



Newsletter

February 2022

A word from the Headteacher

I hope that you will all have an opportunity to spend some quality time together as a family next week and that the break from the normal routine of school will be beneficial to everyone.

I am delighted to be able to offer some positive news regarding the Covid-19 pandemic this term as we move towards a more normal future. I will be writing to you separately with information about how things will proceed after half-term, but it will be so nice for staff and students to be able to take part in our normal activities including whole School Mass and House Festivals. This will allow us to focus more on our charity work moving forward, which is such an important part of what we do at BGN. It was lovely to see how successful our collection for St Chad's Sanctuary was this term and I would like to thank all our students and parents who contributed.

This term we say goodbye to two long-serving members of staff, Stuart Smith our Site Manager [who took the amazing photo of the school below], and Fiona Hunt, our Reprographics Technician. We thank them for all they have done for the school and wish them both well for the future. We also wish Mrs Tucker and Mrs Boswell all the best as they begin their maternity leave.

Have a restful break.

Niamh Dolan—Headteacher



Important notice

We have received a number of complaints from residents living near the school that parents' cars are blocking driveways and the road. Please may we remind you to park considerately when dropping off, or picking up your child from school.

Thank you



Important diary dates

Friday 18 February
Additional holiday for Queen's Jubilee

February half-term holiday
Monday 21 February to
Friday 25 February

Monday 28 February
School reopens to all pupils at
8.40 am [Week A]

Thursday 3 March
Year 11 mocks begin

Thursday 10 March
Year 8 Parents' Evening

Friday 25 March
Year 9 Options deadline

Friday 8 April
School closed at 3.20 pm for
Easter holidays

Easter holiday
Monday 11 April to
Friday 22 April

Monday 25 April
School re-opens at 8.40 am
[Week A]

Rehearsals for 'Anything Goes' have begun...

The Expressive Arts Department are excited to begin preparations for this Summer's musical. Auditions took place in January and staff were bowled over by the talent on display from Year 7 students through to Year 13!

We interviewed Cameron Hughes who successfully auditioned for the lead role, as follows:-

1. Is this the first show you have been in?
Yes it is!
2. What do you like about this particular production?
It is an exciting musical, positive in its storyline and appropriate for all ages.
3. How are rehearsals going?
It's been great working with all year groups. Mrs Furniss is great fun and friendly to every one.
4. What's your favourite part of the musical process?
Singing is definitely my favourite!



We are in no doubt this will be a 'showstopping' performance!

We have been lucky enough to attend some brilliant theatre performances this academic year. The next one is 'Woman in Black' for our GCSE Drama classes. The students are full of excitement and some apprehension about the scary nature of the play. We wonder who will be more frightened, the students or the teachers!

[Mrs Furniss—Head of Drama]

Year 11 future plans

This is an important time for Year 11 as they apply for their September placements. Please see below some local opportunities and remember there is still time to apply to BGN Sixth Form [*don't forget to ask your Form Tutor for an application form*].

If you are still unsure what to do, or need help with application forms, then please ask for a Careers Advice appointment. You can ask your form tutor, or email Mrs Harris at lharris@bgn.oxon.sch.uk from your BGN email address.

[Mrs Harris—Careers Lead]

SPACES AVAILABLE NOW!

OPEN DAY

Construction Skills Centre
BICESTER

Abingdon & Witney College

JUST COME ALONG, NO NEED TO BOOK!





APPRENTICESHIPS | PART-TIME | PROFESSIONAL COURSES | ACS COURSES

On site campus tours of our Construction Skills Centre
Saturday 12th March 2022
9:00am-12:30pm

See our fantastic facilities
There will be the opportunity to talk to tutors about our **current apprenticeship vacancies!**



Unit 2-5 Arkwright Park
126 Churchill Road
Bicester
Oxfordshire
OX26 4XD

01235 541 111 | www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

IS INVITING YOU TO

STUDENTS & PARENTS

Career Guidance




March 2nd

6:00 - 7:30pm

Online

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE VIA EVENTBRITE



THAMES VALLEY POLICE



JACOBS DOUWE EGBERTS

ENGINEERING APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

It's amazing what can happen over a cup of coffee...

What are we looking for?

- ✓ A curious and inquisitive mindset, always keen to learn new things
- ✓ Passion for understanding
- ✓ Ability to problem-solve
- ✓ A strong team ethic
- ✓ Commitment and desire to start your engineering career
- ✓ GCSE grade 5 or above in Maths

Why JDE?

Jacobs Douwe Egberts is a global coffee & tea company manufacturing household names Kenco, L'OR, Tassimo & more!

Working with us means making an impact in a fast-paced, collaborative environment, working as a diverse team committed to doing the right thing across the globe.

If you're thirsty to learn while gaining hands-on experience in a dynamic environment, you'll fit right into our Engineering Apprenticeship scheme.

Based at our Production Plant in Banbury, you'll complete an Engineering qualification at BTEC level 3 & HNC whilst gaining real experience.

During the 4-year scheme, you'll be trained in both practical & theoretical aspects of large-scale manufacturing maintenance, with a starting salary of £12,900 rising to £20,740 in year 4.

If you're curious by nature, brimming with entrepreneurial spirit and have a drive to succeed, we can't wait to hear from you!

Apply today & be part of millions of lives and gain fantastic qualifications along the way.

Deadline for applications is 5th March 2022. If you do not hear from us immediately, don't worry, we will be in touch closer to the deadline. Please contact Francesca.warrior@jdecoffee.com for more information or to register your interest.



JDE
A COFFEE & TEA FOR EVERY CUP

Collecting for St Chad's Sanctuary



This term Year 7 have been supporting St Chad's Sanctuary which is a voluntary project supporting asylum seekers and refugees, located close to our cathedral in Birmingham.

Our timing has been chosen to link with Form 7 Calcutta's Assembly on our Gospel value of 'Compassion'.

We are incredibly grateful for the support of parents and staff and, together, we collected more than 200 tubes of toothpaste and packages of soap! These were added to the ongoing collection at St John's and St Joseph's parishes and transported to Birmingham.

You can find out more on St Chad's website and I thank you most sincerely for your support.

[Mrs Nutt—Head of Year 7]



Young Writers' competition winner is a BGN student...



We have a budding author in our midst; Lola Hermon in Form 7 Devereux entered a competition run by Young Writers in the Autumn term, last year.



The competition involved writing a mini saga (a story told in just 100 words). The idea was to flip a narrative and then tell the story from the villain's point of view. The anthology of winning stories is titled '*Twisted Tales – The Dark Side*'.

I am delighted to share with you the news that Lola's story has been selected for publication in this book showcasing young adult's work. Lola's mini saga was '*The Giant And The Beanstalk*', which obviously was based on Jack and The Beanstalk, but from the Giant's point of view!

The mini sagas that are being published were chosen from over 19,000 entries, so Lola has done amazingly well. Furthermore, a copy of this book (with Lola's story in it) will remain in the National Archives of the British Library forever!

Congratulations Lola; you are a star and a great role model showing what you can do if you put your mind to it.

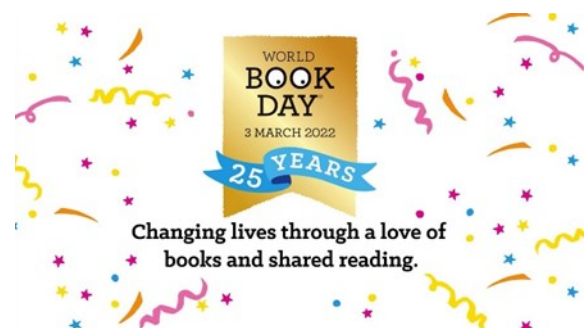
If you are inspired to follow in Lola's footsteps, look at the website for current competitions: <https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/>. If you don't particularly enjoy writing stories, they also run poetry competitions.

We will be celebrating World Book Day (Thursday 3 March) here in school during the first week back after half-term.

Look out for various events and activities, including a used book stall (we will be asking for donations of books you no longer want) and photos that show that '*Pets Love Books Too!*'

Everyone will receive their £1 token to exchange for a WBD book, or to put towards another book of their choice.

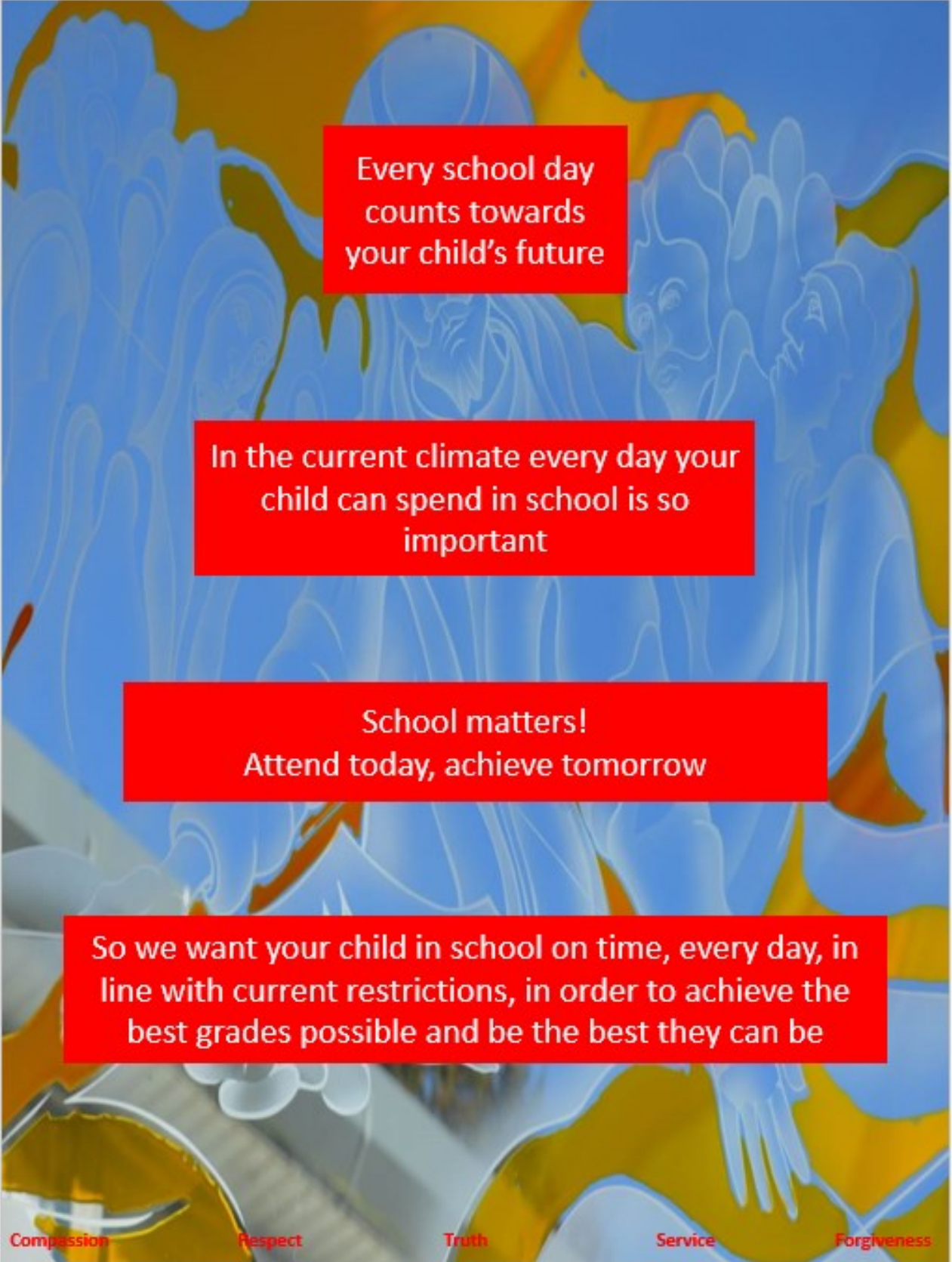
Get ready for reading BGN!



[Mrs Riley—English Department]



Attendance DOES matter



Every school day
counts towards
your child's future

In the current climate every day your
child can spend in school is so
important

School matters!
Attend today, achieve tomorrow

So we want your child in school on time, every day, in
line with current restrictions, in order to achieve the
best grades possible and be the best they can be

Compassion

Respect

Truth

Service

Forgiveness

Be in it, to win it!



BGN 200 Club



Why not join our 200 Club? For just **£5** a month you have the opportunity of winning **£100** every month whilst donating to a very worthy cause – your child's school.

We currently have spare numbers available, so if you are interested or want any more information, please contact Mrs Donna Ayers, our 200 Club Administrator at donnaayers@bgn.oxon.sch.uk.

congratulations!

October's winning number is **129**

November's winning number is **7**

December's winning number is **137**

'Day of Prayer for Vocations'

Making a difference:
thinking about our
vocation

The Feast of John
Bosco, the Patron
Saint of children
and young people

31 January 2022



Every year the Diocese invites primary and secondary schools to pick a day which will be a dedicated 'Day of Prayer for Vocations'. BGN always selects a date near the Feast Day of St John Bosco, sometimes called Don Bosco, which is 31 January. St John Bosco is the patron saint of children and young people, so what better date to have?

This year our Day of Prayer was held on Thursday 27 January and classes went to our beautiful Chapel throughout the day to spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Having first watched a PowerPoint of St John Bosco's life in their classrooms, pupils then reflected in the Chapel on how his experiences related to their own lives and what lessons they could learn; how could his life be an inspiration to them?

Don Bosco was born into poverty in Italy but, through determination and the inspiration of a young priest, he turned his life around and in turn was able to transform the lives of many children living in desperate circumstances in the bustling city of Turin, which was growing rapidly with industrialisation. Pupils were asked particularly to pray for young men like St John Bosco who are considering vocations to the priesthood, young

There are Salesian Schools all over the world today...



women who might be called to the religious life and for themselves, as they work out what their own vocation might be. Our Year 12 and 13 Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist supported the day, leading Exposition between classes.

It is wonderful to have our Chapel back in use again for prayer and worship. We are grateful to Father John for leading our Form groups in the Rosary every Tuesday morning, for voluntary Mass in the Chapel every Thursday lunchtime, and for the return of year group assemblies to the Chapel as well.

[Miss Smith—RE Department]

And to finish with a prayer from one of Don Bosco's Salesian Schools in Uttar Pradesh, near New Delhi...

Father of peace and love,
I need you, I seek your help:
that I may never be stubborn or obstinate but always gentle and accommodating;
that I may not be unjust or biased but impartial and fair;
that I may not grow indifferent or careless to my duties, especially in my studies,
but be diligent and conscientious and systematic;
that I may not get discouraged when things do not go as I would like them to go but
be brave enough to try again and to try harder with a strong determination to
succeed;
that I may not break my good resolutions or promises but keep them and be faithful
to them even at the cost of big sacrifices;
that I may not doubt or suspect or rashly judge others but trust and have faith.
that I may not complain or grumble when I am not pleased with the situation or
circumstances in which I find myself but endeavour to put things right and if I fail
may I have the strength to adapt myself cheerfully;
that at home or in school, especially in class, I may not be a cause of worry or
disorder or indiscipline, but be helpful, obedient, respectful to my parents and to my
teachers;
that I may possess these and other good qualities. Amen.

Building work progresses...



Building for the future

The main steel for the new teaching block and hall has been delivered and, with a bit of modifying to the main gate entrance and some skilled driving, the contractors managed to position the steel on site.

The pictures opposite show that the foundations have now been laid and the steel work has been erected.

The next stage will be the floor and roof before the bricklayers begin their work.

All indications show that we are on target for completion of the build later this year.

The work has also been completed on the Maths and English roof and the kitchen roof will be completed over half-term.

[Mr Buzzard
Operations Manager]



Do you have any experience in fundraising? If so, then we would love you to join us in helping to raise funds to enhance the facilities in our new teaching block.

Please contact: fbgn2977@bgn.oxon.sch.uk

Or just come along to our next meeting on **Tuesday 15 March 2022 @ 7 pm.**
This will include an update on the new build delivered by our Headteacher.

We are a *Small* group with a **BIG** task!

Please Join Us!

