



# Buile Hill High School Newsletter



Dear parents, carers and students,

On behalf of all the staff and student body I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents, carers and students for continuing to support the aim of the school in raising its profile within the community by continuing to wear school uniform as it should be worn. I would like to remind parents that hooded tops are banned from being worn to school. Pupils may wear a dark coloured outdoor coat which must be removed when inside the school building. I would also ask parents to support our drive in the New Year to ensure that students arrive at school ready to work with a bag and essential equipment, homework diary and completed homework. Again, we are impressed this year by the improving standard in this area and wish to maintain it in the New Year.

Students who attend school and work hard achieve their potential and on leaving Buile Hill can access Higher Education, university and the world of work. It is, however, a recognized fact that poor attendance reduces life chances. Students with attendance below 90% are less likely to achieve 5 A\*-C grades at GCSE than students with the same ability who attend regularly. School attendance has improved this term and is running at the highest for many years. Thank you. Please consider carefully in the future when keeping your child off school and if they are really ill send them back into school as soon as they are well enough even if it is on a Friday as each day counts towards academic achievement.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. This has been a very busy term at Buile Hill as we have settled into our new building and enjoy the benefits of a new learning environment.

On your behalf I would like to thank all the staff and students for their hard work and efforts this term.

December 2008

On a final note, students will break up for the Christmas holiday on Friday 19th December. Pupils will be dismissed at 12.00 pm but the canteen will be open until 12.30 pm for any pupils who would like to have their lunch before they leave school. School re-opens on TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY 2009.

Mrs. W. O'Neill, Headteacher

The Headteacher holds a 'surgery' in her office every Monday from 3.00 pm—5.00 pm for any parents who would like to discuss any concerns they may have with their child. Please contact the school to make an appointment.



## Staff news—farewell and welcome!



At the end of this term we say goodbye to Mrs. Allen, Head of ICT. Mrs. Allen has made an outstanding contribution to achievement in ICT at Buile Hill. She will be starting a new promoted post in Wigan in January and we wish her all the best.



We welcome Mr. Simcox as the new Head of ICT and Mr. Pyzchowski as a permanent member of staff in ICT from January.



Mrs. Price will be going on maternity leave at the end of December and we wish her good luck with her new baby. Mr. Carney will replace Mrs. Price in the Art Department until she returns from maternity leave.

## Buile Hill High School December 2008 Newsletter

Fundraising and charities:



**Children in Need**

A group of Year 11 girls raised £130.00 for Children In Need. All pupils were asked to wear an item of neon clothing. Thank you girls!

Mrs. Gillaspy, our Learning Resource Centre Manager, is working with a group of pupils who are making Christmas cards and selling them. The proceeds are being donated to Christie's Hospital Young Oncology Unit in memory of a former student, Wasif Khan, who sadly passed away earlier this year. Wasif was a lovely young man who is fondly remembered by many staff and students.



'Pennies for Pixie' - Pixie is Mr. Fielding's guide dog who has been in school since October. Mr. Fielding is a Teaching Assistant and says that Pixie has settled into school really well and the students are very sensible when they see her on the corridors. The Learning Support Unit have done lots of fundraising for Guide Dogs for the Blind over the past few years and we are continuing this by picking up pennies that have been dropped on the corridor and putting them in a box which is kept at main reception. Then the box is full the money will be donated to the Guide Dogs.

### DATES TO REMEMBER! 2008 - 2009



22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2008 – 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2009	CHRISTMAS BREAK
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2009	Term begins
16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2009	HALF TERM
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2009	Back to school
6 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2009	SPRING HOLIDAY
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2009	Term begins
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	MAY DAY
25 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	HALF TERM
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2009	Back to school
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2009	School Closure Day
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2009	End of Summer Term
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2009	School Closure Day

## Buile Hill High School December 2008 Newsletter



### High School Musical comes to Buile Hill!

When Ms. Gibbons and Mrs. Closs started at "Buile Hill High School" in September, they had no idea how much talent was hiding in the school. They wanted to encourage and inspire the younger members of our community to perform, and in turn, allow them the opportunity to shine.

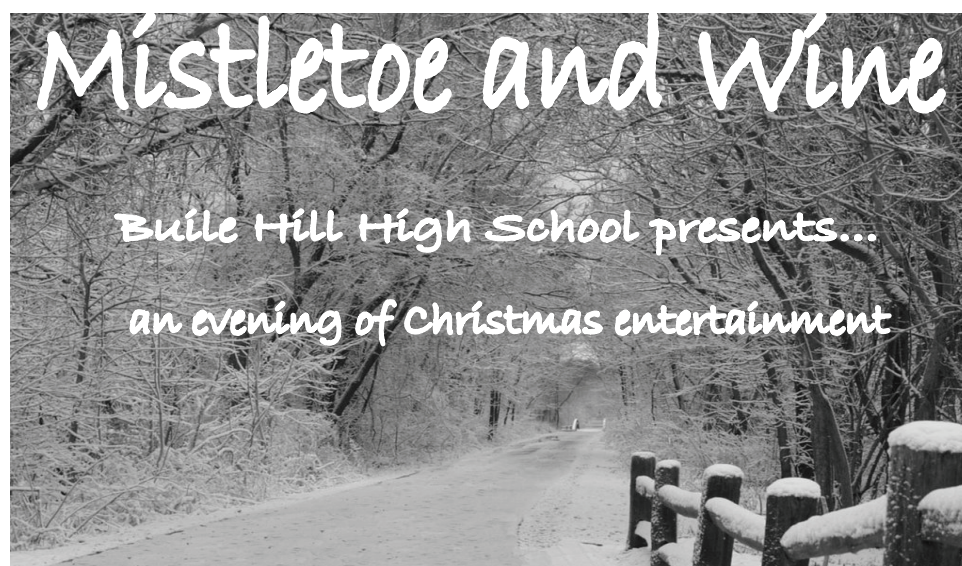
All the students involved, worked tirelessly over the past six weeks to produce the show. Actors and actresses, and backstage crew put in over a hundred hours of rehearsal time, after school and during their weekends to put on a performance of the highest standard.

There were two performances. Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December saw some technical problems, but by the Tuesday performance, they were "cooking on gas." If this was the performance you came to, you would also have seen Mrs. Closs and Ms. Gibbons joining in with the final dance number, and dancing around badly on stage!

After coming off stage, before the lights had even gone down, they were asked by several members of the cast "when's the next show Miss?" Thus was their excitement!

Several days later, now we have had some sleep, Ms. Gibbons and Mrs. Closs are accepting ideas and suggestions from our young people for our next show. Ideas so far have included "Little Shop of Horrors", "Return to the Forbidden Planet" and "The Grinch."

Rehearsals are now underway for our Christmas Show, "Mistletoe and Wine", an evening of song and dance which will take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £3 which includes a glass of wine and a mince pie.



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Well done to our Year 11 students who, for the first time, sat early GCSE exams in November in English and Maths. We wish them well for their results in January. At the time of writing this newsletter, Year 11 students are sitting their mock GCSEs in preparation for the real exams in May/June 2009. Also, Year 9 students are having intensive art lessons as they are being early entered for their GCSE art exams.

School Christmas Disco for Years 7, 8 & 9

Monday 15th December 2008

7.00 pm—9.00 pm

in the school hall

Tickets are £2.00 each from Mrs. Offord



There will be a Key Stage 4 Attendance Forum for invited parents on Monday 15th December @ 3pm in The Learning Resource Centre. If you have been invited to attend, please make every effort to do so. Thank you.

### Enterprise Project:

**Five Year 10 pupils worked on the 'Make your Mark' Enterprise project on 17th & 18th November.**

**The pupils responded to the brief in a mature fashion and they worked together as a team devising an exciting project. They worked with the Salford Business Enterprise Partnership who were delighted with the work and their behaviour. The pupils were:**

- ★ Chris Winstone
- ★ Gentiana Braha
- ★ Lee Pollard
- ★ Adam Cowie
- ★ Sarah Gorey

Thank you to all the form tutors who make a real effort to get the pupils involved in the Enterprise challenges.

### School Governors

Governors play a very important role in the life of our school. They meet as a whole governing body each term and then meet as sub-committees where they focus on specific issues every term. Our Governors are:

Ms. K. Mahil - Chairman

Mr. B. Grew - Acting Vice Chairman

Mrs. W. O'Neill - Headteacher

Mr. L. Turner - Community Governor

Mr. S. Parkes - Parent Governor

Ms. S. Haynes - Parent Governor

Mrs. I. Jablonska - Parent Governor

Mrs. G. Norman - Parent Governor

Mr. N. Sardar - Parent Governor

Mrs. M. Cheadle - Staff Governor

Mr. T. Grimshaw - Staff Governor

If you are interested in being involved in the Governing Body as a parent governor of the school, please contact Mrs. Freeman, the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, on 0161 921 1314.

# Buile Hill High School December 2008 Newsletter

## News from the PE Department

Pupils have been representing the school all term in a number of after school activities.

The girls' netball teams are doing extremely well. Years 7, 8 and 9 have only lost one of their games and Years 10 and 11 have won all of their matches so far.

The boys' rugby teams have also been successful. Years 7 and 9 finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in their tournament and Year 9 were also runners up in Division 1. Year 11's have only lost one match but still finished top of Division 2.

The Year 9 boys' rugby team have qualified to compete in the English school tournament. They won their first round game against Higher Side School in Prescot and have now been drawn against Cowley High School from St Helens.

Both the boys and girls have been competing in football matches all term and the Year 7 and 11 boys are still unbeaten.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> November 4 girls and 4 boys from each year group represented the school in the annual Salford School Cross Country event. All the pupils ran really well and the year 7 boys finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in their team event.

There have been a number of extra curricular sessions running all term and these will continue after Christmas. We would really like to see more pupils attending and having fun. So even if you don't want to play for the school team, but want to come along, you are more than welcome.

Monday Evening - Step Aerobics for Years 9, 10, 11 and staff in the activity studio. Year 7's rugby practice.

Tuesday Evening - Girls football practice Years 7 to 11. All team players need to attend training. Netball and rugby matches. Rhythmic gymnastics for all year groups in the activity studio.

Wednesday Evening - Netball practice for Years 7 to 11. All team players need to attend training. Girls football matches at the sports village. Rugby matches.

Thursday Evening - Indoor Cricket for all year groups. Trampolining for Years 7, 8 and 9. Dance for all year groups in the activity studio.

Friday Evening - Staff Badminton in the sports hall and Horse Riding.



## Christmas Dinner

The canteen will be serving Christmas Dinner on Tuesday 16th December!

## Buile Hill High School December 2008 Newsletter

Year 9 pupils took part in a 'Diversity' workshop over 3 days. The workshop was organised by the BEST team.

Living in a diverse society we should learn to respect those different from ourselves. We are often quick to judge others based on skin colour, dress code, body image, height, age, sexuality and disability; but should we really do this? With this in mind BEST devised a whole class approach to addressing these issues. The Diversity Programme BEST used In Buile High consisted of 3 x one hour sessions that set out to enhance pupils awareness and knowledge of topics around diversity. One session looked at **Stereotypes, Discrimination & Prejudices** another session looked at **Racism** and in the third session looked at **Homophobia**. Each topic is discussed and pupils are then given the opportunity to express their thoughts and opinions and develop a wider understanding of diversity. Pupils are made aware through activities and discussion that we live in a diverse society and should therefore be open to understanding and appreciating all members of our society and value the important contributions they make.

The staff and students enjoyed the programme of work and the reports from everyone were very positive. The BEST team have been extremely pleased with the response from Year 9 that they are keen to come back again.



### Year 7

There is a real buzz around Buile Hill at the moment and some very exciting events are taking place to support the learners in our school. On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December all Year 7 students took part in a two hour enterprise session based on the theme 'Zoo'. Buile Hill staff and students worked along side Vicki Winstanley from the BEP to deliver a very successful creative day. The aim of the morning was to enhance communication, literacy, and vocabulary. Team work was a key element as was the development of mathematical and organisational skills. The task for students was to work in groups of five forming their own company; they were given an area of land by a local zoo to design a new enclosure. Each group had to create an exciting animal to attract new visitors to the zoo, planning the event opening of the enclosure and keep to a budget! All participants worked independently giving each other a role in their company and playing to their strengths. Towards the end of the session they presented their companies ideas to one another. The day was a great success and other similar events have been planned for the future.

In addition, on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December Year 7 went thinking mad! Again working together as a year group they learnt about Edward De Bono's Thinking Hats. We use Thinking Hats to 'force' us to analyse situations in different ways. Students developed memory techniques and then were given a problem to solve in their teams. Using



only newspaper and cellotape they had to build a free standing tower that would withstand the weight of a whiteboard pen. After they had discussed the scenario they came up with a plan and had 15 minutes to construct their tower! Once they had completed the task the evaluation took place using the Thinking Hats where they decided what went well, what problems they encountered and how they felt throughout the experience to name just three! They will be seeing the Hats more regularly from now on in lessons where staff will be providing even more opportunities to develop their thinking further using the Hats! We were joined by a photographer from the Salford Advertiser so keep your eyes on the newspaper – we will be getting a mention in the near future!

**Vertical Tutoring**—in January we will be arranging a number of consultation events with staff and students about how we organise students within school. We are looking to develop a house system and a programme of vertical tutoring whereby students meet in the morning in mixed year groups. Please look out for consultation documents that will be sent home mid January via your child.