

BSix News

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

INSPIRED BY LONDON 2012: HOST BOROUGH COLLEGES COME TOGETHER.

BSix, along with eight other host borough further education and sixth form colleges, has been awarded the 2012 Inspire Mark.

The coveted 'Inspired by London 2012' logo has been awarded to an innovative Legacy Champions project. It will begin with 10 students from each of the colleges taking part in an activity-packed Legacy Day in February 2010. (including a visit to the Olympic Park). After that, they'll have lots of opportunities to champion the legacy of the Games to their colleges and communities.

The Legacy Champions programme will run till December 2012. The Inspire Mark is used to highlight projects or events which celebrate and promote the opportunities and values of London 2012, and the Games' legacy. It is awarded by the London 2012 Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympics' Games (LOCOG).



The partnership:

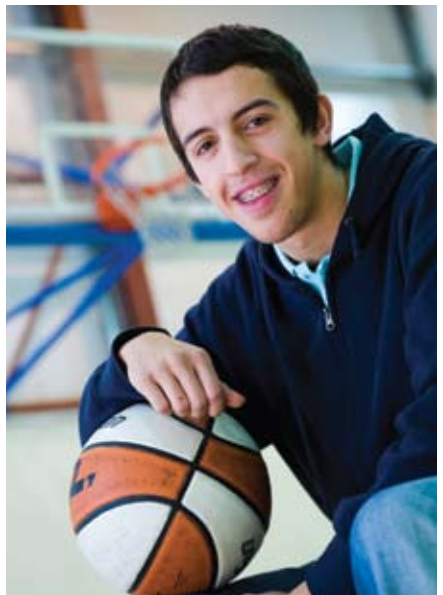
Bsix Brooke house Sixth Form College

- Greenwich Community College
- Hackney Community College
- Leyton Sixth Form College
- Newham College of FE
- Newham 6th Form College
- Sir George Monoux College
- Tower Hamlets College
- Waltham Forest College

BSIX STUDENT TO BE HACKNEY YOUTH AMBASSADOR

In 2012 the Olympics and Paralympics, the biggest sporting event in the world, is coming to London and Hackney. The building work for the Olympics and Paralympics also means extraordinary changes to the landscape of Hackney and East London.

Hackney Council's 2012 Unit and Hackney Youth Service in partnership with The Learning Trust have delivered the first year of the Hackney 2012 Youth Ambassadors programme. Two BSix students, Andre Dias and Suffiah Ranankhan, represented the College and borough as Youth Ambassadors and also on the Legacy Now Youth Panel. They were involved in organising events, including a large scale event held in Ocean Club in Hackney titled 'It's our time, look to the future, look East!' This event was featured in the media and also the Hackney Carnival. The students also visited the House of Commons and met the Minister of the Olympics along with various athletes. This year, a new Youth Ambassador will be chosen from BSix. >



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The Ambassadors will learn about both the Olympics and Paralympics and the regeneration 2012 is bringing to East London. They will find out about the Olympic Stadium, other 2012 buildings on the Olympic park and how these buildings and the Olympic park will change the lives of people living in Hackney and East London. They will use this information to inform BSix students and other young people in Hackney about the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics' Games. They will also help promote sports participation among other students and young people in Hackney and represent the council at a variety of 2012 related events.

We are excited about the New Youth Ambassador and look forward to the events revolving around Hackney and the Games.

Wheelchair Basketball

BSix students were given a chance by The Learning Trust to take part in a Paralympics' coaching scheme which started in September. They took part in wheelchair basketball, coached by Amir Laksari. The students thoroughly enjoyed the six week coaching scheme and utilised the skills they learned by being leaders at the Hackney Championships which took place in October.

Leading music production studio teams up with University and BSix Sixth Form College to offer groundbreaking routes to music careers



A groundbreaking collaboration between private music production studio, Point Blank Music in Hackney and Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) is giving students from BSix supported progression routes into careers in the music industry.

The Creative Way Progression Agreements (signed on 26th November 2009) give students studying vocational qualifications at the College guaranteed interviews to music production degrees at CCCU or a new Higher National Certificate (HNC) in music production at Point Blank as well as subject workshops and taster sessions. Students who complete the HNC at Point Blank are guaranteed a place at CCCU to attain their

full degree. Both courses boast unrivalled links with industry and cutting-edge equipment, with Point Blank being named Best Music Production School for six years running by T-Scan Awards.

The recent "Progression Agreement Signing Event" took place at Point Blank Music Studios and was attended by representatives from Canterbury, Point Blank and BSix. The evening involved live performance by Amede Unuabona (ex-BSix Music Technology student) and an ex-Point Blank HND student, Geoff Raggett. Both students also spoke to the guests about their personal experiences and how this partnership had benefitted their own progression. The formal part of the evening involved the representatives from all organisations signing an official Progression agreement brokered by the Creative Way Network.

Liz Pearson, Director of The Creative Way, said:

"We are proud to have funded this groundbreaking collaboration. To get a cutting-edge private studio in collaboration with CCCU, a leader in this field, is fantastic news for BSix students. They can now take a supported progression route to and through higher level study in a way that suits them – either through the HNC at Point Blank, in Hackney, or straight to the BA at CCCU. Both courses offer students tangible practical skills that the industry needs and allow these talented young people an opportunity to add to the growing creative economy in East London and the Thames Gateway."

Dr Andrew Gower, Director of Canterbury Christ Church University's Broadstairs Campus said:

"The University is grateful to The Creative Way for their support in encouraging and enabling students from the Thames Gateway to progress to degrees in Music at Canterbury Christ Church University's Broadstairs Campus. I'm delighted that through this partnership the new, exciting courses in Creative Music Technology, Music Production and Music Industry Management are proving really popular with students, including students who may not have thought Higher Education was for them."

Rob Cowan, CEO of Point Blank Music College and music producer said:

"A unique combination of practical industry insight and expertise combined with the opportunity to progress into Higher Education for those that might not otherwise choose to follow this path, are the elements that have made a success of this course. We look forward to further developing the relationships CCCU and the partner Colleges"

Amede Unuabona, who is now in his second year at CCCU, performed both vocals and a DJ set at the Making Tracks signing ceremony and spoke about his journey through to Higher Education.

Watch this space for an upcoming Alumni Student profile & interview with Amede!

Performing Arts at BSix

The BTEC National Diploma Acting students at BSix made their public performance debut at Southwold School in Clapton with a vibrant, energetic Christmas story which had the children crying out for more! The story of a little boy who falls asleep and awakes in 'The Land of Toys', surrounded by his favourite toys is taken on a mission to defend the land from the evil Puppet master and save Christmas.



Devised by the performers themselves over a six week period leading up to the performance, the play was a resounding success. School teacher Louise Heard commented that it was a "great performance which was enjoyed by all. The staff felt it was just the right length of time and the children were immediately engaged by the toy characters. The children were buzzing about it afterwards recalling lines from the script".

Drama teacher Darren Peers added "It was a fantastic, festive occasion. The kids loved it and the actors were really lively and fed on the enthusiasm of the children to give a wonderfully energetic performance. I was very proud of them all". The acting students are now moving on to other acting projects on their course, which aims to provide them with

skills to work in the performing arts industry or train further at drama school and university. Darren added that "it's a new and developing course allowing students to work in a practical manner on public performances as well as skills workshops and hopefully by the end of the two years they will be very experienced performers ready to move onwards with a career in performance".

Mentoring / E - Mentoring at BSix College

Mentoring, one of the many tools we use at BSix to help our students excel in their studies, has been upgraded tremendously. Students not only have the option of having their regular mentors, but can now also have E- Mentors! Our collaboration with Oxford University and Queen Mary University of London enables our students to get the best possible help outside the classroom. Students from Queen Mary come into the College at least once a week to help their mentees with their subjects, whilst students from Oxford University will soon be online mentors for our students.

Mentoring, being a sort of peer-assisted learning, has been proven to be beneficial to both mentors and mentees. For our part, the students get a mentor who is taking the same course as they are; this motivates them to do better in their subject, and even sometimes to consider studying the subject in university as they have a realistic idea of what to expect thanks to their mentors.

Student Union Xmas Concert 2009

The Student Union organised and presented the BSix Xmas Concert 2009 on Thursday, 17th December in the BSix College Theatre. This event was a huge success that showcased cross college talent. It was so popular that it was completely sold out and the audience of parents, students and friends enjoyed every second! Highlights of the show included singers, pianists & Mcee groups as well as the BSix Youth Dance Company, "Confidence" and the first performance by the BSix Choir "Be Vocal."

BSix Alumni students also contributed to the show through choreography and compering. Congratulations to all performers and to the Student Union for organising this successful show!



Ofsted visited BSix

Ofsted visited BSix on 25/26 November for a monitoring visit. These visits happen once every year and their function is to 'check out' how the college is doing in building on strengths and addressing areas for improvement. The College was assessed as having made significant progress in 3 areas.

- What progress has the college made in further embedding a self assessment process?
Significant Progress
- What progress has the College made in improving the proportion of good or better teaching?
Significant Progress
- What progress has the College made in improving attendance, retention and readiness to learn?
Significant Progress

...and all this progress has been made in just one and a half terms since our full Ofsted Inspection last March!

BSix Student Success Offer of Prestigious Place at Oxford University

The collaboration between BSix and Pembroke College University of Oxford (Pem-Brooke) is innovative in its aims and methods. We aim to raise the educational aspirations of young people studying in Hackney and other boroughs in the East End. We want to demonstrate the academic potential of students from these areas by providing a specially designed programme of study that will prepare young people for undergraduate life at leading universities. As part of this programme students receive e-mentoring from university students, have the opportunity to visit Oxford University and live as Oxford students for a whole week in which they attend various seminars.



An A level student from BSix, Allum Bokhari, took part in the Pem-Brooke Scheme last year and has this year been successful in receiving an offer from Oxford University! His story is proof of the success of the collaboration as it encourages students to aim high and flourish academically, equipping them with the necessary skills to progress to Higher Education and on into the world of work.

Student Profile

Interview Questionnaire for Alumni

Name:

Melissa Abraham



Life at BSix College:

Academically, I achieved everything I wanted to at BSix, I studied A levels in Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Law and Philosophy as well as an AS level in religious studies.

The thing I love most about BSix is the vibrancy and diversity of the college community, and I took advantage of this whilst a student, fully immersing myself in student life. I was on the college student union first as a vice president then as president and I was a student governor for 2 years, and I still sit on the board. I was able to volunteer with the charity Envision, raising awareness of child poverty, I worked with local primary schools as an Aimhigher FE Ambassador, and I also worked within the College as a study support assistant and a college ambassador helping out at parents evenings and open days. There is so much to get involved with at BSix and the skills I gained I view as invaluable; my confidence grew in bounds from all the public speaking I was exposed to as an su executive.

What are you doing now:

I am in the second year of my Maths degree at Warwick and loving it. The transition between college and university was a difficult one, but I felt confident that I could cope after BSix, my teachers really put me through my paces!

Although I do not work full time, I tutor students from primary up to A level part time and I find it really rewarding. This is another thing for which I can be grateful to BSix, I was exposed to my first tutoring job whilst still an AS student by a member of BSix staff 3 years ago, and I haven't looked back since.

Future Aspirations:

Although I am in the second year of my degree, I am not entirely sure what I wish to do after I finish. Studying a subject as broad and financially lucrative as Mathematics, however, means there is a wealth of opportunity available to me. Although, having been afforded the opportunity to have worked as a Marketing Assistant in BSix for 9 weeks over the summer has made me consider the possibility of a career in education or management.