

BSix News

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

BSIX HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

23rd March 2010 saw BSix College's third Higher Education Fair and it gets better every year. The Fair was a hub of activity as various universities were present. Universities represented included Brunel, City University, Oxford University, Queen Mary University of London, the University of the Arts London, Reading, Middlesex and University College London. At the fair there were also Information and Advice stands to help students decide what to apply for at university and to provide advice about funding. Ex BSix students were also in attendance, and they proved very helpful indeed as they were a source of inspiration to current students.

"This year has been a remarkable one for BSix" says Principal Ken Warman "not only did we receive excellent feedback from Ofsted, but we were also acknowledged as the best college in London for value added. We have not held back in becoming a success; we want our students to aim high. We organise fairs like this to give our students a push and help them go further. We aim to give our students knowledge of the best opportunities available." Although primarily aimed at advanced level students, the HE Fair was attended by students at all levels to raise aspirations across the board. A student who commented on the success and usefulness of the fair said, "I got to speak to a lot of people from various universities, and they were nice and forthcoming with information about their courses. Now I realise going to university is all dependent on me. Today was definitely a success, and I especially liked the fact the ex BSix students had a stand and we could talk to them". Yvonne Brewster, Careers and UCAS Co-ordinator, and Ashik Ullah, Student Information Officer, must be commended on their hard work, superb planning



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and organisation in preparation and during the fair. Yvonne said "Visitors commented on how keen and focused our students were; and described their questions as interesting and challenging. They also praised staff and Student Ambassadors for their assistance throughout the day".



Student Voice

BSix continues to lead Sixth Form Colleges in the strength and effectiveness of its student voice. We were awarded *'Representative Organisation of the Year'* in the Leading the Learner Voice Awards run by LSIS last year! BSix has a vibrant student voice consisting of the Course/Class rep system, Learning Advocacy Programme and Student Union. This article focuses on the projects carried out by the Learning Advocates (LAs).

The project has approximately 16 very active Learning Advocates and six Learning Advocate Mentors (last year's LAs). The students are mostly selected

from course/class reps from level 1 through to level 3. They meet mostly every Wednesday for one and a half hours where they receive training from the Student Voice Coordinator and the LA mentors, and they have the opportunity to work together to develop and deliver projects that contribute to the improvement of the College. Early on in the year they collated and analysed all the findings from the initial learner surveys and created a presentation that they delivered to Senior Management.

Their next project was the 'Mystery Customer' activity where LAs used various services in order to evaluate their effectiveness and shared their findings with the relevant service managers in different meetings. On Thursday 18th March, an LA and the SU President represented BSix at the Sixth Form College Forum's Quality and Curriculum Conference in Birmingham where we were invited to run a workshop on Learner Voice. Our presentation was extremely well received and the participants were clearly impressed with our students and our student voice activities!

So what's next?

Learning Advocates are now currently undertaking training in observing lessons. This part of the project is delivered by Deputy Principal, Philip Elliott. They will also be once again representing BSix at the Sixth Form College Forum's designation launch event at the Festival Hall on the South Bank on 21st April at which they will be running a "Student Voice" stall.

IMPORTANT DATES

BSix Celebration Showcase and Open Event: Saturday, 26th June
BSix College Experience Days: Monday, 5th & Tuesday, 6th July
BSix Prospective Parents Welcome Evening: Monday, 5th July

Apply online now! www.bsix.ac.uk

BSix Olympic Legacy Champions Launch Event and meeting with Diane Abbott MP

On Monday 22nd February, over seventy students from nine colleges from the 2012 Olympic host boroughs marked the launch of the UK's first ever Legacy Champions initiative. The launch took place at a 2012 Legacy Day at Stratford Circus, in East London. The event was attended by guest speakers, including six-time Olympian Tessa Sanderson and four-time Paralympian swimmer Dervis Konuralp, as well as Nick Fuller, Head of Education at London 2012, and Emma Wheelhouse from the Olympic Park Legacy Company.



During the event, which was covered on that evening's BBC 1 News, the Legacy Champions were given an exclusive opportunity to view the Olympic Park through the View Tube facility. They took part in interactive workshops run by Olympic Park Legacy Company, learnt about the recent developments on the Olympic Park and presented their visions of how the Games could benefit Londoners to an audience of 2012 decision-makers and special guests.

This launch was followed by a meeting at BSix with MP for Hackney, Diane Abbott, on Monday 8th March. The purpose of Diane's visit was to congratulate and acknowledge formally the champions for picking up the mantle of this challenging role. The champions got the opportunity to discuss with Diane why being a Legacy Champion was important to them, and their plans for the future regarding inspiring their peers, and spreading the Legacy of the Olympics. Legacy Champion Tarick Amin El Filali from BSix College commented that:



"The meeting with Diane Abbott today has been a source of inspiration for me as I feel that people take what we are doing seriously."

Indeed, this meeting led to the voice of the Legacy Champions being heard in the Houses of Parliament. In a speech the following day Diane Abbott MP said: "I have also met half a dozen young Olympic legacy champions from BSix and Hackney Community College. They put themselves forward as candidates and they are tasked with promoting the Olympics among young people. What issue did they raise with me? Jobs. Even though they are the so-called Legacy Champions, they, too, did not understand how they would benefit in practical ways, such as through jobs."

As Legacy Champions, these students will continue to pioneer the legacy of the Olympic Games to their peers, inspire other students in their college to take more interest in sports and air their opinions about the changes going on in their community regarding the Olympics.



INTERNAL PROGRESSION

Raising Awareness Event: Thursday, 18TH March 2010

As BSix is a comprehensive Sixth Form College with a wide range of courses from entry level to advanced, internal progression for our students is a top priority. We held an event in March to begin to raise the awareness of internal progression amongst all staff and students. The event was lively and interactive, designed to capture the imagination of our students and get them thinking about their next steps. It included speeches by BSix Alumni students, a dance performance and a presentation by the BSix Olympic Legacy Champions.

A student guide was handed out as well as distributed to tutors to give clear direction on the entry criteria for progression including the required English and Maths levels needed. This was also combined with the launch of the new "BSix Internal Progression Passport." This is a passport style document individually designed for each level of course we offer. It shows the required entry criteria for the next stage of a student's course. These will be used at the internal progression interviews in May and will be stamped at internal enrolment if a student has



successfully met the conditions of entry. Through the Internal enrolment process, BSix aims to begin the process of providing excellent advice & guidance about courses offered to progressing students; and to motivate and inspire our students to aspire, study & achieve in order to progress internally onto the next course of their choice.

BSix Collecting for Charities

2010 has sadly seen several disasters affect countries around the world. The Haiti earthquake and the media attention that accompanied it inspired students and staff at BSix to initiate several fundraising activities in the New Year. The Gateway Department were the first to contribute in conjunction with the Creative Arts department through their sale of hand decorated calendars, mugs and plates. A grand total of £95.00 was made, and the proceeds sent to Medicine Sans Frontiers (Doctors without Borders), a charity which supplies aid, medical supplies and trained doctors to help people in need around the world.

Also as a part of the Haiti fundraising, 29th January was the "Dress Up or Down day," and staff and students alike had to pledge £1 to participate. This was an interesting and exciting day as people were creative in their attire and the hard work of students and staff raised a further substantial amount for this worthy cause. As a college we are also currently starting to work with a school in Cameroon which is desperately in need of resources. The school has been set up by local Hackney residents and they need our support to raise money so that they can pay for a container to ship various essential resources out to the school.

There have been several initiatives for this project including a national costume day in which the staff of the Business, Public services and Health Department wore their cultural attire to college to raise money. The Gateway Department hosted a staff lunch as well as a raffle and the Admissions Department launched a competition to guess the number of student applications that the college will have received by mid-August. These various initiatives have so far raised a collective fund of £508.10! Projects like these emphasise the outward looking community of staff and students at BSix.



This year has seen a record increase in the number of new student applications received by BSix. So, when we reached the landmark 1000th application at the end of February, we decided to celebrate by having a little surprise ready for when we welcomed the 1000th applicant for interview.

The lucky applicant was Tracy Kiangebeni, a current student at Park View Academy in Haringey. Tracy is a Y11 student about to take her GCSE exams and has applied for, and been made an offer to study, A-Levels in Economics, English Language and Literature, Critical Thinking, and French at

BSix Is Booming

BSix. Tracy attended her interview here on 16th March and received a personal welcome from our Deputy Principal, Philip Elliott, as well as £25 in vouchers! We are now using this medium to wish Tracy good luck in her upcoming exams, and to show our appreciation to her for applying to BSix.

In fact we would like to wish all of you the best of luck for your exams and we look forward to welcoming you all at the BSix College Experience days on 5th and 6th July.

Construction sites are the building blocks of society, the blueprints for the future. The London Olympic site is currently the most fascinating and visible, which has the whole of the East End waiting in anticipation for 2012. The recent Auerbach retrospective at the Courtauld examined how the artist used the 'construction site' as an inspiration for his paintings of the post war period and a means to experiment with painting. Art students from BSix, inspired by Auerbach's show, have produced a series of drawings based on visits to the Olympic site and the Shard at London Bridge. Each student has focused on a particular element of personal interest within the sites and developed this within their drawings.

Nura Awes and Ijaz Anwar are both interested in fashion textiles and represent the exteriors of architectural structures by focusing on geometric shapes and repetitive stripes. This focusing on the materialistic nature of the buildings emphasises both the structural qualities and the surface pattern. Abdi Ali's drawings also grow from the repetition found within building sites. He eventually wishes to create architectural spaces which are modernist in approach and use simplified repetitive forms. His drawing shows his process of reduction and simplification to find relevant shapes and forms.

Clive McSween's ideas revolve around the builders and how their movement and labour correspond to the gradual development of the pictorial landscape. The use of machines to facilitate the human construction on the site is also explored by Roman Taher, but his images present Constructivist - like abstractions based on human and mechanised forms. Adam Regala represents futuristic ideas in his drawings using repeated industrial forms that create a state of flux within his drawn constructions.

Building Blocks

Dimitru Strugaru is interested in traditional perspective drawing and uses aspects of this technical approach in his drawings to create space and distance. Jade Ferguson on the other hand has decided to hinder perspective through a process of layering and suspending in her composition, where the lines converge to a single point which becomes the focus of her drawing.



The material of building sites and the ordering of chaos is explored by Richard Cromwell's collages using tape and string to investigate how building creates order. Vava Betama focuses on the view through the grid of fencing, which he is exploring further as a concept of holes in the environment.

A further exhibition of developments from these drawings will follow after Easter at the BSix Gallery at the front of the College building.

On 4th March, Bam Nuttal Ltd., major contractors across the Olympic Park responsible for landscaping, bridges and infrastructure, came to the College to deliver a workshop to BSix science students. They developed a problem solving lesson with the aim of exciting young people about Civil Engineering and working on the Olympic Site environment. The workshop also aimed to introduce the students to various aspects of civil engineering so they can better understand what it involves and consider it as a career option. The workshop was led by Richard Gethin and three civil engineers from the Olympic Park. The engineers wanted the students to explore teamwork and individual role definition to complete a project. After a detailed presentation covering health, safety and environmental risks involved in construction on such a large scale, the group moved to the gym where they worked together to build a crane/bridge from 'Giant Mechano' under tight constraints. The students were divided into groups and under the watchful eye of the engineers chose their materials and learned how spatial constraints can limit the concurrent work that can be carried out. The groups were given two attempts, and the results were quite impressive.

Civil Engineering Workshop, Bam Nuttal Ltd.

After the workshop, the students felt that they had a greater knowledge of construction and civil engineering. One third of the students enjoyed the teamwork aspect of the workshop the most, others enjoyed the challenge and building the bridge. One student considered the critical thinking involved an enjoyable factor. All thoughts about the Olympic Park were positive, with some students expressing an interest in wanting to be involved in the construction of the park. When asked about their thoughts on civil engineering, the students thought it would be a fun and interesting profession. Some will research it as a future career choice.



BSix Partner School News

BSix is a relatively young college that has been working hard in the past few years to strengthen its relationships with local schools. This is in a climate in which all young people will soon be required to stay in education until the age of 18. BSix has recognised that, whilst many local schools and Academies have their own sixth forms, these institutions are not necessarily able to offer the breadth of curriculum that BSix is proud to make available. As the only Sixth Form College in Hackney, BSix is able to provide the ideal transition from school to university and is also able to offer courses from entry level through to advanced.

This year we have been working closely with The Hackney Learning Trust to further develop our partnerships with schools with the aim of creating progression agreements to benefit young people in the surrounding areas. Through these we can ensure that all students are able to access education at post 16 and follow a progression route that is tailored to their specific needs. This will ultimately enable them to progress to university or into the world of work.



We have several progression agreements in progress and in fact held a formal signing event with our very first Partner School, Tawhid Boys School on 11th March 2010! At this event BSix welcomed Usman Mapara, Head Teacher at Tawhid Boys and his Chair of Governors, Mr Abdul Ghani Alibhai, to meet and sign the agreements with BSix Principal, Ken Warman, and Staff Governor, Jamie Duff (above). Each institution was then presented with a formal certificate recognising the official partner school status of Tawhid with BSix.

Sports Relief Day- 19th March 2010

On 19th March, some BSix staff and students took part in raising money for sports relief. Hilary Moore, a member of staff at BSix, produced an impressive swim, raising £87. In the gym, there was a cycle-athon and, in the canteen, table tennis made a return for the day. The participants who took part in the cycle-athon had to take it in turns cycling in the gym from 10am until 5pm, keeping the heart rate above 65% of the maximum heart rate. The total distance cycled was 95.39 miles and the total amount raised was £57. Congratulations to everyone who took part and thank you to those who donated money.

Investors in People

This is a National Standard which sets a level of good practice to ensure all staff are equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to help their organisation achieve its objectives.

BSix was visited by a representative of "Investors in People" on 3rd March to assess the College's suitability to be awarded this accreditation. The Assessor's feedback was extremely positive. The assessment involved three categories- Values, Decision -making and Building Capacity. According to the Assessor, it was notable that there is "great clarity about the purpose and aims of BSix which is underpinned by a clear framework". She also noted that "Every Child Matters is at the heart of what we do".

When it comes to Decision making, everyone is clear about what needs to be achieved and there are many examples of a commitment to continuous improvement. The Building Capacity of the College is impressive as 'continuous learning is part of the culture'. There is also a big sense of pride in working in the organisation. It was noted that expectations are high and support is available to individuals by the Senior Management Team which gives a strong sense of purpose and direction, and leads by example.



Student Profile

Interview Questionnaire for Alumni

Name: **Amede Ogbhase Unuabona**

Courses Studied:
Music Technology
Drama & Theatre Studies
Art & Design



College Experience:

My friends and family were surprised that I chose BSix as it meant travelling out of my home borough of Newham to study. However, a few close friends of mine studied there and recommended BSix. From the moment I arrived, I had a positive and a very productive two years. The tutors on all my courses were brilliant and what I appreciated most about them was their eagerness to help, listen and advise me with anything I needed, especially career wise.

The other element of BSix that appealed to me was the amazing facilities to enhance our learning experiences. The College boasts a great theatre space and fitness facility in which I spent a lot of time; but what really made me smile were the music facilities. A music studio space in which I spent hours of my time (if this was elsewhere, privately, the amount of time I spent in there would have cost a lot of money!) the microphone selection was really good too, I always used to look at AKG C414's in magazines but to use one was a bonus!

BSix is a diverse college and the social possibilities available are endless. By being an active member of the student body, my relationships with people multiplied and strengthened. I had a positive experience at BSix and it's always a joy to come back and visit old faces.

What are you doing now?

I'm currently studying Creative Music Technology at Canterbury Christ Church University. I will soon be working with the Red Bull Music Academy London 2010, as an equipment room manager in the Red Bull studios, which I am very pleased about. Other than that, I am always creating music, recording and mixing.

Future Aspirations:

I want to be a Personal Mixing Engineer, I also want to pursue my career as an artist and develop a new sound in music, "painting a new colour" as I call it. I might dive into Mastering later in life, and eventually, I hope to run an academy where I scout for a handful of artists in the UK and help them hone their musical abilities.