA
Tel: 01274 492341 Fax: 01274 490559 Email: community@bvg.ngfl.ac.uk
Web: www.bellevuegirls.co.uk



Our Ref: MCD/KNI

10 October 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

Following the General Election in May 2010, the Government invited outstanding schools to apply for Academy status.

As an outstanding school the Governing Body of Belle Vue Girls' School has been invited to convert the school to an Academy. They have submitted a formal application for the purpose of finding out more about the implications of becoming an academy.

The decision whether or not to become an academy is made by the Governing Body of the school. The next step in the process will be a formal consultation. The governors would like to hear your views.

We will not change the ethos of Belle Vue Girls' School. We will continue to 'Educate the Women of Tomorrow' and stay true to a single sex, comprehensive education.

We welcome your comments. You may wish to return the attached form and/or attend a consultation meeting at the school on Tuesday 18 October 2011 at 5pm. Feedback from you will be passed on to the Governing Body to help them make their decision.

May I take this opportunity to express our thanks for the continued support and encouragement you give to the girls of Belle Vue Girls' School.

Yours sincerely

M Copeland

Mrs M Copeland
Headteacher

Belle Vue Girls' School

Consultation on the possible conversion of Belle Vue Girls' School to Academy status.

Parent response form

- o I would fully support the conversion of Belle Vue Girls' School to Academy status:

Comment

- o I would like to support the conversion of Belle Vue Girls' School to Academy status but have the following questions:

Comment

- o I do not support the conversion of Belle Vue Girls' School to Academy status for the following reasons:

Comment

- o I have no real preference, but have the following comments to make:

Comment

Name:..... Signed:

Date: