

Bell Baxter Diary 20 Nov 2009

Bell Baxter are the winners...

This week, a group of five S3 pupils took part in the annual Tayside and Fife Schools Stock Market Challenge in the Bonar Hall Dundee. The challenge organised by BNP Paribas and Finance and Careers Scotland has always been reasonably successful for the Bell Baxter team. But this year our financial whizz kids won! With £15000 to invest on a "virtual " Stock Market and 24 other schools to compete against, the Bell Baxter team were able to create an impressive portfolio worth £115,743 by the end of "trading". "The secret was buying euros" said Lee Dalrymple. The team proudly returned to Bell Baxter with a trophy and a Paribas "Goodie Bag" each. Congratulations to our future investors - Remy Appere, Bryan Armit, Lee Dalrymple, Josh Martin and Laura Murphy and to Mrs Bain their teacher. A real "credit" to the school

Triathlon Talent

6th year pupil, Andrew Hood has recently returned from a trip to Spain, where he competed in a triathlon as part of an Olympic Qualifying event. He did himself and the school proud, coming in 7th - the top 9 all qualifying. Andrew is now in training for his trip to Singapore next year, to compete in the Youth Olympics. We wish him all the best in his preparations, and hope he can continue his success. Good luck Andrew!

Halloween Disco - scary stuff

Congratulations to Bell Baxter's Charity group who raised £401 for 'Teenage Cancer Trust' by hosting a Halloween disco. As well as the disco, there were by various bands, including 'Dancing off Docks', 'Uncle T.O.M', 'Transark' and Fife Schools Rock band winners 'Running from Arbuckle'. Pupils were also given a chance to show off their creative initiative by dressing up and there was a competition for the best outfit. Michael White and Alison Watson won the best matching outfit as 'The Green Giant' and 'Sweet Corn' whilst Caio Ledingham won the best solo outfit dressing as 'Oscar The Grouch' from Sesame Street.

Starlet Samantha

Congratulations to S5 pupil Samantha Hardie for earning a place in the prestigious National Youth Theatre this year. Sam auditioned in February this year along with 4000 others from all over Britain, which involved a group audition and reciting a monologue. Sam is delighted to have been successful and is now a member until she is 21. She will be attending a course over Easter in London where she will be acting and working with professionals. Sam will continue to audition for shows held by the company, and volunteer on courses. Sam hopes that her involvement in the company will help her along the way to her dream of becoming a professional actress. We wish her all the best and hopes she remembers us all when she's a celebrity!

Trip to NASA

S6 pupil Ben Kerridge has recently returned from his once in a lifetime opportunity to visit space school at NASA in Houston, Texas. The trip lasted 9 days and Ben was one of 10 students from mainly state schools, along with 4 modern apprentices, from Scotland. The trip began by just getting used to the new surroundings in Houston. This was followed by a VIP tour of the space centre where the young Scots also met and talked with astronauts such as Fred Haise and former NASA flight director Eugene Kranz, who was involved with the efforts of mission control to save the crew of Apollo 13. Ben visited Rice University, which will be useful for the aspiring engineer. He also was given the chance to visit both the old and new mission control rooms, and even experience neutral buoyancy!(sounds like fun) The students even played the NASA engineers at a game of football but unfortunately the outcome was a draw. A visit to the Challenger Centre to pay respect to all the astronauts who lost their lives in the Challenger space shuttle disaster brought home the reality of space travel too. Ben thoroughly enjoyed his time at NASA and stated that "it was a very inspirational experience".

Borders Bookshop Promotes Reading At Bell Baxter High School

On the 17th November the English Department were very happy to welcome Elaine Dalgity, from Borders Bookshop Dundee, to come in and talk to a group of sixty S2 students about teenage fiction. The talk was part of a new English and Teenage Fiction course that is being piloted this year, in preparation for new choices in the English curriculum in response to A Curriculum for Excellence. Elaine was an enthusiastic speaker who had a wealth of knowledge about the origins of teenage fiction and introduced our young people to a selection of the most popular and talented writers of teenage fiction today. Although it was quite a large group of students, Elaine still managed to engage them in conversation about their own favourite authors and we were all able to reflect on our most cherished books and be inspired to read those we heard about. It was a pleasure to meet Elaine, who was obviously an avid reader herself. She has approached the students to write reviews for the book shop, become involved in their in-house magazine and indeed join with her in making pitches to have successful authors visit our school. The English Department looks forward to the many opportunities this will provide to encourage reading.

Diary dates- P7 Curriculum Information evening 25th Nov