



The
Bulmershe
School
INSPIRING POTENTIAL
ACHIEVING TOGETHER

Bull's Eye

The Bulmershe School Newsletter

December 2016

BULMERSHE ENSEMBLE IN TOP THREE UK CHOIRS

They didn't win it but it was a fantastic achievement for the Bulmershe Ensemble to reach the final of BBC TV's *The Choir – Gareth's Best in Britain*.

A series of accomplished performances through the regional heats and semi finals led to the splendid surroundings of Westminster's Central Hall for the final of the popular show hosted by Gareth Malone.

Students, parents, school staff and the local community were rooting for the Ensemble for their final performance, which was shown on prime time TV on 8 December.

In front of an audience of around two thousand, the Ensemble gave a touching, emotional performance, which moved the judges. Putting together imaginative

arrangements and sophisticated choreography, the youngest choir in the whole competition exuded confidence and maturity.

Above: the Ensemble with Gareth Malone.

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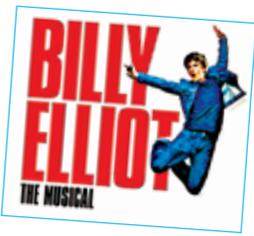
BILLY ELLIOT—THE MUSICAL IS ANOTHER SMASH HIT FOR THE BULMERSHE SCHOOL

This year's whole school production was *Billy Elliot – The Musical*. There were four performances of this tough, challenging, but heart-warming show in the school's state-of-the-art auditorium from 5 to 8 December.

Two students shared the lead role: Sean Deynoo (in the left-hand picture) and Alfie Sherwood (on the right). For more on the show turn to the centre pages.



More on these stories from the school website: www.thebulmersheschool.com



School puts on another hit show with *Billy Elliot - The Musical*

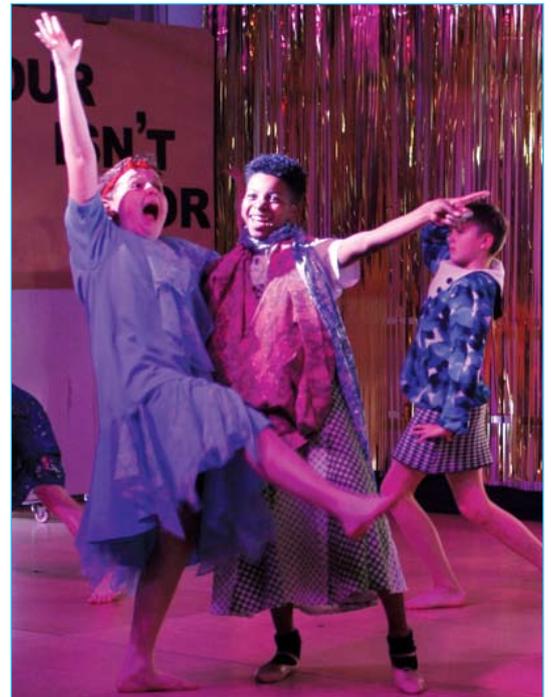
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The first performance was a matinee to which local primary school pupils were invited.

The school was very proud of its productions of *Grease* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. These performances proved very popular and were well attended by the local community so the cast and helpers of *Billy Elliot* worked extremely hard to make sure their production maintained the standard.

Judging by the audience reaction at the four performances, they seem to have done so yet again.

Along with the role of Billy, two other roles were also shared: 'Michael' between Gregor Singleton-White and Laiza Wambura and 'Debbie' between Charlotte Ibbotson and Jenna Conneely.



HONOURS FOR BULMERSHE STUDENTS IN WOKINGHAM SPORTS AWARDS

The school recently hosted the Wokingham Sports Awards evening, to celebrate the talented sportsmen and women in the Borough and two Bulmershe students were honoured.

Ross Wheeler (Year 10) won the award for Under 18 Boy for his success in kickboxing. Ross has won numerous medals this year and has competed outside of the UK.

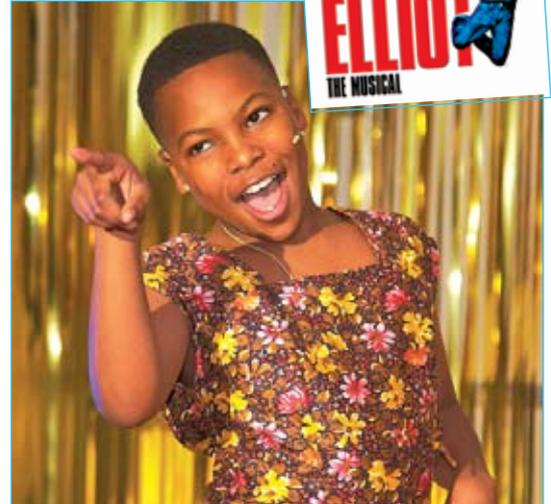
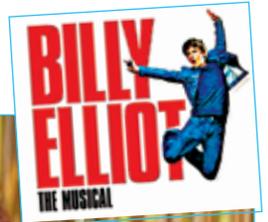
Louis Hutchings (Year 7) won the award for Under 14 Boy after being

nominated by his primary school, Highwood, for his achievements with Reading FC Academy and his all-round sporting ability.

For boys of only 15 and 11 to win an Under 18 and Under 14 award is an incredible achievement. One of their fellow award winners is a GB Olympian, which demonstrates the standard at which they are competing.

In the picture are Ross (left) and Louis, with their awards.





From the school governors

As 2016 ends, we can reflect on another eventful - and successful - year for The Bulmershe School. We've seen excellent student performances on sports fields and in exam halls; the Bulmershe Ensemble have won-over national TV audiences; and the school has presented another confident and professional stage production with *Billy Elliot*.

The year has seen our departing students move to a range of destinations, including an impressive array of top universities, while our Year 7 intake is the largest in recent years.

It has also been an eventful year for the school governors. In the summer Richard Tyndall, who has served as Chair of Governors for the past five years, stepped down. I'd like to express our appreciation for Richard's hard work and confident leadership: his shoes will not easily be filled. Also leaving were Alison Swaddle, Yvonne Le Croisette, Douglas Findlay and Simon

Noble, all committed and determined governors who were selfless in offering their knowledge, guidance and support.

New to the governors this year are Ben Clacy, Erif Newman, Alastair Nuttall, Kleio Akrivou and Michael Forrer, who bring us a wide range of skills and experience from healthcare, higher education and the corporate sector. We also have a new staff governor, with Natalia Jigounova taking over from Kelly Roberts.

With our re-shaped team in place, we have changed the way we work, with individual governors responsible for overseeing the progress of specific student groups within the school, while others focus outwardly on the changing educational policy environment.

With our Vice-Chairs Debbie Hegarty and Andy Rowell, I'm excited to be leading a new team of governors as the school looks confidently ahead to future challenges and successes.



Words by Dr Peter Miskell, Chair of Governors.

BULMERSHE ENSEMBLE IN TOP THREE UK CHOIRS *(continued from front page)*

The Ensemble were pipped to the post by two extraordinarily talented choirs, EAGA, a gospel choir who came second, and Semi-toned, an acapella group who won the title.

The Ensemble featured throughout the BBC2 series and the performance which got them through to the semi finals was filmed in the school auditorium.

Sarah Sharp, Assistant Headteacher and lead of the choir said 'The show was an amazing experience for everyone involved. They had the opportunity to work with the best coaches in the music industry and to perform in some of the best venues in the country. They have learnt so much from the programme and most importantly, had a lot of fun!'

Headteacher Emma Reynolds added 'We are very, very proud of all the students involved in this programme. Everybody in the community, parents, staff and students, has supported them all the way'.



The Bulmershe Ensemble on stage in the final of 'The Choir' at Westminster's Central Hall.

Students deliver cheer to children in hospital



Bulmershe students visited the Lion Children's Ward at the Royal Berkshire hospital recently to deliver gifts bought with the proceeds of their Children in Need cake sale.

With the £135 they raised, they bought much needed cot mobiles and games for the children. Ex-Bulmershe student Claire Ryman (right in the picture) was on hand to receive the gifts and show the students around the ward.

A big thank you to Year 11 council members Alesha Nazar, Kalsoom Darban, Aamani Sajid, Ria Sharma and Navjeet Kaur (pictured left).

From the Headteacher

This has been a term marked by some tremendous achievements: a highly entertaining performance of *Billy Elliot*, our Ensemble on national TV and the development of our Stretch and Challenge programme for our more able students - including our year 7 Maths programme supported by specialist author and journalist Simon Singh.

I thank parents for their support this term. The close working relationships we have with so many of you is key to the success of our school and has helped to secure this term's high standard of progress, attendance and behaviour. Staff and visitors alike comment on how polite and helpful our students are and what a pleasure it is to work with them. This would not be the case without strong support from home.

I am particularly pleased to see high levels of attendance this term with very few parents choosing to take their children out of school in term time. We work closely with the local authority and permission will not be given

for term time holidays. Remember, every day counts for your child's education.

The last day of term, **Tuesday 20 December, will be a non-uniform day** to support 'Children with Cancer UK.' Students and staff wishing to take part will be asked to make a contribution of at least £1.00. This, our final charity event of 2016, follows a long list of very successful events which raised more than £2,500 for national and international charities.

Please note that **school returns on Wednesday 4 January 2017 at 8.30am.**

Some dates for your diary:

- ☐ **Thurs 12 January- Parents' forum-** all welcome for a 6pm start in the Sixth Form Centre
- ☐ **Thurs 19 January- Year 11 Parents' Evening**
- ☐ **Thurs 26 January- Sixth Form Open Evening**
- ☐ **Thurs 9 February- Sixth Form Parents' Evening**

Finally, I wish you all a very, peaceful, happy Christmas and a great start to 2017.



*Emma Reynolds
Headteacher*