



## HEADLINES

### Year 13 Work Reviews

My thanks to all families who attended the Year 13 work reviews this week. The opportunity for students and their families to meet to discuss focus and a positive approach coupled with practical tactics for improvement is particularly important at this time of year as students prepare for their final examinations.

### Growth Mindset Workshop for Parents

My thanks to all families who attended the recent parents' workshop on Growth Mindset. The progress that is evident so far with our younger students suggests that they are ready for us to use this approach more and more. Over the last couple of weeks as I have popped into lessons, it has been interesting to see several colleagues model some excellent growth mindset techniques - it is making a real difference in the way that we develop young people.

### Kirkland Rowell Survey

My thanks to all families who have returned completed perception surveys. I am not sure of the rate of return from families yet, but we do seem to have received many envelopes.

Whilst the deadline for returns is today, if families still have a survey to complete could they please do so and return it to us as soon as possible. Surveys such as this are vitally important for our improvement and I look forward to receiving the analysis in due course.

Sunil Chotai

### Year 10 DTP and meningitis vaccinations

Catch up vaccinations for those students who did not have one in January will take place on the morning of Tuesday 7 March 2017. Any outstanding consent forms should be returned to Student Services. Thank you

### Students excel at the Science and Technology Challenge Final



On Friday 13th January 2017, Owen Cornelius-Rumsey and Daniel Mitsev, both in Year 10 competed in the Science and Technology Southern Challenge final at Queen Mary's University, London.

Braving the snow and ice and some treacherous conditions on the roads, they travelled with two teachers to the university campus in Mile End. The event was hosted by Professor Kaspar Althoeffer, Director of the Robotics Faculty at the university, and was attended by pupils from a number of top secondary schools in London and southern England. To reach this final, students had to have won their local area Challenge, and Daniel and Owen had achieved this by winning the Bromley area event.

On the day, the two boys formed a team with three other students; William Battersby and Robin Warner of Esher Church of England High School, and Rex Galenta from St. Bonaventure's School in Newham. Eight teams competed in all. The teams were set an ingeniously testing series of tasks to complete; the main challenge being to develop software to navigate a robotic car around a very tricky race course, full of right angle turns. Not only did the car have to navigate the course without being touched or moved by the students, it also had to perform a special task or manoeuvre to demonstrate individuality. Teams were judged in three areas: teamwork, planning and the final product or performance.

After a fascinating talk by Professor Althoeffer on some of the robotics projects at the university, including medical and industrial applications, the teams were set to work.

From the outset, the 'Bromley Team' showed excellent team working skills and the programming of Owen-bot, their affectionate name for the robot car, proceeded apace. In early test runs, Owen-bot outshone its competitors, navigating further around the course than any other vehicle, and the team's strategy of programming the model car to finish the course cleanly and quickly, was showing great promise.

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## Events, Fixtures and Educational Visits

**Monday 30 January to Friday 3 February 2017**

**1 February 2017—Year 7 reward trip to Canary Wharf ice rink**

**2 February 2017—Intermediate maths challenge**

### Forthcoming events

**6 February 2017—Dance Competition 2017**

**7 February 2017—Year 10 Oxford Pathways taster day**

**8 February 2017—Year 8 Parents' Evening**

**9 February 2017—Year 9 National Enterprise Competition**

**9 February 2017—Year 13 history lectures on Arab-Israeli conflict**

**13 to 17 February 2017—Half term**

**10 to 13 February 2017—Sixth Form photography residential to Paris**

**27 February to 2 March 2017—Sixth Form geography trip Dorset coast**

**1 March 2017—Year 12 English trip to The Great Gatsby study day**

**2 March 2017—Year 8 Options Evening.**

**3 March 2017—Year 11 GCSE PE conference.**

**7 March 2017—Drama trip to the Taming of the Shrew at the Globe**

**7 March 2017—Year 10 DTP and meningitis vaccinations**

**8 March 2017—Year 13 Drama trip to A midsummer Night's Dream at the Young Vic**

**10 March 2017—Year 13 History conference**

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Yet, as often is the case in research and development projects, disaster struck. For an unfathomable reason, the robot car suddenly stopped picking up the signals to turn. Though quick to make adjustments to the car's programming, the team had very little time in which to check the car on the race circuit, which in the end, proved decisive. Despite great early promise and tremendous persistence under pressure, the 'Bromley Team' just failed to take a podium position.

In his summing up, the chairman of the decision making committee commented that the Southern Area final was of higher quality than any of the other regional finals. As no national final was planned, this could perhaps be considered as the Challenge of Challenges.

Owen and Daniel demonstrated that they could form an effective team with peers that were unknown to them before the event and could plan and deliver tasks that were completely new to them. These skills auger well for their future time at Charles Darwin School and for whatever careers they chose to pursue. They were first class representatives of which the school can be proud.

**Dr Piercy**



### The return of Phil the Bag

Phil the Bag, the textile recycling specialists will be collecting from school again so if you are having a bit of a spring clean over February half term please think of us.

All kinds of adult and childrens' clothing, hats, shoes, belts, handbags, and household textiles including sheets, pillow cases, duvet covers, curtains and towels. can be brought into school from Monday 20 to Wednesday 22 February, ready for collection on

**Thursday 23 February**

All donations **MUST BE DRY**. No bedding [pillows and duvets], bric-a-brac, or ripped or stained clothing, please.

Following the government clampdown on plastic bags, Phil the Bag no longer provide these. You can use any type of bag, but black sacks are best. Alternatively to be really environmentally friendly, why not fill up an old pillow case or duvet cover? Thank you for your support.

**Gillian Simons**

## Pupils for Praise

**Duty pupils of the week ending**

**20/1/2017**

Jimmy Mills, Freya Jones,  
Matthew Kenton and Jodie Hallett  
from 8ZGi

**Mrs Mills**

### ★ Geography Star of the Week

is awarded to Leila Lagder in 7CGr for being an absolute pleasure to teach and for her consistent excellent attitude and commendable work ethic.

**Miss Allum**

### ★ History Star of the Week is

awarded to Jordan Bullied. Jordan has had amazing focus in Year 11, he has put lots of effort into his coursework and it was clear he did History revision for the mock where he did very well.

I am so pleased that Jordan wants to reach his potential in History, he must try and keep that focus over the next few months. I will look forward to seeing his super grade in August. Well done.

**Miss Quinn**

**Congratulations** to Emma Devlin in 9JLa who won the name the bear competition in aid of Cancer Research before Christmas.

Many thanks to all those who took part, helping to raise money for this very good cause.

**Mr Tilley**

### Support the Friends 50/50 Club

Join before the next meeting of the Friends to be in with a chance of winning a prize this month.

### YEAR 8 PARENTS' EVENING AND REPORT COLLECTION

**Wednesday, 8 February 2017**

**3.15pm – 6.15pm**

This is an opportunity for pupils and their families to speak to staff about their progress.

Oz Schoolwear will be present selling school uniform and PE kit.

Governors will be present conducting parent consultation so please respond to the questionnaire if you can, either on the night or later by email.

Refreshments will be available courtesy of the Friends.