



# Balfour Newsletter Easter 2019



**Dear Parents, Carers, Students, Grandparents and all other members of our Community**

At last we are drawing free of winter; the days are slightly warmer, the nights are lighter and all of us are looking forward to the change which Easter brings. School, as ever, is very busy. Our Year 11 and 13 students are focused on their GCSE and A level exams, our Year 9's have just been through the Options process, Year 10 are getting ready for their Work Experience placements and Year 7 and 8 are busily consolidating their learning across the full range of subjects. We have just now started our annual cycle of taster sessions for students in Year 5 and are organising our Transition Programme for Year 6 students to get used to the idea of 'coming to big school'

As ever, as we approach the end of term, there are a few things I would like to share with you:

## **Vision and Values of Sir Graham Balfour School**

We have all been delighted with the way in which our new Vision and Values have been adopted by our students and staff this year. By focusing on the positive messages held within our values, school has become an even more pleasant place to be for all. Our conversations with children often centre around one of more of those values, which you will see below, and in full detail at the end of this section. Your support with explaining and discussing these values at home would be great:

- Commitment to excellence
- Responsibility for ourselves and others
- Ambition for ourselves and others
- Respect, Kindness and Compassion for ourselves and others
- Care for the local and wider Community
- Perseverance and resilience
- Pride in working hard and the success it brings

### **Update to Behaviour for Learning procedures**

As you know, our new B4L procedures came into force from September. They were deliberately adjusted to ensure that every student can learn in an atmosphere of calm and excellent behaviour; they were also aimed at making sure our expert teachers (we have graduate, expert teachers in every single classroom) can teach without disruption. I am very proud to say that there has been a big reduction in the amount of low-level disruption, and the incidents of serious disruption have drastically reduced. In a school filled with 1000 young people, this is no mean feat. Our behaviour is not yet perfect *all* the time, but we are determined to do all we can to make it so. Again, we welcome your support in speaking to your child on the occasions when they receive BCs – please help us to help them, by making them see that it is their education that is being affected whenever they receive a BC for disrupting learning. It is also very unfair on the children around them, whose learning is put at risk.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Awards**

We are delighted to let you know that we are now an accredited DofE Centre. A group of sixth formers have just embarked on their Silver Award and we will be introducing the Bronze Award for current Year 8 and 9 students in the Summer term. Current Year 10 and 11 students will be able to start their Silver Award if they choose to remain with us for Sixth Form.

### **Funding**

Funding remains a very lively concern for us, as for all schools in Staffordshire. We run a very tight ship and have done for many years. We have, with very careful management of funding, been able to maintain adequate staffing levels (sadly, only a fraction of the number of Teaching Assistants we used to have) and the fullest range of subjects we can provide. Fairer Funding will mean a little extra money coming into school, but it does not cover the increased contributions we will have to make to pensions, NI etc, nor will it make up for the staff who have not been replaced due to 'natural wastage'. I therefore urge you to contact your local MP, (for Stafford this is Jeremy Lefroy) and ask them to stand up for your children's rights to a more equal share of funding. In many parts of the country, schools still receive anything **up to an additional £3,000 per child per year** – in a school of 1000 students, you can see the difference this would make.

### **Dining Room**

Our new catering company have been in place since September and we are about to start a pupil survey on the provision. Verbal feedback has been very positive generally, but we now want to get a fuller picture on their views. If you have anything you wish to contribute to this, please email us at 'office@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk'.

**Uniform**

As ever, I want to thank you for your support of our school uniform. I receive many expressions of support and admiration of it on at least a weekly basis. If you are out buying new items over Easter, please do look carefully at the uniform requirements on our website – some items sold under the label of ‘Schoolwear’ in shops do not conform to our uniform policy. It’s better to be safe than sorry! As we approach the warm weather, we adopt our ‘summer uniform’ (optional ties and blazers), and we will let you know when that comes into force. One final plea – trainers worn through the day are not part of our uniform; we do insist on black shoes being worn. Again, if in doubt contact your child’s House Tutor before buying.

**And finally**

May I first thank you for your unstinting support of your children and our school and second, wish you all a restful and relaxing Easter break.

Lesley Beck

Extremely Proud Headteacher of Sir Graham Balfour School

## Sir Graham Balfour School – Our Vision

### **Our vision is summed up in our mission statement – ‘Learning, Working and Succeeding Together’**

For us, the ‘together’ is absolutely critical; collaboration, cooperation and teamwork are essential for developing the skills, knowledge and confidence necessary for academic and personal excellence. As well as the drive to achieve academically, the ability to self-regulate, to communicate clearly with others, to know and be proud of who you are, to be compassionate to others and to be ambitious for yourself and others are equally important.

We passionately believe that the circumstances of birth or upbringing should not be the key determining factors to success in life and we are relentless in our ambition for ALL children to achieve as well as possible at Sir Graham Balfour School, regardless of their sexual orientation , socio-economic, ethnic, religious or gender status.

### **Our Values**

Our aim as a school, working alongside parents and our community, is to help students to become outstanding and effective citizens; to make responsible, appropriate and healthy choices in all things. Staff and parents will not always be there, at the point where critical decisions need to be made. This is why we are committed to **values based learning**; *rules* prescribe a set of appropriate/inappropriate behaviours (e.g. don’t run in the corridors) which are specific to given contexts, whereas *values* provide a set of aspirational guidelines within which children must choose the right behaviour or action for the vast array of contexts they will be faced with in life (e.g. how do I need to move around the school if I am taking responsibility for myself and others?). These are the values which we believe will help our students to become excellent citizens of Stafford and beyond:

- Commitment to excellence
- Responsibility for ourselves and others
- Care for the local and wider Community
- Respect, Kindness and Compassion for ourselves and others
- Ambition for ourselves and others
- Perseverance and resilience
- Pride in working hard and the success it brings

Our values drive and shape every aspect of school life, taking the place of school rules. They seek to reinforce the development of the whole person, in addition to the academic. They are values which will, if routinely exemplified and embedded, give our young people all the skills and characteristics necessary to become outstanding citizens of the future.

# Balfour Buzz Newspaper

The Balfour Buzz publishes its first issue!

An independent student newspaper has been established within Sir Graham Balfour School. Year 12 students, Phoebe H, Rowan H and Jess J are currently managing operations. Each Year 12 student is responsible for a team of students and they work very closely with them every Tuesday to develop the articles for the next addition. The content is then checked and approved by Miss McConnachie, copies are made available in the DAC centre and the newspaper is also published on our website.



If you would like to read a copy please go to the school website, click on the Calendar and News Tab and you will find a section for the Balfour Buzz.

The content from Issue 1 ranges from short stories written by the students, to political articles about the country's most pressing problems, to a section devoted to wellbeing.

The content truly reflects the interests of the students and it is great to see what they have been able to achieve independently.

We look forward to the next issue which will be published after the Easter holidays.



# BOOK FAIR

Book Fair February 2019



In February we held a Book Fair in the DAC. Under the direction of Miss McConnachie, the fair was organised and run by some of our Year 10 students. They advertised the fair and created competitions and were also on hand to help students choose their books.

There was quite a buzz in the DAC as students browsed the books on offer and by the end of the Book Fair we had sold over 174 items totalling over £524.

The fair was so successful that we have decided to run one at least twice a year. The next fair will be in July this year and this one will be run by our Year 9 students.

# Cambodia 2020

## Critchlow's Cracking Cambodia Quiz

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April the Cambodia Team, helped by the superb talents of Mr Critchlow (Quiz Master), ran a quiz in aid of the Cambodia 2020 Trip. Families, friends and teachers attended the quiz and it was a huge success! 30 teams of approximately 5 were formed on the night and £880 was raised towards the trip. The night started with Mrs Metcalfe's Irish Bingo, followed by the first half of Critchlow's Cracking Cambodia Quiz. The guests were then served their Perrys of Eccleshall Pies with mushy peas at the half time break.

Well done to Mrs Bowyer, Lauren C, Rebecca C and Mirab K, who actually made the pies with the help of Stephen Hill, the owner of Perrys of Eccleshall on the Thursday morning. After the second half of the quiz, the raffle winners were announced, followed by the winners of the quiz itself.

All in all, it was a HUGE success, we have been overwhelmed by the support we received. Thank you to Mr Critchlow, Mrs Metcalfe, Stephen Hill, Mrs Bowyer, the rest of the Cambodia team.



# Careers

## **Birmingham University Medicine and Dentistry Insight Day**

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March a group of 8 Year 10 students visited Birmingham University for a Medicine and Dentistry Insight Day. During the day, the students were able to hear from a range of professionals within the industry, including a Doctor and Dentist.

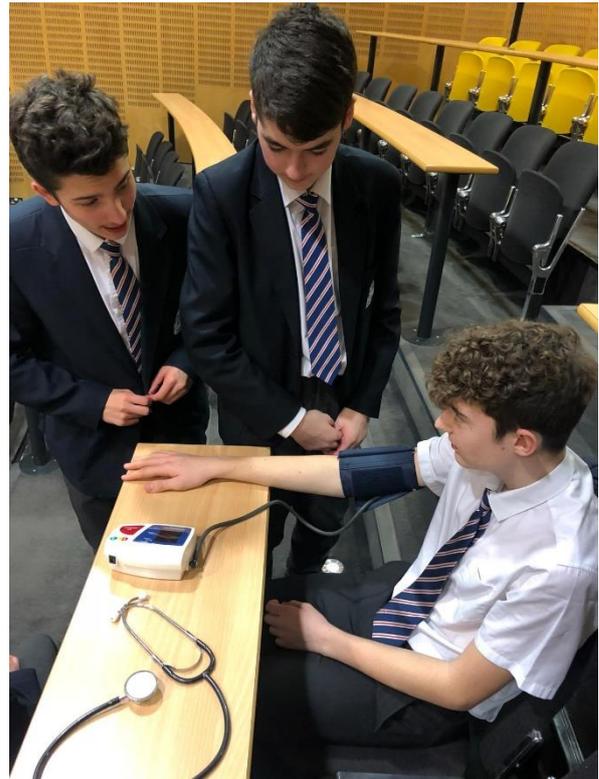
The students were also able to hear the experience of current students at Birmingham University.

They were also lucky enough to be guided through the process of giving CPR and they were able to practice using blood pressure monitors.

Students were also given a tour of the medical building at the Edgbaston campus.

The day ended with a very useful presentation about the routes available for the students to become successful within the Medical profession.

Overall a really useful and informative day!



Pictured: Taylor H, Megan E, Isobel C, Tabby C, Ben C, Zach G-F, Jack D and Lakshmi D.

## **PHSE Careers Day and the SGB Careers Fair 2019**

PHSE Day on Careers took place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January with all students focusing on various aspects of their future career. Each year group was given a set theme, consisting of workshops, discussions and talks. As part of the day, our annual SGB Careers Fair was held in the Sports Hall with over 30 companies/organisations exhibiting. Each year group was given an opportunity to visit the fair as part of their timetable for the day. Feedback from both the students and the exhibitors was extremely positive

## Theme for the Day

**Year 7** - Introduction to careers: Variety of sessions with the aim of students starting to think about careers and self-evaluation of their own interests, qualities and hopes for the future.

**Year 8** - Building a community: Working in groups to create a community, considering what job roles are important.

**Year 9** - Challenging stereotypes / GCSE tasters: Session aimed to challenge stereotyping of careers, followed by 4 GCSE taster sessions.

**Year 10** - Business Enterprise Day: Working in teams to create, develop and present a pop-up shop.

**Year 11** - Getting career ready: Variety of sessions that aim to give students the know-how and tools to be successful on their chosen post 16 pathway.



# Cern Visit

The Year 12 A Level Physics class recently spent a weekend in Geneva visiting CERN. We arrived at school on the Friday morning at the bright and early time of 4:30 AM and took the minibus to Manchester Airport for our 8am flight to Geneva. The flight was very enjoyable, but the landing could've been smoother. From Geneva Airport it was a short train journey and walk to the hostel, where we left our bags before leaving to explore the city of Geneva.

We enjoyed a scenic walk along Geneva Lake, with great views of the Jet D'eau, a large fountain in the lake that is one of the city's most famous landmarks. As we headed towards the science museum, we stopped at a small pebbly beach where we stood and skimmed stones, everyone trying their best to out-do the other (6 was the record).





The Science Museum was full of interesting exhibitions showing the history of important scientific experiments, both inside and outside of the building. This included



acoustic mirrors, which reflect and concentrate sound over long distances which went from us trying to talk to each other across the long distance to Tom blaring Bohemian Rhapsody across the gap. There was also an electron microscope and a vacuum seal. The vacuum seal had a handle to hang off to prove the power of atmospheric pressure.



From the Science Museum we headed to the United Nations building, and although we couldn't get inside, the building was impressive and there were some interesting political protests going on outside. We then caught a tram back to the



hostel where we relaxed in our room. We were all put in one spacious room with bunk beds and several lockers. We were also conveniently close to the toilets and showers, so we had everything we needed at hand. The lockers and doors around the hostel

were all card operated so that only we could access the right locker and rooms. Many of us found out it was much easier to lock your own card in your locker than it seemed, making repeated visits to the reception to ask for an emergency card. We relaxed in our room until dinner, which after a long day of walking, was made even better. We got a fairly early night even after our seemingly never-ending game of Uno.



# Competitions

## Smart Law Mock Trial

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 14 students from Sir Graham Balfour Multi Academy Trust attended the local heat of the Smart Law Mock Trial Competition at Cannock Magistrates' Court for the first year and won. This is a competition organised by the charity Young Citizens and its purpose is to encourage young people to develop their understanding of the Law. It also offers students a fantastic opportunity to develop their public speaking skills.



To prepare for this competition the 14 students had to memorise details of a fictional case and then learn to play their roles in the court room. Students had been attending after school sessions once a week since November to prepare. The students also visited Cannock Magistrates' Court ahead of the heat to become comfortable with their surroundings.

The students did exceptionally well on the day, giving emotive speeches, responding to unfamiliar questions from other teams and remembering the order of procedure within the court room.

They competed in two rounds. In the first round they were against Endon High School and during the second round, Clayton Hall Academy.

Sir Graham Balfour was announced as the winner when all of the marks had been calculated by the independent judges. Therefore, the students are now through to the regional heat, which will be held in May at Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court.

Miss McConnachie and Mrs March have been overseeing the process and they could not be prouder of the students. Bring on the next round!!!

<b><u>Prosecution Lawyer 1</u></b>	<b><u>Prosecution Lawyer 2</u></b>	<b><u>Prosecution Witness 1</u></b>	<b><u>Prosecution Witness 2</u></b>
Abbie M	Xavier E	Erin H	Kelby A-M
<b><u>Legal Advisor</u></b>	<b><u>Magistrate 1</u></b>	<b><u>Magistrate 2</u></b>	<b><u>Magistrate 3</u></b>
Jess G-M	Matt M	Ashleigh S	Joss C
<b><u>Defense Lawyer 1</u></b>	<b><u>Defense Lawyer 2</u></b>	<b><u>Defendant</u></b>	<b><u>Defense Witness</u></b>
Ben L	Isobel E	Ruby H	Reuben S
<b><u>Usher</u></b>	<b><u>Court Artists</u></b>		
Rhona M	Hannah P		

### **SGB Debate Team - Interschool debate**

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March Sir Graham Balfour welcomed a debating team from King Edward VI High School for the first interschool debate competition. There has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes over the past few months to establish links between schools to create a structure where a debate will take place each half term between schools. Mrs March and Miss McConnachie have been working with Maddy Belle from the YouthNet who has done lots of amazing work to get the debate competitions up and running.

There were two debates on the day and Mr Mason kindly agreed to be the Chairperson and what an excellent job he did! We were also lucky to welcome two councillors, Carolyn Trowbridge and Jonathon Price to be the judges.

In the first debate King Edward VI School were debating for the motion that climate change was the most pressing environmental problem for Staffordshire and our team at SGB were arguing against.

In the second debate our team were arguing for the motion that reintroduction and rewilding programmes would result in a thriving landscape rich in wildlife.



The winning team on this occasion was King Edward VI and we pass on our congratulations. All of the students that took part did incredibly well and they should be immensely proud of themselves. Public speaking is a real skill and the students who attend debate club every Wednesday are well on their way to being excellent public speakers.

Thank you to Ava H, Lola F, Lottie S, Kyle A, Kelby A, Xavier E, Isobel E, Matthew M, Lauren A, Elizabeth B, Ben L and Dyna S for taking part.

Bring on the next debate!!

### **Rotary Young Chef**

Thank you to Hamish W, who entered the Rotary Young Chef competition at Stafford College on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February. His choice of menu consisted of tortillas with a salsa and guacamole accompaniment, lentil chilli and rice, followed by a chocolate cake dessert. Despite his best efforts, unfortunately Hamish was not successful on this occasion, but well done for a fantastic effort.

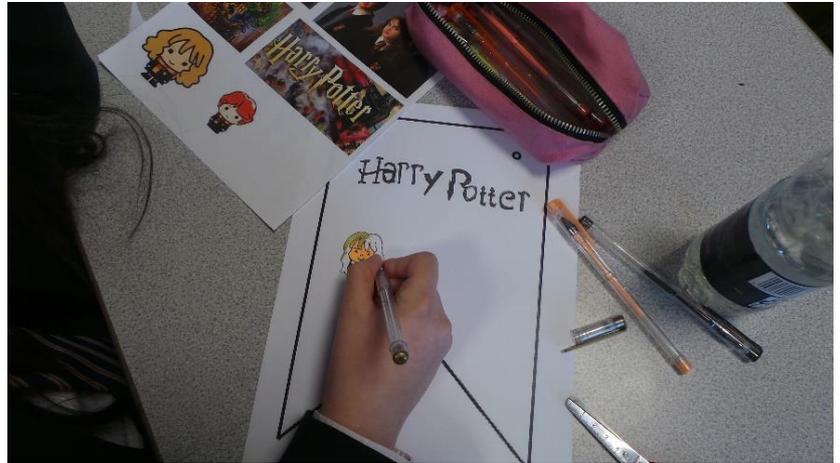


# Department News

## English Department

### Harry Potter Day 2019

In February KS3 celebrated the first ever Harry Potter Day at Sir Graham Balfour School. We completed Harry Potter themed lessons in English classes looking at mythical creatures from Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them and reading wizard fairy tales from the Beadle and Bard. At



lunchtime Harry fans met to celebrate all things Harry Potter. Students enjoyed creating Hogwarts House bunting, decorating Dobby's sock, doing word puzzles and most excitingly discovering which Hogwarts' House they belong too – thanks to some fabulous magical cakes from Mrs Wallbank. At the end of the week the students showed off their amazing knowledge in a very challenging Harry Potter Quiz. Well done to all the students who took part.

### World Book Day

Once again the school came together to celebrate World Book Day 2019. All KS3 students were given vouchers in their English lessons, that they could swap for this year's World Book Day books or have money off a book of their choice. This year Greg Heffley's Best Friend's Dairy proved to be very popular with a great number of students choosing this as their private reader.

As usual lots of fun things took place in English lessons that week to celebrate the wonders of reading. Students read extracts from novels and then got creative by having a go at writing from another viewpoint or continuing the story. There were some amazing responses and in some cases our student's writing was more engaging and lively than the text itself!

At lunchtime activities took place in the DAC where students took part in themed activities from Vampires and Mythical Creatures to all things comic! At the end of the week, Year 9 students took part in the famous Balfour World Book Day Quiz, which saw students battling it out for enormous Easter Eggs in the DAC. It started pretty tightly with all houses doing really well and audience participation being rewarded with Cadbury's Crème Eggs!! But then Tixall jumped into the lead and there was no stopping them, they were the clear winners leaving the other Houses a long way behind them. Well done all students who took part in the quiz and attended the lunchtime activities!

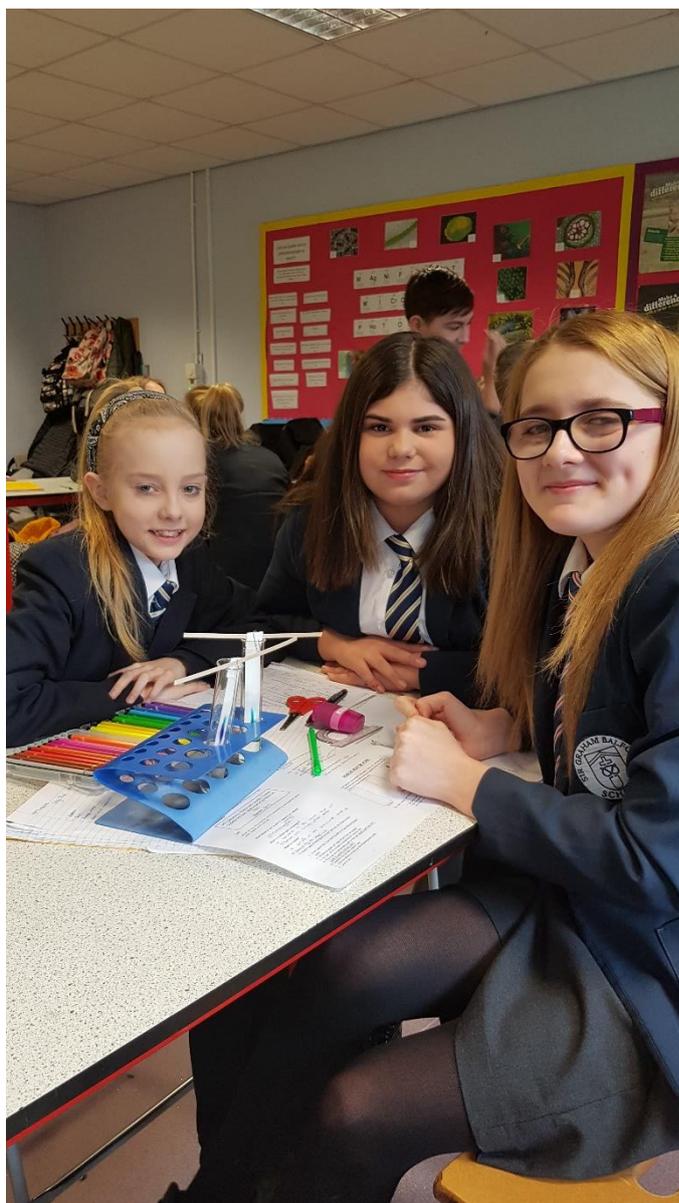
## Science Department

British Science Week 8-17<sup>th</sup> March.

Our students have been participating in National Science week. With Year 7 discovering DNA and it's double helix structure. They helped produced a model of DNA and extracted DNA from strawberries.



Left: Ollie and Elliott – Year 7, creating the extraction solution.



Year 8 have been investigating a disappearance in a series of Crime Scene Investigation. Looking at who's pen wrote a warning message using chromatography, to urine testing because the guilty party had not washed their hands and traces of urine were all over the note, to the final piece of evidence which was devising a method to test the pH values of soil to place the suspect at the scene.

Above Right: Skye, Leah and Megan completing the ink chromatography.

### **National Biology Challenge Competition**

A selection of students in Year 10 have participated in a National Biology Challenge competition – we are awaiting results – this consisted of 2 online tests looking at our students general knowledge and GCSE knowledge of Biology. Results are in this week!

### **National Physics Olympiad**

Our year 12's have been busy too, entering the National Physics Olympiad. The AS Challenge is an exciting opportunity for students to stretch their lateral thinking skills and apply fundamental physical principles to novel situations. It is designed to stretch the top 10% of A level Physics students across the UK.

This year was our best ever year for entering this prestigious competition and our Year 12 Physics students gained outstanding results.



Nick W obtained a GOLD award putting him in the top 3% of the UK.

Dan C obtained a SILVER award putting him in the top 5% of the UK.

Well done to everyone else who took part and received Bronze and Commendation Certificates.

### **Peterhouse Essay Competition**



**Peterhouse  
Cambridge**

Our A-level students have also entered an essay competition run by Peter House Cambridge. The Peterhouse Essay Competitions are a great opportunity for Year 12 students to start exploring their subject and getting a taste of university-level research.

### **Science Week Poster Competition**

An in-school poster competition was also run, focussing on the theme of this year's Science Week: Science Journeys. Winners will be displayed in school with Head Teacher awards so keep an eye out along the Science corridor for yours if you entered.

### **PE Department**

Balfour Y8 Boys Handball Team won the county finals at Fenton Manor and are now through to the Midlands Finals at Aldersley in May.

Balfour Y10 Boys Handball Team got to the County Finals as well, but did not qualify for the Regionals.

Balfour U14 Boys and Girls Basketball are both through to the County Semi Finals.

Year 7 and 10 Boys are in the Semi Finals of the District Football Cup.

# Eco News

## Eco Team

Thank you to Mrs Hill for her support of our Eco Team during her time at Sir Graham Balfour. Having now moved onto pastures new, we are under no doubt she will still be of great support to our Eco Team in the future. Eco Team will now be co-ordinated by Mrs Gannon with weekly lunchtime meetings and the addition of some after school meetings during the summer months.

In order to support the club, Mrs Gannon has secured a grant from Stafford Borough Council and is planning to rejuvenate the school quad as a haven for wildlife and a dedicated area for the Eco Team to grow vegetables and plants. One of the first projects the team will be co-ordinating, is a House Sunflower Competition, there will also be an opportunity for staff to participate.

In addition to our Eco Team, a group of Year 9 boys have been set the task of upcycling our circular wooden benches. Rather than purchase new benches at an excessive cost, Streetscene have very kindly visited the school and jet washed the benches to remove any traces of moss and weathering. Our Technology Technician will be shortly sacrificing one bench to mend the two broken ones and then our Year 9 team will be spending an afternoon treating the benches and adding plaques to acknowledge their involvement.



## Big Battery Hunt 2019 Competition!

Sir Graham Balfour School has signed up for the Big Battery Hunt 2019 Competition! All students are encouraged to bring in to school any old AAA, AA, C, D batteries to fill their House Group Collection Boxes boxes. There will be housepoint prizes for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the most collected.



The closing date for the competition is Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, so approx. 6 weeks to collect those old batteries! Once we have arranged a collection we will automatically be entered into the Big Battery Hunt draw to win numerous prizes

**Calling all parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers, aunts and uncles... HELP NEEDED!**

Eco Team are looking to undertake a number of projects over the upcoming summer months. If you are able to spare any time, be it small, or on a regular basis and would like to help, your support would be greatly appreciated. Please contact either the school by telephone: 01785 223490 or email [lgannon@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:lgannon@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk)

# Fundraising

## Sport Relief and Dodgathon

Our annual school fundraiser has yet again surpassed any expectations, in raising an amazing

# £4362.40

Coordinated by Miss Chapman, Head of PE, this is the second year the school has hosted a Dodgathon fundraiser. The event was kindly opened by Mr Jeremy Lefroy, Member of Parliament for Stafford who had no hesitation in joining in the fastpaced competition. Every student in the school was set the challenge of raising a minimum of £2.00 in sponsorship and in return spent an hour of their school day playing Dodgeball in the Sports Hall. Teams were decided by house groups with each hour being played in year groups. Thank you to Tesco, Stone Road and Spar, Westway who donated prizes for the students who raised the most sponsorship.

All proceeds from the event will be split to benefit the following charities; Sport Relief, SGB Cambodia and Katharine House Hospice.



# Travel Writer Visit

Thank you to Jennifer Agress, who visited the school to talk about her career as a Travel Writer.

## **My experience with a travel writer**

A few weeks ago, Year 9 was lucky enough to have an assembly led by a travel writer, which is someone who as an occupation, travels the world and writes reviews about places. She told us all about the places she had been to and things she wrote, which was very interesting.

After the assembly, we were told that there was a workshop where certain students were picked to work with the travel writer for an hour. Surprisingly I was picked and after lunch we met the travel writer again, this time we looked at one of her reviews, which was really good, we then asked some questions and tried it for ourselves I did mine about Valencia.

After that, we spoke about how important English is and different jobs it could get you. Once we had finished talking we looked at another one of her articles about an island in the Caribbean that nobody had heard about although this time her language and structure were very different she used many different language techniques to entice the reader to want to go to this place she used words such as: magical and many others. From this experience, we learned a lot about language techniques and structure we can use in our own writing to make it better.



By Dylan P

# Sacred Space

February saw the return of Sacred Space. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year we have held it in school. Over the course of 2 days, room 430 was transformed from an ordinary classroom, into a beautiful space by Sam Phillips and Maddy Belle from the Mid Staffs Youth Net.

Every year we have a different theme, and this year it was focused around our school values.

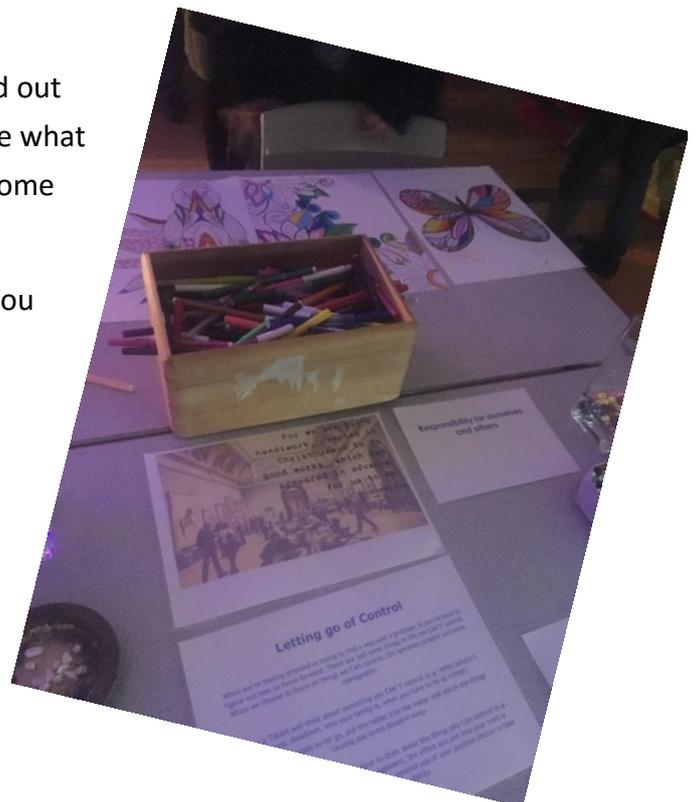
If students were lucky enough to have been timetabled into room 430 over the two days there was a very good chance they would have spent their lesson in the Sacred Space. There were many different stations for students to engage in. This year they included the famous fizzers and shredder, a graffiti board, focused colouring and a graffiti wall, as well as puzzles and the opportunity to film your own stop frame animations!

The aim of each of the stations was to give students time to think, pray, reflect or generally just take some quiet time out of their busy days. It was totally up to the individual as to how they engaged in the space.

Our students and staff are always so much calmer and peaceful after time spent in the room; we only wish it could be a permanent fixture within Balfour and our timetable!

Students were asked to complete an anonymous questionnaire at the end of the session so we can find out what the students thought of the space, as well as see what improvements can be made for the following year. Some of our feedback this year included:

- All of the activities, they were fun and made you think
- Activities made you engage with others
- Made me use my brain in a new way
- Motivated me to be myself
- Calm space that gives you the time to think positively
- Being able to express myself without being judged



# Transition

## Year 5 Taster Sessions

Our annual programme of Year 5 Taster Sessions aimed at our feeder primary schools commenced on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April. Year on year, these sessions are becoming more popular with our Year 5 primary pupils, it is great opportunity for pupils to experience the working environment of the school and gain confidence in preparation for their move up to secondary school in the future. Dates are as follows:

	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>TASTER SESSION</u>
1.	10 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Science
2.	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2019	PE
3.	8 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	History/Geography
4.	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Languages
5.	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2019	Art/Drama
6.	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	English
7.	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Computing
8.	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Technology
9.	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	<u>Maths</u>

## Transition Dates

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Full Day visits (New September Intake)
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July (6.00 pm)	New Intake Induction Evening (Parents Only)
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5 Full Day Visit

# Youth Environmental Summit

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 12 members of our Debate Team attended the Youth Environmental Summit – Staffordshire (YESS) at Council Chambers, County Buildings, Stafford. YESS aims is to capture the views and opinions of young people in Staffordshire about pressing environmental issues which impact Staffordshire's wildlife and residents.

This event was being held as part of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's 50th birthday celebrations in 2019 and had been made possible by the kind contributions of sponsors; sben, Veolia, University of Wolverhampton, Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce, JCB, Michelin and SCVYS.

In total, there were 10 schools taking part, and 5 debates focusing on 5 themes - waste, access to nature, climate change, rewilding and reintroductions, and renewable energy. Our team had to argue against the motion 'Climate Change is the most important environmental issue facing young people of Staffordshire today', our main speaker was Kelby A-M and our proposer was Ben L. The boys did incredibly well, and the rest of the team all came prepared with one minute speeches ready to comment on each of the other debates.

We were also very excited to see that one of the judges and guest speaker was Mike Dilger who is the wildlife expert from the One Show.

We had a beautiful lunch following the debates and then back into the chamber for the results. The best individual speaker was given to a very deserving student from Westwood School in Leek. They then announced the overall winning team and it was given to our fabulous SGB Debate Team! Very proud!

In the afternoon, we had the opportunity for students to sign up to a workshop, which covered a number of environmental issues, giving them the opportunity to meet professionals from different conservation and environmental fields. The students came away bursting with excitement and ideas!

Another great event for our Debate Team, we are looking forward to competing again next year.



Well done to the team!: Izzy E, Xavier E, Ava H, Lola F, Matthew M, Dyna S, Ben L, Lottie S, Lauren A, Kelby A-M, Elizabeth B and Korben B.



## Future Events

Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Iceland Trip
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day – School Closed
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Normandy Trip
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Big Walk for Cambodia
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	KS3 Celebration Evening
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Staff Inset Day - School Closed
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 11 Prom
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July to Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 7 Bikeability
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 10 Work Experience
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Activity Day

**Have a fabulous Easter break  
and we look forward to  
welcoming students back in  
school on  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019!**

# Free Repairs

Come and Challenge Our Volunteer Repairers  
to Fix Your Broken Items

**Littleworth**

## Repair Cafe

St. John's Church Hall, Westhead Ave, Stafford, ST16 3RP

**Sat 27th April**  
10am to 1pm



For more information contact Rob Hine on  
01785 603387 or email [roberthine@btinternet.com](mailto:roberthine@btinternet.com)

 @staffordrepaircafes

