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*Butler students and alumni enjoying Butler Day*

## Principal's Report

It started with a pftt! The lights went out across the whole site on the second day of the year, leading to the temporary relocation of many new students to the other side of town. It could have prefigured a disastrous year. But it didn't.

The 'comme je trouve' motto of the College came to the fore: we took the situation as we found it and made the best of it that we could. As the year progressed it was clear that the spirit forged in those two days led to a more engaged and active student body than I can recollect.

This last term has continued to demonstrate this as, long in the planning, the larger events of the year took place. We held our largest College Ball ever, with 600 students in the lovely surroundings of Hardwick Hall. We had a wonderful Butler Day which was followed by an additional Showcase day in which student musical groups, dance and cheerleading performed and our theatre group did an exuberantly curtailed version of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

This came just after a dinner to launch our 10th Anniversary year. Nearly 200 people - a mixture of staff, current students, alumni and friends of the College came together in the presence of the Chancellor, Sir Thomas Allen, the Mayor of Durham and the Vice-Chancellor to celebrate the founding of the College in 2006. We heard speeches about the role of the College in the community, our sporting achievements, our societies and other aspects of Butler's last 10 years. This was accompanied by a variety of performances from our students. I was particularly

pleased to welcome back JCR, MCR and SCR presidents from previous years.

The commitment of our current students to the local community was underscored by the Three Peaks Challenge: 50 students climbed Whernside, Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent in Yorkshire over the course of one very tiring day and, in the process, raised over £4000 for Grace House (which provides respite care for children and young people). While this was the biggest fundraising effort of the year, it sits alongside work done in taking music and cheerleading in to schools, work with ITV on diversity in broadcasting cake sales and all the other volunteering and charitable work in the College.

In sports, we have had our fair share of success: coming second in the Festival of Sport, pushing us up to 3rd overall in the College Sports League table. Our Novice 8s won the Alderman Thurlow Trophy at the regatta and many teams have won promotions in the inter-college leagues.

As we say goodbye to our graduands who have also seen more than their fair share of academic success, we look forward to an active summer with our pre-session international students and continuing our 10th Anniversary year.

Such has been the enthusiasm and energy that was founded in the darkness of the outage at the start of the year, many have suggested we deliberately trip the power every Freshers Week!

Adrian Simpson  
The Principal.

# Arts at Butler

Over the year, we have done much to develop awareness of, and participation in, art activity. Our Artist in Residence, Alan O'Cain, has helped support the foundation of an Arts Development Group to engage students in the creation of art. Over the course of the year, Alan has given a series of talks about art, including discussing the creative processes behind some of his own art work.

This culminated in the summer with the unveiling of the new art installation, *The Bikini Line*. This was a joint project



involving the College, the Botanic Garden and St. Cuthbert's Society and was a sound and vision artwork recalling the 70th anniversary of the start of

atomic bomb testing on the Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands (which was then used as the 'inspiration' for the naming of the newly designed Bikini swimsuit).

Alan will remain with us during the summer to engage our summer school language students in arts projects. Next year we hope to have the sculptor Rachel Huggett with us to give a further boost to the arts in Butler.

## Developing Study Space

As part of our 10th Anniversary celebrations, we are launching an appeal to raise the final £25,000 needed to build and furnish a new annex at the back of the bar. This will create two large rooms and two smaller, office sized rooms and this will enable the creation of a library and enhanced study space.

Having created a new music room this year and redeveloped the old shop space as a seminar room which we can share with Ustinov College, our attention has moved to places for students to study.

Access to study space has been a regular feature in student feedback about the development of the College and the College Trust and College Council are steering a project to provide this new facility.

The Trust Board appointed GSS architects — who designed the original buildings — to develop the project. After

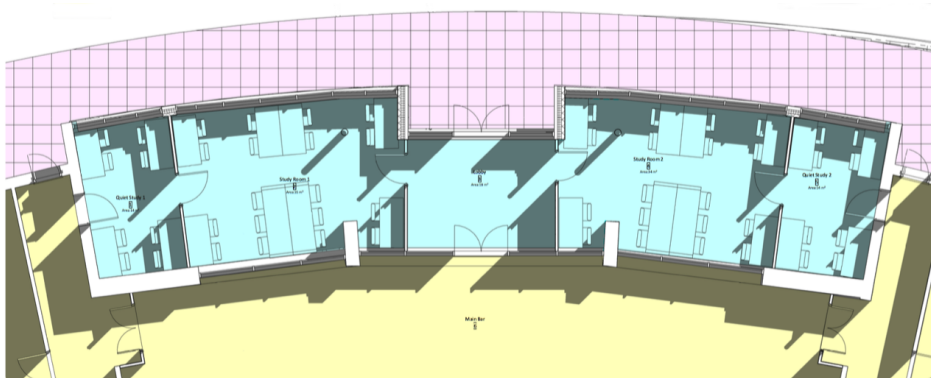
much discussion, they have developed a plan for 120 square metre extension which preserves the look of the building, maintains much of the light coming in to the bar and will provide the space needed. An initial drawing of the potential build is shown below.

It is hoped that, in addition to the study space, the project will release other space in the college.

Generous donations from the University, the College Common Rooms and many individuals will cover the bulk of the build costs. If we can raise the remaining money by February 2017, our aim is to have the build complete for the end of our 10th Anniversary year, in October 2017.

If you are interested in a donation, please contact us or donate directly at

<https://www.dunelm.org.uk/donations/colleges/josephinebutler>



## College Colours

Each year the college recognises significant contributions to our development with the award of 'College Colours' - both half and full.

### Full Colours

**Pamela Burdis** for her enthusiasm in supporting staff, fellows and particularly students of the College

**Sally Crawford** for her work developing engaging and well attended events, including freshers week, fashion show and the summer ball

**Nicolle Finch** for her work behind the scenes, both in directly supporting events and ensuring that we have sustainable technical support for the future

**Rupert Maspero** for his enthusiasm for all things Butler across a wide range of roles and organizing large scale engaging events such as the three peaks challenge

**Alexander Naylor** for his support for increased engagement in societies, as well as his own roles within those societies

**Hatherleigh Pridmore** for her work across her whole time at College, culminating in leading an engaged and enthusiastic JCR, partnering with staff to take the whole College forward

### Half Colours

**Vivian Asimos** for her support for the College's postgraduate students, notably developing regular events and improving communication with students whether they live in or out

**Mark Bell** for contributions across college but particularly mentoring, the boat club and the senior common room

**James Bowmer** for his roles across college, particularly in music, encouraging engagement and supporting the running of the JCR

**Fred Douthwaite** for his role supporting students, often in the early hours of the morning and often when at their most vulnerable and in need



## College Colours

### Half Colours

**Hannah Gwyther** for her role in enhancing engagement, particularly through the development of the largest summer ball

**Fiona Hathaway** for her role supporting students in need and developing welfare campaigns

**Daniel McElhone** for his role engaging students through sports and using sports to develop social justice campaigns

**Christina O'Neill** for her long term commitment to students and the college through sensitive and engaged college mentoring

**Margaret Ray** for her long term commitment to students and the college through sensitive and engaged college mentoring

**Victoria Ribbons** for her work in redeveloping the services available for the students in challenging circumstances

**Matthew Ricketts** for his engagement across a number of activities in college, particularly in creating and leading green initiatives

**Rebecca Teece** for her work in redeveloping the services available for the students in challenging circumstances

**Rudi Vizma** for his engagement across different areas of college life and his development of engaging social events

**Rebecca White** for her wholehearted engagement as a college mentor, supporting the wider student community and the SCR

In addition the College acknowledges its gratitude to all of the students and staff who lead and organise events and activity. Without them the College could not function and our reputation as an active and inclusive community would be significantly diminished.

## Academic Excellence

Among all the excellent achievements of our students in sports and societies, we have also seen excellent academic achievements. In particular, first class degrees have been achieved by: Charlotte Laycock, Laura Devlin, Louise McCluskey, Caitlin Thornton, Isobel Turbin, Adam Graver, Amy Poole, Hannah Biggerstaff, Utku Yolsal, Helena Cavell, Stefan French, Charles Mason, Richard Allen, Faqrul Mohd Nasrudin, Jack Skilton, Lauren Woodland, Steven Bradbury, Jake Moscrop, Archibald McNeillis, Thomas (Max) Birch, Raad Mahmoud, William Wright, Jacob Gledhill, Elizabeth Edwards, Natalie Biggs, Leanne Godfrey, Elizabeth Hogg, Jodie Hope, Elizabeth Jones, Rebecca Lodge, Bryony Renshaw, Louise Swanwick, Claire Chappell, Jessica Holmes, Alexander Ridley, Oluwakemi Ajisafe, David Egan, Shangshang Li, Robert Murray, Jing-Yee Wong, Oonagh Hamilton, Amy Batley, Hannah Holmes, Briana Powell, Helen Brooks, Sabrina Chong, Carl Makin, Bethany Saddington, Poppy Turner, Sophie Elliott, Lauren Haikney, Suzanne Lau, Leonie Price, Fiona Hathaway, Hayley Walker, Zoe Destang, Ho Man Chim, Elizabeth Seeley, Ruth Hitchings, Rowan Bird, Parampreet Braich, Rachel Chadwick, Siobhan Roze, David Yung, Juliette Parkinson, Alexander George, Rosie Hudson and Rosanna Tong.

This is our largest number of first class degrees ever!

In addition, Alex Naylor received an award for Most Committed Volunteer at the University Volunteering Awards; Andrei Markin and Jack Skilton were invited to participate in the Rising Stars Research Symposium; Alex Naylor was awarded the Jill Tidmarsh Prize for Equality and Inclusion. Lewis Wright was selected to take part in the ITV Fixers project. Jack Skilton was awarded the 3H Mathematics Prize for outstanding 3rd year project and Jacob Gledhill was awarded the Percy Heywood prize for outstanding performance in final year mathematics.

Amy Batley, Charlotte Camilleri, Nicolle Finch, Rosie Hodson, Sabrina Pervez and Emma Stubbe Sastre were all recognised with The Durham Award.

## Trust Board

### Raising funds to help our students

The College Trust raises money every year to build up capital to support the purchase of assets which enhance the experience of members of the College. The Trust received £20,824, including a one-off donation of nearly £14,000 for the study space development project (detailed on p. 2). The rest was generously donated by parents and friends of the college, from sales of memorabilia or gift aid on donations.

The Trust now runs two funds to support access to College activity for those who may be hindered by their financial situation: one is targeted specifically for sport (as a result of the original donation) and one for any other aspect of student activity. The main focus of the Board has been the development of the study space project.

In addition to developing these projects, each year the Trust funds bids from current members to support aspects of the college. This year the Board approved support for 13 projects (out of a total of 18 bids) which covered a wide range of activity. Funds have supported the purchase of sports equipment (including football posts and tennis nets), music stands, art development, lockers for non-residential students and music stands.

In total £4578 was spent on these bids. All of the donations are gratefully received and we thank everyone who donated to us. Without the generous support of all of the donors, the activity in the College would be much poorer.

If you wish to give to the Trust Fund, you can do so online at:

<https://www.dunelm.org.uk/donations/colleges/josephinebutler>

# Sport at Butler

We rounded off the year in sport in fine style. At the Festival of Sport, we came a strong second place with 459 points with 18 teams taking part in the one day competition. When this is taken in to account alongside all of our other activity, we came 3rd in the league table of College Sport.

Men's football A won their division and are looking forward to playing in the premiership next year. Their futsal equivalent won the Premiership. The footballers went international this year with a tour of Prague.

Butler Womens' Badminton narrowly missed out on winning the premiership on points difference alone. Women's futsal won the premiership, while the 11-a-side A team narrowly missed out on premiership success, just a few points behind the eventual winners, mirroring their narrowest of defeats in the trophy earlier in the year.

In both rounders and lacrosse, our teams missed out on goal difference from winning their leagues. Our cricketers successfully defended their indoor cricket premiership title and our women's rugby team (a joint team with Van Mildert

College) won their premiership.

Our cheerleaders, in addition to success in competition, have developed a new programme working in local schools. Our sports community also showed its support for the campaign to remove homophobia and transphobia from sport by re-adopting the 'rainbow laces' campaign. Our basketball players ran their annual 24 hour

basketball challenge, raising nearly £200 for Grace House.

Thanks to the hard work of Dan McEhlon and Heather Smith, our JCR Sports Officers this year, we have had an extraordinary year in terms of participation, outreach and success.



*Butler Novice 8: Winners of the Alderman Thurlow Trophy at the Durham Regatta*

## Charity Fundraising - The Three Peaks Challenge

If there is something we do at Butler it is dreaming big.

This is exactly what Charity Committee did this year. We started off with the vaguest of ideas: a charity expedition. It quickly started to take shape, with over 120 people initially showing interest.

It culminated in 49 students climbing the Yorkshire Three Peaks: Wharfedale, Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent. All done in aid of our nominated charity Grace House. Unlike the National Three Peaks, you walk between the mountains, making it over 40km which is no mean feat.

The day started at 4am, filing on to the coach for a two and a half hour journey to the start point. Five teams with around 10 people in each set off. One group managed to leave in completely the wrong direction, but after a 30 minute course correction no more navigational errors were made.

Everyone made it to the top of the first peak in the blazing sun, of what was set to become the hottest day of the year. Unfortunately not everyone was able to conquer all 3 peaks, but that didn't stop us.



*A group of the Three Peaks Challenge walkers*

The first group arrived at the finishing point at 6.30pm, battered and bruised but triumphant and with 71,000 steps under their belt, having climbed over 7000 ft. The remaining groups completed the epic journey by 9pm with us returning to Durham just before midnight. While everyone was exhausted, everyone had a sense of pride in what they have

done. It was an amazing achievement for an outstandingly worthy cause, raising over £4000 for Grace House.

Rupert Maspero