



Fortiter et Suaviter



BRIGIDINE Matters

New Transport route
from the
Maidenhead area to Brigidine
available from September 2010

GCSE Drama and Year 12 AS Theatre Studies examination performances



On Thursday, 13th May, the GCSE Drama students presented their group performance of **'Headstrong'** by April de Angelis in front of an audience of parents and friends.

The girls performed very well and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the comedy aspects of some of the characters and the dialogue.

The background of the play, however, was more serious and focused upon the clipper ships in the 1800s and their trade in opium. The play also highlighted the fact that opium was used in those times in order to subdue young girls who did not do as their parents, or as society, expected – the **girls who were 'headstrong'**.

The girls will now have to wait until August, when the GCSE results come out, in order to see what the examiner thought of their performance.

On Friday, 7th May, the five pupils taking A-Level Drama and Theatre Studies performed extracts from **'Gethsemane'** by David Hare as their examination group piece.



This was a particularly challenging play for the girls as most of them were playing the role of a woman many years older than themselves. Annika had to be the Home Secretary and Brittany was the Prime Minister. They managed, very effectively, to convey the sense of power that these women have.

"The theme of the play is political and we had no way of knowing that our performance would be the day after the general election when we began rehearsals, so it was a surprisingly topical performance!"

Each of them also performed either a monologue or a duologue.

A small audience of parents and friends attended the performances and although we will not know what the examiner thought until the results come out in August, the audience reaction was most encouraging.

Mrs Jan Shapley, Head of Drama

Athletics Meeting, Saturday 15th May 2010

On a beautiful, sunny, Saturday morning the Brigidine Yr 7 & 8 Athletics team met at Heathfield School Ascot to compete in what was, for many, their first Athletics meeting.

The meeting was a triangular event between Brigidine, Heathfield and Godstowe who travelled from High Wycombe.

There were understandably lots of nerves but as the field events got underway those nerves were quickly dispelled as the competitive instinct kicked in. The standard of competition was very high in the field events which pushed the Brigidine girls to producing some excellent personal bests.

The track events again were of a very high standard. The long distance events particularly saw our girls really challenge themselves in the face of this strong competition. Here again, personal bests were recorded. The sprints were very competitive and, as this was the first race of the season for our girls, their times were very good. The performances showed that we are competitive and with more training will only improve.

This was a huge learning curve for our girls but a very enjoyable one. The experience gained here will help in future competitions and at Sports Day.

Well done to all the girls who competed.

Mrs Ann Gittins & Ms Sarah Dear
PE Department



Slough Festival Success

Once again, Brigidine has been successful in the annual Slough Festival Creative Writing Competition, retaining the Junior Shield for best Junior Entries and also gaining the **Oast Writers' Shield for the best Senior School Entries.**

In addition, Shaunagh McSweeney, Year 6, will be awarded the Junior Trophy for best Independent Junior competitor, and Libby Oke, Form 8P, the trophy for the best Intermediate Independent competitor. These girls will be presented with their trophies by the Mayor at Slough Town Hall on 25th June .

Many girls won other awards (medals and certificates) for their efforts, and their names are listed below.

Well done everybody!

Mrs Deirdre Mallinson, Head of English



Best Intermediate Competitor

First Place, Libby Oke, Form 8P

Best Junior Competitor

First Place, Shaunagh McSweeney, Year 6

First Place, Gold Medal

Isobel Anderson, Year 6
Taylor Gillin, Form 8P
Maleeha Mir, Form 7P
Louisa Reid, Form 10P
Janelle Xiao, Form 7J

Second Place

Chloe Johnson (story), Form 8M
Alycia Lewis, Form 7J
Maleeha Mir, Form 7P
Hannah Sutherland, Year 6

Third Place

Olivia Anderson, Year 5
Sabrina Khan, Form 7P
Melissa Nyambayo, Form 7P
Chloe Poulter (poem), Form 8P

Highly Commended

Grace King, Year 6
Romina Reina (story), Year 5
Elizabeth-Jane Stevens, Year 6
Hannah Sutherland, Year 6

Commended

Beth Appleton, Form 7J
Hannah Billingsley Dadd (story), Form 8P
Lucy Fegan-Earl, Year 6
Casey-Jane Grant, Form 7P
Keira Green, Form 7J
Lauren Johncock, Form 7P
Hannah Johnson (story), Year 6
Lara Lahey, Year 6
Amrit Randhawa, Year 6
Serena Tatham (story), Year 6

Ms Penny King, Librarian

Library News

Public library lending to children on the increase

Did you know the number of fiction books lent to children by public libraries has increased by 6.1%, with acquisitions of new child fiction increasing by 8.8%? Lending of non-fiction titles to children has increased by 0.7% whilst acquisition of new non-fiction titles for children rose by 3.3%. Figures relate to the years 2008-09 and further details about this survey can be found on the Museums, Libraries and Archives website www.mla.gov.uk

Happy Birthday Puffin

The publisher Puffin is celebrating its 70th birthday this month.

To mark the occasion they have set up a special website with lots of activities and games <http://www.happybirthdaypuffin.co.uk/> and produced a list of their 70 favourite books.

Did you know that Puffin is responsible for publishing some of the **most famous children's books over the decades?** They include Stig of the Dump, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Ballet Shoes and, more recently, Artemis Fowl, Roald Dahl and Cathy Cassidy who is a very big hit with our Year 6 and 7 pupils. All her titles are available to borrow from the library including the latest, **'Angel Cake'**.

If you would like to view the complete

list of the 70 best books, go to www.thebookseller.com/news/117997-puffin-names-ites-7--best-ever-books.html

Tell me a Story

Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June is National Family Week. As part of this special week, the National Literacy Trust has nominated Wednesday 2nd June as their launch day for their **Tell me a Story** campaign to help improve **children's literacy skills.** Parents and guardians can support this campaign by pledging to spend ten minutes listening to their child read.

For further details about the campaign please go to <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/tellmeastory>

Local author at Datchet Library

Local author, Andrew Fielding, will be talking about his latest book **'Windsor Great Park: a visitors' guide'** at Datchet Library on Friday 11th June 7.00pm. For tickets and further details contact Datchet Library, telephone 01753 545310.

Term Dates:

Summer Term 2010

Term begins: Tuesday 27th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May

Half-Term: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June

Term ends: Tuesday 13th July (12.00 noon)

Parents' Day: Wednesday 14th July (8.30am to 4.00pm)

Autumn Term 2010

Term begins: Monday 6th September

Half-Term: Thursday 21st to Friday 29th October

Term Ends: Tuesday 14th December (3.30pm)

Parents' Day: Wednesday 15th December (8.00am to 1.00pm)

Please send any contributions to nickywalsh@brigidine.org.uk
Nicky Walsh, Editor