

BARTHOLOMEW SCHOOL REPORT to Annual Parish Meeting 2017

We are pleased to report that both Bartholomew School and the wider EPA continue to flourish and we saw excellent progress and attainment from both Bartholomew School and most of our partner schools. As ever, we are not complacent about this and we will retain our relentless focus on making further improvements for the benefit of our students. To this end, we have identified some areas for improvement that have been included in this year's development plans in all EPA academies. It is clear that the benefits of working in the EPA partnership continue to have an identifiable impact on the learning experiences of all our students.

Examination performance:

The very good, record breaking performance at Bartholomew School in this summer's examinations was significantly due to the efforts of a highly dedicated staff working very effectively with students.

A Level

Level	A*-B	A*-C	A*-E
A2	65%	84%	98%

GCSE

5+A*-C	5+A*-C English/Maths	including	5+A*-G
81%	76%		98%

These exam results are a testament to the commitment and dedication of the students and staff at Bartholomew and all of our students should be justifiably proud of their excellent achievements. These results have enabled our students to continue onto the post-16 and post-19 courses, to go into training or to enter the employment that they wanted. We wish all our students every success and happiness in their future lives and careers.

I would like to reiterate that it is to the great credit of *all* staff in the school that, despite all the demands, they managed to maintain their focus, ensuring they taught and supported students, stayed committed to their goals, and completed all tasks set them to the highest standards. I would like to thank them all again, and publicly, for their amazing dedication to the students and the school.

Staffing Changes – Autumn Term

In addition to the posts we informed parents about prior to the summer holiday, we would like to summarise further changes that have taken place:

- Mr D Sutcliffe will join us as a Teaching Assistant in mid-November
- Miss M Tibbetts has joined us as a Catering Assistant

Several internal appointments have been actioned:

- Mrs D Heath and Mrs C Wilton Jucker continue as Staff House Coordinators, joined by Mrs M Flood and Mrs J Furse
- The School Council will be led this year by Mr J Thompson, assisted by Mrs A Adams, Mrs M Flood and Miss S Nicholson
- A new initiative this year for staff training is the creation of 'Hubs', each of which is being led by a staff member. Miss I Ebanja & Miss R Brading, Miss J Selfe, Mr A Binnington and Miss S Cosier are the staff who will be leading these training Hubs. Staff have chosen which hub they wish to be part of and will undertake research-based projects throughout the year, each Hub having clear links to aspects of the School Development Plan.

Open Evening and Open mornings – September 2016

The school has once again provided prospective parents with several opportunities to visit the school and get to know our work better so that they are able to make an informed choice for their children's secondary education.

The Open Evening on 22 September was organised by Mrs Bexon, Ms Page, and Mrs Hammond, with the assistance of large numbers of staff and students. The evening was a great success with even larger numbers than last year coming through the doors and seeing what the School has to offer.

The evening was followed by the Open Mornings on 27 & 29 September. Organised by Ms Page, ably supported by a team of student guides and Mrs Hammond, these saw many families seeing the school during a normal school day. Once again, we had a large number of families visit the school to see a whole range of classrooms in action and the many activities taking place therein. The resultant comments were exceedingly positive and affirming, with parents recognising and commenting upon the excellent, positive and supportive ethos and the calm, purposeful nature apparent across the School in general.

Meet the Head Evening – September 2016

Another of our very popular evenings, where we arrange to meet parents of specific Year groups, was held on Wednesday, 30 September with over 130 Year 7 parents having opportunity to hear how their children had settled in. The parents began the evening by joining us for a glass of wine or juice and nibbles, provided and served by members of our PTA, which certainly made for a conducive and productive evening.

The staff were represented by the Executive Headteacher Andrew Hamilton, Mr Thomas as Operational Headteacher, Mrs Bexon as Head of Year 7 and Transition, Mr Thompson as SLT Link for Year 7 & Transition, Ms Page as the School's Pastoral Lead and Mr Wood as leading on Independent Study.

The evening culminated in a very constructive and positive general Q&A session. In the main, parents appeared very happy with the School, what we are providing, and the way their children have settled. The profile of the PTA was also raised on the evening, with a short introduction by Leonora Carrasco-Brown (PTA Chair), seeking support from our Year 7 parents for both the PTA directly and with attendance at their many exciting events during the year.

Highlights of the Autumn Term 2016

There have been numerous extra-curricular activities over the last term. On the sporting field there has been some excellent performances from many of the school's teams including an opportunity for the girls to play netball against a touring side from Australia. Further, there has been some excellent opportunities to get involved in extra-curricular Maths and Musical activities. There has also been highly successful Year 10 and Year 11 Parent Information Evenings, Geography field trips to Swanage and Wales, a number of successful EPA events as well as a combined Arts, Drama, Textiles and Music weekend trip to London.

Construction of this new purpose-built Study Centre is complete and, if you are the parent of one of our Sixth Form students, I'm sure they will have already told you what a superb area this is. The building is very nicely furnished, both with the central area for students to undertake quiet study, and several offices, one of which is now occupied by Miss Lowdon, Assistant Headteacher and one by our Sixth Form Administrator, Mrs McAree together with Mrs Williams, our Careers & Work Experience Administrator.

Mr Nicholson: "We wanted to create a space where students could focus on their studies without interruption. We are delighted with the outcome, it is an amazing building which should help with our focus on independence, resilience and positive work ethic which we foster in the Sixth Form"

The School's local neighbours were invited in to view the new building so they could see for themselves the results of the works that had taken place and we hope, in the not too distant future, to have an official opening ceremony.

Further wonderful news is that Bartholomew Sixth Form has been rated as being in the Top 100 state funded schools nationally. The news came as part of the recent release of 16-19 performance data which focusses on the progress that students have made during their studies.

To be placed in the top 3% of all state funded schools for our post-16 provision is a wonderful achievement. It is testament to the hard work of the staff, students, and parents who support the students through this critical stage in their education. I am really proud of them all.

Staff changes in the Spring Term

Recent staffing changes that have taken, or are about to take, place are as follows:

Staff who have left us, or will shortly be leaving are:

- Mrs L Nutt (Learning Mentor) is moving on to pastures new
- Ms S Kitchin (Catering Assistant) will be leaving us to take up a new post elsewhere
- Mr R Partlett (Cleaning team) also leaves us

We are very grateful to each of these staff for the dedication and commitment they gave, for however long, and wish them well in their future endeavours.

Highlights of the Spring Term 2017

It is incredible how much has been packed into such a relatively short term.

Some highlights would be:

- a very successful Year 12 Taster Day. It was lovely to see so many of our Year 11 students getting a feel for what it would be like to be a Sixth Former. Hopefully it will also add that little bit of extra incentive to achieve well this summer. We have been busy interviewing all the potential Sixth Form candidates over the past fortnight (over 200 in total). It has been a real pleasure.
- There was also a Drama workshop at Chipping Norton Theatre, which I know the students enjoyed, as well as a trip to watch "Woman in Black" at Cheltenham Theatre.
- The English department ran a well-attended trip to Reading for "Poetry Live". The students came back buzzing from the event. To have had the opportunity to listen to so many excellent Poets was fantastic.
- Other trips include a Politics trip to Parliament as well as numerous Maths and English events.
- There have also continued to be a whole host of PE fixtures and events, many of which have involved pupils from all seven EPA academies.
- The Oxfordshire Big Band and Celebration Concert at Symphony Hall, Birmingham on the 25 March 2017. All I can say is how incredibly proud I am of these two musical events.

It has been a very successful year for the school and I am very proud of the school's achievements. We continue to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum with a rich variety of extra-curricular activities which helps ensure that students have a happy and successful time whilst at the school.

I would like to thank the parents and local community in their support of the school over the past year.