

Engineering



Non Sibi Sed Alis
Aiming at Excellence

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TRANSFORM

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

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Dear Friend of Balshaw's,

What a busy and exciting time we have all been having since I introduced the last Transform Magazine! In my last introduction I was writing as headteacher designate; this edition of Transform I am in post and in the thick of all the action that takes place at Balshaw's. You will find much to read about in this edition.

The school continues to have great success in the arenas of sport, public speaking, performance, art, design technology and a myriad of other activities which make our school so much more than a place of excellent academic achievement. I have many highlights so far this year: the spine-tingling sound of the Last Post echoing down the corridors as we remembered those who have fallen in conflict on Remembrance Day to the fun and exhausting excitement of the Year 11 Paris Trip. But it's hard to pick from helicopter landings, Speech Night, talent shows, drama performance, quiz nights, race night and on it goes...

I do hope you enjoy this edition of Transform.

S Haycocks, Headteacher



HIGH FLYING VISIT TO BALSHAW'S ORGANISED BY MRS WILSON

■ ON OCTOBER 17TH YEAR 9 PUPILS AT BALSHAW'S C.E. HIGH SCHOOL WERE VISITED BY SOME HIGH FLYING GUESTS AS TWO

members of the RAF dropped in to highlight careers in the Royal Air Force. Captain Sharon Males and Flight Lieutenant Aaron Kerry visited Balshaw's in a Squirrel helicopter to promote the variety of roles within the RAF. Excited Year 9 pupils were given the opportunity to ask Sharon and Aaron questions about their chosen careers and the thrill of flying a helicopter.

When Sharon Males suggested visiting I jumped at the opportunity as I wanted to allow pupils to see the unique opportunities and careers that are out there. I also wanted to raise the profile of the role of women within STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and to show our girls that literally, the sky is the limit nowadays. The girls in Year 9 were shocked when they heard that when Sharon Males first started out on her chosen career path, she was told that because she was a woman she could not become a pilot. However through sheer determination and hard work she prevailed. At the end of the session there were lots of pupils who were keen to pursue a career in the RAF and also a few staff considering a career change too! The boys were also impressed with the stories Aaron and Sharon told about their active service and crucial role in helping to serve their country.

Pupils spent forty minutes quizzing the two pilots before

a lucky few were given the opportunity to see inside the Squirrel helicopter, after which it was back to normal lessons. Mr Haycocks said the visit was a unique opportunity for the school and they were keen to make it an annual event. He said, "There are so many choices facing young people about their futures and to have the chance to hear about the stories behind the career choices of Aaron and Sharon was inspirational. It showed that opportunities for success are there, whether you seek them out as a dream career as with Sharon, or if the career finds you as it did with Aaron."

Mrs Wilson



TERI WILLIAMS: YOUNG GYMNAST

■ TERI WILLIAMS IS A VERY TALENTED YOUNG GYMNAST.

She began her gymnastics career at the age of 3 and trains at Garstang School of Gymnastics 5 days a week—for a minimum of 15 hours!

Teri is also a member of the Lancashire Gymnastic Squad for 2014 and, in November 2014 she was lucky enough to travel to America to represent her county in Gymnastics. December 2014 saw Teri entering two competitions, the Regional Finals FIG (Federation of International Gymnastics) and the annual Isle of Man Invitational.



2014 has been a really great year for Teri and highlights include:

- Team gold with the North West team in the National Finals at Grade 5—hosted in Birmingham
- Gold on bars in the Invitational competition, FIG level—hosted in York, Pennsylvania
- Lancashire Red Rose County Champion, FIG level. Gold overall, Gold on beam, bars and floor and Bronze on vault
- Silver on vault at the English Championships at Espoir level—hosted in Wigan
- Silver on vault and bars and overall bronze at The Greater Manchester Open at Espoir level—hosted in Wigan

We wish Teri every success for future competitions and look forward to hearing more about her achievements in the future.

Mrs Coles

ROTARY YOUTH SPEAKS DISTRICT FINAL

■ ON SATURDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY, ANYA BOLTON, ANNA DOUGHTY AND EMMA SHORROCK PARTICIPATED IN THE DISTRICT

Final of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition, held at Windermere School in the Lake District. The delightful venue was a place to match the occasion and our girls rose to the challenge and won the event, succeeding against some stiff competition, including several 6th form teams.

They now move on to the Regional Final to be held in Frodsham, Cheshire. This is the second year they have won through to the Regional Final which is a real credit to them—they have put a great deal of work, time and effort into their speeches.

Well done!

Mr Purnell



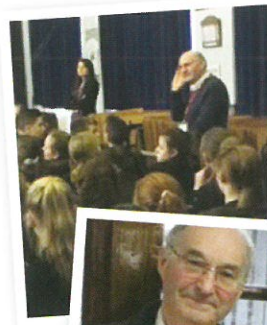
HOLOCAUST TALK

■ IN YEARS 9, 10 AND 11, STUDENTS AT BALSASHAW'S LEARN ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST DURING THEIR RE LESSONS. DURING THE

Holocaust eleven million people were killed, of which six million were Jewish people. As part of our studies of the Holocaust, on Monday 2nd February, we were extremely privileged to hear Henri Obstfeld's story and his experiences of living under Nazi rule. Henri was born in Amsterdam, shortly before the Germans invaded. During his talk, he shared with us how his family's life became more and more difficult under Nazi rule.

At the age of two, Henri was 'called up' for work. This means that his parents received papers ordering Henri to be sent to a work camp, at the age of two! His parents realised immediately the danger to Henri's life if they sent him there. Henri's parents wanted to keep him safe and they managed to locate a Dutch couple living in Arnhem, Jakob and Hendrika Klerk, who agreed to shelter Henri and look after him. People who lived near Jakob and Hendrika were told that Henri was a nephew, whose parents had been killed in the Luftwaffe bombing of Rotterdam. Fortunately Henri and his parents were able to stay safe and were united after the Allies defeated the Nazis.

Henri's talk provided a unique opportunity to hear a first-hand account from a survivor, and to hear how their families had been affected. As part of the day, groups of students took part in workshops which were led by an educator from the Holocaust Educational Trust. This enabled students to take part in lively discussions over who were the bystanders, perpetrators, victims and resisters in the Holocaust. The



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1

whole day gave students the opportunity to learn from an expert in Holocaust Education and to meet someone directly affected by the Holocaust. It provided a very memorable experience. If you would like to find out more about Henri and his story and more stories from survivors, then you can read more in the book 'WE REMEMBER; Child survivors of the Holocaust speak.'

Here are a selection of some of the students' comments about what they learnt and what the day made them think about;

"The talk made me think about how difficult it must have been to be a Jewish person living during that time, because of how many rights were taken away from them and how many were killed."

"It was very upsetting to learn that six million people were killed because of being a certain religion and I will never forget Henri. The talk has really shown me the true meaning of what it is like to live in a war zone and the true consequences of people's actions and the fact that people have to live with such suffering."

"It felt like a big matter meeting Henri. I got to meet someone who survived World War Two and the Nazis and it was a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Miss Preston

TEENTECH 2014

■ ON WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2014, MR MORT TOOK TEN EAGER YEAR 8 PUPILS ON A TRIP TO TEENTECH 2014. THE EVENT

was held at the University of Manchester and was hosted by Maggie Philbin, TV Presenter from BBC's 'Bang Goes the Theory' and 'Tomorrow's World'. The event is held to inspire the innovators of tomorrow and there were pupils present from thirty schools throughout the North West.

On arrival, pupils were asked to draw a sketch of what they thought a scientist looked like and to write an idea of an invention they would expect to see in the year 2050. Maggie then asked pupils to answer a series of questions on science and technology using voting buttons.

Pupils then moved to their first zone, the Insight Exhibition. Here they visited stands from various companies including IBM, Pepsi and EDF Energy. They took part in various mini-challenges in the bid to win a prize and find out more about how these companies use technology.

The second zone, Innovation, had pupils competing against nine other schools to design a computer game. Balshaw's pupils came up with the idea of a musical fitness game and had to pitch their ideas in a 60 second presentation. Our pupils won a certificate for their efforts!



After lunch, pupils moved to the final zone, Challenge. Here they visited National Grid and had to design the layout for installing gas supplies for a small town, taking into account all of the factors involved, such as wildlife, bridge building, costs and budgeting. For the second challenge, pupils had to design and build the aerodynamics for a wooden car using Play-Doh, before placing the car in a small wind tunnel to test it.

The day ended with an evaluation and prizes and certificates were awarded for all of the various activities which had taken place throughout the day. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves!

Mr Mort

SCIENCE CLUB VISIT TO BLACKPOOL

■ SCIENCE CLUB TOOK ITS MEMBERS ON A FANTASTIC SCHOOL TRIP TO SEE ALL OF BLACKPOOL'S FAMOUS LANDMARKS,

including the tower, the dungeons, the ballroom, the zoo and the illuminations!

This very special day started with a lift climb, right to the top of the 518ft Blackpool tower, to wander across the thrilling glass Skywalk and look down on the town. Many of us bought a souvenir coin from the special penny pressing machines. Next we descended to the ballroom to eat our packed lunches in the stalls, whilst being entertained by dancers and live music! After lunch, we went down deeper into the dungeons to watch a show about the history of Blackpool. It was an exciting mix of terror, humour, screaming (teachers!) and laughter as well as being a very educational experience. There was even the chance to go on a terrifying roller-coaster ride before finishing

with a browse through the gift shop!

Back onto the coach, next stop Blackpool Zoo for a special meeting with some hissing cockroaches and stick insects. Most of us weren't too shy to let these creatures walk on our hands whilst we learnt lots of interesting facts about evolution from the zoo staff. In small groups we then explored the zoo ourselves. My friends and I had a great time watching the energetic monkeys playing on their ropes, swings and nets. Yet again there was another opportunity to buy souvenirs at the zoo's massive gift shop! Tired out from our adventures we headed to Mc Donald's for our pre-ordered meal! To finish off this amazing day we drove home through the stunning illuminations, extremely glad that we didn't have school the next day!

Science Club and Miss Warburton

SPEECH NIGHT

ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2014 BALSHAW'S CE HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATED THE SUCCESS OF ITS PUPILS AT THE ANNUAL SPEECH NIGHT

with guest speaker, ex-Balshavian Michael Douglas.

Michael is a celebrity hairdresser cutting the hair of a number of our most stylish and famous stars. For example, Michael styles Darcey Bussell's hair for Strictly Come Dancing. Recently he has entered our homes as a presenter on the BBC programme The One Show, as well as taking part in a history documentary with his friend Dan Snow. He entertained the audience with stories from his days as a pupil at Balshaw's. The concept of the documentary National Treasures came from the idea that History was one of the subjects that he least enjoyed and could play the 'history fool' to Dan Snow's history expertise!

Michael explained that we're all on a journey. Through his early years of deciding what he should do, he was often not sure of his next steps. Michael held the Hall in the palm of his hand as he took us from his effective death on the operating table to belly laughter in the next sentence. The audience and Year 11 leavers were able to take inspiration and motivational guidance as they begin their uncertain journeys into the future.

Jennifer Hebson, a pupil at Balshaw's, played the piano beautifully, to welcome guests to the evening's events.

As well as the audience of former pupils, their parents and staff, there were representatives from local industry such as Leyland Motors, The Mayor and Mayoress, Governors, former Headteachers Miss Venn and Mr Ingram, the Archdeacon and other invited guests.

Between formal speeches from Tim Callaghan, Chair of Governors and Steve Haycocks, Headteacher, those present



enjoyed a performance by the Secret Voices Chamber Choir singing 'Just the way you are.'

Pupils' achievements are recognised during the evening and presentations were undertaken by Michael Douglas. They included:

- Special trophies, including Lord Roben's Trophy
- Special prizes for individual achievements
- Certificates for those with 100% attendance, awarded for 1,2,3,4 or 5 years 100% attendance

Every year there is a House award 'The Silver Griffin award, from the Old Boys' Associations for Scholastic Merit.' This is one of the most prestigious prizes as it is awarded to a whole house for a combination of house points, attendance, academic achievement, participation and many other areas of school life. This year the prize was wrested from Cuerden after a long run of successes and was won by Worden House for 2014.

The Head Girl, Annabel Pike and Head Boys, Ethan and Jordan Darr gave a vote of thanks on behalf of Balshaw's to guests and dignitaries and presented gifts. The evening was concluded with a blessing by the Archdeacon and a rendition of 'God Save the Queen' by all attendees.

An enjoyable evening was had by all and thanks go to everyone who attended and for all those who helped to make it such an enjoyable evening.

Mr Haycocks & Mrs Coles

BLACKBURN DIOCESAN CHRISTIAN SERVICE AWARD

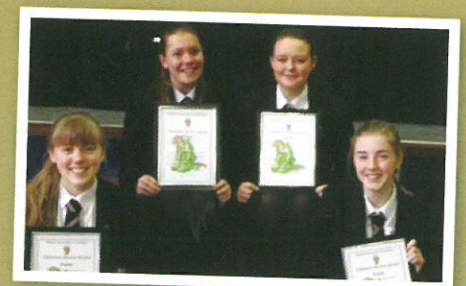
FOUR OF OUR PUPILS AT BALSHAW'S WERE AWARDED THE BLACKBURN DIOCESAN

Christian Service Award in a special service at Archbishop Temple School in Preston on 29 January 2015.

The successful pupils were Jenny Hebson, Katie Mote, Sarah Noon and Erin Higson. They received the

award 'in recognition of outstanding character and service to the Christian Community through their efforts to follow the way of Jesus Christ as reflected in the gospels'.

Well done girls!



Miss Ferguson

HMI VISITS BALSHAW'S

■ ON THE 10TH FEBRUARY WE WELCOMED JANE AUSTIN TO BALSHAW'S SO SHE COULD CARRY OUT A TWO DAY INSPECTION INTO

the Alternative Provision we offer our pupils. Jane has a very high profile job within Ofsted and she is one of very few HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector) of Schools.

The Alternative Provision she was looking at were the courses we offer Year 10 and 11 that take place outside school and are aimed at the specific needs of a small group of pupils. She met with the Senior Leadership Team of the school, as well as pupils past and present, and she also visited sites around Leyland where the Alternative Provision is offered.

She spent a morning at the Eric Wright Construction Centre in Leyland where several of our pupils are studying half a day a week. They are working hard to achieve a BTEC in Construction and she was very impressed with the facilities and the work the pupils are producing. She also visited Leyland Trucks, as we recently had a pupil on a 6 month one-day-a-week work experience placement. She found the visit really rewarding and commented on the quality of the experience the pupil had received to prepare him for the world of work. A highlight of the visit for me was seeing Mrs Austin and Mr

Haycocks sitting in a DAF truck in the assembly plant ready to 'hit the road.'

Mrs Austin has sent the school a report of her findings and a selection of highlights can be seen here:

'The school can point to some striking individual successes resulting from Alternative Provision placements.'

'Students are very positive about the opportunity they have to attend off-site provision. They enjoy being treated as adults and say it motivates them to do well in school.'

Over the two days it was good to be able to showcase the excellent work we are doing at Balshaw's to ensure the curriculum we offer is tailored to the needs of all pupils. I would like to thank everyone involved in the inspection, from the pupils to our Alternative Provision partners, for their hard work and time. Mrs Austin's findings will go into a much larger report Ofsted are producing for the government to help them understand the work being carried out by schools in this very important area.



Mr Melting

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

■ AS A FAIRTRADE SCHOOL BALSHAW'S SUPPORTS THE ORGANISATION IN MANY WAYS. SO FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT CAME

early at Balshaw's with the Fairtrade Committee hosting a successful Hot Chocolate and Kit-Kat morning on Thursday 12th February. The committee is grateful to everyone who supported them. They raised over £70, which will allow them to start producing their Fairtrade Pamphlet about local Fairtrade traders in Leyland.

As part of the group's Fairtrade Fortnight activities, they contacted the BB4B group of local companies and have been able to secure the help of Mr Cutler, from St Catherine's Hospice, who will be coming into school to work with pupils. We are looking forward to the exciting opportunity of furthering our links with the local community and helping people in the developing world.

Mrs Bowden

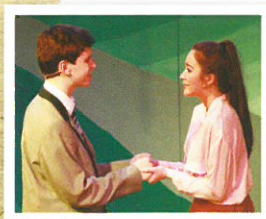




THE SOUND OF MUSIC

■ **THE SCHOOL PRODUCTION 2015 WAS CHOSEN AS IT IS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR OF THE RELEASE OF THE FILM VERSION**

starring Julie Andrews. Mrs Whittam set about choosing the cast back in November when about 110 enthusiastic pupils were put through their paces in a series of after school auditions. As there were so many strong potential leads it was decided to share the role of Maria to give two of our most able performers a chance to play this fantastic role. Eventually, a cast and crew of sixty were chosen and they proved to everyone in the superb performances, which ran from 10th to 12th March, that Balshaw's has plenty of talented actors, singers and technicians.



An enormous amount of rehearsal time went into learning the songs and lines. Year 11 pupils Katy Elleray and Faye Forshaw did a fantastic job with the choreography and put the whole cast through their paces. Miss Fisher, Mrs

Jakubovic and Miss Bryant were instrumental in getting all the props and costumes sorted out. Meanwhile, Mrs Higgins, Mr McFarlane and a group of pupils worked on creating the most original scenic backdrop, which worked amazingly well under stage lights.

On Tuesday 10th March pupils and staff from four local Junior schools attended a matinee performance. They were packed tightly into the hall and balcony and were treated to our first public performance, with Abbi Moore playing Maria on that occasion. Annabel Pike, our Head Girl, played Maria on the Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with Abbi again in the role on the Wednesday evening. Mikey Coleman played Captain Von Trapp and Ruth Jakubovic played the

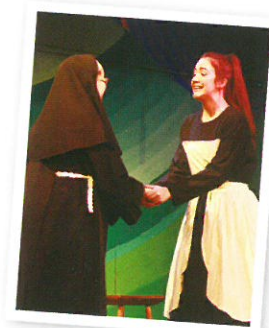
Mother Abbess throughout. These pupils shone in their roles and all of them have plans to take their skills further and study Performing Arts at College.

The whole ensemble excelled, and by the time we completed our second performance on Tuesday our audiences had declared the show a hit so we all relaxed and thoroughly enjoyed our final two shows.

The Production gave an opportunity for pupils from all year groups to work together and make new friends. A highlight of our preparation was when we decided to do two 'Flash Mob' performances of 'Do Re Mi': one in Senior assembly and one in Junior assembly. This was to promote the show and cause some excitement in the final run up. This led to a rise in ticket sales and all performances were sold out.

We also sent out messages to parents about the tickets sales via the Parent Portal and Tweeted about the show. Michael Douglas, who appears regularly on the BBC and is a Balshavian, made us a Favourite on his Twitter account, which spread the word of the Balshaw's show to thousands of people.

On Tuesday evening we had a 'theatre restaurant' style performance. The audience ate a fine Lancashire Hotpot, followed by apple pie and cream before settling down to enjoy the show. The tables were decorated with lovely paper eidelweiss and small brown paper packages tied up with string. We had the show professionally filmed and so will be able to enjoy watching the whole thing again.



Mrs Whittam

BETH McCRYSTAL

ROTARY YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

■ SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY SAW THE DISTRICT FINALS OF THE ROTARY YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR COMPETITION HELD

at Darwen Vale High School.

Before Christmas, a number of students from across South Ribble took part in the Area competition in both the Instrumental and Vocalist sections of the competition. Beth McCrystal was put through to the District Vocalist Final.

Competition was tough and Beth faced some incredible vocal talents, not least from Grace O'Malley, trained at the Royal Northern College of Music, winner of the prestigious Llangollen International Eisteddfod—an accolade previously awarded to performers as illustrious as Luciano Pavarotti.

Appearing last on the programme and suffering from a sore throat, Beth was not phased. As soon as she walked onto the stage, she “owned it” according to the judges. Beth sang three varied songs in her set which showed her versatility and talent. She opened with the classic blues track *At Last* by Etta James demonstrating a vocal maturity and control that the audience would not have expected from her slight frame and demure appearance. From this she moved to *On My Own* from *Les Miserables* and had the audience holding back tears with her emotional delivery. Beth’s final song choice showed her power and technical skills as she chose to sing one of her favourite songs which she described as “a real belter”—*Listen* by Beyoncé. However, this was no mimicry of Beyoncé’s style—Beth made the song her own, delivering an incredible vocal range and level of control.

The judges were unanimous in their decision and Beth took first place with Grace going through as runner-up. Both will now sing in the Regional finals to be held at South Cheshire College in Crewe on 26th April. If she wins here then she will return to Darwen Vale High School for the RIBI National Final in May.

*“Listen to the song here in my heart
A melody I start but I will complete.”*

Listen – Beyoncé

Mr Haycocks



UNICEF CAKE BAKE

■ OFTEN WE SEE THE PUPILS OF BALSHAW'S RISING TO THE CHALLENGE OF HELPING OTHERS WHO AREN'T AS FORTUNATE AS

themselves. Recently the Pupils in Clayton 2 were inspired to bake cakes and sell them to make money for UNICEF. They raised the fantastic amount of £103.48 from the cake sale which was brilliant! All the money collected has been donated to UNICEF and will be used to help children who are currently in danger due to the conflicts in Syria. Another great deed by the pupils of Balshaw's. You can see the pupils of Clayton 2 and the wonderful cakes they baked with this

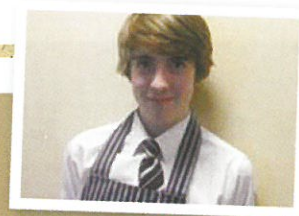


article.

Well done to all the bakers and those who brought in their money to buy the delicious cakes.

Miss Winnard

ROTARY YOUNG CHEF COMPETITION



■ NOVEMBER SAW THE ANNUAL ROTARY YOUNG CHEF COMPETITION, HELD AT RUNSHAW'S OWN FOXHOLES RESTAURANT

take place. As always the standard of dishes made was absolutely outstanding, showcasing the talents of students from schools around Lancashire.

Each student had to prepare a two course meal, for two people, for £5 per head in a limited time frame, working in a professional kitchen for one hour and fifteen minutes. Our representative was Year 11 GCSE Food Technology student

Luke Bradley, who has a keen interest in food, and intends to use his skills on a catering course at Runshaw after his GCSE's.

After a hard fought battle, the final results gave Luke a well-deserved second place, with his sumptuous dish of Ginger chicken curry and Basmatic rice, followed by a melt in the middle chocolate pudding with spun sugar decoration. Well done to all students who took part in the competition, and best wishes, Luke, for your future career in Catering.

Mrs Holden

INTERMEDIATE UKMT CHALLENGE

■ HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO PUPILS FROM YEAR 9,10 AND 11 WHO TOOK PART IN THIS YEAR'S CHALLENGE AND HAVE ACHIEVED HIGHLY TO RECEIVE CERTIFICATES. THE PAPERS

contain 25 multiple choice questions. Of these, the first 15 questions are more accessible whilst the final 10 provide more food for thought. Gold, silver and bronze certificates are awarded to 40% of participants nationally in the Junior and Intermediate Challenges.

The most successful participants at each level are invited to enter follow-on rounds; Kangaroos (multiple choice questions) or Olympiads requiring full written answers. We are delighted that Harry Clipston from Year 9 has qualified for the Kangaroo challenge on 19th March and we wish him the best of luck.

The junior UKMT takes place on April 30th and we look forward to even more success to report.

GOLD SILVER

- Harry Clipston
- Ellie Pearson
- Eleanor Bird
- Josh Myres

BRONZE

- James Brotherton
- Nathan McGaughey
- Tom Williamson
- Callum Clipston
- Jack Ambrose
- Josh Seed
- Tom Sandford
- Anthony Kenyon
- Jess Burt
- Jack Wignall



Mrs Purcell

PRIMARY SCHOOL MATHS CHALLENGE

■ THE ANNUAL PRIMARY SCHOOL MATHS CHALLENGE WAS HELD AT BALSHAW'S ON THE 16TH OCTOBER.

Eleven schools entered teams of two able mathematicians. Parents, teachers and friends all came along to cheer their team on.

The teams had six activities to complete throughout the evening along with a puzzle sheet.

Our Year 9 pupils and Year 10 ambassadors were on hand to help the teams with any difficulties and to guide them in understanding the task.

Thank you to all the teams that entered: Lancaster Lane,

Euxton Primrose Hill, Manor Road, Whittle le Woods, Trinity CE Methodist, Woodlea, Brindle St. James, Moss Side and Farington Primary. Well done and congratulations to all of you for being selected to participate.

The winners of this year's event were the team from Woodlea Primary school.



Maths Department

YEAR 9 ABLE & TALENTED MATHS CHALLENGE

THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

■ WE WERE REALLY DELIGHTED THAT OUR TEAM OF 4 MATHEMATICIANS, HARRY CLIPSTON, ELEANOR BIRD, JOSH SEED AND

Olivia Foster, won the challenge this year. The runners up were from Holy Cross, Chorley. Thirteen teams from Secondary schools in South Ribble and Chorley attended the afternoon's activities.

Each team had to solve 7 different puzzles. Here are a couple for you to try:



Find the value of

$$\frac{a}{b^2} + \frac{b}{c^2} - \frac{c}{a^2}$$

when $a = \frac{1}{2}$, $b = 4$, $c = -\frac{1}{5}$

These 15 sticks form a spiral.

Can you turn this spiral into two squares by moving exactly three sticks?



Maths Department

UK BEBRAS COMPUTATIONAL THINKING CHALLENGE

■ DURING THE WEEK OF THE 10TH NOVEMBER 2014, YEAR 9 PUPILS TOOK PART IN THE UK BEBRAS COMPUTATIONAL

Thinking Challenge. The Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge (BCTC) introduces Computer Science to students and is designed to get them excited about computing. The BCTC is a problem solving contest with a focus on computational and logical thinking. Over 39,000 pupils took part in the competition throughout the UK.

Computational thinking involves using a set of problem-solving skills and techniques that software engineers use to write programs and apps. Examples of these techniques include the ability to break down complex tasks into simpler components, algorithm design, pattern recognition, pattern generalisation and abstraction.

Questions are inspired by topics in Computer Science but only require some basic reasoning ability. Pupils had to

answer 15 questions in a 40 minute time period. The questions have varying degrees of difficulty and the points awarded reflect this.

This year, 153 pupils in Year 9 at Balshaw's took part in the competition! The 'Best In School' winner was Heather Mulgrew with 158 points. Heather received a 'Best In School' Certificate and a prize from the ICT & Computing Department. The top 25% of pupils received a 'Certificate of Distinction' and everyone who entered the competition received a 'Certificate of Participation'.



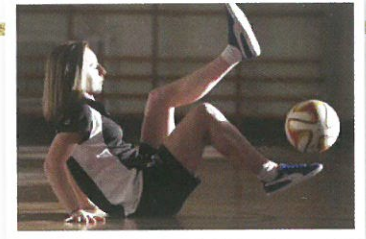
Mr Mort

OLIVIA COOKE

■ OLIVIA COOKE IN YEAR 11 IS A VERY TALENTED YOUNG FOOTBALLER. RECENTLY OLIVIA SAID "I STARTED PLAYING FOOTBALL

with Preston North End when I was 10 and recently moved on to Blackburn Rovers Academy, which is one of the best teams in the country for girls". She also said "Football has allowed me to travel a lot. I went to America to play people from countries like Finland, Australia, Denmark and Canada." Her family have always been a great support to Olivia, especially her older brothers, Jack who is 21 and Sam, who is 19. Olivia's footballing days began at the young age of three and her family couldn't be prouder of her skills, dedication and achievements.

Olivia has recently discovered that she is particularly good at tricks with the football as well. Olivia's talents have even been showcased on TV channel Nickelodeon.



Miss Gladki, who teaches Olivia at Balshaw's said: "Olivia has been interested in sport and PE from the day she started at Balshaw's, and her ability, passion and commitment to sport have led her to captaining the football team for the last five years. Not only does she play football, she also coaches and referees younger pupils. She is currently studying GCSE PE and will achieve a very good grade if she continues working at her level. Olivia is a pleasure to teach and a credit to Balshaw's."

The Leyland Guardian published a full report on Olivia on 30 December 2014 and came into school to photograph her in action. You can see the picture they took of her performing one of her tricks with this article.

Miss Gladki

STEM: PERFECT ATHLETE

■ ON JUNE 16TH, 15 YEAR 7 AND 8 PUPILS TOOK PART IN A WEEK OF AFTER SCHOOL STEM ACTIVITIES BASED ON ATHLETICS.

On Monday, pupils commenced the week in Science looking at the effects of sports drinks on performance

Tuesday saw the turn of Technology, when pupils designed and made javelins, testing their performance to find the best design.

On Wednesday, pupils carried out activities in PE and

graphed their performances to show any changes.

The week was finished off by a Mathematics session on the Thursday. Pupils took part in sprints and shuttle runs, worked out their averages and range of times and decided who was the Perfect Athlete.

Pupils had lots of fun learning about STEM within sport and gave very positive feedback. Well done to everyone who was involved!



CROSS COUNTRY

■ THIS YEAR OUR INTERHOUSE CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION HAD TO BE PUT BACK A FEW WEEKS DUE TO VERY POOR WEATHER

on the original date. A new date was set as 18th November but with the cold nights creeping in I did not think we would beat last year's turnout of 400 pupils!!

I was very wrong! We had an absolutely amazing 620 pupils stay after school to brave the cold and compete for their House! The fact that well over 2/3rds of our school population took part shows what a good and competitive school Balshaw's is and every pupil who took part should be very proud of their achievement.

We had some amazing runners, from those that finished

in the top 10, to those for whom running is not one of their strengths. Nevertheless they turned up and ran unbelievably well to complete a tough cross country course. Everyone contributed to a fantastic event.

We also had a large number of staff give up their time to brave the cold and help as marshals and cheer pupils along the way. Thank you.

Well done to everyone involved #TEAMBALSHAWS!!

Mr Davidson