

Newsletter

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From the Headteacher



I can't believe how quickly this term has gone and it is so much nicer having the lighter evenings especially this time of year when so many of our students stay in school to complete coursework, controlled assessments or attend revision sessions. Well done to everyone who is staying behind in an effort to help them get the best grades possible in the summer and many thanks to all the staff for giving so much of their time to work with the students. It is a great team effort and best wishes to everybody as they prepare for their summer exams in the next few months.

If hard work and dedication is anything to go by lots of our students deserve to do very well this summer.

As you will see below, Mrs Coley, who has done a sterling job as Associate Headteacher since October, will be leaving us after Easter. Our thanks to Mrs Coley for her support and help over the last two terms. I am therefore really looking forward to returning to Edgbarrow full time after Easter.

Goodbye and Thank You



Mrs Coley joined Edgbarrow SLT in January 2006 as an Assistant Head and in September 2009 she was appointed to the post of Deputy Headteacher. It was always very clear to all of us that she would,

in her own time, become a Headteacher so it comes as no surprise that she is leaving Edgbarrow to take up her new post as Headteacher of The Brakenhale School. We are all absolutely delighted for her; and we know that she will make the most fantastic Headteacher and that our loss is most definitely their gain. Mrs Coley should be congratulated and truly thanked for the time and effort she has put in to our school. She has given her heart and soul to Edgbarrow and we are certainly the better for it. She leaves with our very best wishes and I have no doubt that we will not only stay in touch but will strengthen the positive working relationship we have with The Brakenhale School.

Mr Berryman who is retiring after 18 years of service. He joined Edgbarrow in 1997 as a Technician in the Design Technology Department, a role he continued to do throughout his time at Edgbarrow. From September 1997 to August 2001 he also became a part time teacher in the Design Technology department and he was then appointed as



Site Controller from September 2001 until January 2011. During this time Mr Berryman was instrumental in helping us to improve the facilities across the school in terms of accommodation and the presentation of the school site. Since January 2011 he has continued in his role as Technician in the Design Technology Department and after 18 years supporting and helping the department and the school he will be sorely missed. A huge thanks to Mr Berryman for all he has done for Edgbarrow over the years. We wish him well in his retirement.

Also leaving us this Easter is Mrs Jandoo who joined us as a Website Technician in September 2008 and moved to the role of Pastoral Assistant in July 2013. Throughout her time with us Mrs Jandoo has been a wonderful member of staff and has worked hard to support her colleagues and the students. She is leaving us to take up the post of Data Manager/Exams Officer at High Close School and we wish her all the very best.



Our very best wishes to Mrs Goode our Sixth Form Curriculum Assistant who joined Edgbarrow in September 2012. She has been an invaluable member of our Sixth Form Team and a tremendous support to her colleagues and the Sixth Form students during her time with us. Mrs Goode is leaving us due to a family move out of the area and we wish her well.



Miss Fisher, who was a Learning Support Assistant with us from December 2013, left us in March to work as an LSA at Southfield School in Wokingham and she left with our very best wishes.

Finally, goodbye and good luck to Miss Pyke who joined us in September 2014 as a technician in our IT Support Department. She is leaving us to return to teaching in the Primary sector and we wish her all the very best for the future.



Head Boy / Head Girl

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of our new Head Boy / Head Girl team for the school who were appointed a few weeks ago and take up their new position after June half term. Our new Head Boy is Craig Hodges and our new Head Girl is Rachel Boucher. Our

Deputy Head Boys this year will be Angus Hamilton, Michael Truckle and Daniel Keogh while our Deputy Head Girls are Lucy Coppins, Beth Webb and Ishwari Giga.

I would also like to publically thank the current Head Boy /Head Girl team led by Charlie Goswell and Jess Bollands. Our Deputies this year were Emily Miles, Laura Puddy, Alex Wilson, Mathew Raymen and Prabhat Seth. The manner in which this team has represented our school and presented themselves has been outstanding. In the autumn term when I was busy showing Year 6 parents and students around the school they were such great ambassadors for Edgbarrow. Although initially a little shy, within a few days they were interrupting me, correcting me on details and were full of pride for the school. We had a number of evenings this year when they have spoken publicly to a large audience of parents and students and they have done so with such clarity and confidence. They have been superb pioneers, leading the lower school sub committees for the School Council, the brainchild of Mrs Cooper. The responsibility that they have taken on has been enormous and they have done this really well. My sincere thanks to all the team for taking the time to apply and for giving the time to support the school throughout their final year, it is very much appreciated as is their help and support in the Sixth Form. Our very best wishes to each and every one of them for the future.

Congratulations to our Maths and PE students on their successes this term. For more details see the reports inside.

Painting and Gardening

This spring term we have once again had a Painting and Gardening day and were delighted with the number of parents who attended. The gardeners did a smashing job tidying the hedges at the front of school and clearing the car park. This is an area that we don't often get to and is always a job that we are going to do next week, so thank you. As for the painters, beforehand we identified five classrooms to decorate, none of which were easy due to the IT equipment and/or benching..... but we did it! Not only did we get all five classrooms finished we also did the landing area in Humanities which always gets scuffed due to the traffic of hundreds of students each day trying to get to their lessons. The whole area looked so much better when finished. My sincere thanks to all the Mums, Dads, Grandparents and students for giving up a couple of hours to help. Each year we probably save the school approximately £10,000 across the three days that we do this. If you haven't participated previously, please see if you could give up a couple of hours even if it is only once a year. The refreshments alone are worth it and the school enjoys a clean and tidy environment. Our next Painting and Gardening day is 6th June from 9am–2.30pm. We would love to see you even if just for an hour.

Careers Evening

The Careers Evening this term was once again a huge success with approximately 65 companies present, covering a wide range of career paths and routes, along with a record number of over 500 students and parent/carers attending on the night;

we believe that it was so busy that some of you had to park in the high street car parks and walk down as well! Students from Years 8-13 were invited with parents and the feedback



we have received has encouraged us to continue to work hard to provide such an important and interesting evening for all concerned. The companies felt that it was a very worthwhile evening with lots of positive conversations with students who are very keen to know more. A huge thank you to the PTA and especially Nicky Simmonds for helping and our Careers & Work Related Learning co-ordinator Karen Robinson for presenting such a great evening.

Sixth Form Applications

This year we continue to have a huge amount of applications for our Sixth Form and I believe that we have had over 240 applications to join Year 12 next year. I understand that all but a handful of offers have now been made to students and they are in the process of accepting courses with us for September 2015. Although it is hard to be sure at this stage, we predict that once again there will be over 30 new students from other schools joining our Year 12 next year.

Year 10 Mock Interviews

Year 10 students have recently had the opportunity to participate in a mock interview as part of their Careers Programme. Students completed a CV and an application form and were then interviewed by volunteers from the local business community. We would like to thank our business volunteers as without their help we would not be able to offer these types of valuable learning experiences. All our students will have gained from the experience and the feedback which will be passed onto parents/carers. Our interviewers have been extremely complimentary about our students with comments including 'I felt the students were really engaged during the interview and most had thought hard about how to act and answer questions', 'I enjoyed meeting the Year 10 students yesterday they were a credit to themselves and their school!' Our thanks for Mrs Robinson for organising this very successful event.

JustGiving

Thank you for the generous response to our school fund request. To date we have received over £14,500 (including gift aid) from well over 250 people. This will support us in protecting spending in subject areas and the provision of text books and resources for the forthcoming curriculum changes. Parents and carers will be aware that this was a difficult request for us to make but we appreciate all the help, support and thoughtful comments we have received.

We have also received a cheque for £500 from Wellington College who are match funding any donations from their staff (who are also Edgbarrow parents).

We have added a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) section to the school website which we hope answers any questions you might have. If you would like to make a donation please visit our [Just Giving](#)

Donate to our School Fund with
JustGiving



PTA Quiz

Long term PTA members Peter and Sally Hitt have for many years put in a lot of time and effort to hold a PTA Quiz to raise money each year. On Friday 30th January they held their very last quiz and the school hall was packed with 20 tables of quizzers! This has always been a very successful event and they have raised around £10,000 since they first started. Many thanks and congratulations to Peter and Sally for all they have done.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a Happy Easter holiday.

Warmest regards

Bob Elsey

Governor News

Welcome to the Governors update for this Spring Term.

At our last meeting, in March, the Full Governing Body agreed to reconstitute and from our Summer Meeting will be working under a different framework. In essence this new framework will allow a more strategic approach to Governor recruitment and encourage an agile plan for succession planning. One of the keys to a successful Governing Body is to ensure we have a great mix of experience, skill base, local knowledge and leadership.

The role of a Governor has many responsibilities; not only do we attend full meetings and that of our committees, we are also expected to get involved in school life. As Governors we are all linked to a particular department at the school. The Head of Department and their Governor meet twice in a school year to evaluate results, discuss improvement plans, measure objectives and engage in the vision for the department. Governors participate in the appointment of the Head Girl and Head Boy appointments, these Head students attend our Pastoral Committee and are a link between the Governing Body and the Student Council. As many of you will know there is a mentoring scheme for Year 10 students who meet with people from industry and business to help them prepare for life after school. Many of our Governors give their time as mentors to these students.

Governors will regularly attend school events and parent evenings to observe proceedings and, more importantly, to be available if parents, teachers and students would like to ask questions or raise queries. Please accept this as an invitation to approach Governors when you are attending events where they are present.

This newsletter is a fantastic place to publicly recognise, congratulate and thank people from our school. On behalf of the Governing Body I would like to give huge thanks to Jane Coley and congratulate her on a most deserved promotion to Headteacher at The Brakenhale School. Jane has been at Edgbarrow for nine years and has brought significant impact to the success of all students in all years, including post 16. During the last few months she has expertly driven the school in her position as Associate Head and leaves the school well set up to achieve outstanding results for all students, but particularly those sitting exams during the Summer.

During the last two terms the clerk to our Governing Body has been away on maternity leave and is set to rejoin us in June. In Celeste's absence Pauline Williams has seamlessly taken over clerking responsibilities and we have been grateful for her expertise and guidance in carrying out our responsibilities as Governors. We wish Pauline all the very best in her future appointments and she will be a great asset to any schools that she works alongside.

As I sign off, I would like to wish everybody a fantastic Easter break and hope you all get some quality time with family and friends. The new term will see the height of exam activity and everybody from the Governing Body would like to wish every student sitting exams the very best of luck during this pivotal time of year.

G Oakley

Year 7 News

Head of Year : E McClatchie

Year 7 have had another fantastic term! I have been delighted to see how well they have settled into life at Edgbarrow. It is wonderful to see so many of them getting involved in all aspects of school life.

It was my absolute pleasure to read the grade reports which went home in February, highlighting the fantastic progress the majority of Year 7 pupils are making. The number of high grades for effort, behaviour, homework and attainment were a delight to see and demonstrate the commitment the pupils have towards their studies. A large number of the year group were awarded a Headteacher's certificate by Mrs Coley for the outstanding effort, behaviour and homework grades. Both Mrs Coley and I were delighted to meet and congratulate these pupils in a grade report assembly. I hope this group will grow after our next grade report in the summer.

The pupils' efforts in lessons have also been highlighted by the number of merits they are receiving. All of the children have been working hard to collect merits and many have received their silver, gold and some even platinum certificates. It was fantastic to reward them through our merit raffle last week.

The Year 7s have recently taken part in Interform hockey and football. I was very proud of the large numbers taking part and the wonderful spirit in which it was played. 7V won the football and 7T won the hockey.

Every half term we have an Interform quiz, which is hotly contested. The prize is custody of our giant yellow bath duck (proudly named 'Snoop Duck' by the inaugural winner 7T). Snoop Duck has been on some amazing adventures already. In the first half term he was won by 7V and this half term 7T.

The Year 7 charity reps have been busy this term deciding which charity they should support. I am delighted to say that they have chosen a local charity 'Stepping Stones' to support this year. It's a local charity for families with children with Down's syndrome. They help with funding for the families so that their Down's syndrome children can do activities and they also ensure that the other siblings in the family do not miss out. Next term the pupils will be running a number of different events to raise money for our charity.



Stepping Stones DS I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your continued support in ensuring that all pupils arrive to school on time, wearing the correct uniform and that you look at your child's homework diary on a regular basis to discuss their homework and any issues which are highlighted by staff. I would also like to thank you for all the support you have continued to give us this term in order to ensure the pupils are as settled as possible here at Edgbarrow.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy Easter. I hope you all have an enjoyable and relaxing holiday. I look forward to continuing to work with you all again next term.

E McClatchie



Year 8 News

Acting Head of Year : R Knowles

This term always feels incredibly quick, which means we have needed to fit so much in to a short space of time. This term has been a busy one for Year 8, with the year group working hard to improve or maintain their attitude to their work following the excellent grade reports from the end of the Autumn Term. Knowing the students only had a few weeks to make a noticeable improvement, they worked really hard to try to improve as much as possible and show how committed they are to their studies.

At the end of the Christmas term as a year group we wanted to celebrate those who had exceptional grade reports and those who had made improvement since Year 7. We look forward to another event when we return after Easter following the recent grade reports.

Film Night

Recently, there was a Year 8 film night for a select group of people who performed exceptionally well in their grade reports, as well as those who had made the most progress since Year 7. The event was held on Wednesday after school. When we arrived we got registered and lined up outside the canteen. When we were permitted entry to the canteen we were pleased to see that we were getting some free food: popcorn and a drink. Swiftly, we were all back in our seats waiting for the film to start. Suddenly, the film came on and everyone was very excited when it turned out to be Despicable Me 2!! This was a great night and I really enjoyed the film.

Caleb Trainer 8R

Year 8 have had a lot of achievements to celebrate this term, both sporting and academic. Lots of the year group regularly attend sporting clubs after school and they have been rewarded with some excellent results. Once again I am delighted with the dedication so many have shown through their participation in extra-curricular activities and am very proud of their respectful attitude to all players and excellent teamwork at matches.

Girls Hockey

Year 8 satellite hockey is really fun and I've made lots of new friends! We have achieved a lot including winning our first ever match. We won 1-0. It was really tense. Overall I have really enjoyed going to hockey and feel privileged to be part of such a great team.

Ellie Hardy 8R



Boys Football

Football this term has been great fun. We warm up well before matches and are 2nd in the league. We have won 3 matches out of 4 so far and have played very well. We joined the football team in Year 7 because it was a chance to play some extra football and also because it is good fun to play with our friends. The best goal scorer of this season has been Harry Nutman. We really enjoyed being part of the football team and are excited to play our upcoming matches and hope that we do as well as we previously have.

Matt Mihell & Tom Healy 8V

Girls Football

The girls' football team has been improving each time we play. We won our first match 1 – 0 with a goal from Charlotte Warner. Our second match was not as great as we lost 6 – 0 but we still had lots of fun!

Darcy Hacke-Woods 8T

Girls Cricket

This term indoor cricket club has restarted. The team get together once a week for training. In training we learn new skills every week and are improving fast. So far we have played 1 game and a small tournament; the more we play the better we get! Everyone is really enjoying the games and training. We hope more girls can join. *Katie Appelbe 8P*



Boys Hockey

In the hockey we came 2nd in the plate and played Charters who we wanted to beat! We beat them 3 – 0! We were very happy and overall we did very well as a team. I think we did very well and we are really proud of what we achieved. *George Billyard 8S*



We are continuing to run our Gr8 project this term and I have been delighted to hand out more Gr8 prizes at our termly raffle to those who have completed 8 or more challenges a half term. Next term we are looking forward to our grand prize draw, which will include vouchers to use in the summer holidays as well as many other prizes. We look forward to celebrating more in and out of school successes next term.

One of the challenges that the pupils have been set is to join in with a new club or activity and many Y8 pupils have taken up this challenge. Some of the clubs some of our pupils have joined are the New Age Curling Club, Christian Union and Choir.

Christian Union

This club is held at lunchtimes on a Tuesday by Mrs Taylor. We have been focussing on Prayer. Sometimes we do fun activities, for example role play or drawing. You don't have to be a Christian to join in and its good as all years can participate.

Angel Buick 8P and Annalise Park 8Q

Curling Club

I find boccia and curling very fun! We, as a team, came FIRST in the qualifying round for the Berkshire games. We all found this experience and opportunity very enjoyable. I have made so many good friends from taking part in boccia, including others in our year group. We are currently short on members and encourage anyone who is interested to come and join us every Wednesday lunchtime.

James Nicholls 8S

Choir

Miss Dier runs choir on a Thursday lunch. Last term we learnt the song 'Take me to church' for the winter concert. Now we are doing a mash up of many different songs. This club is open for all years and is great fun. *Angel Buick 8P and Annalise Park 8Q*

We are still continuing to raise money for our year group charity Daisy's Dream.



Charity

To raise money for our charity, we made quizzes and cards for Valentine's Day. We went round each form in registrations and also went round at breaks and lunchtime selling them. People had fun trying to work out who had given them a card. Overall it was a great success. *Annalise Park 8Q*

A variety of pupils have been offered a number of opportunities. This term two of our year group attended the Team Maths Challenge and a large number of pupils attended the Careers event.

Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 11th March, Oliver Hall, two Year 9s and I went to the UKMT team challenge in High Wycombe. We did many different maths challenges. The first one was a group challenge where we worked together to answer some complicated questions. We only got two wrong. The second was cross number and we got nearly all right. There was then the relay and shuttles rounds where we worked in pairs to answer questions in a short period of time. We did extremely well, coming 2nd out of 25 schools and we may be going through to the national finals in London. For this, we won a pencil case, a pen, a magnetic bookmark and a pack of cards! The questions were very challenging and we all enjoyed it. *Olivia Atkins 8U*



Careers Convention

Our school recently held a Careers Convention on the 5th March in the Sixth Form Building. There were hundreds of companies from various careers attending from the NHS and Microsoft to our very own Cucina Catering. This event was held for Years 8 – 13 to raise awareness of the jobs and careers you could work for when out of school. This event was attended by many Y8s and showed us that college and university aren't as far away as it seems. A few pupils, after conversations, have considered taking up an apprenticeship whereas some are thinking about university. Overall this has been a great

experience to help us see outside of school and what lies ahead in the future.

Marshall Buick 8R

We are privileged that some of our year group have been elected onto the school council and delighted that they are welcoming the many opportunities being on the School Council offers them.

Head Boy/Girl Interviews

When my form tutor asked me to watch the Head Boy and Head Girl presentations I felt really privileged. I jumped at the opportunity to do it and the presentations were great. I think our school is full of bright people who have great potential. *Harry Mayes 8T*

As a year group, we are asked by Mr Elsey to represent the school by doing school tours for prospective teachers and students.

School Tours

This year I did a tour of the school. I felt really responsible being able to show someone around and I could tell they were really impressed. We showed the lady around all of the departments. She was really impressed with all of the paintings and pottery as she wanted to study to teach Art. Overall I felt it was a really good experience.

Tom Deed 8T

As you can see we have squeezed a lot into a busy term and we are looking forward to another successful term when we return after Easter.

I wish you all a very happy Easter and hope that you have a restful break with family and friends.

R Knowles

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR SCHOOL ADMISSION APPEAL PANELS

Bracknell Forest Council wants to encourage new people to become involved in school admission or exclusion appeal panels. The role is voluntary, although full training is provided and expenses are paid. The role can be undertaken for a period of one year or for longer and our requirements on your time can be flexible depending on the amount of appeal hearings and on your availability.



School admission appeal panels determine appeals lodged by parents where their child is not offered a place at their preferred school or if they are permanently excluded from school. The work ensures a fair and accountable schools system in Bracknell Forest.

'Being a panel member is deeply rewarding as, for a brief moment in time, you have the ability to make a major contribution to many families' needs and desires'

Bob Hook, Bracknell Forest Appeals Panel Member

Each panel is made up of people who do not have direct experience of teaching or managing schools as well as people who are experienced in education, such as former teachers and parents of registered pupils.

If you would like to become involved in this interesting and rewarding work or for further information contact the Clerk to the Appeals Panel Jemma Durkan on 01344 352209, email admission.appeals@bracknell-forest.gov.uk or in writing to the Clerk to the Appeal Panel, Corporate Services, Easthampstead House, Town Square, Bracknell, RG12 1AQ.

Year 9 News

Head of Year : L West

This term our focus has been making decisions about the future and therefore their option choices. I have been absolutely delighted and very proud with the mature way the Year 9 pupils approached the Option process. It was fantastic and a total pleasure to see so many parents and pupils at the Options Evening and Parents Evening and the insightful questions that the students were asking of their tutors and teachers to help them make sensible and informed decisions. I know that tutors enjoyed engaging in these valuable conversations, and felt they had a real insight into how your children view their future and listened to some very exciting ambitions! All the Option forms were in on time and you would have received a letter confirming your child's choices.

We have recently had our Careers Evening and were delighted to have over 50 exhibitors. A large number of Year 9 pupils attended the event with their parents and Bella Yau has written the following passage about the evening:



On the 5th March 2015 Edgbarrow hosted a careers convention open to Year 8 and above, many companies shared their knowledge, experience and what they did. There was a lot of variety from computing to banking to becoming a beautician. There were local businesses (Thames Valley Police) as well as worldwide ones; amongst them were HP, Fujitsu, Waitrose and Specsavers. They all gave you very good advice on what career path you wanted to take or if you didn't know, they would tell you how that brand could help you. I talked to many companies, one of them being Scottish Widows; they provided a lot of information about what their company offered and how they provided an internship. Overall this was a great success as many people turned up and got a lot of use out of this convention.

We have a Praise Wall in the Year 9 area and I have been delighted to be able to put so many names on it this term. Staff are able to nominate anonymously, any student they think has impressed them and have achieved the following criteria: Successful, Polite, Effort, Above and Beyond and Kindness. I have been impressed with the effort that so many of the pupils are making in lessons and recognition of being on our Praise Wall means you will receive an E-postcard home.

The year group have had many successes this term, whom we are very proud of and congratulations go to members of the year group who have been involved in our victorious cross country team and who competed in our badminton team. Our mathematicians have also been involved in the Maths Challenge; Rhys Pullen and Surekha Punshon played a vital role in helping them come second out of over 20 other schools.

We have also been lucky to have been engaged in extra-curricular activities such as being honoured by the presence of Hermann Hirschberger who came to speak to the Year 9s about his life in Nazi Germany and how he was saved by the Kindertransport.

We were also visited by the Saltmine Theatre group who put on a very engaging play about Internet Safety and a fantastic workshop afterwards to discuss the issues raised. A group of girls also went to Reading University to see what career paths were open to them in science to inspire them to look for a career in this area.

Our very own Mrs Petri took a Year 12 and Year 9 combination of students to Barcelona, where they toured the sites, walked miles (apparently!) and spoke Spanish until they were fluent. In all cases, the students engaged and learnt a lot from these experience and as a team we are very proud of them. Please see accounts below about all activities.

When I went on our science trip, I was very excited and when we got there we were led into a big room. In the room there were some really friendly ladies who were there to talk to us about what their jobs involved and how science is incorporated into their jobs and to explain that science isn't just for men.

I enjoyed the trip - we did activities, group discussions and lots more. Once we were seated, the first activity was to decide on the stereotypical differences between girls and boys and fill in the two sheets which had been prepared for us. We all were able to contribute and shout out our ideas. This was good fun as it became clear how big we think the difference between girls and boys really is.

We then watched some videos to show how science can appeal to girls in the workplace. It really explained that there is no reason why more women shouldn't be in science labs, and questioned why it is just men in science labs. I really enjoyed the trip and it made me think a lot, especially when I am in science class. It was a trip that was worth going on as it made me realise that if you want to have a science based career or a career that involves taking science subjects at school, there should be no barrier to anyone doing it. By Abbie Bush





On Wednesday 11th March Year 9 were privileged enough to be able to listen to a Holocaust survivor, Hermann Hirschberger MBE's amazing story. He told us tales of him growing up as a German Jew and having to flee Germany and head to England via Kindertransport, leaving his parents behind who were then ruthlessly killed at Auschwitz. He also told us about the awful things he and his only other Jewish classmate Manfred experienced from their other classmates, the worst part to this was the fact that their teachers new exactly what was happening but did nothing to stop it. His story moved me and really hit home for me and probably many other year 9s. It was a real honour to listen and meet Hermann and I am sure that his legacy will live on and his tales will be passed down through many generations to come, to ensure that nothing as horrific as the Holocaust will ever happen again.

Emelia Riddette – Page 9T

At 7am on 5th February, 8 Year 9 students and 7 Year 12 students boarded a coach and headed for Gatwick airport to catch the early flight to Barcelona. It was a replacement trip for the Spanish exchange which had been cancelled by the Spanish school.

We landed at El Prat de Llobregat airport and were transferred to our hotel by coach. Almost as soon as we'd arrived, Mrs Petri and Mr D got us walking towards Parc Guell where we conducted a guided film tour of the Parc describing location, history and architecture. We had to ask the locals (in Spanish) for directions to all the places that we visited. After this we walked round to 'La Sagrada Familia' where we learnt about the history of it. By then it was 18.30pm so we made our way to the restaurant Lactua, where we had an unlimited buffet and drinks. Lovely!



The next morning we boarded a bus and headed to Camp Nou. It was amazing! We listened to the history and its importance in Barcelona. We had a tour of the stadium which included walking through the tunnel and out on to the pitch which was fantastic. We had a group photo taken with a replica of the Champions Cup.

Later we went to the Catalunya museum where we learnt about the Franco and the post Franco era and interviewed the staff there.

The next day we went to 'El Barrio Gotic', the backstreets of Barcelona where there were lots of little shops for us to explore, and the famous cathedral. After lunch we took a bus to the Monjuic castle where the views were fantastic and we finished our video tours. We were sad to go home on the Sunday as we'd all had such a brilliant time, especially at Camp Nou! By Joe Taylor



When in Barcelona we visited many sites, some were Campnou, La Sagrada Familia, Park Guel and Las Ramblas. We had to be very careful with our bags in Las Ramblas. We also had to order our food in Spanish which was lots of fun. By Hannah Stewart Jordan

A youth drama group came to visit us called Saltmine. They performed a really good play to show what can happen if you are not safe on the internet or mobile phones. They included us as the audience in the play and asked us to create different endings and scenarios for them to act out. There was hot seating and different characters talked about how safe they were on the internet and why they had made their decisions. We all really enjoyed it and benefited from the information. By Alex Blackmore



As a year group we are also in the process of starting the Duke of Edinburgh training and we are looking forward to the exhibitions and listening to the successes from this activity. Thanks you to those who have donated to our charity appeal Shooting Star Chase, we are still collecting anything that can be donated including DVDs, CDs, toys, jewellery etc. To finish, I want to say thank you to all who have supported the Year 9 students this term including all members of staff and of course yourselves. I hope you all have a lovely and relaxing Easter break with plenty of Easter eggs and good weather.

Mrs West

Intermediate Maths Challenge Results

On Thursday 5th February our top set maths students in Years 9, 10 and 11 sat the UKMT maths challenge. This is a national competition with 'problem solving' type questions set around many different areas of mathematics.

Our students achieved gold, silver and bronze certificates and the results are given below:

	Year 11		Year 10		Year 9
GOLD	Matt Ceasar* & ** David King Abi Holden	GOLD	Eden Orren* Megan Hardy Olivia Chopping Elwira Slowinska	GOLD	Rhys Pullen* Surekha Punshon
SILVER	Mason Williams Ewan Beetham Jack Cowley Anson Law Kiara Taylor Alice Wood Sophie Harding Ben Vince Adam Nixon Edward Forbes Ethan Yardley Callum Hill Bethany Goddard Balaram Thirukumar	SILVER	Rosie Brennan Jacob Milligan Maxim Savochkin Charlie Piggott Eden Philpot George Vallance	SILVER	Felicity Harding James Hall James Picker Amaya Opalka Toby Wenman
BRONZE	Hazel Pilszak Liberty Curtis Theo Honey Andrew Luckett Flora Hamilton Brad Ilsley Alex Mayes	BRONZE	David Peters Cerys Bull Gemma Dauncey Fiona Knight Cameron Withers Francesca Brannan Josh Martin Nicholas Flint	BRONZE	Jemima Gould Milly Del-Nevo Finley Hawkins Evan Spanswick Jenson Hazel Annabel Brennan Giulia Varischetti

** Matthew Ceasar also received a certificate for 'Best in School'

* Matthew Ceasar, Eden Orren and Rhys Pullen and also received a certificate for 'Best in their Year'

Matthew Ceasar, David King, Eden Orren, Megan Hardy, Rhys Pullen and Surekha Punshon also sat the next round of the maths challenge on Thursday 19th March. I will let you know how they get on in the next issue.

Success at the Year 10 Maths Feast

We won!

On Friday 6th March, four of our Year 10 students took part in the Maths Feast which was held at Sandhurst School. This was organised by the Further Maths Support Programme and was an opportunity for 19 teams of Year 10 students in local and surrounding areas to 'compete' against each other (although the organisers kept insisting it was not a competition!!!!) The team consisted of Eden Philpot, Rosie Brennan, Oliver King and Megan Hardy. The feast contained 6 'courses'. The Amuse-Bouche round was a matching activity, the Hors d'oeuvres was a comparison round, the Entree was about set theory where the students had to learn how to do this new topic from a help sheet and then answer questions on it. The Main course was a problem solving round where communicating their solutions thoroughly was key. Dessert was where the students had to build Columbus cubes using paper Origami style. We were one of the only teams that managed to build and stack all 5 cubes. If you would like to know how to build them then why not Google it and give it a go yourself! The Petits-Fours round was where the team worked in pairs to try to get four correct solutions in a row by passing their answer to the other pair for them to use. Congratulations to our winning team.

Success at the Year 8 and 9 Team Challenge

After the success of the Year 10 team on the Friday, I then had the opportunity to take the Year 8/9 team to their maths competition on Wednesday 11th March. Once again this was being held at Wycombe High School and run by the UK Maths Trust. Our team consisted of Rhys Pullen and Surekha Punshon in Year 9 and Oliver Hall and Olivia Atkins in Year 8. Our students performed excellently on the day against some very tough competition. I am very pleased to announce that we came 2nd out of the 25 schools participating in this heat of the National Competition. The challenge consisted of a number of different rounds including the group round, crossnumber, shuttle round and finally the relay race (fast walking was required!). This is the best we have ever done in this competition, so our congratulations to those involved.

Upcoming Events

The Junior maths challenge for top set students in Years 7 and 8 is to be held on Thursday 30th April and there is also an opportunity for Year 7 students to get involved in the maths marathon in July which is run by the Education Business Partnership – more details to follow.

The Maths Department would like to thank all the students who have taken part in the enrichment activities so far this year and congratulate those that will be receiving certificates. Well done!

Mrs Holloway

A Level Maths Competition

We took 2 teams of 5 Year 12 Students to the SATRO AS Maths challenge organised by the University of Surrey. It took place at George Abbot School in Guildford on 5th March and our leading team managed to place a respectable 11th out of 19 teams. Some of the top teams were very well practiced with these kinds of questions so I felt we did quite well considering it was our first experience of this competition. D Laurie-Pile

Duke of Edinburgh Award

This years expanded D of E program at Edgbarrow has 55 Bronze and 10 Gold participants. 54 Bronze Participants, 10 Gold Participants and 19 school and expedition training staff descended on a large field in Wellington Country Park for the inaugural D of E training weekend on 28th & 29th March. This has prepared our participants for the challenges of the expeditions that lie ahead. We were lucky with the weather – we only experienced light rain and the gale force winds never materialised.

The participants focused on navigation, route planning, camp craft, first aid, countryside code and cooking amongst other things. All groups produced a fully planned route for their practice expedition.

We look forward to supporting our students through the challenges (and hopefully better weather) that lie in store for the practice and subsequent assessed expeditions.

The Easter Holidays will see the Gold groups practising their new expertise during a 4 day adventure in the stunning wilderness of Dartmoor. This will be their practice expedition before the final assessment in the Lake District in July.

Follow expedition progress through the news area of the D of E page on the school website.

D Laurie-Pile



PTA News

The PTA is in the middle of another busy year raising funds which go towards the cost of equipment and activities which are for the benefit of all the pupils.



The Christmas Shopping Evening and the Sponsored Walk were both hugely successful and raised significant funds for the school. January brought us the ever popular Quiz evening and during March we supported the Careers Evening which gave pupils an insight into various options of careers and had stalls run by many local companies, the Emergency Services and representatives from the construction and engineering industries. The Painting and Gardening days, held three times a year, started in September and have once again been well attended by parents and members of the Wokingham Vineyard church; making the school look brighter and fresher whilst saving valuable funds.



As promised in our last newsletter the PTA have increased fundraising efforts with new initiatives such as the Bag2School and the Rugby / Football Ticketing scheme. Coming up we have planned a Fashion Show on the 5th June, a Car Boot Sale in the spring and a Summer Dance with live music. Also as part of our community involvement we are hosting a stall at this year's Crowthorne May Fair.

For further details of these events please refer to the school website.

The PTA would welcome your views to regards current and new ideas. Please let us know by emailing;

pta@edgbarrowschool.co.uk or by coming along to the next PTA meeting (please refer to school website for dates).

Malcolm May
PTA Chair

**Fashion
Show**

**Edgbarrow School PTA in partnership with
M&Co, Wokingham
Friday June 5th 2015 – Sixth Form Centre
Doors Open at 6.30 – Fashion Show starts at 7pm
Tickets £2 each**



Please support the school in this great event for all the family, many more stalls will be there for you to browse, for a last minute prom accessory or just something different just for you - including jewellery, shoes, bags, beauty and flowers.

If you fancy a strut down the Catwalk we are also looking for Models for the event!

ALL welcome to take the boards – please email nikki_mears@btinternet.com to put your name forward (ideally we would like a good range of models and names will be selected based on a draw basis)

Models will be able to purchase their 2 outfit choices after the event with discount (outfits will be selected at M&Co Wokingham on the 2nd June 2015) and all attendees will receive a discount coupon to spend at M&Co.

Year 10 News

Head of Year : J Cooper

I have been tremendously proud of the way that the year group has coped with a very challenging term. They have proved themselves to be developing into very mature young people and have risen to the demands of mock exams, English Speaking & Listening exams and mock interviews.

It has been a real pleasure to read the grade reports and see how hard the vast majority of them are working. I have asked their teachers to nominate those who have been real 'superstars' in their lessons and I have been overwhelmed by the number of nominations. We will be celebrating these successes with Easter prizes towards the end of the term.

This term in our PSHGEE lessons we have been discussing the world of work and preparing the students in readiness for applying for jobs. The Careers Open Evening was very well attended and we hope that students find this useful in helping them with decisions about their future. We have had excellent presentations from members of the business community who have spoken to the students about writing CVs and application forms that make them stand out, preparing for interview and how to present in an interview situation. The pupils must be congratulated on how well they have responded to this. Our panel of business men and women who conducted the mock interviews were very impressed with the quality of answers and how well they presented themselves. These skills will be invaluable to the students when they start applying for college, sixth form and employment.

The year group were privileged earlier this term to watch a performance by the Saltmine Production company which addressed the issue of 'sexting' and staying safe online. This is an area that continues to be of concern and I would encourage you to discuss with your son or daughter their use of social media and the contacts that they have through it.



The summer term will see all of the year group sitting their English Language GCSE, and a number of them also taking their Maths and Science GCSEs. Can I stress to you that these are formal external exams and must therefore be taken seriously. Whilst students must rest over the Easter holiday it is also important that they start their revision to maximise their chances of achieving these GCSEs this year. The school website has resources from individual departments to aid revision and to help you support your son or daughter.

I wish you and your family a restful Easter and look forward to working with you in the Summer term.

J Cooper

Pastoral Information

Please see the links below for updated information on Uniform, Authorised Leave of Absence and Behaviour Policy

- [School Uniform List 2015](#)
- [Authorised Leave of Absence](#)
- [Behaviour Policy](#)

Careers and Work Related Learning

Year 9s – Option Choices, January 2015

Year 9s have recently spent 2 PSHGEE lessons working on their option choices via 'Steps' an interactive pdf workbook, designed to help them begin to make decisions about subjects, courses and pathways. This involved looking at activities that they need to do during Year 9 and prioritising them, along with looking at 'Their Network', and 'Personal Qualities' and using that information to help them explore and make informed choices.

Year 9 Science Trip: It's a people thing, University of Reading - 11th February, 2015

A small group of Year 9 students had the opportunity to attend a Science workshop at the University of Reading run by the Institute of Physics in collaboration with Women into Science and Engineering (WISE). The aim of the workshop was to encourage girls to look at the gender stereotypes surrounding the areas of science and engineering and introduce them to the full range of STEM careers. Students took part in interactive activities with a number of female ambassadors from high profile Science companies including Thames Water, Foster Wheeler, Horizon and Jacobs. These



included discussions about the marketing of Science, with regards to colours, and presentation, along with detailed discussions with the ambassadors about their routes into their roles and the many opportunities available, along with highlighting the shortfall in engineers within the UK and how few females entered the profession. Overall a very enlightening experience for the girls.

Year 12 Careers Sessions, February 2015

Year 12s recently had the opportunity to attend a number of talks on the various career paths available to them. A number of different organisations were on hand, to present, take questions and offer advice, these included Adviza, the Thames Valley Regional Network (apprenticeship), John Lewis/Waitrose, CGI, a Barrister, Symantec as well as a Systems Designer and Programmer.



National Careers Week – wc 2nd March 2015 & National Apprenticeship Week – wc 9th March 2015

To tie in with the above events Edgbarrow School held a number of assemblies for each year group highlighting specific careers areas. Year 7 welcomed a visitor from Dell who came and spoke to them about the many possibilities within IT and technology. The focus for Year 8s was careers in the NHS, a visitor from the Royal Berkshire Hospital led an interactive scenario with them introducing them to the 100s of careers available within the NHS. Year 9s, 10s and 11s welcomed young

apprentices from Fujitsu who spoke to them about the many apprenticeships available and also talked them through their own personal routes.

Careers Convention – Thursday 5th March 2015

Keeping to the theme of National Careers Week, our annual careers convention also took place during that week. We welcomed over 500 students along with their parent/carers on the night, so by far our biggest one ever. With 65 exhibitors ranging from BP to a Scene of Crimes Officer it was an excellent evening with our students having the opportunity to have detailed discussions about the many options available to them post 16 and 18. As well as our younger students being able to discuss with employers how making informed choices early on can ensure that they keep all possible options and routes open for the future. Our exhibitors have been commenting on how well informed and polite our students are so a well done to them for making the most of this opportunity.



Berkshire Apprenticeship Adventure – Friday 6th March, 2015

A small group of Year 11s and Sixth Form students who had expressed an interest in investigating the apprenticeship route further attended the above event at the Coppid Beech Hotel, Bracknell. They were able to interact with approximately 40 employers who offer apprenticeships, find out about current live opportunities as well as meeting with a number of training providers and also register on the national apprenticeship website. Another great opportunity to ensure that they are fully informed when making those crucial decisions about their future.



Year 10 Mock interviews 17th – 19th March, 2015

All of Year 10 have recently participated in a mock interview as part of their Careers Programme. Students spent 3 PSHGEE lessons preparing as well as time during registration. For the first lesson they attended a talk by an outside speaker about how to 'stand out', this focused on interview preparation as well as looking at how to make your CV stand out from the crowd. They followed this up by preparing a CV and application form for either a sixth form or college place or an apprenticeship. Students choose which of the options to apply for (they had 10 sample apprenticeships to choose between) or if they were looking at the Sixth form/college route they were asked to research which college course or A Levels/BTECs they were interested in and complete the application accordingly. They then participated in a 30 minute interview with volunteers from the local business community and have all received detailed feedback which hopefully will put them in good stead for when they have their first real interview.

Year 10 Business Mentor Programme

This new programme aimed at supporting students through the involvement of business mentors is going strong, mentees and mentors alike are reporting positive results. A review is due to take place shortly with both the mentors and mentees, but the aim is to continue and expand this new venture.



Adviza Careers Advice

We continue to have an impartial careers advisor in school once a week to support our students in making the best possible choices. The aim is to offer as many one-to-one sessions as possible to students (especially in Year 11) who request or are identified as needing extra help. Students in other year groups are also supported as identified and there is an Adviza PA present at Year 9 and Year 11 Parent/Carers evenings to provide support during transitions.

K Robinson

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 [@EdgbarrowSchool](https://twitter.com/EdgbarrowSchool)

www.edgbarrowschool.co.uk

Year 11

Head of Year : M Jackson

I continue to be extremely impressed with the amazing amount of enthusiasm, hard work and dedication I see from so many of the Year 11s at this time. As the pressure continues to grow, as we approach the final phase of our time together, the year group continues to develop in their ability to cope and produce their best. They are all extremely busy finishing off coursework and controlled assessments. Those pupils doing practical subjects have also been doing their moderations and oral assessments over the last few weeks.

As I have moved around the school in recent weeks it has really struck me just how many Year 11s are on the site after 3.20pm doing their coursework or attending revision sessions. I am sure all their hard work and dedication will pay off in the summer's examinations.

During this time the year group have been considering their futures and have completed the task of applying to the Sixth Form or other colleges and for apprenticeships. Many have now received their offers and now have something to aim for next year.

This academic term we have been continuing with our reward system albeit in a slightly different way. I have asked staff to nominate pupils who deserve special recognition be it for effort, attainment, general helpfulness or similar good deeds and will use these nominations as the basis of selecting the pupils who deserve to be especially rewarded for their efforts this term. The feedback from staff has already been so complimentary and we have recognised this with the pupils.

We are now fully involved in the process of preparing for the Prom and writing the Year Book. The Prom and the Year Book committees have done a fantastic job of ensuring the year group will have a fantastic way of celebrating their time here. The Prom Night will take place on Thursday 25th June 2015 at The Legoland Hotel, Windsor from 7pm to 11pm. I am really looking forward to seeing them all dressed up and having a fantastic evening celebrating our final time together as a whole group!

As always I would like to thank my wonderful group of Tutors, who continue to do a fantastic job with the year group. Their patience, energy, enthusiasm and devotion have been pivotal in supporting and inspiring the pupils throughout such an important year.

As Easter will soon be upon us can I please ask for your support in ensuring all the pupils use this time wisely. It is of course very important that they have a break and enjoy some rest and relaxation however, it is vital that they also plan to do a considerable amount of revision! When we return from Easter there are less than 3 weeks before the first exam! Year 11s therefore need to see the Easter holidays as an opportunity to prepare thoroughly for these exams.

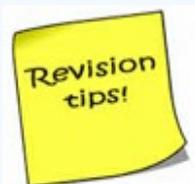
I would also like to thank all of you for your continued support and wish you a happy Easter.

M Jackson

Year 11 Revision Information

Our school website now has a page for parents/carers and students aimed at giving some guidance and information to support their child's revision through their GCSEs this year. This page can be accessed from both the 'Parents' and the 'Students' headers on the website and is called '[Year 11 Revision Information](#)'.

Departments have provided information on resources specific to their subject so parents are aware of the advice teachers have been giving to the students and where to find it. There is also a sub-page with general exam revision advice and techniques called '[Helpful Hints and Advice for Revision](#)'.



News Around School



Library News

Berkshire Book Award

A group of Year 9 students have been shadowing the Berkshire Book Award again this year. This involved reading as many as possible of the shortlist titles. The Edgbarrow winner was *Dying of the Light* by Derek Landy. The overall winner across Berkshire was *Awful Auntie* by David Walliams, Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson and the Greek Gods* was voted 2nd and 3rd was Derek Landy's *Skulduggery Pleasant* book *The Dying of the Light*. The Berkshire Book Award is voted for by young people across the country.

Valentine Blind Date

As a special Valentine's Day treat we invited students to choose a 'Blind Date Book'. A selection of books were covered in brown paper with just a brief clue on the front hinting at what kind of book/date you were choosing. This was really popular and highlighted the old adage 'You can't judge a book by its cover'.



Read for my School

In conjunction with the English department we signed the school up to take part in this national online book reading competition. All students in Year 7 and 8 were invited to sign up to the website which would give them access to in excess of 150 books that they could read – For Free!! You could add books that you'd read off line onto your total and the aim was to get students to read a million books nationwide. Some of our students have really added to the grand total with the amount of books they've been reading!

"I think Read for My School was fun and easy to use and understand" George Billyard Yr8

In February the Library also held a sale of old library books which was very well attended. Money raised went to the Year 7 charity Daisy's Dream.

World Book Day 5th March

World Book Day was celebrated in the library with library staff dressing up as book characters. Students took part in the Guess the Book in the Jar competition, played Book Bingo and entered the National Design a Book Token competition as well as completing lots of word searches and a Book Quiz.



A Lunchtime Club is running for both Year 7 and 8 pupils on Wednesdays giving them the opportunity to chat about books and take part in book related activities. The Year 7 club is run by Kelly Wise and Maria Tilson, Year 13. Year 8 reading group is run by Jamie Mc Kean.

Orielton Trip

On the 13th to the 16th March Miss Selby and Mr Basher took our AS Geography Students to Orielton to complete field work in preparation for their AS and A2 skills exams.

The visit involved the study of two locations. They studied how river processes change along its course and the erosional process that take place on the coast.

Various sites were visited, and students completed tests to find parameters such as the cross-sectional area, wetted perimeter, the hydraulic radius of the channel, testing for long shore drift and investigated the geology of cliffs.

All of the students were enthusiastic and enjoyed participating in some real field geography. The good, be it cold, weather over the weekend meant that the trip was enjoyed by all and gave the students a vital experience to help them in their exams.



Sixth Form

Head of Year : T Evans

Here we are again, nearing the end of Years 12 and 13. The final Year 13 photo has happened! It's scary how quickly these years go by. Students are locking in now for their revision; many are well under way and have organised themselves early. Well done to them.

The Pre-Public Exams went pretty well in that they were all taken extremely seriously. Our Atrium looked like a huge exam hall and it was all invigilated by our excellent exams team. Students took re-sits seriously and we noticed a massive improvement in all areas. Well done to all for such a successful outcome. The experience of having sat those papers will stand them all in good stead. Our Vocational subjects are nearing their end too, with students close to finishing in some subjects. Two students have already completed their BTEC Sport Science Diploma. This is a great achievement.

We have chosen our new Head Girl / Head Boy team for next year and they will be shadowing the existing team over the coming weeks before taking over for real in May. We wish them all the very best. To know who they are, see Mr Elsey's bit in this Newsletter. We are keen to use the enthusiasm, skills and talents of as many of our students as possible, so we shall be announcing other positions soon.

Our Fund-Raisers organised a leg-waxing for Comic Relief. A few brave lads underwent depilation in a most painful manner. Well done to them for volunteering, although some seemed to enjoy it a bit too much.

There have been trips (History, Theatre Studies and Business), and there are more to come. Our current Year 12 History / Government and Politics students will be invited to go to New York and Boston next year, and Operation Wallacea is well underway for next summer.

Our Year 13s passed on the benefit of their wisdom to Year 12s in PSHE by offering an information session to tell them about the universities / apprenticeships / job possibilities that they had researched over the past eight months. We very much appreciated this help from Year 13 and we hope that Year 12 students will start to think really carefully about their options. Many have been doing this for a while, but they all need to do it now. We shall be spending a day with Year 12 in the summer term telling them all about the ins and outs of Post-18 future possibilities. More information will follow later.

Karen Robinson (Careers) organised for a variety of speakers to come in to talk about their jobs / companies / career choices. This was a successful and useful session that gave the students more food for thought concerning their future.

Next week our Sixth Form U-19 football team play Charters in the semi-final of the cup. We won this cup last year, so we're hoping to keep up the winning streak. More news to follow the match in the next Newsletter, but we have a great chance.

On the final Wednesday of term, we are having some anti-stress, anti-exam, fun activities and we'll devour 300 doughnuts. This is a feel-good day; the first of many to ensure we think about more than the stresses and strains of Sixth Form life!

I hope that all our students and families will have a good break over the Easter period, and that students come back ready for the final push. Revision time is NOW!

Thanks for all your support, Parents and Carers. See you again soon.

T Evans and the Sixth Form Team



Revise!

PE Department

Boys PE

Boys PE has had another extremely busy term. The main focus of the term has been football and we have fielded teams in every year group including the Sixth Form. Some year groups have also had B team fixtures. As a result we have staffed, managed and transported students to over 45 fixtures in a period of 7 weeks. More than 90 boys have represented the school in football across the year groups.

All teams have been entered into the Berkshire Schools FA Cup as well as the East Berkshire League Cup. At the time of writing we still have three teams involved in knock-out stages of competitions and we are hopeful to convert these opportunities into some silverware.

The Year 7 team have shown much promise. They won their league putting them into the semi final of the East Berks competition. Despite leading 4-1 against Furze Platt in the semi final, the team got complacent and allowed the home team back into the game. After extra time the score was 4-4 and unfortunately Edgbarrow lost on penalties.

The Year 8 team are still involved in their competition and are to play Brakenhale in the semi final next week. We wish them well.

The Year 9s secured a great win in their first game against Holyport back in January. Since then, despite scoring first in every game they have played, they have come up against some good sides and really struggled to compete. They have made some good progress as a team through the term however.

The Year 10 team were always going to struggle to match the achievements of last year when they won the County Cup. They play in the highest league in East Berks and therefore play against some top footballing schools and some good teams. Despite some great performances they did not qualify for the knock out stages this year.

The Year 11 team have really performed well this year. They were beaten in the semi final of the County Cup in very unfortunate circumstances and are still going in the East Berks cup. They will play Forest on Monday in the semi final. Again we wish them the very best of luck

The Sixth Form team have again played well for most of the season. School and personal work commitments hampered their progress in the County Cup where they were beaten in the quarter finals by Forest. They play on Monday against Charters in the East Berks Cup semi final who they have already beaten this season. Being current holders of the East Berks Cup, it would be great to win in two years in a row!

Other notable achievement this term include the Year 8 Indoor Athletics team. They competed in the Bracknell Forest competition and won securing a place in the Berkshire Schools Games that were hosted at Bisham Abbey on Wednesday. Despite some great individual performances they did not quite finish in the medals.

The school New Age Kurling club goes from strength to strength. Between 10 and 15 boys come along to the club on a Wednesday lunchtime and practice this great sport. In the Bracknell Forest competition, Edgbarrow entered two teams. Due to the boys' excellent approach to practice, Edgbarrow played Edgbarrow in the final! The team have earned a place in the Berkshire schools games being held at Wellington College in July.

Badminton

As ever our badminton teams have had an excellent year. Badminton at Edgbarrow is hugely popular and we run three separate practices per week to try and cater for the interest and most of the time that is not enough!

Three of our four teams qualified for the county finals in Slough which was played in February. All teams competed really well with the girls' KS4 team reaching the final. Unfortunately they were beaten so did not qualify for the nationals. The KS3 girls and KS4 boys also had some excellent results.

Cross country

The Berkshire schools cross country took place right at the start of the term. Edgbarrow entered a huge team of just under fifty runners. A new course at Newbury Showground meant a bit more of a journey for our athletes, a little different to going over the road to Wellington College. There were some excellent individual performances through the day but high quality fields and some injuries to key personnel meant we returned empty handed from a team perspective. A number of athletes qualified for Inter-Counties finals as a result however.

The school also entered two cross country relays event both held at Lily Hill Park. Both excellent events in their own way and both providing opportunities for students to compete in this growing sport at Edgbarrow.

A Hollingdale

Boys & Girls Hockey

Hockey has taken off hugely this year at Edgbarrow. We have had over 70 students involved weekly across the school, running 6 teams. We have had 18 fixtures including 4 tournaments and although the results have not gone our way, many schools have commented on the enthusiasm and positive attitude of the students and the potential they have. Each student's individual skill level has developed significantly and next year we are excited to begin to focus on our strategies and tactics within the teams.

Sport England, through the Get Berkshire Active scheme, have funded some specialist hockey sessions on Tuesdays since Christmas, which 35 of our students were invited to be a part of. The additional drive on hockey has been a great success and we have had some students join the local hockey club outside of school as a result. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the students this year and have had the pleasure of facilitating some very talented students in their own development. I have even nominated some to go to the junior development centre sessions this summer.

Thank you to James Manning, James Sherman, Zach Brayshaw, Oliver King, Cameron Foan and Alice Wood for all their help at the lower school practices. With the numbers we have had attending, it would have been impossible without them.

K Patterson



U16 Girls Basketball - Conference League Champions

This year the girls have yet again improved immensely with their basketball skills. A team I am truly proud of and impressed with. They won their games in the league, only losing to Little Heath School by 3 points. However we met my old stomping ground team in the league final and with a see saw score, back and forth, we ended up winning by 2 baskets. Well done to the girls, that's 2 years in a row, can we make it a hat trick?



U13 Girls Football

Well done to our U13 girls football team who made it through to the second round of the Berkshire cup for the first time in 4 years. This year we have a really strong squad with lots of potential. We travelled to Maiden Erleigh School in Reading where the majority of their team were part of the Reading Academy. The girls fought hard, with the first half ending 4-0 to the opposition which did not reflect how even the game seemed in the centre of the pitch. The girls increased the intensity in the second half and even with an injury to our centre back we managed to concede only 2 goals, in our eyes a massive improvement. The score didn't dampen our Edgbarrowian spirits....the girls convincing themselves THEY won 6-0 on the journey home.



J Madzelewski

Netball

This year we had a slightly shorter season playing most of our games by Christmas. We have been waiting on other schools to find our league positions and they currently are:

Year 7 – 2nd: Year 8- 1st: Year 9 - 1st: Year 10- 1st: Year 11- 1st

A big well done to everyone who played and huge thank you to the Year 11 and Year 9 officiators.

Biathlon National Finals

Three athletes from Edgbarrow went to the Olympic Park to complete in the national finals of the Schools Modern Biathlon.

George Billyard

George swam a fantastic 100m, coming 1st in his heat with an amazing swim. He had a steady well paced run and went on to storm his way to a 1st place in his heat. He was way ahead, for the last 400m. A tremendous personal best. So 1st in both his heats and 74th overall !



Lewis Boniface

Lewis had a close race in his swim, and was thrilled that he came 3rd in his heat – in fact he was pipped at the post for a 2nd position. He went on to run an amazing 1600m, pacing himself until the end, then putting on a massive sprint in the last 200m to achieve a healthy 2nd in his heat. Lewis came 83rd overall, a real achievement.

Tilly Waight

Tilly came 2nd in her heat for the swim but it was the run where Tilly really dominated coming 1st in her heat and 6th overall. With the events combined Tilly finished 33rd out of 128 athletes!! Well done !



S Kalkwarf

Please remember.....

Free School Meals Application Form

If you would like to see if you are entitled, please select this [LINK](#) to print the form, print your details clearly below and return either to the address below or one of your children's current school.



The form can also be completed online by visiting www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Support for Service Children

Service children are children with one or more parents currently serving in the British armed forces.

As a school we are entitled to claim additional money for all Service children on our roll under the government's funding arrangements and this has also been extended for Service children for up to 2 years after their parent has retired from HM Forces.

If you are in or recently retired from HM Forces, please would you confirm that this is the case by filling in the form which you access by select this [LINK](#) and returning it to school reception. Please also state whether you are Personnel Category 1 or 2 by ticking the appropriate box and indicating where you are currently based.



Schoolcomms - please do not reply to messages received

Please do not reply to messages from Schoolcomms as they are not received by the school; any emails should be directed to: secretary@edgbarrowschool.co.uk and they will be forwarded to the relevant member of staff.



As good neighbours please may we ask that our students do not walk to and from school via the Shaw Park flats as these are private property and we have had complaints about damage to the gardens. Could parents/students also please be aware they should not be parking in Masefield Gardens as this is a private road. Thank you.

NOTICEBOARD

STUDENT ABSENCE:

We would like to remind parents and carers that we have a dedicated telephone number for reporting student absence whether it be going to an appointment or not going to be in school.

The number is: **01344 467675**.
Parents can also advise of absence by using the email absence reporting facility on the school website.

ATTENDANCE

Although we strive for high attendance from our students, if you know your child is unwell or injured and not fit to be in school please do not send them. If a student becomes unwell or injured during the course of the school day it is the parent/carer's responsibility to collect their child or arrange for a responsible adult to do so. Please ensure that your contact details are kept up to date so we can efficiently ensure the health and safety of your child.

NON-SMOKING SITE
May we remind parents and other visitors that we are a non-smoking site, therefore smoking is not permitted anywhere within our buildings or grounds.

STUDENT SUPPORT CENTRE

The Centre is for any students experiencing social, emotional or behavioural difficulties that may have an effect on their learning. Students and parents are welcome to contact Ms Guy and her team directly. However referrals will always be agreed with the Head of Year. Ms Guy and her team can be contacted via the main school number on **01344 772658**

STUDENTS' PERSONAL PROPERTY

Parents should note that the school cannot be responsible for the personal property of students whilst the students participate in off site activities and the school will not be liable for loss of or damage to such property should this occur. By agreeing that your child may participate in the activity proposed you also acknowledge and agree that the school shall have no liability in this respect.

SOFT FOOTBALLS

Please remind students that they should bring soft footballs (not leather ones) into school to play at lunchtime.

Students taking Medication in School

If it is necessary for students to take any medication in school (including non-prescription medicines), the medication and a signed consent form (this form can also be downloaded from the school website) must be handed in at Reception where it will be stored safely. The medication should be sent in its original container, complete with the expiry date and dosage details. The student must come to the medical room at the required time to report to the Nurse or a First Aider before taking the medication.

MOBILE PHONES

It is a serious breach of examination regulations to bring a mobile phone into an examination room – see the school website for more details. Please ensure that students do not bring mobile phones to school during examination sessions. At other times mobile phones should be switched off and remain hidden

LOST PROPERTY
Items of lost property can be reclaimed from Reception at lunchtime from 1.45pm onwards only. Items of PE kit are kept in the PE department for a short time before arriving in Reception. Can we please remind all parents that all personal effects should be named and that unclaimed lost property will be disposed of at the end of each term.

SCHOOL NURSE

We have the facility to offer Paracetamol to students if the need arises. This can only be accessed via the school nurse. If the nurse assesses that the use of Paracetamol is necessary, she will first telephone the parent/guardian for consent. An accurate record is kept of Paracetamol use. We hope that this will enable your children to remain in school and that they will be more comfortable and able to concentrate on their lessons. We will of course still ask you to collect your child if they remain unwell or in severe pain.
If you have any concerns regarding this please contact [the School Nurse](mailto:the.School.Nurse@school.org) on **01344 772658**.

Minibus

Can students please make sure that when using the school minibus they do not eat when travelling in it and certainly do not leave any litter behind. Furthermore, please do not wear dirty boots while travelling in the bus and ensure that the whole bus is left clean and tidy after every journey.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Please could any medical appointments be written in your child's planner and can they also be reminded to sign out at Reception when they go to their appointment.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Last Day of Term	Thursday 2 nd April (school closes at 12.05pm)
Summer Term 2015	
Start of Term	Monday 20 th April
Half Term	Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May
Last Day of Term	Friday 17 ^h July (school closes at 12.05pm)
May Day Holiday	Monday 4 th May
Autumn Term 2015	
Teacher Training Days	Tuesday 1 st & Wednesday 2 nd September
Start of Term	Thursday 3 rd September
Half Term	Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th October
Last Day of Term	Friday 18 th December (school closes at 12.05pm)
Spring Term 2016	
Start of Term	Monday 4 th January
Half Term	Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February
Last Day of Term	Wednesday 23 rd March (school closes at 12.05pm)
Summer Term 2016	
Start of Term	Monday 11 th April
Half Term	Monday 30 th May to Friday 3 rd June
Last Day of Term	Friday 22 nd July (school closes at 12.05pm)
May Day Holiday	Monday 2 nd May

For further Term Dates/Key Dates please visit our website at:

www.edgbarrowschool.co.uk