



Bletchley Park



A group of Year 9 ACES students had the opportunity to visit Bletchley Park. Home of British code-breaking and a birthplace of modern information technology. It played a major role in World War Two, producing secret intelligence which had a direct and profound influence on the outcome of the conflict. The day was organised for the students to have a guided tour of the park followed by a codes and ciphers workshop. The students were shown how messages sent by the German forces which had been encoded were intercepted and taken to Bletchley Park by motorcycle despatch riders to be decoded by the primarily female workforce. Some of them even got the opportunity to use the Enigma machine to see how the coding worked.

'I learned that the Enigma machine takes a lot of effort to decode. We all had a try.' Hanelle

'I really enjoyed our practical lesson, as you got to see how the workers broke the codes and it was cool that we got to too.' Tom



Year 5 and 6 ACES Maths Challenge

On Thursday 13th October, 40 Year 5 and 6 students from Mount Pleasant Lane, St Peters, Mandeville, St Michaels and Killigrew primary schools gathered in Da Vinci Hall to compete in a Maths challenge. The tasks were tough, testing the students on memory, number, and visualisation skills, along with rounds on problem solving and logical thinking. The evening was a great success with the students throwing themselves at the challenges and really giving it their all. At the end of the quiz there was very little difference in the scores with St. Peter's A team coming first with 45 points and Killigrew's B team coming second with 44 points.

The evening was organised by Mr Porter and supported by Mrs Afford, Miss Ballingall, Mr Fitzgibbon, Miss Smith and our Governor, Mr Duncan. We also had some fantastic help from Amelie, Shaun, Emily, Rubina, Tomas, Billy and Cate from Year 8, who were wonderful ambassadors for the school and really helped the event to run smoothly.



Our ambassadors are quoted as saying 'I enjoyed helping the children with the quiz and also the refreshments', 'I enjoyed most seeing my old school friends and helping them and all the other primaries', 'I enjoyed marking the quizzes along with Mrs Afford'.

Some quotes from our visiting primary students 'It will help my lessons because it has taught me lots of new shapes', 'it will help us in lessons as we can use it to work out further calculation and maths problems', 'our memory will increase because of the memory game', 'I enjoyed the challenging games like the triangles game and the paper tower challenge'.

'Thank you for running the session. It was a good experience for the kids.' Mandeville



ACES Journalism Workshop 13th October 2016

On 13th October, twenty one lucky Year 7 and 8 students attended a journalism workshop, which was held in the LRC. The workshop was hosted by the Editor of the Herts Advertiser, Mr Matt Adams. Mr Adams led the workshop over two hours, where the students learned about his work experience, the role of a journalist and what writing newspaper articles entails.

During the second half of the workshop, the students created their own front cover newspapers, along with a lead story, on the school laptops. Throughout this task, the students were guided by Mr Adams, Mrs Redfern and Ms McCarthy. Unsurprisingly, the topic of clowns was a popular writing choice for the students! Other topics the students covered in their articles included the use of technology in schools and the recent Year 7 PGL trip.

By the end of the workshop, the students grasped the importance of how to structure a newspaper article and how to appeal to their audience. Equally, the students appreciated the significance of team work and team building skills.

Thank you Mr Adams for leading an interesting and engaging workshop.

Ms McCarthy



'It gave me a great idea of how real news reporters think and how to get your audience interested in your piece. I am sure I will be much better at writing articles if the subject ever comes up in English.'

'I enjoyed writing my own newspaper article and learning what jobs there are in journalism.'

'It will help our English by showing us how to write in a persuasive manner.'



PGL 2016

PGL was a successful, fun packed weekend for all students and staff who attended. All the students showed great spirit, sportsmanship and commitment to all the activities. And whilst the October weather was lovely no rain to be seen, only rays of sunshine throughout the weekend – many students managed to get very wet, due to the building of certain rafts or just for the pure delight they wanted by falling into the lake. Both the students and staff thoroughly enjoyed this weekend and as Pokémon was our theme this year, congratulations to Olivia Ritchie who won the Pikachu sweatshirt for this amazing detailed account of our weekend. It was a very difficult decision to make as there were some amazing entries. Please click [here](#) to see the PGL gallery of photos.

I wish you all a restful and relaxing half term break.

Miss Pounnas

A man lived in a bungalow. Everything inside was pink. The chairs were pink, the table was pink the sofa was pink. Even the CAT was pink. What colour were the stairs??? This was one of the riddles we tried to figure out while we were waiting for some of the activities at PGL 2016.

Riddles aside, we also had an amazing time at PGL. From the minute we arrived, we were busy and having fun! Once we got off the coach, we split up into our groups. I was really happy because I was with all of my friends.

Our first activity was the trapeze. You had to climb up a ladder then stand on a small box at the top of a pole then jump and grab the bar. It was really fun! When I jumped, it felt as if I was swinging at the treetops!

Next we went on the giant swing (the one I was really looking forward to!). Everyone in the group pulled a rope which lifts you higher and higher in the swing until you tell them to stop or you reach the top. Then you and your partner pull the string behind you which releases the swing. It was amazing! When we first went forward, it was really scary but then after that it was super fun and so fast!! Even Miss Pounnas and our group leader Miss Curtis had a go!

Then we found our rooms put our bags away and went to dinner. After dinner, we went to the camp fire and sang some funny songs. I really enjoyed it because my friends and I got to laugh together and be a bit silly. After the campfire, we went back to our room. We were really hyper and couldn't stop laughing because the day had been so exciting!

The next morning, we woke up to a fire alarm!! Someone accidentally set it off and as you can probably guess, we weren't too happy! After we were ready and had eaten breakfast, we set off on our activities.

One of the activities was raft building, we built our first raft but it fell apart so we had to make a new one! It was made from 6 plastic barrels and some long wooden poles held together with rope. We got on and used paddles to get to the middle of the lake then we decided to jump off. But ... I regretted that decision straight away. The water was FREEZING!!!!!! Everyone was shivering when we got out. We had a shower to warm up and get clean then carried on with our day.

For our evening activity, we did wacky races. The PGL staff gave us strange ways to do the races and the group who finished first won. Then at the end they added up the scores and the team with the most points were the overall winners.



By the end of the second night we were all so tired and went to sleep pretty quickly! On our final day, we did 2 activities. First we went on the zip wire which was really fun. It was a long zip wire so we went really fast. I loved it so much. Our final activity we did abseiling. It was a bit scary leaning back at first but then it was really cool. We had two goes and on our second go we raced our partner down! After that we had to get on the coach and go home. PGL was so much fun and a great way to bond and get closer with my new friends. I wish I could go back and do it again! Oh, and the stairs? No colour silly - bungalows don't have stairs!!

Olivia Ritchie



'PGL was really fun as I got to know more Year 7s and came back with so many more friends and this made it special for me. All the activities were really great and got to take part in lots of things I hadn't tried before.' **Evie Summers**



'I loved it! The coach trip was fun and when we got there it was so exciting. I'm totally afraid of heights and I tried the zip wire and it was fun. The food was great and I shared with four new friends and really enjoyed myself.'

Ryan Conway

Student Achievements



U12 Mixed final: Winner: Dominic Hipkin
 Congratulations to Dominic Hipkin 7DD who won the Greenwood Park Lawn Tennis Club U12 Club Championship at the end of September. It was a knockout tournament played over the summer by a field of 21 players in that age group.

Ice skating champion

On Sunday 18th September I took part in an in house ice skating competition at Planet Ice in Hemel Hempstead. A total of 62 competitors took part in the competition and I was in the largest category with 12 of us competing. It was a long day but very exciting, I came 10th and am super proud of my achievement.

I started skating in 2009 and in 2013 I attended my first skating exam and passing this was another great achievement. If you are interested in ice skating you can find out more from Planet Ice, Jarman Square, Jarmans Park, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4JS. This year our Christmas show is Alice In Wonderland and will be showing on Thursday 15th December 2016, 5pm-7pm.

Megan Parles 11LB



Tribute to Mr Williams



We were all very sad, upset and shocked to learn about Mr Williams' passing. He was an exceptional teacher, a kind and humble man who was blessed with the great gift of being able to connect with students of all abilities and ages. He was wise, warm and completely non judgemental, he loved Marlborough and Marlborough loved him.

Our thoughts are with his family, your children responded with kindness, care and dignity on hearing the news, you would, as parents have been proud.

Rest in peace 'my friend'.

Ms Thomson

**Congratulations to the following
students who have been recognised as being 'Stars' in
English.**



Emily Sykes, Arianna Monro, Charlotte Dodd, Ruth Mitchell-Fox, Albert Davies-Smith, Mia Samson, Aimee Mullen, Jennifer Pooley, Brett Parkins, Charlie Mennie, Peter O'Shea, Lauren Walker, Izzy Fraser, John Gollick, Victoria Brown, Ellie Hawkey, Ollie Wakeling, Grace Fitzjohn, Tia Slocombe, Daniel Napier, Megan Godley, Jordan Gann, Elise Cox, Amjad Choudhury, Luke Foster, Chloe-Jay Bryant, Sophie Brown, Emma Stewart, Jamie Mehta, Erin Mitchell, Abbie Sullivan, Owen Field, Sujjat Ali, Daniel Bedoya, Harriet Lindo, Ellie Brewer and Amy Persaud.

Year 11 English GCSE Revision Guides

Revision guides for all aspects of both English Language and English Literature are available to buy from school via School Gateway. We have guides for the following texts: Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, The Sign of Four, Animal Farm, An Inspector Calls and Power and Conflict poetry. In addition, there is a new English Language guide available too. Please make sure that you print your receipt and give to your son/daughter so that he/she can collect the guides from their English teacher or the English office in Seacole block. Please check which texts your child is studying before purchasing.

Thank you

Mrs Blount

**Congratulations to the following
students who have been recognised as being 'Stars' in
Maths.**

Year 7—Matthew Heeley, Dina Said, Chennai Ballard, Macy Dutton, Kiara Ryan, Joe Wicks, Amy Ben, Darcy Moffatt, Milana Semjonova, Joshua Sweeting, Luke John and Kofi Kyei-Boadu

Year 8—Corin McLean, Niki Kollar, Jack Berrill-Osborne, Tia Parsons, James Chaney, Laura Mercer, Alice Rose, Harry Bateman, Mikey Wood, Jack Smith, Clara Squire and Ben Homfray

Year 9 -Woody Woods, Daniela Ritchie, Gabriel Greco, Natasha Marsh, Courtney Warren, Jack Collins, Blythe Harbron, James Swanson, Adam Boyce, Isabelle Ellis, Kacper Domanski, Sam Williams and Logan Subramanian

Year 10—Bly Wilding, David Burton, Chloe Bilson, Rhys Wernham, Nazifa Choudhury, Nabin Hussain, James Molloy, Ella Bates, Tamanna Begum, Scott Mousley-Young, Neha Shah and Charlotte Flanagan

Year 11—Hana Walker, Archie Finnie, Faith Slade, Christopher Reid, Jada Thoree, Leigh Lamprell, Naomi Baxendine, Ollie Wakeling, Etienne Boxer and Harrison Gates

Year 12—Maisie Scott

Year 13—Ben Thomas-Bolton, Eli Rees and Lewis Black



Evening course for parents: Supporting your children through KS2 English currently in years 4, 5 & 6

This six week course will help parents of children currently in years 4, 5 and 6 to understand the skills and concepts their children will be learning about in literacy in those years and gain insight into the KS2 SATs. Classes are friendly and supportive. **There is a £5 registration fee.**

- ☐ progression in the curriculum
- ☐ poetry
- ☐ word games
- ☐ punctuation
- ☐ creativity
- ☐ story structures - eg character description, settings etc
- ☐ genres of fiction and non-fiction
- ☐ sentence construction / grammar
- ☐ phonics / spelling
- ☐ skimming texts / comprehension
- ☐ speaking and listening techniques eg questioning techniques

Thursday evenings 3 Nov – 8 Dec 2016 7 – 9pm Verulam School

To register your interest in this course call 01727 754113 or email carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk

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Term Dates

Autumn Term 2016

Half term *Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October*

Friday 25th November Occasional Day – School closed for all

Wednesday 21st December Last day of term

Spring Term 2017

Thursday 5th January Beginning of term for staff and students

Friday 10th February INSET Day

Half Term *Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February*

Friday 7th April Last day of term

Summer Term 2017

Monday 24th April Beginning of term

Monday 1st May Bank Holiday (May Day)

Half Term *Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June*

Friday 21st July Last day of term



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