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Welcome to the first of a new series of newsletters from Norbury Manor Business and Enterprise College for Girls. This issue covers Summer 2014 to Spring 2015 but it is expected that future editions will be published on a more frequent basis.

The college has experienced both moments of great success and moments of great sadness in the current academic year but we are looking forward to sharing a bright future together as we head into the summer term.

The newsletter is intended to complement the news and events section of the college website (www.nmbec.org.uk). If you have any contributions or suggestions for either the newsletter or the website please contact the editor, Steve Ireland: irelands@nmbec.org.uk.

Amanda Compton
Headteacher



Kenya Trip

In the Autumn term, Mrs Dussek, Mrs Scarsbrook and Mr Archard spent a week at Usueni Girls Secondary School in Kenya helping students aged around fourteen set up small businesses selling jewellery and textile products. For some of the girls at the school, the prospect of not being able to continue with their education was a very real threat; Kenyan schoolchildren of working age are sometimes considered an economic burden on their families when money is very tight. The work by Norbury Manor staff allowed students to develop their own businesses with the aim of helping them to become financially independent, thereby reducing the drop-out rate among them and the likelihood of early or forced marriage.



In December, the college ran Christmas gift sales, selling jewellery made by the girls from Usueni alongside badges, compact mirrors and keyrings made by Year 10 groups competing in Tycoon in Schools (a national enterprise contest launched by Peter Jones from Dragons' Den which aims to encourage budding entrepreneurs). All income from the sale of the jewellery made by Usueni students was converted to Kenyan shillings and returned to the school to help pay the girls' fees so they can complete their formal education.



Students Receive Commendation at Heston Blumenthal's The Great British Space Dinner

Students from Norbury Manor received a 'Highly Commended' award for their entry in last summer's The Great British Space Dinners competition at the UK Space Agency; the team's work was picked out from over 500 entries by judges including culinary alchemist Heston Blumenthal and British astronaut Tim Peake.

The competition required students between the ages of 7 and 14 to design an exciting, British-inspired balanced meal for European Space Agency astronaut Tim to eat during his six month visit to the International Space Station later this year. Tianna



Grant, Fatima Kamran, Bareya Iffat Khan, Rennae Lewis, Courtney Welch and Shanniece Whyte spent six weeks designing their dishes, taking into account the nutritional values of the meal along with the problems associated with eating in a microgravity environment. The girls produced two fantastic British-themed courses with a twist. Toad in the Cone comprised a Yorkshire pudding in the shape of an ice cream cone filled with creamy horseradish mash and a selection of seasonal vegetables with a roast beef sausage 'flake', crispy onions in place of chocolate sprinkles and concentrated onion gravy for the sauce. For dessert, Burger Cake featured a bun-shaped sponge filled with light chocolate mousse representing a meat pattie with slices of mango for cheese, mint and kiwi for lettuce and raspberry coulis for tomato sauce.

Astronaut Tim Peake said of the experience: 'I'm incredibly impressed with the creative and mouth-watering entries we've received from children all over the UK and I'm really looking forward to enjoying a "Great British Space Dinner" on board the International Space Station.' Heston described the experience as 'amazing.' 'The students are incredibly inventive and creative,' he said, 'quite possibly the next great chefs or scientists of tomorrow.'

PSHE Competition and Concept Visit

Towards the end of last year's summer term, a competition to design a new logo for the PSHE department was run for Key Stage 3 students. A creative group from Year 9 - Kafia, Victoria, Petra and Ella - won the competition by producing the fabulous effort shown below. The group were rewarded with vouchers to spend in the Whitgift Centre in Croydon as well as a special treat for their year group - a gig at the college by the band Concept. The students thoroughly enjoyed the gig (as did the band, if the tweet below is anything to go by!).



Manor Farm Nature Space Officially Opened

Students, staff and members of the local community have worked hard to convert a previously-unused area of wasteland into a nature space for the use of the college, Kensington Avenue Primary School students and local residents...

After lots of hard work by a small group of GCSE Citizenship students, Manor Farm Nature Space was officially opened on Saturday 15th November 2014. Formerly an area of wasteland, Norbury Manor students worked closely with the local council and Croydon Voluntary Action, a local charity, to get the space cleared with the help of The Conservation Volunteers (tcv.org.uk). The area is in the process of being further developed and maintained by Croydon Council.

In February, students enjoyed a talk about wildlife in the local area as well as activities that included a camping skills workshop. The group

are currently in the process of forming their own constitutional community group to ensure the continuing use of the area. If you have time or resources to contribute, or would like to come along to see how you could use the space for lessons, please contact Miss Dawson-Thorpe (020 86790062 ext. 296 / gdawsonthorpe1.306@lgflmail.org).



THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2015
WORKSHOP OPEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS— COME AND LOOK AROUND AT 1 TO 3 PM

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HALF TERM WORKSHOP

Norbury Brook Nature Park Mission
Is Now: Manor Farm Nature Space!

MANOR Farm NATURE Space

CROYDON COUNCIL
www.croydon.gov.uk

The National Lottery

Croydon Voluntary Action

YTA Students

The college's twelve Youth Travel Ambassadors (right) made a successful pitch to Transport for London representatives at Bernard Wetherill House, Croydon, on Monday 12th January. As a result, the group were awarded funding of £250 for a campaign against anti-social behaviour on buses. They are currently in the process of making a campaign film and organising an event for June.



Beauty and the Beast

On 10th February the curtain opened on the college's production of the Disney classic *Beauty and the Beast*. For three evenings, the hall was transformed into a provincial town with all its townspeople; a dark and scary forest full of wolves; and a castle wherein lived a mythical beast whose redemption lay in finding true love. The production

involved students from every year group and featured a cast of sixty as well as over twenty crew. Hundreds of students and staff contributed to the musical's creation, with hard work from the Textiles, Art and DT departments integral to its success along with the input of the many students who helped with costume design, prop making and set painting. Some of the highlights included the iconic song *Be Our Guest*, which featured over forty enchanted objects complete with costumes and props, and the tavern scene featuring Gaston which included an impressive yet appropriately comic pub brawl and tankard dance.

Charlotte Boyce from 13B gave a heart-warming performance as Belle after stepping into the role only four weeks before the dress rehearsal. Her achingly-beautiful renditions of *Change In Me* and *Home* reduced many audience members to tears and the role was an excellent send off for one of the college's most dedicated music and drama students. Theodore Franklin from 12G (left) made Norbury Manor history by being the first male member of a college production (albeit with his face concealed by a most impressive mask for the majority of the show!); Theodore gave a passionate and, at times, terrifying performance playing *The Beast* who eventually finds true love and transforms into the humble and handsome Prince Adam.

Other memorable performances included those of Kalysha Stapleton of 10T as Lumiere, the cheeky French candlestick, and Amber Davies of 13F who, as Babette, the French maid-styled feather duster, entertained the audience with a host of double-entendres, puns and highly amusing ad libs. Together with their enchanted group of friends, including the tightly-wound Cogsworth (Halle Johnson, 11R), and the double act of Gaston (Shakira Walker, 11R) and Lefou (Danniqua Clarke-Tulloch, 9F), they added comic relief to the show. Kinari Shah from 13P, who played Mrs Potts, provided more tear-jerking moments for the audience with her performance of the title song, *Beauty and the Beast*.

The amazing teamwork between the entire cast and crew made this incredible performance possible. Students worked together, made new friends, and produced a well-polished show that will remain firmly in their memories as well as



those of staff, parents and carers. As Kalysha (Lumiere, above centre) put it: '*Beauty and the Beast* was a hard production to cast but we all pulled through like one big family and performed amazing shows. I think it's never really about the things you do when it comes to performances like these but more about the people you meet along the way and I think if it wasn't for the kindness we showed each other the show wouldn't have been as spectacular as it was.'

Imperial College and London South Bank University Science Trips - Special Report

Upon hearing that sixth form science students, in keeping with the Norbury Manor Deep Learning Day tradition, were to go on a day trip we initially struggled to display much interest. Despite suspecting our teachers were merely looking for an excuse to spend further quality time with the people who bring them the most joy (us, their students), however, we were eventually persuaded that the trip would offer us the chance to enhance our subject knowledge and develop a newfound appreciation for science and its many wonders.

Our trip began with a visit to Imperial College London, a Russell Group university that is consistently rated among the world's best. As you might imagine, the facilities and overall environment of the university lived up to our expectations. The sight of the spacious library and lecture halls, nestled amongst stunning open spaces, gave us a hint of the many luxuries Imperial has to offer as we toured the campus.

Following the tour, we were treated to a very interactive demonstration. An Imperial graduate presented complex ideas with such ease that we were able to understand them within a matter of minutes and was generous with his considerable expertise, presenting an excellent exposé of some of the most thought-provoking scientific secrets. By

the end of the demonstration, we understood why an egg, despite its considerable fragility, cannot be broken when pressure is applied centrally and how hairdryers and table tennis balls can serve as a fun alternative to homework.



London South Bank University, our second destination, was equally impressive. We were welcomed with a wide variety of multi-cultural food choices, which was very considerate of our hosts, and given a talk given by one of the university's most accomplished lecturers. The various science courses offered by South Bank, along with their individual units, were discussed in detail and we were then led to one of many laboratories to carry out two chemical experiments. The first required us to produce soap which, while it might sound like an easy task, actually proved incredibly challenging! The second experiment concerned the Belousov-Zhabotinsky reaction; this demonstrated that chemical reactions are not always dominated by thermodynamic equilibrium and brought us closer to fully understanding this phenomenon. To end our scientific adventure, we were accompanied on a tour of the campus and given an opportunity to view the facilities. The chemists among us were shown the mass spectrometer - capable of measuring the mass and relative concentration of individual atoms and molecules - and it was fascinating to see this in action.

All in all, we have to say the trip was a complete success; we're looking forward to future opportunities to gain further insights into science alongside our spectacular teachers!

Freda Lisa Obed and Sradha Sudra, 12F

'My Life' Workshop

'What are your values?'

'What things are you good at?'

'Where would you like to be in 10 years time?'

The questions above are a small selection of some of those posed to almost forty Year 9 students during the 'My Life' workshop organised by Mrs Kemal on 5th February. The workshop, which offered an opportunity to discuss skills, hopes, dreams and ambition in a spirit of self-discovery, took place in the run-up to Year 9 Options Evening, when tricky choices were looming. Students swapped college uniform for smart workplace attire and, following a business breakfast, examined attitudes by undertaking a series of tasks which centered around statements such as 'I like to set challenging goals' and 'I'm not bothered about impressing other people.' The students were supported throughout by Ms Goldsmith and Miss Campbell as Emily and Elaine, trainers from Smart Development Solutions, guided students through a series of activities designed to increase self-awareness and pinpoint individual aspirations as they contemplated the future. The students worked hard to reach conclusions about personal attitudes concerning life, the future, the work which lies ahead and the potential that resides within.

Red Nose Day 2015



The college would like to thank all those who took part in this year's Red Nose Day festivities on 13th March for making such a huge effort in raising money for worthwhile causes. Staff and students donned fancy dress for the occasion, lending the day a carnival atmosphere, and dug deep into their creative reserves to come up with a wide selection of original and inventive fund-raising ideas. As well as a host of stalls selling cakes, biscuits, donuts, sweets, candy floss and smoothies, the activities on offer included a human fruit machine, giant 'living' Scrabble, karaoke, a 'soak the teacher' stand, a bake off challenge, a flash mob dance and an 'I'm a Teacher... Get Me Out of Here!' event. For some the highlight of the day was watching Mrs Gallimore allow students to cut off her flowing locks; for others it was the visit of grime artist and 2014 MOBO award winner Stormzy (above left), whose appearance, it is fair to say, generated a mild frenzy (thanks, Stormzy, for giving up your time).

The college would also like to say a massive thank you to all those who donated. The final figure raised for charity, £3614, came close to beating the record amount gathered four years ago.



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