



# nuntius

ISSN 1742-2740

News Magazine of Bishop Thomas Grant School



With Mr Desa are Year 7 students Cyryl Gotkowitz, Anna Mussard, Maximillian Parylo, Matthew Rangel-Alvares, Susanna Silva and Saron Tesfu.

## Beacon of Achievement

**Bishop Thomas Grant school has been listed in the prestigious publication *Global Education & Skills: An Oxbridge Guide*.**

The Student Unions of Oxford and Cambridge Universities worked together with St James's House Media to produce a commemorative title that celebrates education, training and skills around the world.

The beautifully-produced book demonstrates success in these areas, and examines the beacons of learning

achievement that have been setting the standards at home and abroad. It showcases the educational institutions and organisations around the globe that are blazing a trail to excellence.

In a series of double-paged features, outstanding achievements and good practice are set out in considerable detail, along with contributions to the community and a summary of attitudes to the learning process.

### To quote extracts from our pages:

'Today, Bishop Thomas Grant School is an extensively refurbished institution whose fortunes have improved dramatically in recent years.

A thousand pupils currently attend... with almost ninety percent of GCSE students now achieving at least five grades from A to C, compared with a national average of sixty-five percent.

Continued on page 2



Cold gloves



Warm music



Multi-talented student



Multi-lingual teacher



# Thankyou

**Three letters of thanks were received by Miss Murray in May thanking students for the money they had raised.**

They were from Spires, a South London-based charity that helps hundreds of homeless and disadvantaged people, from St Christopher's Hospice, which provides free care and from the Salesian Sisters.

Here is some of what one of the letters said, from Sr Helen Murphy, Provincial Bursar of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians:

"What a wonderful surprise to receive your letter with the very generous donation of £1,000 from the pupils for the work of the Salesian Sisters in Japan...I will ensure that this is transferred to our mission in Japan as soon as possible and I am sure the Sisters there will make very good use of it to help those families and children who have suffered so much following the earthquake earlier in the year.

We hear of so many natural disasters around the world and it would be wonderful if we could help all those in need. That is not possible. However, the money that the pupils of Bishop Thomas Grant School have donated will go a long way to help many people in Japan to provide the basic necessities in the short term and to help rebuild lives in the long term.

Please thank all the pupils and staff concerned for their great generosity and kindness and be assured that God will bless each one in a special way."

Three of the students involved, Giacomo Spagnoli, Mary Kellegher and Lewis-John Robinson (pictured) spoke about their activities:

**GIACOMO:** I was involved in the sponsored Spinathon, when we pedaled static bikes. I felt really bad about the Japanese disaster.

**MARY:** I did a sponsored silence in



*The Japanese tsunami*

the Sports Hall. I also gave up buying magazines for Lent, and donated the money I saved.

I know how important hospices are.

**LEWIS-JOHN:** I gave up buying juice for

Lent which raised a surprising amount of money.

I gave money to Cafod because of all the work it does with children, in particular in Haiti, where they are suffering.

Continued from the front page

This figure represents a near-threefold rise on the corresponding figures for 2002. Last year, several subjects saw a one hundred percent A – C pass rate at GCSE level...

By the time students reach the recently introduced sixth form, they are offered a blend of academic and vocational learning, augmented by facilities that would grace any educational institution...

Careers advice is a cornerstone of education at Bishop Thomas Grant School, offering students as much information as possible to help them make the right choices regarding further education and career progression.'



**The magnificent buildings of Oxford and Cambridge universities house two of the world's richest sources of intellectual talent.**

**Oxford and Cambridge are consistently the highest-ranking institutions in the UK university league tables, and among the handful of universities rated best in the world.**

**Despite their traditional competitiveness and rivalry, they are united on a number of fronts – not least in the shared commitment to exemplary education that is responsible for their shared reputations worldwide.**

# Dear Staff and Students

## **It has been another year of outstanding success at Bishop Thomas Grant School.**

Some of these achievements are mentioned in this edition of Nuntius. I would like to take this opportunity to commend two students in particular, and to mention one very special event.

Nathaniel Chalobah in Year 11 is about to receive a professional contract with Chelsea at the age of just sixteen. He will be playing for England in the Under 17 World Cup this summer, in South America. One to watch for the future!

Craig Poku in Year 13 has been offered a place to study Mathematics at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. This is indeed a tremendous achievement and richly deserved. Craig has clearly demonstrated to his peers what can be achieved through sheer hard work and a desire to achieve your goals. We wish him well.

Our Chapel Choir has been invited to sing at the State Dinner for the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association on the 26 July this year. We were selected not just because we have an excellent school

choir, but because of the diversity of the music our choir is able to sing. To perform in front of the Speaker of the House of Commons and Members of Parliament from across the Commonwealth is without doubt a great honour for the choir and the school. We will be singing on the same platform from which President Obama gave his recent address.

The school continues to be hugely oversubscribed for both places in our Sixth Form and Year 7. New members of Year 7 next September can anticipate not only a warm and caring ethos in the Catholic tradition but a learning environment second to none, in which they can aspire to the highest levels of achievement, following in the footsteps of previous year groups.

Welcome to our new Deputy Head in charge of the curriculum, Ms Connolly, who appears on the back page of this issue of Nuntius.

I am pleased to report that our Modern Foreign Languages Department, which is featured on page eight, has had yet another inspiring year. It is now offering

seven languages, including Latin and Mandarin. A GCSE pass in a language is essential for obtaining a qualification in the English Baccalaureate, which is going to become one of the main measures of achievement for schools in the future.

All my best wishes at the end of Summer Term go to the students and the staff who are moving on, especially those members of Year 13 who make up this school's first cohort of sixth form leavers for a quarter of a century. They have been excellent role models for younger students.

Best wishes to the following staff who are moving on: Celestina Isamah, Siobhan Loydall, Rhona McLaughlin, Helen O'Reilly, Amy Ryman and Edward Watkins.

My sincerest thanks go to all those people who by their devotion throughout the school year have ensured that this school has maintained such an enviable reputation.

Yours sincerely



Louis Desa Headmaster

## Wall of Fame

**Ms Scott-Goodfellow writes:**

**Teachers in the English Department wanted the opportunity to publicly praise some of the pupils they teach and for this reason have displayed The Wall of Fame which was unveiled by Mr Desa on Friday 17 June.**

High achievement was recognised, but so too were many other aspects of our students' qualities and it was a difficult decision with so many worthy candidate to choose from.

Ms Scott-Goodfellow rewarded enthusiasm, enjoyment and a positive outlook toward English; Mr Parchot valued those who set themselves high standards and made valuable contributions in class.

Miss Wheeler credited pupils with a healthy appetite for reading and a meticulous approach to presentation. Miss Grey appreciated great dedication and effort and Miss Hennelly has been impressed by independent research and improved vocabulary.

The wall will be changed each term so everyone will have the opportunity to be honoured by impressing their teachers.

Well done to those who made it this term, but everyone should strive to do their best and make it onto the next one.





## Imagining the past

In April, an expert from 'Medieval Days' visited the school to demonstrate and describe a variety of weapons, clothing, toys and other artefacts from the Medieval and Stuart periods.

All students in Year 7 met 'Peter the Peddler' and were shown fighting equipment such as swords, bows, muskets, chain mail and helmets.

They were invited to try on dresses, a jester's hat and other typical medieval costumes, before attempting brass rubbings, using a quill pen and playing traditional games.

Peter demonstrated how coins were made in the past, and each student had a coin to take home as a souvenir.

Four students, Mary-Pia Jeyarajasingham, Fabio Cataleta, Laura Da Costa Videira and Lewis Thompson (pictured) gave Nuntius their comments:

**MARY-PIA:** This was the most fun and interesting History workshop I have ever taken part in.

All the objects were really heavy. It took at least three people to hold one metal chain.

**FABIO:** My favourite part of the day was when I got to try the armour on. I tried to use the chain mail but it was so heavy I could hardly lift it off the table.

The pretend swordfight worked a treat.

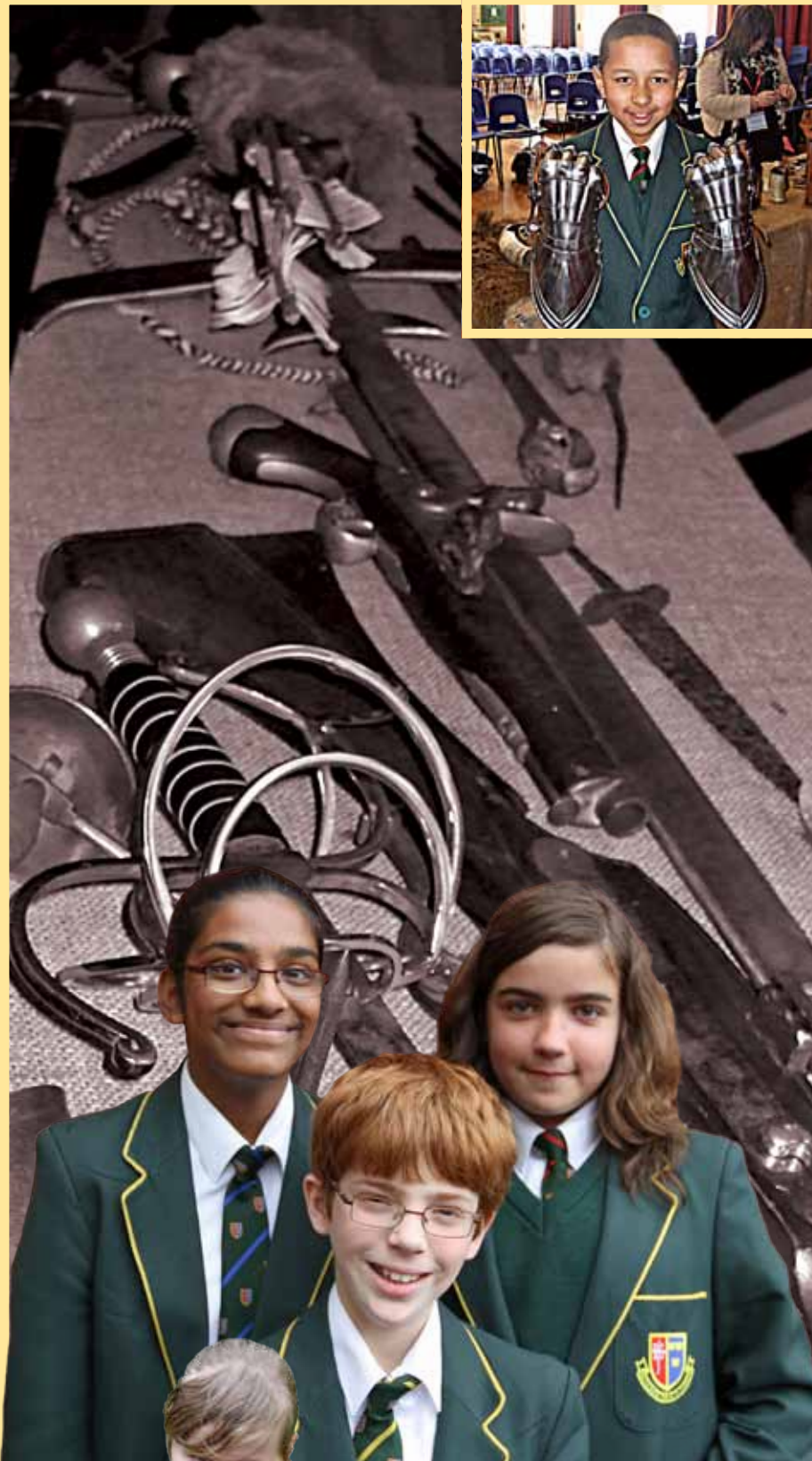
**LAURA:** I really enjoyed the brass rubbing because the man said that the best picture would win a prize. Because of that, I did about twenty.

I enjoyed trying on costumes, because it's not something you can do every day.

**LEWIS:** I am in the picture wearing the armoured gloves. They were heavy, and cold inside.

I could really imagine being a knight, especially when I put on the headgear as well as the gloves.

Head of History Mr Cussen added: "It fitted well with the 'Everyday Life' part of the curriculum, and brought the subject alive."



## Practising hard

**Aleksandra Kondracka in Year 8 spoke to our reporter:**

"I have been playing the alto sax for two years now. I started it when I joined this school.

I was inspired when I watched people playing on television, and I was encouraged by a good music teacher when I was still at primary school – St Andrew's.

I am Grade One at the moment, practising hard for Grade Two.

Jazz and Pop are my favourite styles. I am enjoying *The Trolley Song* at the moment, the one made famous by Judy Garland.

Apart from Music, I like History very much, and I am looking forward to visiting Paris in the summer with the Maths department.







## Outstanding

**Arun Butler-Kowlessar and Natalie Flores have been invited to take part in the Mathematics Masterclass for years 8 and 9 in London.**

To attend this, outstanding students have to be specially nominated by heads of mathematics in schools.

The event is organised by the Royal Institute of Great Britain.

*Arun is also mentioned in the Nuntius sports report*



## I was so impressed

**Ms Turcu writes:**

**In March the Maths department took a selected group of Year 9 students and Sixth Formers to the ICC London ExCel Centre to attend The Big Bang: UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair.**

Launched in 2009, the Fair is the UK's biggest single celebration of science and engineering for young people and aims to celebrate and inspire them.

This was a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to extend their interest in Mathematics, Science, Technology and Engineering by meeting industry professionals and applying theory to practice, through organized workshops.

Activities included discovering the maths behind gameshows, watching the Brainiacs in action live and finding a solution to energy and power crises.

Amal Dahoum, Alexandros Day and Holly Naegeli (pictured) spoke to our reporter:

**AMAL:** The Edexcel Centre was far bigger than I had thought. I particularly liked the show in the Rolls Royce Centre.

This was about alternative sources of energy, like wind farms and solar panels. It was valuable to us because it added to



what we had already studied at school.

**ALEXANDROS:** I was so impressed by the interactivity at the Centre.

I was in a workshop about the science behind game shows on television. This revealed how often the producers want to give out the top prizes, and your chances of winning.

**HOLLY:** We went to a show in the big auditorium along with thousands of other

students and teachers from across the whole of the UK.

The presenters from *Bang Goes the Theory* spoke to us personally and showed us some experiments, for example one involving methane derived from natural sources.

We learned about how methane contributes to global warming as well, because it is a potent greenhouse gas.

## We have best infrastructure

**Mr McCarthy writes:**

**We are pleased to announce that the broadband for the school is going to be upgraded from ten megabytes to one hundred megabytes, starting in September.**

The cabling for this has already gone in.

We are in the first borough to be doing this in a scheme initiated by the London

Grid for Learning, which is a consortium of local authorities working together to put in place online resources and services for schools.

Now our learning platform, Kaleidos, will be enhanced and there will be further embedding in teaching and learning. This brings together the exciting developments of the past few years.

New students in Year 7 are going to find that we have the best infrastructure available. We will be as up to date as possible.

We are also looking toward the future, because we are very interested in the cloud technology which is on the horizon, and the financial savings which accompany it.



# Sixth Form Enrichment

**Mrs Burnard writes:**

**One of the many strengths of the Sixth Form is the amount of Enrichment that is offered on Wednesday afternoons.**

It is an opportunity for students to explore areas of interest that may not be part of their normal academic curriculum.

Not only will these enable all our students to become even more well-rounded, but it will also be a valuable contribution and a 'selling point' for university and work applications.

This year we have had input from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Mentoring, Music, Physical Education, Police Cadets,

Psychology and Young Enterprise.

The plan for 2011-2012 is to build on our experiences from this year and include an even wider range of activities including Film Studies, Financial Management, ICT and Cookery.

*(Mrs Burnard is Deputy Director of Sixth Form)*



**MICHAELLA JARRETT:** I am involved with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. You need plenty of stamina because it is challenging.

I particularly enjoy camping, and I'm looking forward to doing it again.



*Cathal O'Rourke, Robert Mellon and Patrick Solecki, all involved with Sporting Enrichment.*

**PATRICK SOLECKI:** Sporting activities have enabled us to develop our skills and our ability to work together when we play in our sixth form football team.



*Nicholas Montebello and Michael Fidalgo.*

**NICHOLAS:** My project is an extended one connected with the AQA Baccalaureate and it involves extensive research into animals at risk.

I am examining the feasibility of moving endangered polar bears from the Arctic to the Siberian Taiga, where frozen inland lakes could support small populations.

I have found that the Russian government is supportive.

**MICHAEL:** My special interest in Enrichment is non-verbal communication.

I took Psychology at GCSE level so I have the basic knowledge. I am also interested in memory, communication, stereotyping and research methodology in general.



*Alexandra Lutton, Amy Kavanagh and Tamara Little.*

**ALEXANDRA:** In Enrichment I concentrate on music.

I play the saxophone and I love working towards a performance in a group, mainly for school concerts.

**AMY:** I work as a mentor. It is self-satisfying to know that younger students are benefiting when you give advice and offer help.

**TAMARA:** I am a mentor as well. I enjoyed the training which we did for this in particular.

This included planning sessions, advice on confidentiality and work in groups. I find mentoring to be particularly worthwhile.

# First time in twenty-five years



Some of the leavers in the restaurant with Mr Stapelberg

## In September 2009, Bishop Thomas Grant School expanded to include a Sixth Form for the first time in twenty-five years.

Mr Stapelberg was appointed as Director of Sixth Form and has since been promoted to Assistant Headteacher in charge of the Sixth Form.

Two Deputy Directors of Sixth Form have also been appointed: Mrs Burnard and Mrs Adam. There are currently 150 sixth form students on roll and we predict that the number will increase to about 200, with 110 Year 12 students joining in September 2011. Most of the students will have completed their lower school years and GCSEs at this school.

The current cohort of Year 13 students completed their final examinations in June 2011. We are pleased to say that all of the students who applied for higher education through UCAS received conditional offers, which include universities from the Russell Group and Oxbridge, in a variety of courses ranging from Biomedical Science, Business, Psychology and Literature.

We are very proud of our Year 13 students who have worked so hard and who have set such a good example for the rest of the school throughout their two years in the sixth form. We wish them all good luck for their results and for the future, whether this be in university or in work.

On 24 May 2011 the Year 13s had their formal leavers' function at Le Gothique restaurant in Wandsworth Common. All but two students attended this final event with their classmates and teachers, before their final A Level examination revision commenced.

We want to thank all the staff and students that were involved in organising this event as it was a huge success. We also want to thank Mr Desa for the generous gift of a sixth form leavers' jumper given to all of the Year 13 students at the Leavers' Mass on Wednesday 4 May 2011.

As we say goodbye to our first group of sixth formers, we welcome back our current Year 12 students returning as Year 13 students and a new group of Year 12 students in September.

We hope that the good example and work ethic shown by our first group of leavers can be followed by the new cohort, so that Bishop Thomas Grant can build on the excellent reputation that we have in the community, not only for the lower school but for the whole school including our sixth form.

## An invaluable experience

**Young Enterprise is a national charity linking schools and industry. It has proved to be a great success in Year 12 as part of the enrichment programme, which is run by ICT teacher Mr Ghumra and headed by Mr Stapelburg.**

The first part of the entrepreneurial journey was to elect company officials. The resulting management roles were Brian Yeung as Managing Director, Georgette Terry and Nicole Blair as Sales Directors, Uche Ngozi Abara as Finance Director, Silvana Degani as Marketing Director, Shanice Davidson as Company Secretary and Naomi Davidson as Operations Director.

Initial capital was raised by selling shares at fifty pence each, and a company name was chosen - Wrappido.

Christian values were included in the core principles, with a commitment to donating some profits to charity, and it was decided to organise a whole-school competition to guess the number of sweets in a jar as part of a scheme to raise further funds to launch the company.

Mr McCarthy donated a computer as a raffle prize. Others included an iPod with headphones.

Wrappido's main business is the production of crucifixes made of plaster

of Paris which are still available from Mr Ghumra.

"The most enjoyable part for me was when Wrappido sold cards and gifts for Valentine's Day from a stall at a Young Enterprise trade event in Wandsworth's Southside Shopping Centre," Uche told Nuntius.

"We made a lot of money, and an assessment on sales strategy and organisation was carried out by judges," added Naomi. "They were impressed by the ethical approach to business and the determination to succeed."

The company also competed in the local Young Enterprise competition, presenting a detailed business plan which included a financial overview and which outlined aims, ethics and processes.

Sincere thanks go to Mr Jos Van De Perre, who has extensive experience in the oil



Uche Ngozi Abara and Naomi Davidson

industry, and who is a volunteer business consultant. He was a pillar of wisdom and an invaluable source of guidance and support throughout the project.

All the students involved with Wrappido say that they have learned a lot about business, and that the whole project has given them an invaluable experience.



# I feel honoured

**Chen Shicun writes:**

**I am from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in the southern part of China.**

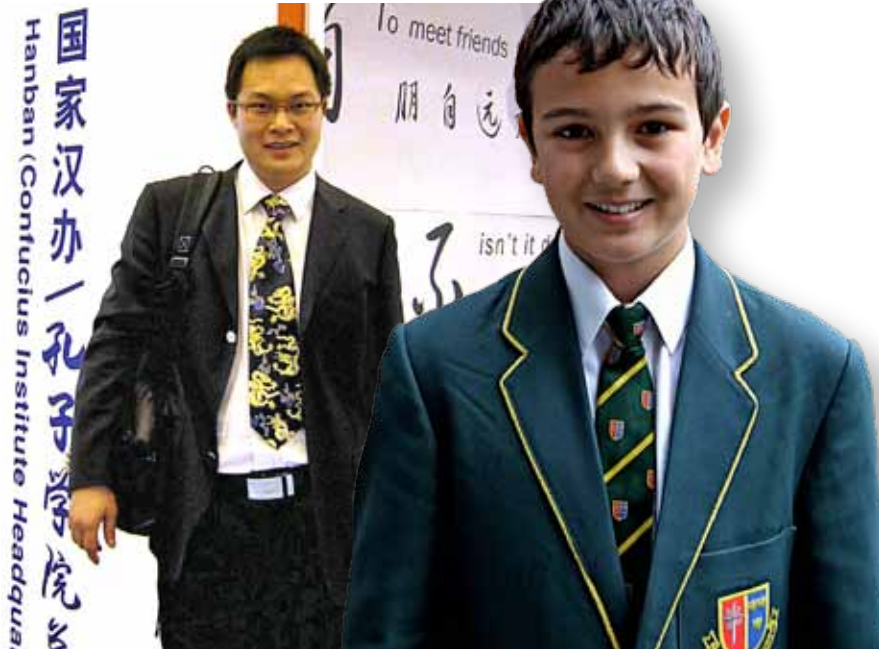
Twelve different ethnic groups live in Guangxi. We speak a lot of languages.

I speak mainly Mandarin and Cantonese, and I also speak Vietnamese and Thai.

I work in Guangxi Traditional Chinese Medical University and I am skilled in Tai Chi sword, Kung Fu fans and Five Animals martial art.

The United Kingdom is really a fantastic country, and I like it very much. I really feel honoured that I can work at Bishop Thomas Grant School.

Hopefully, I will be able to bring some oriental culture to you, and we will increase our understanding.



## An important language

**Brendan Guest in Year 7 started two languages when I arrived at this school last September – German and Mandarin Chinese. He told Nuntius:**

"I particularly like studying Mandarin with Mr Chen because of all the hands-on activities, which include calligraphy, fan dancing and how to use chopsticks.

It's a difficult language, but once you get the hang of it, it becomes easier.

Later in our lives, we might well have more contact with China, as trade and

communications develop further, so it is an important language.

I am an organiser in the Mandarin Club at this school. We meet on Monday lunchtimes, and we are learning how to say where we are from.

We are preparing an assembly for the lower school to promote the Club and increase its membership."



## Seven next year

**Mr Lindsay-Noble writes:**

**As of September 2011, we will be offering a staggering seven languages: German, French, Spanish, Polish, Portuguese, Mandarin and now Latin in Year 7.**

The Government has stated that a Language GCSE is required in order to obtain an English Baccalaureate qualification and we are giving our pupils every chance to achieve this.

We are even continuing with our Foreign Language Assistant programme at a time when many other schools have said that they will have to discontinue their own versions due to financial constraints.

Get involved in European Day of Languages in September, attend our Monday lunchtime languages club (Eurolab), come to the lunchtime Mandarin Chinese club, make use of the nine language websites listed on the MFL 'Visa card' that every student gets given and visit the school library to see the range of MFL books and magazines that are available.

We are already starting to plan next year's visits to Germany and France, so please get in touch if you want to sign up early.

The Berlin Exchange involves students from 'die katholische Theresienschule' coming to London for a week in February 2012. We will then go to Berlin in July 2012 to stay with them.

It's an amazing trip because Berlin is packed full of history and things to do, and the students will make new friends.

La Rochelle is a one-way residential: on this visit, students stay with a French host family for a week around the time of the popular 'Francofolies' music festival.

*Port of La Rochelle*





## An extraordinary student

**Ms Turvey writes:**

**From the moment he arrived in Year 7 in September 2006, I knew Joshua Madine was going to be special. Along with a group of talented boys, he took every opportunity to excel in both Music - which he had already embraced as a member of Libera, the internationally famous boys' choir - and Drama.**

He first played Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at School and at the Young Vic, composing and playing the piano music. This was followed by his performance as Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*. Again he composed and played the music at the Broadway Theatre, Lewisham as part of the Shakespeare Schools' Festival.

He was Cheung in the National Theatre Connections Performance, *Fugee*, which was not the lead role, proving himself to be a great team player, then went on to play the villainous Nick Shadow in Nick Drake's *Success*, a brilliant play based on *Rake's Progress*.

Edmund in *King Lear* was his next role, and again Joshua composed a sensational music score which drew many extremely favourable comments at the Broadway Theatre.

For his pièce de résistance Joshua wrote the script for his group in his final GCSE Drama performance. The play's title is *Tyler's War*, and it has been entered for a playwriting competition.

Six other students were included, all of whom have given up their own time to do GCSE Drama as they could not fit it in to their options. Joshua gave up so much time to make it work, involving all of the others in the drafting and redrafting of the play.

Joshua, along with others from his year group, has been a tremendous support to me with students from the lower school both in productions with them or directing them.

His sensitivity and his humour will stand him in good stead and I am convinced he could become a superb actor. I am so pleased he is going to pursue Drama and continue to study it as he leaves us to go to St. Paul's School where he has won the only Music Scholarship in the Sixth Form.

I will miss Joshua and the others so much but know we will stay in touch. I wish him every happiness in his success as he deserves it so much.

*(Ms Turvey is Head of Drama/Coordinator of the Arts/ Gifted & Talented)*

## It helped ease the pain

**Mrs Isichei-Isamah spoke to Nuntius about her inspirational book *They Died in Vain*, which has just been published.**

"It is dedicated to the memory of all those who lost their lives in the Nigerian Civil War, which took place between 1967 and 1970.

In particular it is dedicated to the members of my family who were killed, my brothers, uncles, cousins - too many to list here. It is about the experiences of a teenage girl, her suffering and the suffering of those around her.

What happened in my early years was similar to what happened in Europe in the first half of the twentieth century during the Holocaust. It was a pogrom.

My political innocence turned to bewilderment as tensions rose at the Catholic college where I was training to be a teacher, and when those of Ibo origin returned to their villages. I could not understand why classmates from other ethnic backgrounds were turning against each other.

I wrote about the terror of my wedding night, when a firebomb was thrown at the building where the wedding party was being held. A voice outside asked us to prove we were not enemies.

There were so many atrocities. I am especially grateful to my beloved late cousin-in-law Cecilia Isichei, who

encouraged me to put my experiences into writing, because it would help ease the pain each time I narrated my story to her with tears in my eyes."

*They Died in Vain* is available from Amazon.

**The Nigerian Civil War, also known as the Nigerian-Biafran War, 6 July 1967–15 January 1970, was a political conflict caused by the attempted secession of the southeastern provinces of Nigeria as the self-proclaimed Republic of Biafra.**

**The conflict was the result of economic, ethnic, cultural and religious tensions among the various peoples of Nigeria.**





# SPORTS REPORT

## FOOTBALL *(by Mr Myton)*

**All years barring one have made it to at least the semi final stage of a competition, which is a fantastic achievement, with three year groups making it to at least one final.**

Year 11 Inner London Cup, Year 9 Schools League and Year 7 South London Cup and Schools League – of the four finals reached, we won two. Year 9 was involved in one of the epic encounters of the season.

The Year 7 team really stands out because they have achieved so much in their first year at BTG including making the final of the South London Indoor Tournament. Outstanding individual performances throughout all year groups will be celebrated at our Sports Proclamation Ceremony.

My personal thanks go to our football coach Dave Perry who has supported our teams throughout a number of years. The standards have been excellent.



*Year 9 Boys Football: Jake Blackshaw, Samuel Boret, Reqaan Russell, Adam Bailey, Matthew Asomaning, Ryan D'Souza, André Bingham, Ronald Sobowale, Johnny Akoto, Joshua Akpani, Tarren Danquah*



*Year 7 Boys Football. Back: Luca Desantos, Ronan Joyce, Adeyemi Animashaun, Kimathi Akoto, Sam Egole, Axel Garcia, Nick Pavlou, Bil Bilwala. Front: Steve Guevara, Cassian Thomas, Trevoh Chalobah, Alton Leeward, Joey Abreu.*

## RUGBY *(by Mr Blackburn)*

**BTG's first rugby season for many years was a great success.**

Year 7 proved to be the team of the year, coming second in their pool in a debut entry to the Surrey Leagues, reaching The Surrey Cup semi-final against a strong Ashcombe team and meeting the All Blacks player Nick Evans after winning the Harlequins tournament in the seven-a-side version of the game.

The admirable Adeyemi Animashaun and Bryce Botsoi accounted for many of the team's tries, and Marcus Spinola and Isaac Okeke were both trialists with the Harlequins Academy.

The Year 8 team took a respectable third place in the Rugby Football Union's Emerging Schools Tournament and won the majority of their fixtures. Player of the season was Alex Demby, who was selected for the Harlequins Academy.

With fixtures already booked against Whitgift and Dulwich, as well as promotion in the Surrey Leagues four pools above where we were placed this year, 2011/12 promises to be a very successful season.



*Year 7 Boys Rugby: Adeyemi Animashaun, Isaac Okeke, Kimen Albert, Jurek Niewiadomski, Patrick O'Sullivan, Josh Burke, Ronan Joyce, Kacper Giegiel, Daniel Karim, Michael Martin, Marcos Spinola, Bryce Botsoi, Louys Queva, Bil Bilwala*



## GIRLS TAG RUGBY

(by Miss Keane)

Last term the PE department set up a Tag Rugby Team for Year 7 girls which won a tournament in March hosted by Lambeth in which ten teams took part. Sophia Antonadies, Orla Van Spall and Shannon Boyle were all selected for the London Youth Games Tag Rugby Team.

On 18 May the team was invited to attend the Bromley Girls Tag Rugby Festival hosted by Beckenham RFC. Although the girls narrowly lost a place in the final they had a great day.

The England Ladies Rugby Team took each of the schools for a training session in the morning and they had the opportunity to meet Maggie Alfonzo who recently won the International Rugby Player of the Year Award.



Year 7 Girls Rugby. Back: Laura Teixeira, Shannon Boyce, Laura Da Costa, Alexys Ben-Omoregie, Jaslyn Tobcada, Anna Mondes, Jad Kariuku. Front: Sophia Antomiades, Orla Van Spall, Shannon Silva

## GIRLS FOOTBALL

(by Miss Keane)

The Key Stage 3 team has had great success this year winning the newly founded Girls School Football League. They got through the season without losing a match with outstanding performances from Kirsty Tenkorang (Year 9), Katherine Warchol (Year 7) and Michella Objaku (Year 8).

The girls were also part of a 6-a-side football league hosted by Lambeth. After six weeks, the girls reached the final, where they were defeated by Dunraven in the last two minutes of the match. Katherine Warchol was outstanding and was voted player of the league.

## CRICKET

(by Mr Myton)

Due to our success last year the standard of opposition this year has been a lot tougher, but we are in the quarter finals of the London Schools events.

This year we attended the Dulwich College 20/20 tournament and made the final, but we were convincingly beaten by private school COLFE. The level we are playing at now is a testament to how hard the boys have worked over the last couple of years.

They have been a credit to themselves and the school. A special mention must be given to Arun Butler-Kowlessar who has made the Surrey elite team for his age group.

## NETBALL

(by Miss Lomath)

A combined effort from the Years 7 and 8 netball team led us into joint third place, winning eight out of twelve games in the Lambeth tournament earlier this year.

All ten girls involved in the competition represented the school with great enthusiasm, skill and talent.

Placing our three strongest players throughout the court - Aleksandra Kondracka as centre, Alexandra Sanyaolu as goal defence and Jorja Pitt as goal attack - was a great success.

## Old Grantonians

Mr Grehan writes:

**I have played a fair standard of extremely amateur football for most of my life and for many years this was on Sunday mornings. In 2008 I decided to form Old Grantonians FC.**

As an old boy of Bishop Thomas Grant myself I had thought about this for some time, and it coincided well with the reintroduction of the sixth form.

In our first season we had to play friendly games to be considered by the league as a new club. In the season 2009-2010 we secured promotion from Division 6 South and decided there was enough interest from sixth formers and others to form a second team.

In the season 2010-2011 the first eleven won division 5 South and have been promoted two divisions. The second eleven were unlucky not to win Division 10 South and secured promotion to Division 9 South.

We have now been lucky enough to get a new home ground in the high-standard pitches on Turney Road in Dulwich.







# Ambitious for all

**Nuntius interviewed Mrs Connolly, the new Deputy Head in charge of the curriculum:**

"I arrived for the beginning of Summer Term, and I am still very excited about my future here. I am enjoying my first term.

Bishop Thomas Grant is a wonderful place to be a teacher – and a student. There is the right climate for learning here, one in which all students have the ability to fulfil their potential in every area, including the ones they find difficult.

I was previously at Addington High School in Croydon, as Head of English and Assistant Headteacher. I am teaching some English here, to students at GCSE level.

Amongst my favourite authors is Charlotte Brontë. I love teaching *Jane Eyre*.

I find that the students tend to try their hardest, and this goes for the whole school and not just my classroom.

This fits in well with our plans for guiding learning progression, because we are ambitious for all of them, and we want them to be ambitious for themselves.

My interests outside school include singing: I am a member of Impromptu, which is a ladies choir based in Sutton, Surrey.

We win awards, for example in the Manchester Amateur Choral Competition in 2010, where we came first. In July, we are participating in the International Eisteddfod in Wales.

And my pets? I have two tortoises and a fish."

## All fired up

**Thanks to help from the Crafts Council, a school ceramics room which has not been in full use for fifteen years has now been reopened.**

"It's good news," Ms Partleton told Nuntius. "We had an excellent launch night on Thursday 7 July which was

*Year 8 students with clay creations. Back: Paige Beckinsale ('Fireworks Night'), Christina Christophi ('Kite Day'), Jessica Doherty ('Roads'), George Banitsiotis ('Basketball Court'). Front: Vania Joseco ('Streatham Common'), Michael Page ('Go-karting area')*

attended by governors, teachers from other schools and local artists.

Some of those artists will be coming in to the Art department in future to conduct workshops, for example Simeon Featherstone and Rachel Carr, both of them acclaimed ceramics specialists.

We have completely updated an old kiln and we are looking forward to putting it to full use very soon. We are planning to involve the local community too.

We were lucky to be selected by the Crafts Council to be part of its 'Firing-up' programme."



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