The Head's Blog  #85

The Next Steps

Welcome to the first of our newly redesigned newsletters. With everything that has been going on for us recently, I decided to move to a fortnightly edition rather than a weekly one but to make it longer. The bonus for you is that there is less comment from me and more news about what members of our school community, and particularly our students, have been up to. This is really what matters.

Of course, it is not the only thing that will be changing about our practice in the coming weeks, months and years. Following our inspection, we have identified a number of things that we want to do better the next time we are seen. Next week we will be looking to appoint someone to my team who will lead our improvements in teaching, learning and assessment. Our Director of Sixth Form has put together his plans for ensuring students in Y11 and Y12 can make the transition to their first and second years of post-16 study. The Maths and Science teams are making plans for changes that will tackle the issues raised in the inspection report. My leadership team and our governing body have both met this week, and I have presented the next steps to staff on Monday and to families on Thursday.

The result of all this activity is that I think this week marks a key point in moving on. We are planting our feet on firmer ground following the challenges we have faced so that we can take the next step, and the next one, and the one after that, with confidence. I have said to students, families and those keen on applying for jobs that this is a very good time to be joining Canons. Collectively, we are determined to turn each of those individual steps into a journey that not only leads us to a successful inspection in the next two and half years. It will also put us back on track to doing the things that matter most to us, your children and our community.

Keven Bartle
Headteacher

Honey, I Shrunk the Students

Our STEM students have recently been investigating different optical illusions and deceptions, including the type they created, seen here in their photo.

The students appear tiny and to be standing on someone's hand. Our brain knows that this can't be, but our eyes are telling us that this is what is being seen. It's a trick called forced perceptive. Foreshortening is what is actually happening, where objects further away appear smaller. This photo also demonstrates linear perspective, where the lines formed by the edges of the buildings converge at what is called the 'vanishing point'. From this we can see where the horizon is, relevant to the eye, even when it's obscured from view. Artists and planners would use this science to ensure their work is both realistic and accurate.

Yet again this year our Year 8 students enjoyed the special historical and literary magic that is a performance of one of William Shakespeare's plays at the amazing Globe theatre.

Situated on the South Bank in London. This amazing wooden framed and thatched, circular theatre is based on the original from just over 400 year ago. The play they watched was the famous romantic tragedy 'Romeo and Juliet' and judging by their excited faces, it was very much enjoyed.

Huge thanks to The Mayor of London and TFL for the free tube travel, and to The Shakespeare Globe Trust and their partners Deutsche Bank for our free theatre tickets. Thanks guys!
Reaching Out

On the 9th April Mr Evans, Miss Campbell and Mrs Mann went along to 8th annual Reach Careers conference with some of our year 8, 9, 10 and 11 students. They joined over 1000 others from all around London and nearly 100 professionals from different fields. The day had many different workshops given by professionals, all from a BME (Black and Minority Ethnicity) background and gave students an insight into potential career paths for their futures. They learnt about bursaries they could possibly use for universities and the strength they have as a customer if they get the foundations write now. They saw different avenues to achieve getting the top jobs in the future or start their own business.

“...I enjoyed the fact that the people speaking came from a similar background as me so I could relate to them more.”

Mr Evans said, “It was so nice to see Canons students engaged in activities that were for their betterment; the fact that students decided to come to an event during their half term break is what will separate them and give them an edge in the job market and when it comes to applying for universities.”

Some students commented on the impact of the conference; Leona said, “this was an amazing experience for me because I was able to increase my knowledge of my career path”, and Brandon, “loved the inspirational speech by the guy at HS2 about trains.”

Overall the day was a great success and the organisers complimented our students’ behaviour and look forward to welcoming us next year.

“It was great how inspirational and passionate every speaker was, how they gave advice and also how they incorporated the audience.” Anda

A special thank you to the parents that came along to the conference as well as other members of staff such Ms Peter and Ms Conteh-Mosere who added to the day and ensured our presence was strong throughout the event.

Founded in 2010, the Reach Society is a social enterprise that encourages, motivates and inspires black boys and young black men to realise their potential and make viable transitions into adult life.

Young Bees Win Play Off Final

Barnet FC’s Elite Development Programme side were celebrating yesterday after they defeated GPS Oxford to secure the Tactic League Premier title.

The college side, who had already won their Southern Division, took on their Northern counterparts in a thrilling match at The Hive on may 6th. The Young Bees raced into a two-goal lead early on through strikes from Kyan Francis and Star Mayemba but Oxford pulled one back just before the break. The visitors then scored twice more to take the lead, but with just one minute to go, Ayub Kadiri ran at their goal and scored the equaliser, taking the game to penalties. Barnet keeper Joe Ringer produced two fine saves to then send the penalties to sudden death. After 11 penalties apiece, including goals from both goalkeepers, Barnet finally won 9-8 when Oxford shot one over the crossbar.

Head of the Elite Development Programme Chris Williams spoke of his joy following the title win. "For our boys not just to win in this stadium, but to show great character after allowing a 2-0 lead to slip and to then go on and win the game on penalties, this will be an experience that our players will never forget. Today is something we are very proud of at Barnet Football Club."

And we at Canons are also very proud of these young footballers, as they are also our students, studying here as part of the Elite Development Programme partnership between ourselves and Barnet FC.

This Autumn, as well as welcoming the next group of Barnet student-athletes into our ranks, we hope to welcome some young female footballers, now that the London Bees have launched their Academy in partnership with Canons.
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER
Zainab Jama (11Y)

“When Zainab started the GCSE maths course, every question she got wrong she would meticulously ensure she corrected and understood why it was wrong. She demonstrated great resilience by relentlessly persevering and she knew what she wanted to achieve and was not going to give up.

Still frustrated that she wasn’t achieving what she wanted she continued to go beyond with her maths learning. She did this at home ensuring that all topics learned at school were consolidated at home after each lesson and that all assessments were fully prepared for by completing hours and hours of extra practise questions using video tutorials and teacher support in her own time to help.

Zainab is a grafter like no other student come across before. She is the epitome of good learning and her story a demonstration that hard graft and resilience underpinned by self-belief form the recipe for progress & success. As a result she now comes across a confident young student who is not afraid of mistakes or obstacles because she knows that she will find a solution. She has inspired the teachers and made Canons very proud.”

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

On Friday 22nd March the year 11 Sports Enrichment classes set off on their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition.

The trip took them to the Chalfont area, where they had to navigate themselves to the campsite whilst carrying all their tents, clothes, food and other supplies. Upon arriving they had to put up their tents, cook themselves a proper hot meal, (wash up) and get ready for the next day. All this before they could relax sitting around the campfire, playing music and games, (including a very large scale game of hide and seek!)

Every student did extremely well, showing off their skills, maturity and team work alongside the other skills they have learnt throughout the year. Congratulations to all as they have now completed and passed this section of the award and are well on their way to completing the whole Bronze award.

A Blast from the Past

Do you recognise this entrance, that road, those houses?

Above is a photo of some Downer Grammar School students (as Canons High was called back then) getting ready to set off on their Duke of Edinburgh expedition, way back in 1961! That’s just five years after this highly regarded scheme was founded in 1956.

Back then, preparing for something adventurous would appear to mean just rolling your sleeves up! Notice how four heavy, wooden canoes appear to be ‘secured’ on the roof of that car with just a single piece of string! [sigh] The good old days.

Open to ALL students, every morning from 7:45 till 8:25.
Now in room CS1
FREE BREAKFAST!
A Marathon Effort
Huge congratulations to our very own Mr R Lawrence, who completed the recent London Marathon in a personal best time of 3h 55m.
Perhaps more importantly, his sponsorship raised just over £400 so far for Macmillan Cancer Support. What a guy!
Also at the Marathon and getting blisters, (although not from running), were Mr T Megit and Mr D Fowler. Their drumming group bashed away almost non-stop for 7 hours, encouraging the runners along and adding to the great atmosphere on the day. They also helped raise funds for Bowel Cancer UK and Great Ormond Street Children’s Hospital.

Ramadan
Our vision at Canons High School is to be a school at the heart of our community, with the community at our heart. As a result we welcome all religions, cultures and practices that make our school vibrant and diverse.

Ramadan is the time of the year that is known to Muslims throughout the world as the month of fasting. Fasting is one the five pillars of Islam and during this month Muslims will go without food, water and other desires (e.g. controlling your anger, refraining from lying etc.) to gain control and patience over their physical and mental being. In a way, it is to make them a better version of themselves.
Another purpose of Ramadan is a spiritual one, where Muslims cleanse themselves of their bad habits and sins, religiously.

During this month Muslims should lead their normal lives by continuing with their regular Muslim lifestyle. Some of our students, appear to be under the false impression that parts of our curriculum seem not to be supportive of their religious practice, specifically Physical Education (PE). As students are expected to participate in PE outside the month of Ramadan, they are therefore expected to continue to bring their PE kits and participate during Ramadan.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue, then please contact Mr Litchfield, Head of Religious Education Department.

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School Term Holiday Dates*
*All dates correct at time of publication.

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<tr>
<th>Summer Half-Term</th>
<th>Summer Holiday</th>
<th>Autumn Half-Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Break Up -</td>
<td>- Return -</td>
<td>- Return -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 24th May</td>
<td>Monday 3rd June</td>
<td>Monday 28th Oct</td>
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<td>Christmas Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Break Up -</td>
<td>- Return -</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th Dec</td>
<td>Monday 6th Jan</td>
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Headteachers are no longer able to grant holiday leave during term time.

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Now that we are in the Summer Term,
official* Canons Red Polo Shirts may now be worn.
Blazers must still be worn, but jumpers ONLY if a student chooses to continue wearing a white shirt and tie.
CAREFUL - IT COULD BE CHILLY
Vests may be worn underneath but must be out of sight.
NOTE: T-Shirts should NOT be worn!

*Long or short sleeved red polos, available only from 'Teenywear'
325 High Road, Harrow Weald, HA3 5EQ.

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Perhaps more importantly, his sponsorship raised just over £400 so far for Macmillan Cancer Support. What a guy!
Also at the Marathon and getting blisters, (although not from running), were Mr T Megit and Mr D Fowler. Their drumming group bashed away almost non-stop for 7 hours, encouraging the runners along and adding to the great atmosphere on the day. They also helped raise funds for Bowel Cancer UK and Great Ormond Street Children’s Hospital.

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