



## Welcome

Many thanks to all of the staff, parents and students who were involved in our successful open evening on 3 October. With well over 1000 visitors it was a superb opportunity to showcase the work we all do and it was wonderful to see so many students showing off their school with so much pride!

This successful evening was followed with the impressive news that the national recalculation of this summer's GCSE exam results has increased the school's Progress 8 score from 0.16 to 0.2. This means our summer's results are now classified as 'significantly positive'! This is great tribute to the work of the staff team here in the face of constant challenge and change in exams over the last few years. This can give us all great confidence in our team work with students and families and across the Trust. Congratulations once again everyone!

I have also received today a thank you certificate from the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, celebrating 1534 hours of voluntary service across the community by our students. This is testament to the public spirited commitment of 68 of our young people who with the support of staff and families have made such a positive contribution. When you also factor in the whole school fundraising, Get into Volunteering and the hours given by our Sports Leaders we can be truly proud of the way in which so many of our young people give selflessly of their time to others.

I wrote last time about changes to our House System which we launch in assemblies next week. Many thanks to the staff who have volunteered as our new House Captains; Mr Tierney, Miss Green and Mrs Nartey in Sycamore, Miss Cordes and Mrs Bradshaw in Birch, Miss Addy and Miss Tillery in Elm, Mrs Johnson and Mr Smith in Hawthorn and Miss Bravo Garcia and Mrs Mallins in Chestnut. Thanks also to our team of 6 Form ambassadors who are supporting the house competitions during the coming year.

I hope you will enjoy this newsletter. It has an especially creative theme with its emphasis upon Music, Reading, Creative Writing and Poetry. It ends with an advert for our next school production of 'Annie'. I look forward to seeing you there!

**C Holmwood**  
Headteacher

## DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT
18 Oct	Y11 PE Leadership Diploma Festival
	Y12 & Y13 Art Trip to London Gallery
	Y9 - Y11 PE Lead The Way Trip
21 Oct	Y11 Media Studies Trip to Mailbox
	Y11 PE Leadership Diploma Festival
	Y12 Careers, WRL, Business and Finance Networking Event
22 Oct	Y11 Lifeskills Cyber Security Training
	Y12 & Y13 Art Articulation Discovery Day
	Y7 - Y13 Equalities Workshop With Hazeley
23 Oct	Y7 Dig It Rehearsal and Performance
24 Oct	Y11 PE Leadership Diploma Festival
	Y13 Geography Trip to East London
	Y7 - Y13 Student Voice Summit
25 Oct	TRAINING DAY
28 Oct-1 Nov	HALF TERM



## Music Mark Award

Last September we were very proud to be the first school in Milton Keynes to have been awarded Music Mark membership, in recognition of our commitment to providing high quality music education both in the classroom and for extra-curricular activities for our children and young people. We have been awarded it for the 2nd year running.

A large number of students, parents, SBE staff, and Music Hub instrumental teachers are all playing a huge role in our continuing musical success and enjoyment.


We currently run 14 ensembles who rehearse before school, during lunch times and after school and provide music for over 30 school events during the year.

Thank you to all our dedicated musicians, some of whom are pictured here.

MUSIC  
MARK



## Exam Results

	Dasanpelle Owusu	+Piano Grade 2	Passed with merit

7

Congratulations to the students who took music exams in the summer term...



## Year 7 Musical Extravaganza

### Dig It! – a musical by Jacobson and Emerson

On the evening of Wednesday 23rd October our year 7 students will be showcasing their musical talents and demonstrating some of the hard work they have completed in music lessons so far this term. They will be singing, dancing and playing instrumental solos. All year 7 students will have received a letter about this containing details of ticket sales and arrangements.

Tickets (£4 and £2 conc) are available from:  
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/556779>



## Events

### MUSIC EVENTS DIARY

DATE/TIME	EVENT
Wed 23 October - 6.30pm	Year 7 - <i>Dig It!</i> Concert
Wed 6 November - 6.30pm	St Cecilia's Day Concert - all ensembles
Thurs 14 November	6 Form Open Evening - Orchestra
26,27 & 28 November	School Production - <i>Annie</i>
Mon 16 December - 7pm	Christmas Concert at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone

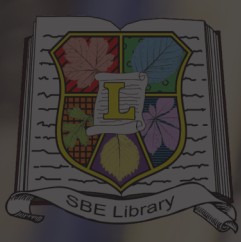
We say a temporary farewell to Mrs Lee as she goes on maternity leave at the end of this half-term and send her our very good wishes for the imminent birth of her baby!

Ms Plant, who has been with us since the start of term, will be taking her classes and extra-curricular rehearsals.

If you would like to know more about any of our musical opportunities, lessons, clubs, performances and trips, please follow us on twitter:

twitter

@SBE\_Music



## Scholastic Book Fair

Due to its popularity last year, we are holding another Scholastic Book Fair in the Library. The Book Fair will showcase both classical and new fiction and non-fiction, appropriate for secondary school readers who are looking for something exciting to stimulate and support their reading interests.

The Fair will be in the Library from Thursday October 17th to Tuesday October 22nd. Please visit the Book Fair during your social time and remember to bring money if you are keen to make a purchase. The cheapest books cost £2.99, and the most expensive are £9.99.



### Forthcoming Events in the Library

Wednesday 23rd October – Autumn/Halloween Craft Event 12.50pm

Every Monday Week 1 Lunchtime – Lower School Debate in the Main Library

Every Monday Week 2 Lunchtime – Sixth Form Debate in the Sixth Form Library

Every Friday Lunchtime – Creative Writing





## Exams Matter!

Certificates for candidates who sat external examinations in Summer 2019 will arrive in school during October and November. Certificates need to be recorded, sorted and enveloped ready for issue to students in late November/early December. Students at the school will be issued with certificates during form time. Candidates who have left the school will receive a letter once the certificates are ready for collection. It is important that students keep certificates safely as they are bound to need them at some point in the future either because they are moving on to Further/Higher Education or for employment purposes.

For your early information, the summer GCSE and GCE written examination period runs from 11 May – 24 June 2020. Please note that 24 June 2020 is the contingency day for GCSE and/or GCE examinations and the period leading up to and including this may need to be used should sustained national or local disruption arise during the Summer 2020 examination series. Candidates should not be taking holidays until after this date. Initial GCSE/GCE written timetable information will be available in March 2020 to all candidates sitting external examinations in the summer with seating timetables to be issued in early May.

External examinations/assessments for Y12/13 Financial Studies students and Y11/12/13 BTEC and/or Cambridge National students will take place throughout the year. Students will be advised by the relevant curriculum team as to upcoming examinations as well as being provided with timetables at the appropriate time.

Parents/students are reminded that practical examinations will take place prior to the summer examination period and that non-examined assessment/controlled assessment/coursework takes place throughout the year so regular attendance is important.

Early advice of results' dates for your diary:

- November 2019 GCSE results (resit opportunity only for Year 12/13) will be issued on Thursday 16 January 2020;
- Summer 2020 GCE results will be issued on Thursday 13 August 2020;
- Summer 2020 GCSE results will be issued on Thursday 20 August 2020.

Students in Years 9 to 13 will sit internally set examinations under examination conditions during the course of the 2019/20 academic year to help prepare them for external examinations both from an academic and from an exams conditions point of view. Timetables for these examinations will usually be issued to students three weeks prior to the start of the examinations. Teaching staff will let students know in advance what topics should be studied for students to be prepared for the examinations. Internally set examinations are set down as follows (broad dates are given and these may be adjusted once the exam timetables are organised):

Year 11 – (30 September-4 October), w/c 16-19 December & 7-10 January, 2-13 March

Year 12/13 – 3-14 February

Year 10 – 28 April-1 May

Year 9 – 30 March-3 April (English, maths and science only; other subjects to be sat during timetabled lessons in classrooms)

Parents or students with exams-related questions are welcome to contact me.

Mrs Bayliss, Examinations Officer

## Exiting Writing Winners

This half term we have launched the Year 7 *Exciting Writing* project with some very entertaining results. Every few weeks, Year 7 students will be given the opportunity to get creative; throughout the year they will produce writing in a range of genres and forms, for a range of different audiences. All for the love of writing! Each set of writing will be judged by the English team. The three *Exciting Writing* winners will be chosen and awarded the SBE *Exciting Writing* pen! Congratulations to winning students Lily Revell, Zach Brookings and Callum Gow.

**Here is a flavour of the fantastic writing produced by these students.**

### **An extract from 'Odysseus and Penelope' by Lily Revell**

*Trudging through the towering palace, I stared carefully and examined everything that had changed since I last visited. A sweet grin spread across my face as I realised that all of this was going to be in my hands. As my eyes looked across the room I saw the suitors gobbling up their feast. I stared longingly at the mouth-watering food, open-mouthed. I couldn't believe my eyes. Cheers echoed around the huge room. My beloved wife Penelope glided down the stairs in the corner of the room and my eyes glistened at the sight of her. After all these years her beauty had stayed with her; she was the same woman I remembered.*

*After slowly walking for some time, I arrived at the table. Quieter and quieter it got into silence. All eyes turned to face me, disgusted by what they saw. I looked at them desperately. Longingly. Hopefully...*

### **An extract from 'Odysseus' Story' by Zach Brookings**

*As the goddess of wisdom changed my favourite royal suit I noticed the glorious canary yellow and light violet sunset in the distance. My new but yet ancient rags dragged in the sand as I slouched toward my home. It had mildly changed although my face beamed in relief as I saw the gracious town.*

*I was given dirty looks as I entered the broad gated. Screwing up my eyes I tried to spot my beloved son or beautiful queen wife. Midwives came out of rusting churches carrying ear-piercing babies, elegant seagulls elevated over the town, swooping down and pinching snacks from joyful children...*

### **An extract from 'Poseidon's Wrath' by Callum Gow**

*I woke up from a sleep I never meant to have. Suddenly it all came flooding back to me. I was thousands of miles below sea level. The terror of the sea dragged me down, the timbers crumbled and the ship snapped in half, throwing everyone off except me! Alexios the King of Ithaca! I tried to fight the beast but it struck my temple, sending me out cold instantly. Standing up through the agony I stumbled around as the blood from my forehead dripped down onto my pupils, half-blinding me. I froze. I saw the Creature from the deep staring at me...*



## National Poetry Day Competition Winners

To celebrate National Poetry Day on 3 October, students across Years 7-9 were asked to write poems on the theme of Truth. The winning poem 'Mirror of Truth' was written by Max Ijeh (8SSA) and the runner-up poem 'The Truth can Hurt' was written by Caitlin Harries (8HKF). Congratulations to both young writers! Prizes will be awarded in a forthcoming assembly.

### Mirror of Truth

Look at yourself  
Reflect  
Head to toe. Toe to head.  
What happens when you peel away the layers?  
A doll, inside a doll, inside a doll  
All with the same expression.

What happens when you reach the centre?  
When the canvas is bare, what if there's nothing there?

Let's start with the basics  
Hands on hips, smile for the people, smile for the crowd  
Give them a picture if they want  
And erase the mistakes in private...  
Make the whole performance effortless, look effortless

It's true  
I pruned a flower I couldn't bloom, a flower  
That couldn't bloom, in a dream  
That wouldn't come true

The truth is dark and scary  
Truth is overbearing  
Truth is unguarded, unprotected,  
So many lies in this truth  
It's true

By Max Ijeh



## The Truth Can Hurt

Truth is a candy cane, sweet but twisted.  
It is when the sky is bright, but rain still falls.  
It is deceptive, like a spider enticing its prey into its web.  
Truth can wear a mask of lies, but it is still there,  
Cold and unforgiving.  
It can be flashing lights, blatantly obvious,  
Or it could be hidden underneath a blanket of exaggeration,  
Struggling to surface.  
Truth is the colour red, it could hurt like a thousand  
Razor sharp daggers.  
But it is the gifts that parents hide for their excited children  
To unwrap on Christmas Day.  
Truth is a violin; it can speak in many tones.  
It can be as soft as clouds,  
But it can also be as harsh as a stormy sea, juggling those  
Who try and tame it as if they were tasks in a busy schedule.  
The truth can be a mighty burden, strangling all the people  
Who attempt to cover it up.  
Strangling them with restless guilt.  
It is a shadow: they can chase it for all eternity but never reach it.  
It can comfort them, like a steaming mug of hot chocolate on a cold winter day.  
Or it can eat them up from the inside, destroying them,  
Bit...by...bit.

By Caitlin Harries

## National Poetry Day Competition Winners

During the summer we set the whole of Year 8 a reading challenge, with some outstanding results! Students were asked to get creative and produce projects inspired by their reading. Entries ranged from scrapbooks to board games and alternative endings. Mr Holmwood was so impressed by the quality of the projects that it was a real struggle to choose just three prize winners – so we cheated and chose four! Congratulations to the winners; prizes will be awarded in a forthcoming assembly.

1st Prize winner – Zaynah Goyal 8CNM

2nd Prize winner – Michelle Nortey 8SSA

Joint 3rd prize winner – Jay Greenidge 8HKF

Joint 3rd prize winner – Amber Cook 8SSA

Mrs Hazell  
Director of English





## PE News

### Sports Presentation Awards

Has your son/daughter competed  
at county, regional or national level in  
a sporting activity that the school does  
not participate in?

Please send details to Mr Doyle  
([sdoyle@sbeschool.org.uk](mailto:sdoyle@sbeschool.org.uk)) for  
the consideration of the PE  
team.



**Shenley Brook End School Presents**

# Annie



**26th, 27th, 28th  
November 2019**

**7pm in the Theatre**

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sbeschool/e-exlvkg>

**Tickets:**

**Adults £6.50**

**Concessions £4.50**

**Tickets on sale from November 4th!**