



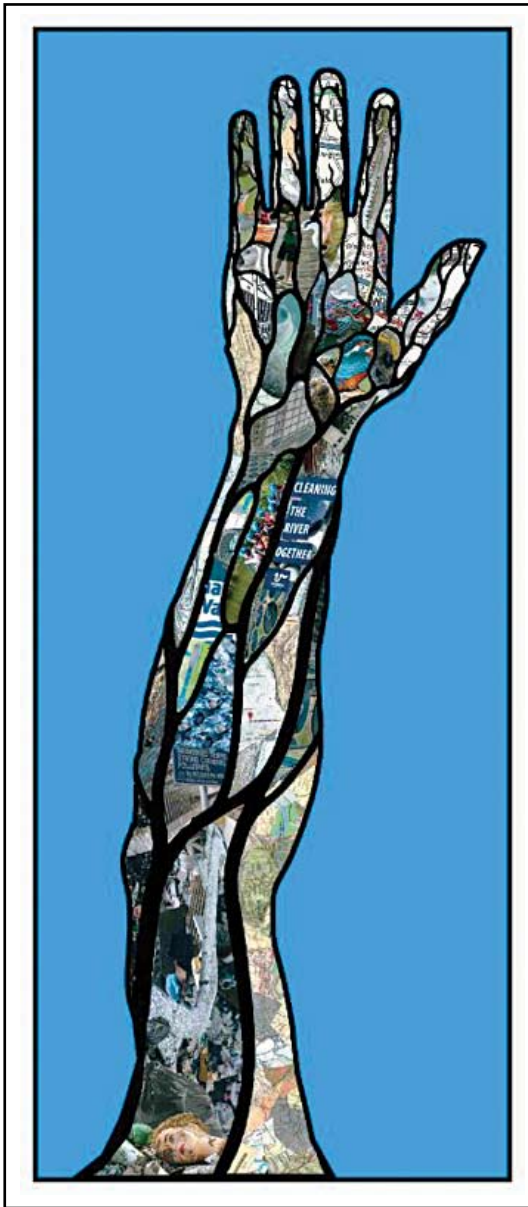
The  
Bulmershe  
School  
INSPIRING POTENTIAL  
ACHIEVING TOGETHER

# Bull's Eye

The Bulmershe School Newsletter

October 2017

## LONDON SHOW FOR STUDENTS' ARTWORK



Artwork by Bulmershe students was on display recently at the *Totally Thames Festival* on London's Southbank. It was created as part of *Rivers of The World*, an international art and education project set up by the British Council and the Thames Festival Trust. It was also shown at last month's *Reading-on-Thames Festival*.

The project connects pupils around the globe to their local rivers through environmental, economic and cultural learning themes. Students across the world create artworks inspired by their research. Our students researched our local river, the Thames. Their theme was 'a resourceful river' and their artwork shows just how important the river is to nature and to the community that surrounds it.

The piece was made using a mixture of found imagery and students' own photographs to show the variety of resources that the river provides for nature and for us. This is presented using the human arm and the complex veins that mirror the complexity of the environment, which is ultimately in the hands of our community.

*Rivers of the World* is global project involving countries including Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Vietnam, Zambia and Nepal. Along with Bulmershe and other schools in the Reading area, other UK schools in London, Southend and Hull took part.



*After the sell-out success of Billy Elliot...*

*The Bulmershe school presents...*

## Les Misérables

Director Andy Camichel: Musical Director Al Mungall

Performances at 7.30 on 5, 6 and 7 December, in the Auditorium

Box Office opens after Half Term: Students £5; Adults £7



# Meet the Head Girl and Head Boy

## Spotlight on Mufaro Muza, Head Girl

**A-Levels Studied:** Chemistry, Physics and French  
**What I'm hoping to achieve as Head Girl:** I hope to inspire others and be a good ambassador and role model for the younger years. Coming from a different school, settling into Sixth Form seemed difficult. However, with my passion for being a part of the school community, I was able to have a smooth transition and a wonderful first year at Bulmershe. With my experience, I hope to inspire others to have an active role in the school and to take pride in all the hard work they put in. The leadership role also gives me a chance to be a voice for all pupils. I would like to make changes that make a difference to all students, in and outside of the classroom, as being inclusive is the one thing that I take a lot of pride in.

## What is great about the Bulmershe School?

I feel that the support from teachers is the greatest thing about the school. Without the support from the Sixth Form team, Mr Lord and Mr Tyler, settling into the new environment would have been much harder. The teachers really dedicate their time to students, always preparing them for the next step and pushing them to excellence. It's truly inspiring and it makes me very proud to represent the teachers and their efforts.

**Plans for the future:** After taking my exams in May/June 2018, I plan to study Pharmacy in university and work as a local pharmacist for the community.

**Famous quote to live by:** 'If you can't love yourself, how in the hell you gon' love somebody else? Can I get an amen?' - RuPaul Andre Charles



## Spotlight on Jack Millar, Head Boy

**A-Levels Studied:** Maths, Further Maths, Physics  
**What I hope to achieve as Head Boy:** I would like to make the house system more engaging. This could be done by introducing new events that cater to a wider range of pupils and also by introducing regular prizes to be given to the houses to create a more competitive atmosphere within the system. I would like to help prepare Sixth Form students for the outside world by introducing one-off sessions (similar to the IBM interviews) such as on finance, which would teach them the skills needed whether they are going to university, into apprenticeships or straight into work.

## What is great about the Bulmershe School?:

The staff: teachers are friendly, approachable and understanding allowing them to aid students both inside and outside the classroom.

They are always willing to put in extra work after school to ensure that all students are secure in the work given to them. Not only do they provide support but they also challenge those that are working ahead so that students are always progressing and always achieving their maximum potential.

**Plans for the future:** I would like to study maths at a Russell Group university because I love both the simplicity and complexity of the subject. The fact that maths underlies almost everything that goes on in this world is something that greatly interests me and I would like to pursue it further.

**Famous quote to live by:** 'Don't tell me the sky is the limit when there are footprints on the moon.' People may have different ambitions and goals but we always need to aim as high as we can. This quote shows that there is no limit to what we can set ourselves to.



## Year 7s are settling-in well

The new Year 7s have settled in brilliantly, throwing themselves into life at Bulmershe.

In Art, students have completed an initial drawing to assess their prior knowledge and are now studying the Mexican festival of the Day of the Dead.

In History, they have been learning about 1066 and the Battle of Hastings and they are finding out how William took control of England. There is also an X Factor-style competition to decide 'who should be king?'

In English, students have been introduced to *Bookbuzz*, a reading programme from BookTrust that aims to help schools inspire a love of reading in Year 7 and 8 students.

Along with the Accelerated Reader programme, all our Year 7 students have now had the opportunity to choose their own book from a list suitable for 11 to 13-year-olds.

The books are all carefully selected by a panel of experts to ensure quality and suitability.

These should be in school for your child to take home sometime in November.

Y7 have also been heavily involved in extra-curricular activities, with recent strong performances in Cross Country and the boys rugby team.

Our Y7 students have certainly made a fabulous start to the next chapter of their academic adventure!



# Bulmershe has that *WOW!* factor

The Bulmershe School's recent open evening and mornings hosted over 1000 prospective students and their parents – the highest number for at least 12 years (writes Miss Harris, Transition Co-ordinator).

We have been very proud of these events as we have received countless positive comments about our school and its staff and students.

Prospective students and their parents listened and applauded speeches given by Headteacher Amanda Woodfin, Head Girl Mufaro Muza, Deputy Head Girl Alice Grout, Head Boy Jack Millar and his Deputy Sam Jacobs. They also heard Mrs Bishop, parent of Emily and Joel Bishop, who gave an honest and uplifting testimonial to the school's success.

Over three weeks of open mornings, Mr Brown, Sixth Formers and Year 8 students showed parents of prospective students round the school and I am very proud of the confidence, enthusiasm and energy they showed when doing so.

## Comments from prospective parents and students included:

○ *I just wanted to say thank you ever so much for your very talented students, showing*

*us around the school, as they were very informative, polite and such an asset to the school.'*

○ *'Emma Hails and Aisha Chipembere were amazing as they showed us around the school with such maturity.'*

○ *'Jack Millar – wow – what an asset he is, as he clearly knows what he needs to achieve to get into his first-choice university, which is such a credit to the school.'*

○ *'We didn't realise so much went on here...' 'I can't wait...' 'it's amazing here...' 'it feels like a great place to learn...'*

○ *'The teaching staff are all so passionate, inspiring, and welcoming, which was so great to see, with the students learning in a calm and engaging environment. My son wants to start tomorrow...'*

○ *'Bulmershe is a wonderful school and we can see how committed the teaching staff are - most importantly, the ethos for inclusive learning is very strong and supportive.'*

Thanks very much to all staff, students and prospective students and parents for making our open evening and mornings so exciting and rewarding.



Year 8 students Tommy Nolan, Jake Lansdell, Danielle Corp, Daniella Serwaa-Bonsu, Isobel Carson and Afeni Taylor, accompanied by Transition Co-ordinator Miss Harris, recently visited the New Christ Church and St. Johns Primary schools to present to Year 6 children there.

The Bulmershe students spoke about their experiences moving up to secondary school, the



challenges they faced and how they have settled in. Miss Harris said, 'We are really proud of each and every one of them as they delivered with confidence, enthusiasm and passion about The Bulmershe School.'

Year 7 and 8 students will return to their Primary Schools throughout the year to discuss moving to secondary school and the importance of independence and resilience.

*This is the time of year when parents of Year 6 students start thinking about the transition of their children to secondary school. This page shows the work being done by our staff and students to convince them that Bulmershe is the right choice.*

## Up and coming Transition Events:

**Year 5 Science Club:** starting 1 November until 6 December, every Wednesday 3:30pm – 4:30pm for 6 weeks.

**Hillside Primary School Transition Leaders** will be at Hillside Primary School on Monday 13 November, 3.30 – 4.30pm presenting on the transition from Year 6 to Year 7.

## Maths in Action Master Classes:

for Redlands and Willowbank Primary School children (Yrs 5&6) 22 & 29 November 2:30 – 3.30pm & 6 December 2:30 – 4:00pm, at The Bulmershe School. Further details from the Primary School.

**Rocket Powered Sleighs:** for Year 4, 5 & 6 children at The Bulmershe School on 13 December 4.00 - 5.15pm.

**For news of other primary school events, please keep an eye on the 'Year 6 to 7 Transition' page on The Bulmershe School website.**

## From the Headteacher

We are delighted with our very positive start to the term; students have begun the new school year well prepared, well presented and ready to learn.

We are especially pleased with the way Year 7 have started their academic careers at Bulmershe with great confidence and enthusiasm. Our new students have made a very good impression in their first term.

Reflecting on our summer results, we were thrilled with both individual students' results and also departmental outcomes. For example our Maths results 72.8% 9-4, English 70.3% 9-4, Physics 96.8% A\*-C, Chemistry 98.4% A\*-C, Biology 93.7%, Computer Science 87.5%, Photography 86.7% and Art 94.1% A\*-C - to name but a few.

We achieved tremendous results for sixth form, particularly at the higher grades of A\* and A with 27.1% of all grades classed as A\*/A and 47.1% of all grades at A\*-B.

School reports are sent home next week and we are always keen to hear any feedback on our reporting systems, especially so at this time of change from GCSE grades A\*-G to GCSE grades 9-1. Reports are accompanied by a feedback sheet: please do use this to help us improve our service or, if you prefer, contact school directly.

Our first Parents Forum is on Thursday 12 October, 6-7pm. The topic will be Pupil Premium and how we support the students that receive these additional funds. Thank you in advance to all parents that have already booked their place; these are valuable opportunities to meet staff and discuss school developments. Our next meeting is on Thursday 7 December, 6-7pm in our Sixth Form Centre. All parents are welcome.

A final reminder to keep your contact details up to date with our school office. Email communication is often the most efficient way for us to stay in touch so please ensure we are using your most recent email address.



**Amanda Woodfin**  
Headteacher

## SPORTS NEWS

**Representation Honours for three of our students:** congratulations to Jessica Sutherland who has been selected for the under-18 girls county rugby squad for the upcoming season and to Calvin Beresford and Kyle Davies who have been selected for the under-15 Reading District football squad.



**The Year 8 Boys Football team (above) are through to round 3 of the national cup.** A 3-2 away win at Aldworth College, Basingstoke saw them through to the second round with goals from Louis Hutchings, Orn Andresson and Ryan Scott - but credit to Aldworth who never gave up and made it a nervy finish for our boys. The boys went on to beat Piggott 1-0 in the second round, with a goal from Daniael Yeboah.

**Year 8 Boys Rugby team continue their good form** with an unbeaten start to the season. They beat Blessed Hugh Faringdon in

their first match 25-5 and then drew 5-5 with Denefield. In the second round of matches they beat Prospect 25-10 and Wallingford 35-5.

**The under-16 Girls Football team (pictured right) continues to climb up the league.** Despite an indifferent start to the

season the girls have won five of their last six games. The best performances came against Oakbank and Prospect where they played some excellent football, winning both

matches 2-0; Charlie Kirk (2); Celia Spanu and Amy Grimes with the goals.

**The Year 9 netball team (pictured**

**right) got off to a good start** with an 8-3 win over local rivals Waingels. All the girls played superbly in a great team performance.

