

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL
April 2018

We are pleased to report that Bartholomew School continues to flourish and we saw excellent progress and attainment for the School. 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. 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 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

A*- B – 54%

A*- C – 76%

A*- E – 99%

GCSE

0.10 P8 Score

90% achieved 9-4 in English Language

85% achieved 9-4 in Maths

5.75 average Attainment 8

38% achieving the English Ebacc

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.

Above and Beyond

One of our major drives this year is the removal of a whole host of rules, to be replaced with expectations that fall into three main categories of "We are ... READY, RESPECTFUL and SAFE".

As you will have seen from the weekly Student News, each week students can be nominated by staff for going above and beyond in one or more of these three:

'We are Ready: We ensure that we are ready to learn by minimising those things that would distract us and those around us. We have good attendance and punctuality, wear the correct uniform and have the appropriate equipment. We work hard and always aspire to do our very best in all aspects of school life.'

'We are Respectful: 'We are proud of ourselves, of our School and of our Community. We are polite and kind in our interactions with all members of the community. We celebrate the diversity within our school and appreciate everybody's achievements equally. We recognise that it is the little things such as holding doors open, picking up litter and saying 'Thank you', that help to build a community worth celebrating.'

'We are Safe: 'We see taking care of ourselves and of others as an extremely important aspect of being part of our Community. We understand that bullying is **not** tolerated in our School and always act in a way that reduces it. We seek help if we are worried about our safety or that of others and always report any unsafe situations or behaviours that we see around the school.'

The Senior Leadership Team are currently discussing possible ways that we can further celebrate when our students go above and beyond – as they so often do!

Highlights of the Autumn Term

There have been numerous extracurricular activities over the last term. On the sporting field there have been some excellent performances from many of the school's teams. Further, there are some excellent opportunities to get involved in a whole host of activities: Instrumental & Voice lessons, Robotics Club, GUMMI BÄREN BANDE, French for Fun, Spanish Club, Film Club continues each B Week, numerous other clubs including Chess, STEM, and a whole plethora of sporting clubs, the Library hosted a Book Fair and even a quiz to mark Roald Dahl's 100th birthday!

There has also been the Year 13 EPQ Marketplace, Biology DNA Workshops, theatre trips and a Geography field trip to the Gower Peninsula.

The Bartholomew School Chess League held their inaugural meeting in the first week back after the October half term; members of the Music Department took a trip to the RAH for "Let's Face the Music"; invaluable tips and the opportunity for a mock employment interview were offered to all our Year 12 students by local employer, Siemens; the first transition day for Year 6's hoping to come up to Bartholomew in September took place; four evening Maths workshops for Year 7 parents; opportunity for Year 7 parents' to meet their child's tutor; Sixth Form Life drawing classes; a variety of trips including Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde, Cadbury World in Birmingham, Year 12 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive', The Railway Children, Blood Brothers, As You Like It; Year 11 German students went to Berlin for a long weekend; and a Sixth Form languages trip to Paris took place.

Members of the MFL Department took a group of students to Oxford to take part in the final of the Weihnachtsplätzchenbackwettbewerb (Christmas Biscuits Baking Competition to you and me!) and they came 1st for 'Originality'. Several students from Year 11 and Sixth Form took part in the annual Senior Maths Challenge at Wheatley Park School and came 12th in the County overall. Another term with an awful lot packed into it!

School Building Developments

On Tuesday 5 December we hosted a pre-planning consultation drop-in event. This provided our neighbours, parents, staff and members of the local community an opportunity to visit our school library and view displays of the proposed plans for the new building to replace our current mathematics classrooms contained in the very old and tired-looking 'tower block'. Visitors to the consultation event were also able to meet, and raise any questions with, the architects, Stride Treglown and staff from Kier, the construction company that will be undertaking the project. If all planning goes ahead, it is hoped that construction can commence in June 2018. We will provide further detailed information as and when this is available and ensure members of our local community are kept fully informed regarding the development.

A link to the development can be found here

<https://www.bartholomew.oxon.sch.uk/254/latest-news/post/91/the-latest-architects-impressions-of-the-new-build>

Renaming Ceremony

Former colleagues and friends of Mr Hamilton, former Bartholomew Executive Headteacher, gathered on the evening of 1 December to formally mark his retirement from the school and to celebrate the renaming of the Sixth Form Study Centre. This is now very aptly named 'The Hamilton Centre', a very fitting honour bestowed upon Mr Hamilton as, it has to be said, this was one of the achievements of which he is most proud; a project he saw through from inception to completion and even helped to fund via the Return to Teaching courses he used to run on behalf of the TDA.

Christmas Concert

A very big thank you goes to Mrs Willet, Mrs Almgill and Mr Thompson, plus all other staff, students and members of the Bartholomew School community involved, for their tremendous efforts, dedication and commitment in putting on such a terrific Christmas Concert on Thursday 14 December. This year the concert was held in St Leonard's Church in Eynsham village; a great opportunity to forge yet further links with our local community.

Highlights of the Spring Term 2018

It is incredible how much has been packed into such a relatively short term. The Bartholomew School University House Challenge Cup, organised by Mrs Heath and hosted by Mr Humm took place, with **Mason** being the worthy winners. The Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge was launched in school; A group of Year 11 English students went to 'Poetry Live' in Reading; The Student Council held a non-uniform day for Crisis and raised a magnificent £855!

Mr Sharland registered the school for a national cybersecurity competition being run by GCHQ and opened up the invitations to students aged 14 and older. We registered about 60 students who took part in a series of online challenges, and of those, 20 students made it through to the next round. There are two more rounds with the last one culminating in a three day cyber-security meetup for students in July in Cambridge. The level of skills required so far has been quite high and in order to proceed students will need to continue to show a high degree of technical skills and application.

Five of our students represented Bartholomew in the Oxfordshire Secondary Panathlon County Competition in Abingdon. They won joint 1st place with Fitzwarren School. However, as there could only be one winning team for gold, individual scores then had to be taken into account. We were placed 2nd but it was extremely close! Our students came away with a silver medal. Well done!

PiXL Edge

PiXL Edge is an initiative to support students develop skills centred around Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication.

On Tuesday 13 March, ten Bartholomew students were invited to Central Hall, Westminster to receive their PiXL Edge Apprentice Level certificates in front of Sir John Rowling (Chair of PiXL) and some 2000 Headteachers and Senior Leaders. This was a tremendous achievement and honour for these students and the School where both have been recognised for their commitment to the PiXL Edge, wider key skills programme. To see our students on stage, receiving their awards in front of all those people and not being phased at all was a very proud moment for the School.

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 help ensure that students have a happy and successful time whilst at the School.

Mr Thomas
Headteacher
April 2018