

# Brandles Newsletter May 2013

## Local Partnership

On Thursday 9th May the pupils were presented with a new football and running kit, kindly donated to the school by Letchworth Garden City Community Football Club.

The cost of the kit was met by Mick Ginn of KLM trophy shop, Danny Ryan and Gary Williams.

A big thank you must also go to Vince Paige who has done a lot of the work in the background.



## History

In history this year we have been looking at the English Civil war, a time where there was no king or queen in this country and trying to make an opinion as to whether Oliver Cromwell was a hero or a villain. Some of the groups have studied the Berlin wall and its collapse, something that impacted our lives here, throughout Europe and the rest of the world. Also year 8 looked at the Victorians and the age of steam. Some trips we have planned for the next half term are a visit to the Chiltern Open Air museum in Buckinghamshire, The RAF Museum in Hendon and a Horrible Histories show in Watford, which if you know anything about the Horrible Histories team will know that it will be a fun packed and informative event.



Horticulture - The pupils have been working hard, sowing seeds and taking cuttings to plant out in the garden. With the help of the staff from school and Watford Gardens, the poly tunnel is now up and ready for use, the grass has started to grow and the outdoor classroom is in use. The pupils have also created two raised beds for Greyslates, an adult learning centre, which will allow them to grow their own vegetables and flowers. This outside area has given the pupils another learning environment, as well as improving another part of our site.



As part of the Baldock festival Friends of Brandles supported the Fire Station by providing refreshments. Considering the weather, we did really well, raising a total of £160. Well done and thank you to everyone who supported us, especially Connor and Harry.



## Friends of Brandles Race Night

Our last race night raised £180. Due to its success we are organising another Race Night on 21st June. Tickets are £2.50 and are available from the school office. Please try and support us, and if you are unable to come on the night, maybe you could provide a raffle prize or buy a raffle ticket. All the money we raise goes to the school.

Thank you



## School Improvement.

Our school entrance hall has been updated and is looking really bright and inviting. Connor, Kayz and Alfie three of our senior pupils went to IKEA and bought the furniture and designed the layout. Come and see for yourselves. We have received a lot of positive compliments,



## Diary Dates

Monday 3rd June -return to school.

Option evening for years 10 and 11-Wednesday 12th June

Level 2 trip Sunday 30th June - Wednesday 3rd July

Whole School Day out  
Monday 15th July

Presentation Day and Break up for Summer - Friday 19th July

Parents Evening - Wednesday  
17th July

We have been able to welcome several visiting speakers into PSHE lessons this year. The school's PCSO, Anita King, came in to speak to Years 7, 8 and 9 about drug related topics and spoke to the Year 10s and 11s about sex and the law. In Key Stage 4 we have had some excellent workshops. Phil Knight who works for Just Enough For The Real World came in to talk about the issue of Human Trafficking. We also had three sessions run by the Hertfordshire based organisation Herts Young Homeless. In these sessions they looked at what causes homelessness, where to get help if you are in danger of becoming homeless, preparing for independent living and understanding relationship conflict.

Social Skills Update: Over the current term we have been developing communication and group cohesion by undertaking a series of team building tasks. At first the boys struggled to get to grips with the demands of the exercises.



However as the term has progressed so have they, with some truly outstanding results.

**Enrichment Tea Party** - As part of a three week enrichment project 3 students worked together to plan, shop and cater for a tea party for invited guests. Week one was spent working together to agree on the recipes they could achieve successfully within the time they had to cook and present their chosen product. Invitations were made by the students and sent out to prospective guests. Week two consisted of a shopping trip whereby the students were in charge of budgeting and looking for the freshest products. Some items had to be purchased nearer the time for safety.



Week three was the big event and all three boys worked incredibly hard to produce chocolate chip cookies, strawberry shortcakes with fresh cream and strawberries, frosted cupcakes and dainty sandwiches. When the guests arrived they were looked after by the students and made to feel welcome. Overall it was a lovely afternoon for all involved. Well done to S. McAteer, B. Carter and B. Bray. Great job.

At the end of the Spring term parents and carers were invited to join us for a Musical Celebration. Visitors were welcomed with fair trade refreshments. All the cakes and biscuits had been prepared by the boys within Food Technology lessons. A number of groups performed pieces that they had been rehearsing either as part of their timetabled lessons or during lunchtime activities. A large number of staff and students contributed in various ways to help create a successful event.

This half term we wanted to provide further opportunities for the boys to perform in front of others. In a music assembly we heard a number of individuals performing pieces, a lovely composition written by a Year 11 student and finished with an excellent group performance of 'Stan' by Eminem. With several potential bands forming we look forward to more performances in the future.

### Creative Arts Day

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May a group of students were chosen to attend a Creative Arts Day. There were a number of professional artists and musicians who performed and talked about their work, including Phillip Griffiths from Phantom of the Opera and daytime TV presenter Will Gowing. The boys got an opportunity to hear and look close up at a number of instruments that they would not normally get to see including a harp, timpani and instruments from around the world. In the afternoon the boys took part in song writing, art and drumming

workshops. Our group finished the day by giving a very confident performance of the song they had written.



We were lucky enough to get a visit from Vision 4 Growth. They are from an organisation for blind tennis players. Our pupils were able to watch two blind and partially sighted people play tennis and then take part themselves.

