



# MAGAZINE

Spring 2018

*Specialist Science College*

High Performing Specialist School



# Principal's Message

As the term draws to a close I note that we have received the most popular post in our history this term. The notification of a snow day was very well received and I very much hope you all had great fun and enjoyed what we thought would be a one-off experience, but in fact turned into two and a half days of sledding and sitting by the fire. Thanks to everyone who assisted in getting pupils home, it is never easy and the offers of assistance were very much appreciated and valued. Most importantly, everyone got home safely and without incident.

Once again the term, and this magazine, is packed with reflections of wonderful achievements and activities being undertaken by our students. We now look forward to the Summer Term and encourage all students to be aware of end of year examinations and, for Year 11, 12 and 13 the fast approaching summer examination series. Good revision programmes and attendance at as many of the support sessions offered by staff is essential.

## Enrolment to the 6th Form

All Year 11 students should have a good idea of what they plan to do at the end of Year 11. As always, if there is any uncertainty please do not hesitate to use the contact details below as we are happy to meet and offer any help we can:

Mrs Seward-Adams, Head of Year 11  
SA@bodmincollege.co.uk  
Mrs Craig, Head of Sixth Form  
CJ@bodmincollege.co.uk

## Enrolment into Year 6

I write this note as I am aware that this magazine is read by many parents of primary aged children. We have received first choice applications from 246 parents and will, in the Summer Term, start to visit primary schools and provide you with information relating to the process. Looking forward to seeing you later in the summer.

*B Elliott  
Principal*

BELOW: VEX Team (see next page)



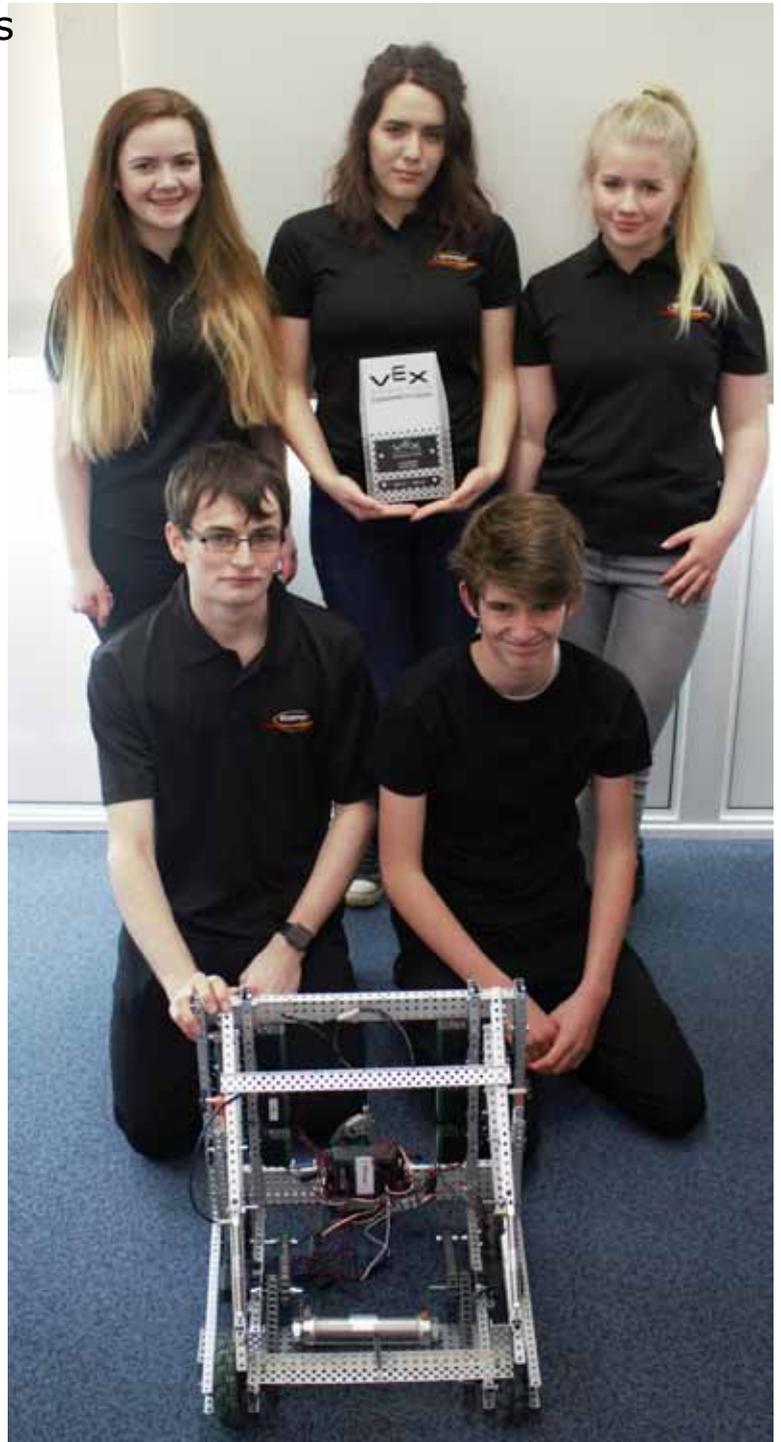
# VEX Robotics Regional Qualifiers

With two years experience behind them, our VEX robotics team were confident this year. The girls – Ellie Fullwood, Leah Mackellar and Juliet Wells – have worked in their free lessons and after school to build and perfect a robot that would be able to lift 2kg cones and place them onto a target pole. For extra marks, the robot had to drag/push the 2kg base cones into allocated zones around the play area.

The week before the competition was manic, with lots of last minute adjustments and then... disaster! The microprocessor which ran the robot stopped working. The program that the team had written was useless without it, and there would not be any point in attending the Regionals. Hurried emails to VEX proved fruitless and it was only through contacts in other schools that we managed to locate a spare microprocessor at a school in Exeter.

And so it was that early on Monday 29th January, in the cold and dark, we loaded up the College minibus with several large boxes of kit; the robot, carefully stored so as not to be damaged, and all of the tools that we imagined we might need. We drove to Exeter and picked up the spare microprocessor and then on to Colyton Grammar School for the finals, at which thirteen teams were competing. The competition was judged by three STEM ambassadors from Plymouth and a retired businessman from the East Devon Chamber of Commerce.

During the heats, we had the opportunity to assess the competition and realised that our main threat would come from the Colyton Grammar School teams (of which there were three) and the Wellington School team. We managed to work our way up to fifth in the



heats and then it was the real thing – the final. Despite a valiant effort, during which the Bodmin College robot managed to pick up and place more cones than any other team, we could not beat Colyton. With their heavier robot, they managed to drag all of their cones into the bonus areas, thus inflating their marks.

We beat ten other teams to come third, which was a fantastic result; and also won the Judges' Award which was awarded to the team with the best overall robot design, best teamwork and most successful robot.

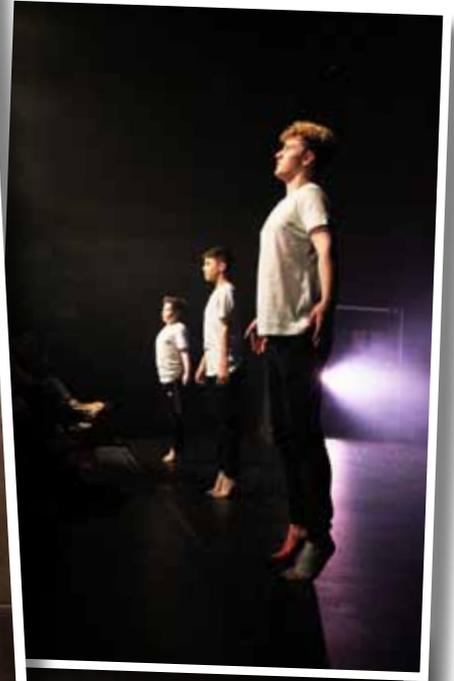
ABOVE:  
VEX Team

# Spring Dance Show 2018

The 7th March saw the Spring Dance Show 2018 and my final show at Bodmin College. After nine years teaching, I will be leaving soon and moving abroad. The young people here are nothing short of exceptional and it has been a privilege to have taught them. It was an emotional evening for obvious reasons but this show is one that I will cherish.

The dancers were fantastic and saw a wide variety of performances including "The Cell Block Tango" from the 2002 film Chicago to the Year 13 exam performance which had been influenced by Salvador Dali's famous painting 'The Persistence of Memory'. New peer groups were seen; a fantastic group of Year 7's, *7UP*, with their own choreography, and a group of Year 8's, *Majestic Funk Dance*. Also our outside community groups were ever present and utterly brilliant; GDA, ViViD and Future Youth Dance run by Ronnie Bartlett contributed towards a very successful show.





The evening was organised and run by the Sixth Form Dance Leaders; Josh Wilton, Lois McLaughlin, Amelia Hill, Alivia Coles, Shannon Bennett, Shannon Done and Abbie Williams. Huge congratulations to you all for this achievement!

Bodmin College, it has been a pleasure; I will miss you all greatly. Good luck for your bright futures.

*Miss Hitchens*



## Year 7 2017 Salvation Army Challenge



In December 2017, the eight Year 7 tutor groups were challenged to fill a shoe box to give to homeless children in local areas around Cornwall. This was aimed at children that would not be having a Christmas at home and would not necessarily have presents to open on Christmas Day. Year 7 completed this challenge with flying colours, creating and making 14 shoe boxes that reached over 130 children.

The tutors asked the students to collect items for differing ages and/or genders to contribute to the shoe box. These were then all collected into one box. Many pupils participated in the collecting of gifts and brought in pens, pencils, winter woollies, small toys and activity books, with cosmetics and wash products for older children.

All the boxes were collected in school by a representative of the Salvation Army. These were presented by selected students from each of the tutor groups, who had gone above and beyond in the creation of the boxes. A team of people loaded them into a large van which then sailed off into the Christmas sunset and made many children very happy.

Great team work, everybody. Go Year 7!

*Maddie, 7.4*

## Trip to Oxford University

A collection of our aspirational and hardworking Years 10 and 11 students recently made a visit to Exeter College which is part of the University of Oxford. Our own Mark Hockaday recently graduated from this College in Geology and it is our contact college at Oxford, so we already have close links. It was a bright and early start for Ms Barraclough, Dr Dixon and the students for the drive to Oxford in time for the day's activities. Once arrived we were in awe of the history around us, the beautiful architecture and, I think, we all had an understanding of some of the exceptional people who had studied there in the past. Alan Bennett, Philip Pullman, William Morris, Tariq Ali, Roger Bannister, JRR Tolkien and Richard Burton are all alumni of this College.

Our day involved dispelling some of the myths that surround Oxbridge and how to apply for and hopefully gain a place there. We thought carefully about options when

choosing what to study at 'A' level and were challenged to think deeply about topics that may be new to us. We had a stimulating lecture on economics and the questions posed by the students were both pertinent and thought provoking.

The next steps are to work hard to ensure that GCSE grades are as good as possible, but also make sure that students are proactive about looking for every opportunity that they can find that will improve their knowledge and understanding of what they study. A key starting point is to sign up to the 'Emerging William Clift Academy' Facebook page. All students and parents in Key Stage 4 should be keen to do this, not just those thinking about Oxbridge. Clearly we have more students than this group with the potential to attend Oxbridge and another trip is planned next year as well as other events. Anybody who would like more information should contact Dr Dixon.



## Next Steps South West Update



Bodmin College is working with *Next Steps South West* which is part of a national government project focusing on outreach and its effectiveness in engaging students with Higher Education. It offers a variety of interventions and experiences for target students (Years 9-13) in College and at partner Higher Education (HE) institutions within the South West. The aim is to raise student aspirations and remove barriers to support HE application.

Recently, a few of our 6th Form students have been fortunate enough to apply for and receive funding to go further afield; and Leah is one of these who received a £250 funding grant to attend one of the prestigious Villiers Park residential experiences before Christmas. Leah is interested in a career in ICT; her recent experience is detailed below.

"In December I was lucky enough to be accepted onto a computer science residential at Villiers Park in Foxton, Cambridge.

"The programme was led by professionals in software engineering and maths; they introduced us to different fundamental theories of computer science and techniques required for computer programming and software engineering.

"On the first day we were given the option to choose from a range of projects to work on throughout the week; the terms were that we had to code on BBC Micro-bits to complete the objectives of our project.

"Our group decided to tackle the zombie game; we had to use the Micro-bits and their features to create a zombie game that can be played in real life. We used built-in sensors so that when a zombie came within close proximity of a human, the human would turn into a zombie too. We worked on this throughout the week alongside attending various seminars and visiting the computing museum. Our sessions were really interesting, we'd look at and create our own Turing machines, manipulating them in different ways.

"At the end of the week we had to present our project to a company called ARM. They specialise in making silicon chips designed for phones, hard-drives and lots of other devices.

"It was a really intense work week but the benefits were amazing, from improving my programming skills to a massive boost in my presentation skills. ARM also showed us lots of apprenticeship and post-graduate opportunities that are there for us if we want to work with them in the future.

"The experience was invaluable so a massive thank you to Next Steps Cornwall for helping me get there."

*Leah*

For more information about the project and eligibility go to [www.nextstepssw.ac.uk](http://www.nextstepssw.ac.uk)

## Year 9 'Lighthouse' Motivational/Target setting workshop Next Steps



- Very inspiring & motivating
- It gave me an insight and a positive view on how to achieve. Loved it!
- I want to achieve what the trainer achieved so it helped me to figure out what my A-levels could lead me to
- It has made me feel more positive about my future
- I now feel more motivated and realise that in order to achieve my goals I need to set targets and commit
- It has made me motivated to succeed
- It was inspirational
- I feel more confident
- It made me seriously think about how I can achieve my dreams/targets
- It has made me want to work harder



All students have a 'lighthouse' to take home and use as a motivational reminder and tool. We hope to secure further funding for students to benefit in other years on topics of study skills and exam success. For more information about the project and opportunities for students visit [www.nextstepssw.ac.uk](http://www.nextstepssw.ac.uk)

*Rachel Devine*  
- Next Steps In School Co-Ordinator

Next Steps funding was secured for the whole of Year 9 to benefit from a workshop delivered through MADE, a London based education and training provider specialising in aspiration raising and study skills. The session was delivered in the Studio, and involved students in target setting and understanding the importance of identifying SMART targets; psychology; and the role of conscious and subconscious mind in achieving goals. The power of visualisation was explored, and 5 steps followed, resulting in building a visual lighthouse to help to achieve targets. These steps were: turning wishes into targets, taking action, considering the obstacles, building a support team, and committing.

Student feedback comments included:

- It has made me think of what I want my future to be like
- It has made me more confident about my learning





## VIVIT Experience at Liskeard Community School

Sixteen students from Year 10 to Year 13 joined myself and Miss McKechnie on a very interesting visit to the VIVIT Experience held at Liskeard Community School.

The students watched part of a post-mortem experience on a semi-synthetic cadaver - with organs that had come from pigs. They got to learn more about all of the systems in the human body, and actually see and handle the organ systems of the respiratory system (the lungs and heart), the digestive system (all 11 metres of it) and had the chance to see and feel the brain and part of the spinal cord, as part of the nervous system.

The students came away with a increased knowledge and understanding of the human body and how age and lifestyle choices can impact on different organ systems working correctly.

It was a very in-depth and interesting day, inspiring all who were interested in studying anything medically related.

*Mrs Block*

## Goonhilly Visit

Three Year 12 students, George Featherston, Harry Featherston, Joey Davidge and Year 10 student Lauren Brown joined Dr Dixon on a visit to Goonhilly Satellite Earth Station on 5th December.

The students were met by an employee of the site, Kat Hickey. They were given a brief tour of the station and saw *Goonhilly One* (also known as *Arthur*), which was the first satellite dish ever built and is the most famous on site. Built in 1962, it carried the first trans-Atlantic TV pictures from the USA to Europe using the Telstar satellite. The dish continued to operate for over 50 years but ongoing maintenance prevented the students getting near to it. However, they could see one of the smaller dishes, *Goonhilly 99*, which is used to communicate with the International Space Station.

In the main building the students met with the managing director, Piran Trezise, who talked to them about a planned global project where satellites

across the world are being linked together. Students were shown around the server room where Goonhilly stores clients' information and encrypts it before it is broadcasted across the world to different radio stations.

The trip ended on a high note with Lauren Brown receiving

an email congratulating her on being accepted for a Goonhilly work experience course in March. In the meantime George, Joey and Harry are avidly awaiting information for the Sixth form Goonhilly summer school which will open doors to careers in physics, engineering, telecommunications and even space exploration.



## Woods Browning Graduation 2017



On Saturday 24 June 2017 at Lanhydrock Golf Club, six vocational teachers were joined by 60 family and friends, Steve Greagsby, Roy Vannoey and myself Yvonne Gavin to share in their graduation. The graduates received their certificates proudly wearing traditional caps, gowns and hoods in Bodmin College colours.

The graduates received the 'VTCT Level 5 Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector.' Nadia Harvey also graduated achieving the 'VTCT Level 4 Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector'. Nadia is a local employer who actively supports the Hair and Beauty Department at Woods Browning.

The six members of staff successfully achieved the CTLLS (Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector) in 2014 and have been working towards the DTLLS qualification

for the past two years. To sign up for this qualification was a massive undertaking. Classes took place on Wednesday evenings from 4:00 – 7:30pm. Assignments and assessment were ongoing. The staff had to try and balance the demands of a teaching career with the needs of family and friends. The time commitment was one of their biggest challenges.

The students completed 17 individual units, many of them required observations and all had at least one assessment. The graduates have benefited from learning from each other and have consistently demonstrated competence in teaching and learning and curriculum development.

We are so proud that all of Woods Browning vocational staff are now qualified to a minimum of Level 5 standard. Students will reap the benefits and Woods Browning can continue to strive

for excellence by building on the impressive existing foundations. The staff to congratulate are:

- Adele Tyrrell – Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy
- Emma Dodge – Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy
- Kirsty Norsworthy – Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy
- Nadia Harvey – Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy Department and local employer.
- Paul Hickey – Construction
- Paul Crossley – ICT
- Alan Greagsby – ICT

I have 'taught' the graduates for the last four years. Although I am their teacher I have learned just as much from them and we have learned from each other. It has been a pleasure and a privilege and an experience we'll never forget.

*Yvonne Gavin, Curriculum Area Manager*

## Secondary School Dance Showcase at the Hall for Cornwall

On 31 January, the Year 7 and 8 'Shine' Drama club took to the stage at the Hall for Cornwall as part of the annual Cornish Drama Secondary School Showcase.

Students from across Cornwall were celebrating the work of Cornish playwright Nick Darke. Our students performed a devised piece based on Darke's documentary 'The Wrecking

Season', exploring objects that have washed up on our beaches. They also put forward the strong message regarding the problem of plastic in the sea... a very topical issue.

The students performed with excellent focus and confidence and behaved in a mature and professional manner throughout the day.

Well done to Amy Cooper (Year 9) who had created the lighting design for the piece and got to sit with the lighting technician during the show. It was a fantastic experience for our students to perform on this professional stage in front of such a large audience, and a memory I'm sure they will never forget.

*Ms Prior, Teacher of Drama*



PHOTO: Courtesy of Sean Hurlock

## Music News

On 30 November 2017 a group of Year 7 students took part in a poetry and music workshop run by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Associate Matt Harrison.

Students read a William Wordsworth poem called 'The Prelude' and discussed its meaning before taking part in activities using words and rhythms from the text. They then developed these initial ideas into a composition which described the narrative. The sessions involved both musicians and non-musicians who worked as an ensemble to compose, rehearse and perform together successfully.

*Mrs Wren*



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