



BELL BAXTER HIGH SCHOOL
Bell Baxter Diary
20th February, 2015



Valentine's Sale

Pupils from DAS and S2/S3 Outdoor Learning classes recently heard of the plight at our partner school in Malawi. In order to raise some much needed cash to help the partner school, the pupils decided to hold a Valentines Sale at lunchtimes on Monday 9th & Tuesday 10th February - they produced some outstanding results. Our partner school, Chikwawa Secondary School in Malawi has been washed away by catastrophic flooding in recent weeks and rain is due to continue. Thus the pupils of Bell Baxter decided that a Valentines theme was appropriate as we were sending our love to them.



Pupils made: Valentines chocolate lollies, sweetie filled envelopes, heart shaped candy canes, they baked delightful cakes and made bracelets - which could be bought with a heart shaped charm for a secret loved one! The grand sum of £88 was raised by the DAS pupils and £115 by the two Outdoor Learning classes. This money will be sent directly to the school in Malawi. Pupils and staff involved in the fundraiser would like to send heartfelt thanks to all those who supported the enterprise.

Curriculum Information Events

Two successful information evenings took place recently. Bell Baxter welcomed our P7 pupils and parents for their first visit to Bell Baxter. Visits to faculties followed a presentation by Mr Black.

Current S3 pupils and their parents attended an Information evening aimed at explaining the transition from Junior to Senior Phase and the course choices and qualifications on offer from S4.

Parent Council News

The next meeting of the Parent Council is scheduled for Wednesday 4th March, starting at 7pm in the school's Conference Room. All parents/carers welcome.

Geo Bus Workshop Arrives at BB

On Tuesday the 3rd February, the Geo Bus Earth Science group came to our - Lauren Gilmore and Hannah Lewis - geography elective class to do a workshop with us. It was about earthquakes, corals and fossils. It was a very enjoyable day.

During the first part of the day we listened some really interesting information about earthquakes, the different waves and how they are measured. We learned about the waves through an activity with a slinky. The first wave we learned about was a P wave, a P wave when measured by a seismograph shows the beginning of an earthquake and scientists can tell how far away and how big the earthquake could be. When it looks like there is going to be a big earthquake people in the affected areas will be evacuated to high ground or a safer location.

The next wave we learned about was the S wave. The S wave is the next stage of the earthquake this is when the ground begins to shake violently. The final wave we learned about is the most destructive wave, the surface wave. This is the wave that travels along the earth causing roads to crack and building to fall. We demonstrated these waves by using Slinkys and animations of the waves on the board.

The next part of the presentation was about how places where earthquakes are common use triangles in a building's structure to make more earthquake proof. The next activity we did was based on this, we had to use blue tack and plastic straws to create a stable structure that could withstand an "earthquake" for 10 seconds.

Part 2 of our workshop saw us looking at corals and fossils. The class was split into two groups, one group was looking at different types of fossils but they mainly focused on trilobites and ammonites, the second group was looking at small samples of corals under a microscope and drawing what they saw. Altogether it was a really fun day, everyone had a great time and learned a lot from the experience and we are sure our class would like to participate in another Geo Bus Workshop.

Dance Showcase

On the 2nd February, an enthusiastic audience of pupils, friends, family and staff gathered to watch Bell Baxter's first ever Dance Show organised by PE teacher and dance specialist Ms McKay. The 30 dancers from different year groups performed a variety of genres including Jazz, Tap and Contemporary. There were also gymnastic routines performed at the show. The standard of performance was excellent, not least because the dances had been choreographed and directed by the dancers themselves as part of National 5 or Higher Dance.

Ms McKay was very impressed at how well the dancers performed and thanks so many people for their support. The dancers also worked extremely well as a team. Refreshments were provided by a group of pupils going to Sri Lanka with World Challenge and they managed to raise £200 from the evening. Congratulations on an excellent evening all round.

Bell Baxter Music trip to Fife Festival of Music

On February 4th, around 65 pupils from S1 to S6 and five of our instrumental instructors took part in a performance at the Fife Festival of Music. Four Fife schools performed to each other and to an audience in the Adam Smith Theatre, Kirkcaldy. Mrs Randall's Senior String Group started things off with a Finale by Wilby which the adjudicator described as "A fluent and impressive performance". Miss Haddow then led the Junior Wind Band, Senior Wind Band and Brass Ensemble in some very lively performances of James Bond themes, Eye of the Tiger and the Birth of Rock and Roll to name but a few of the pieces they have dedicated lunchtime and after school rehearsals to over the winter months. Comments for these groups included "Very exciting....lovely sound.....you performed with confidence and a sense of style!"

The instructors' team is very proud of the four Bell Baxter groups for their excellent behaviour and commitment to rehearsals and personal practice, all of which made this trip memorable and successful.

Running to Success

DAS pupils completed the East District X Country running series in Edinburgh last Wednesday. Results as follows:

Dean Bruce - 3rd open race, 1st S3 boy
Shane White - 3rd S3 boy
Jack Linton – 4th S4 boy
Patrick Steffens – Improved personal best
Arran Howe – 4th S2 boy
Kerry Kotlewski – 5th open race, 2nd S2 girl

All pupils ran 1K.