



Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School

JULY 2011 NEWSLETTER

Headteacher's Report

Dear Parents/Carers

The summer break marks the end of an era for the school as the School Sports Partnership comes to a close.

Over the years, Nicholas Breakspear teachers have worked tirelessly to provide high quality sporting experiences to both the secondary and primary partners in our family of schools. As a Sports College we have been the hub school responsible for this outreach work which has also provided a wealth of in-service training for primary colleagues as well as developing a huge delivery network including the wider sporting community. The Government's decision to withdraw funding for this work means that the shutters are being drawn down on Schools Sports Partnerships across the entire country. It therefore seems appropriate to acknowledge my debt of gratitude to all those colleagues who have been instrumental in ensuring that our partnership has been so successful and highly regarded both locally and nationally. In particular I feel that a large thank you must go to Mrs Tanya Angus who has been our Partnership Development Manager for several years. Mrs Angus will remain with us next year as School Games Co-ordinator working on the Government's new agenda for competitive sport in schools as well as teaching and mentoring in the PE department. With this change, the Governors have made the decision to wind down our Sports College status as the vast majority of funding that came into school was to deliver the outreach work. This will have absolutely no effect on the quality of the curriculum or the extra curricular offer. Our PE department deliver A level PE, Btec Sport and Active Leisure at level 3 and level 2 as well as GCSE PE along with core PE for all students. In addition to this, there is a very wide range of extra curricular opportunities on offer throughout the year. All of this will continue to grow and flourish in the times ahead. I am sure you would all agree that we would always want our school be to known for it's all round academic, sporting, aesthetic excellence but in particular for its Catholic ethos which is at the heart of all that we do.

Our mission statement is "Each person is a unique creation of God.

All of us are gifted. Every aspect of what we think and do should be based upon the Gospel values of Peace, Justice, Truth and Love".

With best wishes.

Phil Jaksza
Headteacher



School Games Report

Great excitement buzzed around the Hertfordshire Sports Village on Friday as almost 1200 competitors competed in the very first Hertfordshire School Games. Pupils from over a hundred schools from all twelve Hertfordshire School Sports Partnership areas were joined by a number of inspirational guests.

The Games proved a great success and an ideal start to the new and exciting programme which provides the opportunity to encourage young people to play more competitive sport in school. Extra excitement was added by the presence of Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport who welcomed everyone to the Games during the opening ceremony.

Mark Richardson and Darren Campbell, both Olympic medal winning athletes, as well as Ade Adepitan and Helen Freeman, Paralympic wheelchair basketball players also took part and gave inspirational soundbites before mixing with the athletes. The Minister whipped up a maelstrom of enthusiasm from the crowd as he endorsed the whole School Games initiative and encouraged the competitors. The opening ceremony created by Inspirational Arts and coordinated by the Herts Arts Development Group featured almost a hundred Hertfordshire talented school children.



A lively programme of singing, cheerleading, gymnastics and drumming created an explosion of colour and sound that built up to an exciting countdown that heralded the start of the competition. The goodwill, enthusiasm and competitiveness of the whole event were palpable with all events from disability swimming to U15 volleyball keenly contested throughout the day.

Tanya Angus
Partnership Development Manager

Exam Results 2011

GCE Thursday 18th August (yr 12 AS and Yr 13 A2) & GCSE Thursday 25th August (yr 11 and yr 10 module results)

The school will be open from 10am until noon for students to receive their results. If you are unable to come into school yourself, you may write a letter to nominate someone else to receive them on your behalf. Alternatively, please send in a stamped addressed A4 sized envelope and we will post them to you.

Mrs N Gull (Examinations Officer) Ext 238



Term Dates

Autumn Term 2011

Monday 5th September	Staff Inset Day
Tuesday 6th September	Yr 7 & 12 Return
Wednesday 7th September	All Students Return
24th-28th October	Half Term
Friday 16th December	Term Ends

Spring Term 2012

Tuesday 3rd January	Staff Inset Day
Wednesday 4th January	Students Return
13th-17th February	Half Term
Monday 20th February	Staff Inset Day
2nd-13th April	Easter Holidays

A comprehensive list of [term dates](#) and [weekly calendars](#) can be found in the For Parents section of the school website: www.nicholasbreakspearschool.co.uk

1948 Olympic Torch Comes to St Albans

On Wednesday 15th June the St Albans & Harpenden School Sports Partnership (SSP) joined together with Oaklands College to run an Olympic style day. Head teachers, Year 4 students and Year 6 Sports ambassadors from across the District, were invited to come and celebrate the lead up to London 2012 by participating in a range of Olympic and Paralympic sports and activities promoting the Olympic values, organised by the Sports Academies at Oaklands College, SSCs and Sports Ambassadors.

The day started with an opening ceremony with welcoming speeches from Tanya Angus, Partnership Development Manager, and Ann Griffin, Enrichment Officer. Unfortunately the guest speaker Jean Pickering was too ill to attend the day, but she did send 2 flags, one from the 1952 Olympic Games, in which she competed, and one from the 1996 Atlanta Games, which had been signed by many of the GB athletes competing in Atlanta.

The 32 schools were split into countries and rotated around 8 activities including archery, basketball, football, hockey, relays, fitness circuit, rugby and Olympic Torch relay. Each student was also given the opportunity to hold the original 1948 Olympic Torch, the last time the Games were in London.

The School Sports Partnership had been able to obtain the Torch especially for the day as a result of the work with the Flames Lighting the Way programme which was created by Loughborough College and the British Heart Foundation National Centre for Physical Activity and Health (BHFNC)

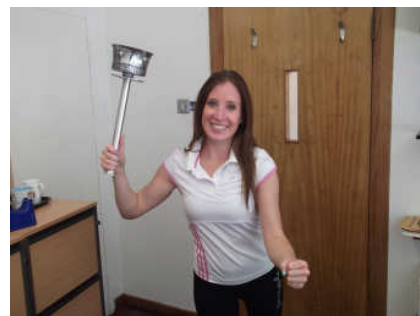
Tanya Angus said: "Today has been a great event and a fantastic opportunity for all the children to participate in a range of Olympic sports organised and supported by leaders from the schools and college. To have the 1948 Olympic torch was the icing on the cake and allowing the children to be able to hold and run in a relay with the torch is a truly memorable experience for all."

The day finished with a closing ceremony, where certificates and goody bags were given to all the participants.

This is the third Olympic event that the SSP and Oaklands have run together and has enabled both Oaklands College and Nicholas Breakspear School to gain the use of the Olympic logo and become members of the Get Set network

Darren Morgan, Further Education Sports coordinator at Oaklands stated: "It is fantastic for Oaklands College to be the first FE College in Hertfordshire to be awarded the 'Get Set' network status, as we have clearly shown over a three year period that Oaklands College is committed to living the Olympic and Para Olympic values through organising these events and working in close partnership with schools and organisations within the local community."

This event will continue as an annual celebration and we look forward to welcoming the students back next year.



Nicholas Breakspear School PE Teacher, Nerys Renowden poses with the 1948 Olympic torch

Nicholas Breakspear Get Set Application

Why Get Set ?

Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School is the hub site for the St Albans and Harpenden School Sports Partnership and is a Sports College. By joining the Get Set Network we will be able to promote the London 2012 Olympics, embracing the Olympic and Paralympics Values, maximising the opportunities presented by the Games and inspire everyone to get involved in all 7 of our Secondary and 28 Primary schools within the partnership.

The journey so far

Through the International Inspiration Programme a successful working partnership with Segale School in South Africa has already been established. A pen-pal scheme operates between the two schools and students from both schools have been given the amazing opportunity of learning about each others' games and cultures.

Student empowerment has been an important focus too. Some students at Nicholas Breakspear have attended the Olympic Site to enable them to gain an understanding of how big the Olympic Games in 2012 will be, this has got them excited and inspired to promote the Olympics.

A student leadership day was held for all partnership schools both Primary and Secondary with a focus on the Olympic and Paralympic values

Leaders have been trained and gained qualifications in Olympic and Paralympic sports such as Boccia, table tennis, badminton and basketball

An annual Olympic event is held at the local FE College offering the chance for students to try new sports and gain an understanding of the values.

Positive values

The students in the school and partnership have felt inspired by Olympic and Paralympic athletes, seeing these sportsmen and women as heroes and positive role models. There was particular excitement about having met a real Olympian and heard his story.

And the highlights for students

"I want to tell everyone about the Olympics and Paralympics"

Offering new sports has already engaged students who would not have previously taken part in sport.

Towards 2012

Nicholas Breakspear in conjunction with the St Albans and Harpenden Partnership and local FE College will continue to organise an annual day to celebrate 2012 engaging all the schools and local community. The importance of involving more young people is key. All students in the school will have increased opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity, understand the significance of the Games and know how to access local sport as participants, leaders and future coaches.

Young Ambassadors will run assemblies at Nicholas Breakspear and in our cluster primary schools focusing on leadership and volunteering, the Olympics

A lasting legacy would be that students find sports and physical activities they can really engage in and will stay with them throughout their lives.

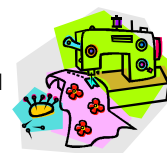


Living the Olympic
and Paralympic Values

Helping Textiles Department

Thank you to everyone who has contributed materials to the Textiles Department this year. This has been greatly appreciated by both myself and the students. If anyone has an old sewing machine that is still in good working order but they no longer use it, please could they contact the school.

Once again many thanks. Mrs D Edwards (Textiles Teacher)



Author Chris Westwood visits Year 7

Author Chris Westwood visited the NBS library on Weds 25th May to meet pupils from 7EHD, 7CLG and 7NON. He talked about his writing, performed an extract from his new book **Ministry of Pandemonium** and then took part in a question & answer session, before signing autographs and copies of his book. Chris has since emailed to say that the pupils were "a fantastically enthusiastic group". Pupils have also been doing work in library lessons about Chris, by doing research about him and his books, and writing thank you letters which will be sent to him. Pupils from any year can buy a discounted copy of the book from the LIC for only £6 (while stocks last!). We are hoping that Chris will return next year when the sequel is published – so get reading

Ministry of Pandemonium now!



Maths Department Achievement

In February, 40 pupils from Year 9 and 10 were involved in the National stage of the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Jack Turley in Year 10 achieved the highest score overall (gold award) with Max Lawrie and Neal Meswania a close second, both pupils achieving silver standard. Eve Molineux, Alice Fisher and Hemesh Jethwa also achieved Silver awards as did Ciara Shine from Year 9. Eight further pupils achieved a Bronze certificate for their performance in this demanding test. They were, from Year 10, Luke Jones, Tom Brophy, Vincent Chapman, Kate Sirman and Lidia Puntrello and from Year 9, Jakub Powierza, Ovid Okinsas and Robert Hunter.

A big congratulations to all award winners and well done to all those who took part.

In May, 40 pupils from Year 7 and 8 were involved in the National stage of the Junior Maths Challenge. Kieran Mekota in Year 8 achieved the highest score overall. Kieran was awarded the gold award as were other high achievers, George Singleton, Conor Cosgrove and Daniel Illing. Silver awards went to Jason Misso and Dominika Chmurzynska from Year 8. Ten further pupils achieved a bronze standard and they were from Year 8, Alex Howard, Amish Jethwa and Toni-Mario Ojadi and from Year 7, Demi Wesley, Sophie Hunt, Cree Felician, Tom Crowley, Ellie Corroyer, Mark Kovacs-Biro and Sophia Britton. Well done to all winners and participants.



National Recognition for Year 11 Pupil

Year 11 pupil Rajesh Jethwa, part of our FILMCLUB (co-ordinated by librarian Ms Swinyard), has written a film review of *The Third Man* which is being used as part of national publicity and awareness of the FILMCLUB scheme. Schools across the country are receiving 'Get online @ FILMCLUB' brochures to celebrate 200,000 online reviews so far, which contain information about the scheme and only 3 example reviews – one which is Rajesh's. The booklet was also in the *Times Education Supplement* on 13th May. You can read what Rajesh thought of the film at www.filmclub.org and then searching for the film title.

Red House Children's Book Awards



On Saturday 11th June, four pupils from one of our bookclubs represented NBS on behalf of the St Albans & District Children's Book Club at the *Red House Children's Book Award* ceremony, along with Ms Swinyard from the library and Miss Newstead from the English department.

The book award ceremony, which was held this year in Birmingham Botanical Gardens, was a packed event with children's book groups from all over the country which make up the *Federation of Children's Book Groups*. Each year children throughout the Federation vote on their favourite books published that year. Many pupils from NBS take part in voting each year and enjoy knowing that their opinions on books really do decide who should win.

The day started with a look around the Botanical Gardens. There was then an author meet and greet, where children could get books signed by various authors and have their photos taken. The lunch was a beautiful three course meal, with an author or illustrator sat at each table. The award ceremony followed, with each nominated author being presented with a portfolio of children's work about their book. We were glad to see that much of our pupils' artwork, done as part of our recent Red House Portfolio Day with 6 visiting schools, was included in these. The day finished with the announcement of the winners in each age category and a chance to have a photo with the overall winner, Michael Morpurgo.



NBS was represented by Dominka Chmurzynska, Mark Eborde, Amish Jethwa and Matthew Walters, all from year 8. It was a great honour to represent the local book group, and they went up on stage to present a portfolio of work for one of the authors. They also sat at dinner with Alex Scarrow, who won our age category, which was very exciting.

It was a fantastic day and a great honour to represent the area at the national award ceremony.

How will your child get to school from September 2012?

A consultation running from 13 June to 15 August 2011

Hertfordshire County Council has launched a consultation on the future school transport network, covering 800 routes, Education routes and small Vehicle provision.

The proposals focus on school transport following the introduction of a statutory only school transport policy from September 2012. The consultation asks for your views on how to allocate any spare seats on transport which the county council will continue to run and about alternative arrangements for routes which are at risk of being withdrawn or have their capacity reduced.

Following questions about the proposals are some additional questions to help gather information about the likely future transport needs across Hertfordshire.

The county council will continue to provide transport for children and young people with a statutory right to free transport.

Please visit www.hertsdirect.org/csfconsultations for details of the proposals and the online response form.



Year 8 Sports Activity Day

The sports activity day was great, we all enjoyed ourselves. I learned how to play different sports that never had heard of. Also the cooking was amazing we were making Jamaican patties, I never heard of them before but I discovered that they were actually really nice. Rocketball was difficult to learn but when you get the hang of it is very enjoyable and fun. I was shocked when I discovered that for the archery we were taught by a GB athlete. She was very helpful and my aiming got much better. When I was doing extreme golf it was very competitive. We were put into groups, we had to hit the golf ball nearest to the flag, the nearest would win. While each person had a go of five hits the others had to make an object out of Lego that was shown to us, our helicopter was amazing! I really enjoyed the day, it went so quick!

By Terence McIver, 8GKY



The sports activity day was good and we all had fun. Firstly we had an assembly and the steel band performed to us, then I painted an Olympic mascot and we had to add things that represented our school, then some of us did Jamaican cooking which smelled and tasted really nice. We then did sports, where I did skateboarding and rocketball. Skateboarding was really good when they taught you how to do it and how to do tricks; it was especially hilarious when everyone fell over, some of us also did dancing which was fun for girls and boys, and there was extreme golf as well which everyone liked. Lots of us enjoyed archery when they showed us the best way to shoot the furthest. We all had lunch, then did our last sport. Mine was rocketball and quite similar to lacrosse. We all had to practise transferring the ball to each side of the rocket, then we all played a fun game, a good end to a nice day. By Claudia Mardle, 8GKY



Year 9 Activities Day

Jessica Hawkins and Faye Munt:
"The two days were very useful. We were introduced to team work and how working in a team can help in building a better future. The rugby session was fun, and we have worked in teams to create an event to collect money for a charity. We found it very interesting because we were very active and very creative as a team. We have managed to collect a lot of information out of the it. The connexions activity was very helpful and very inspiring because it has helped us to know more about the options and the choices we can have for jobs and carers in the future. It has helped us to know how our skills and our talents can guide us to the better job and the better future. The last session on presentation helped us to know how to make a speech and how to be confident when doing a presentation in front of group of people."

Megan Bettles and Chloe Bonass:
" Activity week in year 9 was very different to the other activity weeks we have had in year 7,

and year 8. We stayed in school and we have learnt new skills in the different working places. We had different sessions, and different activities but the RAF activity stood out. RAF activity was a really enjoyable experience. We did lots of team building which allowed us to build a strong friendships with other people. We have really enjoyed the two days, and we have learnt very useful skills."

Zoe Bliss:
"The activity days were very useful because they helped me to have a real insight into working life. The two days gave me a real picture of how working life is like and how hard it can be to do your job e.g firemen. I have worked with different people in my year and I had the chance to know them very well as members of my team. The different activities helped me to understand how working life can be, and also gave me ideas for the future."



Gifted and Talented The Herts Advertiser Schools Award

Isabel Hatt in Year 9 has been awarded second place for Sporting Achiever of the Year in the inaugural Herts Advertiser School Awards. Isabel has represented England in badminton and has been identified as being a Gifted and Talented pupil in 11 school subjects.

The event took place on Thursday 7th July 2011 from 6.30pm at Oakland's College. Isabel did not actually attend the evening as she had previously been invited to perform in the Key Stage 3 Expressive Arts showcase, which involved her playing two superb instrumental solos including a piano version of Mumford and Son's 'Little Lion Man' which her music teacher, Miss Saxby, described as 'simply breath-taking'. Although Isabel could not attend the ceremony herself, Miss Fisher, Head of PE, attended on her behalf.

Why Isabel was nominated for the award:

Isabel started in Year 7 at Nicholas Breakspear School in 2008 and was already playing badminton for Hertfordshire at this time. Over the past three years, Isabel has continued to go from strength to strength in her sport and after a number of successes for both her club and county, Isabel has been selected to represent England. As well as this fantastic achievement, which has required a tremendous amount of dedication and effort, Isabel has also continued to excel in her studies.

She is currently identified as a Gifted and Talented pupil in 11 subjects at school. Pupils are added on to the register by different departments for their motivation, excellent attitude, their effort and their determination to achieve in their school work as well as their general exceptional ability. Isabel has shown a fantastic commitment to her school work and has the ability to juggle the demands of school life and sport in such a mature and determined manner.

As a talented pupil, Isabel is often asked to complete extra work or to go above and beyond what is expected of her peers. Isabel has to combine this with regular training after school and regular competitions at weekends, which also require her motivation and dedication. Isabel has shown outstanding grit and determination to be able to keep up her academic standards alongside her sporting achievements. She will never use her badminton as an excuse for not completing work to the best of her ability and vice versa with her school work. Isabel is the perfect role model for her peers and has certainly shown over the last few years that she is a mature and conscientious young lady.

It has taken her a lot of courage to meet the demands of her busy lifestyle and she does so without moaning or fuss. Isabel continues to work hard to improve her performance in badminton and we hope that her national success can continue. We are proud to have her as a pupil at our school and are pleased that her hard work and determination, as well as her successes have been recognised in such a way.

Mrs John, Head of Gifted and Talented



Year 10 Information Day on Medical Careers

The following Yr 10 pupils attended the above information day on a career in Medicine:

Alice Fisher	Bryan Aherne	Jack Turley
Kate Sirman	Hemesh Jethwa	Hugh Lyon
Belinda Achieng	Georgia Hull	James Conder
Stephen Mears	Liam Gallager	

The event, entitled "So, you want to be a doctor", took place in the Medical Education Centre at Watford General Hospital on Monday 4 July 2011. It was an extremely informative careers open day which benefitted students interested in a career in Medicine. The day provided an insight into a life as a medical student and the route to take to become a Doctor.

It also covered information on medicine career, structures, overview of specialties, clinical skills demonstrations, information on the experience of a junior doctor and a medical

student with a question and answer session, as well as some medical school literature.

The Information day was followed by further support within Nicholas Breakspear school. **Aniete Ekong**, an ex-NBS student who is currently working as a 1st year Junior Doctor in Croydon Hospital, visited this group of pupils to give them a true picture of his life as a Doctor. Aniete also talked about the true dedication and hardwork on his part to get into this extremely rewarding and reputable profession.

The Year 10 pupils found these two experiences very useful and positive. The feedback from parents was also very positive. One parent noted: "My daughter thoroughly enjoyed the trip to Watford General Hospital and found the whole day to be a positive experience. She is seriously thinking about becoming a Doctor and the literature has been really useful."

Mrs John



Bus Network Update

We are still working with the Diocese and Catholic Secondary Schools of Hertfordshire to develop a bus network to replace the county service for 2012. We have identified a preferred provider and are currently still negotiating a best price for this service. It looks like this work will continue into the summer holiday. More news will be sent just as soon as we have some firm indication of costs to your family.

In the meantime, please go on line and be part of the current Herts Consultation process which is still live at transportreview@hertscc.gov.uk.



St Joseph Mural

A mural designed and painted by our students has been donated to St Joseph's School in Waltham Cross.

A number of our students have been working hard over the past year to create a large mural which has been donated to their Primary school, St Joseph's School in Waltham Cross. They were Daniel Illing (Year 8) Kara Norton (Year 11) and Charlotte Dempsey (Year 11)

Daniel Illing in Year 8 chose the design, from a number of 'Josephs' and spent a number of afterschool sessions working on the background and the clothes. Mr Gorton said: "I know that Nicholas Breakspear School were doing a mural for us, but this is much better than anything we expected. We will definitely give it pride of place within our school."

Daniel Illing presented St Joseph's School with their new mural on 8th July, which was a day off for him, with Mr Hearn (Assistant Head and Art Teacher) Daniel said: "I think the school will really like it. I have really good memories of St Joseph's, and it's a really good school - so I think it's nice to give them back something."

Mr Hearn says: "We would like to paint a number of murals for our local Primary schools, as this is a really good way of letting them know that our pupils haven't forgotten them."

Year 11 students K Norton and C Dempsey, also ex-students of St Josephs also worked on the design, after finishing their GCSE Art examinations. The 3m by 2m piece of work was painted with acrylic paint, oil pastel and varnished with PVA glue. Foil and golden glitter were also added to the piece.



Daniel with the mural he designed and the Headteacher of St Joseph's Primary school: Mr Gorton.



Daniel with his mum on the day of the formal unveiling of the mural.



Pupils get a buzz out of Bee Keeping at Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School

The Bee Keeping Club at Nicholas Breakspear School, meet every Friday afternoon to smoke out the bees, check the hive and collect honey.

Dominic Bennet 7NON.

"We feed the bees' sugar and water and we collect the honey by cutting through the bees' wax. I've been stung once in the neck and it swelled up, but this hasn't put me off at all."

Alexandra. Keane 7NON.

"The usual routine is that we put on the suits and we go and check the bees. We usually try and look for the queen. If the queen isn't there the hive will die out, so we like to make sure it's there. Mr Short told us that you can get a new queen bee through the post! Once we're in the area we use the 'smoker' to make the bees go into the hive, so that they eat the honey, so that they're not so angry. This makes them easier to work with. We then check each frame for larvae and the drones (which are the male bees) The best bit of the bee-keeping club is that you get to take the honey home sometimes, usually in the Summer, it tastes lovely, really sweet."

The farm has been at the school since 1963. Livestock is introduced to the farm at various times of the year,



including pigs, sheep, goats and turkeys. Hens live on the farm all year round. Pupils who take Agricultural Science are responsible for growing their own vegetables and tending their own plots of land. Eggs are available from the school at £1.00 for half a dozen, along with a range of seasonal vegetables and flowers.



A busy time for Dr Sutton!

The summer term has been a busy time for Dr Sutton. At the end of April Dr Sutton travelled to Corfu to finish the photography for a book about the wildlife of the island. Dr Sutton was originally inspired by the writing of famous naturalist and conservationist, Gerald Durrell, who wrote about the natural history of Corfu. Gerald Durrell's trilogy of books about Corfu included 'My Family and Other Animals' which became a BBC television series.



Dr Sutton has spent 17 years studying and photographing the animals of Corfu, especially the insects, reptiles and amphibians of the island. On this visit, he finally discovered the snake that he had been after for so many years, the elusive Leopard Snake, which he found in a mountain valley, along with Europe's most deadly snake, the Nose-horned Viper.



During his visit, he met up with a number of people who are interested in the conservation of Greek wildlife, and ended up on the front page of their newspaper!



Dr Sutton with Dr Spiros Giourgias, and Leonidas Kollas, General Secretary of the Hellenic Society for the Conservation of Wildlife



On Thursday 12th of May, Dr Sutton was invited by the Royal Entomological Society to give a lecture on 'The impact of climate change on insect conservation' at the Rothamsted Research Conference Centre in Harpenden. Climate change is widely regarded as one of the most serious threats to global biodiversity. Dr Sutton spoke about the increasing body of evidence that shows how insects are responding to the challenge of adapting to climate change in the 21st Century, and the implications for the conservation of some of our rarer species.



On Wednesday 25th May, Dr Sutton was invited to give a lecture by the University of Bedfordshire for the annual Salters' Festival of Chemistry at its impressive and newly built campus in Luton. Dr Sutton spoke about the importance of insects in our daily lives and asked the question, 'What have arthropods ever done for us?'

In addition to reminding us of their contribution, from the silk industry to our long and sweet association with bees and their honey (the students weren't too impressed to learn that the honey is regurgitated about 8 times by the bee before it is finally deposited into the wax honeycomb), Dr Sutton also revealed that insects are highly nutritious, and we will probably come to depend on them as food as we attempt to feed our increasing global population. Dr Sutton and Miss Davidson took four gifted and talented students to participate in the festival events: George Singleton, Dominika Chmurzynska, Kieren Mekota and Safiya Qureshi, who thoroughly enjoyed the challenges of the day. The day ended with some chemical demonstrations by Dr Sutton before the final presentation and all of our students

received prizes and a certificate.



In the University of Bedfordshire laboratories, Dr Sutton in full flow

Transition Work 2010-11

Throughout the year we have continued to develop and strengthen links with our local primary schools. Please read on to find out about the work of Nicholas Breakspear in the local community.

Taster Days for Year 5 students

Over the last two weeks we have had Year 5 classes from three Catholic primary schools attend taster days at Nicholas Breakspear. The schools who attended were St Phillip Howard — Hatfield, St Alban and St Stephen — St Albans and St Bernadette's — London Colney. The students were invited to spend the day with us to experience a typical day at secondary school. They all participated in a variety of lessons which the students all thoroughly enjoyed. Our current year 7 peer mentors Tom Crowley, Lillie Toomey, Louisa Rosato, Farai Bepura, Bradley Hawthorn, Emmanuel Asiedu and Aoife Cassidy played key roles during these days escorting the students to lessons and answering questions from the Year 5's.

Sports Leaders at Colney Heath and Cunningham Hill Infants

For six weeks our Year 12 Community Sports leaders spent every Wednesday afternoon at Colney Heath School coaching Year 5 and 6 students. The students at the primary school really enjoyed the experience and our Year 12 students showed great commitment and leadership skills throughout the project.

Year 2 Dance at Cunningham Hill

Charlotte Juggins, Rachael Jones and Danielle Kelly Keener spent three months delivering dance sessions at Cunningham Hill. During the time spent at the after-school sessions the girls taught a variety of dance skills to which the students all responded very well. Excellent relationships were formed between the girls and the students and the deputy head teacher at Cunningham Hill was extremely impressed with the girls' attitude and dedication to running the sessions.

Drama Sessions at St Philip Howard and Colney Heath School

A huge thank you to Miss McMeel who ran successful drama sessions at both the above schools. The students enjoyed getting actively involved within these sessions.

Science Department

Dr Sutton and Ms Fullman have been working with year 5 and 6 classes from feeder schools to introduce them to the exciting world of science. Ms Fullman ran a forensic science programme and the students analysed evidence using scientific procedures to find a criminal! Dr Sutton has been travelling to St Bernadette's on Monday afternoons to help them with their project work and data analysis. The year 5 students thoroughly enjoyed the practical physics project which allowed them to use their computers and draw graphs. The students then came to Nicholas Breakspear to see glow in the dark reactions and clock reactions.

On 15th June, Dr Sutton spent the day at St Alban and St Stephens delivering four science workshops. The students were given a talk about some amazing invertebrates, from exploding beetles to glowing jellyfish, followed by chemical demonstrations and finally an invitation to see Dr Sutton's huge tarantula and milk snake.

On the 14th of July, Dr Sutton and Miss Moran delivered lessons to Year 5 and Year 6 children from St Phillip Howard and St Bernadette's, and the students were again introduced to a range of chemical experiments and the delights of forensic science. The classes that came to see the snakes being fed all stood there in silence with their mouths open! The transition projects have provided a fantastic opportunity to meet our prospective students and watch them enjoy the variety of scientific experiences that we have provided for them.

Red House Children's Book Awards

More photos from the awards.



Amish Jethwa with Michael Morpurgo



Miss Swinyard and Students with 2011 winner Michael Morpurgo

Thank you to staff and students who bought anything from the 20p booksale we had recently. We raised £40 towards new books!