

# *The* BRAMDEAN RECORDER



School News • Current Events • Announcements

JANUARY 2014

## Investing In The Future



Bramdean has recently invested in the latest Apple computers, offering exciting prospects for pupils across the school. The ICT suite has been equipped with 20 new Apple computers which are capable of running Microsoft Windows as well as Apple software. This offers pupils the unique opportunity to become proficient in

both Microsoft and Apple software, equipping them for further education or employment.

Pupils throughout the school have so far used the new computers to develop new skills in video making, design and programming. In addition, modern language teachers have used the computers to support learning in French, German and Spanish. The school has also invested in a complete multimedia suite of educational software for use in Biology, Chemistry and Physics for ages 11 to 16 which makes full use of the Apple computers' capabilities.

In future, the new computers will be used to support pupils taking GCSE music through the addition of the latest music composition software. In ICT lessons, pupils will learn how to use

computers for computer aided design, 3D programming and robotics giving them skills that are in demand in the modern economy. It is hoped that more pupils will choose to study Computer Science at both GCSE and Advanced level preparing the way for careers in the new digital economy. In addition, pupils studying for all subjects at Advanced level will find the new technology an invaluable asset for research and will help them develop independent learning skills, so important for their progression to university.

This latest investment makes Bramdean a leader in the use of technology for education and creates unique opportunities for pupils of all ages whatever their interests.

*Dr S Coaker*





## Our Biggest Ever Coffee Morning

On Friday 27th September, Bramdean School joined the countrywide 'Biggest Coffee Morning' event, to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Trust. Together with the tremendous support of parents, who provided cakes and came on the Friday, we raised an amazing £432.38!

Well done and thank you to everybody involved for your support.

*B Prior*



## Refurbished Sixth Form

At Bramdean we are conscious of our responsibility for maintaining a very high standard of facilities and equipment. The recently refurbished sixth form has its own dedicated rooms fully equipped for A level study, including wireless internet connection. Separate kitchen facilities are available for students to make drinks and snacks. In addition to teaching rooms, there is a library with computer and Internet access and a full range of learning resources. There are specialist laboratories for the teaching of Science subjects and ICT.

All students have access to computers at Bramdean. We have a fully refurbished computer suite in our main building complete with state of the art Apple iMacs.

*Diane Stoneman*

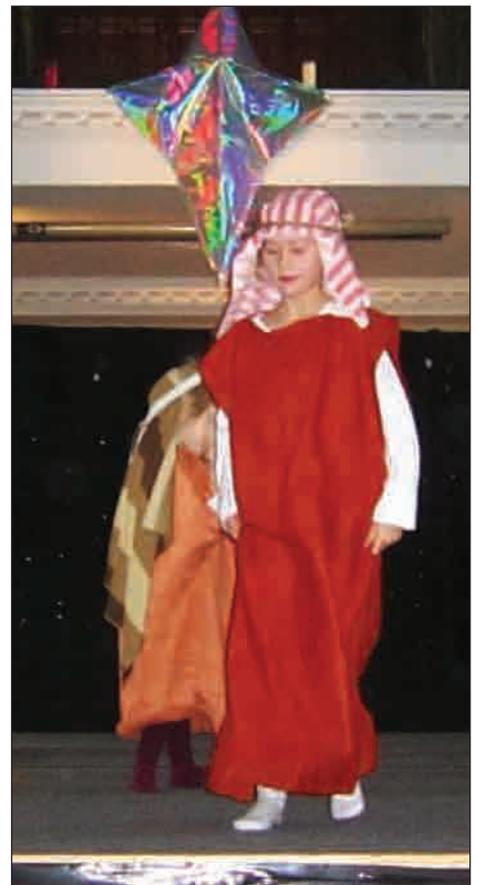
## The School Nativity Play

On Thursday 12th December, Kindergarten, Form 3A and Form 4A performed the Nativity. This, as in previous years, was a traditional nativity, entitled 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Shining Star'.

Well done to all the children who worked really hard, learning all their words and the songs.

Special thanks are due to Mr Crew for his musical support, to Mrs Cross for the costumes and to Mrs Jones for the many rehearsals necessary to make this festive performance such a success.

*B Prior*



# Islamic Centre Visit

As part of their Common Entrance curriculum, 5A and 5B visited the new Islamic Centre in Sidwell Street.

Mr Khalil, grandad of Safiyah (5A), kindly arranged for us to have a talk with the Iman and his assistant (who performed the 'call to prayer' for us). Both patiently answered our questions after we had watched afternoon prayers. They kindly gave the children squash and biscuits at the end of the afternoon, too.

Safiyah and Faisal (5A) deserve a special 'thank you' - they helped to prepare for the visit and Safiyah efficiently arranged the girls' headscarves before they entered the building.

*K Tayler*



# Killerton House

The children in Kindergarten and Form 3 spent a wonderful day at Killerton House, where they experienced a Victorian Christmas. We were told the story of Scrooge by one of the staff, in her own words, and the children were mesmerised!

The staff, all dressed in Victorian costumes, then walked us around the house. Each room was set out to represent a section of the story of Scrooge. The children played Victorian parlour games and looked at toys from the past, made both by shops and home-made.

After lunch, the children were given a map of the grounds to follow. All along the route we had to look for items from the story of Scrooge. We found ghosts of present, past and future, candles, bells and coins all along the route.

We were fortunate with the weather and, although we came back to school a little muddy, we agreed that we had had a fabulous day.

*Mrs Jones*



# Kindergarten

Kindergarten's main theme this term has been the story of the Creation which has inspired the children to write their own original song. This is to be performed next term. It also inspired some amazing art work where each child portrayed their own interpretation of the story.

At the start of term, focusing on light, the children had great fun making shadow puppet theatres, then chasing each other's shadows on the field! We also did some experiments to illustrate how day and night occurred, using a globe, torch and puppet sun.

Heading up to Christmas, we have been very lucky to have a parent come in, in his professional role as postman. The children were very excited to hand letters over for Father Christmas and even more excited to have letters returned from Santa!

The latter half of term centred on the Nativity and we have to congratulate everyone again on a wonderful performance.

Kindergarten are an imaginative and enthusiastic class; we look forward to adding to our song in the New Year.

*S Cross*

# Bramdean's Got Talent

The end of term saw pupils treated to an eclectic mixture of acts in 'Bramdean's Got Talent'. Catherine Stoye opened the show with an excellent vocal solo and remained on stage for her duet with Helena Paish, a beautiful rendition of the 'Pie Jesu'. It was then Helena's turn for another stunning vocal solo.

Then came 'No Direction' who lived up to their name! However, what they lacked in knowledge of their song's lyrics and the requisite number of ukulele strings, they made up for in entertainment value!

Back to the 'talent' part of the show saw Joshua Beard's fine vocals in Ronan Keating's 'When You Say Nothing At All', followed by comedy sketches from 5A who showed real chutzpah.

Next came Tom Day, Ollie Pounder and Nick Hoar's frenetic energy with a guitar, clarinet and drum kit trio. Joshie returned to the stage, with guitar and Luca Vitale, for four minutes of sheer magic, with Snow Patrol's 'Chasing Cars'.

The remainder of the show saw a return to the sphere of 'No Direction', with Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody' from Ben Baily, Henry Mays, Abe Dellamuro and their mascot, Ollie Beadon. They were going great guns until a stage invasion from Seb, who picked up a guitar and proceeded to 'out-rock' everyone else!

One final act remained, namely Mr Brown and an associate of indeterminate provenance in a blonde wig, red skirt, and sporting at least two traffic cones!

The results were in. 3rd place went to Nick, Ollie and Tom, 2nd went to Catherine and Helena for their fantastic duet. Almost inevitably, 1st place went to Joshie and Luca.

Thank you and very well done to all who had the nerve and energy to get up on stage. Thanks go to Mr Brown for organising the event, to Felix Northover and Ollie Haycock for their sterling technical support and MC skills, to Mr. Philips for accompanying the girls and to my fellow judges Dr Marino and Dr Ibbs, who, it must be said, was a revelation - the man clearly has a second career available to him as a TV presenter.

A wonderful way to round off the term.

*I Crew*

# Geography Field Trip

M6 geographers have been working on their GCSE coursework enquiry, "How distinctive is your chosen coastal area?" which is from Langstone rock to Orcombe Point. This has involved a visit to both Exmouth beach and Dawlish Warren to gather primary data, such as the height of the cliffs, the sand levels either side of the groynes, the varying width of the beach and slope profiles of the dunes.

*P Capron*



# Living History with the Torrington of '1646'!

In the second week of the Autumn Term, 5A travelled to Torrington to relive the town's role in the English Civil War. They bloodthirstily took part in pike drill, manufacturing shot and learning about the component parts of Stuart armour. They saw Torrington church 'catch fire' with its unfortunate prisoners inside and the Captain of the Guard fire his musket! The 'high spot' of the afternoon entailed observing the activities of the barber-surgeon, who goryly explained the 'tricks of the trade'.

'1646 Torrington' is a first class step into 'living history' and one which, hopefully, the group will not forget in a hurry.

*K Tayler*

# School Trip To France

In July 2013, a group of 30 pupils and four staff set off from Exeter to spend five days in Normandy. We sailed from Poole to Cherbourg, arriving at our destination in the afternoon. Our hotel was close to the beach in the small resort of Agon-Coutainville.

Excursions included Arromanches and the 360° cinema, Bayeux, Mont St Michel and Omaha Beach. The weather was good throughout the trip and the children visited the beach every evening.

The trip was busy but very enjoyable. Many of them hope to return to Normandy in the future.

*J Matthews*



## German Treats

Pupils enjoyed some "Lebkuchen" at the end of term. These are ginger biscuits which are a traditional German baked Christmas treat, somewhat resembling gingerbread, with a spicy aroma.



There are many regional variations to the Lebkuchen but the most well-known is the Nürnberger Lebkuchen from the city of Nürnberg. When I lived in this city in Germany, I used to see these biscuits being baked in the market place.

*H Powell*

# The UK Senior Team Maths Challenge

As usual, we have again entered the Devon heat of the UK Senior Team Maths Challenge. It is a competition run by the Further Maths Support programme to expose promising maths students to unusual and challenging maths problems in a format that promotes team work and which is a lot of fun. Of course none of our students believed that competitive maths could be fun, so getting a team together entailed a lot of convincing and cajoling. After consultation with Mrs Albertyn, we decided to go for youth in our team selection and chose Matthew Lai, Fergus Vinnels, Charlotte Dixon and Leonie Burger to represent the school.

The competition took place on Wednesday 20 November in Harrison Building on the main campus of Exeter University. The event was hotly contested and narrowly won by Blundells. We will admit that we finished firmly in the group, and the team members agreed that it was not only a lot of fun, but also a tremendous learning experience. I would like to congratulate all the team members on their participation and thank them for the excellent spirit in which they took part.

*Dr G A Eloff*

# Catch It, Bin It, Kill It

Many infections are spread by *droplet infection*, that is by coughs and sneezes and by unwashed hands. These include seasonal colds and flu as well as SARS, Swine flu and the recent outbreak of Measles affecting much of the country and especially south Wales. Experts are waiting for the next major new flu virus. In 1918 'Spanish' flu killed over 50 million people worldwide but if it had happened now it would be at least four times that number. There is concern about the H7N9 flu virus in China, though infection between humans has not yet happened.

Most epidemics, such as flu, measles and SARS, are spread in schools where a lot of people move close to each other. Here the government advice is clear: Wash hands regularly to prevent surfaces being contaminated from sneezes and "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it". However recently a straw poll of two classes revealed that fewer than 1 in 6 pupils carry a tissue or handkerchief with them. What they do when they are out and need to blow their noses or sneeze is anybody's guess! For the protection of all our children and their families, pupils should carry their own tissues and should wash hands whenever they visit the toilet. Only then can they reduce the risk of being infected and infecting each other.

*Dr Ibbs*



# The Land of Ice and Fire

Preparations are nearly complete for Bramdean's first field trip in science and geography to Iceland. Situated on a rift between two tectonic plates, Iceland is a country with massive glaciers among over 200 volcanoes, one of which, Eyjafjallajokull, was responsible for major air travel disruption in 2010. Mrs Capron will be leading a study into the effects of tectonic shifts and glacial melting on the landscape. Pupils will examine the evidence for climate change in a valley where an ice-cap has been retreating at a rate of about 100m per year. A group of biologists, under Dr Ibbs, will study how plants have colonised these newly exposed areas and also hope to study the unique bacteria that live within the many hot springs and geysers on the island, including the famous Blue Lagoon.

Dr Eloff will show Iceland's unique use of geothermal and hydroelectric power which has made it become one of the countries with the lowest carbon footprint on Earth. We hope to complete the trip with an observation of the Aurora Borealis. This stunning spectacle is caused by the solar wind colliding with the earth's magnetic field and increased solar activity in the past year should yield awe-inspiring displays.

Another physical phenomenon which we hope to see is the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights), which is created by the interaction of the solar wind with Earth's magnetic field.

The solar wind is a stream of highly energetic charged particles, mostly electrons and protons, ejected from the atmosphere of the Sun and travelling through the solar system at great speed. The intensity of the solar wind is sharply increased by the occurrence of Coronal Mass Ejections (better known as Solar flares).

The effects of large CME events can be observed on Earth as spectacular displays of the Aurora Borealis and, more seriously, as geomagnetic storms which can disrupt satellite communications and power distribution networks. Just after New Year, one very large CME led to the Northern Lights being observed as far south as Scotland and even Northern England.

The Sun is currently near the maximum of its eleven year CME activity cycle, so we can expect a high likelihood of seeing the Northern Lights during our visit.

*Dr M Ibbs and Dr G A Eloff*



# Art and Design

It has been a busy term for the art department with printmaking, clay modelling and drawing and painting.

*J Garton*



## Sports Quiz

1. Who won the Rugby League World Cup recently?
2. Who won the 2013 Sports Personality of the Year?
3. Who is the Liverpool Goalkeeper?
4. Which left arm pace bowler took 17 wickets in the first two test matches of the Ashes Series?
5. Who are the holders of the Ladies FA Cup?
6. In which sport would you use a 'rest'?
7. Who is the West Ham United manager?
8. Who is the captain of the All Blacks?
9. Who is the captain of the English Ladies Cricket Team?
10. Who is the Australian Wicket Keeper?

*answers on Back Page*

## Pink Day

During October the School went pink for the day in order to raise money for Breast Cancer Research. We saw some interesting attire, both from pupils and staff, with everyone entering into the charitable spirit. The total amount raised for this very worthwhile cause was £235.25. Well done to you all!

Look out for Sport Relief and more fundraising events next term.

*K Brown*



# Games

Amazingly, not one sports fixture was cancelled because of the weather this term.

Twelve mixed hockey matches were played before half term, with honours being shared, winning six and losing six. Everyone who participated thoroughly enjoyed the experience and showed much enthusiasm and competitive spirit.

After half term, the boys' attention turned to rugby and thirteen matches were played winning five and losing eight. The pick of the teams, in my opinion, were the U/16s who may not have won any of their four matches but played with the desire and commitment that is expected and I could not have asked for any more.

The U15 girls played two football matches and a tag rugby game. They competed well and learnt a lot from the experience.

In November Mr Martin and I took two sports trips to support our local teams. A group of 22 boys and girls watched Exeter Chiefs beat Harlequins in the LV Cup, and thirteen saw Exeter City Football Club draw 2-2 with Bury. One of our former pupils, Christy Pym, was on the subs bench for the match; he didn't get on but is one to look out for in the future.



Our Annual Table Tennis Tournament saw Theo Northover retain his Junior Title, Mollie Tompkins win the Girls' Competition and Mark Small was once again crowned Senior Champion. Congratulations to all three!

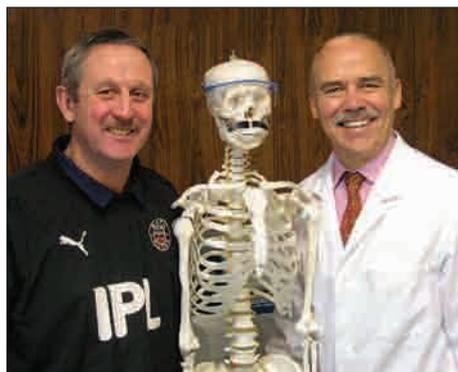
A full fixture list of football and netball matches has been organised for next term. If anyone requires one could they collect it from the School Office. Let's hope the weather does not intervene in too many.

*K Brown*

# MO-vember Magic

Bramdean has always been a keen supporter of charities; recently we supported Macmillan Cancer Relief, Comic Relief, Breast Cancer Awareness among others. This autumn it was the turn of male cancer charities, as Mr Brown and Dr Ibbs grew moustaches in support of 'MOvember'. This fundraiser started in Australia and has now spread worldwide, with men growing moustaches to raise money for the study and treatment of testicular and prostate cancers.

*Dr Ibbs*



**Sports' Quiz Answers**

1.	Australia
2.	Andy Murray
3.	Mignolet
4.	Mitchell Johnson
5.	Arsenal
6.	Snooker
7.	Sam Allardyce
8.	Ritchie McCaw
9.	Charlotte Edwards
10.	Brad Haddin