



## From the Headteacher

**This** half term is often short with so much to pack in. Year 11, 12 and 13 students are now focussing hard on these remaining months of preparation for external examinations. As I write the Year 13 Drama practicals are beginning, the public speaking competition is well underway across the whole school and the Year 12 Geography field trip to Dorset leaves on Monday. Next week we have a visit from a representative from Leading Edge (a network for high performing schools) to meet colleagues and discuss the excellent Teaching and Learning across the school. As always, school life is busy and enjoyable.

**Today** we held the semi-finals of our Sixth Form University Challenge; the questions were certainly challenging and there were gasps of admiration from the audience as their peers answered so many tough questions correctly. I'm looking forward to the finals!

**The** building work for the Sixth Form expansion is well underway and the curved frontage of The Atrium is taking shape; we are all looking forward to moving into the finished building.

**Our** Sixth Form students are certainly a credit to the school and this was no less obvious than in the recent performances in drama, music and in the Gym and Dance display. I am always thrilled to see how our older students lead so admirably, supporting and encouraging the younger students and being such great role models. There will be more on the Gym and Dance display in the next issue; in the meantime I hope you enjoy this issue which focuses on the stunning and professional performances of 'A Christmas Carol' and 'Cabaret'. I do urge you not only to look at the pictures but also to read the articles which give such an excellent flavour of the events.

**Thank** you as always for your support of Beaumont School.

Elizabeth Hitch

This month's Vista newsletter with details of their services and courses has been parentmailed and is available at the end of the on-line version of Beaumont Life on the school website [www.beaumontschool.com](http://www.beaumontschool.com).

## March Diary Dates

<b>Mon</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Year 9</b> Senior Team Interviews <b>Year 12</b> Geography field trip to Dorset
<b>Tues</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>BSA</b> Committee meeting 7.30pm Library <b>French Exchange</b> Parent Information Evening 6pm room 60/61
<b>Weds</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Lake Garda</b> Parent Information Evening 7pm Hall
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Year 12</b> Parent Information Evening – University applications 7pm Hall
<b>Sat</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>DofE</b> Expedition Training Bronze and Silver Award 8.30am to 3.30pm
<b>Mon</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Year 9</b> Option Form deadline <b>SSASMA</b> 7pm Alban Arena
<b>Tues</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>CED HOUSE DAY</b>
<b>Weds</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Iceland</b> Parent Information Evening 6.30pm room 40
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Leading Edge</b> Teaching & Learning Event 9am – 2pm <b>Beaumont Life</b> deadline <b>6<sup>th</sup> form</b> French trip Parent Information Evening 7pm Hall
<b>Tues</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Full Governing Body</b> meeting 7pm Library
<b>Weds</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Public speaking</b> finals Hall Periods 6 and 7
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Year 11</b> panoramic and tutor photos <b>Year 7 and 8</b> reports issued <b>Year 10 Parent Consultation Evening</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Non-uniform</b> Day for Sports Relief
<b>Mon</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>GCSE</b> practical PE moderation week <b>Young Shakespeare</b> Company in school for Year 9
<b>Weds</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>French Exchange</b> return visit to Beaumont until 1 April
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Governors</b> Resources Committee meeting 6.30pm Library
<b>Mon</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>German Exchange</b> Information and reunion evening 7pm room 65

For sports fixtures please check the PE Blog  
[www.beaumontpe.blogspot.com](http://www.beaumontpe.blogspot.com)

Beaumont welcomes comments from parents/carers and families about any aspect of school life.  
Please contact us via our email [admin@beaumont.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@beaumont.herts.sch.uk)

# A Christmas Carol

On a cold December evening in the last week of term, I was one of many piling into the Hall to watch **A Christmas Carol**. Excitement filled the air, but I had very little idea of how the story was going to be told. As the cast came out onto the stage moving about under numerous black umbrellas, Ms Doan's remark: "This is so Beaumont Drama" was just perfect. Of course we weren't expecting your average school rendition of a classic Christmas tale, but as Marley's face was formed by the umbrellas I was blown away by the professionalism and commitment of the actors.



I continued to be impressed throughout the evening, whether it was by a family of very cute Cratchits; an ensemble that carried the ghost of Christmas past through an entire scene; or the silent puppet of the ghost of Christmas future. The sheer number of people involved in the production was fantastic! With a set made by 9S, a stage crew of Year 9 students and of course the cast and directing team, all working so hard during the rehearsal period, it's no wonder the play was such a success. As Scrooge sent a turkey to the Cratchit family on Christmas morning, I was almost disappointed because it was all coming to an end!! Well done to everyone who took part in any aspect of A Christmas Carol - you should all be very proud of yourselves.

Beth Wilson

Being a part of **A Christmas Carol** was a fantastic experience which was great fun and also taught me a lot. The drama teachers had just three months to put together a whole play that would live up to past Beaumont productions. Through commitment, some great actors and genius ideas from the teachers, **A Christmas Carol** was created. When the show nights came we all went out, enjoyed ourselves and gave it our all. Thanks to the extreme hard work of Miss Shepherd, Ms Eversden and Mr Messios as well as stage crew, lighting, sound, costume and the addition of some yummy cupcakes, **A Christmas Carol** was a success.

The show was a brilliant thing to be a part of where I could be around talented people and learn new techniques which I am still making use of in drama lessons today. I had a fab time getting into my role and would recommend getting involved in future Beaumont shows whether it is on stage or as a part of the crew.

Clem Almond 10N





**When** I found out I had got a part in **A Christmas Carol** I was so excited! Each person had their own character but the majority of our time spent on stage was in our flocks. Working in flocks was like having a little team to work with and when all those teams came together as an ensemble we were able to create some spectacular moments! As with all Beaumont shows, one of my favourite parts was being able to meet and work with new people from other Years with whom I would otherwise never have spoken! Everyone worked so hard and we created a performance of which we can all be proud.

**Bethan Hughes 9L**

**Last** year I took part in a Beaumont production and this year I thought I'd take a different approach and be a member of the crew for **A Christmas Carol**. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience as you met new people and see productions from a completely different perspective! I would highly recommend to anyone even if you love being in a production or you prefer being 'behind the scenes' that it is a great experience and opportunity for everyone!

**Hannah Crisp 9S**



**Life is a.....**

**CABARET** was the first show at Beaumont in which I have been involved, and I can honestly say that it was a privilege to work alongside such an extremely talented group of cast, band, crew and staff. The skill, talent and dedication of all those involved led to two truly stunning performances, showcasing the strength of extra-curricular drama and music here at Beaumont. Well done everyone – I am already looking forward to the next show!

**Mr Gray**





It was such an honour to have the opportunity to take part in the upper school musical of **CABARET** in January 2014.

I **enjoyed** every part of it and met some of the most amazing people who made the fantastic but challenging musical easier to tackle and a bunch of laughs. The rehearsing and the performance of the show helped us all to become better actors and singers and even taught us a lot about Berlin history! It was the first time for most of us to be so close to audience members; this was a real experience and it helped to create the most amazing atmosphere.

**Overall**, it was an absolutely brilliant show and it created so many memories that I will never forget!

**Lois Fordham**



**When** I first arrived to watch Beaumont School's production of **CABARET** I had no idea what to expect. I know we have outstanding music and drama departments so I guessed I was in for a great show.

**I was** right! The acting, singing and dancing were all to an incredibly high standard and the entire performance was very slick and professional. Although the storyline was mature and in places complicated, the cast carried it off spectacularly, with exceptional performances from the lead roles. The live band really added to the atmosphere as did the authentic, vintage props. Dance routines and songs were polished and even the accents were great. Overall, **CABARET** was a great success and I can honestly say it was one of the best productions I have ever seen!

**P.S.** The interval cupcakes were pretty fab too.

**Lydia Grinsted Tate**

**When** I heard that **CABARET** was the upper school musical for 2014 I was incredibly excited and determined to get one of the extremely sought after places in the cast; looking back I've never been more glad to be cast in a school show. The whole process of putting **CABARET** together, from the days spent at school during the Christmas holidays, to the intensive rehearsals during the last few weeks before the show, were an invaluable experience as we, as a cast, had a taste of the type of challenging but rewarding work we could expect to be involved in if we entered into the world of professional acting in the future.

**These** rehearsals also reminded us how privileged we were to be chosen to portray the story of **CABARET**, being as heart wrenching as it is. However for me my memories of **CABARET** are not just about how amazing the show turned out to be, but also about the incredible group of friends the cast and crew grew to be. It was truly an honour to be a part of something as special as **CABARET** and we've certainly all come out of the show with some brilliant stories to tell.

**Anastasia Raymond**



**It is** probably fair to say that most musical theatre shows offer their audiences a short sing-along, life-affirming episode from which everyone leaves, whistling the tunes and generally feeling a lot better about themselves. **CABARET** is categorically not one of those shows. And therein lies the difficulty of putting on a successful production. All too often amateur productions fall down when the shocking changes of tone and mood simply lack conviction or commitment, and the end-product fails to have the impact that the writers intended.



**Not** so at Beaumont School on the evening of Tuesday 21 January. From the first nervous giggle when the Emcee walked on stage to the shocked and muted applause towards the end of the second half, the audience was taken on an emotional journey that left some visibly shaken by what they had experienced. The simple conceit of making the audience part of the Kit Kat Club's own crowd meant that the mood of the show seeped unconsciously through the fourth wall, so that the audience, at first happily revelling in the seedy atmosphere of the Club, gradually began to feel complicit in the increasingly nasty events taking place on stage, and finally found themselves helpless in the aftermath of a political struggle that turns the world of **CABARET** on its head. It was not a show for the faint-hearted – but a tour-de-force that shook and moved the audience more than many of them were expecting.

**If you** know **CABARET**, then you will be aware of the way that the hedonistic clubland lifestyle of 1930s Berlin is increasingly rocked by the series of political coups that brought the Nazis to power. This is manifested in sudden changes of mood when seemingly simple, music-hall-esque songs are cut to the quick by a racist comment or a Nazi salute. It is difficult to do this well, but Beaumont Drama hammered the blows home. The obvious talent of the cast did not just lie in the outstanding acting, singing and dancing, but in the honesty of expression and commitment, from such young actors, that couldn't help but make the message of the show that bit more stark and upsetting.



**Given** the able band, chorus, and fabulous dance breaks (including a fearless tap section), it feels wrong to single out individuals for their performances. However, there were clearly some exceptional contributions: Tom Holmes as the Emcee terrified many of the audience, his absolute focus on the role leading a number to shrink away when he approached; Chloe Pattenden's Sally Bowles caught all the nuances of the character: she was at once larger than life whilst also fragile but likeable (no mean feat, since other more experienced actors have often failed to do her justice); Beth Wilson was a joy as Fraulein Schneider, capturing the comedy of the role, but leaving the hall echoing to her footsteps after the agony of her final speech; she made a perfect comedy double-act with Ollie Davies' Herr Schultz, who had the whole audience eating out of the palm of his hand during *Meeskite*. Sidney Brass was an understated and sympathetic Cliff Bradshaw. It's a difficult role (being the audience's observer on the ground) and Sidney managed it with just the right mix of bewilderment and empathy. Finally, Sarah Dean as Fraulein Kost was the physical embodiment of the transformation that the show undergoes, from pretty and simpering to ugly and smouldering in the final chorus of *Tomorrow Belongs to Me* that she leads.



**There** were many moving moments on Tuesday. If the audience began by being a little uncomfortable about the Emcee and his dancing girls, they were audibly disturbed by the unfurling of the swastika banners, which drew several gasps from audience members. This was further exacerbated by the reaction of each character to the political maelstrom that they found themselves in, and, ultimately, the horror of the final scene. It was only Cliff who (like the audience) was able to leave it all behind at the end of the show; you couldn't help feeling that everyone else was doomed, and the final image of the Emcee, wearing striped pyjamas and a yellow star, left many shocked to the core.

**Congratulations** to Team Beaumont Drama and Music for a gripping and incredibly poignant production. If the applause felt muted towards the end of the show, it was not because you didn't deserve to be applauded. It was because you had all done your job so well that the audience felt guilty about applauding at all.

**Alex Hall**

## Thank You

The Textiles Technology Department and the GCSE Year 10/11 and Key Stage 3 students would like to thank the BSA for their generosity in buying two new Bernina sewing machines. The students were delighted to hear the good news and they will now be even more industrious!

**Mrs ten Dam, Textiles teacher**



Thank you very, very much for new, fabulous sewing machines! We are very grateful for this extraordinarily kind gesture. They are really good and brilliant; thanks so much - we will get lots of fun and learning out of them. They will be used a lot and bring lots of joy and fabulous GCSE work! Thank you very much again!

**From Year 10 GCSE Textiles students, written by Georgia Light and Jasmine Kenward 10A**

## Beyond Beaumont

### Chris Clifford Year 9

**On** 30 January I travelled to Stockholm in Sweden to compete in the Swedish Winter Cup (table tennis). With a 5am start to the day I met with my team mates from the London Table Tennis Academy to pit our skills against players from Sweden, Hungary, England and Canada.

**Once** the plane landed we travelled to Angby where we trained for a few hours before going off to stay with a Swedish family for our time in Sweden. I stayed with a very welcoming family and had a great time with them.

**The** first full day started early with three hours of training and we then caught a train to Stockholm where we fitted in a bit of sightseeing and a traditional Swedish meal. The meal and City were fantastic. In the evening we played a warm up tournament, competing mainly against local League players.

**Saturday** was competition day and with another early morning start I came up against some tough competition. I reached the quarter finals of the u14's where I lost to Sweden's number three player but I did manage to take a set off him. A good day of competition rounded off with some messing around in the fresh snow with my Swedish family.

**Sunday's** competition was against a mixture of young and old players which included some of Europe's top men players. A tough day's play but again I lost to some of Sweden's top players. A late night flight back to Stansted finished off our four days of training and competition.

**Playing** competitions in Europe gives me a chance to play against players who have different styles and gives me good experience to help my game in the future. Future trips later this year take me to Germany during Easter, the English Schools Finals in Doncaster and again back to Sweden for training and competitions in the summer.



## From the Governors

**As** mentioned in my last report, this is the first year that Beaumont has to produce formal annual accounts, and the main purpose of our meeting on 14 November was to review and consider the initial draft accounts for the period 1 July 2012 (when we achieved Academy status) through to 31 August 2013 which is our year end.

**This** was followed by a full governing body meeting on 10 December to approve the final version of the accounts which were presented to us by our Accountants. The final accounts had to be submitted to the Education Funding Agency by 31 December 2013, and this was successfully achieved.

**Our** first meeting of the New Year was on 20 January and there was a full and varied agenda. We again had an excellent premises and health and safety update, and it is pleasing to note that as well as good progress with our FAB project, there has also been a considerable amount of on-going work in relation to the Library and Sixth Form extension. Alternative accommodation has been made available for the Sixth Form students who have been very co-operative and supportive throughout the process.

**The** budget and financial reports up to the end of Period 3 were also presented and reviewed and it is clear that we are well on target to achieve our planned outcomes.

**Other** issues discussed were in relation to reviewing and approving a number of School Policies as well as reviewing for the Plan for School Improvement and performance management processes.

**The** final item discussed was a review of training courses undertaken by committee members and consideration of any further training requirements.

Rena Prindville, Chair Resources Committee

## Are you good with Figures?

**The** Beaumont School Association needs a parent volunteer or friend of the school who would be willing to act as an Independent Examiner for the BSA accounts.

**This** would normally be someone with an accounting qualification but that is not required: any "independent person with the requisite ability and practical experience" can fill this role. It typically involves a few hours to review the accounts and write an examiner's report in the form of a short letter, some time between the end of our fiscal year (31 March) and our AGM in early May. It can be a parent at the school as long as it is not someone closely involved with the BSA itself.

**If** you might be interested or know someone else who might be prepared to volunteer please get in touch with the BSA via [bsa@beaumont.herts.sch.uk](mailto:bsa@beaumont.herts.sch.uk). Further information about the role is available on the Charity Commission website

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/detailed-guidance/money-and-accounts/independent-examination-of-charity-accounts-examiners-cc32/>

Thank you from the BSA



**The** fantastic sum of £1,035.26 was raised for **Children in Need** back in November 2013. Well done and thank you to everyone who took part in any way.

February 2014

## FLEETVILLE PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY NEWS

Vista offers support services for children, young people, parents, families and schools in the St Albans community. We will be developing new services over the next few years and we value your thoughts and comments. Do feel free to contact Jo Maher at any time on **01727 855134 Ex. 2** or **07939 111152**.

### SCHOOL FAMILY WORKER

Your school has a dedicated School Family Worker who can help you with supporting your child/ren. She can be contacted direct or through a member of school staff.

Your School Family Worker is: [sarah.ellis@fleetvillejm.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sarah.ellis@fleetvillejm.herts.sch.uk)

**07557 354620**

### PARENT SUPPORT

Being a parent can be challenging at times – we can offer individual support as well as a variety of information and guidance to services. We will be offering courses and workshops over the year.



### COUNSELLING SERVICE FOR ADULTS, CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE

We are happy to be able to inform you that Vista is able to offer counselling as a private service. We have qualified Counsellors working for and in partnership with Vista. All Counsellors are quality assured by Vista St Albans and hold relevant qualifications. They are trained in safeguarding and hold enhanced CRBs. Counsellors are all members of BACP (their professional body) are BACP accredited and are experienced practitioners who follow the BACP ethical codes of practice and receive regular supervision.

If you or your child require counselling and may be able to pay for the service please contact Vista direct.

### Simple Solutions (Drop-In Session)

Autism Advisor Sally Glossop provides a regular Drop in session for Parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs. A chance to find solutions to challenging behaviour in your child with Autism/Aspergers/ASD. This is a free of charge drop in session but you do need to register. To secure your place please contact Vista. Email: [vistastalbans@gmail.com](mailto:vistastalbans@gmail.com) or 07557 361246. The next session is **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March from 11am – 12 noon at Fleetville Junior School.**

### Look Forward Training – For Teenagers in Years 11, 12 and 13- Saturday, 22 March 2014. 9.30am – 12.30pm.

A three hour course for young people who are hoping to apply to university, write a CV, find part time work or take up volunteering in local primary schools. The training is offered to anyone aged 16 yrs and above. Cost of £35.00 per person (concessions accepted). Held at Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW. For more details and to book a place Email: [vistastalbans@gmail.com](mailto:vistastalbans@gmail.com) or call on 01727 855134 Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March from 10am at Alban Way Childrens Centre, Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans. AL1 4LW.

### Nutrition and ASC Workshop – Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April – 7.30-9.30pm

A practical overview of diets and supplements relating to children with Autism Spectrum Conditions. Held at Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW. To book a place email: [vistastalbans@gmail.com](mailto:vistastalbans@gmail.com) or call 07557 361246. £10.00 per person.

**Understanding Self Harm Workshop – Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> April – 7.30-9.30pm**

This workshop aims to help you understand self harm/injury. What is self harm? Why? How? Tools and Support. Held at Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW. To book a place email: [vistastalbans@gmail.com](mailto:vistastalbans@gmail.com) or call 07557 361246. **£10.00 per person.**

**Cyberbullying Workshop – Tuesday, 29th April – 7.30-9.30pm**

A wide and varied subject! Information given on Usage and age restrictions; responsibility of parents; issues around images, texting and sexting; how to report a crime; the Law and how schools manage cyberbullying. Held at Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW. To book a place email: [vistastalbans@gmail.com](mailto:vistastalbans@gmail.com) or call 07557 361246. **FREE of charge.**

**A Parenting Course Supporting your Child with Separation – Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June – 7.30-9.30pm**

A four week course tackling the effect of separation and loss on children if parents separate. This course covers difficult areas of anger, arguments and family conflict. Held at Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW. To book a place email: [vistastalbans@gmail.com](mailto:vistastalbans@gmail.com) or call 07557 361246. **£25.00 per person.**

**First Aid for Teens - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2014 – 9.00am-1.00pm**

A four hour accredited course for young people who babysit or care for children run by MGM Training. This course is offered to anyone aged 13 years and above. Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2014. 9.00am to 1.00pm. **£35.00 per person (includes certificate).** Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans AL1 4LW. To reserve your place in the first instance, email: [vistastalbans@gmail.com](mailto:vistastalbans@gmail.com) or telephone 07557 361246.

**PARENT PARTIES – Exam Stress, Resilience...**

Would you like to host a Vista Parent Party? We can offer the above topics plus any other particular issue you may like covered. An informal lunch or evening party for you and a few of your friends. You choose the topic, invite your friends and provide the venue – we will bring the resources, strategies and ideas. To find out more about this exciting and fun service call Jo on 07939 111152 or visit the website: [www.vistastalbans.org.uk](http://www.vistastalbans.org.uk)



**ST ALBANS & DISTRICT FAMILY FAIR**



This year's event was a great success with over 2000 attending. Next year will be even bigger and better – on **10<sup>th</sup> May 2014!** If you would like to showcase your own local business or wish to find out more visit: [www.stalbansfamilyfair.org](http://www.stalbansfamilyfair.org)

**Do take time to visit our website to find out more or contact Jo Maher on 07939 111152.**

**Website: [www.vistastalbans.org.uk](http://www.vistastalbans.org.uk) Email: [vistastalbans@gmail.com](mailto:vistastalbans@gmail.com);  
[vistastalbans@gmail.com](mailto:vistastalbans@gmail.com)**