



Balfour Newsletter Summer 2014



Dear Parents/Carers,

OFSTED

Almost inevitably, the highlight of our current school year was the OFSTED inspection conducted on 8th and 9th May. The key finding that we are a 'Good School with Outstanding' features, is very pleasing and one which I believe is an accurate reflection of where we currently are on our educational journey. I do hope you have read the report as it certainly makes pleasing reading.

I would like to thank formally all who contributed to this outcome - students, staff, governors and parents. Without continued parental support, we would not have made the progress we have.

I would also like to congratulate all the students, who as ever, conducted themselves with maturity and courtesy to others. The judgement of 'Outstanding' for behaviour and safety is well deserved.



Staff Changes

As is traditional, at the end of the academic year, we say goodbye to several members of staff who are either retiring or moving on to pastures new.

Those retiring are -

Mrs Bradley - Science Technician

Mrs Jones - Inclusion Unit

Mrs Davies - Maths

Mr Taylor - Teaching Assistant

Teachers moving on to promoted posts elsewhere, or to pastures new are -

Mrs Bennett - English

Miss Ouchatar - MFL

Mrs Beech - Drama

Mrs Owen - Expressive Arts

Mrs Farmer - Music

Mrs Tait - English

A number of non-teaching staff are also moving on. They are -

Mrs Galliers

Mrs Maloney

Mrs Guilford

Mr Nevin

Mrs Jones

Mr Ward

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the above staff for their commitment, dedication and continued hard work during their time at SGB. I'm sure you would wish to join me, in wishing them all, every success in their future endeavours.

New Staff - We look forward to welcoming;

Miss Barlow - Art/Technology

Mr Massey - English

Miss Braverman - Music

Ms Trender - Expressive Arts

Mr Kay - Maths - re-joining the permanent staff after a year abroad.

Music Tuition

You will no doubt be aware that Governors have decided to reverse their original decision to withdraw all subsidy from Music Tuition. The cost will now remain static at £215 per annum. Thank you to those students and parents who signed up by the deadline of Friday 13th June.

Please be aware, that as part of our commitment to revitalising and expanding Expressive Arts, we will accept further registrations in September. We would like as many students as possible to learn an instrument, which together with a range of other initiatives, will give us a platform to pursue Artsmark status.

Mr D Wright - Headteacher

Looking to the Future...

Over recent months the Government has instructed schools to carry out a number of changes and I thought it might be timely to let you know how they have affected us and what we have done about it.

From September there is a new National Curriculum which Local Authority schools must follow for all students in Key Stage 3 and 4. The subjects remain basically the same, with the exception of IT, which has now become Computing. A key difference for most subjects is the nature of the topics or content which has to be followed. We have made all necessary changes to our Schemes of Work in order to comply with these new demands.

We will therefore continue to offer all National Curriculum subjects to all students in KS3 and 4, with an emphasis on curriculum time being given to the key or core subjects of English, Maths, Science, Languages and Humanities. By running a two week timetable in which carousels can be planned, we are able to make sure that the remaining subjects, which we consider to be vital in developing the whole student, are delivered and delivered well. Art, Graphics, Food Technology, Music, Textiles, Resistant Materials, PE, SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural education) and Computing will be taught to all students within KS3, with opportunities to pursue any of them into KS4 and GCSE qualifications. Drama, whilst not a National Curriculum subject, is a valuable one and will continue to be taught within the English curriculum, supporting fully the development of speaking and listening skills.

Another difference is that the Government has 'scrapped' the levels by which schools have traditionally informed parents of progress and achievement of their children. However, whilst we are still waiting to see the changes to reporting progress currently being worked out in primary schools, we will continue to use levels and sub-levels to let you know how your child is doing. We will slightly change the ways in which we report to you via the Short Reports, giving you your child's target grade for each subject, accompanied by a comment as to whether your child is predicted to achieve at, above or below that target grade. I will keep you informed of changes to this as they occur.

In Key Stage Four we continue to review annually our offer of subjects and this year we have introduced Philosophy and Ethics and Computing as new subjects. Engineering is in its second year and has attracted enough students to fill two classes. We are currently the only Stafford secondary school offering this course and are very happy to support the local economy in this way.

Work Experience - Given that students have to remain in education or training until they are 18, we have decided to alter our approach to Work Experience. From September, instead of completing two weeks' worth of Work Experience, our Year 10 students will instead do just one week, with a chance then to carry out another week when they go into Year 12. There may be individual cases where students ask or need to do more than one week at the

placement - all such cases will be taken into consideration. The dates for Work Experience next year are Monday 6th July to Friday 10th July 2015 and students are asked to begin looking for placements. Much more information will be given from September onwards.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at School. In the meantime I wish you a restful and happy summer break.

Mrs Beck, Deputy Headteacher

Healthy Schools Status

In May Sir Graham Balfour was reaccredited 'Healthy Schools Healthy Futures' status which encompasses;

- increased understanding of e -safety
- improved communication with parents
- improved peer support for children and young people
- improved aspirations of children
- improved lunchtime experience

Pictured - Presentation of the new certificate and plaque to SGB students and Mrs Hartley



Robots visit Balfour!

We were recently visited by Mr Durnall a Computer Scientist, with expertise in the area of robotics. He brought a selection of robots into school and Balfour students were able to control and program the robots to respond to a variety of inputs such as light and sound. This experience was highly enjoyable for everyone involved and has given the students further experience of the potential of Computer Science, as we continue the transition from ICT to Computing.

Mr Durnall will be returning in September to train as a Computing teacher so we look forward to seeing more of what he has to offer in the Autumn Term.



Rotary Young Photographer



After success with her entries to Rotary Club of Stafford Knot Young Photographer Competition, I am pleased to announce Pippa Spencer was awarded second place with her black and white print; 'Victorian Trellis Walk' at the Rotary Club District Final.

Pictured right is Pippa receiving her medal, certificate and enlarged print at Stoke College, on Tuesday, 24th June 2014.

Star Quality - Lily Morgan

Lily Morgan, Year 8 recently performed at the Gatehouse Theatre as part of a Stafford and Stone Schools Performance. Lily is a singer and soloist, the feedback from the evening was fantastic, a member of our teaching staff was in the audience that evening and their praise for Lily was immense 'her vocals were amazing - by far, the best vocalist of the night!'

We asked Lily to write a small profile about herself and this is what she said;

'Hello my name is Lily, I'm 13 years old and I love to sing! I have done many performances and I have sung all of my life! I like to perform, as I have done already at The Gatehouse and Stafford Hospital (to raise awareness). Singing is a big part of what I love to do and although I am still in high school I'd like to carry on throughout my life because it makes me happy and it means a lot to me, as I get to express my feelings through music!



Captain Perrin Memorial

70th Anniversary of Captain Perrin's Death

On the 4th July 12 students were invited to the Perrin Memorial, which is situated near Arnold Clark.

The Story of Captain Perrin

Captain Perrin was an American pilot, who whilst delivering a brand new Mustang Aircraft from the north of England to a base in East Anglia, a fuel leak filled the cockpit with fumes which then ignited at a time when the craft was passing over the outskirts of Stafford and approaching the village of Creswell.

Eye witness testimony confirms that the pilot, rather than bail out, stayed at the controls and wrestled to steer his stricken craft away from houses and a local school below - changing course to head for open farmland.

By then the cockpit was engulfed in flames and he crash landed into a cornfield - at the cost of his own life. The pilot was a young, but already highly decorated U.S.A.A.F pilot from New Jersey by the name of Capt. John Pershing Perrin.

A Memorial was erected in Creswell, within yards of the actual crash site, in his name in 2007. This year sees the 70th Anniversary of that tragic incident.

Students were able to enjoy a BBQ and refreshments whilst watching an aerial display by a Spitfire.



Stafford and Rural Homes Competition

Naming of the new Foregate Development

On Thursday 10th April Sir Graham Balfour School welcomed representatives from Stafford and Rural Homes who had arranged to conduct a workshop with a number of our Year 7 students. As a school we had been approached to participate in a competition to name the new housing development on the Foregate in Stafford.



Twenty of our Year 7 children were nominated by staff to take part and spent their Easter holidays deciding on a name and designing a poster to showcase the new sign.

Pictured: Sandra Shipperley and Kirsty Wareham (SARH) and our Year 7 students - Thursday 10th April

On Friday 6th June, Sandra Shipperley, Customer Liaison Officer from SARH returned to announce the winner, however, due to the outstanding quality of the entries SARH decided to change the competition to include two joint winners and introduce a runner up prize. Our 3 successful entrants and their parents were then invited to attend SARH Head Office on Tuesday 10th June to receive their prizes (£30 shopping voucher each) and meet Karen Armitage, Chief Executive Officer of SARH.

Our successful Year 7 students were Lucy Spencer and Josh Bayley (Joint Winners) and Ella Daniel (Runner Up) and I am pleased to announce the new development will be called 'Horton Village'.

Lucy Spencer - Horton Court

Based on William Horton, a founder of the Staffordshire Shoe Industry in 1804 he became Mayor of Stafford due to his popularity in the Business and Social Sector.

Josh Bayley - Foregate Village

The area the new development is based was originally a settlement known as Foregate Village, the earliest record being 1274. Josh felt the new development suited this name because the 45 one and two bedroom apartments would be like living in a small village and perhaps neighbours would find the same community spirit as those that lived in Foregate Village centuries ago.

Ella Daniel - Bertelin Court

According to legend, Stafford was founded around 700 AD by an Anglio Saxon Prince called Bertelin. For part of his life he lived in a hermitage on one of the marshland islands that has now become the town of Stafford.

Our 3 winners will also be invited to attend the opening of the new development when the work is complete early next year.

Pictured; Ella Daniel, Lucy Spencer, Josh Bayley, Lynne Gannon and Karen Armitage.



Opening of the New Covered Bike Shelter

The Mayor of Stafford visited SGB at 9.00 am on Wednesday 18th June to meet some of our students and officially open the new cycle shelter facility at the front of the school. This venture had been funded by Stafford Borough Council along with additional Sports Hall cycle parking racks in the near future. Prior to the official opening of the shelter The Worshipful the Mayor of Stafford Borough Councillor Ray Sutherland arrived in time to see the start of the Tour of Stafford and wish the riders well before the start of the event.



Tour of Stafford

The first 'Tour of Stafford' took place on Wednesday 18th June, with SGB hosting the start of the event.

Originally a relay between Secondary Schools the event grew to become a 'chain' with all schools cycling the full course 15 - 18 mile route.

The day began with visiting dignitaries and an interview with BBC Radio Stoke and then 15 of our students set off at 9.00 am to start the event, picking up students from other schools along the way. On their return to SGB at 12 noon the 'chain' now had in excess of 90 cyclists and after a quick lunch the SGB team retired for the day and the 'drop off circuit' began; finishing at Blessed William Howard by 3.00 pm.

It was a fantastic event with all the Secondary Schools in Stafford taking part and cheering each other on.

Thank you to Miss Deborah Brown and Mr Paul Gannon for volunteering to cycle the route with our children, everyone had a great day!



Transition Bike to School

Students from Tillington Manor Primary School visited Sir Graham Balfour School on Wednesday 2nd July as part of a Transition Bike ride in preparation for their journey to school in September. Accompanied by members of the Staffordshire County Council Cycling Team the children were escorted on the safe routes to and from the school.



Big Walk for Cambodia

Our annual Big Walk for Cambodia took place after lunch on Wednesday 9th July and for the second year running we were supported by Parkside Primary School. Years 5 and 6 joined our students to walk around the SGB school field, whilst the younger years remained at Parkside and completed circuits of their field. In addition Parkside students had spent the day taking part in Cambodian themed activities. Thank you to our 6th form students who volunteered to spend the day at Parkside helping the children.



Pictured above; Year 4 Parkside pupils getting ready for their 'Big Walk'.



Pictured above; Year 1 Parkside pupils with their Cambodian and English flags

As a school we are extremely grateful for the support our Primary Schools give to our Cambodia fundraising and we will continue to work closely with them in the new academic year.



Pictured right; the Big Walk on Sir Graham Balfour school field

Primary School Councils Visit Balfour

The SGB School Parliament welcomed members of our Primary School Councils on Thursday 10th July, pupils enjoyed a tour of our 'big' school and played games and activities all organised by the SGB Parliament students. The afternoon ended with a game of kick rounders in the sunshine before our visitors headed back to their respective primary schools.



Thank you to the staff and students from Cooper Perry, Parkside and Tillington Manor for agreeing to visit SGB with their School Council pupils.



Uniform to Work Day

On Wednesday 25th June staff and students wore their Service uniforms to work with pride in celebration of the annual Uniform to Work Day, in the run up to the sixth annual Armed Forces Day on Saturday 28th June.



Northfield Village Visit

On Tuesday 15th July, 20 Year 7 students from Sir Graham Balfour School were invited to visit the new development on the Stone Road, called Northfield Village. A major new development, this innovative scheme provides people with accommodation choices and an holistic approach to care; allowing people to live the lifestyle they want in the same familiar locality. Upon completion it will consist of six main buildings: Dementia, Health and Well Being, Community Hub, Extra Care, General Needs and Supported Housing.

After being given a full safety brief and wearing the compulsory safety clothing, students were able to walk around this very large, busy site and learn about the various stages of construction for each building. They learnt about the roles of different trades and what equipment is required to help a project of this size run smoothly. It was also an opportunity to look at this new housing concept and the facilities incorporated into the design to meet the needs of an ageing population and the need for extra care.

In September the group will be given the opportunity to enter a prize competition to design a poster/model promoting Northfield Village. All entries will be judged by Galliford Try, the construction company from Northfield Village.



Duke of Edinburgh

Well done to Chloe Preston, Laura Beswick, Joe Smith and Shabnam Shariff on completion of their Silver Expedition. (In partnership with Walton Open Award Centre - 24th/25th and 26th May)

Despite being a very wet weekend they were all fantastic and extremely determined to finish a very grueling weekend.



Also, well done to Anya Elliman, Pippa Spencer, Cara Hawkins and Matthew Porter for completing their Silver Expedition. Having completed their practice weekend at the same time as the first Balfour group and battled torrential rain and long routes, for their assessment weekend they were lucky to have more pleasant weather!

Thank you to Stafford Grammar School for generously agreeing to our students amalgamating with their group for the Silver Assessment weekend.

Eco Schools Bronze Award

Well done to Debbie Hill and our Eco Club for gaining Eco Schools Bronze Award for SGB!



Eco Action Day

The children from our Eco Club thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Annual Eco Action Day on held at The Wolseley Centre on Thursday 3rd July.



Organised by Stafford Borough Eco-Schools Network and supported by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, the students spent the day playing Eco themed games, making bird feeders from plastic bottles and paper plant pots, planting seeds and to end the day watched a theatre group production.

Celebration Evening 1st July 2014

Thank you to everyone who attended our Year 7/8/9 and 10 Celebration Evening 'A Celebration of Achievement' on Tuesday 1st July. It is always a difficult task to select the winners, we have so many children worthy of awards, as a school we aim to celebrate the achievements of as many individuals as possible and give them formal recognition for their attainment, effort and social responsibility.

A special thank you to our guest speaker Karen Armitage, Chief Executive of Stafford and Rural Homes for taking time out of her busy schedule to attend the evening.



Pictured above: Year 7 Effort and Progress winners.

Our Upper School Celebration Evening will be taking place on Thursday 4th September at 7.00 pm. Invitations to our prize winners and guests will be issued during the summer break.

Year 11 Prom

Yet again our Prom attendees were fortunate to have a lovely summer evening to celebrate the end of Year 11 Prom at the Moathouse, Acton Trussell, on Monday 30th June. Everyone looked wonderful in their dresses and suits. You can find some of the pictures on The Express and Star website under 'Gallery 4'.



We have already booked our Y11 Prom for next year which will take place on Monday 6th July 2015, at the Moathouse Acton Trussell.

French Trip Normandy 2014



1st day - Travelling

On Monday 30th June a very excited group of 48 year 8 French students and six staff packed their bags onto the coach, left Sir Graham Balfour and headed south to Normandy in France. As the journey passed, many sleepy faces began to appear as after a largely sleepless night we said farewell to England and a welcoming bonjour to France.

An early highlight of the trip was a stop at the pretty fishing town of Honfleur en route to get straight into some French speaking at the numerous cafés and ice cream stalls, stretch our legs and enjoy the French sunshine!

2nd day - Visit to Arromanches and



World War II sites

Our first stop of the trip was the seaside town of Arromanches-sur-mer. After seeing the remains of the artificial port, we experienced a

thought-provoking and graphic representation of the events of June 6th 1944 at the 360 degree cinema, before taking the walk down to Arromanches where the students enjoyed having some free time to practise some more French and sample more of the ice cream!

We then headed for Longues sur mer where students had the chance to explore a fully-preserved German gun battery before leaving for Pointe du Hoc, which was the target of heavy bombardment due to its threat to the Allied landings on two beaches, Omaha and Utah. The students thoroughly enjoyed an hour running up and down the huge bomb craters at this historic site, and got back on the coach ready for a power-nap en route to the next stop!



The next visit of the day was to Omaha beach, where 2,400 American soldiers tragically perished on D-Day. The students enjoyed some free time at the beach, where they drew in the sand and skimmed stones in the sea.

We then took the long walk up to American war cemetery which everyone



found immensely thought-provoking. The students were extremely respectful while visiting the cemetery and got a realisation of the scale of the losses incurred during the war.

**3rd day -
Visit to
Cité de la
Mer and
Sainte-**

Mère Eglise

After breakfast we headed to Cité de la Mer in Cherbourg, where the students enjoyed visiting a large aquarium and got the chance to get up close and personal with sharks and sting rays. We then navigated our way along the narrow corridors of a nuclear submarine before ending the day on a high, with students grabbing the headlines by becoming explorers of the deep blue! En route back to the hotel, we stopped to visit Sainte-Mère Eglise, which was the first town to be liberated by American paratroopers.





Another highlight of the trip came that evening at dinner, where the students got the chance to taste traditional French snails and frogs legs. Every student got stuck in, with many going back for more!

4th day - Traditional biscuit factory, Bayeux cemetery and Festyland!

It was already the last day and the week was flying by! After a breakfast of croissants and pain au chocolat, we headed for the village of Asnelles where we visited a family-run factory of traditional Normandy biscuits. The students had a demonstration on how to make the biscuits, all in French, before getting to try their hands at making their own.

Our next stop was the British



cemetery at Bayeux. While the group had an emotional walk around the cemetery, reading messages to loved ones who died during the war, one student had the opportunity to visit a relative who died during the fighting on D-Day.

We then boarded the coach and headed for Festyland for an exhilarating afternoon on the rollercoasters! This is always a favourite with the students and this year was no exception! The day at Festyland was the highlight for most students and was a great way to spend our last afternoon in Normandy. On the final evening of our trip the students enjoyed a disco, which was the scene of some interesting dancing and which was the perfect way to end what had been a very successful, educational and fun-packed trip.



Spanish Trip Santander 2014

During May half term, 37 Y8 and Y9 students, along with Mrs Thorndyke, Mrs Jones, Mrs Jupp, Mrs Bowyer and Mr Atkins- Green enjoyed five fun packed days in Santander, on the northern coast of Spain.

After a smooth flight to Bilbao, we arrived at hotel accommodation, quickly unpacked and had a chance to recover from the journey. The area we stayed in is very different from most people's conceptions about Spain, especially as this area is known as the Costa Verde (Green Coast) due to the more varied climate. In fact, we experienced sun, rain, wind and even snow during the visit.



During our time there, we went to a wildlife reserve park, played on a beach, discovered Santander through the town trail, visited the local villages of Santillana del Mar and Potes, went on a boat, up a mountain via cable car (where we had a snowball fight!), had a party night, took part in games; in all honesty there never seemed to be a boring moment for the entire week. For anyone considering going on this trip in two years' time: go for it!



Iceland Trip

From Monday 14th April to Friday 18th April 24 Geography students from Y11 and Y13 and 4 members of staff from Sir Graham Balfour School undertook what we hope will be the first of many annual visits to Iceland.

The trip was a fantastic success, thoroughly enjoyed by students and staff alike and gave everybody an interesting insight into a country with a unique and interesting geography formed by Tectonic, Glacial and River processes. The trip gave students an excellent real world insight into how these processes operate and create specific landforms which will be invaluable in their preparation for their summer exams where many of these topics are covered. In addition they had the opportunity to experience the culture and lifestyle of another country by sampling local cuisines, such as sheep brain and dried fish, and experiencing life in an Icelandic city.



The trip began immediately on touching down at the airport with a short journey to the world most northerly capital city of Reykjavik. After a quick stop at the Perlan to get a first view out across the city and blow away some travel cobwebs we took a walk through the city taking in the magnificent Hallgrímskirkja church and the old port and harbour. From there we travelled on to our accommodation base for the week with the backdrop of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano.



Our first full day in Iceland saw us start with a glacier walk led by Matthew Mason. Assisted by a rope hand rail students in small groups were able to climb up on top of a glacier snout and take in the spectacular landscape created by the combination of tectonic, glacial and river processes. From here we visited the volcanic black beach to study the magnificent caves and arches cut into the volcanic rock by coastal erosion and climbed to the top of the Skógafoss waterfall before visiting a local Icelandic swimming baths for some fun and relaxing.



Our second full day saw us wake up to a blanket of full snow but this did not stop us undertaking the famous Golden Circle Tour which began with the impressive Gullfoss waterfall and gorge which students were able to get very close to. This was followed by a walk through the geysers and fumaroles of the Geysir area and finally a visit to the rift valley created where the North America tectonic plate and the Eurasian tectonic plate are spreading apart. A process all of the students had studied in the classroom but now got to see with their own eyes. The highlight of the day for many however had to be the spectacular Northern Lights display we were fortunate to witness late that night from the hill behind our accommodation.

Our final full day saw us undertake an exciting and bouncy journey through the landscape created by the floods following the famous 2010 Eyjafjallajökull volcanic eruption. From here we enjoyed a morning trekking through the snow and tephra fields before heading back to the Seljalandsfoss waterfall where we were able to walk a path behind the waterfall.

Our final day saw us head back towards the airport along the coastal road stopping off for a 3 hour relaxing soak in the magnificent sulphur pools of the Blue Lagoon with its sauna, hot pools and mud face masks. Unfortunately at this point we had to head back to the airport for our return flight at the end of a fantastic week. The students were a credit to the school throughout and were unanimous in their enjoyment of the trip which we look forward to running again next year.



News from the PE Department

District Football Champions:

Congratulations to both the year 8 and year 10 football teams who have had another successful year at Balfour. Both teams have been crowned as district champions after two outstanding performances in their respective finals. In a highly competitive year 8 final against King Edward VI High School, Balfour eventually won the game by 4 goals to 0 thanks to a Liam Green brace and a goal apiece from Elliot Roeton and Lenny Baker. The year 10 boys managed to produce a performance of similar quality, again beating an impressive King Edward team by 5-1. The boys produced an outstanding performance and scored some excellent goals with the pick of the bunch coming from a superb 20 yard strike by Connor Stitt. Balfour's other 4 goals came courtesy of a Josh Furze double and a goal apiece from Iwan Bebb and Oliver Dunne.

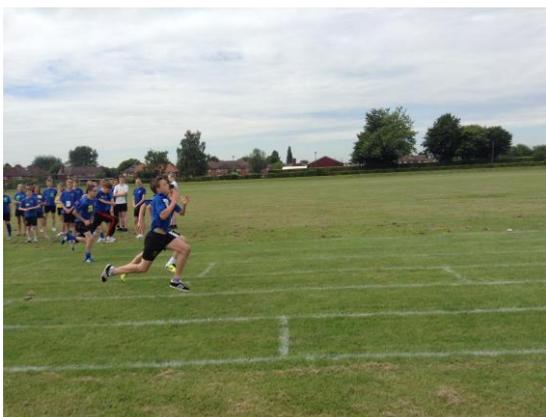


The Road to Rio 2016:

We are lucky to have a number of outstanding athletes at Sir Graham Balfour School and 1 in particular has recently competed in the English School's 75m Hurdles event. Amy Pye won both the district and county competitions before progressing onto the national event. In a fiercely contested final, Amy, an under 13 performer, competed in the under 15 competition and finished in 3rd place, taking the title of British number 3 despite competing with athletes that are 2 years older than her. Amy certainly is an athlete to look out for in the future. In addition, a number of Balfour students achieved district success with Joe Porter, George Hill, Ryan Blagbrough and Liam Green all qualifying for the county competition. Furthermore, sprinters Natalie Mukerji and Holly Till won both district and county honours in the 100 metres event and Chloe Preston was successful in the county high jump event. We would also like to congratulate all of the other students that represented Balfour in the district Athletics competitions that were held at Aldersley stadium and Rowley Park respectively.

Balfour Sports day:

Once again, the Balfour students excelled during an extremely competitive sports day! Chetwynd house were awarded the title of sports day champions and the trophy was greatly received by Caitlin Stockton and Ella Clifford. There were a number of memorable events during the day including the relay races and the tug of war competition. Furthermore, a number of school records were broken. These included 2 records for Liam Green and additional records for Katherine Lemmon, Iris Davies, Will Hollis and Ammar Pathak. In addition, the Pell Frischman trophy was awarded to Abbie Wrighton who produced a number of excellent performances throughout the day.



Primary Sports Days:

A number of year 8 students have assisted our local primary schools with their recent sports days. This has enabled them to be ambassadors for Sir Graham Balfour School and the experience has also developed their ability to work as outstanding leaders and excellent team members. The students have assisted with events and helped to coach students at Cooper Perry, Parkside and Tillington and they have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We hope to continue to provide opportunities for our students to lead activities and support our local primary schools during events throughout the academic year.

Primary Sport:

The PE department would once again like to thank all of our neighbouring primary schools for their attendance at the Monday afternoon sport sessions. A number of students from years 1-6 have had the opportunity to compete against other schools in a variety of sports including Football, Rugby, Cricket, Tennis and Handball. The PE department have again been extremely impressed with the progress of all of the students that have attended and it has been an extremely enjoyable experience for all involved. Once again, we would like to thank the "Balfour leaders" who have demonstrated exceptional leadership skills during all of the competitions. The leaders have included Alice Tiso, Ria Williamson-Smith, Sophie Berry, Adele Moss, Harriet Allpress and Ebby Stockley.

We would also like to congratulate a former student, Ben Pickford who is currently being approached by a selection of colleges in the USA who have offered him an opportunity to potentially study and play football out there from August 2015.

Finally, the PE department would like to congratulate Miss Hunt who has been selected to represent the England Women's Rugby squad in the forthcoming world cup in France. It is incredible to have an athlete as talented as Miss Hunt within the PE department and we all wish her the very best of luck. Come on England!

Thank you

The PE department



Thank you to everyone for another fantastic year at Sir Graham Balfour!

Just a reminder for September... please help yourselves and your teachers!

Your teachers are very keen to make sure you do well in your lessons, but they can become very grumpy (and will start handing out BCs) if you do not come to lessons with the correct kit. So, please get it right - make sure you come to your lessons with the following:

General - all lessons: Pen (black or blue), pencil, ruler, sharpener, eraser, coloured pencil crayons

In addition to the above, the following lessons require you to have:

Science and Maths: calculator

Maths: protractor, pair of compasses

Food Tech: apron

English: highlighter pens

ICT: memory stick and earphones (as you use with your mobiles)

Art GCSE: drawing pencils, black fineliner, A2 and A3 folders and sketchbooks to every lesson.

Thank you, Mrs Beck.

**Enjoy your summer break
and we look forward
to seeing students on
Wednesday 3rd September 2014**

SGB Eco News

ISSUE 5

**Congratulations to Sir Graham Balfour School
on gaining their Eco Schools Bronze Award!!!**

Eco-Schools



Sir Graham Balfour High School

has been given this award to recognise
their achievement in working towards a
sustainable lifestyle.



We want to hear from you!

This newsletter is for students and staff of Sir
Graham Balfour School and to help fill it each
time we need to find out your news. So if you
have any fresh ideas or news then email Mrs Hill
on dhill1@sirgrobalfour.staffs.sch.uk or see
any of the Eco Club Members

Here are some of the many Eco Club achievements during the past academic year.

Next year we have some exciting projects working with the community and primary schools. Eco Club will run after school on a Wednesday (3.30-4.30pm).

For those students who would like to join in, but, cannot make after school the club will also run at lunchtime (day/room to be confirmed).



July 2012 had an activity day within school re-generating some disused garden plots. The students had to weed and prepare the plot before planting lavender bushes which will attract bees and insects.



Thank you for your support.
Have a lovely school holiday and look forward to some exciting projects in the new school year.

Eco Club

