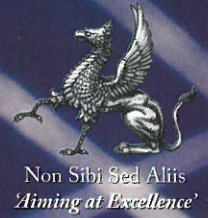


Engineering



Non Sibi Sed Aliis
'Aiming at Excellence'

ISSUE **15** // APRIL 2013

TRANS- FORM

THE ENGINEERING NEWSLETTER FOR BALSHAW'S C.E. HIGH SCHOOL

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15 editions! It hardly seems possible but we get more and more excellent comments about the quality and professionalism of this newsletter. It started off as an Engineering Newsletter and the articles that relate to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths will have STEM written above them. We have so many other individuals and departments who submit articles, that we can hardly fit them all in.

Thanks to Runshaw College and St Andrew's Church for making it all possible.

Keep sending your comments and enjoy reading this edition.

Yours sincerely

J M Venn Headteacher

NORAH SANDERSON

■ EVERY YEAR WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HEAR OF FORMER BALSHAVIANS WHO HAVE MADE THEIR MARK IN THE WORLD IN A VARIETY OF

fields. Sadly we sometimes only hear of them after their deaths when relatives ask if we wish to have memorabilia for our archives. One such person was Norah Sanderson who died at the age of 101. Norah had an article about her in the Accountancy Magazine where she explained how she took her articles in 1927 when there were 12 women members and 7,641 men. Her parents had both left school at 12 and went in to the family butcher business but Norah had proved to be bright and gone to Balshaw's. She accepted an offer from her Uncle Harry to go into his chartered accountancy practice in Preston and be articled with him. She was a pioneer as a woman in accountancy in a male environment.

She says that when she started it was with pencil and paper and straight adding up. By the 1960's there were punch card machines but no calculators in her day.

"Becoming a chartered accountant was not a cheap option. 'Of course in those days, people didn't get wages while they were doing their articles – they were just grateful to have the training and the prospect of a job afterwards.' As for the fees for her studies, that has remained one of the best kept secrets for over 80 years. She says she has never known the details but she suspects they were paid by her family.

'I remember paying one guinea – a pound and a shilling – to the institute for a certificate of exemption from the preliminary examination in 1927, which was allowed as I had

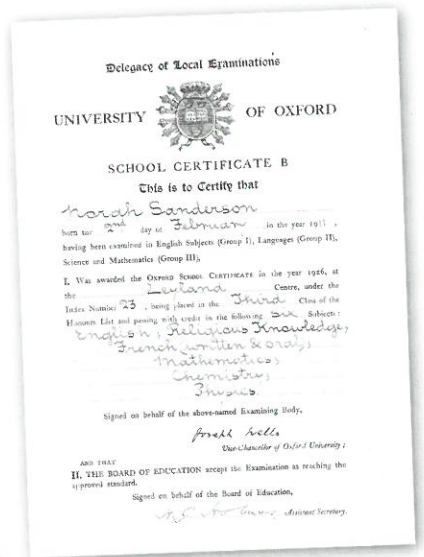
a school certificate.'

She also has a letter from the institute, dated February 1934, accepting her application for admission as an associate. 'The admission was £10, 10 shillings and the annual subscription was a guinea – total cost 11 guineas (approximately £608 in today's money),' she recalls.

'Just after I qualified, we entered the great depression and jobs were hard to come by, so Thomas took over my job at my uncle's practice and I got a job with the accounts department at Clitheroe Shirtings. I weekly boarded there.' The couple managed to meet up at weekends although spare time was largely given over to sport."

How things change but remain the same! Norah was awarded the Oxford School Certificate in 1926 having passed 6 subjects – English, French, Maths, Chemistry, Physics and a Humanity.

Today this would be the English Baccalaureate!



THE RECYCLED CHRISTMAS TREE CHALLENGE

■ THE FAIRTRADE / ECO COMMITTEE WERE KEEN TO MAKE SURE THE SCHOOL REMEMBERED THE MESSAGE OF RECYCLING

during the busy Christmas period. After discussing several options the group decided to decorate a Christmas tree with baubles, made from recycled materials, and then donate the tree to the local residents at Wrights Fold. To make this more of a whole school challenge, two recycled Christmas trees were donated by Mrs Wells. One for Years 7-9 to decorate

and one for Years 10-11. Thank you to everyone who helped.

The tremendous results could be seen in the school's entrance hall and were donated to Wrights Fold when the choir went in to sing.

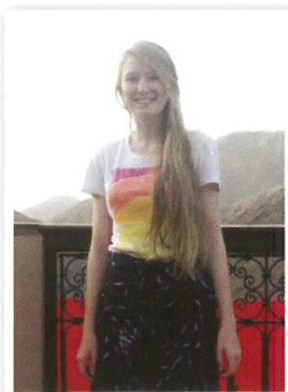


MOROCCO 2012

GIRLGUIDING NORTH WEST

■ "NEVER MISS AN OPPORTUNITY!" (MRS HAYES)

During a Guide Camp last summer, my name was put forward to apply for an international opportunity to visit Morocco. I was asked to attend a selection weekend where I had to face challenges designed to test my knowledge and coping strategies. I survived the challenges, bruised and somewhat damp due to the unforgiving rain.



I was informed that I had gained a place on the trip and with excitement building, I began to plan my fundraising.

I have been overwhelmed with the support from everyone. My Family and Friends; Leyland Round Table; Progress Housing; My Neighbours; Girlguiding NWE, the list goes on and on.

I am extremely grateful for the support I have received from Balshaw's Education Foundation; Miss Venn; my Teachers and from my friends who tirelessly baked cakes for my cake sale at Christmas.....

You know who you are!! Thank you.

The Morocco Partnership began in 2011. Girlguiding NWE made a commitment for a minimum of three years. The project, based in Imlil in the High Atlas Mountains is a community service project which focuses on working with a local Women's Organisation. They meet on a regular basis to improve their lives and the lives of their families. In this, the second year, eleven girls were chosen from across the region and were led by two leaders from the Manchester area.

We spent the first two days in Marrakech, learning about development and globalisation; sightseeing and buying supplies for the Women's Organisation before travelling to Imlil.

We planned to teach handicrafts; English language; take part in a two day trek to a remote village; paint the meeting rooms of the Women's Organisation and to teach the local children English culture through games and play.

The beautiful Kasbah hostel was to be our home whilst we provided volunteer work for the Women's Organisation. As we walked past the houses in Imlil, I was overwhelmed

by the generosity and kindness of local families, offering to share mint tea and their incredibly warm welcomes.

The highlight of the trip was the two day trek which would take us to a remote village in the mountains. We set off on our trek on Saturday morning after a hearty breakfast at the Kasbah.

We hiked in soaring temperatures before descending through Berber villages to where we would spend the night. As we were approaching the village, to our delight, many children greeted us along the path to the gîte. This was a much needed sight after the long six hour trek.

Whilst in Imlil, we spent each day working with the Women's Organisation. Some of the group taught the women how to make bracelets and purses, whilst some women were kind enough to let us help kneed, roll and shape the dough for their Ramadan biscuits.

We prepared and painted the newly built meeting place that will be the centre of the Women's Organisation. It looked wonderful afterwards, and the women were very pleased with the work that we had completed. They now have a fully functioning kitchen, where they bake goods, which are then sold to the hotels and shops in Marrakech.

The partnership project is clearly a success and will continue to grow in strength, focusing on what the community need.

I have had an amazing journey, complete with experiences and sights that I will cherish always.

With respect for another's culture and lifestyle, we can share knowledge and skills for a future that offers hope and stability.

I have learnt from this trip that anything is possible.....
"Non sibi sed aliis"
"Not for one's self but for all".



By Holly Brooks

LIFE NOW

■ ON FRIDAY 19TH OCTOBER THE SENIOR PREFECTS AT BALSRAW'S CE HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTED A CHEQUE FOR £1,000 TO THE

Life Now project. Mr George Thomas accepted the cheque on their behalf. Life Now is a registered charity with a vision to build a centre in the North West to provide palliative and respite care for young adults aged 19-35. Mr Thomas told us of their vision and gave examples of people like Stacey who has been supported by a children's hospice since she was 15. At 28 she will have to move on but there is nowhere suitable to move on to.



The vision is to help young people like Stacey live life to the full and receive the support and care they need to do so.

The money was raised by the prefects who organised a non-uniform day and other activities.

Below is an email received from George Thomas:

Dear Jo,

Many thanks for the very generous cheque of £1,000 for Life Now. This is truly appreciated, and especially as it is £250 more than expected! I had a really good time at your school. I was very impressed with the maturity of the prefects and the general atmosphere in the school: there was a sense of things working together for the common good. I taught in 2 Liverpool comprehensives for 6 years before theological college and still have great memories of those days. I am somewhat in my element among all those young people, their attitude to life is inspiring, though it may not always seem so when you are in the midst of the toil and turmoil! Thanks for including us in your charitable giving and thanks for the invite to your school.

Many blessings,

George

FAREWELL EUCHARIST

■ ON SATURDAY 20TH OCTOBER A GROUP OF GOVERNORS, STAFF, PARENTS AND PUPILS ATTENDED THE FAREWELL EUCHARIST FOR

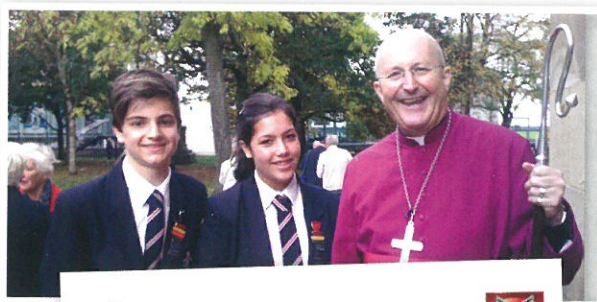
Rt Revd Bishop Reade, the Bishop of Blackburn on his retirement.

The service was a celebration of the work he has done in Blackburn, as he is retiring to Bexhill on Sea.

Sophia Kelly and Matthew Petinaud read the lesson and together with Ella Catterall and Annabel Pike helped with the collection.

The service went well and we were congratulated on how well the pupils had done together with how smart they looked.

The Bishop has visited us on a few occasions, not least when he conducted the first Confirmation at Balshaw's and he also gave out awards and spoke at a Speech Night.



THE
DIOCESE
OF
BLACKBURN
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN LANCASHIRE



The Bishop of Blackburn
The Rt Revd Nicholas S Reade

26 October 2012

Dear Friends

It was a great encouragement to me and to others to see so many of our schools at my Farewell Eucharist in the Cathedral on 20 October, and the occasion was enriched by having two readers from Balshaw's High School and an intercessor from St. Nicholas' Primary School, Blackpool and many of our young people serving as my ambassador in taking the peace to the whole congregation.

When I was handed the gift of the most generous cheque from our schools at the Board of Education meeting, I was absolutely overwhelmed! Thank you for your great kindness and we will put this towards something very special in our new house to remind us of so many happy visits to the schools of Blackburn Diocese where so many great things are happening.

Thank you again for your gift and for always making me so welcome in your schools. You will be in my prayers in the years to come.

May Christ bless all our efforts to share His love with one another

+ Nicholas S.

THE BETHANY PROJECT

■ OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS YEAR 9 HAVE WRITTEN A COOKERY BOOK IN RE WITH MRS PATE AS PART OF FUNDRAISING FOR THE

Bethany Project in Tanzania.

On Friday 19th October a group of children from the orphanage came to school and sang to us, also dancing and playing African drums. They sang a variety of songs in their own mother tongue but also some in English including the Lion King.

At the end of the morning our Head Boy and Head Girl presented them with £500 as well as full collection boxes to take back with them. They have become visitors to the school and we look forward to seeing them again. We have collecting boxes in school all year round for them.



EDUCATION ROCKS

■ ON WEDNESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER, A GROUP OF STAFF FROM BALSRAW'S

went to Blackburn College to support their Head of Music, Janet Madden. Janet was nominated by Jo Maxwell for her enthusiasm, commitment to success and for being an Outstanding Teacher. Janet joined Balshaw's in September 2011 and has built on the foundations of Miss Roberts who retired. There are musical activities every day of the week, with a strong Brass Band, choirs

including a staff choir and lots of soloists. She even introduced a Battle of the Bands. Results were great last year and look to be even better this year.

At the end of the evening Janet won the Outstanding Music Teacher of the Year Award promoted by Rock FM. Headteacher Jo Venn said, "We were all delighted as Janet is a first class teacher, leads the department well and inspires our young people to be musicians."



NATIONAL FAIR TRADE CAKE BAKE

■ THURSDAY 4TH OCTOBER WAS NOT ONLY BALSRAW'S OPEN NIGHT BUT A

demonstration of the school's commitment to Fairtrade.

The school took part in the National Fairtrade Cake Bake Fortnight. Every tutor group was asked to bake a Fairtrade cake and bring in photos of the ingredients to show how they were

Fairtrade. The response from the pupils and their families was overwhelming and the school had over fifty superb cakes to offer as samples during the evening. A prize was offered for the best cake and use of Fairtrade ingredients and this was won by Worden 6, a Year 9 group of pupils. Their cake and work can be seen in the photographs.



WORK EXPERIENCE - BOOTHS

■ I WAS GRATEFUL TO BE ACCEPTED FOR THE WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME AS A JOINER AT BOOTHS WORK DEPARTMENT,

because they have a tremendous commitment to training and quality workmanship. During the first week I worked alongside bench joiners who make fixtures and fittings for their stores. On the first day I met James, a really skilled bench joiner who supported me to make a picnic bench for staff use outdoors.

It took 6 days to actually design, make from scratch and assemble. We went to a lumber yard to select the right timber – then cut it to size and using hand tools alone, made the bench (of course, this meant it took longer than usual). Finally, I sanded and stained it to give weather protection. The staff guided me and taught me what to do at each stage. Everyone said it was a job well done and I was proud of the finished result.

I also went with staff to Media City Booths to photograph the site as part of the risk assessment process and saw a fantastic new store



there. I also visited stores in Fulwood, Penrith and Penwortham. I worked with Graham in the offices for two days inputting sales data into spreadsheets. During the two weeks I learned many things. I had a truly amazing experience.

"We thoroughly enjoyed having Jordan here, he is a credit to Balshaw's as he will be, I am sure, to any future employer."

– Julie Newall, Project Co-ordinator, Booths.

Jordan Bishop, WN10

SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL 2012

■ A NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED DRAMA FESTIVAL TOOK PLACE AT THE CHARTER THEATRE IN PRESTON AND PROFESSIONAL

venues across the UK.

On the evening of Tuesday 13th November Balshaw's pupils performed a 30 minute version of 'Macbeth', under the direction of Mrs Whittam. Our pupils performed brilliantly alongside other schools, which included Arts Colleges and Sixth Forms.

The opportunity to perform on such a large stage in front of a live audience was a great experience for our pupils.

We were required to arrive early in the morning on the day of the performance in order to run through technical

and dress rehearsals. During our afternoon break, when other schools were rehearsing, we visited the Harris Library, Museum and Art Gallery. The staff showed us around and made us feel very welcome.

At 5pm we returned to the theatre to do our make-up and get into costumes. All the hours of rehearsal paid off. According to the excellent appraisal our pupils gave an assured and expressive performance, capturing the darker side of the play. Pupils are now using this experience to gain their Bronze Arts Award – another first time venture for Balshaw's actors.

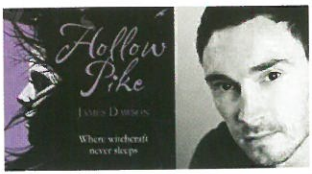
M E Whittam



HOLLOW PIKE AUTHOR VISITS BALSHAW'S

■ ON FRIDAY 16TH NOVEMBER JAMES DAWSON, WHO HAS BEEN TIPPED TO BECOME THE FIRST EVER MALE KING OF TEENS

winner, came into Balshaw's to talk about his debut novel "Hollow Pike". The audience consisted of around 100 students from Year 9, as well as some students from Year 8 who are part of our Young Writers Club run by Mrs Cornwell.



James began by introducing himself before reading the second chapter from "Hollow Pike".

While James read the students became bewitched,

you could have heard a pin drop. James moved onto talk about the inspiration for the book- largely due to being bullied at school himself - and why he believes that society today still persecutes certain groups of people much like the Lancashire witch hunts of 1612.

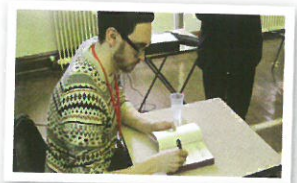
James' debut novel narrates the story of Liz London, a 15-year-old schoolgirl moving to the rural Yorkshire village of Hollow Pike to begin a new life with her older sister. The move does not get off to the smooth start Liz hoped for, as, from the beginning, she is plagued by horrific nightmares set in the surroundings of her new home.

The focal point of the story is the local secondary school, where Liz is immediately sucked into the strict yet invisible social hierarchy dominating teenage life. Liz's life is complicated by strange and disturbing goings-on in the woods and village around her.

The creepy events all relate to her nightmares, which are becoming increasingly realistic and disturbing as Liz uncovers local tales of witchcraft and murder. She discovers that Hollow Pike is on the site of a witches' graveyard, which soon after her arrival starts living up to its gruesome reputation.

Hollow Pike is published by Indigo, part of the Orion Publishing Group, and available from all good booksellers, priced £8.99 in paperback. For more information about Hollow Pike or to buy your copy online visit <http://www.jamesdawsonbooks.com/hollow-pike/>.

If you would like to read the interview carried out by Malcolm Wyatt, who shadowed James on the day visit <http://writewyattuk.wordpress.com/2012/11/25/from-horror-and-history-to-witches-and-ya-fiction-the-james-dawson-interview/>



MY FAT MAD TEENAGE DIARY

■ ON MONDAY JANUARY 14TH FORMER PUPIL TOM BIDWELL HAD HIS FIRST TV SERIES BROADCAST ON E4. THE TITLE OF

the series "My Fat Mad Teenage Diary" is the story of a teenage girl living with mental health problems. It had excellent reviews in the Guardian and the Independent who both state how rare it is for a teen TV drama to tackle mental illness and rarer still that it manages to do so with both sensitivity and a sense of humour.

My Fat Mad Teenage Diary normalises mental illness. Rae is a hugely likeable character that people empathise with. She has a mental illness but it doesn't define her. It's just something that she has to deal with and try to manage on a daily basis just like the one in ten young people in the UK who have a mental illness. You sympathise with her because you like her, not because her mental illness makes her an

object of pity.

Many of the awkward scenarios Rae faces will be familiar to other teens who have had to navigate serious mental illness. How does she explain the self-harm scars? There is delicate handling of these issues. The series is based on the true story of Rae Earl.

As the papers say, 'My Fat Mad Teenage Diary strikes a good balance between humour and some sharp and real observations about mental illness. It will do a lot to change the way young people think about mental illness.'

We have seen *Wish 143* for which Tom was nominated for an Oscar and his play on Radio 4 - what is next?

Well done Tom. We are very proud of you.



BBC'S "ANY QUESTIONS?" COMES TO BALSHAW'S



"SEX, DRUGS AND FRACKING": BALSHAW'S GOES LIVE ON RADIO 4

■ ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 14TH AN AUDIENCE OF 250 WELCOMED JONATHAN DIMBLEBY (CHAIR) AND A DISTINGUISHED PANEL FOR

'Any Questions?' The panellists on this occasion were Camila Batmanghelidjh, flamboyant businesswoman, psychotherapist and founder of charity Kids Company; author and journalist Alistair Campbell, once famous as Tony Blair's Head of Communications – or 'spin doctor'; Tim Montgomerie, Conservative Party activist and co-founder of the Centre for Social Justice; and Mark Littlewood, Director General of the Institute of Economic Affairs and former chief press spokesman for the Liberal Democrats.

The panel were quizzed on some of the major issues of the day – gay marriage rights; the war on drugs; immigration and integration; performance related pay for teachers; and the issue of 'fracking' – highly topical locally, but also of national importance. Questioner Keith Woodcock asked if the potential benefits of shale gas extraction outweighed environmental concerns. After much animated discussion, the general feeling was that the benefits would be worth the

risk. Keith himself concluded, perhaps wryly, that "maybe the odd earthquake might have to be overlooked." On a show of hands, two-thirds of the audience agreed with him.

After the programme was finished the participants did not rush away, but lingered for drinks, cheese and biscuits in the drama room – where the interrogation went on! So what had been an extremely successful and entertaining evening may also advance the cause of education as an unexpected benefit.



G Collinson, M E Whittam

RADIO 4 “ANY QUESTIONS?”

■ BACK IN 2007, BALSHAW'S 225TH YEAR, MISS VENN APPLIED TO HOST THE RADIO PROGRAMME. IT WAS NOT TO BE BACK THEN,

but five years on, the BBC got in touch to say they were coming!

On the day, engineers and the production team arrived many hours before the broadcast, setting up the hall and various electrical systems from 11am. The programme's producer, Lisa Jenkinson ensured that everything was made ready.

Miss Venn ensured that there was a large, mixed and lively audience, all of whom were invited to supply a question for the panel. The producer was impressed by the number and quality of the questions but only 10 were chosen. Of these, one was used as a pre-broadcast warm-up question and five others were actually asked during the programme. Matthew Tomlinson, a former governor at Balshaw's and now the Chair of Governors at Leyland Methodist Junior School, and Keith Woodcock, Vice Chair of Governors at Balshaw's, were among those fortunate enough to be called upon to ask their questions. Being handed

the microphone must have been quite daunting.

All those in the audience found the evening to be an interesting experience, witnessing the way in which the BBC goes about the business of broadcasting and involving local communities in nationally aired programmes. Those who had the opportunity to 'meet and greet' the panel, Chairman and production team found them to be open and friendly. They all commented very favourably on the welcome they had received from Miss Venn, the school and the audience.



ANY QUESTIONS?

■ ANY QUESTIONS? WAS FIRST BROADCAST ON FRIDAY 12TH OCTOBER 1948. BROADCAST LIVE ON RADIO 4, THE PROGRAMME TRAVELS

throughout the United Kingdom. The audience submits questions on the day of the broadcast and these are then sifted by the producer, who selects 10 questions across a range of subjects, which are then asked of the panel. The panel is made up of various distinguished and well known personalities, politicians and people of interest. One of the stringent and unchanging rules of *Any Questions?* is that the panel never sees the questions in advance. The panellists hear them for the first time at the same moment the audience in the hall and at home does.

The programme has had four chairmen in its history.

Freddie Grisewood was the first, steering the programme until December 1967 when David Jacobs took over. David Jacobs was chairman until July 1983; John Timpson chaired the programme until July 1987 after which Jonathan Dimpleby took the chair in September that year.

Currently around 1.5 million people listen to the programme each week, the majority of them hearing the Saturday lunchtime repeat. The programme has only rarely had to come off air – once through audience disruption, once as a result of sabotage by disaffected schoolboys, and once during the Suez crisis when a Parliamentary ruling was breached. On Friday 14th December, Balshaw's hosted *Any Questions?*

MICHAEL ASHCROFT

■ MISS VENN READ ABOUT MR ASHCROFT IN THE LOCAL PAPER, AND AS HE IS A PARENT SHE ASKED HIM TO WRITE AN ARTICLE ABOUT

the wonder of medical science.

In a Manchester Evening News article it stated that:

In an Edward Hopper-style Michael Ashcroft captures Manchester's treasures old and new - a shimmering sheen on wet pavements and figures crossing night time streets we all know - shade cloaking the entrance to the Peveril of the Peak pub on a sunny spring day and Beetham Tower rising into a luxurious blue sky.

His oil paintings of Manchester are gaining him a rapidly growing reputation, but more remarkable is the fact the painter is here at all.

At the age of 28, he had a 12 hour operation at Manchester Royal Infirmary to remove a brain tumour.

Two years later, he had further surgery for two tumours in his neck and is currently living with another tumour. But he says his illness awakened a talent which lay dormant for years.

Michael's mother was a gifted painter of watercolours and, not surprisingly, he flourished at art as a schoolboy.

But his father helped him get an apprenticeship as a welder and he worked in the industry for two decades.

A life-threatening condition was to end his career as an engineer and start another.

Michael 43, said: "There was a poignant moment when I caught my reflection in the hospital window soon after the first operation. It was a striking image to say the least and it was so powerful I had this overwhelming feeling to record it in some way. The only answer was art of course."

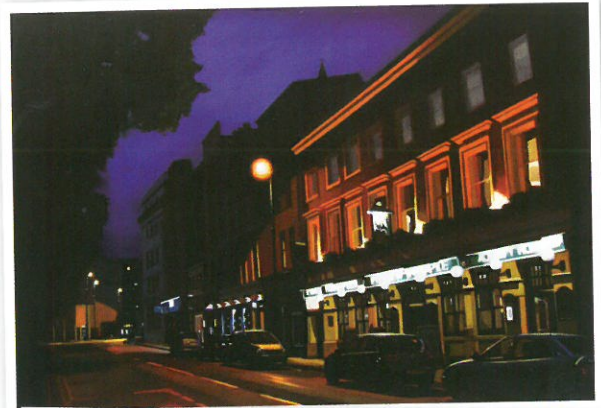
"Half my face was in darkness with all the scars and shaved hair, and the other side, which looked normal was in sunlight. It just described how I was feeling at that moment, without words."

"I didn't realise it at the time, but my passion for light and dark was realised there and then and was to continue throughout my work whether it was a landscape, urban, or a figurative piece."

The first painting he sold for £80 was his reflection in the hospital window. Now his urban panoramas and paintings of rural Lancashire sell for thousands.

"I had already started sketching again soon after coming out of hospital to help me take my mind off things and I started doing more and more. I went back to college while I was in rehabilitation and completed my A level in fine art."

"I also attended life drawing sessions every week to



enhance my drawing skills. Art and sketching was starting to become a passion and not just to help me feel better. I think the highlight for me was getting into the Manchester Academy of Fine Art last year. It was

a real honour to be accepted as a member and follow in the footsteps of great artists such as L. S. Lowry."

His passion for his art is impressive. "Not being well made me realise that I had missed out on not going to Art College when I left school and wanted to fulfil my ambitions of becoming an artist. You realise that time is precious and you must follow your dreams which I didn't do when I left school.

"Now, I really am living the dream but I haven't lost sight of what it means to be an artist. For me, it's about quality not quantity, it's about progressing as an artist to become a better painter! That's what matters to me and I can't see myself doing anything else now"

www.michaeljohnashcroft.com

FINDING OUT ABOUT CAREERS AND FE AT BALSHAW'S

■ WE LIVE IN CHANGING AND CHALLENGING TIMES. SOME JOBS ARE DISAPPEARING, OTHERS ARE BEING CREATED. AT THE MOMENT

the slowdown in the UK economy means jobs are harder to find. Experts have predicted that in the future people are likely to have 14-15 jobs before they are forty.

In an ever changing world it becomes more essential than ever that young people think clearly and carefully about the career and educational choices they make, and what, in the future these may lead to. Starting a course and dropping out because the content or outcomes were not as expected is wasteful and potentially expensive. Therefore, teenagers need to ensure their career choices and qualifications give them the flexibility and skills that employers are looking for in a changing labour market. This is why it is important that they get the best careers advice and guidance available.

On **Thursday 18th October, 2012** Balshaw's hosted a Careers Information and Guidance Event. Our Year 10 and 11 pupils and their parents were invited to meet those who provide employment, modern apprenticeship training and further education; with the later part of the evening being open to all students and the wider community.

Balshaw's acknowledge the importance of careers guidance for young people, and the need to be able to explore the various opportunities that are available to them post 16. We



know that good career guidance has the potential to raise aspirations and broaden horizons, helping students to



realize and fulfil their future potential.

Seven colleges, two universities (one an Engineering University), five training providers, all of Her Majesties Armed Forces, and the National Health Service kindly gave up over four hours of their time to offer advice and guidance to young people and their families. As a Specialist School in Engineering Balshaw's was particularly pleased that NIS, a local engineering business, was present and available to offer their first-hand working knowledge of this field.

The support we received from everyone involved was amazing and very much appreciated, as without it the event would not have been possible. The feedback we have received from both students and representatives has been valuable, as it confirms that the hard work organising the event brings positive outcomes.

"I really enjoyed the event and now have more idea of where I want to go after school" Year 11 student

"The event has helped me as I found out some useful information" Year 10 student.

By Catherine Brown, Balshaw's Learning Resources Officer

LILIAN JACOBS

■ AS ALWAYS WE HAVE LETTERS FROM FORMER STUDENTS WHO HAVE READ TRANSFORM. WE RECENTLY HAD ONE FROM

Lilian Jacobs nee Thompson. She says

"What to say after 56 years since I left Balshaws? I loved every one of my seven years there and now Mr Bull is still

looking over my shoulder as I write this which is why I always write seven not 7."

She also asks if anyone is in touch with Elsie Grimshaw. If anyone is, please contact the school. It is lovely to hear from former students.

- Well we are pleased to say that they are now re-united.

BEN PATE THE CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD YACHT RACE 2013



■ LATER ON THIS YEAR I'LL BE FACING THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE OF MY LIFE. I'LL BE SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

taking on 30m waves on a stripped out 70ft Racing Yacht, having had little to no sleep, working as a team with 21 strangers. My crew and I will be trying everything we can to get to the finish line first, battling against the other 11 teams in their boats racing alongside us.

After being born and diagnosed with deafness in my right ear, I never really gave the disability much thought apart from the obvious annoyances of having to walk on the right, sit on the right, do everything with anyone – on the right. It was only when I was unable to complete a solo flight scholarship due to my deafness with Air Cadets, that I realised I would not be allowed to join the RAF as a pilot. I then understood the limitations that the disability brought to my life.

Following this, I took the mentality that I may be limited, but I can do mostly anything. Mostly anything turned into chasing another career path to become a Test-Driver / Chassis Development Engineer. After working in this field for a number of years, I've decided to take a career break to take on something truly special – A Round the World Yacht Race.

The Clipper Round the World Yacht Race is the longest ocean yacht race in the world at 40,000 miles. It takes 11 months to complete and this is its ninth edition. In this race we have a brand new fleet of 70ft racing yachts custom built for the Clipper Race. Crew members can choose to compete in a single leg, multiple legs, or like me – the full

circumnavigation.

This challenge for me, is one to truly test my ability to work around my deafness in an environment where hearing or not hearing your crew mates can be the difference between winning or losing, or what is a real possibility, the difference between a serious injury or not.

I've set up an affiliation with Deafness Research UK, as I believe their charity best supports the research of hearing loss and other hearing disabilities such as Tinnitus; and the development of cures for the future. By donating to Deafness Research UK, we hope to be able to give a researcher the funds required to make a difference.

Please help my race campaign and please donate to this great charity.

Our target for the fundraising campaign is £1 for every mile of the race, therefore £40,000 so please donate kindly! My race begins in August 2013.

Please log onto my Justgiving site to donate and my blog site to see how my race campaign is progressing. You can also make a quick donation by texting "BPRW70 £x" (£1,2,3,4,5 or 10) to 70070.

<http://ben-pate-rtw.blogspot.com>

<http://www.justgiving.com/Ben-Pate-RTW>

Many thanks,

Ben

Ben Pate

THE CHALLENGE

■ THE PERSONAL CHALLENGE

Where you face your fears, develop your confidence and bond with your teammates. It is action packed with activities such as climbing, canoeing and hiking.

THE TEAM CHALLENGE

Living in University style accommodation and completing a project with a difference such as Media, Drama, Enterprise, Sport or Photography.

THE REAL CHALLENGE

Developing the skills you have learnt by designing your own social action project that can make a difference in your area. In the team, it is a bit like Dragon's Den when you pitch your ideas to try and win.

As one of our participants said, *"It is a once in a lifetime experience. You get to meet new people, learn new skills, be away from home and learn to be by yourself but with your friends."*

They all graduated at the Reebok Centre Bolton in October. This year we hope to have even more pupils accept The Challenge.



WERE YOU INSPIRED BY THE OLYMPICS?

■ WE WERE AS A SCHOOL AND AS INDIVIDUALS. DID YOU KNOW THAT IT IS 100 YEARS SINCE JESSE OWENS WAS BORN IN

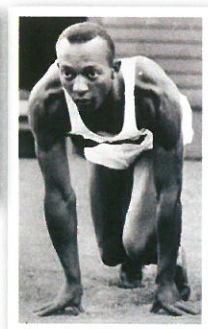
1913? In High School he won three track and field events at the 1933 National Interscholastic Championships. 2 years later he equalled one world record and broke three others. In 1936 Owens won four gold medals at the Olympic Games in Berlin.

This was not popular as Hitler had expected the Olympic Games to be a showcase and a statement for Aryan Supremacy. He lambasted America for including black athletes on its Olympic roster.

But it was African Americans who helped cement America's success at the Olympic Games. Owens was easily the most dominant athlete. He captured four gold medals – the 100 metres, the long jump, the 200 metres and the 400 metre relay race. He broke two Olympic records. Hitler was furious and stormed out of the stadium.

Owens was not surprised by this home country's reception as Franklin D Roosevelt failed to meet with him and he was not properly recognised until 1976 by President Gerald Ford. He wasn't surprised, after all in his own country he couldn't

ride in the front of the bus but had to go to the back door. He couldn't live where he wanted either.



This was the situation for Rosa Parks who was also born in 1913. She is famous because she wouldn't sit in the back of the bus in December 1955. Rosa Parks had just finished her shift as a department store seamstress and was exhausted. When the bus came, she paid her fare and took a seat. The driver announced that the blacks had to get up so the whites could sit down. Rosa Parks said no. This was the law but she wasn't the first black passenger to say no. This led to the Bus Boycott and peaceful demonstration by Martin Luther King. 55 weeks after the boycott the Supreme Court ruled that since blacks and whites paid the same fare they had the same right to a seat.

50 years on life is very different but these two people helped make this difference. We learn about this in RE.

STEM

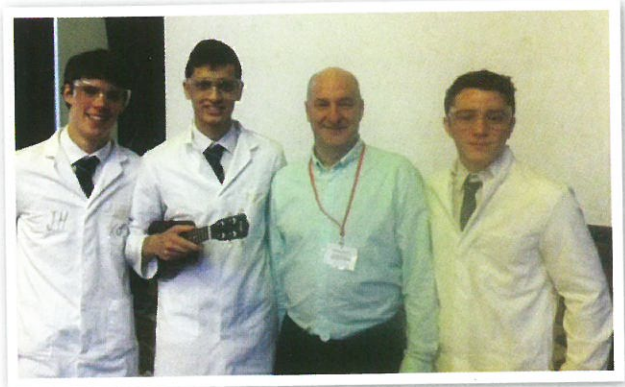
THE BALSHAW'S BUSKERS PEN SONG ABOUT VISITING PROFESSOR!

■ FOR NATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING WEEK 2012, A TEAM OF YEAR 11 TRIPLE SCIENCE STUDENTS TOOK

busking to the ultimate level when they replaced the lyrics to popular songs, with Science themed words. They performed for Senior and Year 9 assembly their rendition of "Inject You"; a song about Diabetes to rapturous applause from their peers.

When Professor McCarthy from the University of Liverpool visited Balshaw's to give his lecture "Microbes and You", the buskers pulled out all the stops and wrote a song dedicated to the Professor!

And what did he have to say... "there's a place at Liverpool for every one of you to study Science!"



Jonathan Mote, Sandy Kelly and Kyle Horner...the Balshaw's Science Buskers with visiting speaker Professor McCarthy

GIRLS NIGHT IN!

■ ON SATURDAY 15TH DECEMBER 20 BALSHAW'S GIRLS BROUGHT THEIR MUMS INTO SCHOOL FOR A SPACE THEMED NIGHT IN!

The guests drank cosmic cocktails whilst the students had Mars Mocktails! Dr Becca Wilson from the University of Leicester came to talk about Planetary Geology and the girls had to analyse different rock samples to find out whether they were meteorites or meteor-wrongs!

Mrs Thomas in Food Technology kindly made Constellation

Cupcakes and the girls used the telescopes on the back field to decide what constellation to ice on their cakes!

The night culminated with a visit to the inflatable planetarium before each participant received a Space Goody Bag before their journey home!



One of the cupcakes of the constellation

BALSHAW'S ASTRONOMY AMBASSADORS TEACH THE ASTRONOMERS OF THE FUTURE!

■ ON WEDNESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2013 THE BALSHAW'S YEAR 10 ASTRONOMY AMBASSADORS WERE INVITED TO GIVE A

presentation and run activities with Year 1 and 2 pupils at Leyland Methodist Primary School.

The four students prepared a presentation on space

before making rockets with the pupils and firing them in a competition to see which rocket would travel the furthest.

The Year 1 and 2 pupils had dressed up for their "Space Day" as aliens, astronauts and even Daleks!

A big thank you to our ambassadors for all their work and to Christine Adams from the school for the invitation!

PAST PUPIL MAKES IT IN ENGINEERING

■ PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT ENGINEERS SIMPLY FIX THINGS, THEY DON'T. THEY CREATE SOLUTIONS TO REAL PROBLEMS BY

integrating physical science with human needs.

Balshaw's became a specialist school in engineering in 2004. At that time I was in Year 9. My main concerns were how I could keep my shirt untucked without getting caught by Mrs Peacock, and how to cope with another day of Mr Nolan's jokes!

In year 10 I was able to do work experience with engineers on an RAF fast jet base. It was this that really sparked my interest in and spurred me on to take A-Levels at Runshaw where I got the grades to study engineering at university.

Even then I had to decide which branch of engineering to study: aeronautical, chemical, electrical, mechanical etc. In the end I chose mechanical engineering at Northumbria University in Newcastle.

It was a high workload, but each module incorporated a series of practical experiments or practical based projects which kept my interest and allowed for a better understanding of what had been taught. In my 1st year one of the main modules was in a team of five to design and build an electronic race car fit to race against everyone else on the course! In the 2nd year the objective was to design and develop a speed reduction system for motor vehicles that harnesses the energy given off as the car slows down. The 4th

year's project was an investigative project with a local engineering company called Renown, designing and developing a new type of fire door.

From an early age I had hoped to join the RAF, but a serious knee injury at university put an end to that dream. However, at the end of the 2nd year at Uni I was given the opportunity to work as a paid (!) engineer for 12 months with a defence company called MBDA. It was a privilege to work with a team of experienced and professional engineers who enabled me to put the small amount of engineering knowledge I had to good use. Needless to say, what I gained in this year was invaluable and put me in a great position to finish my final year of study.

I was especially honoured to be asked by MBDA to come back to work for them again last summer at their manufacturing site in Manchester. I returned to university to complete a Masters which will then make me eligible to achieve Chartered status.



Ross Cottam (Mechanical Engineering Graduate
Balshaws High School, Farrington House, 2001 – 2006)

BALSHAW'S PUPILS SHOW PRIMARY SCHOOLS HOW EXCITING SCIENCE CAN BE!

■ AS PART OF NATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING WEEK, YEAR 10 PUPILS VISITED WESTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL TO

demonstrate exciting experiments and allow the youngsters to have a go at some simple Science.

Young pupils from Westwood got the chance to produce giant smoke rings, see a real steam engine at work, solve a crime with chromatography and make a teabag fly into the air as if by magic!

For their part the Primary School children had taken part

in a competition to make the most Scientific themed cake! The winner was a scale model of the solar system...made entirely from sponge cake and icing!

A big thank you to all the Year 10's that took part!

Sophia Kelly and Tom Briggs
show the primary pupils a
selection of acids and alkalis



STEM

PRIMARY MATHS CHALLENGE 2012

■ THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT WELCOMED TEAMS FROM LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS AGAIN IN OCTOBER FOR THE

annual challenge.

The teams of 2 pupils had to work on a variety of different puzzles and activities. Here are some of the teams hard at work on the puzzles. They were helped along by our year 9 pupils to make sure that they understood what to do.

Congratulations to Woodlea School who were the overall winners but were very closely followed by Leyland Methodist who were only one point behind.



CAROLINE MOLYNEUX VISITS PORTUGAL FOR ASTRONOMY

■ IN MARCH 2012 I CAME ACROSS AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR A SELECTION OF COURSES TO BE HELD IN ESTORIL, PORTUGAL

and funded by the Comenius Project through the British Council. I applied for the course that would be running in our half term holiday and I was delighted when I was successful in gaining a place on the course.

The course was entitled “Building Educational Games to teach Space” as with my position as a Lead Educator for the National Space Centre and teaching Astronomy in school I thought this was an excellent opportunity.

We took part in workshops each day including Modern Astronomy, Solar Observations and Science and Art.

The course was extremely interesting and I was amazed to learn that there were 5 places available for UK Teachers but either no one else had applied or their applications weren't passed by the British Council (I think its probably the former!)

One of the most interesting parts of the course was that I was the only UK delegate out of 12 in total. For pre-work we had

been asked to prepare a presentation on our Education System and our school to inform our European Colleagues. This was eye-opening, to learn the systems in other countries. For example Finland, who come top of the PISA league tables, presented that they felt their country gives students a very good basic education but that they are not particularly inspired into any subject in particular. They were amazed at the amount of enrichment and extra curricular time we give to our students.

Overall it was a wonderful experience and I feel very lucky to have had this opportunity. I have kept in contact with many of the European teachers that I met through Twitter, Facebook and Email and we hope to collaborate in the future; for example, a teacher from Austria is setting up an E-Twinning network (run through the British Council) to run competitions across Europe e.g. Students Building an online game as we did on the course. I have also been invited by one of my colleagues from Greece to visit Athens with 5 students in 2013 for their Astronomy Summer School. I am sure that many things will come out of this course.