



The
Bulmershe
School
INSPIRING POTENTIAL
ACHIEVING TOGETHER

Bull's Eye

The Bulmershe School Newsletter

July 2017

NEW HEADTEACHER APPOINTED

The Bulmershe School Governors have chosen a successor to Emma Reynolds, who leaves the school in August. Amanda Woodfin will take over as Headteacher in September.

Mrs Woodfin has been at The Bulmershe School since September 2010, when she was appointed Deputy Head. Starting as a geography teacher in 1996, she soon moved on to school leadership roles, becoming Vice Principal of a secondary school in the London Borough of Enfield before coming to Bulmershe.

Mrs Woodfin said, 'I am truly honoured to be appointed as the Headteacher of the Bulmershe School. I am very much looking forward to working with the students, parents, staff and governors in order to continue Bulmershe's journey from strength to strength. I thank you all in advance for your continued support.'

Chair of Governors Dr Peter Miskell said, 'the Governors are delighted with the appointment

of Amanda Woodfin as the new Headteacher of The Bulmershe School. The recruitment process was an extensive and rigorous one, from which she clearly emerged as the right candidate to lead the school on the

next stage of its development. We look forward to working with Mrs Woodfin to ensure that the School maintains its progress of continuous improvement well into the future.'



Above: the new Headteacher, Amanda Woodfin

Bulmershe Ensemble scoops another award

Members of the Bulmershe Ensemble past and present attended the Reading Cultural Awards held recently.

The Ensemble were finalists in three categories; Best Education project, Best Under 25 Act and the Reading Place of Culture Ambassador Award. Sadly we were pipped to the post by other outstanding acts in these categories.

But there was a surprise in store for us when it was announced that the Mayor had one more special award to present - the Judges Special Award - which was to recognise the phenomenal year that the Ensemble had and all the successes we have achieved.

Ensemble members were delighted and took to the stage to collect their award before performing their latest song, for which they received a standing ovation. Well done to all involved.

Our thanks to the Reading Chronicle for the picture.



More school news from the school website: www.thebulmersheschool.com

More DoE success for Bulmershe Students



Bulmershe students continue to put in excellent performances in Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) Award expeditions.

Most recently some of our Sixth Form students demonstrated expert camp craft, navigation and teamwork to propel them to success in a three-day Silver Award expedition.

They tested themselves in warm weather with challenging routes and staff were impressed with their efficient food preparation and organisation. We wish all of them well in completing the remaining sections of their award and look forward to presenting them with their full certificates.

Earlier last month, rain, sun and rainbows made conditions difficult for students on a DoE Bronze Award expedition, but their navigation skills meant they completed it with flying colours, including excellent demonstrations of campcraft and cooking skills. We now look forward to seeing them challenge themselves to finish the rest of the programme and receive their full Bronze awards in the end of year presentations this month.

A big thank you to Miss Bishop, Mr McArdle, Mr Woods, Miss Roberts, Mrs Goddard, Miss Brown and Mr Leach for their time and effort in supporting these events.

The morning sun greets the students on their Bronze Award expedition last month (above left).

Eggs are on the menu for the Sixth Formers on their Silver Award expedition (above).

Students lead sports in the community

Our Year 9 sports leaders were in charge of running and scoring all the events at the Panathlon Disability Sports Competition at Woodford Park last month. Students from Lambs Lane, Arbor Vale, Manor Farm, Addington and Brookfields schools

took part in disability activities such as Polybat, Table Cricket, Field Athletics, Boccia and New Age Kurling. Our sports leaders did an amazing job, demonstrating understanding, empathy and patience throughout the day, which everyone enjoyed - and they have been asked to help with next year's event. Congratulations to them: they were an absolute credit to the school.



activities that were led by our outstanding Year 7 – 10 sports leaders.

They did a fantastic job explaining the rules of ultimate frisbee, rounders, tennis, rugby and table tennis; and organising teams and supporting the youngsters when needed on a very hot day.

Community sports leaders: top are Year 9 at the Panathlon and bottom the Year 7-10 students who led the Sports Week event at Goals.

■ **The final day of Woodley Schools Sports Week** saw 230 Year 4 students from local primary schools spend the day at the Goals Centre taking part in a range of physical



Bulmershe to put on new show during Edinburgh Festival

Bulmershe students will be performing in Edinburgh during its famous arts festival in August. They will stage the world premier of a new musical entitled *That Emperors Fool*.

The show is a musical based on Hans Christian

Andersen's well-known tale *The Emperors New Clothes*, but re-told for a modern audience.

'It is a timeless tale of love, bureaucracy, and fake-news' according to Bulmershe music teacher Mr Mungal, who has written the show's music. Head of Drama, Mr Camichel, will direct the production.

The cast will be honoured by the presence of the librettist, Skip Schloming, who will fly over from the USA to see the show.

Finnula O'Higgins, a Year 10 student, is the costume designer. Mr Mungal says, 'she is producing amazing tie-dye costumes to realise the director's comic book vision. Another Year 10 student, Evangeline Kohler, has done an incredible job choreographing the show.'

Mr Mungal reports that rehearsals are in full swing (pictured), and that 'students are bringing an amazing energy to the show.

'Accommodation is booked we're staying at an outbound place, outside Edinburgh, run by the Scouts. We're hoping the students do some of the cooking under the watchful eye of Annemarie Davies, who claims she can feed kids without poisoning them!

'A fantastic fundraising quiz night was enjoyed by all recently, raising £450, but we're still a way off raising everything we need' says Mr Mungal.

You can help by visiting the Just Giving page:

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bulmersheatedfringe.](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bulmersheatedfringe)



■ If you happen to be in Edinburgh between Monday 21 and Saturday 26 August, you can see the show at Silk in King's Stables Road. Performances start at 1.30pm and entry is free.

From the School Governors

The summer term has been an eventful one for governors here at Bulmershe. There is no more important task facing a governing body than the appointment of a new Headteacher, and this has been at the top of our priority list for the past few months.

A selection panel of six governors was formed to focus on this task, which also received advice and support from a specialist education recruitment consultancy, and from the local authority.

Having attracted a strong field of candidates the task of identifying the right person for the job involved an extensive range of assessment activities over two days. We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all students and staff who participated in this process. For governors, it is important to know that the incoming Head is someone who will have the

full confidence and support of the whole school community. We found the feedback provided by both staff and students to be extremely valuable in this regard.

At the outset of this process governors were very conscious that the incoming Head would have big shoes to fill. Ms Reynolds has been a remarkably successful Headteacher, who has guided the school through a period of transformation. The governors would like to acknowledge her achievements, and to thank her for her dedicated commitment to the school. We would also acknowledge the role that Mrs Woodfin has played in this process, and to express our confidence in her ability to lead the school on the next phase of its development. We look forward to seeing Bulmershe continue to grow and improve in the years ahead.



**Dr Peter Miskell,
Chair of Governors**

And finally ...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole community of The Bulmershe School for making my tenure as Headteacher fulfilling, happy and professionally rewarding.

I consider myself very fortunate to have benefitted from a very strong team of staff. I have also been very grateful to the local community for the many and various ways they have supported the school during my time here.

I shall miss Bulmershe very much and will always keep a keen interest in its future development.

I wish you all well and have a great summer break.

Emma Reynolds



Year 7 students Daniel Yeboah, Orn Andresson and Louis Hutchings (pictured left) represented Wokingham at the County Athletics Championships at Palmer Park recently.

The boys helped Wokingham finish fourth overall and can all be proud of their performances. Louis and Orn finished seventh in the 150 metres and javelin respectively. Daniel made it into the final of the 75 metres where he finished fifth. Daniel and Louis were then part of the 4x100 metre relay team that came third. Well done boys.

Back in May, Bulmershe students did well at the Wokingham District Schools Athletics competition. The Year 7 boys' team finished third and the Year 9 girls team were fourth.

There were some excellent individual performances too, leading to a number of our students being selected to represent Wokingham at the County Championships.

Keen student photographers showed off their skills in the school's new Brian Dowling Photography Competition.

The generous benefactors of prizes for what will be an annual competition are local residents Mr and Mrs Eley. Mrs Eley's father Brian Dowling worked for the *Picture Post*, a best selling magazine in the 1940s and 50s, so photography was a big part of his life. Mr and Mrs Eley were keen to set up a competition in Brian's name, to encourage students into this rewarding medium. This is fitting as the school has introduced a GCSE Photography course, because there is such a demand for this area of Art.

Mr and Mrs Eley came to school to pick the two winners from the final selection. For the first prize, winning £75, they chose Aneesha Nadim's witty portrait, *Girl with Jaffa Cake* (pictured right). The second prize, winning £50, went to Jessica Payne for *The Bridge* (below).

