

Bruton School for Girls

Newsletter

Spring 2011

Arts Week

Music, dance, poetry and creative writing were all on the menu for this year's Arts Week. Girls took part in drama and music workshops on Monday and Tuesday was Film Character Day. Everyone indulged their cinematic fantasies in costumes ranging from the Pink Ladies of Grease to Fantastic Mr. Fox. Fabulous fairy wings were created by Form 1 girls and GCSE students benefited from a workshop with a performance poet. On our Spanish-themed day paella and tortilla were on the lunch menu whilst Flamenco workshops produced a lot of foot-stamping. Kate Maryon, author of the books 'Glitter' and 'Shine' visited the school on Thursday to lead a workshop on character formation and settings for novels. In the Big Draw, Form 2 created some fantastic group artwork and the week was rounded off by staff competing in 'Just a Minute' and girls in the Bruton X-Factor.



Meanwhile in the Prep School, Arts Week took the theme of Myths and Legends. The week began with a whole school trip to Stourhead where staff and pupils performed in the Apollo Temple. A huge array of talent was on display in the Music Festival with vocal and instrumental performances from all year groups. Wednesday was costume day with children dressing as characters from myths and legends. The week was rounded off with a visit from a storyteller and the Friday Showcase where Pupils performed their own dramatic pieces inspired by myths and legends. More photos of Arts Week appear inside....



BRUTON SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS

From the Headmaster

To be inspected can be an unnerving process, particularly in prospect, but we at the school were delighted to receive such a positive report following Ofsted's visit in January. To have official confirmation of the high standard of our boarding provision is wonderful and I thank and congratulate all my colleagues and particularly the boarding staff on this achievement. The full text of the report was emailed to parents and is available on the school's website.

Publication of the government's performance tables confirmed our position as a high-achieving school in academic terms, all the more impressive given an all-ability intake. Last summer's A level results were particularly strong and to have bettered the national average in the new English Baccalaureate measure by almost five times was another highlight.

You will be able to read in these pages of numerous other successes. For instance congratulations must go to the Form 2 Public Speaking team on their success in the Rotary Club's competition and to Georgie Fox who performed well in the national final of the Cranmer Awards.

Arts Weeks and Science Week provided opportunities for pupils of all ages – and some of the teachers – to try and enjoy something different. The Joint Schools' Concert was wonderfully entertaining and enabled girls to

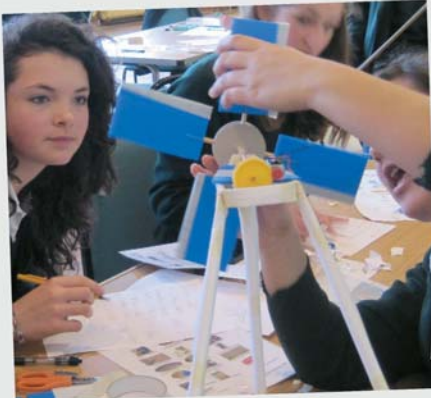
perform challenging pieces in an enlarged orchestra and choir, as well as providing a platform for the talents of soloist Georgie Hayman, singing one of her own compositions, and the senior choir; all these items wowed the audience.

The Joybells team has been working hard to raise funds and awareness ahead of this summer's sixth form expedition to work at the school and orphanage in northern India, and the efforts of the Eco Squad have been rewarded by the school's second prestigious Green Flag.

Next term, as well as the inevitable examinations, we can look forward to the exciting Sound of Music production and to Speech Day and the PSA Ball. Life at Bruton School for Girls is packed with opportunities and we shall continue to encourage the girls to seize them.

With best wishes from Di and me

Science Week



Form 3 made
Wind Turbines



Delicious ice-creams were made using
liquid nitrogen in
"The Science of Ice-cream"



Form 4 made soap



A chance to see a Hovercraft in action
before building and racing their own
mini versions



The finished product-
pink soap!

Biological Models

The Forms 1 and 2 Biological Models competition produced well-designed and creative models showing mammalian organs or systems. The overall winner was Lottie Hotson for a pancreas model and the following girls were highly commended for their magnificent efforts: Sade Oram, Rhian Rees, Emily Rigg, Alice Healey and Hannah Cole. The student vote went to Eliza Robertson who produced a very detailed internal view of the heart.



Music & Drama

Joint Schools Concert

The annual Joint Schools' Concert was hosted by Bruton School for Girls on the 1st of March. The concert began with some excellent performances by the Bruton Primary School choir and band. The three senior schools then took turns to perform two pieces each. The school was ably represented by Georgina Hayman, performing her song "Run Home", while the Senior Choir performed an accapella version of "Valerie". Later all three senior schools combined to perform an amusing song by Rutter ("The Banquet Fugue"); followed by a memorable massed finale featuring choristers and instrumentalists giving a rendition of the famous "Zadok the Priest".

Soul Band Charity Gig

For most of us, the 10th March was to mark our final soul band concert so we were determined to make it our best. Accompanied by a new superb guitarist, brilliant drummer and state of the art microphones we all felt that the concert went superbly well. We started with the classic 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough' and sang a mixture of new material as well as some old. Performing an encore of 'Sweet Home Alabama' ended the evening perfectly, with everyone clapping along and both the audience and performers smiling. Plus making over £45 for the Martha Care Trust in Shepton Mallet - the evening really could not have gone any better!

Imogen Clayton U6

Spring Recital

There were a number of high-quality performances at the Spring Recital. Special mention must go to Tara Hunt and Flora McLaren for their confident performance of "All that jazz" from "Chicago"; to Emily Yuan for a sensitive performance of a Faure piano Romance; and to Jennifer Mok and Sonia Hui for their performance of Le Lac, an original composition by the talented duo.

Forthcoming Events...

The Memory of Water

Lower Sixth Drama students perform the comedy by English playwright Shelagh Stephenson as well as a presentation of Monologues on Friday 20th May in the Hobhouse Theatre.

Alice in Wonderland

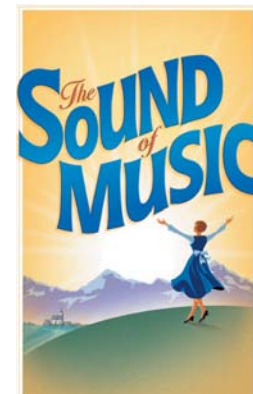
See the Mad Hatter, Queen of Hearts, Cheshire Cat and of course, Alice in this classic story performed by the Preparatory School on Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th June in the Hobhouse Theatre.

Pictured are Harriet Bennett and Bea Thomas who will share the role of Alice.



Sound of Music

Rehearsals are underway for the final production of the year in what is shaping up to be one of Bruton's best. Tickets will be available in May and it is bound to be a sell-out! Performances will be on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th June in the Main Hall.

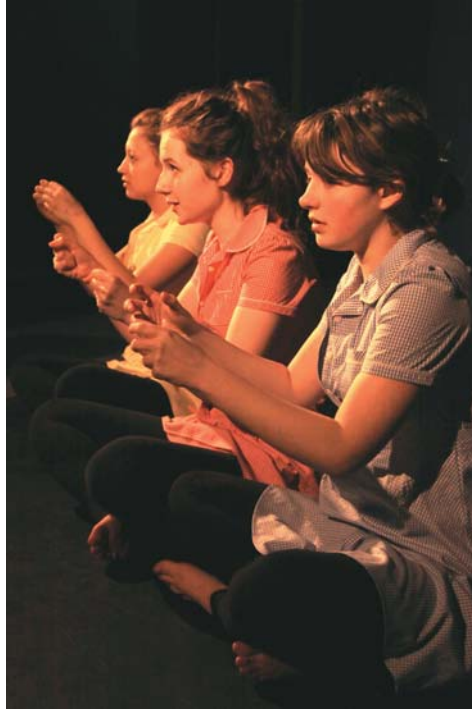


Marbles

A Level students performed a spine-tingling Victorian thriller entitled 'Marbles' in the Hobhouse Studio Theatre. The harrowing play which was produced and performed by the students themselves recounted the story of a married couple called Jack and Eliza. With resonances of the famous Ingrid Bergman film 'Gaslight', Jack and Eliza's marriage was terrifyingly portrayed through Jo Wright's vulnerability as the victim of Jack's perverse amusement, as he systematically attempts to convince her of her insanity. The violence and mental abuse within the marriage, although difficult to watch, was sensitively and imaginatively portrayed.



Images from the GCSE Drama performance of "Find Me" on Friday 25th March



Sport

Ski Trip

This year's Ski Trip returned to Mayrhofen in Austria. 52 pupils enjoyed some of the best skiing conditions of the season. Although the temperature hit -15°C the fresh snow meant the skiing was fantastic. Girls received ski lessons each day, had the chance to try out ice-skating and enjoyed an unexpected visit to a Christmas Market.



Netball

The girls have had some excellent results this term in both the Senior and the Prep School. Senior School results of note were the 1st VII beating Sherborne Girls and a winning weekend against Leweston with nearly all our teams triumphant in all age groups. The U12s have worked together particularly well as a team and should be proud of their efforts this term.



News

Leiths

A record seventeen students completed the Leiths School of Food and Wine. During the course the girls have produced high standards of cuisine, learnt about taste and organised complicated menus and hospitality. Congratulations to all the girls who completed the course in particular Camilla Barlow, Cordelia Francis and Kathryn Graham who achieved a First Class pass and Georgie Steele, who received a Distinction and was awarded a Leiths Cookery book in recognition of her achievement.



Joybells

The Joybells Team have been busy raising funds for their trip to India this summer to work at the orphanage. The girls will work with orphaned and destitute children, educating them in English. A car wash was set up on two Saturdays this term with bacon rolls also available. On Friday 4th March students held a dinner with fantastic food provided by our Leiths students. The Prep School also held a cake sale to raise funds and in total over £850 was collected.



Democracy Day

A team of Form 3 girls finished second in the South Somerset District Council's Democracy Day competition. The team of Imogen Bance, Georgina Chadfield, Becky Cole, Ellie Dubuisson, Georgina Dunk, Megan Hatt, Lucia Johnson, Olivia Kayes, Louisa Marsh, Abigail Pitchforth, Julia Robbins and Imogen Thornhill faced the challenging task of setting a balanced budget for SSDC for the next financial year. The girls presented their budget to the audience of school teams, councillors and council staff. Presentations were judged on their content and creativity.

Chinese New Year

Arts and Crafts for Chinese New Year



Green Flag

The Eco Squad has been rewarded for all its hard work in promoting sustainable living by being awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag for the second time. Girls have carried out a number of projects over the last 12 months which impressed Eco-Schools inspectors including surveys of water and electricity wastage, supporting a gardening club in the school grounds, recycling phones and creating reusable notepads for use in the school.



Youth Speaks

Congratulations to Form 2 girls Olivia Bishop, Georgie Lewis and Harriet Sheves, for their impressive performance in the District Final of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition. Despite excellent contributions from Georgie in the chair, Harriet as main speaker and Olivia as proposer of the vote of thanks, they were disappointed in their bid to go further. Nonetheless, they are to be congratulated for a great demonstration of confidence and public speaking skills in a competition that set high standards.



Standing Tall

The whole of the Sixth Form were honoured to have a brilliant workshop with the women from "Standing Tall". This workshop was to help us look and feel confident and to battle nervous reactions when put in stressful situations such as a job interview or a hot date! It was great fun and we gained much advice for the future. Thank you to the inspirational women from "Standing Tall".

Sophie Weston and Jo Wright, U6



UCAS HE Convention

The whole Lower Sixth travelled to Exeter to the UCAS Higher education convention to explore possibilities for their future studies at university, drama or music school or agricultural college. They grilled student ambassadors and admission tutors about course content, student life and how their graduates fare in the jobs market. Seminars were available on studying in London, studying for Maths, Science and Technology degrees and studying in Scotland. The day served to crystallise many ideas, to develop plans for the future and open some minds about possibilities for the next stage of education.

Cranmer Awards

Georgina Fox of Form 4 was commended for her performance in the national Cranmer Awards this term. After winning the Bath and Wells Diocese regional contest in January, Georgina recited Psalms 146 and 148 in the Senior Section of the national competition and received a commendation.



Prep School

Arts Week

Pupils enjoying Arts Week activities



Nursery Visit to Dobbies

To coincide with reading the book 'Commotion in the Ocean' the Nursery Children took a trip to Dobbies in Shepton Mallet. In the aquarium pupils were able to get up close to colourful and exotic fish like those in the book.



@Bristol Trip

Prep 1 & 2 travelled to @Bristol to enhance their science learning. The girls were able to get hands-on with all the exhibits and there was even time for a photo opportunity in the animation exhibition with Shaun The Sheep.



Chinese New Year

Earlier this term, the Reception Class spent a day celebrating the Chinese New Year. The story of how the 12 years that make up the Chinese calendar were given their names was told, lanterns and paper dragons were made and a fantastic Chinese meal was eaten with chopsticks. The afternoon was rounded off with a dragon dance in the playground. What a wonderful day.



Animals Visit Nursery

Spring has certainly sprung in the Nursery. As part of their 'Spring' topic our youngest pupils have been visited by baby animals. The children were delighted to pet and feed a calf and lamb from William's farm and also to meet Mrs Hoskins' puppies.



People Who Help Us

The Reception class topic, People Who Help Us, offered many opportunities for visits and visitors. The topic began with a visit to the school nurse, Sister Botley and a tour of the medical centre. Reception also visited Castle Cary fire station, the highlight of which was being allowed to use the fire hose. Visits ensued from the community police officer, dentist and an ambulance. The paramedics demonstrated all their equipment and all the sirens and lights on the ambulance.



Sport

Girls have enjoyed several netball fixtures this term at U8/9, U10 and U11 age groups. Our U8/9 kicked the term off with a fantastic 9-1 victory over All Hallows. The U11s and U10s enjoyed matches against All Hallows, Charlton Mackrel, Perrott Hill and Sherborne Prep, against whom they scored a brilliant 23-3 victory. Pupils participated in an U11 netball tournament at Millfield and also our own U11 netball tournament, which was won by the Sunny Hill A team.



Shakespeare Assembly

Prep 5 wrote their own poems inspired by their English work based on Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'. The girls then presented their poems in their class assembly.



Forest Skills

In their Forest Skills sessions this term Prep 3 and Prep 4 have made lard and seed bird feeders and willow hearts as well as drinking hot chocolate around their camp fire and making mud slides!



Stonemason Visit

As part of their Science topic on Rocks and Soils, Prep 3 & 4 visited a local stonemason's workshop. Karl Friedrich of Bruton Stonemasons, set the girls a challenge to design their initials which they would carve from sandstone. Millie Gotto, said, "I felt very grown up. Not many children get to go to a stonemason's workshop. I liked it because it was a new experience and it was so much fun!" The girls learnt much about how and where stone is used throughout Bruton and about the restorative work of a stonemason.

Cheddar Gorge

Girls from Prep 5 and 6 headed to Cheddar Gorge and Caves to support their learning in Geography. Their guide explained how the limestone scenery, gorge and caves formed over four successive ice ages. The girls were thrilled to see a rare 'lesser-horseshoe bat' hanging from the domed roof of one of the chambers, and they were fascinated to see the locally made Cheddar cheese maturing in another. The girls ascended Jacob's Ladder at record speed and they even had the energy to climb the look-out tower at the top to take in the views of Glastonbury Tor, Cheddar Reservoir and The Gorge itself.



SHOGA

The annual Sunny Hill Old Girls Reunion takes place at the school on Saturday 7th May 2011. Ticket application forms can be downloaded from the school website alumnae page. We also have a school open afternoon for old girls, which takes place on Friday 6th May 2010 from 2pm – 4pm and will be an opportunity to see the school in action, meet senior staff members and enjoy a cream tea. For further information telephone 01749 81440 email: kberrington@brutonschool.co.uk

PSA Ball Fundraising

A cheque for £3,000 has been presented to Macmillan Cancer Support by Bruton School for Girls Parent Staff Association. The money was raised at the annual summer ball. The cheque was presented to Toby Fielder and Richard Middleton-Snead of Macmillan Cancer Support by Sheree Creighton and Juliet Hunt of the Bruton School for Girls Parent Staff Association.



Old Girl Gives Books to School

Old girl, Jenny Wan (1997-2002), dropped into school this term to give the school some copies of a book she had received as part of the World Book Night initiative. Jenny is currently on her gap year after finishing her studies at Reading University and The College of Law. Later in the year she is taking up a legal position with a company in the City of London.

