

News from Burford School

Over 80 Sixth Form history students from Burford, Wood Green, Henry Box and Bartholomew Schools, joined forces during the half-term break and spent six days touring Moscow and St Petersburg.



Tsars and Rice Pudding

Megan Holloway said, "It was an awesome trip - the culture and lifestyles are so different, having rice pudding for breakfast every morning was an experience." Megan continued, "St Petersburg was stunning, The Church of the Saviour of the Spilt Blood, built on the site where Tsar Alexander II was assassinated in 1881, took my breath away. In Moscow's Red Square we visited Lenin's tomb, which seemed very eerie. We saw Lenin's embalmed body in the very symbolic deep red and black tomb. There were guards everywhere which made me very nervous." The trip was organised by the Burford School History Department to enrich the education of students in Russian history before their 'A' level exams next summer.

Don't Frighten the Horses!

Clare Himmens has started an Eventing Team for all the horse-mad students at school. This has proved to be very popular and now has over 50 members. The group was invited by Ian Vandenberg to visit 'The Intelligent

Horsemanship' Centre at Hartsop Farm near Witney. Later in the week they went to the Blue Cross Centre in Shilton. The students learnt about the case histories of

some of the horses and ponies currently in the care of the Blue Cross. They also discussed the different methods of taming frightened horses.

Books and Visiting Authors

In the weeks running up to half-term, two authors visited the school, Adele Geras and Sarah Mussi. Adele gave an inspirational talk to all the Year 7 students about writing fiction and the importance of reading. Sarah Mussi visited the school a few days later and discussed her exciting tale of betrayal and skulduggery, *The Door of No Return*. The talks were arranged to coincide with the launch of the school's new Reading Club, run by our Library staff, and aimed initially at Year 7s. The Club has lots of exciting, reading-related activities planned for the forthcoming months; including a Chinese-Whispers style story-making session, guest reader events, and a book-swap. All Year 7 students have chosen a new paperback book as part of a Government initiative to encourage students to read. The Library also received 20 new books from the Government as part of the 'Boys into Books' scheme.

Mary Alcock