

# BSix News

## BE INFORMED! BE INVOLVED!

Welcome to **BSIX NEWS**, our termly update on events, achievements and developments at **BSIX**.

### BSIX WINS PRESTIGIOUS AOC BEACON AWARD

**BSix Sixth Form College is celebrating after being named as an Association of Colleges Beacon Award winner for its 'University for Teachers' project that has transformed the College's reputation into that of an exemplary institution.**

The Awards, which this year celebrate 17 years of outstanding teaching and learning in Further Education Colleges, were announced at the AoC's Annual Conference and Exhibition in Birmingham on 18 November. BSix Sixth Form College won the City & Guilds Award for Staff Development in Further Education for transforming itself into an exemplary institution. This Award recognises the College's efforts to improve the everyday experience of staff and students. The project's aims include improving student outcomes, teaching and learning, student experiences and staff recruitment and motivation. BSix believes that if it wants its students to raise their aspirations and become high-achievers, then staff must do the same.

The College offers a number of programmes to help staff achieve their aims as well as a ground breaking student voice programme. Students get a chance to have their say on College matters and are also trained by Ofsted inspectors in lesson observations and report writing so that they can also contribute to the development of College staff. The wellbeing of staff and students is also supported through counselling, stress management workshops and tutorial support.

Roger Marriott said: "As Chief Assessor for the AoC Beacon Awards I am immensely impressed by the high quality of the work that is being done in Colleges to provide exemplary support for learning to such a wide range of students. By presenting these Awards, the AoC shines a spotlight on best practice, innovative development and continuous improvement; these Colleges create shining examples that other institutions can look to for help, inspiration and encouragement."



Spokesperson for the College, Philip Elliott, said: "we are really happy and proud to receive this award. Our staff and students really put their hearts into all of the development opportunities we provide and this award is a great acknowledgement of everyone's commitment to learning".

BSix Sixth Form College will host a celebration event for staff, Partners and the local community on Wednesday, 26th January 2011 and will be presented with their Award by John Hayes MP, Minister of State for Further Education, at a national presentation ceremony due to be held in Westminster on 9 February 2011.

### Another Award for BSix College

BSix is one of ten colleges working together on the 2012 "Legacy Champions" project for which we have previously won the "2012 inspire mark". The project is an exciting opportunity for young people in the Olympic host boroughs to be the "Voice of London" to help ensure that the Legacy of the Olympics benefits our local communities. Student Legacy Champions took part in an impressive launch event in February 2010, took part in an Inter-College Sports Festival in October and went on a bus tour of the Olympic site in December. This project has recently received funding from Olympic sponsor, EDF Energy which will help our Legacy Champions to take the project to the next level. Our cross college collaborative work on this is an excellent example of the Olympic value of working together and this has recently been recognised by a "SILVER FE First Marketing Award for collaborative working!"

### Legacy Champion keeps on running & wins prestigious Nike Award!

**Born and raised in Hackney, Lee Hunter has attended BSix Sixth Form College since 2007. His achievements at BSix have been inspiring to all!**

He was class representative for two years and has completed various qualifications and certificates. He is currently studying a BTEC First Diploma Level 2 Course in Art and Design. Lee is a Legacy Champion at the college and was involved in the first event involving colleges in the Olympic boroughs this year. He is a Learning Advocate and Sports Leader, as well as a positive student who completes work to a high standard. These roles and his dedication to sport is a testament to his character, Lee motivates others to participate and improve.

Since discovering the Hitz rugby programme in June he has rarely missed a session. Lee discovered his passion for running in the summer this year and often takes himself on sightseeing runs visiting the London Eye and Buckingham Palace. Charlie Dark spotted Lee's potential and passion for running following the first session of Run Dem Crew, and invited him to join the senior Run Dem Crew who run out of the Nike 1948 store in Shoreditch. After winning the Run Dem Crew Younger of the Year award, Lee has now set his sights on a half marathon and hopes to progress onto a full marathon before long.



#### IMPORTANT DATES

## Ken Livingstone

on Your Future: "Never Stop Learning"



**Ken Livingstone came to speak to BSix students on a national day of action. He was presented with a BSix Student Union petition against the abolition of Education Maintenance Allowance, the rise in university tuition fees and the reduction in university places. He expressed his support for the Union and its protest and signed a petition in solidarity.**

Mr Livingstone then made his way to the theatre where he addressed an audience of 120 staff and students. His message was clear: you are the first generation in 200 years to expect that you would not be better off than your forbears. His speech focused on 3 key issues: Climate Change, A Global Shift in Power and Our Economic Problems. On the latter he said it was simply untrue that our economic problems are because Labour spent too much. *"I never thought that, I thought they didn't spend enough!" Some things, like education did improve but Labour failed to invest enough in trains, housing, roads and, above all, in hi-tech jobs. What is wrong with our society is the growing inequality of income and wealth.*" Mr Livingstone urged the audience to challenge this: *"there is no law to say the rich have to get rich and the poor, poorer."*

Mr Livingstone then took questions. He defended the Olympic bid because it was the only way to get investment in the neglected areas of the East End. In response to a question about the break-up of states and the

dissolving of national boundaries, he jokingly suggested that London could go independent. *"Nobody else in Britain likes us"*, he said, and we would be the 17th most powerful economic unit in the world and *"we could do what we like."*

Finally, a student asked about the wisdom of going to university. Mr Livingstone revealed that he had left school at 16, never went to university but became a lifelong student, attending night classes and always reading and learning even now. He advised BSix students to take as much education as they could now but to never stop learning in the future. His speech was greeted with rapturous applause and was followed by many mobile phone photo opportunities.

This was just one of an amazing series of Politics Club talks held at BSix during the autumn term; speakers included: Clare Short, Professor Jennings, Polly Toynbee, Ken Livingstone and Professor Richard Grayson. This is an excellent example of the additional opportunities provided at BSix through their "BSeven – Extended Learning Beyond the Classroom" programme. Participation in these events raises students understanding and general knowledge which in turn contributes by giving them that special "edge" at future work or University interviews.

## BSix celebrates the publication of their very own poetry book with Michael Rosen

***"You can tell a piece of paper whatever you like ... talk through your pen ... a piece of paper is your friend."* Michael Rosen**

On Thursday 7th October BSeven and the BSix Library team were overjoyed to welcome Michael Rosen to celebrate National Poetry Day with us at BSix. Michael generously gave his time to run two workshops, encouraging students to share their poetry with him and each other. The demand for both sessions was brilliant and we were incredibly impressed by not only the amazing variety of work produced and shared but also the variety of students who attended; students studying in all departments and at all levels in the college worked hand-in-hand to give each other praise and constructive feedback on their work.

What the workshops really proved was the great power poetry is instilled with when read aloud. Tatty sheets of notepaper were transformed into powerful performances; words transformed once shared. Some students allowed Michael to read their work to the group on their behalf; his enthusiasm, passion and linguistic expertise making the words leap off the page, especially in the case of the deep emotions expressed in ESOL student Mokhtar's love song. Michael also treated us to a selection of his own poetry, explaining his inspirations and the process of turning these ideas into a shareable form and creating rhythm. Particularly apt was a new piece about the number 38 bus, celebrating the diversity of the bus route that begins and ends at BSix's home on the Lea Bridge Roundabout. The poetry workshops were such a success



that Michael Rosen has returned on a more regular basis to BSix to support the students in producing a book of their own poetry which has turned out to be a significant celebration of their endless creativity, imagination and originality. The book has been exclusively illustrated with designs by BSix art students and was launched at the Student Union Christmas Concert... Michael may be right, "everyone is a writer" – but we are simply spoiled for talent at BSix.

## Inter College Sports Festival

The annual Inter College Sports Festival took place between the 4th and 8th of October 2010; BSix Sixth Form College, Newham Sixth Form College, Newham College of Further Education, Greenwich Community College, Tower Hamlets College and Hackney Community College combined to run the four day event.

The Festival is a sports participation and volunteering initiative where students have the opportunity to compete in a series of free sporting competitions. It promotes inter-college relationships and new opportunities including disability sports. It was created in direct response to the excitement generated by the London 2012 Games; this is heightened for

the students as all six colleges are located in the Olympic host boroughs.

Close to 350 students competed in 10 sports, including basketball, wheelchair basketball, indoor rowing, cricket, touch rugby, badminton, table tennis, trampolining, football and Capoeira.

The festival succeeded in bringing the magic of the Olympic Games to the students and they are already looking forward to next year's event. The Colleges involved have also been awarded the prestigious Inspire Mark for this Festival!

**If you are a dance or theatre enthusiast you will most certainly have heard if not seen performances by "Frantic Assembly." They are renowned for creating thrilling, energetic and unforgettable theatre and through this they constantly attract new and young audiences with work that reflects contemporary culture.**

This year they decided to set up a new project called "Ignition" whose aim was to harness the varied skills & talents of young men aged 16-20; the ultimate goal being to then be selected as one of the few to take part in the 4 day intensive workshop with the Creative Directors of Frantic Assembly to put together a vibrant new performance piece. In order for this to work they delivered a series of workshops in schools & colleges throughout London and then held an open audition. Out of 140 young men who auditioned a mere 12 were selected and one of these was BSix Colleges' very own John Mehr a Level 3 Applied Science and AS Drama student!

Speaking with John he said that the 4 day intensive was the most amazing experience as it bonded the group of performers very quickly under the shared goal of creating a brand new unique performance piece in such a short time. The physical theatre piece that was created was based on a theme of religion, entitled "The Believers" and demonstrated the excellence of the students physical movement as well as drama skills. John said that his experience and participation as a Rugby winger for the Haringey Rhinos had put him in a good position to cope with the excessive physical demands and the stamina needed for the rehearsals and performance.

## A Star Performance

The final piece was performed live at Toynbee Studios in East London on Friday, 29th October with a packed audience. Charlotte Fowler, drama teacher and BSeven leader at BSix College said, *"I was immensely proud although not surprised by the exceptional high standard of John's performance. In fact, this was the best piece of theatre that I have seen in some time and better than many professional companies!"*

More recently, John was selected to represent Joseph in a Nativity scene performed on Blue Peter! This was as a result of Blue Peter coming in to BSix to film our A-level drama students... As you can see BSix is bubbling with opportunities!



## "Xmas Factor 2010!" A Student Union & BSeven Production

**The BSeven Christmas Talent Show, organised and run by the Student Union, took place on Wednesday, 15th December to a packed BSix theatre.** The performance was a rich variety of Street dance, singing, rapping and piano playing. It was hosted and smoothly linked by our 3 student comperes and there were many highlights including the BSix band, "Soufly" and popular group "HD."

The audience was also treated to a special guest, no other than the children's author and poet, Michael Rosen! Michael has been working collaboratively with students at BSix to develop their very own Poetry book; and this was launched at the Christmas Concert. The book, 'A Place Where I Can Just Be Me,' is a collection of poems and art produced by BSix students with a foreword by Michael Rosen. The College library is now selling the book for £2 a copy with all proceeds going to the school that we are supporting in Cameroon. Michael took to the stage to congratulate the students and he read aloud two of the poems to rapturous applause by the assembled audience of students and teachers! Special thanks and congratulations to Michael Rosen, James Hooker, the BSeven team and the Student Union as well as to our wonderful student poets and artists!



**Students and teachers at BSix Sixth Form College celebrated on the 19th November 2010 when they were officially welcomed in to London 2012's Get Set network, in recognition of their commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic Values.** BSix students have been involved in inspiring events and projects promoting the Olympic and Paralympic values, including Legacy Champions, the Inter College Sports Festival and Sports Leaders.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) awarded BSix College a plaque and certificate to acknowledge their involvement in the London 2012 education programme. They now join schools and colleges across the UK as members of the special London 2012 community - the Get Set network - and will receive access to exclusive competitions and 2012 Games related opportunities over the coming years.

Sebastian Coe, chairman of LOCOG, said: *"When London won the right to host the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, we made a clear promise to use the power of the 2012 Games to inspire young people. I am proud*

## BSix welcomed to London 2012's Get Set network

*to welcome BSix Sixth Form College in to the Get Set network for their exciting work around the Olympic Values of friendship, excellence and respect and the Paralympic Values of inspiration, courage, determination and equality."*

Sarah Kerrigan, Sports Officer at the college is proud of the interest and hard work the students display when getting involved in Olympic projects, 'when working as leaders or participating in events, the students give 100% effort and enjoy themselves. Being members of the Get Set Network is exciting for the college and we are looking forward to the many opportunities that the Games will bring.'

Ken Warman, Principal of BSix College said, *"We are immensely proud of our student's efforts in achieving this significant recognition."*

## Partner School News

### The Petchey Academy: Official Partner School of BSix

On Tuesday, 16th November The Petchey Academy invited Ken Warman, Principal of BSix and Rebekah Harris, External Relations and Recruitment Manager to their school to meet with their Principal, Olivia Cole, Chair of Governors, Andrew Billington and Vice Principal, Jo Rainey for the official signing ceremony to seal the Partnership agreement. The Petchey Academy chose to celebrate and mark this occasion by providing a top class three course lunch prepared by their own students and most notably, Donovan Gilbert-Smith who is the East London finalist in "Future Chef 2011!"

In addition to the signing of the Partner School certificates, the event also provided a wonderful opportunity to discuss further ideas including the potential for partner schools to access elements of the College's "BSeven - Extended Learning Beyond the Classroom" activities. This was met with enthusiasm and is another example of the benefits of working collaboratively.

Ken Warman stated that *"The Petchey Academy is an example of an institution that has the best interests of their students at the heart of everything that they do. I look forward to the development and strengthening of this partnership as we all work to ensure that the young people of Hackney get the best starts for their future."*

### Horizon School: Official Partner School of BSix

Horizon School in Hackney has been working in close collaboration with BSix College and specifically with the Gateway Department over the past few years. Together we have developed a Progression compact agreement to ensure that the high expectations and physical and emotional well-being of the students is continued to be catered for through a relevant and inclusive curriculum when they progress to Post 16 Education.

On Monday, 6th December Duncan Melvin, Senior Leader at Horizon School attended BSix Sixth Form College to meet with Ken Warman, Principal of BSix and Hilary Moore, Head of Department for Gateway in order to celebrate and sign the official partner school agreement. Duncan said,

*"I really like BSix College and I think that it works for some of our students. Lee and others have done so well at BSix and it is due to the great teaching, the environment and the students' growing confidence and further belief in themselves once they have come to you from us at Horizon. Each and every student I have worked with at Horizon who has moved onto you has done well in various ways and I am so pleased that we have maintained and built this link."*



## "Clean Up Clapton Day"

**This year's Clean Up Clapton Day took place on Thursday 18th November centred at BSix College. Hackney Council, Hackney Police, BSix College, Guinness Trust and other partners participated; the aim of the event being to publicize improvements in the area, remove graffiti, clear up debris from hot spots and encourage civic pride.**

The hot jet machines used to cleanse pavements and remove gum were out in force, there were stalls in the BSix forecourt and an art competition with a clean-up theme staged for local schoolchildren. Council officers, Transport police, PCSO's and others promoted the event, encouraging

positive local action and where necessary, taking enforcement action to improve the environment.

Counsellor Michael Desmond also arranged an Art Competition with local primary schools to be judged the day before. The winning entries were from Willowfield Primary School and their prize was an Art Experience morning at BSix College as well as the chance to have their prize winning pictures displayed in the BSix Art Gallery. The first prize winner was also awarded his very own art kit and he received a signed photograph from Lord Sugar of Clapton himself!

Staff and students from Willowfield School thoroughly enjoyed their time at BSix and the College art teachers said that, "we might well have some budding artists in the making!"

Name: **Temi Abiodun**

Courses Studied: A levels in Law, Psychology, Philosophy and Politics



**What made you choose BSix:** I choose BSix because it was the friendliest college of all the ones I applied to. I came in for my interview, and everyone present was so nice, that consolidated my decision to attend the college.

**College Experience:** I enjoyed being a student at BSix College. From the academic perspective, I don't think I could have gotten better teachers. I had teachers who were enthusiastic about the subjects they taught, who cared and were creative with their teaching methods. BSix caters for the opinions and interests of young people and as such I was able to get involved in a number of programmes. I was the secretary of the Student Union, a study area assistant, and an Aim Higher Ambassador! I also took other opportunities such as joining Envision which is a youth charity group and the karate club. The main point I want to get across is that there are a lot of opportunities to be had at BSix.

**What are you doing now?** I am a second year Law student at the University College of London. I also volunteer with the Citizenship Crime Advice Scheme and what I do here is to go to primary schools, and talk about some aspects of

## Student Profile

### Interview Questionnaire for Alumni

criminal law. It is pretty exciting work. I also volunteer at Newham Community Centre to help out in their legal clinic.

**Achievements:** Last year I took a study break from school, and I got a job at BSix College as a Marketing Assistant. When I started I was nervous as it was my first professional job, but every member of staff was so helpful and I learnt so much (I even won a staff Star Award!). I can honestly say that making a success of this job role has to be my greatest achievement to date.

**Future Aspirations:** I want to qualify as a solicitor, after which I have this plan to "work my way around the world". I love to travel, and I love law, and so I plan to travel to different countries and continents and work in law firms there. If that pans out, then I would love to work for an international organisation such as the United Nations.

**Advice for current students at BSix:** I think I would say as an individual you have to believe in yourself and look for ways to better yourself. College is the first step to whatever future you choose for yourself, university or work, and if you don't start taking positive steps towards the future you want for yourself now, it may become progressively harder to do so.