

News from Burford School

On Thursday 19th July, the outdoor staging, lighting and tents for the Leaver's Concert were all erected on the sports field ready for a balmy summer's evening the next day. Then came the day which broke all days for rainfall – July 20th.

The Festival now qualifies as Burford's Glastonbury!



Were we Glum?

Despite the torrential downpour the concert was held indoors, with events being divided between the Sports Hall and School Hall. There were inter-house dance competitions with performances by bands in the Burford Rockschoool and a gamelan performance with year 6 pupils from Wychwood Primary school including gymnastics display, choirs and orchestral performances. The evening climaxed with music from the 'Last Night of the Proms'. The Gym was opened to allow those who had prepared picnics to enjoy them in the dry. The atmosphere was amazing with some 300 parents and families packed into the hall for the rousing flag-waving finale. The school is most grateful for sponsorship of the event from Awards for All, Mid Counties Co-operative Charity Fund, Oxfordshire Community Foundation and The Doris Field Charitable Trust. Due to the unprecedented rainfall the school was closed for two days and as Patrick Sanders said at the final staff meeting "It's been a funny end of term!" Plans have been announced to build a multi-use recreational facility, Mr Sanders said, "The school's original ambition was to

have one astro-turf pitch with changing facilities, but this scheme has now grown to include two astro-turf pitches, one for hockey and a second for football, each having their own specific requirements,

together with a building housing six changing rooms, teaching rooms, a gym and a small juice bar plus a large space for parking. The facility will benefit Burford School and will be a huge benefit to the local area and community. We intend for the facility to engage all age groups and for it to create a friendly, welcoming atmosphere for all members of the school and the surrounding community."

All- Weather Facility

The pitches will be floodlit, using the most up-to-date lighting ensuring no light pollution; this will enable the facilities to be used all year and into the evening in winter months. Mr Bill Williams, Head of Sport & PE said, "We are very excited about this proposal and wish to promote and increase the number of interschool fixtures, currently 420 a year. All students will benefit including the 200 students studying Sport GCSE and 40 A' level students."

Mr Charlie Barrett added, "We can only use the sporting facilities in the Wychwood villages during daylight hours, so to have such an excellent all weather sporting facility is very exciting, and I know will be very popular with members of the Shipton Cricket team."

Mary Alcock