For a number of years we have been contributing to the Calne Schools’ Remembrance Service at St Mary’s Church on Armistice Day. It is always an incredibly moving occasion when the young people from all of the schools in Calne and the surrounding villages come together to remember those who have lost their lives in conflict. This year the children sang songs from the Second World War interspersed by excerpts of Sir Winston Churchill’s speeches and reminiscences of those that lived through the war, read beautifully by sixth formers Hannah Rumsby and Dan Evans. We then made our way out to the war memorial where we were joined by a good number of people who had come to pay their respects. Joe Packer’s poignant rendition of the Last Post only added to what was a fitting tribute to the fallen.

The John Bentley School had also fallen silent at 11am. When I returned I was greeted by a visibly moved colleague who told me just how special it was. Almost a thousand young people standing still; recalling those who had given their today for our tomorrow. It is days like Wednesday that make me hugely proud to work at this fantastic school and live in our wonderful town.

Peter Grant
Assistant Headteacher
Alumni Corner
Phil Springate

Phil Springate was a student at the John Bentley Grammar School from 1962 to 1969. Phil associates his earliest memories of the school with the time when the Beatles were just starting out; a time that was hugely significant with the Profumo Scandal rocking the incumbent Conservative Government at home and the Cuban Missile Crisis pushing the world to the edge of nuclear destruction.

Phil’s John Bentley days were not quite so dramatic but he certainly has fond memories of his days at the school. The teacher that clearly made the biggest impression on him was the Head of Music, David Price. He was an “inspirational teacher who had a real love and passion for his subject” and in his own unique way was able to pass this on to the students he taught. Phil fondly recalled singing the roles of Masetto in Don Giovanni and Papageno in The Magic Flute; ambitious productions for any school and experiences that clearly had a lasting effect on Phil. Interestingly enough, Harvey Bainbridge of Hawkwind fame sang the title role in Don Giovanni as fellow cast members listened to Beatles’ 45s backstage! Biology teacher Mr Russell, who taught Physics and delivered Grace in Latin before lunch and Bentley, the caretaker’s scruffy dog, who ensured discipline was maintained in the playground were all memories that made a lasting impression on Phil. His contact with The John Bentley School doesn’t stop at his own school years though.

Phil’s father was the Head at the Calne Secondary Modern from 1951 until the school joined with the Grammar School in 1974 when it became a Comprehensive School. Phil’s dad was responsible for changing the name to the Fynamore School after several years as he was keen to change the ethos of the school. He was a man who clearly had ideas ahead of his time, experimenting with vertical tutor groups almost 50 years ago!

Phil left John Bentley and headed for Dartington College of Arts in Devon followed by Rolle College in Exmouth whereupon he began his career as a music teacher. A French Horn player, he taught in East London before moving back to Wiltshire to work at the Kingdown School in Warminster. Phil is still very much involved in the Calne music scene having been musical director of the Calne Choral Society for almost 10 years.

Alumni University Graduates

Many of our students graduated from university in the summer. Congratulations to them all! Here are a few ex-students who we have caught up with and details of their degrees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Class</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harriet Cunningham</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
<td>Falmouth</td>
<td>2:1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louis Fixsen</td>
<td>Electrical and Electronic Engineering</td>
<td>UWE</td>
<td>First</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Gill</td>
<td>Music Technology</td>
<td>Glamorgan</td>
<td>First</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlie Godwin</td>
<td>Sports Science</td>
<td>Chichester</td>
<td>First</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Gosling</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Oxford Brookes</td>
<td>2:1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhys Hayter</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Royal Holloway</td>
<td>First</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fran Paget</td>
<td>Physiological Science</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>2:1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ollie Prentice</td>
<td>Music Technology</td>
<td>Glamorgan</td>
<td>First</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy Wood</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Birmingham</td>
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Community Open Morning
Friday 9th October

Friday 9th October saw our second annual Community Open Morning. This was an opportunity for members of the local community to come in and see what happens on a daily basis at The John Bentley School. Members of Wiltshire Council, Calne Town Council and our MP James Gray amongst others heard Mr Tudor’s plans to turn JBS into an Outstanding Centre for Learning before our Head Student team took them on a tour of the school. The school takes its place in the community very seriously and we were delighted that so many of the people that contribute so much to our community chose to join us on this occasion.

Calne Music and Arts Festival Bursary

The Calne Music and Arts Festival have teamed up with local Chartered Financial Planners Chilvester to provide a bursary for a young musician to develop their musical studies. This year’s recipient is Year 10 student Matthew Powell. Matthew has been at the heart of the musical life of JBS since starting in September 2012. Matthew is a tremendously gifted musician and after working with members of the Bath Philharmonia in last year’s Music in Action project they suggested that he undertake some sessions with Gavin Wells, principal trumpet with Bath Philharmonia. We look forward to hearing Matthew’s progress in the months ahead.
Once again The John Bentley School made a significant contribution to Calne’s Music and Arts Festival. Mrs Mitchell directed Year 11 and 12 girls alongside members of our local community theatre group, Calne Players, in a thought provoking drama entitled Decent Girls. The production was acclaimed by all who attended and a number of members of the public and members of the Calne Music and Arts Committee have already contacted the school to let us know just how powerful a piece of drama it was. This was followed by our own students performing on Tuesday lunchtime at Marden House. With the choir opening and closing the performance there were performances from students across the year groups in the school. Tuesday evening saw Mr Mitchell, our Head of Media, premiere his film Burncamp: A Miracle in the Mountains. The moving film told the story of how a summer camp in the Colorado mountains helps young people who have suffered serious and life changing burns meet other children and realise that they are not alone, a truly memorable evening.

This year’s festival paid tribute the legendary American lyricist, Oscar Hammerstein II. 120 years after his birth children from Cherhill, Fynamore, Holy Trinity, Hilmarton, Marden Vale, Priestley, St Margaret’s and St Nicholas’ Bromham sang a number of his songs on Thursday lunchtime. We were honoured to be joined by Judith Weir at this occasion. Judith is the Queen’s Master of Music and she wrote warmly about her visit to JBS in her blog www.judithweir.com. Our contribution to the festival ended with Mr Grant and his wife singing more of Oscar Hammerstein II’s songs on Friday night before Baseline, a band of JBS students performed their own Coda performance in Marden House. Carole Brown, the President of Calne Music and Arts Festival said that this was one of the best festivals ever and picked out the special contribution that JBS made. All together a wonderful experience for all involved.
House
Championship News

The House Championship race is hotting up with last year’s runners up Shelburne setting the pace, hotly pursued by our holders Fitzmaurice. The opening of this year’s Rugby World Cup was marked with a quiz. Fitzmaurice House Captain Rhodri Campbell inspired his team to victory with his encyclopaedic knowledge of the oval ball game. Lansdowne’s superior power ensured that they triumphed in the Tug of War before a very wet apple bobbing competition meant back to back victories for the first time this year for a House other than the impressive Fitzmaurice. The Star points system has been added to this year’s competition with huge numbers of Supportive Star points awarded last term. We look forward to seeing how Fitzmaurice react to Shelburne’s attempts to take the crown from our 2014-2015 champions.

In Partnership
JBS and The Butale Project

One of the things we do as a school each year is to hold non-school uniform days in order to raise money for a variety of charities. We have raised funds for a huge number of local and national charities over the years but one of the things that is always difficult for the students to see is a tangible reward for their efforts. With this in mind, we have decided to focus on a locally run charity called the Butale Project. The Butale Project was set up in 2011 and has raised money to build a school and help with the education of the children in the village of Butale, Uganda. As a school, we are aiming to help raise the funds to equip their vocational classroom. They have already built a school and made a huge difference to the community of Butale and we are excited that our students will be able, over the months and years ahead, to see where their money is going and the difference that it will make.

In Partnership
JBS and The Butale Project
All of our Year 7 tutor groups were taken on a day out to Oxenwood during the first few weeks of term 1. Mr Mitchell’s tutor group were first and considering the terrible weather they had, I was impressed with their positive attitude and team spirit. As the week went on the weather did get better for Mrs Choudhury’s tutor group, who did a fantastic job of looking after each other. Mrs Roach was next to go and, with some sunshine breaking through, her tutor group did a really good job of being positive on the climbing wall and encouraging everyone to take part. Miss Hamilton-White had a foggy but fine day and her tutor group managed to persuade her to have a go on the climbing wall. Mr Allen’s tutor group were the last to visit and with clear skies, they managed to work in small teams to make some excellent shelters.

All the students had a fantastic time and we shared how much we enjoyed the experience at our Celebration Assembly. Thank you to all the parents, carers, grandparents and siblings that came along to hear about the successes. A huge thank you needs to go to the tutors and their tutees for the brilliant selection of presentations they made for the Assembly. We had a full video of the day, diary entries, poems, a song, PowerPoint presentations and speeches made by lots of the tutees. Everyone involved did an excellent job and I was very proud of all those who got up and spoke in front of the audience. We celebrated particular achievements during the Assembly and awards given were:

- **Best Participant** to Billy Moxham, Shannon Cooper, Comfort Reeves, Bryn Hampton and Maddy Dryland
- **Outstanding Contribution** to Nathanael Wiltshire, Daniel Whiting, Kobe Rankine and Naite Rymkiewicz
- **Positive Outlook** to Alistair Colgrave, Charlotte Romain, Kealy Skelton and Isla Walker
- **Resilient Tutee** to Nicole Turner, Oliver Satchell, Kiran Dunn, Francesca King, Elliot Williams, Daniel Wood and Noah McKenna
- **Supportive Tutee** to Lucy Brazier, Caitlyn Fry, Elick Payne, Lara Warren and Megan Lane
- **Thoughtful Tutee** to Joe Armand, Natalie Collins, Josh Law, Abbie Jones and Maddison Punshon

The team building exercises that the students completed really did help them to come together as a tutor group to support each other. After going to Oxenwood each tutor group said that they felt like they knew each other better and got to know everyone in their group, not just the people they had made friends with since September. Every tutor group participated in the shelter building, climbing wall and team building games put on by the staff at Oxenwood. We must thank Ed Plank and the members of Oxenwood for making it such a success for our tutor groups. I need to make a special thank you to the tutors, who looked after their groups very well.

Miss Giddings
Governor News
Carol Bell

I remember coming to a family fun day at JBS back in 2005, we made photo frames and baked cookies. It was a lovely morning, the teachers were friendly and welcoming and we had a lot of fun. The decision of where to send our children to school was easy, JBS was our local school, our friends’ children were happy and doing well and we’d seen the teachers in action at the fun day.

I became a Governor at JBS because of my children. Through them I’d seen the skill, knowledge and at times dogged determination their teachers put in to get the best from them. I thought I could learn more by playing a part in the life of the school and give something back to the school that had helped us.

Being involved in the inner workings of a school is fascinating and a great privilege. Governors lead the direction the school takes, in achieving it’s vision to be an outstanding centre for learning, at the heart of our community. We monitor and scrutinise actions, plans and data to ensure the school is on track.

In September Mr Tudor became our new Principal and he’s getting to know the school and the community and already it feels like he’s been here for much longer. We’ve also welcomed four new parent Governors who bring their skills and knowledge to the board of governors and their experiences as parents. They’ve all said how welcome the students and staff have made them feel.

In my role as Chair I get to meet and listen to lots of students, staff and people who have connections to the school and we have a lot to be proud of and celebrate. Our broad curriculum, dedicated staff and out of school opportunities enable our students to achieve academically and experience opportunities which develop confidence, knowledge and resilience in readiness for life after JBS.

As part of the Calne Music and Arts Festival, JBS put on the play “Decent Girl”. It was a thought provoking and, at times, disturbing piece of theatre. At the heart of it was a brave and mature performance from our students. JBS takes more students on to the Duke of Edinburgh scheme than any other school in the area and this continues right through to the Gold award. Last year there were trips and expeditions to Norway, Iceland, France, and in addition this year there’s Finland, Iceland, France, Skiing and Creative Arts are off to New York. JBS Sport continues to thrive with the under 13 girls just winning the Swindon Town Football tournament and the list goes on.

I’m happy to say that ten years on from my first vist to JBS the atmosphere in school is still vibrant, warm and welcoming and next month sees the welcome return of The Family Learning Day, for years 4, 5, 6 and 7. There are only 75 places so book early and make some Christmas cards together.

Carol Bell
Chair of Governors
**Department in Focus**

**PE**

**Lily Day  Sporting Excellence in Cricket**

Lily has had a fantastic year in Cricket this year. As well as leading John Bentley to both the indoor and softball regional cricket competitions she has scored many 50s this season and taken a record number of wickets. Lily lives and breathes cricket.

**Profile**

**Level played:** Club and County Cricket  
**Success this year:** Lily won Wiltshire’s Under 13 player of the year, top Wicket taker in England for the under 13s, Highest runs scored in Wiltshire Under 13s, and the first girl to bat in the Corsham boys U13 team. Lily was also captain for the Corsham girls team who went on to play in the National Finals of the Lady Taverners Cup which 500 teams took part in nationally.

**Why did you start to play Cricket?** It runs in the family. My dad coaches and plays, my granddad and uncles played and my brother plays.

**How often do you train and play Cricket?** In the summer I play and train 5 times a week. Through the winter it is 2 or 3 times each week.

**What is the best thing about Cricket?** I get to represent my club and county, it helps me to achieve my goals. It also keeps me fit.

**Who is your Cricket hero?** Charlotte Edwards, the England womens’ captain.

**What would you like to achieve in the future?** I would like to open the bowling for the England Womens Team.

**Under 13s Girls Football**

On Wednesday 4th November we travelled to Dorcan School in Swindon to play in Swindon Towns Football League competition. Our team was a mix of year 7 and 8 students who had little experience of playing together. The enthusiastic girls settled their nerves with a 4-0 win against Matravers school and went on to win all their group games with goals coming from Paris Cargill, Lauren Kayll and and Libby Davies. A convincing win against Dorcan in the semi finals after another clean sheet from Mia Hiron and great defending from Poppy Davies, Millie Lynch and Poppy Baker-Snell gave us a place in the finals. The final finished 0-0 with John Bentley dominating the game, after extra time it went to penalties. John Bentley won 2-1 and will now go on to represent Swindon Town in the Football League South Finals later in the year.

Good Luck to Ellie Cameron who is representing Wiltshire Under 14 in football at Exeter this weekend.
Eliza Jones Rhythmic Gymnastics

Eliza Jones in Year 8 continues to make great strides with her Rhythmic Gymnastics. She has recently taken part in the National Competition together with her group coming an impressive fourth. She also received two Silver Medals in the Bath Open and Two Bronze medals in the Cardiff Championships. Well done Eliza and we look forward to seeing how you progress over the coming weeks and months.

PE

Sainsbury’s Active Kids

Thank you to all students and staff who brought in the Active Kids vouchers. We managed to collect 13789 vouchers. This meant we were able to purchase the following items: rounders balls; tennis rackets, nets and balls; shuttlecocks; table tennis bats and an electric ball pump.

Thanks to schools like ours collecting vouchers, Sainsbury’s donated a fantastic £11 million worth of sports and cooking equipment to UK schools and kids’ clubs this year. That’s 4 times the height of Ben Nevis in skipping ropes, enough netballs to fill 5 swimming pools and the length of 21 Wembley Stadiums in wooden spoons.

So thanks again, and let us see if next year we can get even more vouchers!
I am pleased to say that the majority of Year 10 have certainly started their GCSE courses with a desire to learn and progress. As a group of young adults, they are maturing into a very sensible and hard working group who are a pleasure to be around. Indeed, many staff have told me this year, that their Year 10 classes are very focussed and working extremely hard, as you can see from the photos of some Maths classes taken recently. I'm sure it will continue.

During their time with tutors, the year group have been focussed on preparing for their work experience next July and it was lovely to see the work experience evening so well attended at the start of October. They are currently working on how to produce a CV and how to prepare for an interview, in which what to wear and what to say, and not say is being discussed. This is to help them prepare for The Big Interview in January whereby local
business people come into school and give students a mock interview for fictitious jobs. Although the process won’t lead directly to any jobs, the process in the past has felt very real, as honest, constructive feedback has been given to students.

Life in year 10 has been more than just work and jobs. The tutor team recently fully immersed themselves into a day of Pirate life, as did a few of the year group and we had a very interesting talk given by Rebecca Green. She very courageously spoke to the year group, it isn’t easy to talk to 140 of your peers, about her recent trip to the Nijmegen in the Netherlands. She was involved in the De 4 Daasge, the 99th annual walk of the world in which she walked 100 miles over 4 days with the Air Cadets. She overcame pain and with support and a lot of determination proved to herself that she is capable of achieving more than she thought she could. Rebecca related this to the determination which everyone in the year group will need to use in preparation for their GCSE studies. Well done Rebecca.

A huge well done also needs to go to Catherine Hopkins who went to Japan in the summer to represent Wiltshire in the World Scout Jamboree (see photos below) and to Linda Farthing and Harriet Brown who have been selected to play football for Swindon in a tournament next summer. We look forward to hearing about this next year.
This term our students have been focusing on a range of different topics. Year 7 have been utilising their creative writing skills to craft narratives about superheroes; Year 8 have been engrossed in the tragic downfall of Macbeth and Year 9 have been honing their analytical skills in a unit exploring poetry. 9J3 have also been working hard on their own miniature lessons where they are teaching key skills to their classmates. Key Stage Four students have been studying Blood Brothers, An Inspector Calls and Lord of The Flies in preparation for their Literature exams. Luckily, we have obtained theatre tickets for both Blood Brothers and An Inspector Calls for Year 11 and Year 10 respectively. They are both magnificent productions and the department is looking forward to taking our students on these trips.

Key Stage Five English literature students have embarked on the next exciting stage in their academic careers with Year 13 beginning their A2 courses reading Gothic Literature, and Year 12 exploring The Great Gatsby and Keats’ poetry. We also welcomed a class of English language AS Level students at the start of this year. It’s the first time the English department have had the opportunity to offer this well respected course and so far they really seem to be sinking their teeth in to their Identity and Child Language Acquisition units.