

Non Sibi Sed Aliis
'Aiming at Excellence'

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TRANSFORM

THE ENGINEERING NEWSLETTER FOR BALSHAW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Friend of Balshaw's,

Welcome to our latest edition of Transform, our newsletter celebrating some of the achievements of our students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) as well as other achievements.

We have seen another strong examination performance from all of our students this year with a quarter of all grades being at A* and A, with some remarkable individual achievements. We are particularly proud of Nathan Sayle who, as you can read about in this edition, went off to Space School at NASA, Houston. One of only two people from England who were given this opportunity.

The school has seen some dramatic changes to its appearance over the past twelve months. The school Hall has been completely redecorated and the floor restored to its original redwood glory. The Balshaw's Association have paid for the restoration, printing and scanning of all of our old school photographs going back to 1920 which are now on display in our new waiting room area at Reception and will soon be on our new look website. Our Student Services Hub has also been built and is now a one-stop shop for all student needs in the school.

We look forward to welcoming back as many former students as can come to our Alumni Association Reunion on Friday 25th September where during the afternoon you can have the chance to 'Go Back to School' and experience some lessons in your old classrooms, meet with old friends and enjoy a celebration service and concert in the evening.

As always there is so much going on at Balshaw's, so please enjoy reading about just some of what we do in this edition of Transform.

Steve Haycocks, Headteacher



YEAR 10 GEOLOGY TRIP TO NORTH YORKSHIRE

■ ON THURSDAY JULY 2ND, THE YEAR 10 GCSE GEOLOGISTS, ALONG WITH MRS BRIERLEY, MRS FLANNERY, MRS HAGGITT

and Mrs Richardson, visited the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail in North Yorkshire. The purpose of the visit was to enable the group to immerse themselves in Geology beyond the classroom so that they could put into practice the skills and knowledge they have developed throughout the year.

Along the trail you can get up close to Yorkshire's oldest rock formations providing millions of years of geological history to piece together. The students walked alongside the River Twiss up to the stunning Thornton Force, completing field tasks along the way in order to establish a complete geological history of the valley. This was done using

sedimentary rock descriptions, dip and dip direction readings, annotated field sketches, identification of structures such as graded bedding, the North Craven fault and anticline folds, observation of glacial deposits and identification of an unconformity. The trail's money tree was an added curiosity along the way!

The weather was perfect with the rain only setting in on the journey home, though the summer temperatures combined with the close proximity to the river resulted in a less than pleasing number of midge bites!

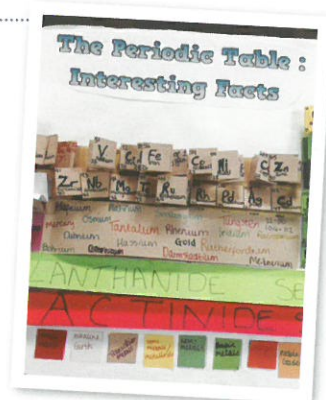


SCIENCE SUPER STAR

■ WELL DONE TO PHOEBE STANSFIELD FROM YEAR 8 FOR GOING THE EXTRA MILE WITH HER SCIENCE HOMEWORK AND

producing a fabulous 3D model of the Periodic Table. The table includes pictures, descriptions of the elements and information about their discovery. This was just one of a fantastic range of homeworks by the Science 8s1 group.

The great homework pieces ranged from PowerPoint presentations, information leaflets and film clips. Well done everyone of you.



Mrs Hope

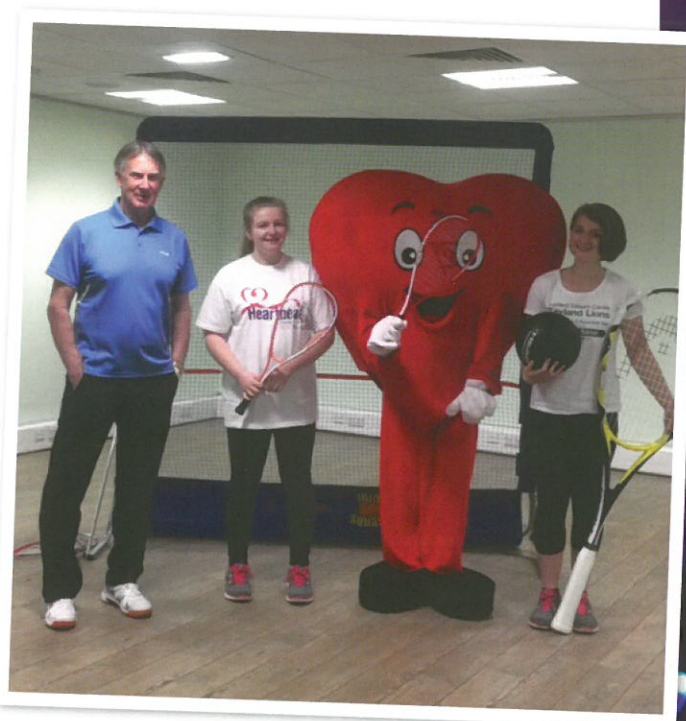
BALSHAW'S GIRLS VOLUNTEER TO SUPPORT THE HEARTBEAT CHARITY

■ THREE OF OUR GIRLS VOLUNTEERED TO HELP OUT AT A MINI-SQUASH ROADSHOW AND RAISE MONEY FOR THE HEARTBEAT

charity. They are all members of the Leyland Lions Juniors Squash and Racketball club. The event was held at Barton Grange, on Sunday 24th May 2015, from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm.

John Gibson, who is the Volunteer Sports Events Fundraiser for Charity, praised the girls for all their efforts. He said "They were brilliant and a shining example of what our youngsters do nowadays." He added "They were great, and a great example of the high standards of education your school set."

The girls have also received praise from the Heartbeat charity. They said "We are extremely grateful to the three girls for helping us with our fundraising efforts." You can find more information about the Heartbeat charity on their webpage. A total of £60 was raised on the day due to all the hard work of the people involved. The girls even took turns to wear the Heartbeat mascot costume as the regular person was not available!



GOLFING SUCCESS FROM BALSHAW'S STUDENTS

■ IN SPRING 2015, BALSHAW'S GOLFERS COMPETED WITH SCHOOLS FROM ALL OVER THE NORTH OF ENGLAND IN THE LANCASHIRE

Schools Golf Competition at Longridge Golf Club. Chloe Fazackerley carded a 66 net score and that was good enough for her to win the Girls' Competition. Max Johnson carded a 71 net score which, combined with Chloe's score (137), won the Team Net competition. Congratulations to Chloe and Max on their amazing scores and the success you have brought the school.

This is the second success of the year for Chloe who also won the Lancashire Schools Golf Association Under 15



Championship. The event was held at Leyland Golf club on Thursday 4th June 2015. Well done Chloe.

Chloe and Max are photographed with their trophies from the competition held at Longridge Golf Club.



GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS VISIT MICROSOFT

■ ON FRIDAY 13TH MARCH, MR MORT TOOK TWENTY STUDENTS FROM HIS YEAR 11 GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE ON A TRIP TO VISIT

the UK Headquarters of Microsoft in Reading. The coach left school at 6.15am with all students on time and on board, together with Mrs Greenwood and Mr Ainsworth. The journey down to Reading took around four hours with favourable conditions on the motorway.

On arrival at Microsoft, the group were met by Mr Andrew Quinn, one of the school governors, who is employed by Microsoft. After a brief introduction, students were shown videos of what Microsoft's core business is planning for the future. They also saw various ideas of what technology may look like in the future.

Students then went on a tour of the Microsoft campus and saw how people worked in relaxed open spaces. After lunch, they watched a presentation from various people who were on the Microsoft Apprenticeship programme. They were given information about both the technical and non-technical roles within the company.

Teachers then left the group for a break out session and looked at different types of software from the Education Team. While the teachers

were away, students looked at how they could develop Apps using Touch Develop. They then took part in a gaming competition and some students won prizes for their efforts.

A fantastic day was had by all, and both students and teachers came away having learned new things about technology. The day ended at 4pm and the coach set off, managing to beat the Friday traffic, arriving back to school at 8.30pm.



Mr Mort

BALSHAW'S GIRLS RUNNERS-UP AT NATIONAL FINAL OF ROTARY YOUTH SPEAKS

■ ON SUNDAY, MAY 10TH, THREE YEAR 11 BALSHAW'S STUDENTS, ANYA BOLTON, ANNA DOUGHTY AND EMMA SHORROCK,

represented the Rotary Society of Leyland at the National Final of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition. The event was held at The Brentwood School, Essex – the heart of TOWIE country! Having won through via the North West Regional competition, they were one of seven teams in the final. Their team talk was based around the topic of 'No Neverland' – a look at the way that young people, and girls in particular, are forced to grow up too quickly in today's society.

The standard of the competition was exceptional and to their immense credit the team were awarded second place, behind The High School, Glasgow. The Chairman of the Rotary Society said, "There were 800 teams that started this competition", so this indicates what a special achievement it is for the students.

Their teacher, Mr Purnell, said, "The girls worked extremely hard over the past six months and really deserved recognition for their efforts. We are very proud of what they have achieved. We wish them luck in their exams and hope



they continue to participate in public speaking events."

The school are grateful for all of the help from the Rotary Society of Leyland, who have been very kind and generous in their support of the team.

Mr Purnell – Head of English

HOUSTON, THIS IS LEYLAND: NATHAN HAS TOUCHDOWN AT NASA

■ CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER FOR NATHAN SAYLE AS HE PREPARES TO ATTEND NASA'S UNITED SPACE SUMMER SCHOOL

in Houston, Texas. As part of the application process Nathan had to submit a CV, complete an essay on his views on scientific developments and undergo a gruelling Skype interview with eight members of staff from the Foundation for International Space Education.

Nathan will represent the UK whilst working with international colleagues on projects that could impact how we travel to space in the future. He will gain invaluable

experience and insights into how the aerospace industry operates, a field I know Nathan is very keen to enter in the near future.

Well done Nathan and good luck at the Space Summer School.

Mr Fletcher





SKI ITALY 2015

■ ON A BRIGHT AND SUNNY SUNDAY AFTERNOON, FORTY NINE EXCITED STUDENTS AND FIVE STAFF SET OFF ON AN ADVENTURE

that had been over twelve months in planning to Prato Nevoso in Italy for five full days of skiing. The group couldn't believe their luck when the snow fell all the night before leaving thirty centimetres of fresh snow in the resort. What we didn't know was that during our journey to the resort, we were to encounter more snow in the dark, on winding and twisting road. A very scary start to the trip.

The resort was perfect with lots of runs to challenge all levels of skiers in the group, including the staff.

The first morning was picture perfect with clear blue skies, sunshine and snow everywhere you could see. Day one started early with ski fitting before going straight onto the slopes for lessons for two hours. This was followed by a further two hours skiing in the afternoon. The group was amazing and by the end of the week everyone could ski to the ski presentation on the side of the mountain, where they received their medals and the results of the slalom competition.



Everyday brought a new challenge, quizzes, snow figures competitions and bingo to name a few with a pizza night at a local restaurant. The group left on Friday after a morning's skiing and a picnic on the mountain, to fly back to the UK for a late night arrival back at Leyland. Thank you to everyone who took part.

SPRING FAIR 2015

■ DESPITE THE WEATHER NOT BEING BRILLIANT THERE WERE HUGE CROWDS AT OUR SPRING FAIR ON SATURDAY 9TH MAY.

Proceedings were officially opened by the Mayor and Mayoress at 11.00. They were joined by our new Head Girl and Boy – Ellie Pearson and Calum Loughlin who both got involved straight away by doing their first official speech. They did a great job.

Our cheerleading and street dance team then took to the floor (well grass!) and gave us uplifting and upbeat performances, despite the grey clouds and the chill in the air. We had some new attractions this year; a giant assault course, body zorbing, a massive super slippery slide and paintball alley. They all proved to be very popular. There were still the old favourites of pillow fighting, beat the goalie and smash the crockery to name a few!

Mr Haycocks said, "It is brilliant to see so many people all working together for the good of the school – from our Old Balshavians like Robert Haydock, to the ones recently

left like James Parfitt who was invaluable and George and pals for selling so many of our Wii Fit packs that they became a trending item on Twitter!"

Thank you especially to all the staff who gave in many different ways to make the day special and for ensuring that their tutor groups sold lots of programmes to staying up to all hours to bake mountains of cake. For those who came to spend their money or who gave of their time: "Thank you!"

We would also like to thank our Patrons who donated money to our Spring Fair. It means a lot to us and we are very grateful. All in all it was a very successful event with thousands of pounds being raised for the School funds.



CREEPY CRAWLY VISITORS AT BALSHAW'S

■ AS PART OF OUR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING WEEK, WE HAD SOME VERY UNUSUAL VISITORS AT BALSHAW'S. THE

Science department invited the Creepy Crawly Roadshow to bring in a whole selection of insects and reptiles for our Year 7 to see. During their Science lessons that day, all the students were able to see the 'visitors' and had the choice of handling

them. You can see Mr Fletcher, one of our Science teachers, and STEM Science coordinator, making 'friends' with two snakes, it's hard to tell who the most worried is, the snakes or Mr Fletcher.



YEAR 7 MATHS CHALLENGE

■ BALSHAW'S HOSTED THE ANNUAL YEAR 7 MATHS CHALLENGE, SPONSORED BY LEYLAND TRUCKS, ON THURSDAY 21ST MAY.

Twelve schools took part in an evening packed with puzzles and challenges. The overall winning team was from Holy Cross Catholic High School in Chorley. Huge

congratulations to them and well done to all the teams that took part. In the picture we can see the Balshaw's team trying their very best.



IN THE FAST LANE

■ **YEAR 7 STUDENT NATHAN GRECH VENTURED BACK ONTO THE RACE TRACK LAST WEEKEND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS.**

Nathan likes to race stock cars and was taking part in the Warton Stock Car Club Mini Stocks May Day Trophy.

It was a big step. Three years previously, Nathan had to be airlifted to hospital from the track, after a nasty crash in which he was told that he had come very close to breaking his neck and collarbone. The driver who crashed into him received a ban, and it has been a while since his Mum has felt confident enough to let him back in a car.

There were eight cars in the May Day Race with drivers from 10–16. Nathan was leading as he came to the last corner, but was overtaken in the last moment to take second place.

Nathan says he likes racing stock cars because of the competition adrenaline and the fact that you have to be focused, disciplined and have good spatial awareness. He said



that anyone wanting to take up the sport “needs to be careful and try your best.” A car costs about £300 to buy, but then getting it done up to make it race ready can cost thousands more, so it is not a cheap sport. Nathan is lucky as his father carries out all the maintenance on his vehicle as he previously worked for Mini Sport.

We wish Nathan luck with his future races.

THE ECO GROUP AND GROUND SOURCE HEATING

■ **OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS SENIOR MEMBERS OF BALSHAW'S ECO-TEAM HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN TO GROUND**

Source Heating for our school. They were asked to look into this eco-friendly heating system, in the hope of making Balshaw's a more green school, whilst saving money on the School's existing energy bills.

Research was carried out into the science behind Ground



Source Heating, different avenues of funding and considered similar schools in the area that also have the technology. The members of the eco-team have gained valuable experience, dealing with industry professionals from Lancashire County Council regarding surveys of the land and numerous companies that install Ground Source Heating regarding costs. The eco-team presented their findings to the Governors at a recent meeting and concluded that at this time, Ground Source Heating is not a viable option for the school to pursue. They found that the cost of installation and the maintenance costs involved outweigh the benefits of the small savings on the gas bills and the eco benefits.

The eco-team are pursuing other avenues of saving energy by delivering a PSHE campaign in School and entering a competition with British Gas to win £100,000 worth of energy saving measures...fingers crossed!

Mr Fletcher