



# The County Courier

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The weekly information sheet from Bury St Edmunds County Upper School (part of the all-through Academy Trust)

No.6

11 October 2013

## Open Evening

Congratulations to everyone for an excellent Open Evening last night. As always, a huge number of students from across the year groups supported our staff, governors and PTA and their superb contribution was really appreciated by our visitors. Thank you!

## Open Morning

This is from **9.30 until 11 am on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** and is for **prospective parents**, not our own parents. It is aimed at those prospective parents who have pre-booked to see the school working normally and in the daylight.

## The Autumn Concert

The first full concert of the academic year will take place next **Wednesday (16<sup>th</sup> October) at 7.30 pm in the school hall**. Tickets are available from reception, priced £5.00/£3.00 (concessions). All are welcome to what will be an entertaining celebration of the work of all our main ensembles.

## Charity 2013

Students have voted for their choice of charities for 2013:

- **Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors without Borders)** (*international*)
- **Refuge** (*national*)
- **Macmillan** (*national*)
- **St Nicholas Hospice** (*local*)
- **Kidzone Bury St Edmunds** (*local*)

All the selected charities have links in some way to students, parents or staff currently in our community. Our charity team and Sixth Form will be working hard to raise money to support all of these. We thank you in anticipation of your support.

## The Washington trip

There are just four places left for the Washington trip in October 2014. This trip is open to students in years 9, 10, 11 and 12. Students do not have to be taking history and politics to join us. For more information please download the letter from our faculty website

[www.history.bsecus.org](http://www.history.bsecus.org). Replies need to be in as soon as possible.

## Year Group News

### Years 9 and 10

A letter will be posted to all parents with children in these year groups at the end of next week. This will invite parents to attend the **post interim assessment consultations** with their children. These consultations will **commence on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November and run until Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November**. We do ask that parents try to keep to these appointments as there are over five hundred to co-ordinate. Queries regarding appointments should be directed to reception by email to [mglasswell@bsecus.org](mailto:mglasswell@bsecus.org) or by telephoning 01284 754857.

### Year 11

Madame Duverne's **French** group will be sitting their first GCSE Written Controlled Assessment on **Monday 21st October and Tuesday 22nd October** in their normal French class times. They must be in school for those days as this is 15% of their overall GCSE.

## Fixtures

15.10.13

U16 girls'/boys' basketball v St Benedict's (h)

U14 girls' football v Thomas Gainsborough (a)

16.10.13

U16 girls'/boys' basketball v Mildenhall (a)

U14/U15 Western Area netball tournament (a)

17.10.13

Western Area Cross Country Championships at RHS Ipswich

U15A football v Thomas Gainsborough (h)

Year 7, 8 & 9 Football Festival (h)

U14 football v Thomas Gainsborough (h)

## Welcome

We are pleased to welcome this year's French assistante, Mlle Michenaud, who will be with us until the May half term.

## An important letter

Please see overleaf a letter from our Chairman of Governors.



Dear Parent/Carer,

**The Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust**

I am writing to you to confirm that the Trust schools are completely outside the current School Organisation Review. This means that education will continue without disruption in Barrow Primary, Horringer Court Middle, Westley Middle and County Upper. This is very important as there will be many other changes nationally in education in the next few years and we will be fully focused on making those work for your children.

However, we believe that it is important that you do engage with the current consultation. This is for two reasons:

- our all-through approach is different from the three-tier system, whilst retaining its best features and has been recognised as a very successful, visionary approach at national level. We believe it offers the best solution for the whole of Bury St Edmunds and we will do all we can to ensure as many parents as possible are aware of how it works, what it offers and why it is so highly thought of to ensure that they have the full picture when responding to Suffolk County Council.
- parents of children in any primary school will be able to take their children out at the end of year 4 and put them into Horringer Court and Westley from where they will automatically be guaranteed a place at County Upper. Many parents in areas which have already gone two-tier have done this, many are applying to do it this year and many have told us that this is what they will do if Bury changes. Other parents have said they would like their children to benefit from the advantages our system is affording those at Barrow. If Bury goes two-tier but there is strong support for more children aged 4-9 to access our provision, we have already had discussions with the DfE which would make this possible. Engaging with the consultation will make this clearer for all parents.

We have arranged a series of meetings to explain our vision and how it will benefit parents and children both already at Trust schools and who might choose to join us in the future. Both the Trust meetings and those arranged by Suffolk County Council are listed below and will run from 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm, except the one at The Apex which starts at 6.00 pm. At these events any comments you make will be recorded and will be part of the evidence considered by councillors.

I strongly urge you to attend these meetings and to take part in this once in a lifetime opportunity to create outstanding education provision for the whole of Bury St Edmunds.

Yours sincerely



Dr Richard Fletcher

Chair of the Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust

**Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust**

Moreton Hall	
Community Centre	4 November
Horringer Court Middle	6 November
Westley Middle	12 November
The Apex	18 November

**Bury Schools Partnership**

St James Middle	14 October
Hardwick Middle	15 October
Howard Middle	17 October
Riverwalk	23 October
Sexton's Manor Primary	24 October

Hardwick Primary	4 November
Howard Primary	6 November
King Edward VI	7 November
All Saints, Lawshall/	
Great Whelnetham	12 November
Westgate Primary	13 November
Guildhall Feoffment Primary	14 November
Tollgate Primary	19 November
Sebert Wood/Abbots Green	20 November
New School at Moreton Hall	25 November
Ickworth Park Primary	26 November
Risby Primary	27 November
St Edmundsbury Primary	3 December

