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MFJ/BLE

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# **Parents' Bulletin**

#### **Dear Parents**

If you are familiar with snapchat and most of our students are, you may know that they have introduced a map feature that allows users to track other peoples' movements, in real time.

This is if users allow others to do so and they can select all of their friends, some of them, or none at all (ghost mode). It strikes me that this feature could be troublesome if a student has fallen out with someone, acquaintance or ex-friend. The details of the map, I am told although cannot confirm, allows people to be located down to a building.

I would suggest that some parental advice on the matter is appropriate. Certainly I would suggest not including all "friends" and if some are selected, a regular review would be wise. Given that someone who had been deselected might not manage such a situation well after such a review, I'd go for 'ghost' mode as the easiest option. But then I am not 13 (the stated age limit for snapchat) and so sensitive to peer pressure.

#### **Sports Day**

The weather was kind to us – patchy sun light and not too hot. The event was held next to the Science block, impossible last year with all the temporary huts there. It is a natural arena, surrounded by hedges and a building. The students behaviour was fantastic – a teacher new to us this year commented that the students from their previous school would never have coped with the event so well. Ours were in good voice supporting their House and there were some fantastic individual performances. In the end Wilberforce triumphed, winning the House cup and Mrs Williams the Head of House, was absolutely thrilled. Our thanks go to all the competitors, who tried extremely hard, to the rest of the students for their support and to the PE department who organised and ran it brilliantly.

The prom that evening was excellent too. The vehicles delivering the students ranged from Rolls Royce and Bentleys, through to stretch limos, vintage cars, VW camper vans, a couple on their micro scooters, three Mustangs of varying ages, an American army truck, a Ford Granada police car from the 80s, or maybe 70s, a very low gull wing door sports car of unknown (to me) make and a host of other smart and no doubt expensive cars. The Hall was decorated to the highest standard I have seen, with the theme 'The Enchanted Forest' so lots of greenery and fairy toadstools and as usual, embarrassing photo-shopped pictures. The students were very appreciative and went off to their after prom parties happy.

We had superb support from various local businesses SS Floral who are based in Yateley who donated many props and time to help set everything up, Debbie Clark Parties Galore who did the balloons again for us this year, Henry Street Garden Centre for the loan of props and DJ Wadge. Thank you also to Mr Matt Davis and all of the caretakers.













YATELEY SCHOOL



Mrs D'Alton and Miss Hinks did their usual sterling job of arranging the whole event with the support of students and other staff this year, they surpassed themselves.

#### **Matters Educational**

The new Head of Ofsted, Amanda Spielman, has criticised schools that turn themselves into exam factories rather than offering a well-rounded education. She said "that school leaders should be ashamed of some of the tactics used to bolster their league table standings".

Extraordinary, but welcome. Ofsted inspectors have, however, focussed so intently on exam results that it is hardly surprising that schools have tried to be as successful as they can be in the league tables arena. We were criticised in the last inspection for not having enough students studying for the Ebacc. The fact that no-one asks for it or requires it (or for the most part, cares about it) did not matter as it is a measure in the league tables. If Ms Spielman is serious in her intent, this can only be good. However, it is not a view that the Department of Education, nor Ofsted inspectors themselves, have supported.

As a result of the recent election, Grammar schools seem to have gone the way of the dementia tax and thank heavens for that. Divisive and unfair to the point of discrimination they should never have been resurrected and let's hope this is the end of that proposal.

#### Holidays in term time

The case of Jon Platt who refused to pay a fine for taking his child on holiday during term time seems to have finally come to an end. His case was that his daughter's good attendance meant that, even with a week's holiday, she attended school regularly as required by law. This was supported in the magistrates and then the High Court. A surge in term time holiday bookings apparently followed the latter.

However, the Supreme Court decided that Mr Platt had shown 'a blatant disregard of school rules' and that his approach had been a 'slap in the face' to obedient parents who abide by the law. He was fined £2,000. This is in addition to his estimated £12,000 legal costs.

Mr Platt absolutely believes in the rights of parents to make decisions about their children and if this is the case, you have to admire his persistence and determination. However, we see each day the effects that bad parental decisions can have on some students, many unwitting or unavoidable, some wilful and selfish. There will always be a point at which other agencies have to step in for the greater good of such children.

#### ECDL

This stands for the European Computer Driving License. We canvassed parents of year 11 to see if they would support this additional qualification and the large majority of parents who answered were in favour.

In the end 201 Year 11 students sat it, 181 received distinction stars – the equivalent of an A\*, 18 distinctions (A) and 2 merits (B). Looking at the outstanding results, some might conclude that this was an easy qualification. Other, more glass half full, might conclude that this was an excellent outcome base on 5 years of through ICT teaching.

Mr M F Jackman Headteacher

#### DIARY DATES

| 29 <sup>th</sup> June                   | Open Evening (school finishes 12.45pm)              |
|---|---|
| 29 <sup>th</sup> June                   | Open Evening – 6.30pm                               |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> June                   | 6 <sup>th</sup> Form Link Day                       |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> June                   | Yr 10 Exams Finish                                  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> June                   | 6 <sup>th</sup> Form Prom                           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> July                    | Yr 12 A Level Geography Residential Trip            |
| 5th July                                | Parent's Post 16 Options Presentation – MH – 7.00pm |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> July                    | Year 6 Induction Day                                |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> July                    | Year 6 Parents' Evening                             |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> July                    | Yr 10 Taster Day                                    |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> /11 <sup>th</sup> July | Year 5 Activity Days                                |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> July                   | Yateley Road Race – 5.30pm                          |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> July                   | Yr 10 Paris Trip                                    |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup>      | Year 10 and 12 Work Experience                      |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> July | Yateley Young Designers' Exhibition                 |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> July                   | Sports Personality Awards Evening – 7.00pm          |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> July                   | Foundation Day                                      |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> July                   | Yrs 7/8/10 Review Sheets Out                        |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> July                   | End of Term (school finishes 12.45pm)               |

#### **OPEN EVENING MUSIC TOUR TO CROATIA DRESS/TECH REHEARSAL**

Just a gentle reminder that all Music Tour participants are needed for the Open Evening dress and tech rehearsal. Attire is ALL BLACK, smart and elegant. Students need to bring own instruments and sheet music (where applicable) agreed for the Croatia Tour Programme.

We will perform to our year 5 audience and their parents/carers, in M2, in the Music Block on Thursday 29th June 2017, starting at 5:30pm. All students must arrive no later than, 5:15pm in order to set up, tune and sound check. Rehearsal will finish at 9pm.

#### Ms T Pejovic, Head of Music

#### SPORTS PERSONALITY

WHEN: Monday 24th July 2017 TIME: 7pm WHERE: Yateley School, Main Hall.

This Evening is to celebrate the sporting success and adventures the students have experienced this year. The evening starts with a drinks reception in Reception followed by the main awards ceremony and celebrations in the Main Hall. During the course of the evening some of our student's talents will be showcased in live performances and video feeds. This evening is a great way to end the school year, celebrating the sporting achievements of our school.

Nominees for the awards are invited to purchase their tickets for the event first, **Tickets will go on general sale Monday 10th July**. It is definitely a night not to be missed. Raffle tickets will be going on sale soon, so don't miss out on the selection of prizes that we have, anyone can buy a Raffle ticket you **DO NOT** have to attend the evening to be entered into the prize draw. We hope to see many of you on the evening.

#### PE Department

#### POLAND 2017

Polite reminder: Please bring your Passport and EHIC card into school by Monday 3rd July marked 'Poland Trip'. Thank you

Mr Bristow, Trip Leader



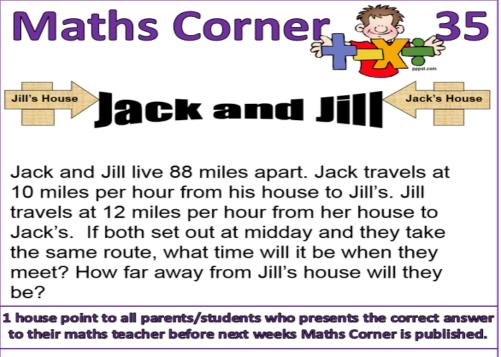
## **Become a Lifeguard!**

Lifeguard positions available here at Yateleys from August 2017

NPLQ course running 7th – 12th August 2017 Price: £230



For more information please contact Yateleys Health & Fitness Yateley School, School Lane, Yateley Call 01252 746962 or email yateleys@yateleys.com



<u>Answer to Maths Corner 34 – Same Area</u> a = 4cm, b = 12cm, c = 6cm

#### **FREE FOOTBALL**

A free football scheme to develop the potential of young people in the borough will be funded for a second year. Working with Reading Football Club and Hampshire Constabulary, the borough council set up and runs Kicks – a new and exciting initiative for 11 to 19 years.

Sessions take place every Tuesday at Everest Community Academy in Oxford Way, teenagers are encouraged to simply turn up and play. For more information please contact:

Helen Morton, Communications Officer, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Tel: 01256 845634 <u>Helen.Morton@basingstoke.gov.uk</u>



#### **BOYS ONLY! DANCE WEEKEND AT THE POINT**

We have an exciting opportunity here at The Point for any aspiring male dancers aged 8-18 years, suitable for beginners and those with some dance experience in any style.

Boys Only! In partnership with Royal Academy of Dance, is a high-energy, two-day workshop full of creativity, led by experienced male teachers. Bring a friend and enjoy energising contemporary warmup classes and creative dance sessions combined with athletic ballet classes to build your



coordination, strength and alignment. Classes are led by male teachers alongside dancers from the all-male Zoie Logic Dance Theatre.

The weekend finishes with a presentation for parents and guardians, and a Q&A with your teachers.

This event is being held at The Point, **Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 July - 10am – 4.30pm each day** (students are required to attend both days). The cost of the weekend is just £53.00.

Booking deadline has been extended, so please do encourage any dancers that might be interested to book on as soon as possible. Bookings can be made on the RAD website: <a href="https://www.rad.org.uk/events/boys-only-hampshire">https://www.rad.org.uk/events/boys-only-hampshire</a>



### **Tutor Vacancies September 2017**

Yateley School Adult and Community Learning are currently recruiting Tutors for our adult learning programme to deliver:

| Family Learning  | Tap Dancing                  | Tai Chi             |  |  |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| English Language                                       | English as a Second Language |                     |  |  |
| Spanish Language                                       | Italian Language             | French Language     |  |  |
| Art Specialist /Graffiti Specialty Cooking Counselling |                              |                     |  |  |
| Speciality Baking                                      | Aromatherapy                 | Reflexology         |  |  |
| Bread Making   | Computing                    | Indian Head Massage |  |  |

We are always looking to expand our programme so if you have any skills or subjects you would like to teach please contact us.

> For further details please contact the Community Learning team on 01252 877190 or E-mail: info@adultandcommunity.co.uk

Yateley School is committed to safeguarding children in its recruitment practices.

Yateley School Adult & Community Learning, School Lane, Yateley, Hampshire GU46 6NW E: info@adultandcommunity.co.uk T: 01252 877190 www.adultandcommunity.co.uk





