

ISSUE **12** // OCTOBER 2011

TRANS- FORM

THE ENGINEERING NEWSLETTER FOR BALSHAW'S C.E. HIGH SCHOOL

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Welcome to yet another edition of Transform, packed once again with a myriad of articles for you to read about just some of the many activities at Balshaw's. We have tried over the 12 editions to give you a flavour of Balshaw's past and present and we are always delighted to hear about what you enjoy most.

Once again we are grateful for the continued support from our sponsors of this magnificent magazine, rated very highly by its wide readership and also National Bodies. Happy reading.

Yours sincerely
J M Venn Headteacher

THANK YOU BALSHAWS!

■ THANK YOU ,FOR LETTING YEAR SIX (TRINITY BUCKSHAW VILLAGE METHODIST/C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL)GO AROUND YOUR

fantastic high school(Balshaws). This fabulous opportunity let us learn our way around Balshaws and to learn some more maths. One of our lovely pupils quoted that "I learnt a lot on my trip to Balshaws like what 3 cubed is (27) and other mathematical problems. Thank you!" Anisha Shah 11. Harrison Bradshaw also added "I'm so happy that I got into Balshaws



and am so pleased to be part of the school, thank you!" Thank you very much!

Year 6 Trinity Buckshaw

THE BALSHAW'S STEWARDS HIT THE AIRWAVES!

■ OVER THE SUMMER TERM, SEVERAL OF THE STEWARDS WERE INVOLVED IN A COMMUNITY RADIO PROJECT WITH PRESTON FM. EACH

week they spent Tuesday afternoons working with Mr Mort and Chris Holt, the Youth Involvement Officer at Preston FM.

During the first session, they learned about the differences between community and other types of radio stations and the various rules around broadcasting and editorial policy. They also looked at target audience and how it relates to the effective use of language, pace and tone.

On the second week they learned about feature making and how to research sources and packaging of material for radio. They were then introduced to running orders and writing-for-radio. On the third session they learned how to develop interviewing skills – using open questions and practiced interview scenarios. They then worked in small groups to



generate ideas for their own radio show.

The fourth week involved a trip to the radio studios in Preston city centre, where pupils were introduced to radio studio equipment and techniques. Over the next few weeks, pupils worked with an artist to produce logos and brand design for their radio show before finally returning to the studios to record their radio show.

The show included interviews with teachers from Balshaw's, together with music and various discussions about sport, art and vandalism and insurance for young drivers.

Chris was very impressed with how pupils had worked together in producing their radio programme. The show was aired on Preston FM on Monday 11th July at 5pm. If you'd like to listen to the show, a copy can be found in the Extra Curricular area on Moodle.

SOUTH RIBBLE SCHOOLS WINNER

■ CONGRATULATIONS TO HAZEL SHORROCK WHO WON A COMPETITION FOR ALL SOUTH RIBBLE SCHOOLS FOLLOWING AN AUTHORITY

trip to China. The purpose of the project was to produce a gift for the hosts in China following a visit from representative teachers and Headteachers from the Authority. All schools were invited to take part.

They were asked to individually draw three designs of rough

ideas and these were evaluated by the whole group. The theme for the designs was Lancashire culture and Hazel's design was based on the Red Rose of Lancashire. Other entries included fish and chip themes and Leyland buses. The pupils then coloured the sketches using a method of their choice. Hazel used watercolours and this sketch was used to produce the paperweight commissioned by Caithness Glass.

Headteacher Jo Venn said, "The school had gained a great deal from the trip that Claire O'Brien went on to China. The paperweight is a limited edition of two and will be treasured."



FAIRTRADE BONANZA

■ FAIRTRADE BONANZA AT BALSHAW'S CE HIGH SCHOOL WITH A WHOLE HOST OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE.

The school started its 2011 Fairtrade events by displaying Fairtrade products, posters and our pledge along with quizzes and word searches at Parents' Evening and school events through out Spring Term. This meant we could get the message about Fairtrade to a wider audience during Fairtrade Fortnight (28th February -13th March 2011) and encourage everyone to be making more Fairtrade choices in their lives.

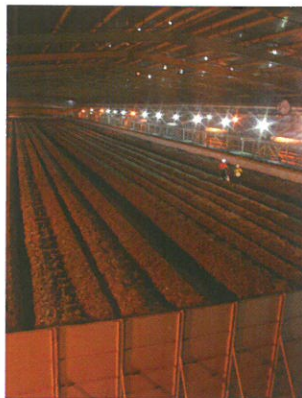
The pupils had previously ordered Fairtrade Easter Eggs with the real message of Easter on to be used for the Easter

Slogan Competition. The winner, Annabel Pike and two runners up, Hannah Croft and Matthew McCann's entries can be seen on the school website. Please take a look and see the other events that have already taken place.

The eggs were also used at the Schools production of Grease as raffle prizes and the drama department used Fairtrade make up for the performers.

A lot of hard work done by the pupils of the Fairtrade/Eco committee and they are still planning the Fairtrade Evening in July. If you would like to help them promote Fairtrade for the evening please get in touch with the school.

ECO COUNCIL



■ THE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL ECO COUNCIL SPENT THE MORNING ON THE 6TH

April 2011 receiving an inside look into the processes of the local

Farington Waste Recovery Centre near Leyland. The recent construction of the plant received considerable dismay by locals but on looking into its construction and facilities we saw it has our local area at heart. 305 tonnes of waste is treated by the plant every year and is the UK's first fully enclosed waste treatment facility, meaning less noise and fewer odours. From our trip to the facility we left with a sense of capability, taking some of their ideas and including them with techniques to keep our school litter free and eco friendly. The day was an eye opener to all those included, reflecting on the true importance of recycling for us as a school and as a community.



Thomas Hughes, Josh Lonsdale



'ERIC WRIGHT' TROPHY

■ JACK TUNSTALL, A YEAR 11 PUPIL AT BALSHAW'S CE HIGH SCHOOL, PICKED UP THE PRESTIGIOUS 'ERIC WRIGHT TROPHY' AT

the Eric Wright Construction Centre Awards Evenings in June. Jack was presented with the trophy by Mr Eric Wright himself. It came at the end of his two year course where he had excelled at Joinery, Brickwork and Decorating.

Miss Venn, Headteacher at Balshaw's said, "We are extremely proud of Jack. He has worked very hard to gain this award in addition to his normal school subjects."

NEW YORK AT EASTER



■ HOW MANY TIMES WHEN YOU GO ON HOLIDAY DO YOU HAVE A REAL "ENGINEERING

Experience"? It happened to me when I went to New York at Easter. To see the Statue of Liberty and learn about how she was built is a real Engineering feat. It was proclaimed by Parisians who watched its construction in the 1880's as "the eighth marvel of the world". Set on its pedestal in 1886 it was the tallest structure in New York City and the tallest statue in the world. Its height from ground to top of torch is over 800 feet and the thickness of the copper skin is 3/32 of an inch, about the thickness of 2 pennies. The thin copper skin is supported by a web of steel bars which are connected to four main pylons.

In 1865 a group of French intellectuals led by Edouard de Laboulaye protesting what they saw as political repression in their own country, decided to honour the ideals of freedom and liberty with a symbolic gift to the United States. The Statue was inspired by the Colossus of Rhodes. Gustav Eiffel was asked his advice as to how he constructed bridges and they used the same technique to build an 800 ft statue.

The Statue of Liberty conveys the message of freedom through a number of dramatic symbols. The broken shackles at her feet signify escape from tyranny. In her left arm she holds a tablet of law inscribed in roman numerals the date of the American Declaration of Independence 4th July 1776. Her crown's seven rays suggest the seven seas and seven continents. Most significant of all, her torch and flames symbolise truth and justice enlightening the world.

The gift from France was liberty enlightening the world. The statue points towards France and it was said to Napoleon that liberty had been taken away from France and given to America.

It symbolises freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear.

If you ever have the chance to see it, do so. It is truly magnificent.

Jo Venn

REAL EASTER EGGS

■ HOW MANY EASTER EGGS DID YOU HAVE? NOW ASK YOURSELF HOW MANY REAL EASTER EGGS? FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS

year you could buy Easter Eggs with the real message of Easter on the box. Not only this, but they are Fairtrade chocolate.

The origin of eggs being used as a symbol for Easter is because they represent new life as in fact the resurrection of Jesus brings new life to us.

Others have said that the egg is shaped like the stone that was rolled away from the tomb of Jesus.

On the box it says "And with eggs widely being thought of as a symbol of hope and new life, the custom grew where people exchanged gifts of chocolate eggs at Easter. So now you know."

Balshaw's read about the availability of them in the Manchester Diocesan Magazine, Crux, last September and ordered some for school. We used them for raffles, for prizes and as gifts to show the real Easter message.

So next year, when you buy your eggs go for the Real Easter Eggs.

LIFE! WEEK



■ ST ANDREW'S CHURCH HOSTED A WHOLE WEEK OF EVENTS THE WEEK BEFORE THE EASTER HOLIDAYS. THERE WAS SOMETHING

for everyone - a spring ball, a gardening event, a visit from former politician Jonathan Aitken, business breakfast - to name but a few - and all with the aim of introducing people to the LIFE! that Jesus brings. The team of students, led by Prominent Christian speaker and author, Michael Green, came into Balshaw's to teach RE lessons, put on some special events and lead our Easter assemblies. All had a great time and St Andrew's continue to put on regular events that they would love to welcome you to.

SPIRITUALITY AFTERNOON

■ DURING THE SAME WEEK, WE ALSO WELCOMED THE ST ANDREW'S GUESTS FOR A WHOLE AFTERNOON TO ASSIST IN LEADING

the Year 7 Spirituality afternoon. The whole of Year 7 were out of their normal timetabled lessons to participate in an

afternoon of activities entitled 'Who is Jesus?' We enjoyed seeing Jesus' facebook page, a dramatisation of the Parable of the Sower and everyone was able to take part in drama, poster making and mock news reports. Pupils and staff alike had a great time!

Here is the facebook page that was used on Spirituality afternoon for Year 7.

The screenshot shows a Facebook profile for a user named 'Jesus Christ'. The profile picture is a black and white illustration of Jesus with long hair and a beard. The navigation bar at the top includes 'facebook', 'Home', 'Profile', 'Friends', 'Inbox', 'Settings', and 'Logout'. The profile tabs are 'Wall', 'Info', 'Photos', 'Video', and 'Notes'. The 'Info' tab is selected, showing the user's name 'Man...and God', their interests 'Calming the storms, raising the dead, healing the sick', and their privacy setting 'Everyone'. A quote of the day is displayed: "who is this? He commands even the wind and the water and they obey him" Luke 8:25. Below the quote are 'Like' and 'Dislike' buttons. The 'Friends' section is visible at the bottom, showing a friend request with 'Accept' and 'Reject' buttons.

LANCASHIRE'S TALENT FOUND AIMING HIGH AT BALSHAW'S

■ IN MARCH 2011, A YEAR 8 FRENCH GROUP OF PUPILS WERE INVITED TO SUBMIT A POEM OR SONG THAT THEY HAD WRITTEN

themselves in the foreign language for a competition that was being run by UCLAN for schools in Lancashire. Entries received were exceptionally imaginative and inspired, pupils choosing styles of poetry ranging from rhyming couplets and haikus to shape poems and acrostics. They were particularly amazing as they were all in French. One group of boys – Michael Gillbanks, Michael Haydock and Ben Andrew – had even set theirs to music and had spent hours playing the guitar, keyboard and drums as well as practising the vocals before recording it.

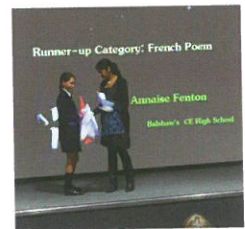
The quality of work was such that it was very difficult to choose which entries to submit but after whittling them down to the eight best poems (and one song!), they were duly rushed across Lancashire to reach the competition organisers by the deadline. A few weeks later, we were informed that Balshaw's pupils were being invited to attend the presentation of prizes ceremony which was to be held at the Greenbank lecture theatre, a part of the university.

So it was that on 5th May, thirteen of our pupils set out in the school mini-bus for Preston, not quite knowing what to expect. After pausing for a celebrity photo-shoot outside the building, they were shown into the large reception area from where imposing views of all three floors of the Faculty of Languages and International Studies could be seen. The poems from Balshaw's pupils, along with entries from at least fifteen other schools in the county, were proudly displayed in the foyer and the children were able to browse through them while enjoying the refreshments provided.

Later, as school groups were ushered into the lecture theatre, the competition organisers informed us that winners would be asked to read out their entries. Too late to retreat, around fifty budding poets and song-writers nervously took their seats, some hoping that their verses would not be chosen! The panel of judges, including representatives from organisations such as Linguascope, Manchester

Metropolitan University and the Lancashire Advanced Skills Teachers' Association delivered uplifting presentations about the importance of learning languages and insights into studying them at university. This was followed by the awards ceremony when, accompanied by expectant drum rolls, the winners were announced and asked to come onto the platform to collect their prizes. It wasn't exactly the Oscars but definitely the next best event! From Balshaw's, Annaise Fenton's delightful entry "Ce week-end" was awarded runner-up in the French poetry category. She courageously read out her poem to the whole assembly and received well-deserved applause from her peers.

The entire group deserve congratulations for their efforts in entering this Lancashire's Talent competition, their impeccable behaviour during the ceremony and excellent representation of the school. As well as allowing them to explore their creative side, it provided them with inspiration for the future and boosted their self-confidence in using a foreign language. Plans are that the competition will be run again next year with an additional film category and it is hoped that many more young people from Balshaw's will feel motivated to enter this enjoyable event and reveal their hidden talents.



M.Fielding

NUCLEUS

BALSHAW'S SCIENCE NEWS

AN UPDATE OF PAST AND
FUTURE TRIPS, NEW EXCITING
TECHNOLOGY AND FACILITIES

PARIS TRIP REACHES NEW HEIGHTS!

■ THIS YEAR A RECORD NUMBER OF YEAR 11 STUDENTS VISITED PARIS FOR THE ANNUAL SCIENCE/MFL TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

Over 75 students queued up from 6am at Miss Venn's office to secure their place and those that were successful were not disappointed!

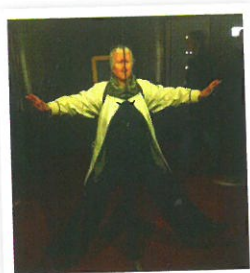
The teachers, including new recruit for 2011 Mr Mort, were treated to a wide array of Scientific and Language based presentations as students topped up their revision with role-plays about photosynthesis, a drama piece to demonstrate procedures taken at a crime scene and a scene set at Balshaw's as the students welcomed French speaking visitors!

Our new venue for 2011 the "European Campus Sainte Therese" was a perfect base for experiencing the cultured French life as students visited the Eiffel Tower by night, took a trip along the Seine and saw the Mona Lisa in the Louvre.

We are already looking forward to next year's trip!



Cameron Butchart dresses as a plant to demonstrate the process of Photosynthesis!



Miss Venn tries out a mirror exhibit in the "Cite des Sciences" in Paris

**WANT TO
WIN A FUNKY
WASHABLE,
FLEXIBLE
KEYBOARD?**

Answer the following question...

What is the Mona Lisa called in French?

Answers to be sent into Balshaws to Miss Molyneux

(remember to include your name and a contact number!)

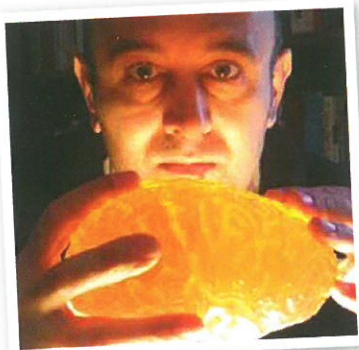
NUCLEUS

BALSHAW'S SCIENCE NEWS



THE ROYAL
SOCIETY

Summer Exhibition



Famous Scientist and BBC Science Show presenter Dr Jim al Khalili is amongst the exhibitors at this year's event

■ IN 2011 BALSHAW'S VERY OWN MISS MOLYNEUX WAS INVITED TO BE A PART OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY'S SUMMER EXHIBITION COMMITTEE SELECTING THE EXHIBITS AT THIS EXCITING

annual show. This annual exhibition showcases the most exciting cutting-edge science and technology research.

It provides a unique opportunity for members of the public to interact with scientists and ask them questions about their work.

The Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition 2011 was held from 5 - 10 July at the Royal Society's main premises at Carlton House Terrace in central London and was free to attend.

The Exhibition was the Society's main public event of the year and was open to members of the general public as well as students and teachers, scientists, policymakers and the media.

STEM WEEK HITS SPACE IN 2011!

■ FOR NATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING WEEK 2011 PUPILS AT BALSHAW'S CE HIGH SCHOOL IN LEYLAND, LANCASHIRE TOOK

part in SPACE lessons across the STEM subjects in a week of all things astronomical!

In Food lessons pupils looked at the tastes and textures of "Space Food" and then tried

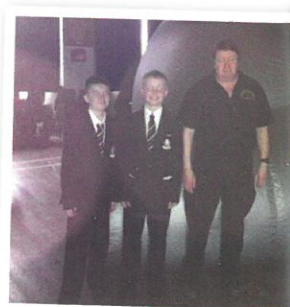
some dehydration of their own! In Science pupils investigated what effects the size and shape of craters and in Maths lessons they discovered what shapes and sizes affect how well a rocket works?

Visiting speakers were also brought into school to show pupils the relevance of the ideas they were learning. These included a Giant Inflatable Planetarium complete with

astronomer to explain to pupils all about the stars and planets and how they have affected our lives!

The week was a huge success and already next year's is being planned bigger and better to include local primary schools and other link secondary schools in the area!

The week was a huge success and pupils thoroughly enjoyed all of the activities. We are already sharing our ideas with other schools in the area so that they can put on similar weeks for their pupils



Astronomer and presenter of the Inflatable Planetarium Garry Mayes from Manchester with Balshaw's pupils about to step into the unknown

VIVE LA VIE!

■ "WHAT YOU GET BY ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS IS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS WHAT YOU BECOME BY ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS" (ZIG ZUGLAR)

A year ago today, as I write, was the beginning of a journey that I embarked on. I was delighted to find that I had the chance to explore Borneo with Journey of a Lifetime Trust along with Dorothy Dalton, leader and founder.

I feel strongly that education and nurture in a young person's life is a key contributor to the product of their being. Today I attend Runshaw College, but I think that what I achieved and more importantly who I have become is in credit by and large to Balshaw's High School.

Borneo was a world unlike the one we live in in Britain. I discovered tropical rainforests, observed orang-utans in their natural habitats, and ate dinner with the British High Commissioner. What moved me the most was the orphanage which I visited in Borneo, which was situated in the most impoverished area of Sabah, an isle in Borneo.

A philanthropist had funded and given his life to helping children from financially decrepit families, or orphans. They were fully educated to build their own futures. They had not the technology. They made food for my group and waited happily for us to finish all we desired before beginning to eat themselves.

I admit it made me close to tears considering what these people had achieved from absolutely nothing. All because one individual had given everything to hundreds of those



in need. Borneo helped me to realise that we need to take opportunities when they are presented to become the best we can be. I will never forget this once in a lifetime adventure, it is a cherished memory that I revise time and time again.

Thus, it seems that I view Balshaw's as an example of this sort of success. I am forever grateful for the practical, emotional and financial support I received to visit Borneo, from every person involved.

A year later, in the past week, there was an opportunity presented to me to visit the University of Cambridge on a summer school to experience life studying humanities, et élargir mes horizons! Education and fundamental support are what I feel the key reasons for personal achievement. Aim at excellence!

By Naomi Sykes.

BORNEO

Not long ago I embarked on,
A journey in an exotic land,
Intent on discovering personal treasures,
On my own two feet I would stand.

Travelling is like dreaming,
A stream of many sights,
Sometimes sharp, sometimes blurry,
A fast track movie played at night.

And sometimes when you dream,
You don't want to awake,
So perfect now, this moment in time,
The memory, unable to retake.

You recall parts, small bits of dream,
But forget so much too,
Almost as if it didn't happen at all,
When actually, it repeated through
and through.

Borneo, my personal dream,
A wonderland of scorching sun,
Unusual smells, enchanting skin,
Nothing short of endless fun.

I reminiscence to myself now,
Parts of what I can recall,
Often I actually question myself,
'Did it really happen at all?'

The truth is in the photos,
And in the keepsakes you brought along,
But most significantly bear in mind,
You will always remember the songs -

The voices, the laughter, the smiles of all,
The sad times, the bad times, the tears,
The joys, the hopes, the learning curves,
The overcoming of incredible fears.

So next time you feel lonely,
That longing yearn to repeat your dream,
Remember the beauty of Borneo,
And how undeniable those reflections
will seem.

STUDENTS WOW IN GREASE!

■ ON 29TH, 30TH AND 31ST MARCH 2011 OVER 70 PUPILS AND MEMBERS OF STAFF COLLABORATED TO PUT ON 'GREASE'. THIS

proved to be a popular choice with performers and audiences alike. An additional afternoon performance was given to pupils and staff of two visiting local junior schools; Leyland Methodist Juniors and Trinity Buckshaw Primary School from Buckshaw Village.

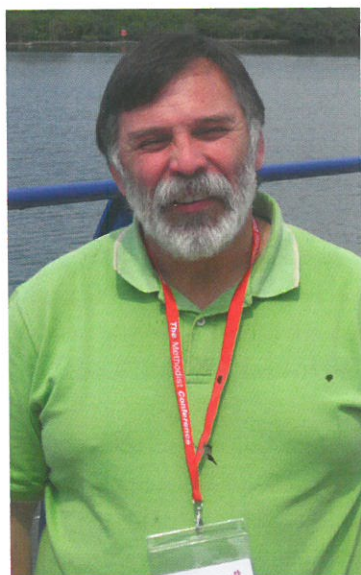
The well-known musical, written by Jacobs and Casey in 1973, was a hit on Broadway before it arrived on the silver screen in 1978. The film was an enormous success and there can be few people who can't name at least a handful of well known songs from the film. The stage version has enjoyed a revival and currently plays to packed audiences in the West End. At the beginning of the year the Drama and Music departments made a decision to stage our own production of 'Grease' as we felt we had a depth and breadth of talent who could meet the demands of acting, singing and dancing which the show requires. Also, of course, it helped that we had a team of staff with more than 150 years of experience between them!

The cast, the band, the backstage crew and the technical team pulled out all the stops to produce a fantastic show which was received enthusiastically and will be remembered by all those who saw it or took part for a very long time.



A superb, quality DVD was created by Ashley Hughes who turned it into a moving reminder of the whole 'Grease' experience and a tribute to Miss Roberts and the Year 11 pupils for whom it was their last school production.

A VISIT TO SCHOOL FROM PASTOR RAUL SOSA



■ ON THURSDAY 23RD JUNE WE HAD A VISIT

to school from Pastor Raul Sosa, the President of the Methodist Church in Uruguay. He was visiting Leyland for the day. He came and spoke to Mrs Powell's Spanish group and looked at their PowerPoint work and then Sophia Kelly and

Bethany Pidduck took him on a tour of the school. The girls managed to practise their Spanish and he practised his English. We spoke about the possibility of links between the Spanish group and students from the Crandon Methodist School in Montevideo, Uruguay. Thank you to Rev Phil Gough who brought him in.



Mrs Powell

GET SET FOR LONDON 2012!

■ LONDON 2012 IS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE WORLD TO GET TOGETHER AND PARTICIPATE IN SPORT. ALL AROUND THE

globe people will be watching high profile athletes compete against each other in the largest event in the whole world. Balshaw's will now become a part of this once in a lifetime event. Around the world there are conflicts between some countries and the Olympics and Paralympics gives the opportunity to break down barriers between race, religion and disability.

Balshaw's is now a member of a special London 2012 community of schools and colleges, the Get Set Network, by demonstrating a commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic Values: respect, friendship, equality, excellence, inspiration, courage and determination and is using the London 2012 Games to inspire learners of all ages and abilities to get involved in Values-based projects and activities.

Mr Mort submitted an application to join the network which was accepted for all of the extra-curricular work which he does surrounding athletics within school. These include the cross-country training sessions which take place every week after school in the autumn and winter months and weekly Athletics training sessions which take in the spring and summer months at lunchtimes and after school. He

also organises an annual reward trip for pupils to watch the athletics event at the Paralympic World Cup in Manchester, held in May each year. This has enabled pupils to become aware of how athletes have overcome their disability to compete against each other on a global scale.

Mr Mort has made a pledge on behalf of the school to continue running the athletics clubs and organise future trips to the Paralympic World Cup to new pupils as they start school. He will also work alongside his colleagues in the PE department to develop sport and encourage all pupils to participate in order to stay fit and healthy. Sport enables children to work as a team and encourages good behaviour as they grow and develop at this stage in their life. By encouraging them it is hoped that they may become ambassadors in the future who can demonstrate how working together is the way forward.

From September 2011, an Olympic Ambassadors Team will be formed in school. Pupils will be encouraged to become an Ambassador to help formulate ideas and set up various activities to ensure that the Olympic and Paralympic values can be embedded into the curriculum. The school will also receive a share of tickets to an Olympic event in recognition of the work that it has done so far and for what it has proposed for the future.

MICHAEL ATHERTON!

■ YOUNG LEYLAND CRICKETER JONATHAN MOTE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME ONE SATURDAY AS HE GOT TO SPEND THE DAY

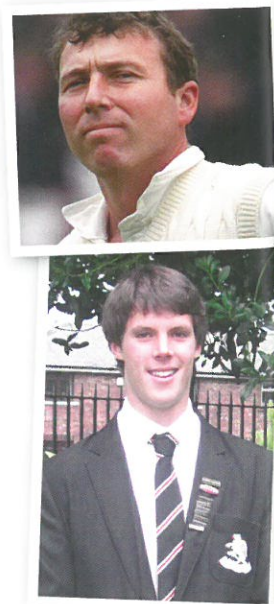
shadowing the renowned former England captain and leading pundit, Michael Atherton. Many people will have watched the nail-biting series decider between England and Sri-Lanka on Saturday 9th July but not many will have experienced it in the Sky commentary box, whilst listening to and commenting on differing expert opinions.

Jonathan told us: "It was amazing! It was such a great opportunity and it was brilliant to meet so many inspiring people and to gain an insight on how they view the game. I also learnt many things about how journalism works, both written and visual, with advice being given to me on how to achieve my dream of becoming a sports journalist."

Not many 15 year olds have spent a whole day with 4

former England captains: Mike Atherton, Sir Ian Botham, Nasser Hussain and David Gower. Not many 15 year olds have inspected the wicket in front of a full Old Trafford crowd. Not many 15 year olds have seen from the inside how the Sky programme works. Not many 15 year olds have contributed to the decision of man of the match. Not many 15 year olds are as lucky as Jonathan Mote.

So how did he get this fantastic opportunity? Did he do something? Did he know someone? Did he win a competition? No, he just asked. He just wrote a letter asking. Atherton went out of his way to give Jonathan an unbelievable experience. One he will never forget!



GEARING UP FOR THE OLYMPICS



EARLIER THIS YEAR AS ENGINEERING DIRECTOR I HAD THE FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE LONDON OLYMPIC

venue. A group of teachers and I visited the site in East London that will be the centre of the global road show that we call the Olympic games and the scale of it all was staggering. This was part of the National Engineering Conference held in London at West Ham United football ground.

The first thing that impressed me was what they had managed to achieve in such a short space of time. They were transforming a derelict corner of London that was basically an area of industrial wasteland into a bustling hive of activity from which the Olympic park and Athletes Village was growing. The area was so contaminated with waste they had to remove all the soil from the huge area and wash it before they could start.

Another thing that impressed me was how well organised and safe the massive site seemed, from the very tight security on the entrance to safety gear everybody was wearing. Safety was so important we were not allowed to leave the coach during our entire visit.

The visit ended with a chance to talk to one of the local community whose life will be changed forever because of



the games. Her obvious pride in what was happening and the fact the world's eyes will be focused on her 'home' for a short while was impressive. She told us how the legacy of the games will affect her and her community directly. The athletes' village will be used to house thousands of people in affordable housing once the games are over. A new school has already been built to cater for the village and is already open and educating young people from the age of 3 to 18.

Next Year watch the games with pride and cheer when we win, marvelling at the wonderful achievements of the athletes involved. Also remember the people who live around the games whose lives have been changed forever for the good. This to me is the true legacy of the Olympic Games London 2012.

Mr Melling

TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

BETH EVANS AND JAMES SALISBURY WERE IN GATESHEAD OVER THE WEEKEND OF JULY 1ST & 2ND 2011 AT THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS

Track and Field Championships. Beth had qualified for the discus event following a fantastic performance at the Lancashire Schools Championships earlier in June, where she represented South Ribble District. Similarly James had also qualified from the same competition by running in the 400m. Although he didn't win the Lancashire Championships, he still ran an English Schools standard qualifying time.

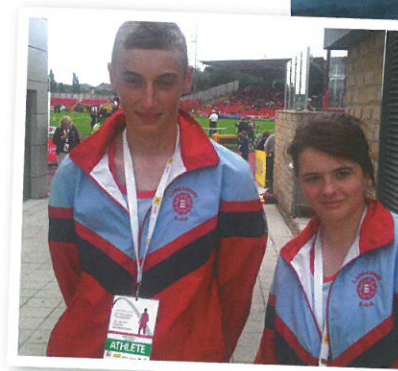
Both pupils joined 45 other Lancashire Team athletes on the journey to Gateshead. They were accompanied by Mr Mort from Balshaw's, who is also a member of the Lancashire Schools Athletics Association. He was one of the seven-strong team managers who would be looking after pupils during the two day competition.

James competed in the heats on the Friday and was pleased

with his time of 54 seconds in the 400m, which was a new personal best. He finished fourth in his heat, but unfortunately it was not fast enough for him to qualify as one of the fastest losers for the final on the following day.

Beth had to wait until the Saturday for her event to take place. During the warm-up she threw what would have been new personal best. However as it was not in the actual competition, the throw did not count. She was a little disappointed that she didn't achieve a similar throw in the actual competition.

Both pupils have gained valuable experience of competing in athletics at National Level for the first time and hope to qualify again next year.



PE DEPARTMENT TRIP

■ ON FRIDAY 13TH MAY THE PE DEPARTMENT TOOK 45 PUPILS ON A TRIP TO THE DW STADIUM AND POWERADE SOCCERDOME,

Wigan. On arrival at the stadium the group were given a tour of the behind the scenes areas inside the Stadium. Highlights of the tour included visiting the home team changing rooms which were set out with all the kit ready for a match, running out of the tunnel onto the pitch, the players gym and wrestling area, where the group got to take part in a training session and the police cells, which fortunately we were allowed to leave afterwards! After this the group got to take part in some exercise at the Soccerdome for an hour whilst waiting for the evenings main event, a match between reigning Superleague Champions Wigan Warriors and London club Harlequins. Andrew Barnes in Clayton House

Year 8 even got to perform the coin toss with the 2 captains before the kick off. The match itself saw Wigan produce some amazing attacking rugby as they ran out deserved winners. Another highlight was seeing was former Balshaws pupil Chris Tuson playing for the winning side!



THE PARALYMPIC WORLD CUP

■ ON 27TH MAY, MR MORT TOOK 15 LOWER SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS TO MANCHESTER FOR THE AFTERNOON TO WATCH THE

Athletics competition at the Paralympic World Cup.

The Paralympic World Cup provides world class competition and a platform for British Athletes to showcase disability sport in the biggest multi-sport competition outside the Paralympic Games. The event was staged at the Manchester Regional Arena at Sportscity and the athletics programme allowed Team GB team to compete on home soil

against the Americas, Europe and the Rest of the World in an exciting new team format.

The trip enabled pupils to see how athletes with a disability have overcome adversity to compete in different athletic event disciplines.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was watching Oscar Pistorius, the South African Paralympic runner who has a double amputation break the world record for 400 metres (in his sport class T44). World records were also broken on the day in the women's shot and men's javelin.

BALSHAWS TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

■ BALSHAWS HAS BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH LEYLAND METHODIST ON THEIR TECHNOLOGY PROJECT ON BREAD. MRS

Thomas visited the Year 5 Class to introduce them to the topic. Following some design based lessons in their school, 4 groups of pupils have visited Balshaws Food Department to create their bread products over 4 weeks.

Very keen youngsters produced fantastic results all different flavours and shapes. As the room temperature rose so did the bread! Other Technology departments have also been involved.

In Textiles they formed and shaped fabrics and used googly eyes and squeakers to create exciting puppets. In Electronics they used soldering techniques to make model stick men, then design their own animals and insects from thin wire. The



results were very impressive.

A fun time was had by all, as Balshaws facilities were put to excellent use, for a Primary School Experience of High school life.

WORK EXPERIENCE REVIEWS

■ EVERY YEAR, YEAR 10'S GO ON WORK EXPERIENCE. FOR SOME IT IS A WAKE-UP CALL ABOUT WHAT LIFE IN THE REAL WORLD

is like, for others it determines what they do or in fact do not want to do as a career.

Here are just 3 extracts from July's work experience.

For my work experience, I visited St Andrews' C of E Infant School. I did my full two-week placement there and I thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of it. On my first day at St Andrews' I felt both nervous and excited. I arrived early to create a good impression and I signed in the 'visitors' book'. After that I spoke to a lady who was going to give me jobs to do throughout my work experience. Each morning I did this and gradually I got into a routine. My personal highlight of my work experience was on my second day when I helped the children to understand measurement and weight. This was really fun as I helped them to bake cookies. Obviously, there were tasks that I found quite challenging and they required me to focus and concentrate on what I was doing. Some tasks were more fun than others however, the work needed to be done and so I tried to have a good attitude towards it. During my work experience I assisted with the Year Two's leaving performance. Two girls were going to sing a song, however they had struggled when trying to find a backing track to sing to so I offered to play it on my guitar. The next day I brought my guitar in and played the song for the girls in front of teaching staff and Year 2. Everybody loved it and I soon became "famous" with the children! I was asked to attend the year two leavers assembly which was held in church and I played the guitar. Overall work experience was really good and has given me a good insight into the working world and also what I would like to do in the future.

Katie Heald

For my first week of work experience I went to a Cattery and Kennels called 'Paws 'n' Claws' in Croston. Each morning I arrived at 8.30am with Danielle Miller, who was also doing her work experience there, as well as two others from different schools. For the first 3 days at Paws 'n' Claws, in the morning I cleaned out the cat pens, gave them fresh food and water, and then brushed the cats. After that I would wash and disinfect all dog kennels and make sure all of the dogs had clean bedding. On my last two days I would take all bowls out of the kennel and then I got a chance to bath some dogs. I found bathing

and brushing the animals the best part of my work experience, but I would have liked to walk the dogs or prepare their food in the morning. I learnt that working in kennels is more to do with cleaning than being hands on with the animals and I didn't find my first week very enjoyable because of this.

For my second week I went to Hillcrest Animal Hospital in Chorley and enjoyed my time there much more than at Paws 'n' Claws. Throughout the days I would load the washing machine and dryer with animal beds or medical gowns, and then put them away. I also washed up dirty food bowls. I really enjoyed watching operations as it showed me how complicated being a vet can be and it was very interesting. I also liked watching in the consulting rooms at how vets diagnose the animals and what the veterinary nurses do to help. Each afternoon the consulting rooms and reception would be mopped and hoovered and the operating theatres cleaned from top to bottom. I got a chance to do everything I wanted to do, and it gave me an insight into a vet's life.

Megan Moore

At my work experience at South Ribble Borough Council, I learned a wide range of skills and knowledge as a result of my experiences! I took part in a variety of job roles from participating in 'health walks' and 'friends' group' outdoors, to working in the office and getting involved with the 'Waste' work. While some of the tasks were not what I expected, I really enjoyed doing everything because it was a valuable experience to see what went on behind the scenes of Neighbourhood Services.

I especially enjoyed visiting Longton Brickcroft where I worked with Year 1's and Year 6 special needs children; helping them with pond dipping, mini-beast hunting and guiding them around the wildlife area. It taught me how different situations are handled and made working with children an option for me.

However, it was also useful in ruling out some career options such as working alongside bin wagons doing crew checks on the men and taking note of general waste. Even though I wouldn't like that as a job, I am glad I got the chance to experience everything that I did because it taught me a lot: My communication skills, computer skills and concentration skills improved, and I now feel grateful for doing it; it was very useful.

Eleanor Speakman

GLITZ N BRITZ GALA

■ ON FRIDAY MAY 6TH A GROUP OF OUR YEAR 10 AND 11 SINGERS WERE ASKED TO PERFORM AT A GLITZ N BRITZ GALA CHARITY

evening organised by Chorley Building Society at the De Vere Venues Whites Hotel Reebok Stadium in Chorley.

The event was organised by the Building Society staff to try to raise £20,000 for the Young Oncology Unit at the Christie Hospital in Manchester. Mrs Tomlinson mother of Ross asked us to perform as guests were arriving as her son Ross used to come to Balshaws and over the past few years has been treated for a tumour. The pupils who sang so well were Carolyn Singleton, Danielle Dawson, April Manning, Sandy Kelly, Alex Hardman, Bethany Fox, Ashley Smith and Nikita Duong.

There were lots of stars there, including Chesney Brown from Coronation Street, and stars from Shameless, Benidorm and Phoenix Nights. The pupils sang a variety of songs from the Musicals, especially Grease and there were lots of compliments on their performance. Later Mr Whiteley, Mrs Whittam, Miss Venn and Miss Roberts shared a box with pupils overlooking the pitch.



VISIT TO A TAPAS RESTAURANT



■ ON TUESDAY 5TH APRIL, 50 PUPILS FROM YEAR 9, 10 AND 11 WENT ON A TRIP TO THE TRAFFORD CENTRE ORGANISED BY THE

MFL department to have dinner at "La Tasca" restaurant and had the chance to try different Spanish dishes. Food is a topic studied in Year 9 as well as for GCSE Spanish and pupils thoroughly enjoyed tasting some of the dishes they had been learning about in the classroom.

In Spain, people eat "tapas" which are small dishes of very tasty food. Instead of having a traditional three course dinner, Spanish people enjoy eating five or six smaller dishes of



different food including meat, potatoes, vegetables and sea food.

On the evening, pupils enjoyed sampling paella, which is a very popular dish made of rice, chicken and chorizo. They also ate "champiñones al ajo" (garlic mushrooms), "pescado frito" (battered fish goujons), "ensalada mixta" (mixed salad), "croquetas de pollo" (chicken croquettes) with garlic mayonnaise, "patatas bravas" (potatoes with spicy tomato sauce) and "tortilla española" (potato omelette). Every pupil enjoyed trying new food. The trip was a real success, and hopefully, the first of many!

L. Jones