

Spring
2018

Beech House News

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Stop Press

Jupiter win the Senior House Swimming Trophy and Mercury win the Upper Prep Event

Barcelona

The Senior pupils of Beech House School arrived in a somewhat soggy Barcelona for a week of culture and fun. Despite the dubious weather, the party spent their first day admiring the wonders of Gaudí's phenomenal Casa Milà, recently brought to the forefront of pop culture by Dan Brown's most recent bestseller; 'Origin'. Breath taking vaulted attic ceilings and frescoed walls left students thoroughly inspired by the Catalonian architect and eagerly anticipating the rest of the week.

Tuesday gave pupils a glimpse of the sun-drenched city they had been expecting, as they donned their walking boots and explored the inexplicable beauty of Park Güell. Having originally been designed as a housing complex, it was a fascinating change from the classroom for pupils and teachers alike to have the opportunity to explore the organic creations of Gaudí. Cavelike structures in juxtaposition to geometric architecture gave rise to a flurry of inspiration and artistic enthusiasm for all. All possible opportunities for photographs and selfies were taken, resulting in some students showing off their best handstands and cartwheels in front of magnificent Catalonian backdrops. Despite the difficulty to top the wonder and magnitude of a morning in Park Güell, the afternoon was spent pondering the meanings behind some of Joan Miro's most famous works of art: an enriching experience for everyone. The day was finished off with a visit to the Palau Nacional. The Palace boasts the best collection of Romanesque mural painting in the world amongst other artistic gems. Before leaving, pupils of Beech House School (along with many members of the public who happened to be in the right place at the right time) were treated to an impromptu rendition of Mozart's *Voi Che Sapete* from a member of staff (and ex-opera singer) in the impressive Palau Concert Auditorium - which is one of the most impressive concert halls in the world.



Despite the excitement of days one and two, Wednesday was filled with even more Catalanian culture. The day began with a tour of the Barcelona football stadium, much to the delight of the football enthusiasts among the party. Countless trophies were admired, and many photos were taken in the stands of this imposing structure. Next on the agenda was the Picasso museum. Here students got the chance to see one of the world's most extensive collections of Picasso artwork, ranging from some of his first doodles, to artwork created shortly before his death in 1973. The vast collection was perfect for the artists in the party who wished to study Picasso's various transitions in artistic style. Even the least artistic in the group were sucked into the magical world of this inspiring artist.

No trip to Barcelona would be complete without visiting the Sagrada Familia. Another of Gaudí's masterpieces, the construction of this temple is yet to be completed. The organic nature of Gaudí's architecture has faced fierce opposition from Christian traditionalists which (along with a world war and a civil war) has significantly hindered funding for the mammoth project. Despite the presence of cranes and builders, the impact of the building was no less significant and the experience of going inside and learning more about this holy place will stay with students forever.

As the trip started to draw to a close, a visit to the city's modern art museum on Thursday gave way to a beach trip, followed by a spot of shopping. Students were able to test out their Spanish by bartering for beach blankets and scenic rickshaw rides while enjoying the simple pleasures of a golden beach and blue sky.

By the time the Beech House School party arrived safely back in Manchester on Friday afternoon, everyone was ready for an early night! The sheer number of activities and sights visited was fantastic, and gave staff and students alike more than just a taste of Catalanian life. A brilliant time was had by all and enormous thanks to Mrs Ali for being the driving force behind the trip.

Christmas Concert



The Lower Prep 'crossed the road' to the main school to perform their Christmas Concert. This year the parents, grandparents and carers were delighted with the production of 'Christmas Around the World'. As one grandmother commented, "I have been watching these for 28 years and this is the best one I have ever seen". This was then followed by the Friends of Beech House Christmas Fair, which raised £229. The highlight of which was a special visitor!



The Shades

There was an air of excitement and anticipation at the beginning of term as Years 5 – 11 filtered into the sports hall for a very different Tuesday afternoon. UK based, Northern rock band 'The Shades' were in school to perform, and talk to our students about online safety. The young band of four certainly caught the attention and admiration of our students from the beginning, with a funky cover song. With some excellent guitar playing and strong vocals, the band was most definitely a hit with the students, as they performed a mixture of their own songs and some cover versions too. With fantastic harmonies from the three guitarists, we were treated to an afternoon of catchy tunes, driving rhythms and lively songs.

In addition to enthralling the students with a brilliant performance, the boys imparted some invaluable and important tips and information on how to stay safe online. There were some interesting and moving stories about their own experiences with the internet and some well documented examples of how things can go wrong online. The boys were very entertaining and our students thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon with a difference and in true 'boy band' style, there was plenty of screaming!



Progress Awards

The Progress Awards are presented each term to children in the Prep Department who have excelled in attitude, behaviour and performance.

This term the honours went to:-

Nursery - Eesa Tahir

Reception - Mohammed Sami Hussain

Year 1 - Amelia Gorton-Rigg

Year 2 - Avalee Sullivan-

Mander

Year 3 - Yumna Rana

Year 5 - Rayan Hussain

Choir

The School received a lovely letter from the Mews Nursing Home. "We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year. A special thank you goes to the teachers in the music department and pupils in the wonderful school choir who delight our residents every Christmas with your lovely voices. We all look forward to seeing you again next Christmas, so until then best wishes from all the staff and residents."

Youth Parliament

Candidates were shortlisted for the member of Youth Parliament for Rochdale borough. All schools and colleges in the borough took part in this very important democratic process. A video of all their election speeches were shown to the Senior pupils. The ballot papers were then completed by the students, and placed in the ballot box. The voters at Beech House were undecided on the best person for the position, with three of the candidates being within three votes of each other. These votes were then added to the votes cast by students in other schools.

World Book Day

The snow curtailed many of the activities schools were carrying out on this day. However, the quiz was won by Nicole Healey and Humna Munir.

DofE



Fourteen pupils earned their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award this year. They attended the Gracie Fields Theatre along with the participants from four other Rochdale schools. The Mayor of Rochdale presented them with their badges and certificates. They were Armaan Ansari, Jessica Bennett, Rebecca Burnett, Emelia Cooper, Elana El-Hage, Amy Hanson, Hira Iqbal, Hiba Javed, Ellie Jenkinson, Adam Millington, Maya Servio, Ross Shelley and Matthew Timmins. In addition Dawaud Tahir, who left Beech House last year, was awarded his Silver.

WE

Robert Cobbold from WE visited the school to raise issues of homelessness. He held workshops with pupils from Year 7, 8 and 9. They had some great discussions, and came up with two causes, local and global, homelessness and health. Fund raising ideas ranged from a charity rugby match, a fair, and ice bucket challenge, a sponsored swim in an icy lake (love this one) and finally a social experiment to raise awareness about people's attitudes to homeless people. The pupils will need further time to flesh out the ideas, but were left with a quadrant framework to help them action plan. The idea is to focus on four areas: roles and responsibilities, a timeline, resources and people needed and possible pitfalls. This model is very useful when sketching out a plan. In addition, there was an opportunity for pupils to apply for a Virgin Airline scholarship to perform charity work in India. We wish those pupils every success in the applications.

School Awards

Saad Awan has been made a sub-prefect. In the Senior Department the following pupils have been awarded 20 merits and received their Bronze Certificate: Harry Ashworth, Rico Bernales, Amelia Hussain, Aryan Mahmood, Aleena Saeed, Harun Sharif and Mia Waite. Gabrielle El-Hage has received her Silver Certificate.

The Upper Prep Ruby award for 50 House Points was awarded to Pieter Ayal-Mullock, Anais Aston, Tierney Dutton, Emily Higginson, Archie Mayer, Aaron Waddington and Shu Yu Zhao. Lauren El-Hage and Pheobe Stephens became the Emerald winners.

In the Lower Prep, Fatima Afzal, Cristiano Bernales, Kaiden Engleke, Anas Farid, Eesa Ghalib, Amelia Gorton-Rigg, Arabella Hey, Laya Karunanandarajah, Falisha Malik, Roman McInnes, Tyler Mhizha, Ady Mohammed, Jibreel Muwahhid, Avalee Sullivan-Mander, Yahya Tahir, Evie Walleth and Almas Zaidan have been awarded their Rainbow Red Certificate for 50 House Points. The Reading Star Award went to Almas Zaidan.

The following Music Certificates have been awarded to:

Level One Keyboard - Laya Karunanandarajah, Falisha Malik, Maria Hussein, Hafsa Ahmed, Yumna Rana and Rayan Hussain

Level One Drum Kit – Aaron Waddington

Level Three Drum Kit – Lauren El-Hage

Staffing

Mrs Street and Miss McGarvey have been promoted to Assistant Headteachers. As part of their many duties they will be responsible for the pastoral care of the Upper Prep, as Mrs Waterworth steps down as Head of Key Stage Two. We thank her for her efforts during the last term. They will become the next port of call after the Form Tutors in Key Stage 2 and the Heads of Key Stage in the other areas of the School. In addition, Ms Savazzi has been appointed Senior Teacher and has taken over the role of Examinations Officer. Mrs Murphy has taken over the role of SENCO at the school. Any concerns about your child in this area should be directed to her.

We welcome Mrs Kelly to the School as the Principal's PA.

Published Authors

Congratulations go to fifteen pupils from the Lower Prep who have had their poems published in 'Little Riddlers of Lancashire'. They are: Anas Farid, Fatima Afzal, Eesa Ghalib, Arabella Hey, Laya Karunanandarajah, Ady Mohammed, Falisha Malik, Tyler Mhizha, Jibreel Muwahhid, Yusuf Rizwan, Avalee Sullivan-Manders, Yahya Tahir, Evie Walleth and Luchia Wild.

Skills North West



Year 10 and Year 11 attended the Skills North West event at EventCity in Manchester, where they had the opportunity to speak to different employers, training providers, colleges, universities and professional bodies. Students specifically enjoyed speaking with employers at GCHQ, an intelligence agency working to protect the country from terror plots, cyber-attacks and criminal threats; we now have a group of Year 10 students all wanting to become spies! Both year groups left with raised aspirations for the future.

Talent

Pupils of Beech House School were invited to perform at Bamford Academy School as part of the school's annual talent competition. Year 10 GCSE Music pupils gave another enjoyable performance as the band 'Clair De Lune'. Amy Hanson, Milly Cooper, Maya Servio, Maisie Greenwood and Fiza Sharif performed two of their own songs and have now added cover versions to their repertoire. In addition, Year 9 GCSE Music student, Declan Anthony, who is a former winner of the competition, performed an emotional dance. Declan was also asked to judge the competition, on his return to the school, and his positive comments were very well received.

RYPFA

The young musicians of Beech House School have been heavily involved in Rochdale Youth Festival of Performing Arts. The festival is a month-long celebration of talented performers in the Rochdale Borough. Throughout March, our pupils have been performing in a variety of different categories, demonstrating the wealth of musical talent at the school. Our involvement started with a fantastic performance from Year 1 and Year 2 in the Talented Tiniest category, and culminated with a large number of soloists in the Speech category. The choir gave a fantastic performance in two of the choral categories, described by the judge as 'particularly impressive' and 'having a very sweet and unforced tone'. Again, our students have excelled in their respective categories and marks have been extremely high this year.

Congratulations to Amy Hanson, who gained Honours in two separate categories, and to Ella Raw, who gained Honours in the guitar class. Congratulations also go to Maya Servio, Maisie Greenwood and Milly Cooper who gained a mixture of commended and highly commended. Finally, well done to all pupils who took part in making this a successful year for Beech House School, at the Rochdale Youth Festival of Performing Arts.

Liverpool

On a cold March afternoon, what better than to be sat in the cosy Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, listening to the heart-warming music of the fantastic Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra? This much anticipated annual trip for Year 5 and Year 6 certainly didn't disappoint. With the concert to look forward to in the afternoon, we were able to indulge ourselves in one of Liverpool's famous museums. The Liverpool Museum had some fantastic expeditions and interactive displays. Our pupils particularly enjoyed learning about Liverpool and Liverpudlians during the Victorian era, a topic that is on their curriculum. After lunch, by the famous Liverpool Docks, it was time for the short trip to The Philharmonic Hall for a wonderful performance. The concert was entertaining and informative, and for some it was their first experience of an international symphony orchestra. The orchestra gave us a tour of the different instruments and performed a variety of exciting music. The programme was designed specifically to stimulate our senses and it certainly was an exhilarating assault on the eyes and ears. With the opportunity to sing and dance too, it really was an experience our pupils will never forget.

British Science Week

British Science Week seeks to raise the profile of science and technology in schools and to show how important science is to everyday life. This week, the pupils at Beech House have been imagining themselves as Antarctic explorers in celebration of British Science week. Pupils have been considering what items of clothing they would need to wear, and planning how they could manage to consume 3,350 calories a day to ensure they would have enough energy to complete a research programme in the ice! During RS, Year 7 and 8 have been considering a quote from Albert Einstein: "Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind". They have voted on whether they agree or disagree with this quote and considered if science and religion can co-exist. In PSD pupils have been debating whether microphones on mobile phones should be switched off at all times, and if they could be considered an invasion of privacy. During their trip to Wales, the Upper Prep and Year 7 classes took part in the Citizen Science activity, which is looking at the condition of beaches and public areas, to contribute to a wider research programme. Our more creative students are now busy using their findings from lessons and any other ideas they have to create exploration and discovery themed posters to enter the British Science Association's annual poster competition.

Rowing

In the Oakwood indoor rowing event Harrison Berry was 1st in the 400m and Sophie Wilkinson was second in the 300m.



Careers

The Year 11 pupils were excited to speak to PC Jennifer Savazzi during PSD about careers with the police. They spent the entire session discussing her different experiences of the role, dealing with upsetting situations, and whether or not 'good cop/bad cop' is actually used as an interrogation technique! The National Citizen Service (NCS) have also joined our PSD sessions to discuss their residential youth programme, offering the chance to develop skills and confidence in young people as well as raising money for local charities. NCS will be joining us again after the Easter holidays to run a variety of confidence-building activities.

Dance

Declan Anthony excelled in the dance section of the Rochdale Youth Festival of Performing Arts. He was awarded Highly Commended in the Lyrical Dance Solo. In the Ballet, Contemporary, Jazz and Tap sections he wowed the judges and achieved Honours. The comments made by the judges were very encouraging 'A Star in the Making'

Maths Challenges

The Intermediate individual event produced three bronze medalists in Jessica Nuttall, Saad Awaan and Masie Greenwood. The Bury College Maths Challenge involved students from twenty-one schools in and around Bury. Every school sent four mathematicians from Year 10. The four enthusiasts from Beech House School were: Maisie Greenwood, Ellie Jenkinson, Adam Millington and Matthew Timmins. They were accompanied by Miss Patel. Unfortunately, the students were not able to 'bag' the trophy on this occasion but were confident, happy to face the challenges and work as a team.

Youth Speaks

A team of Year 8 girls represented Beech House at the Youth Speaks Intermediate Category District Heat at Falinge Park High School. Holly Gaucas delivered a very impressive and thought-provoking speech on her views on animals being kept in captivity, while Sophie Wilkinson offered her talents as the role of Chairperson. It was Issabella Chapman, however, who came away with the award of Best Proposer Vote of Thanks. As a team, we were narrowly beaten by Falinge Park, but this has not put the girls off trying again next year!



House Competitions

Cross Country

This year saw Mercury 'walk away' with the event. The other Houses could not be split for second place.

1 st Mercury	- 20
2 nd Neptune	- 12
Mercury	
Saturn	

Swimming

The Senior House Swimming Gala was held this year at Castleton. There were a lot of hard fought races. Even Mr Hardy enjoyed his swim! The eventual winners were Jupiter, and the trophy was collected by their House Captain, Mia Greenwood.



1 st Jupiter	- 51
2 nd Neptune	- 42
3 rd Mercury	- 28
4 th Saturn	- 21

The Prep gala held the following week was a close event. The lead changed hands a number of times. The event was finally decided by the relay races. This time Saturn came out on top and the trophy was collected by Jessica Bennett.

1 st Mercury	- 58
2 nd Saturn	- 53
3 rd Jupiter	- 39
4 th Neptune	- 16

House Points

The combined Lower Prep and Upper Prep House Point totals are very close with three Houses within just over a hundred points of each other.

Saturn - 757