



# ACADEMY NEWS



AN **ark** SCHOOL [www.burlingtondanes.org](http://www.burlingtondanes.org)

18<sup>th</sup> July 2014

## A few words from Dame Sally on her last day at BDA

Dear parents,

Unbelievably this is the last newsletter of the school year and my last one ever. This year has flown by, packed as it has been with so many events and so much hard work by all. I am so proud of the school and the pupils and am privileged to have been your principal for the last six years. I leave with sadness as I will miss the pupils and staff a great deal. BDA is an incredible school and is outstanding in so many ways. I am so pleased to have played a part in its recent success. I will watch the school's future developments with great interest.

Thank you to parents for your trust and faith in me, this has been so vital in ensuring our children achieve their potential. I leave the school in the very capable hands of Mr Ribton, who has also overseen the success of the school with me.

With very best wishes,

Dame Sally



## Thank you Dame Sally

The staff at Burlington Danes Academy would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Dame Sally for such wonderful, warm leadership and kindness over the last six years.

*You have been a truly outstanding principal and we will all miss you enormously.*



# A goodbye message from Vice Principal Mr Fairbairn

I would like to say thank you to all the students and staff at BDA for a fantastic eight years! It has been an incredible journey and I am so proud to have worked at such a wonderful school. I am very sad to be leaving and would like to give a special mention to my Year 10 Maths class – keep working hard! I know that BDA will continue to go from strength to strength and I look forward to hearing all about all your future successes.

“Only in the agony of parting do we look into the depths of love” - George Eliot

**Mr Fairbairn will take up a position at Ark Academy**



*in Wembley in September as part of the Aspiring to Headship programme. We are sure he will make a fantastic principal in years to come.*

# A special edition 54321: After 44 years of teaching, Mrs Pape tells all

## **5 people you'd like to have over for dinner:**

- Leonhard Euler (1707-1783) was a Swiss mathematician and was arguably to mathematics what Shakespeare was to English literature. I would want to talk to him about his work and what was probably his most extraordinary formula – Euler's identity formula.
- Roger Federer – to talk tennis
- Jane Austen – to ask what influenced her and what enabled her to analyse human behaviour so wonderfully well
- Don Revie – to talk about Leeds United and how he transformed Leeds into the most successful football team in England
- My mother – to ask about all the things I never did the first time around

## **4 books and films you'll never forget:**

- The works of Leonhard Euler
- Pride and Prejudice has enchanted me since I first read it as a teenager
- The Sting, starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford – it's the only time I have been to a cinema and the audience clapped at the end
- The Third Man – a shadowy thriller set in post-war Vienna, starring Orson Welles and Joseph Cotton

## **3 foods you'd have for your last meal:**

- Yorkshire pudding served as a first course
- King Prawn Saag Wala (Madras style) from my favourite curry house
- Rhubarb crumble – using rhubarb from Yorkshire

## **2 places you'd love to visit:**

- Venice – a beautiful city with its canals and wonderful food
- Flushing Meadows, New York; Roland Garros, Paris; Melbourne Park, Melbourne – the venues of the three grand slam tennis tournaments I have yet to visit

## **1 day you'll never forget:**

- Three days in Singapore at the Singapore Grand Prix where I met Lewis Hamilton, visited the McLaren garage (three years ago) and watched Lewis win from a box above the starting grid.



***This is Mrs Pape's last day at Burlington Danes Academy after 29 years of dedicated service to the school. She has been a huge asset to BDA and has played a key part in our success over the last few years. We wish her a wonderful retirement.***

# Burlington Danes Schoolhouse Project grand opening

BDA Students are nearing the end of their ambitious [house-building project](#) this week.

With a complete structural shell now standing on our site, Dame Sally was joined by architect Roderick James for a special opening ceremony yesterday.

A group of students who have been closely involved over the year came together in celebration of their achievement and wrote personal messages on the walls – before plastering and insulation, using recycled newspaper, is carried out in the coming days.

“You have all been so important to this project,” said Dame Sally. “I can’t believe that any pupils in any other school in London are doing what you have been doing. I will keep my promise and make sure that you will all be given your own keys next year.”

As well as a 30-strong GCSE construction class working on the project, more than 40 others, who regularly attend an after-school club, have played a key role.

With guidance from teachers and two full-time expert instructors, students have hand-built the frame, roof, rafters, and wall panels.

Delilah, year 7, said: “It’s nice knowing that I took part in making it. I don’t think I’d be able to do this somewhere else.”

“Helping build the house has made me feel strong,” added Rameesa, of the same year group.

The house address has been confirmed as number 1 Schoolhouse Road, Burlington Danes Academy, and a plaque unveiled at yesterday’s event reads, ‘The house that BDA built’.



Mr James, of Roderick James Architects, said: “The students will take so much confidence from this. Knowing that they have built a house will help them realise that such goals are achievable. I hope that in the coming years more schools will follow suit with similar projects.”

The single-storey timber structure is to be used as a boarding house for students to enjoy evenings of discussion, music and cooking. It will also play host to live performances for the local community.

The initiative has received more than £250,000 worth of donations in cash, materials and equipment. Supporters include Velfac, BSW, Makita, Travis Perkins and Wates Group.

Mr James hopes to set up a charity in the near future that will promote similar schemes across the country.



# Strive Challenge team visit BDA

Members of Virgin's Strive Challenge team dropped in at ARK Burlington Danes Academy this week, where students were carrying out their own character-building crusade.

In partnership with the charity Big Change, the Strive Challenge will see ten fundraisers run, row, cycle and hike from London to the summit of the Matterhorn – a mountain in the Pennine Alps, on the border between Italy and Switzerland. Our very own Ms Cartlidge has been invited to join them on the final leg of the journey.

Inspired by the initiative, staff and students put their resilience and fitness to the test. With a target of covering 1305km in the last five days before the summer break – using the same methods as the Strive team – they surpassed 1500.

Aadarsh, a year 8 student, said: "It was harder than I thought, doing 4km just today is quite tough. I think if we were doing what the actual Strive Challenge team are doing we wouldn't last very long. It's great that they came here and encouraged us to do more."

Visiting the school were the project founders, Sam Branson – son of Richard – and his cousin Noah Devereux, and their teammate Karl Lokko, a former gang leader who has turned his life around.

"I am incredibly excited to have created such a challenging event that will hopefully have such a positive impact on young people across the UK," said Branson.

"It has been so rewarding seeing it evolve from an idea with my cousin into a massive and very real physical event that will cross three countries, five different sporting disciplines and contain over 350 participants."

