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BSW Blog – end of term special 20th
December 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been one of our most successful terms ever. In looking back through our blogs we have never previously managed to offer such a broad range of clubs, events and opportunities to students. Our new extra-curricular offer launched successfully and next term we have over 650 students signed up to at least one weekly activity or club.

The culmination of every term is the house cup assembly and in the face of stiff competition it was won this term by Mandela. The House competition represents much that is good about our ethos. Students throughout the year are recognised for their individual contributions but it is also important they know they contribute to team performance too.

We do not just celebrate traditional areas of house competition such as sports matches. We also identify the active contributions of club attendance, school representation, use of the library, leadership roles, respecting our environment hard work and being a positive classmate day in day out with the right attitude to learning. These total up to give a house winner each term and overall victor for the year. The competition is always close and all houses have experienced victories and defeat. Learning to be gracious whatever the outcome is also important.

We also use our final assembly of the calendar year to reflect on those less fortunate than us. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school charities. Our support for Turning Tides through the wrapathon last week and donations this past month has been larger than ever. Our young people are truly inspirational and thrive on the opportunity to volunteer, help others and speak out when they see injustice.

We see staff changes in the New Year. We say goodbye and good luck to Miss Robbins, she leaves us to be head of languages at a school near Portsmouth. We are very excited to welcome two new members of staff; Miss Ledoux, Teacher of French and Mrs Garrard, Teacher of Maths.

On behalf of the staff I wish you a joyful, relaxing and restful Christmas and New Year.

Adam Whitehead

Enjoy

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With just a week to go until the big day itself, on Wednesday 18th December BSW students brought in the Christmas cheer with the annual Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day. Students could wear a festive jumper in exchange for £1 donation towards our Turning Tides charity collection. At lunchtime, pupils gathered in the hall to sit down for a full Christmas dinner with accompanying delicious desserts and crackers to pull. The festive atmosphere was palpable as staff and students alike anticipated the final few days before a well-earned break!



On Thursday 12th December BSW hosted its annual Winter Concert. Students performed a variety of pieces, from dance and singing to acting, showcasing the very best of performing arts at the school. Not only were the performances enjoyed by families of students, but fellow students came to see their peers, creating a fantastic, festive atmosphere on what was a brilliant night.



Respect

We are really proud of the efforts our students go to to support Turning Tides, a charity that we support at various times in the year. We know that Christmas is a particularly tough time for homeless people and Turning Tides needs support more than ever. This year students in each of our three houses donated gifts, putting these in the three collection boxes in the atrium. These generous donations were then wrapped up ready to be given to those in need this Christmas during our annual Wrapathon on Thursday 12th December. With festive tunes and mince pies to help them, students and staff wrapped hundreds of donations ready for collection by Turning Tides. A wonderful act of giving this Christmas that really highlights the caring nature of our pupils.





With the General Election dominating headlines this month as Britain prepared to go to the polls, Mr White organised our very first BSW Mock Election. Students were invited to run as a candidate representing one of the four main parties, preparing speeches and being ready to win the votes of our student population. Four students stepped forward to symbolise their respective parties with Jamie Redman as the Conservative candidate, Emma Hill for the Liberal Democrats, Benjamin Waterer for the Greens and Luca Venditto representing Labour. Each of the candidates gave excellent and impassioned speeches in a whole school assembly on Monday 10th December, and then answered questions by potential votes throughout the week. This culminated with the polls opening on Thursday to huge crowds of students and staff coming to cast their votes. After a long count in the evening, the results were revealed the following morning, with Luca Venditto winning the BSW Election for Labour. The event generated huge excitement in school and engaged students with the importance of democracy and politics in our society. A big thank you to our candidates and for Mr White for their hard work.



On Thursday 5th December radio-star Jack the Lad came to BSW to speak to our Year 10 students about wellbeing, self worth, achieving goals and life aspirations. Jack is known for being on local radio stations Heart and now More Radio and is also working with the Love Local Jobs Foundation to come into schools, youth groups etc to try and help and inspire our young people of tomorrow's generation. Students were really inspired by Jack's story and his talk gave them much food for thought as they start to plan and carve out their own futures. Thank you to Mrs Ridsdale for organising this visit.



A selection of our Year 9 students took part in a week of activities as part of the Commando Joes action research project on outdoor learning during the week commencing 9th December. Pupils were challenged to work as a team, listen to instructions and engage with self-discipline across a series of tasks around the school site.

Achieve

On Friday 13th December students in Year 11 collected their mock exam results. The results were the culmination of many weeks of hard work this term preparing for and sitting their exams. Students reflected on their progress so far and have since worked with their teachers to look at the strengths and areas for development as they move forward into the Spring Term and the most important part of their school career so far. We wish all of our Year 11 pupils the very best success in the next stage of their final year at BSW.





On Monday 9th December Tom Rayland in Year 8 and Felix Monaghan in Year 9 represented BSW in a Mandarin Speaking Competition in London, competing with students across the UK in beginner plus and intermediate categories. They both did really well and Tom Rayland has won a place in the Mandarin Speaking Competition Final. A huge well done to both boys for their brilliant efforts.



On Monday 25th November the Year 7 Boys Basketball team won against Worthing High but unfortunately had a narrow loss to Angmering by 1 point.

On Thursday 28th November the Year 8 Boys Basketball team beat Angmering, and beat Littlehampton and Sion on Thursday 12th securing 3 wins in 3.

The Year 9 Netball team won 2 matches in their tournament at Towers.



On Tuesday 3rd December U14 Girls Football team beat Steyning 12-0!

Well done to the U16 Boys Handball team who represented the school in the area Handball tournaments at Shoreham Academy on Tuesday 3rd December.

Very well done to all the girls who took part in the U15 Futsal Tournament at Falmer Campus on Monday 16th December Some good defensive and attacking play from all!



General notices

We would like to thank all our parent/carers for your continued support this term and wish you a relaxing break and a very Happy Christmas. See you in 2020!



Key dates:

Friday 20 December – last day of term, 1.40pm finish
Monday 23 December – Friday 3 January – Christmas holiday
Monday 6 January – start of Spring term, normal start at 8.40am
w/c Monday 6 January – all clubs start
Thursday 9 January, 4 to 7.30pm – Y7 Parents' Evening for all Y11 parent/carers and students
w/c Monday 13 January – Y10 Maths cross Trust assessments and all subject Y7 cross trust assessments begin
Tuesday 14 January, 6 to 7pm – Ski trip Parents' Meeting
Wednesday 15 January – BSW Inset Day – school closed to all students
Wednesday 22 January, 6.30 to 7.30pm – Y11 Prepare to Perform evening for all Y11 parent/carers and students
Wednesday 29 January – ERA day, exciting opportunities for students in and outside school
Wednesday 29 January, 6.00 to 7.45pm – Y10 Morocco trip Parents' Evening for Y10 parent/carers and students

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