



The Oaks



**Bosworth
Academy**

Post 16 Newsletter | March 2024

Welcome

As exam season draws closer for students in Years 11, 12 and 13 it is the culmination of years of hard work and we wish all our students, both current and prospective, the best of luck. Hard work will pay off and careful planning and implementation will pay dividends! During the Easter holiday revision sessions on offer in school will provide students with another chance to really focus on exam technique and revision, and after the break many subjects continue to offer after school sessions to consolidate student learning. It is brilliant to see so many young people invested in their exam preparation to ensure that they are fully prepared for their GCSE, AS and A levels.

We have now almost completed the guidance meetings for students who have applied to us for their education in Year 12. It has been a real privilege to meet so many young people and to hear about their achievements and aspirations. We look forward to welcoming them at our Sixth Form Taster Day on Thursday 27th June, when they will have the opportunity to sample the subjects they selected and prepare for the next steps in their educational journey. Year 12 and 13 are now refining their plans for the future and later this week we will be visited by speakers from De Montfort University. They will speak to students in Year 12 about 'Why Higher Education is important'. At the same time the Year 13 will hear about what to expect after you have received a university offer and the next steps before starting courses in the autumn.

Mental health and well being continue to be a major focus, and last week I was really proud of the achievements of Charlie C and Nathan S in Year 12 who have been recognised for their contribution to the



Movember charity. The boys were invited to attend a prize giving evening in London where their efforts were celebrated for their epic marathon and a half around Rutland Water, all within a day!

This edition of the Oaks newsletter shares some of the amazing achievements of our alumni, with interior designer, Hannah Drakeford, as an entrant in the latest series of Interior Design Masters, we keep our fingers crossed that she progresses to the final! There is also an update on the latest sixth form sporting success as

well as photographs of our celebratory events recognising those who have gone above and beyond by getting involved in a range of enrichment activities. Finally we were over the moon to once again have our sixth form recognised as an area of excellence by Challenge Partners (a practitioner-led education charity accelerating school improvement by sharing excellent practice across schools through rigorous peer reviews). The report

recognises that 'the progress measure for the sixth form (through the Alps system) shows that the academy achieved the highest rate of progress compared to other schools using the Alps system for the past three years. Student retention rates are higher than national averages and the destination data shows that a higher proportion of students move on to university than national averages'.

We are really proud of the achievements of students at Bosworth Academy, both past and present and look forward to welcoming in a new cohort ready to be 'better than they thought they could be!'

Louise Holdback
Assistant Headteacher,
Head of Post 16



Movember Award

A huge congratulations to Year 12 students Charlie C and Nathan S who won the "Going the Distance" Movember award for completing 60K in one day for the charity.

Such a great achievement and raising awareness for such a great charity - thank you to all those who donated.

Mr Grest, Curriculum Leader PE



U18 Badminton Silver

Our U18 badminton team won silver at the Leicestershire tournament recently. In the final round, they beat some very good opposition from Leicester Grammar school but couldn't overcome Loughborough Grammar, who won the whole competition. Well done to students Tom W, Ed S, Rory H, Josh C and Avani G.



U18 Basketball Finalists

March 13th saw the culmination of all the hard work put in by Bosworth students on our basketball programme as the U18 and Year 10 teams competed in the County Cup finals at Leicester Riders Arena with the U18 team facing off against WQE College.



Our students weren't fazed by the excellent opponents, they kept playing together as one team, supporting each other on defence, and quickly counter attacking on the offence.



Some shooting prowess was on display, making some tough and contested shots during the game. I'm very proud of everyone involved, they have represented Bosworth Academy under the brightest of lights, playing fairly and respectfully towards the opponents but with huge determination and grit! Although our U18 did put on a brilliant fight against much more experienced WQE College, they eventually lost the match at the end. Big shout out goes to all players on the programme, as this squad have done some truly incredible achievements on a national stage, going through Midlands qualifiers onto UK wide quarterfinals against superb Myerscough College.

Well done Suraj P, Jaequan O, Nathan S, Liam C, Tom W, Avani G, Sam L, Thabani K, Elias B, Tyler M, Alex O, Charlie C, Abide S, David O, Gursukh L and Casper B.

Igor Mirković, Bosworth Academy Basketball



Interior Design Master

Our alumni continue to show Creativity on the national stage as former student, Hannah Drakeford, is currently competing in [BBC One's Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr](#).



Photo:
BBC/Darlow
Smithson

After leaving Bosworth Academy Hannah studied a foundation degree in Art and Design at De Montfort University before embarking on a 20-year career in fashion visual merchandising where she worked her way up from the sales floor in a little shop in Leicester, to managing the European creative team for Forever 21.

Tuesday 12 March saw the latest series of Interior Design Masters kick-off as Hannah and the other contestants used their artistic vision to convert a nun's cell room in an old convent into a bijoux B and B room. The full episode can be viewed [here](#).

After the result was announced Hannah reflected on the show that "I now know what clear goals I need to set myself to stay in the competition".

Find out how Hannah does on Tuesdays, 8pm on BBC One. You can also follow Hannah's designs on Instagram [@hannah_drakeford_design](#).

The Times Racing Reporter

If you attended our Post 16 Open Evening in October you will have seen a talk given via video link by former Bosworth Academy student, Samantha Martin.

Since completing her A Levels last summer Samantha began reading History at Oxford University and continues to write about her passion of horse racing.

This passion has been recognised by The Times newspaper who approached Samantha to join their team of horse racing writers and write some feature articles alongside her degree.

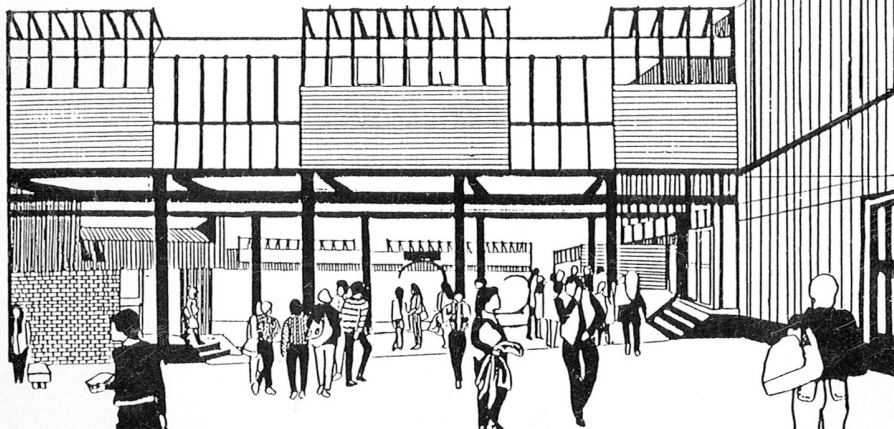
"This whole thing is utterly mind-blowing" said Samantha.

One of the 19-year-old's first assignments was reporting on the Cheltenham Festival which saw Samantha's work published in The Times.

Samantha shared that The Times Racing Editor, Rob Wright, "thinks I'm one of the most promising writers he has seen for a long time and wants to snap me up before anyone else does.

"He said he's keen for me to be involved making their racing coverage interesting for young people, which I thought was quite intriguing as they aren't typically regarded as a paper with a young audience," added Samantha.





Thank You For Believing In Me

Since completing her A Levels in 2022 Natasha Wilkinson has gone on to study Communications and Media at Loughborough University and recently contacted us “to give thanks to the inspirational female role models who encouraged me in academics” including Miss Alexander and Mrs Grant.



Natasha is currently in her second year at Loughborough and continues to maximise her opportunities by: being the Campaign Officer for Loughborough Women’s Network, a peer mentor for first-year students, second-year course representative for Media and Communications, gathering feedback and advocating for the Media and Communications

student body and running [@lborocm](#) the student-led Media and Communications course Instagram page. Natasha says “despite my packed schedule, I’m maintaining a first average across all of my modules, and I even took more business-focused modules like Media in a Global Context.”

“As well as this, after an intense and competitive placement search, making it to the final stages for companies such as Disney and Sony, I’m proud to tell you I have secured a Communications Internship at Hilton, which I’ll be starting in July. This internship will help me on my journey to working in Public Relations and Events, where I hope to eventually manage my own Communications department,” added Natasha who remembers her time at Bosworth fondly and is appreciative of the support offered to her by staff: “Thank you for believing in me, I wouldn’t be where I am now without your guidance and support,” said Natasha.

The Sun Showbiz Editor

Another Bosworth Academy alumni who is trailblazing in her chosen field is Ellie Henman who was recently promoted to Showbiz Editor of the national daily newspaper, The Sun.

Ellie completed her A Levels in 2007 and [reportedly said](#) that “what initially sparked my fascination with journalism was my love of English at school.

“I loved writing anything – whether it be short stories, analytical work or longer, research pieces. I just loved

writing. Also as a child, I was encouraged to watch the news by my parents all the time. Watching the reporters on the screen every day made me think – I’d love to do that,” Ellie added.

Ellie’s passion for journalism would see [her win the ITV2 reality series ‘The Exclusives’](#) in 2012 where the prize was a 12-month internship with Bauer Media, writing for magazines such as Heat, Closer and More!

In 2016 Ellie began working as a reporter on the digital showbiz desk at The Sun and three years later moved on to the paper’s celebrity and showbiz section, Bizarre, before making Showbiz News Editor in 2021.

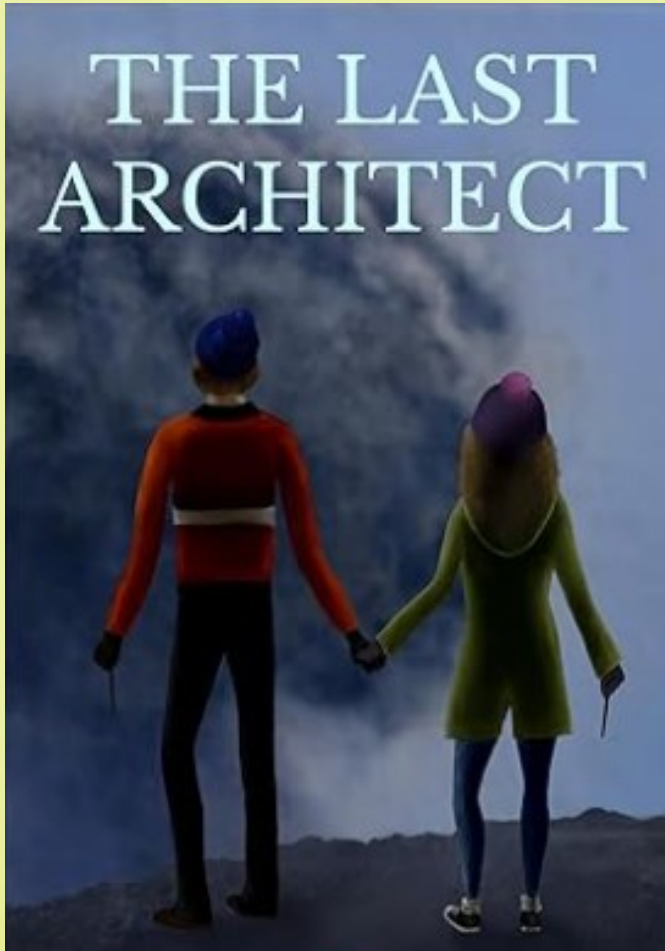
Speaking about her new role as Bizarre Editor, Ellie told [News UK](#) that “it is the greatest honour of my career to be handed the reins of Bizarre, following in the footsteps of some of Fleet Street’s finest journalists.

“We look forward as a team to continuing Bizarre’s brilliant work... Nine-year-old me would be doing somersaults. Sadly, the 34-year-old me is too out of shape,” Ellie added. Congratulations Ellie!



Year 13 Author

Creativity and Communication have been shown by Year 13 student, Josh E, as he has recently published his own novel.



Josh was more than happy to tell us more: The book is called 'The Last Architect' and is about a 16-year-old Year 11 boy called Erik who is the last remaining descendant of the witches from the medieval period, but living in the present day. He has to deal with interest from the public but he tries to live a normal life as possible, but then a dangerous crime gang wants to use him for their own ends and they target his girlfriend. Things all escalate from there!

The writing process was really enjoyable. I began planning it all through Year 11 and started writing after my GCSEs were finished. I finished writing midway through Year 12, then spent another six months editing. Writing my novel was great because

it was a kind of escape for me, particularly as when I began writing I was in a bad place in terms of my mental health so it provided an outlet for all that and allowed me to escape to my own little world with my own characters etc. I also think that when you write, it gives you a new perspective on things and that you see things maybe differently than you did before.

To be honest I don't really know where my inspiration came from in terms of the main idea. It all started off as a daydream I suppose, and it all progressed from there. I remember having a clear idea of what one of the chapters would be, and I built the rest of the storyline around that. I did get some inspiration from my love of Scandinavia (part of the book is set in Iceland), and many of my characters were based (albeit loosely) on people I knew.

I went down the self-publishing route because the traditional method is extremely selective, time-consuming and can be expensive. My initial goal was just to make my book available to the public and any profit made is just a bonus! Self-publishing on Amazon is really easy because they have a step-by-step guide on how to do everything (although I had to wait until I was 18). They convert everything into the right format and do the printing for me, and then I set the price (making sure it covers the printing cost). Fortunately I have a relative who is very good at art, so they were able to design my cover for me! For other writers, I would say the main piece of advice is to be patient. Ideas come and go, and sometimes you can go weeks without being able to write a word. But this is absolutely fine and don't ever give up! Also, if you're serious about self-publishing, it's important to be diligent when it comes to grammar and formatting so make sure you invest just as much time into editing and proof-reading as you do writing. And finally the most important thing is to enjoy yourself. Writing should be fun and a way to express yourself - some people, like me, find it easier to express themselves through writing than spoken word, but it's important that you enjoy yourself during the process.

The book will be available soon in The Compass and if you wish to buy a copy of 'The Last Architect' please contact Communications Officer, Adam Hodges, at: ahodges@bosworthacademy.org.uk.

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Year 12 Mock Interviews

Our Year 12 students were given a greater insight into the interview process on Tuesday when they took part in mock interviews.



Representatives from local businesses and employers, ranging from law and the army, asked students questions about their interests, extra-curricular activities and what plans they have after Bosworth Academy.

These mock interviews provided key preparation for future interviews with higher education institutions and for entering the workforce.

We thank those employers who participated in the mock interviews, the students who were polite and gave articulated answers, and to LEBC who coordinated the event.

Y13 Maximise Potential

In February Year 13 students were given an insight on how to get the edge on their upcoming exams with an intervention from Maximise Your Potential.



Students heard from Jeremy, of Maximise Your Potential, who said that resilience and the ability to maintain a positive attitude will assist the students

achieve their goals.

Advice was also given in memory techniques for writing essays and how to use retrieval practice in revision.

We thank Maximise Your Potential for visiting us and giving our Year 13 students timely advice in not only assisting them in their exams but in their future beyond Bosworth Academy.

Innovation Masterclass

As part of the Leicester Innovation Festival 2024, the LLEP Careers Hub engaged leading entrepreneurs, innovators, and senior leaders to hold an 'Innovation masterclass': hosted at the global headquarters of Holovis.



The one-day masterclass offered Key Stage 5 students the chance to hear first-hand from global and local innovators delivering workshops. The five Year 13 students from Bosworth Academy who attended the event learnt how to think critically to generate innovative solutions, foster a growth mindset that embraces change, challenges assumptions and values creative problem-solving. They also learnt about the concept of innovation and its significance in personal and professional growth.

Holovis[®]

Transforming Sensory Experiences

Following this they had a tour of the Holovis facility. Corinna D who attended the event said "The overall day was very eye opening into the ins and outs of running a worldwide successful business. Throughout the morning the external speakers conveyed tips and tricks to smoothly integrating innovation into business and shared inspiring stories from their own start-ups. I gained some good entrepreneurship based knowledge that is applicable to future opportunities I could face for example taking the lead and being risk averse, both skills will prove promotional in a business based industry".

Well done to Corinna D, Cole M, Thomas S, Christian B and Kevin V who all developed valuable skills as a result of being part of this exciting event.

Mrs Holdback, Head of Key Stage Five

Y12 Geography Fieldwork

Our Year 12 Geography A-Level students participated in a three day Fieldwork residential visit last week to Hull, and the Holderness Coast in Yorkshire.



The students were able to put into practice the theory they have learnt in the classroom, apply case study material and learn a wide range of new data collection methods. The data gathered will provide the basis for their A Level independent investigation later this year. Students made innovative use of new technologies where mobile apps allowed them to log data, create GIS maps and investigate secondary sources in context.

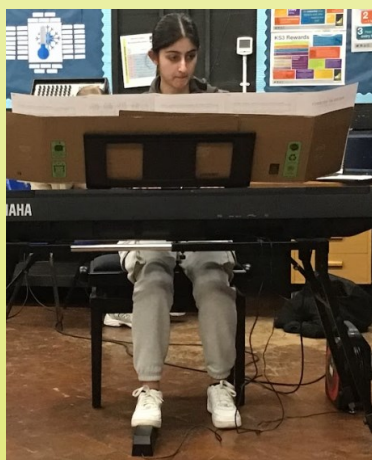
Students were amazing in terms of demonstrating the Schools 6Cs skills and values, being complimented by members of the public, and showing passion and innovation in their subject!

Residential Fieldwork also allowed them to develop teamwork and independence, cooking meals in the evening for example or organising budgets! Thanks to all parents of the students involved, we were very proud of them all!

Mr Blackmore, and Miss Wilson, Geography

Live Lounge

This month's Live Lounge featured students from the Post 16 Music class. They have their performance exam next week and this was a great opportunity for them to showcase their work in preparation for this. We wish them the very best of luck with the exam!



Important Contact Details

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Be Better Than You Thought You Could Be