



Burnt Mill News



Summer Term 2009

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Write to us at bmsnews@burntmill.essex.sch.uk

New Heights Reached by Class of 2009

Burnt Mill School is once again celebrating excellent GCSE results this year with **65%** of Year 11 students achieving 5+ A*-C grades, even higher than last year's overall results. We are particularly pleased that students have also met the targets set for 5+ A*-C including English and Maths based on their prior attainment and very good results in English Literature, Maths, Science and ICT with students meeting or exceeding challenging targets.



Sheena Panchal



Helen Mak



Ben McDonnell

Top performing students were: **Helen Mak** with 2 A* grades, 10 A grades, 2 B grades and 1 C grade, **Sheena Panchal** with 2 A* grades, 4 A grades, 5 B grades, 6 C grades at GCSE; **Ben McDonnell** with 1 A* grade, 7 A grades, 2 B grades and 5 C grades at GCSE; **Ben Hawkins** with 4 B grades and 12 C grades at GCSE; **Leyorla Ohene-Yeboah** with 4 A* grades, 8 A grades and 1 B grade at GCSE; **Nathan Gasson** with 2 B grades and 14 C grades at GCSE; **Shannen Melville-Taylor** with 2 B grades and 13 C grades at GCSE; **Hannah Gifford** with 1 A grade, 3 B grades and 11 C grades at GCSE; **Jamie Borg** with 1 A* grade, 3 A grades, 6 B grades and 5 C grades at GCSE; **Laura Fidler** with 9 B grades and 7 C grades at GCSE.

The school is also thrilled that three other students, **Emma Rogers**, **Leanne Sanders** and **Katherine Brace** significantly exceeded their targets in all their subjects by at least one and, in the majority of cases, two GCSE grades. This progress, as ever, is down to the students' commitment and the invaluable support of parents and staff.



Katherine Brace



Emma Rogers



Leanne Sanders

Stephen Chamberlain, Headteacher commented: 'We are absolutely delighted with the results this year and congratulate all our students on their hard work, excellent levels of attainment and achievement. They are a fantastic year group with many talented students who deserve the excellent results they have achieved. They have met or exceeded all the targets set for them and have been superb ambassadors for the school in many ways. They have all made a tremendous effort to succeed in partnership with a committed team of staff at Burnt Mill and highly supportive parents.'

New Leadership For The Autumn

As you will all know Stephen Chamberlain has now left his position as Headteacher of Burnt Mill and that Ms Helena Mills will join the school as the new Headteacher in January 2010. We are very fortunate that in the intervening Autumn term the Governing

body and Local Authority have asked Mrs Ann Davis and Mrs Joanna Clark, two very experienced senior leaders, to act as joint Heads. Their role will be to work alongside our highly committed staff and supportive parents to ensure that Burnt Mill continues to develop and improve.



Mrs Davis (left) and Mrs Clark (right) with three of our China adventurers.

This week Mrs Davis and Mrs Clark met with Madeleine Leadon, Larissa Saunders and Emma Houghton, who took part in a variety of sporting activities as part of their visit to the Chinese Summer camp in Jiangsu Province. The three girls, along with Jim McClelland from last year's Year 11, developed their understanding of Mandarin Chinese, visited local museums, Nanjing University and the Olympic stadium! They stayed with Chinese families and so experienced 'real life' in a Chinese household. This once in a lifetime opportunity further cemented the county's strong relationship with Jiangsu province and underlined our commitment as a school to bringing young people from different cultural backgrounds together. Maddie and Emma said: 'The visit was a wonderful experience for all of us and gave us the chance to visit a very exciting area of the world. The fact that we were able to learn alongside young people from across our own county, from different schools and backgrounds, was just as interesting in a way as meeting new friends from thousands of miles away'.

A Healthy Start To Our New Diploma

This week Burnt Mill began the teaching of the 'Society, Health and Development' Diploma, with students being taught from across the town on our site. To celebrate this new and important step in students' learning journey, they donned newly created uniforms in order to show that they are part of a town wide initiative. Over the course of the months to come staff and students will be working alongside colleagues from Anglia Ruskin University and The Princess Alexandra Hospital, our partners in the development of the programme.

The involvement of these partners stresses how seriously the 'real world' of work and employers takes the diploma as a valuable route for preparing students for adult life. Initial feedback has been very encouraging as students work not only with friends but new people from a different school. This in itself is a very valuable skill to develop.



Alexandra and Danielle in their new uniforms prepare for their new learning journey!

Coming Up This Half Term.....

This term is extremely busy with a range of exciting events taking place. In October we are welcoming visitors once more from our Chinese partner school, Suzhou Lida Middle School. Fifteen students and four members of staff will be participating in our 'Anglo Chinese festival' and staying with host



families of Burnt Mill students. This year, October 1st is our annual school *Open day and evening* with tours of the school during the day

and a range of activities in departments as part the evening programme. For details of tours during the day, please visit the school website or telephone main reception. Our annual Target Setting Day is taking place on Wednesday 7th October. Details about appointment times and the structure of the day will be with all parents soon. This is a key opportunity for parents and their children to have an in-depth discussion with tutors in order to set targets for the year and discuss ways of ensuring they are met. Directors of Learning and Senior Staff will also be available for consultation if required. The Year 11 Parents' Evening will also be taking place before half term on Monday 19th October. This is an early opportunity for expectations for the months to come to be established and invaluable support to be provided. Not only will there be individual teaching staff available for consultation and advice on exam preparation but advisers from Connexions will be on hand to support decisions about post 16 choices. Please remember the advice and guidance section of our website which is a key resource to use for these areas.