



Ben Tilney has signed his first professional contract with MK Dons

We would like to congratulate ex-student Ben Tilney on signing his professional terms with MK Dons this season. The young defender, who has been with the Academy for 10 years, becomes only the fourth player to sign professional terms with the club prior to his 18th birthday.

Ben featured heavily with the first-team in pre-season, appearing in eight of the 10 summer friendlies and has since seen himself on the bench for the first team but still awaits his first appearance which, we are sure, will not be too far away.

Ben continues a run of sporting success from Redborne Old Boys including Ben Chilwell at Leicester City FC and Dean Adamson at Bedford Blues. We continue to wish them all the very best for their future careers.

Mr A. Whomsley

Drama

The drama department's 2015 practical exam sessions have now finished with the completion of the GCSE exams on May 8th. As usual, our students responded to the pressures of performance with maturity and the controlled sense of fun that makes running these 3 exam sessions (AS, A2, GCSE) an absolute delight. Our results at AS were our most pleasing ever, with all 17 students achieving either A (6 students) or B (11 students). At A2, the 21 students achieved an average of a high B grade, with 81% achieving A-B. The results of our GCSE performances remain to be seen, but students should be proud of their 3 days of entertainment from playwrights as diverse as Brecht, Kane, Berkoff and Godber.



Work Experience in France!

Over February half term I was lucky enough to do work experience in Bordeaux, a beautiful city in the South of France. I went there with Halsbury, a company which organises trips like mine with the aim of improving students' speaking ability in a language. This was an amazing opportunity to meet and make new friends as well: I went with 14 other students from around the country, which was slightly nerve-racking but fortunately we all got on really well.

My placement was in a pharmacy, where I got to see how they work and the daily routine. I arrived there on the first day not knowing what to expect at all - but I needn't have worried as the employees were very kind and welcoming. Whilst the main focus of the trip was work experience there was also plenty of time to socialise, with bowling, ice skating and meals out organised by Halsbury, giving us a chance to relax and get to know each other.

Overall, my French definitely improved (even if I didn't serve any customers - though that was probably a good idea!) as being forced to speak only in French to co-workers was a real challenge. I would certainly recommend this trip since it was beneficial and I really enjoyed myself: in fact, I would love to return someday.

Ellie Yip

Geography Trip to Iceland, 26-29 March 2015

We learned from our tour guide that Iceland is said to have been the inspiration for the setting of Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, and when standing amongst its towering volcanoes, black ash beaches and swarms of steaming fumaroles, it is not difficult to see why.

Seeing landforms studied both in AS and A2 Geography in real life was both enriching and helpful, and made all the more enjoyable when the landforms in question were spectacular geysers and bubbling hot springs. Bathing in Blue Lagoon, an outdoor geothermal bath, was a unique experience. Seeing a waterfall flowing upwards because of strong winds was also an interesting phenomenon, as was seeing the only place on earth where a boundary between two tectonic plates is visible on the ground's surface, at Thingvellir National Park.

As well as experiencing these extrusive volcanic features, we engaged in innumerable snowball fights against the teachers (one of which took place inside a volcanic crater), but of course the students won...

The changeable weather is also notable; although it didn't rain, within five minutes it could shift from clear-skied and sunny to cloudy and snowy. Hence, most of the landscape looked as if it had been lifted directly from Tolkien's pages.

The trip to Iceland was a unique and worthwhile experience, having been described by many as the best school trip ever, both because of the stunning landscape and the welcoming Icelandic people. On behalf of the students on the trip I would like to express gratitude to Mr Arnold and Miss Caunt for organising the trip, which was a fitting way to say goodbye to Mr Arnold.



This was an absolutely fantastic trip with a great group of sixth form students. The students were able to place what they have learnt in the classroom into reality - seeing the rift between the continents (which is not just a crack in the landscape) and gaining an appreciation of how vast this young volcanic island really is. Swimming in the Blue Lagoon while the snow was piling up on our heads was particularly a memorable experience for all. The students are a credit to the school, with their attentive attitude and explorative nature. We hope in two years to plan our next overseas geography trip.

**Miss R. Caunt
Geography Teacher**

Law Department

AS Law students visited Luton Magistrates Court over two days in March and had the opportunity to watch a variety of different cases including bail applications, trials and sentencing being conducted. They saw first-hand how the aims of sentencing impact on the decision of the magistrates, particularly when considering whether to send an offender to prison.

One group were fortunate enough to meet the Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis who is the Queen's personal representative in the county. She spent time explaining her role including more specifically as Chair of The Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee which is responsible for the appointment of Magistrates.

**Mrs L. Beamish
Subject Leader Law**



Dear Parents / Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all for your support over this academic year and also to wish the students who are leaving Redborne all the best for the future.

We are looking forward to another excellent set of results at GCSE and in the Sixth Form, although you need to be aware that the Government's constant changes to what does and does not count in the league tables means published results can be very misleading and year on year comparisons are now not possible. Having said this, however, I am sure Redborne's students will do very well.

I am pleased to report that the new £2m hall is nearing completion and should be ready for handover at the end of term. Unfortunately phase 2, a six classroom block and new dining facilities, has been delayed. I am not sure when the work will start and much will depend on when the £1.1m of planning gain assigned to Redborne is actually given to us. I will continue to keep you informed of developments.

It is clear that the school's budget will become very tight over the next couple of years regardless of the outcome of the election. However, we will do all we can to protect staffing and the curriculum to ensure our students achieve the best possible educational outcomes. Again I will keep you updated on developments as we move into the next academic year.

Yours sincerely

**Nigel Croft
Principal**

A Presentation Evening for the Extended Project Qualification

On the 24th March, parents, students, staff and governors were welcomed into the school hall for an evening exhibition of work undertaken for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). The qualification, worth half an A level, is an opportunity for students to independently choose a topic that enthuses them and that they can take further, developing an essay or creative artefact in an area independent of their other A-levels.

For the presentation aspect, students set up a 'market stall' to display their work and answer detailed questions from their individual supervisors and the wider audience.

For the third year in a row, the evening was fantastically well attended by staff, parents, younger students and governors. Again, it was lovely to see the huge variety of specialist subjects on offer: from Katie Scott's fashion project on trends in British design houses, to Tom Woodward's 'How did the construction methods of the World Trade Centre contribute to its collapse?' Students directed adaptations of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth', asked challenging questions about IVF, investigated links between evolutionary theory and life expectancy - an absolute wealth of projects were on show.

The hall was filled with such an exciting and bustling atmosphere throughout the night, with a professional energy coming from the presenting students. Thank you to the EPQ supervisors for their hard work marking projects and for all who attended the evening and made it so successful.

**Miss Z. Hounam, Mrs K. Wheeler & Miss N. Crossley
(EPQ Coordinator) (Assistant EPQ Coordinators)**



Art

Congratulations to all year 10 art students who successfully held a Pop Up exhibition on Friday the 6th of March. Messages written in the visitors’ book include comments such as;

- Fantastic exhibition- it's wonderful to have the chance to see the wonderful talent at Redborne.
- Excellent display, it really shows the talent of pupils and staff.
- Excellent display, obviously considerable work by staff and students- high standard well done.
- An excellent event and the overall standard is so high. The jar study by Niamh McMahon is truly excellent (and I'm not related in any way!).
- Very, very impressed with the quality of work on display. All the hard work and imagination is inspiring. Well done staff and year 10!
- Fantastic and very interesting, professional display. Thank you for putting it on and inviting family and friends. Lovely snacks too.



Maths

This term the best mathematicians in the school have been kept busy with various different events.

In February, 8 of the best mathematicians in year 10 entered the regional team maths challenge. They worked in teams of four to solve mathematical problems, learn and apply new mathematics and even built an origami tower. Both teams did really well, with one team winning one of the rounds.

We also had a group of year 10s travel to London to attend some Maths in Action lectures. Students heard from outstanding speakers and mathematicians who covered the applications and wonder of mathematics, from bouncing balls to winning games to magic and more! The day was really inspiring, full of live demonstrations, with one of our students even going on stage to take part.



In March, we joined with Alameda and Woodland middle schools for a Team Maths Competition. 21 of the top Mathematicians in years 8 and 9 from all three schools took part. In teams of 3 or 4, they competed in 3 different rounds testing their Mathematical knowledge, problem solving skills and speed. The competition was won by Harry Ashby, Max Lister, Oliver (Woodlands) and Emily (Alameda), who all took home an Amazon voucher!



Following the competition, 6 of the best performing students are now taking part in some intense training, ready to take part in the regional final of the team challenge on 28th April. We wish them luck.

We also had 50 year 10 and 11 mathematicians who took part in the individual maths challenge, achieving 4 Gold, 14 Silver and 13 Bronze certificates, putting those students in the top 60% of Mathematicians that entered in the country. Congratulations go to Scott Longmuir who scored so highly that he has been selected to take part in a follow on round.

Redborne Biology Club in the news!

Following significant finds during a series of outings to Flitwick Moor in the autumn, Redborne Biology Club, led by Dr Juty and Dr Sutton, have appeared in articles in the Beds on Sunday newspaper and the Wildlife Trusts magazine.

A series of outings this autumn yielded some fantastic observations of fungi, lizards, amphibians and interesting insects, as well as including some very significant discoveries in the aquatic life of a recently dug peat pond.

Three out of the six British great diving beetles were discovered. In addition to the commonest species, *Dytiscus marginalis*, rare Bedfordshire records were made for a pair of **wasp-bellied great diving beetles**, *Dytiscus circumflexus*, which Garth Foster, Recording Scheme Organiser, confirms is the first record for Bedfordshire. Plus the shell of a 'black belly', *Dytiscus semisulcatus*, was found, also a first for the county. The lesser diving beetle, *Acilius sulcatus*, has been found at Flitwick in the past.

Another surprise was the appearance of the long water scorpion *Ranatra linearis* in one of the nets - amazing that a bare peat pool, with no vegetation, could hold so many types of water beetle and bugs. Other highlights included the dragonflies which were still flying late in the year, including the ruddy darter *Sympetrum sanguineum* and migrant hawkler *Aeshna mixta*. Common lizards, *Zootoca vivipara* were still catching the last rays of the late summer sun in October and were very well camouflaged.

Dr Juty and Dr Sutton



Leadership Skills

At the beginning of Year 9, all students can apply to become part of the Leadership Academy. This offers them the opportunity to volunteer at a variety of sports festivals and events with children aged between 5-13years. Prizes are given for completing 25, 50 and 100 hours of volunteering.

Well done to Becky Abbott 9NL, Molly Healy 9NL, Lucy Knight 9LM and Carys Wiemer 9AJ for completing over 25 hours and Becky Richards 9AF and Amelia Rutt 9APC for completing over 50 hours.

A few students have also started volunteering outside school too.

Volunteering at Alameda Middle School

Last week we attended a badminton tournament at Alameda Middle School. In the tournament we divided the children into two groups: boys and girls. Jack umpired and arranged the girls group and I arranged and umpired the boys group.

The children enjoyed playing all the games and always put in 100% of effort into all their games. At least one person from each year (years 5 – 8) turned up to play and it was great to see all different ages of children enjoying themselves playing badminton.

After the tournament we had a small presentation where we announced the winners and losers of the matches. Everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves. It was great to see that the children were all competitive and put the effort in however they still respected the decisions we had made as well.

Jordan Salt, 9MJ and Jack Dunne, 9MJ

Volunteering at Kingsmoor Lower School

Chelsea and I volunteer to assist the running of a club every Tuesday evening. The club is called change4life and aims to show children different, new and exciting games to play that will keep them fit and healthy. Not only does it teach them how to keep fit, it also teaches them vital values needed in sports; like co-operation, fairness, teamwork and leadership skills. We attempt to include a variety of indoor and outdoor games. For example, one week we were outside playing basketball and the next we were inside playing dodge ball.

Chelsea and I love volunteering at Kingsmoor and helping the children in any way we can.

Chelsea Weymouth, 9OC and Ella Green, 9KE

Volunteering at Flitwick Leisure Centre

Since joining the Sports Partnership I asked my trampolining coach, Kim, if I could assist in her classes. I currently volunteer on Wednesday coaching children from 4 years old to 14 years old who are working from level 1 to level 11. My gymnastic coach Sally asked I if would be interested in helping with the younger groups for the Free Running classes. As an experienced gymnast I have already attended Free Running Sessions run at weekends by a professional company called 3RUN and really enjoyed taking part. In the classes they learn jumps, safety rolls and progressions to moves.

I enjoy helping younger children to experience sport in a safe and happy environment.

Becky Richards, 9AF

My name is Amelia, and I volunteer at Flitwick Leisure Centre, coaching gymnastics. I do 4 hours a week and the ages I coach are from 5 - 13. It all began when my gymnastics coach asked me if I wanted to become an assistant coach. I saw the chance to join the Redborne Leadership Academy and thought it would help me become a confident leader. I am so glad I chose to join the Leadership Academy, I would highly recommend it to anyone who was considering doing it too.

Amelia Rutt, 9APC

Dance

It has been another busy term in the Dance department with a variety of dance trips, practical exams and professionally led workshops for all those studying GCSE and A level dance.

The Year 10 dancers attended the Move It Dance convention in February taking part in and watching various dance showcases and classes from professional performers across the UK.

The year 11 students completed 80% of their GCSE Dance course with some fantastic results: special mentions in particular to Charlotte Burns, Francesca Goodinson, Katie Smith, Rioja Harmer Hankey and Abbie Bright who all achieved full marks in the solo composition or performance in a group dance modules.

The A level dancers were lucky enough to welcome guest artist Kerry Eason from Orbit Dance Company who worked with them on developing their solo and duo dance assessment pieces in preparation for their dance exams. The workshops were based on Alvin Ailey, Jerome Robbins and general performance skills.

The A level and G&T dancers from year 11 were also invited to the University of Bedfordshire to take part in various dance workshops and perform their work live in the theatre to an audience of other local school students, undergraduate students and lecturers. This was a fantastic experience for all involved and allowed our dancers prepare for their real exams which followed a few weeks later.

The dance department has also had students representing the school in their holidays with Lauren Ash and Charlotte Burns performing in a site specific dance piece over Easter entitled Eventide with the Two Thirds Sky Dance Company. Both girls did amazingly, performing with professional dancers in the medieval sites of Higham Ferrers!

Well done to all the dancers on a productive and rewarding term! Now for that written paper.....!!

Miss E. Benjamin

