



# The Boniface Beacon

## Autumn

### WHATS IN THE NEWSPAPER:

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## School Upgrades

### The New Marking Policy

Recently we have decided to change our marking policy which has notably gained a mixed response for example, the marking policy consists of symbols - Star, question mark, exclamation mark, and a dot, all of which display some form of feedback through which you have to act on yourself. Furthermore, the marking policy is a great thing in the sense that we are starting to figure out errors in our work for ourselves instead of relying on others to do it for us as well as the fact that it is making life a lot easier for everyone and unlike most schools our school is now supplying regular feedback to pupils based on the policies effectiveness which as a whole is very important in my opinion in almost forming a conversation between both the pupil and the teacher.

Below are a few statements from both pupils and students alike on the mixed responses around the new marking policy;

#### Teachers -

'The new marking policy is great, its quick, reliable and almost allows a conversation between us and the pupils with them having to think about what went well and what wasn't so good'

'I personally don't feel that it is very constructive in terms of the feedback for students as I myself like to actually tell the students where they went wrong instead of them almost trying to guess'

#### Pupils -

'The new policy is good as I am becoming more independent and am starting to realise where I went wrong in my own work rather relying on the teacher to do it for me'

'The policy is a good thing in some ways but in others I feel that it is quite hard to know where I went wrong and so a direct response from the teacher I feel would be better'

by Lorenzo Stacey

### Show My Homework

Show my homework was brought into the school in September 2016.

The website helps students track their homework around the clock, 24/7 which means there are no excuses for students. After they have finished their homework they can automatically hand it in through the software!

By Owen Godfrey



# Sports Awards Parent Comments



Mr S Barlow

'Any proud moment is when your child gets nominated for award.'

Mr J Carlisle

'Very proud to have my son nominated for an award.'



Mr and Mrs Wilson

'The food is very nice and we are very proud for my son to be nominated.'

Mrs E Butler

'Food looks nice and very good. I am very proud of my son.'

Mr C Oliver

'I am very pleased with my son and the food is very nice.'

# Sports Awards Student Comments

Billy Heath - Progress In Sport Award

'I didn't really expect to win the award. I was really big as a kid but I got into rowing to lose weight.'

Toby Marks – excellence in sports

'I really didn't expect to win the award but I am very happy to have been chosen out of all the students'

Ali Ramazani – Chris Mather Award (Young Leader Award)

'I didn't really expect the award but I am really happy that the PE Department recognised me.'

## Sports Man of The Year

Ethan Carlisle – Sports Man of The Year (Yr 7)

'I am quite shocked to have been given the award but I am pleased to have it.'

Shaun Hillier – Sports Man of The Year (Yr 8)

'I am very happy to have won the award'

Tom Mitch – Sports Man of The Year(Yr 9)

'I am very happy to have received an award'

Joe Vatcher- Sport Man of The Year (Yr 10)

'I am very proud of the award'

# Ann Widdecombe

On Wednesday 5th October the former Member of Parliament for Maidstone and The Weald Maidstone visited our school to give a talk about her life experiences. From inspiring speeches to the 'Strictly' dance floor! And the school newspaper got an exclusive interview with her. I started off with a relatively contentious subject. "You oppose women priests, why is that?" She rather confidently replied: "I believe that it is theologically impossible for God to be represented in a woman's body". In the past you've expressed your opposition to same sex marriage bill introduced by David Cameron in 2015, do you not think this is unjust. "I was very angry with the Conservatives; I was very alienated by gay marriage, not only by the issue but by the attitude of the party high command. "David Cameron just bulldozed the whole thing through, though it had never been in any manifesto or tried or tested." Altogether she was a very interesting person to interview and I and my fellow interviewers relished the chance to meet a woman with such an amazing life.

By Felix Powell



## The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

By John Boyne

In Germany 1942 Bruno arrives home from a day at school. He is surprised that Maria (the housemaid) is packing all of his belongings in to wooden crates. It turns out that Bruno is going to stay somewhere far away for his father's job. The place they are going to is dismal and there are no other children for Bruno to play with, but then it all changes. When Bruno suddenly has the idea to go exploring one day, he notices a figure on the other side of a vast fence. Bruno and this other boy should be enemies, but Bruno does not know who this person is and why there is a fence between them. They become great friends, even with the physical divide of the great

barrier between them. If Bruno's father knew about this friendship, things wouldn't have gone so horribly wrong for the both of them...

This story is set during the Second World War in Nazi Germany and Poland. It is set during the horrific events of the Holocaust. This story is an emotional but inspirational story of two friends who weren't meant to be. I would recommend it to any on who likes a good book but not to people who are very emotional.

By Oscar Dawson

## GCSE Course - What's It Like?

Only to think that a few months ago I was in Year 9 preparing for my GCSE's, and now to think I'm in Year 10 now having actually already started the course... Obviously, when I was in Year 9 my options had played an important role for this year and so I advise you to choose wisely the subjects that you feel you are good at as you don't want to overload yourselves with too many academic subjects because it could get all too much with the revision. For example, it may be that you have something else for example in the design or sporting field in order to give yourself a good balance.

Overall, if you are worried about starting the course don't be, just be ready to put in a lot of work and do the best that you can, because at the end of the day all your hard work will pay off. Remember this is only a short period of your life that will stay with you forever and if you make mistakes along the way you can always come back from them!

Words Of Inspiration -

"To fail greatly can ever achieve greatly" (Robert F Kennedy, American Politician)

"If you can dream it, you can do it" (Walt Disney)

By - Lorenzo Stacey

## European Day of Languages

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September it was the European day of languages and it was very exciting. It included a boules competition and some European food. We interviewed Sonny who said "this brioche is the best pastry I ever tasted". When we interviewed Jason he said he liked the food and boules and that he liked Modern Foreign Languages (MFL). Mr Trimmer said that the pepper salami was his favourite out of the foods and he enjoyed the boules competition. It was a great lunch. People from different year groups joined in to help out.

By Morgan Mclean & William Gillen

# Buckfast Abbey

## Day 1

Anyone that arrived on the first bus went and did an art activity with Miss Hutchings. Bus 2 came later at 4:30 so they talked to Miss Hutchings. Then everyone ran around playing football with the six formers. A surprise was waiting for year 7 there was a lama farm next to the house. For a while, everyone was sorting out their rooms. Miss Hutchings rang a bell for dinner time. We had a lovely pasta with lettuce on the side, then there was a pudding everyone was stuffed. Everyone went back to their rooms for an hour. At 8:00pm the tutor group went for a walk down to Buckfast Abbey and a beautiful

garden. When everyone got back, they went into the lounge, and watched half of a movie. Then everyone went to bed.

## Day 2

A bell rang to wake everyone up. Group 1 (Bus 1) had to set up and clean up breakfast. Tutors were split into 2 halves: Group 1 (Bus 1) went to explore the Abbey and Group 2 (Bus 2) stayed at the house and made a soft landing for an egg. When Group 1 came back they swapped activity with Group 2. Their next activity was visiting a burned down church. Before they left the church everyone posed for a brilliant photo!

We walked back to the house and went into the games room, which had a pool table, table tennis and a football table, that we all really enjoyed playing. Our final activity for the day was to make pizza which we ravenously ate for dinner. Later in the evening we were sent to bed.

## Day 3

The bell rang again, but this time Group 2 had to set up and clean up for breakfast. Shortly after Group 1 went back to school while group 2 did their final activity, which was an activity.

By Jack McKechnie

Thank you Miss Hutchings for a wonderful trip from all of Year 7!!!



Thank you for the newspaper team for creating the newspaper-  
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