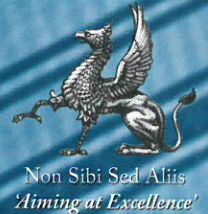




Engineering



ISSUE 16 // OCTOBER 2013

TRANSFORM

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

CONTENTS

- 2 Physics Olympics 2013 at Bolton School; Ready Steady Cook
- 3 Balshaw's is a Lead School for Computer Science; Clarke Carlisle
- 4 'Annie': School Production; Prison Officers' Visit
- 5 Computer Science and the Rapid Change in Technology
- 6 Bill Johnston's Testimonial
- 7 A Fun STEM Weekend in Castleton; Rotary Youth Speaks Competition
- 8 Ride for Ross
- 10 Pat Waterston's Retirement; Memorial Service
- 11 New Principal for Runshaw College; Streetdance Championships
- 12 Fun into Food; Visit to Big Bang in Liverpool
- 13 Poetry Reading
- 14 Network Science Group
- 16 Fashion Show; Anna Doughty

Dear Reader,
I cannot believe that we are on our 16th Edition of Transform and it gets better every time. There are lots of articles about life in school, not least Martin Barrett's cycle ride from Land's End to John O'Groats in memory of Ross Tomlinson, lots of STEM activities and Annie a great performance. We have to choose which articles to include as we have so many, but this is a lovely position in which to be placed.

Enjoy reading this edition and thank you again to Runshaw College and St Andrew's Church for their generous sponsorship.

Yours sincerely
J M Venn Headteacher

PHYSICS OLYMPICS 2013 AT BOLTON SCHOOL

■ **MR. WOODCOCK (FORMER HEAD OF PHYSICS AT BALSRAW'S FROM 1981 TO 2006) WAS INVITED BY MISS MOLYNEUX (HEAD OF**

Science) to take a team of Year 9 volunteers to represent the school at the Physics Olympics at Bolton School. Jordan Darr, Anna Doughty, Emma Shorrocks and Matthew McCann experienced a most enjoyable day taking part in various physics challenges with 24 other teams from 19 schools across the North West of England. The event was sponsored by the Institute of Physics and the Ogden Trust.



The team's first challenge was to build a cardboard boat capable of floating whilst holding as many marbles as possible. This was followed by creating a tower, made of spaghetti and jelly babies, able to support the weight of an egg for ten seconds. For their third challenge, the pupils had to design a path on a sloping ramp down which a marble could travel. The slowest timed journey was required and the marble also had to turn a light on and off as it travelled down the ramp.

After a well-earned lunch, two further tasks involving the building of a wind generator with plastic blades, and designing a paper rocket which could fly through a suspended hoop, awaited our young designers.

The event was won by a Year 9 team from Harper Green School in Bolton. Although the Balshaw's team was not placed in the top three, the pupils gained considerably from their involvement in this annual event.

The Year 9 Balshaw's Team who competed in the Physics Olympiad 2013

READY STEADY COOK

■ **YEAR 10 GCSE FOOD TECHNOLOGY PUPILS GAINED VALUABLE PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE, WHEN CATERING STUDENTS FROM RUNSHAW**

college came to Balshaw's to run a Ready Steady Cook demonstration.

Two teams competed against the clock to produce a two course meal, allowing pupils to become the judges and nominate a winning team.



Throughout the challenge, demonstrations were provided showing pupils various techniques including sauce making, professional chopping, making pasta and how to produce honeycomb.

Runshaw students also gave demonstrations and tasting sessions, showing how to make non-alcoholic cocktails and ice cream desserts.

All the pupils found this extremely helpful for their GCSE work.

It was a proud moment for Balshaw's to welcome back a former student taking part in the challenge, Tom Bond, who is successfully training to be a chef at Runshaw college.

We would like to thank Runshaw college for their support in providing a very enjoyable and rewarding event for our pupils.

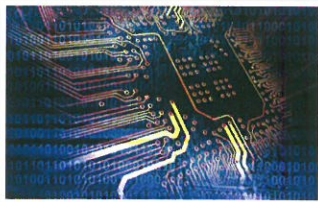
Mrs Holden

BALSHAW'S IS A LEAD SCHOOL FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE!

■ **OVER THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS, WE HAVE INTRODUCED COMPUTER SCIENCE TO THE ICT DEPARTMENT, IN READINESS FOR** the proposed changes to the ICT (now Computing) Curriculum which are due to commence in September 2014.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PUPILS?

In Key Stage 3, all pupils study an aspect of Computer Science in Year 7, 8 and 9. This could be computer programming using Scratch, Kodu and Python, or understanding programming constructs using Flowol. This ensures that pupils are more prepared for Key Stage 4 if they wish to take a GCSE in Computer Science. In March,



some of Year 9 also had an afternoon learning how to create mobile phone applications, when students and lecturers from UCLan paid a visit to the school.

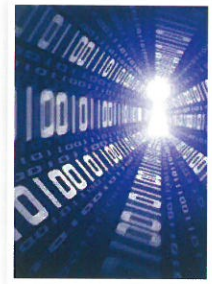
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ICT STAFF?

In early 2013, Mr Mort started to teach Python programming to Year 9 pupils. Mr Chalmers and Miss Lockhart then delivered lessons to their classes in the summer term. We are also hoping to introduce App developing in to Key Stage 3 at the start of the 2014 academic year. The ICT Department has worked hard to ensure they can deliver outstanding lessons in

Computer Science to all pupils.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR BALSHAW'S?

Mr Mort registered the school with the CAS (Computing at School) Network Of Excellence in November last year. CAS has now designated Balshaw's as a 'Lead School' in Computer Science. In order to maintain Lead School status, the school has to demonstrate a commitment to raising the profile of Computer Science within school and the wider community.



We have already started teaching GCSE Computer Science (from September 2012), embedded Computer Science into the Key Stage 3 curriculum and Mr Mort has delivered a series of Python programming training sessions to other ICT teachers in the local area. Teachers attended from Wellfield, Lostock Hall, Southlands, St Christopher's (Accrington) and Ormskirk during April and May this year.

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

The ICT Department will have phased in Computing over the next twelve months so that we are fully prepared for September 2014. We will also look at other training sessions which can be delivered to other local schools and look to develop further links with the wider community.

CLARKE CARLISLE

■ **ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2012 OUR FORMER PUPIL CLARKE CARLISLE WAS PART OF A VERY SPECIAL CELEBRITY EDITION OF THE**

Only Connect show on BBC4. The producers claim that it is the quiz where knowledge will only take you so far, and patience and lateral thinking are also vital. This was a Pudsey Special and 2 teams of clever celebrities were prepared to take part in honour of Children in Need.

We are delighted to say that Clarke's team won.



'ANNIE': SCHOOL PRODUCTION

MARCH 19TH, 20TH AND 21ST



■ **THIS YEAR'S MUSICAL INVOLVED REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL YEAR GROUPS. THERE WERE FOUR PERFORMANCES; ONE**

of which was a matinée performance for invited junior school pupils. Judging from their thank you letters they all thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

There was much work done behind the scenes this year as we built new scenery to replace the old flats which had served us well for many years but were beginning to fall

apart. Mrs Peddie, Mr Whiteley, Mr Peat, Mr Greaves and Mr Wood designed and constructed the flats which were then painted by Mrs Higgins and Mr McFarlane, ably assisted by a team of Year 9 artists. As usual the style and skill of the artists added considerably to the professionalism of the show and the actors upped their game when they began to perform on set for the first time.

Every pupil in the show had to sing and many hours were spent perfecting the songs which came together beautifully in the end. Thanks are due to Mrs Howarth, Miss Madden and Mrs Rawson for helping the singers to achieve such excellent results.



M Whittam

PRISON OFFICERS' VISIT

■ **ON TUESDAY 22ND AND WEDNESDAY 23RD JANUARY YR10 COMPULSORY RE PUPILS WERE VISITED BY TWO PRISON OFFICERS**

and two prisoners from HMP Kirkham and Wymott. The pupils are currently studying Crime and Punishment and the aim of the visit was to raise the awareness amongst the pupils about the consequences and penalties of crime.

It was a real eye opener for the pupils to see that prison and the criminal way of life isn't as glamorous, as portrayed on television and computer games, but a life where your dignity can be taken from you as soon as you are found guilty.

The two officers Dennis and Heather professionally presented a hard hitting display of prison and what happens to prisoners. The pupils actively joined in by volunteering to take part in the demonstrations. It didn't leave anything out and had the pupils twitching in their seats with the thought

of some of the things that go on in a prison. It certainly doesn't give the 'easy life' image of prison.

The pupils told us that they especially enjoyed speaking to the real criminals yet to complete their

prison sentences who were open and honest about what life was like in prison and how their poor choices had affected those around them. All of the pupils had open mouths by the end of the session!

The pupils intend to write a letter of thanks to Dennis, Heather and the two prisoners explaining what they enjoyed and the lessons learnt from the session.

The RE Department would like to thank all those who were involved as it really made the pupils think. We believe that it has, and will, make a real difference.



COMPUTER SCIENCE AND THE RAPID CHANGE IN TECHNOLOGY

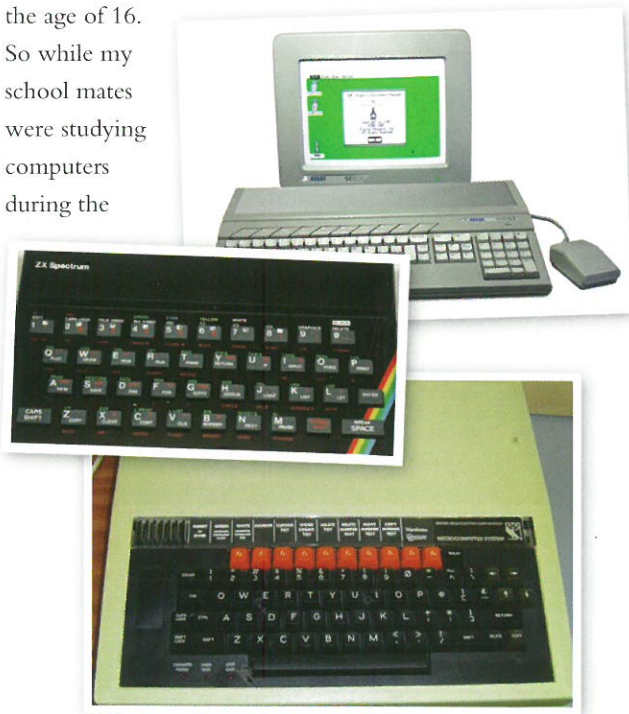
■ WHEN I WAS AT PRIMARY SCHOOL WE ONLY HAD ONE COMPUTER! THIS WAS A BBC MODEL B AND IT HAD (A NOT SO IMPRESSIVE)

32 kilobytes of memory. There were no fancy graphics and no mouse; just a keyboard and a screen which displayed lines of text. Pupils had to make a booking to use the machine! I spent many lunchtimes playing text based adventure games and was immediately hooked.

My parents then bought me my first computer, a Sinclair zx spectrum. This came with 48kb of memory and games used to take minutes to load via a cassette tape. A couple of years later I received an Atari ST which had an impressive 512kb of memory (yes half a megabyte!)

When I was in third year (year 9) I wanted to take an option in GCSE IT, but unfortunately so did many others and subsequently I was unsuccessful in getting on the course. So when I reached fifth year (year 11) I took matters into my own hands and went down to my local college. They allowed me to take a night class, as long as I had reached the age of 16.

So while my school mates were studying computers during the



day, I spent every Monday evening on a CLaIT course.

My teacher was called Miss Venn! Although she was a Jean and not Jo! This is where I first experienced a very early version of the Windows operating system.



My interest in computers took off from here and I left school and studied a BTEC National Diploma in Computer Systems at college before going onto University to study a BSc in Computing. By this time, the PC was the most popular computer, and the speed of the processors had increased dramatically.

Having the qualifications behind me led to a successful career where I worked for many years in the IT industry. Throughout these years, working in retail, banking and new media sectors, I have witnessed the speed at which technology has evolved. The rapid growth is pretty amazing; if I take a step back and think about my first exposure to computers.

Around five years ago I trained to become a teacher. I wanted to have an opportunity to use my enthusiasm and passion for technology to teach young people about computers. The Education Secretary stated last year that Computer Science should be taught in all schools. Last September, this became a reality at Balshaw's. Sixteen year 10's (and one year 7) signed up to a GCSE Computer Science course, which runs after school on a Friday. Over the next couple of years, they will be taken on a journey of discovery into understanding what sparked my enthusiasm as a child. We will be experimenting with Raspberry Pi computers and developing skills in Computer programming.

So what does the future hold? In years to come, these pupils will look back at their time spent at school using Raspberry Pi's. What will computers look like in twenty years time? Maybe someone on the course will design them?

G Collinson, M E Whittam

BILL JOHNSTON'S TESTIMONIAL



■ ON BOXING DAY 2012 PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS HELD A TESTIMONIAL MATCH FOR BILL JOHNSTON. MR AND MRS NOLAN,

Mr Croft, Mr Temmen and Mr Barrett all attended.

Bill was Head of Farington House at Balshaw's and he retired in 2005. He was Head of Boys' PE before this and was an inspiration to generations of pupils.

Bill was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2002 and the testimonial match raised money for research into this disease. Bill has been associated with Preston Grasshoppers since 1965.

Bill says he enjoyed watching Ginner Smith who played for the North of England in the 1950's against the All Blacks. "He was the most talented runner I have ever seen and could kick goals for fun. I worked with him at Balshaw's School before he retired."

John Morgan remembers Bill in the following way: "Hello I'm Bill, if you want a hand just let me know," was how Bill introduced himself to me on the first training session I took at Hoppers back in 1991. Unbeknown to either of us at that time I was to rely on his support a lot in the next eight or so years, and a strong friendship had begun that has lasted over twenty years.

Bill epitomises what is great about rugby, but more importantly what is great about rugby at Hoppers. He is selfless in his enthusiasm and commitment to the club, and still passionate about ensuring that the younger players especially have plenty of opportunities to develop their skills,

both on and off the field (!). In a year when there is a lot of talk about the legacy of the Olympic Games, Bill has always worked in that way to ensure continuity at the club (perhaps that has something to do with the teacher in him), and whilst today's generation of senior players might not know him so well, you don't have to look back far to find players who have appreciated his contribution to their careers.

As a coach he was perceptive and innovative. If I had a pound for every time he'd said "Have you ever thought of....?" or "What would happen if we tried....?" I would have been able to retire a long time ago! He was, and still is, a great observer of the game, and will often see things first time that pundits take several replays to spot. Unfortunately, however, being the unassuming person he is, he's always stayed out of the spotlight, and certainly when we coached together didn't get the credit he deserved.

Humour is not far away when Bill is around, and I'm delighted that despite the onset of his Parkinson's, he's not lost his quick wit and cheeky sense of humour. Two occasions at each end of our friendship come to mind. The first at Bradford in our first league match back in 1991, when I was chastised by a local spectator for "coaching inside the barrier," to which Bill quickly replied by jumping over the barrier next to this guy and repeating the instructions I had just given!(Priceless!). The second one was recently when Dave Southern and I went to Bill's Bowls club for a few pints. Bill challenged us to a game of snooker, which was no problem, until he picked as his partner the club champion, who duly dispatched us back to our seats in short order!

Successful relationships work both ways, and I know Bill has been very appreciative of the support he's had from within the club over the past couple of years especially. He hasn't had the easiest of times losing his beloved Christine and developing Parkinson's, but typically everyone at Hoppers have rallied around him and Colin to ensure he is still part of a very special place. It has certainly given him the confidence to be independent and get the most out of his life as he can. The fact that he's going on another Lions tour this summer is testimony to that...!

If anyone is worthy of a testimonial at Hoppers it is Bill, and I know he fully appreciates the hard work Mike Bailey has put in to make today possible.

A FUN STEM WEEKEND IN CASTLETON

■ YEAR 8 PUPILS WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE A WEEKEND AWAY IN CASTLETON, IN THE DERBYSHIRE

Peak district. Pupils stayed in the local youth hostel, allowing lots of practice to make their own beds and to clean and clear away breakfast and dinner tables at meal times.

The weekend allowed pupils to make new friends and work in teams to enjoy a range of challenging and fun STEM activities.

Pupils were led on a five mile walk to the steep climbs of Mam Tor. The National Trust guide accompanying the walk was able to provide lots of interesting information

regarding the area and the caves which surround the steep hill. All pupils successfully completed this challenge with relish.

After a quick packed lunch pupils worked in teams to produce their tea for that evening giant trays of pizza.

Planned activities on



both evenings gave pupils the opportunity to make use of telescopes for star gazing, and minds were tested with lots of quizzes and treasure trails.

On the Sunday, the pupils' bread making skills were once again called upon, as they were given a food lesson using traditional bread making techniques. The bread produced in this activity was baked and used to make sandwiches for lunch.

The success of the trip was matched by the smiles and quietness of the coach journey home and the very tired faces when arriving back to school.

Well done year 8 on a great weekend!

Mrs Holden



ROTARY YOUTH SPEAKS COMPETITION

■ IN JANUARY, ON A FRESH SATURDAY MORNING, THREE YEAR 9 STUDENTS – IZZY HOGGARD, EMMA SHORROCK AND ANYA

Bolton – gathered at Penwortham GS for the annual Rotary Youth Speaks! Competition. They had been practising hard in their own time, writing their introductions, main speech and vote of thanks on the topic 'We believe the children are the future.' As soft and adorable as this topic may sound, it was actually a strong and impressive piece denouncing American gun laws, in light of the massacre at a primary school in Connecticut.

The three students delivered a cogent and engaging series of talks, which surprised the judges with their hard-hitting

content and rigorous use of facts. The confidence required to stand on stage in front of many strangers and an impressively qualified panel of judges is credit to the three girls

and all of the hard work they put in to their performance.

Thank you to their parents for all their support (including freshly baked cakes on the day) and we would encourage the girls to be involved again next year, as they move up to the senior section of the competition.



RIDE FOR ROSS



OVER RECENT MONTHS THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN RAISING MONEY FOR A VERY WORTHY CAUSE, THE ROSS TOMLINSON TRIBUTE

Fund.

Ross was a pupil at Balshaw's from 2002–2007 and a former pupil of Leyland Methodist school. Ross was a tremendous pupil and a superb sportsman, representing the school in football, rugby, athletics and basketball. He was House Sports Captain for Farington.

In 2009 aged just 18, Ross was diagnosed with a rare and acute form of cancer, Medullablastoma. After a long, brave and traumatic battle against his illness Ross passed away on 30th August 2012 aged just 21.

Ross always admired the team at the Young Oncology Unit at The Christie Hospital in Manchester and was extremely grateful for the care, support and treatment he received. Ross was determined to give something back and raised over £13,000 for the unit with a charity skydive whilst still undergoing aggressive chemotherapy treatment.

This is a clear testament to Ross' spirit and bravery. His great zest for life and fortitude during his treatment earned the respect of all who knew him.

Ross' family and loyal friends have decided to continue his legacy with a series of fundraising events. All funds raised

will go toward the building of a new Young Oncology Unit (Y.O.U) at The Christie Hospital, offering state of the art care for teenage and young adult cancer patients.

Balshaw's has been involved in a number of events to aid this wonderful cause. In December 2012 a non-uniform day raised £1,000 for the fund.

In March and April 2012 the four houses took part in a series of Lenten Charity fund raising activities, including cake sales, sponsored runs and a 'head shave' event involving Mr Jennings, Head of Worden and Mr Barrett, who was Ross' football manager from 2002–2007.

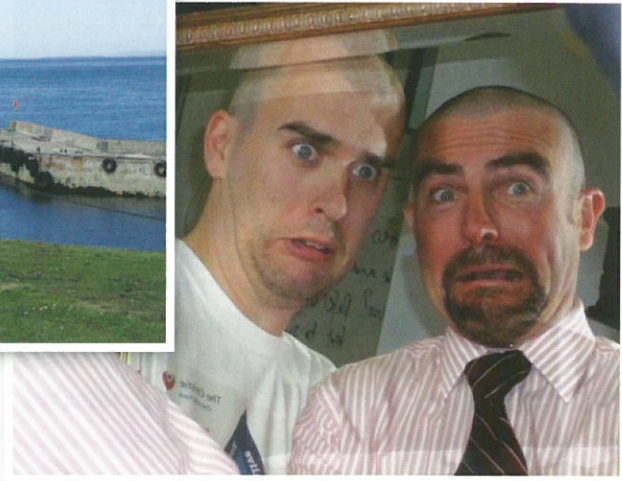
The total sum raised from these Lenten events came to £2,424 an excellent effort



Ross Tomlinson in year 7



Saturday 1st June at John O'Groats. Mr Barrett completes his 900 miles in 9 days 'Ride for Ross'.



Mr Jennings and Mr Barrett after their Lenten Charity 'Head Shave' April 2013



Stuart Humber accepts a cheque for £1,000 on behalf of the Ross Tomlinson Tribute Fund after the December 2012 non-uniform day

from all those involved.

During the 'Springbank' holiday Mr Barrett undertook the task of cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats in 9 days to raise money for the fund, arriving at John O'Groats safely on Saturday 1st June. The ride raised £4,165.80 in donations and the reception at Balshaw's on Tuesday May 28th as Mr Barrett passed through Leyland was phenomenal, with many students, former students, staff, parents and governors showing their support for the cause.

Stuart Humber, former Balshaw's Head Boy, best friend of Ross and now secretary of the Ross Tomlinson Tribute Fund said "Ross had a great set of friends and fond memories from his time at Balshaw's. I know that Ross was proud of his school and would be very humbled by the support and the work that the pupils and staff have offered to this family and the Christie. It's amazing to see the level of support that Balshaw's have offered to the tribute fund and makes me very proud to have been part of that community."

To find out more details of future fundraising events and more information about the fund please visit www.rosstomlinsontributefund.org.

Many thanks to all who have been involved in the fundraising.

PAT WATERSTON'S RETIREMENT



■ BALSHAW'S IS THE SORT OF SCHOOL WHERE STAFF STAY FOR A LONG TIME. THEIR DEDICATION, LOYALTY AND SUPPORT MEANS

that they give a great deal to the improvement of the school in so many ways.

None more so than 3 of our cleaners who have given the school over 100 years of service between them. Sadly we said farewell to Pat Waterston in February. She has worked at Balshaw's for 38 years and has seen generations of pupils, including her own children and grandchildren pass through.

Pat, Pauline Eubank and Ruth Harrison have worked with hundreds of different staff and can relate lots of memories and incidents.

"I loved my little job at Balshaw's for the 38 years I was there. I don't know where the time went. I have seen so many changes over the years and Balshaw's is simply the best school ever. I would like to thank Jo Venn for giving me, my family and friends a fantastic retirement party. I do miss her and all my other friends that I have made. Fond memories."

Pat Waterston

"Many thanks to Jo Venn for making me feel valued for my efforts over the last 34 years. My daughter attended this school and now my grandchildren are here.

I have seen many relatives', friends' and neighbours' children go through. For me, Balshaw's means Family."

Ruth Harrison

"I have seen many changes in the 34 years I have worked at Balshaw's. My two sons attended Balshaw's and hopefully my twin grandchildren will start in September 2014. It is nice to think you are appreciated and have found Miss Venn to be very approachable if I ever had any problems."

Pauline Eubank



MEMORIAL SERVICE

■ ONCE AGAIN AT THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT, WE AT BALSHAW'S REMEMBERED OUR LOVED ONES AND STAFF AND PUPILS

from Balshaw's over the years who have lost their lives.

Over the years we have dedicated this service particularly to those who have died during that year. The families and friends of those individuals joined us for this event. This year Mr and Mrs Tomlinson, family and friends particularly remembered Ross.

The Brass Band played well and everyone sang whilst holding their candles in memory of our loved ones. Several individuals read during the service and Rev Jeff Fearnley gave a reflection at the end.

This is an important part of our calendar on the first Monday in Advent at 5.30pm.

NEW PRINCIPAL FOR RUNSHAW COLLEGE

■ RUNSHAW COLLEGE'S DEPUTY PRINCIPAL, SIMON PARTINGTON, HAS SAID HE IS 'THRILLED' AFTER BEING OFFERED THE

position of Principal for the next academic year.

Current Principal Kathy Passant recently announced her retirement plans, and Mr Partington has now been announced as the man who will take over her job from September.

He said: "I feel very privileged to have worked as a senior manager at Runshaw since 2006, and I am thrilled to be given the opportunity to build on the outstanding successes of the college in recent years."

Mr Partington first entered the teaching profession as a maths teacher in 1993, after five years of working as a scientist in the nuclear industry.

He has previously worked in sixth form colleges in Salford and Bolton, and is looking forward to an exciting future at the Langdale Road campus in Leyland.

He added: "Due to the exceptional talents and dedication of our staff and students, Runshaw now has a well-earned national reputation for excellence, respect and enjoyment.

Despite these successes, we will never be complacent and our mind-set is to always believe that there is more we can do to improve still further.

We are therefore looking forward to the future full of confidence, hope and optimism."



Mrs Passant, who has been in the role for more than four years, says she will miss the 'best job in the world'.

She said: "I will miss working in such a joyous place.

I've loved working with the staff and the students and I will miss that day-to-day contact.

There is always such a buzz about the place.

I remember one of the students once saying to me that I was really lucky to have the best job in the world, which I thought was really lovely, and I think he was right."

She added: "The staff make the college strong, so I'm very confident the college will continue to do well once I leave.

It's doing well financially too.

I think there are challenges to most sixth form colleges generally, because times are always changing, but Runshaw has learnt to adapt to those changes."

Source: Leyland Guardian - 20th February 2013

STREETDANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

■ BALSHAW'S RECENTLY HELPED TO SPONSOR A GROUP OF PUPILS WHO ENTERED THE EUROPEAN STREETDANCE

Championships held in Amsterdam on 13th and 14th June 2013.

By all accounts, it was a brilliant experience; the Olympic Stadium was amazing to visit and with all the dancers and



spectators from all over Europe, all supported each other.

Our pupils were part of a group called RUIN. RUIN's performance was awesome and could be watched live stream so they could be watched back home. They came 29th in Europe and third in Britain. Jackie and Amy from Truth Dance Company are very proud dance teachers. Amy Brown is a former pupil of the school.

They got back late on the Friday night and were up early Saturday morning to walk in Leyland Festival and danced on the park twice. They also got a mention on Rock FM the following day.

The next few weeks were very busy for them, performing at various venues.

FUN INTO FOOD

■ BALSHAW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL RECENTLY TOOK PART IN A TV-STYLE COOKING CHALLENGE, WHICH SAW 2 TEAMS

of pupils and teachers competing to dish up a healthy, tasty family meal in just 15 minutes, all under the watchful eyes of a judging panel of no less than 350 year 7 and 8 children!

The event, organised by Balshaw's new school catering partners Chartwells, aimed to show pupils just how much fun cooking delicious food with fresh ingredients can be. The show was hosted by Chartwells "Fun into Food" Manager Darren Tinkler who gave out some interesting nutritional facts before choosing the two teams of contenders.

In the green corner was Assistant Head Teacher and keen amateur cook, Mr Melling with his 2 young chefs Alice Reeves and Mathew Skinner, whilst Miss Chisholm, was ably assisted by her aspiring cooks Keagan Chadwick-Yates and Ebony-Lee King in the red corner.

The teams were given a different set of ingredients and within 3 minutes had to decide how to make up their own plates of food. With their oriental ingredients, the red team chose to make Thai salmon fishcakes with steamed lemon rice and chop suey vegetables, while the green team used their knowledge of spices to cook a vegetable and spinach curry with bombay potatoes.



With knives at the ready, the clock started ticking and after some frantic chopping, stirring, mixing and sizzling, the crowd began their countdown as the 15 minute time



limit rapidly approached. A panel of 20 volunteer food critics were invited to taste the steaming plates of food, while the rest of the crowd were asked to choose their winner based on the tempting aromas wafting around their noses.

Voting cards were raised and after some careful counting, the red team was announced the winners. As they left the hall, all pupils were rewarded for their effort and support with a free natural fruit juice drink which counted as one of their "five a day", which were donated by Calypso Soft Drinks.

Miss Venn, Head Teacher said "As a Healthy School, we think it's important our pupils understand how choosing a balanced diet can help them to lead healthy lives. We're delighted that Chartwells share our vision and hope to organise similar events in future".

Wendy Fitzsimons, Chartwells Catering Manager for Balshaw's, said she's looking forward to showing off some of her other recipes in the school canteen. "Our special lunch menu is always cooked from scratch using fresh ingredients - we even bake our own bread. Choosing a meal with a dessert is great value and we'd love our pupils to come and give us a try!"

VISIT TO BIG BANG IN LIVERPOOL

■ AS A REWARD FOR OUR HARD WORK IN YEAR 8 STEM CLUB, BOTH TEAMS GOT TO GO TO THE BIG BANG ROADSHOW HELD IN

Liverpool on Wednesday 26 June, along with Miss McDade, who arranged it for us.

The exhibition was huge with stalls and stands from universities, other schools and local industry. Demonstrations such as computer controlled robots, giant bubble blowers and a 'Science in Sport' show really entertained us.

There were also lots of interactive things to do. My favourite was using a hair drier and a ping pong ball to show air power, but lots of others enjoyed building DNA models out of sweets which we could eat later. Yum-Yum!!!

Overall STEM club turned out to be great fun and very educational and I would definitely go again.

Chloe Fazackerley

POETRY READING

■ ON THE EVENING OF MAY 11TH I ATTENDED A POETRY READING AT THE STEPHEN JOSEPH THEATRE IN SCARBOROUGH. THE THEATRE

is famously the place where one of my favourite playwright's Alan Ayckbourn premieres his plays and I looked forward to hearing Roger McGough read his own poems as he has also been a favourite of mine since I was a teenager. I took along my copy of one of his early collections 'Mersey Sound' for him to sign which I am pleased to say that he did when I got the chance to meet him after his reading.

In 1967 Roger McGough, beat poet and member of pop group The Scaffold, wrote, 'Let Me Die a Youngman's Death', in which he contemplated the manner of his eventual passing. Now, 75 years old, he is not only still writing but also still performing, and on Saturday evening he treated a near-capacity audience to a splendid recitation of poems old and new.

McGough delivered the readings with the lightest of touches, in soft, slightly deadpan Liverpudlian tones. Many, indeed most, of his poems are funny: at times it was a little like listening to a stand-up comedian elicit laugh after laugh. However, each of his verses are carefully crafted, each word considered, and each syllable the perfect fit. He once said:

THE LESSON

*Chaos ruled OK in the classroom
as bravely the teacher walked in
the nooligans ignored him
hid voice was lost in the din*

*"The theme for today is violence
and homework will be set
I'm going to teach you a lesson
one that you'll never forget"*

*He picked on a boy who was shouting
and throttled him then and there
then garrotted the girl behind him
(the one with grotty hair)*

*Then sword in hand he hacked his way
between the chattering rous
"First come, first severed" he declared
"fingers, feet or toes"*

*He threw the sword at a latecomer
it struck with deadly aim
then pulling out a shotgun
he continued with his game*

*The first blast cleared the backrow
(where those who skive hang out)
they collapsed like rubber dinghies
when the plug's pulled out*

*"Please may I leave the room sir?"
a trembling vandal enquired
"Of course you may" said teacher
put the gun to his temple and fired*

*The Head popped a head round the
doorway
to see why a din was being made
nodded understandingly
then tossed in a grenade*

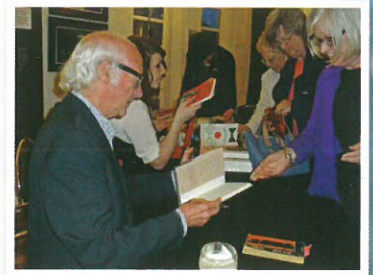
"It took a while to have the confidence to be serious."

He has certainly found that confidence and, at times, was very serious indeed. Sometimes the more sombre messages took a while to sink in – one is expecting to be

amused – but the darker undertones make a deep impression.

Born in 1937, McGough had a wartime childhood. The horrors of war came home to him one day when he followed the family dog through a fence into a minefield. The golden retriever was blown to pieces. McGough's young mind transformed the memory, erasing all trace of the dog. He remembered instead chasing a red bouncing ball, and it was only in recent years that the aunt who rescued him told him what really happened. He still 'remembers' his own, sanitised version. Now he has transformed it into poetry: his way of making sense of the world.

When I taught English (way before I came to Balshaw's) I enjoyed teaching poetry and found McGough's verse always captured the imagination of the class. Especially poems like 'The Lesson' which amuses both pupils and teachers alike!



*And when the ammo was well spent
with blood on every chair
Silence shuffled forward
with its hands up in the air*

*The teacher surveyed the carnage
the dying and the dead
He wagged a finger severely
"Now let that be a lesson" he said*

Roger McGough

M E Whittam

HOVERCRAFT VISITS BALSHAW'S

■ BALSHAW'S WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO PLAY HOST TO DR JOHN BARKER FROM BLACKBURN COLLEGE AND HIS TEAM OF

engineers who brought their "Physics is Fun" talk to our school. Dr Barker brought his fully electric car that he converted himself, for the ECO Team to see. It was parked outside and charged up, via the office, for the journey back to Blackburn!

Balshaw's students of all years then heard how Dr Barker built a hovercraft at his college. He then let us have a ride on the craft! The speedy vehicle reached a top speed of 55 mph on the Balshaw's field. Pictured below is Daniel Orton from Year 9 having a go on the craft. A big thank you to Dr Barker and his team. We can't wait for you to return next year!



ROYAL SOCIETY VISIT

■ ON THURSDAY 4TH JULY MISS MOLYNEUX WAS INVITED TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY TO VIEW THEIR SUMMER SCIENCE EXHIBITION,

held every year to exhibit the cutting edge of Science discoveries. Miss Molyneux is a member of the selection committee for the exhibits. This year the Science was absolutely awesome and ranged from the technology behind Sir Chris Hoyle's Olympic winning bicycle to "The Biology Builders"; a group of Scientists from The University of Nottingham who have invented a 3D printer that can print biodegradable replacement bone for fractures and accident damage. The amazing breakthrough for this team is that there

are stem cells woven in the printing of the bones. This means that once placed into the body, they will grow and become part of the recipients body.

The excitement didn't end there however. Miss Molyneux was lucky enough to meet one of her all time Science heroes,



Lord Robert Winston! The IVF expert was very excited about the exhibition, but took time out to allow Miss Molyneux to have a picture taken with him!

A wonderful evening and a bonus celebrity Scientist!

THE TES AWARDS!

■ THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AT BALSHAW'S WERE CELEBRATING WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAD BEEN

shortlisted for the final of the TES Awards in the Science category! Miss Molyneux went to London on 5th July for the ceremony hosted by Dara O'Briain. The glittering affair was attended by 800 teachers from across the UK as the winners

of the 12 categories were announced. Balshaw's were delighted to be "highly commended in a close second place" by the judging team which includes educational guru Sir Tim Brighouse!

It was a wonderful event and who knows, next year Balshaw's might feature in some of the other categories too.

SCIENCE WEEK AT LEYLAND METHODIST JUNIOR SCHOOL!

■ IN JUNE, MISS MOLYNEUX AND THE SCIENCE TEAM AT BALSHAW'S GOT INVOLVED IN "SCIENCE WEEK" AT LEYLAND METHODIST

Junior School. This was part of the Sinnott Fellowship and our ongoing commitment to supporting local schools within the community. The whole school took part in a huge circus of experiments and activities across two days which relaunched Science at the school. The Balshaw's Science ambassadors were on hand to show the pupils how to use a microscope, test acids and alkalis and even demonstrate flying teabags. Miss Molyneux took along her "Flash Bang Show" to perform for the whole school during assembly, and the students said "I loved the Whoosh bottle" and "she turned

water into Ribena!"

Our collaboration with Leyland Methodist continues as we are helping them to plan Science lessons for the new KS2 curriculum. Miss Molyneux and Paul Stubbs, the new Science coordinator at Leyland Methodist, will visit the Sinnott team in London to present their successes.

Thanks to Leyland Methodist for the invitation and we hope to do it all again next year!



Mr Woodcock talks to Year 4 about electricity

SUPER SCIENCE DAY 2013!

■ BALSHAW'S HELD ITS VERY FIRST GIFTED AND TALENTED SUPER SCIENCE DAY ON MONDAY 8TH JULY. 16 TEAMS FROM ACROSS

South Ribble took part in a series of three challenges: to build a rocket and fire it through a hoop in the air, to build a raft capable of holding the most marbles and Jelly Baby Towers, where students had to build a tower out of spaghetti and jelly babies to hold a boiled egg the highest off the table.

The students were great sports and came up with some ingenious ideas to raise the egg up to 54cm!

The sessions were followed by a Science Quiz and a

presentation for all participants in the hall. The winning school was St. Michael's CE High School who gained full marks on the Science Quiz! Well done to all the participants!



CHORLEY AND SOUTH RIBBLE SCIENCE NETWORK GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH IN 2013!

■ IT'S BEEN A SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE REGIONAL SCIENCE NETWORK RUN BY BALSHAW'S. THE NETWORK OF SCIENCE

subject leaders and their representatives meet every half term to discuss the latest issues affecting Science departments.

This year we have welcomed visiting speakers from a wide range of sources including exam boards, universities and the National Science Learning Centre. The meetings are held after school and are funded by the Science Learning Centre North West, with 12 plus schools represented at every

meeting.

We were delighted in June to receive confirmation that we are to become an Ogden Trust Hub School! This means that we will attract funding from the Ogden Trust to support Physics across our network. This will be through CPD for teachers, events and activities for pupils and linking together our schools in events such as the recent AGT Day held at Balshaw's! We would like to thank all our member schools and of course our sponsors for their support this year.

FASHION SHOW

■ ON THURSDAY 4TH JULY 2013 THE SUN SHONE ON A PACKED AUDIENCE OF OVER 100 INCLUDING PUPILS, FAMILIES, GOVERNORS,

staff and former staff at Balshaw's CE High School Fairtrade / Eco Fashion Show. The school opened its doors to the local community to showcase the superb work being done in the classroom and by the Fairtrade / Eco committee in promoting Fairtrade.

The committee members had planned activities promoting this event since Christmas. They held their own design evening to produce the clothes, from M+S Fairtrade T-shirts, to model on the night. The ideas were outstanding and included a handbag, a skirt made from the T shirt base, a skirt from Fairtrade fabric and a dress from recycled denim.



The music was provided by the school's own Samba band, especially formed for this event, and who rehearsed in their own time. The Street Dance group and the Bollywood dancers were a great success. These pupils created the dance and again, rehearsed in their own time. Our pupils were the stars of the night not just those on stage, but the rest of the group who worked back stage and manned stalls to ensure the whole event was a success



Our guest host, the BBC One Show mobile hairdresser and ex Balshavian, Michael Douglas, was an absolute star and a real pleasure to have back in school. He couldn't help himself, he had to be involved with the models hair. A bit different from London Fashion week or working with Kate Moss! He also ended up breakdancing on stage, which he said he learned at Balshaw's in the 80's.

The school was supported by Starbuck's (who provided Fairtrade coffee), Marks and Spencers (who provided the Fairtrade tea and goods), Sainsbury's (who offered visitors a taste of Fairtrade wine), The Fairtrade Store, Cath Greenlees, Fairtrader, Handmade by Nicki and Chartwells (the school's catering partners) who brought along an array of Fairtrade products that are available in their stores.

The applause said it all about the success of the event. Everyone went away knowing more about the Fairtrade message through the work presented by Geography, English, MFL, Art and RE departments and with the assistance given by the Music, Drama, PE, Technology and ICT departments.

Thank you to everyone who helped.



L Bowden

ANNA DOUGHTY

■ CONGRATULATIONS TO ANNA DOUGHTY WHO WAS SELECTED TO SWIM FOR THE NORTH WEST DIVISION OF THE ENGLISH



Schools Swimming Association at the Liverpool Aquatics Centre over the weekend of Saturday 29th June and Sunday 30th June.

The North West swimmers competed against teams from Northeast, East Midland, West Midlands, East, Southwest, Southeast and London.

Anna competed as a junior girl in the Medley Relay team and 200m Breaststroke finishing 5th and 6th respectively. She also competed in the 100m breaststroke and 4 x 100m freestyle relay team where she gained a bronze medal in each.

The North West team went on to win the competition taking home 5 of the 7 trophies on offer. Anna is pictured holding the Top junior girls team trophy.

Well done Anna.

Top 3 divisions: 1st Northwest 488.5 points, 2nd Northeast 430 points, 3rd London 383 points