



Our fantastic fundraisers



Our Sixth Form “Team Pudsey” pulled on their yellow onesies to lead a fundraising day for both Children in Need and The Bulwell Academy’s chosen charity, the Bestwood & Bulwell Foodbank.

The day was well supported by students and their families with donations of tinned food, jars of sauce, pasta rice and cereals for the Foodbank and pennies to spend on the many activities organised by the Sixth Formers for break-times.

Students brought cash to spend on our ever-popular cake sale, raffles and competitions. There was also the opportunity to “soak-the-teacher” with staff in stocks ready to receive the wet sponges vigorously thrown by youngsters in front of a cheering audience.

Mr Orridge, Year 8 Manager, challenged his students to raise money to have his head shaved. Francis, Oskar and Marley took on the challenge at the start of the day and raised £140 by break-time.

The clippers came out and Mr Orridge accepted his fate at the mercy of the boys’ trembling hands! Luckily Mr Lowther made his way through the gathering crowd and came to his rescue to ensure Mr Orridge looked as smart as ever, although slightly more hairless.

The efforts of the school raised £1200 for the two charities along with copious amounts of food that were delivered to the Foodbank to provide a lifeline to families in need in the community.



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Message from the Principal



The run-up to Christmas is a busy time of the year but it is worth us all pausing and reflecting on a successful term.

Changes continue to be made as we strive to raise achievement and expectations of our students.

Year 11, in particular, deserve a good break at Christmas having had their mocks. My staff

and I are confident results will improve – the students need to believe in themselves.

We hope the mock Results Day boosted their confidence and highlighted where work still needs to be done.

In the New Year, revision classes for our Year 11s will step up. We ask parents and carers to encourage their children to make the most of these opportunities.

Parental support is not just about students' learning. We appreciate the efforts made on uniform and we need to keep up those smart appearances.

Attendance is improving but work remains to be done. I'd also like to thank students and parents for their cooperation on our new mobile phone policy: see it, hear it, confiscate it.

We expect the best from everybody, staff and students.

Our three core values underpin everything we do – respect, responsibility and resilience. We have focused on the first two this term and the importance of resilience will be looked at in January. We will revisit all three towards the end of the school year.

I come back to another key word – belief. We believe in our students. They are doing some fantastic things, whether it is in the classroom, on the sports field or on the stage. Our Star Student awards are evidence.

Students need to believe in themselves and what they can achieve as an individual, in a team or as part of our school community.

Finally, I would like to wish students, parents, staff, governors and the wider school community a happy Christmas and peaceful and healthy New Year.

Mrs M Strong
Principal



Positive learning

Young Dedicated Students is the name chosen by Year 11 to create a positive identity for its learning community.

A dedicated Revision Week saw Year 11 receive practical advice and tips, free Revision Guides and a free stationery pack to help organise notes.

Mrs Strong, Principal, said: "This has been such an important week for our Year 11s. There is now a positive buzz about learning and exams. It shows that our Year 11s really care and want to do well."

As our Year 11s prepared for their mock exams, Mrs Strong reminded younger students of the importance of good behaviour in lessons and how this will contribute towards their future qualifications.

"Lessons are for learning. Those students who are working hard and want to get it right will be the happier ones on Results Day in the future.

Everyone needs to take responsibility for their own learning and behaviours. Even the best of you can improve. Let's be amazing!"

Magical math-magicians!

Our Year 8 students are very good at teaching maths. They had the opportunity to showcase their teaching skills at the Year 5 'Magical Maths' event.

Under the expert wand of chief math-magician, Mr Hayton, Year 8 helped younger students from local primary schools get to grips with mathematical problems. Our young guests quickly realised there was no real magic to maths, just logical answers.

Mr Hayton & his magical helpers with Rufford Primary students



School of choice

A record-breaking number of families from catchment primary schools and further afield attended The Bulwell Academy's Open Evening.

Parents left feeling positive with questions answered and able to make that important decision about whether the Academy is the right choice for their child.

Mrs Strong said: "It was an exceptionally busy evening. I was inundated with questions from parents about our GCSE results, how we develop and encourage learning, and challenge their child."

"Parents were concerned about the possibility of their child not being given a place – the tide is certainly changing, and The Bulwell Academy is becoming a school of choice for lots of parents."

Grand designers



Winning trio

Year 7 enjoyed a day of design, exploring how pattern, shape and structure are connected.

The young engineers enjoyed learning in a creative way - using their research of iconic structures such as Tower Bridge, the Shard and the Eiffel Tower - to help them design and build a strong freestanding tower using only card, paper, plastic and some basic cutting and sticking.

The day culminated in presentations of the winning designs from each tutor group to a panel of Year 11 judges.

In the style of 'Dragon's Den', the judges asked the young engineers some gruelling and critical questions before whittling the designs down to runners up and the winning team.

The ultimate "grand design" was not the tallest structure but the smallest. The panel chose it for its simple, neat, symmetrical, rigid design and for the excellent teamwork demonstrated by the winning trio - Kian, Kayden and Oliver.

There were some fabulous ideas with some impressive final structures.

Success rewarded

The Celebrate Success Rewards Evening is one of the highlights of the summer term when special recognition is given to those students who demonstrate the Academy's vision to 'Expect the Best'.

PE Ashton Hazell Award



Ayleal has impressed everyone with his sporting prowess. Ayleal shines when playing sport and coaching others. He proudly

represented Bermuda in the Under 17 CONCACAF World Cup qualifying tournament this year.

Sixth Form Student of the Year



Evandro moved into top gear in his final year, becoming Head Boy and achieving a triple distinction in Level 3 Business. After

finally achieving a grade 5 in GCSE English, Evandro is now studying Business at Nottingham Trent University.

Young Citizen of the Year Award



Jac is an exemplary 'academy citizen'. He has excellent attendance; a positive, can-do attitude; and is always ready for a

challenge, operating a highly successful business - Sweet Success - which was a regular offering at our summer fair, Christmas festivities and community projects.

Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award



One of the youngest ever winners of this award, Shannon is not only hardworking and popular, she is the Academy's very best cake maker and

a savvy saleswoman, offering amazing cupcakes, biscuits, sweet treats and weighty cakes for the Academy's many fundraising activities.

Trailblazer of the Year Award

Zane joined the Academy in Year 8 and after toning down his attitude, he has emerged into a mature, polite, respectful, hardworking role model.



He made it through to the final six in the CET's Public Speaking competition and has demonstrated the maturity and leadership that inspires teachers.

Principal's Special Recognition Award



Laura is admired for her determination to succeed, her maturity towards others and her exceptional kindness.

She is popular with staff and peers alike – and deserved to be Prom Queen after coaching revision study groups and leading the Year 11 Prom Committee. Laura's excellent results were no surprise – 4 grade 9s, 3 grade 8s and a Distinction* as well as achieving an A* in A level Art two years early.

Achievement stars



Katie receives Star Student Awards

Students were reminded to be the best version of themselves at all times when they returned in the autumn.

Mrs Strong said: "Those who put in the hard work now will reap the rewards in the future. Learning won't always be easy, but it will be worth the hard work in the end."

At the end of the first term, Mrs Strong led a week of Achievement assemblies to reward students who had worked exceptionally hard.

"It was a pleasure to see the looks of surprise on many students' faces," she said. "The students should be very proud of what they have achieved, and I hope that, as the year progresses, many more will take responsibility for their learning and push themselves to achieve well."



Star Student, Scott

Every picture tells a story



A Day at the Opera: The CET rewarded singing ambassadors - Year 9's Angel, Mia, Leaona and Kayla - with tickets for Don Giovanni at the Royal Opera House, London.

Keep on running: Year 12's John shows off his medal after completing the Nottingham Robin Hood Half Marathon and raising money for Cancer Research.



Creative young writers: Mrs Strong awarded budding writers with certificates and shopping vouchers for their impressive entries to a short-story competition. Creative Writing Club takes place on Tuesdays after school.

Think Forward: Beatriz and Rebecca from Year 10 enjoyed making macaroons at a catering and hospitality taster session at Nottingham College.



Trophy winners: Efforts to champion girls' football paid off when the under 16s team won the Nottinghamshire Schools' FA outdoor 5-a-side tournament, bringing home the trophy and gold medals.

Bulwell at Wembley: Team Bulwell caught the bus to Wembley to join a record-breaking crowd and cheer on England's women in a friendly against Germany.



Getting creative: Year 10s used the latest technology to produce music, film and gaming material at Confetti College's inspiring Creative Industry Workshops.

Bulwell Live: Year 11 BTEC Music students delighted parents by putting on a show for part of their coursework. Mrs Strong was amazed by the performances and had little idea of the hidden talents!





#HelloYellow

When young people's mental health charity, Young Minds, announced its #HelloYellow campaign for World Mental Health Day, our Sixth Form could not wait to get on board and show their support to young people coping with mental health issues.

They brought a burst of sunshine and raised plenty of smiles in our courtyard with their wacky photo booth, splashes of yellow, fun props and a massive chicken head!

The Sixth Formers also created their own self-help tips for mental well-being and printed some helpful resources for handing out to students.



Winning smiles from Lewis, Rosa, Zane and Jack

Mental health presentation wins prize

Congratulations to sixth formers Lewis, Rosa, Zane and Jack whose thought-provoking presentation on mental health won a major prize.

The foursome beat five other teams from sixth forms across the Creative Education Trust with their presentation "Speculating on mental health".

Students researched and developed a campaign, service or product that had the potential to improve their community.

The Bulwell Academy team produced a video clip and presented their research identifying the need for awareness, communication and support of those struggling with mental health, focusing on males.

Following their win in London, they were given an opportunity to visit the London College of Communication and CALM, 'campaign against living miserably', a leading front-line service against suicide.

Congratulating the team, Mrs Strong said: "We are proud of their achievements. They took on a difficult topic and I know the judges were most impressed with their research and findings."

People get ready!

Mr Cook and Sixth Form students, Alex and Zane, had an inspiring day at the annual CET Public Speaking Competition at the Northampton Guild Hall.

This year's topic was "People Get Ready!" and Zane represented The Bulwell Academy superbly with his confident and passionate speech around the issues surrounding Climate Change.

Zane received some remarkable feedback from the judging panel, praising his dramatic delivery, his passion for the subject and his use of statistics to emphasise his thought-provoking points.

Unfortunately, Zane did not return home with the trophy, but he did win the admiration from the crowd. It was a fantastic effort all round.



Inspiring women of tomorrow

25 Year 8 girls attended celebrations to mark the 10th anniversary of Ada Lovelace Day, which recognises women's achievements in science, technology, engineering and maths.

Ada Lovelace was the world's first computer programmer and is one of Nottinghamshire's most celebrated women. Since 2009, her achievements have been remembered and used to promote the many and varied roles of women in STEM.

The girls visited Boots' headquarters at MediCity, Nottingham, for an exciting opportunity to interact with, and be inspired by, women in industry from Rolls-Royce, Twycross Zoo, Royal Army Veterinary Corps and more.

Students enjoyed a range of hands-on activities including designing and making a rocket and finding out what it's like to carry an Army vet's heavy rucksack. Caitlin also experienced being in front of the camera when she was interviewed by ITV Central News.



Stand to attention!



The Army took over Geography to show Year 9 students its usefulness in the wider world.

Mr Matthews' and Mr Turner's students worked with Lieutenant Colonel Spiers and WO2 Hancock of The 7th Infantry Brigade, aka 'The Desert Rats'.

At 09:00 hours sharp, the students were told the British Army needed urgent research on the Central African Republic to help it prepare for going into the country to offer aid and support.

The group commanders and second in command led their groups in creating a briefing on topics about the country, including its terrain, infrastructure, climate and health care. All students in the regiment returned to HQ (Mr Matthews' room) and gave their briefing to the senior commanders.

The students were a credit to the school and impressed our two visitors with their detailed briefings.

The students learned a wide range of skills including how to talk in front of people, vital for their future career plans. It was a fitting way to mark the upcoming act of remembrance.

Keep on walking

Year 10's Team DofE completed their Bronze Expedition at Keswick in the Lake District.

Following their practice expedition at Coniston, the 14 students returned to the Lakes for more camping, cooking, orienteering and lots of team work.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award, which also includes volunteering and physical elements, gives students an edge over others when applying for college, university or a job.

It provides them with confidence and evidence of the 'soft skills' that employers are looking for – communication, commitment, leadership and teamwork.

With the DofE Bronze under their belt, these students are improving their chances for the future and will now go on to take part in the Silver Award.

The selection process has now begun for a new Team DofE from Year 9, who will begin their practice expeditions in the Peak District in April.





Key dates 2020

For all key dates, please refer to the website

Tuesday 7 January: Back to School

Thursday 16 January: Year 9 Options Evening

Thursday 6 February: Year 9 Parents' Evening

Half-Term: Monday 17 to Friday 21 February

Thursday 27 February: Careers Fair & Forward-Thinking Evening (Years 10 to 13)

Monday 9 to Friday 13 March: Sport Relief

Easter Break: Monday 6 to Friday 17 April

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Day to remember

The entire school stood in the bitter cold to observe a two-minute silence as part of The Bulwell Academy Remembrance Service.

Angel, from Year 9, opened the service with an eloquent recital of a war poem, followed by a stunning a capella performance of Abide with Me from Jaydene in Year 8.

Music teacher, Mr Williams, blew the crowd away with his bugle, playing The Last Post, before the school stood with heads bowed at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 2019.



Mrs Strong was “extremely proud” of the way everyone conducted themselves and was delighted with the outstanding performances of our young students, making it a day to remember.

Lest we forget

Year 8 students were invited to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire to take part in the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance.

Students took part in many activities and had a guided tour, visiting some of the 350 thought-provoking memorials each with a story to be shared. For example, the sculpture of the Wounded Soldier (below)

shows a serviceman being carried by comrades as family members look on in pain and anguish, bearing silent witness to the cost of armed conflict to those left behind.

Students also met a Blitz survivor and asked questions about his experiences and of being evacuated from his home in Birmingham.

At the end of the day, students took part in a moving act of remembrance to commemorate the losses of the First and Second World Wars and all conflicts since 1945.



On the steps of the Arboretum



The Wounded Soldier