



The Buzz

Cardinal Griffin's Sixth
Form Newsletter

Issue 2- Merry Christmas!

WELCOME TO THE BUZZ

AMDG

Get the Christmas Buzz!

By Rebecca Smith

Yes folks, it's that time of year once again!

Everywhere you look, lights are on, trees are up and there's that festive buzz (Sorry for that, but it had to be done!) in the air you just don't get at any other time of year other than Christmas. It's a time to celebrate and enjoy another year that's gone by, and get ready for the one ahead; a time to be surrounded by family and friends; Christmas truly is a time to be merry!

It's also a time to relax and unwind a bit, the run up to Christmas can take its toll, but we here at "The Buzz" hope to alleviate some of the pressure and stress by getting you ready for the weeks ahead, with plenty of Christmas delights!

And what an issue we have for you this month ladies and gents, yes indeed, we've got more Christmas packed into this newsletter than you'll know what to do with!

There's a Great Christmas Bakeoff, some ideas of what'll be on the TV, your number one Christmas song, and a few Christmas facts along the way.

There'll also be the normal stuff as well, Mrs. Wynne Jones will have some words of Christmas wisdom for you in The Beekeeper's Buzz, some news stories, up and coming opportunities and an interview from the wonderful Mr. Wall in the Shout Out section as well as for handy hints and tips for juggling Christmas and New Year with revision, because it's not an easy thing to balance.

So, from all of us here at "The Buzz", we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, as we look forward to the one ahead. You all deserve a much needed holiday (teachers too!) and before you know it, the bells will be ringing out for Christmas day!



So, at the moment we're still working on compiling a whole team, but if you want to come up and speak to any of the original few, here are our names:

Rebecca Smith - Editor
Debbie Allen, Emily Downes
and Niamh Poole - Busy Bees

Ambassadors are always welcome to have their say in The Buzz, but if teachers want to post any clubs or revision sessions, just pop over to see us and we'll get it sorted for you.

Opportunities



It might be Christmas, but opportunities are out there whatever the season, and we are pleased to announce that we have an exciting development for you!

Introducing...

The **University of Oxford** presents **Faculty of Law Open Days 2016**
Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th, and Wednesday 16th of March

- Learn all about the undergraduate courses & opportunities for careers
- Receive clear guidance on admissions procedures and requirements
- An academic taster session for studying law at Oxford

If you are at all interested please go and talk to Mrs. Wynne Jones for further information, there are only three places available, applications will open on Wednesday 6th January and close on Friday 29th of January, so get in quick to avoid disappointment!

CONTACT US!



If you know of any up and coming opportunities, or want us to include something you've found for yourself and might help others, tell us and we'll include it in next month's issue! Just find one of our editors and give us the sites e-mail.

We also want to know if you've had any volunteering success stories that you'd like to share and inspire the sixth form with. This can be a sporting fixture or even helping out with charity work, it's all ways that our sixth form involve themselves within the school and wider community.



The Beekeeper's Buzz!

By Mrs. Wynne-Jones

I'll now hand over to the very lovely, Queen Bee of Sixth Form, Mrs. Wynne Jones...

Here we are! We've made it to the end of a tiring and very busy term and Christmas is nearly upon us! The first issue of The Buzz received incredible feedback from not only Sixth Formers but also pupils in the lower school who said that it was great to hear what goes on in Poetry and Rhetoric.

As we journey towards the end of a term, I'd like to reflect on the many successes that have come our way: the Sixth Form Open Evening was attended by a record number of students from Years 11 and students at other schools in the locality; intense work has gone into the university applications for Rhetoric with many students securing unconditional offers at their universities. As I type, lots of preparations are going into the Senior Citizens' Christmas party which we're all really excited about.

Before we finish, I'd like to say well done for your hard work this term. Have a magical Christmas with your loved ones and come back in the New Year raring to go and well prepared for your mock examinations (sorry for the reminder!).

KEEP
CALM
AND
CARRY
ON

OXBRIDGE SAYS...



Pardon moi?

Studies suggest that being bilingual can help protect the brain during stroke. People who speak two languages are twice more likely to recover fully than those who only speak one. Biology students should think about the 'cognitive reserve', and how this aids stroke recovery.



Oh Christmas lights...

Ofcom have warned that Wi-Fi may be damaged due to the large surges in electrical usage caused by Christmas lights, as they are not accounted for on the national grid, so no more electricity is produced to cope with the strain. Engineers might want to consider how the surges disrupt electricity generation and transmission, while geography students might want to think about how corporations like Ofcom can change the way we think about development.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to receive more news like this, available to access any time for some light reading, please head to the Oxbridge website and sign up to their Oxbridge applicants programme.



It's important to keep up with the news, just so you know what's going on in the world in relation to you, and what might affect you in the future.



Have I got news for Sixth Form?

There's been a lot going on in the news recently, and it's hard not to hear or read about. Here are few of the top news stories of December so far...

The government have voted in favour of air strikes in Syria. Within hours of the decision, RAF fighter bombers had taken to the skies to commence the air strikes. Whatever you believe on this topic, it is imaginable that the war against ISIS or 'Daesh' is far from over.

Labour won two by-elections in Oldham and Royton, with many claiming this is an important victory for the party, and showing a 'vote of confidence' in Labour. However, with challenges of leadership an almost a daily occurrence, surely the party will need to

first unite itself, before it can win more elections like this.

David Cameron will no longer be pushing for a deal with the EU in order to kick-start an early referendum, due to rows with the German Chancellor Angela Merkel over tax credits. In a nut shell, Cameron wants to stop in-work benefits for EU nationals until they have lived in the UK for four years. This goes against cornerstone values of the EU, and some EU countries believe that this should only be enforced if applied to UK citizens as well.



IN LIGHTER NEWS...

NASA, as they do, have provided us with yet more vitally important news. If you were to post a Christmas Card to Mars, then it would cost you £11, 600. Although not realistic, it is quite a good fact.

Shout out!

This week's shout out goes to Jamie Morgan, Mate Izso, Debbie Allen and Emily Hinks for taking part in the 'Senior Team Maths Challenge' at Keele University. Being led by Mr Nabbs, they achieved a top ten spot after completing three mind-boggling challenges. Jamie got a gold in the individual maths challenge and Mate a silver, the team were never going to fail with that kind of brain power!

So, it is once again time to quiz our favourite teachers with some deep questions, this month, it's the turn of Mr. Wall...

1. Unsurprisingly, Mr. Wall's favorite subjects were maths, physics and 'computer sciences'.
2. If we lent him the Tardis for a day, he would go back and tell his sixteen year old self to take more opportunities to travel, because people don't realise how small the world is, and how similar we all really are.
3. If he wasn't a teacher, then Mr. Wall would have liked to have been a pilot, flying around the world.
4. If Mr. Wall were to ever meet God, then he'd quite like him to explain quantum mechanics, in a way that he'd be able to understand.

Dates for your diary - College events and calendar



Christmas is now upon us,
and as ever, it's a rather busy
time at school ...



10th December- Advent Mass

17th December – Senior Citizens Christmas Party

18th December- Christmas holiday begins!

4th January- Back to school

25th January- Mocks begin

Just a minute...

Your monthly update on all things not school.

Christmas is a time of fun and in this month's Just a Minute, we hope to give you the embodiment of fun!

The Great Christmas Bakeoff!

Though Bakeoff is just a distant memory, we hope this will inspire the budding bakers among you to get the cookbook out and start a journey into the realms of baking!

Relatively easy Ginger bread: You will need-

350g/12oz plain flour, plus extra for rolling out
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 tsp ground ginger
1 tsp ground cinnamon
125g/4½oz butter
175g/6oz light soft brown sugar
1 free-range egg
4 tbsp. golden syrup

Sift together the dry ingredients into a bowl. Add the butter and rub together to create breadcrumbs.

Stir in the sugar.

Beat the egg and golden syrup together and add to

the other ingredients, stirring until they clump together to form a dough. Knead the dough briefly and rest in the ridge for 15 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Line two baking trays with greaseproof paper. Roll the dough out to 0.5cm thick and cut out. Leave a gap between them on the baking tray!

Bake for 12-15 minutes and let them cool before you decorate them!

Joke- (Again, terribly sorry for this!)

Advent calendars, well, their days are numbered!

Brainteaser-

The answer to last month's puzzle was: a coin

Take away my first letter; my second letter; even all my letters, and I would remain the same.

What am I?

FILMS AND MUSIC



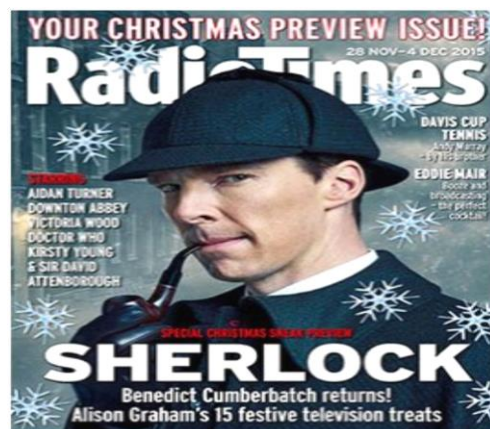
Use the force!

Yes, Star Wars the Force Awakens is set to hit the screens and break box office records as one of the most highly anticipated films of the year so far. Directed by J.J. Abrams, the man who re-invented *Star Trek*, this should be an excellent film, although not very Christmasy...



Your No.1 Christmas song!

Well, the votes have been counted and verified (drum roll please) your number 1 Christmas song is... Fairytale of New York! Released in 1988, this song has a real emotional route to it and offers broken dreams, with the hope of reconciliation... Merry Christmas?



What you watchin'?

Christmas TV, it's time to get the Radio Times out and start highlighting all the programs you have to watch! **Sherlock** heads the BBC's line up for Christmas viewing, as well as the **Doctor Who** special, and **Dickensian** also looks quite interesting, and **The Musketeers** will return in January!

The Balancing Act...

Though this section would normally be purely dedicated to Syntax and Upper Grammar, we here at The Buzz think this would probably help the Sixth Formers too!

So, it's Christmas, no school, no worries. But mock exams are coming up. Oh dear!

When I was in Year 10 and was told that my first mock exams would be straight after Christmas, I was miserable. Christmas was ruined and nothing could make it better. But closer to the holidays I realised that balancing Christmas and revision could be done, although I wanted to do well in my mocks, I wanted to enjoy Christmas too! Generally in these sort of situations, people go from one extreme to the other; a.) It's *Christmas*, and I'm *not* revising! Or b.) Christmas is canceled, revise, revise, revise!

Neither of these two options are good ones. In truth, you need both. Firstly, it is your holiday, and you do need some time to just relax and have fun, secondly, it's Christmas, enjoy yourself! Thirdly, not every day has to

be a full day of revision. Here at "The Buzz", we want to make your Christmas as good as possible, so here are a few hints and tips for revision and Christmas...

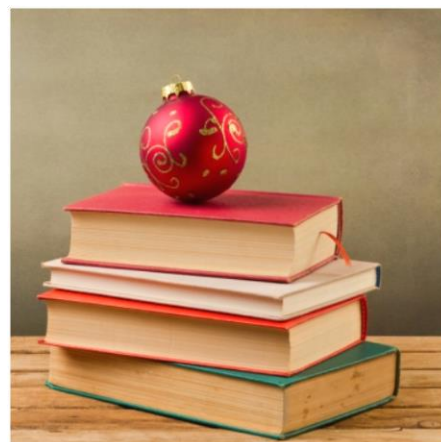
Christmas day is for opening presents and appreciating those around you, not thinking about exams! Same goes for New Year!

Make time to go and see friends or watch a movie (or make one), get out of the house and go for a walk even, just don't be a slave to the desk.

Plan a revision timetable, you're more likely to stick with it, and you get a sense of achievement when you tick it off.

Don't focus on one subject in particular, you need to revise everything, making a timetable will help with this too.

After a day of hard work and revision, kick back, watch your favourite Christmas movie and relax!



THE PRAYER CORNER

NIAMH POOLE

A Christmas blessing,
 May God grant you the light of Christmas,
 Which is faith;
 The warmth of Christmas,
 Which is purity;
 The righteousness of Christmas,
 Which is justice;
 The belief in Christmas,
 Which is truth;
 The all of Christmas,
 Which is Christ.



The science of...snowflakes!

In this festive edition of "The Buzz", I thought I'd enlighten you on how the pristine beauties that fall from the sky are formed. I am, of course, talking about snowflakes!

They start out on their journey as a tiny dust particle high up in the atmosphere where it meets water vapour. The particle gets covered in the vapour and becomes a crystal. The molecules in the crystal begin to naturally arrange themselves into a hexagonal shape. Like fingerprints, each snowflake is individual, due to atmospheric condition changes as the snowflake falls, such as temperature and humidity. The number of different combinations of these effects is infinite! As the snowflake falls to the ground, it gets larger because the water molecules keep arranging themselves so that the hexagonal pattern is repeated.

So there you have it, now you can educate your family and friends, this Christmas, about the wonders of the universe that are snowflakes!

By Debbie Allen

The Buzz

Cardinal Griffin's Sixth Form Newsletter

Prayer box

If you'd like to dedicate any prayers to loved ones and relatives, just write their name on a slip of paper and post it in our prayer box by "The Buzz" board in Sixth Form.



Thank you for supporting the Christmas issue of "The Buzz"! As we've mentioned, all ideas and suggestions will be welcomed, so come and talk to us!

In the next exciting installment of The Buzz:

Words of wisdom from another teacher

New Year resolutions

Opportunities

January's 'Beekeeper's Buzz'

Getting ready for Mocks

Just a minute

And much more...