



Stephen Twigg Opens Earlsheaton Technology College



On Wednesday March 23rd the Right Honourable Stephen Twigg, the then Minister of State for Education, visited the school to perform the official opening of the school as a Specialist Technology College.

After a short speech to invited guests and pupils from Year Nine in the hall, Mr Twigg unveiled a plaque in the entrance hall.

He then went on a guided tour of the most recent developments of the school to see at first hand the extra resources which have been given to the school as part of its Specialist School status.

Stephen also visited the Peace Garden where he unveiled a plaque, before moving on to the new computer suite in the Technology area, the ICT rooms, the Pupil Focus Centre and finally the Community Conference Room and Community ICT Room.

Mr Twigg spoke at length with members of staff and pupils throughout his tour. At the end of his tour he said that his visit to the school had been the highlight of his day in Dewsbury and that he was very impressed by the school and what it had already achieved and how it continues to strive for even further improvement.

The Peace Garden formally opened

When the PFI contractors finally completed their work at the school two years ago they left behind a large undeveloped area right in the middle of the school.

Mr Peace had the idea to use this space as a project for his small Alternative Curriculum group. With his team of students they set about designing and building a range of different garden environments ranging

from a Yorkshire garden complete with dry stone wall and stream to a Japanese pebble garden.

The students raised money for plants and materials by doing bag - packs at Asda as well as arranging sponsorships from various local firms.

Gradually the once forlorn area has blossomed into a wonderful colourful space which lights up the whole school.



The students continue to maintain and develop the garden which is now a centre piece and much admired by all who visit the school.

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Community Rooms Come On-line

With the extra financial resources given to the school by the Specialist Schools Trust, two very run-down areas of the school have been miraculously transformed into what will be a very valuable community resource.

The old bike sheds and camp store have been completely refurbished by Jarvis Redcar. In their place is the Community ICT room housing 20 of the latest computers. This will now be available for booking by any community group both during the school day and

on an evening. The room will also be available for teachers to book for their classes during the school day.



The Community Conference room is a flexible space that has its own kitchen as well as conference facilities for groups to hold meetings. The two rooms have their own separate entrance as well as a disabled toilet and ramps to the centre



Any community group wishing to use the facilities should contact Mrs Jacky Crossley at the school on **01924 325230** between 9am and 3pm Monday to Friday.

New Computer Aided Design Centre

The old courtyard in the middle of the Technology area has now been enclosed and redeveloped as a Computer Aided Design Centre.

The new Design Centre will provide exciting opportunities for students in Technology to work in a realistic manufacturing environment.

New and exciting initiatives within Product Design are already being planned using the new Centre.

We are pleased to welcome Mr Winder to the Department in September.



New ICT Suite



Computer Aided Design Centre

Developments in maths

The Maths Department will now be able to work from a new ICT suite.

This will allow students to play interactive mathematics games and use software such as EDEXCEL and WORD for research.

Two groups of Year Eleven students have successfully attended Maths conferences in Leeds and London.

The conferences gave the students strategies on how to improve their GCSE results.

And we are all looking forward to welcoming Mr Harris, Mr Dawson and Mr Henkinson to the Department in September.

The Pupil Focus Centre

Earlsheaton Technology College works very hard to support the need of all its students as part of its 'Inclusive Philosophy'.

So in September 2003 the school opened its Pupil Focus Centre (PFC) managed by Mrs Dolores Thompson, the Inclusion Manager.

The aim of the PFC is to provide close support for students who find working in the mainstream lessons very

challenging. Students are referred to the PFC by their respective Heads of Year and usually spend an intensive 6-week placement supported by a dedicated team of Behaviour Teaching Assistant.

Each student has an individual programme which is monitored by their key worker over the placement period. This close support aims to re-engage pupils so that they can be gradually reintegrated into mainstream lessons.

Since 2003 other courses to assist students have been developed. One example is the ASDAN course run by Mrs Pauline Ratcliffe. Pupils who attend the ASDAN course work towards a series of qualifications ranging from Bronze to Gold.

Other life skills courses are also provided for targeted students, including working with members of the emergency services and other supportive agencies.

NEW YORK NEW YORK it's a wonderful town!



During the second week of the Easter holidays, 27 students and 4 staff went on a Performing Arts trip to New York .

The students took part in several dance workshops and went to see the Lion King on Broadway.

The students also visited Ground Zero, Central Park, Macey's department store, Planet Hollywood and had a trip on the Staten Island ferry. It was a very enjoyable but exhausting 5 days.

Plans are already underway for another trip in 2007.

Bullying Expelled

As part of the school's Anti-Bullying policy two groups of Year Seven and Eight pupils will be taking part in half-day workshops on June 7th on how to deal with and prevent bullying.

These workshops are being organised by Learning Performance.

Specialist Schools Headteachers' visit

During April the School played host to a group of Headteachers from other Specialist Schools.

During their visit the Heads toured the school and participated in a series of informative workshops run by members of staff on Planning and Review, Assessment, Continuing Professional Development and Inclusion.

Rock Challenge

Over ninety pupils took part in the annual Rock Challenge held at Bradford St Georges Hall in April.

To participate in Rock Challenge the students have to create, produce and perform a seven-minute dance accompanied by a soundtrack of their choice. The theme chosen this year was James Bond.

Over a dozen schools from the West Yorkshire area took part and Earlsheaton came a very credible second place overall having been voted in first place for the dramatic content of



the dance and for the quality of the soundtrack.

Well done to the team.

Passport to University

Fourteen Year Seven students spent an amazing day at Huddersfield University.

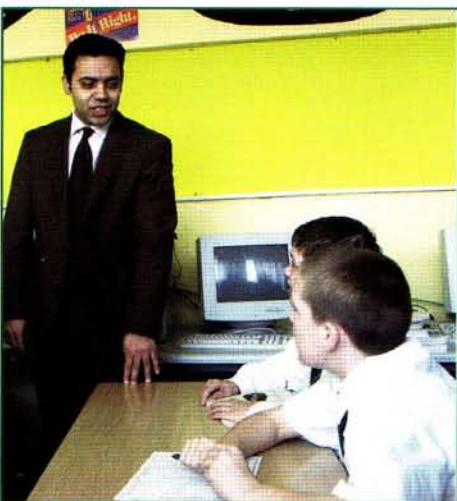
The aim of the course was to give students a taste of what university life was about.

They were given guided tours, took part in lectures, and even had their photograph taken as if they had gained their degree. All the students had an exhausting but enjoyable and informative day.

We look forward to the day when they really do get their degrees!



Earlsheaton welcomes new MP as School Governor



Earlsheaton is delighted to welcome Shahid Malik, Dewsbury's new Member of Parliament, as a Governor.

Shahid, who is a Commissioner for Racial Equality and Vice Chair of UNESCO UK, became Dewsbury's new MP at the recent General Election.

Shahid is now also looking forward to becoming involved in the continued development of Earlsheaton Technology College.

Healthy School; the Right Choice

In July 2004 Earlsheaton Technology College became one of the first secondary schools in Kirklees to be awarded the Kirklees Healthy Schools Standard.

The school had worked hard with support from Suzie Hartley, the Healthy Schools consultant, to meet the strict criteria demanded by the Healthy Schools standard. These criteria cover a range of issues, from Pupil and Staff Well-being, to work in the Community and Healthy Eating.

A big task was to improve the range of healthy options available to pupils at lunchtime. Fizzy drinks and chocolate have now been phased out and replaced with flavoured waters and low fat crisps.

A new bar called The Right Choice has been introduced, selling a range of different sandwiches in different breads, fruit, yoghurt, hot Paninni, pasta, jacket potatoes and much more.

The number of outlets selling chips has been decreasing. Two fresh water fountains have also been introduced in the canteen.

So now all students have a range of choices available to them at lunchtime.



Developments in Science

Since our last newsletter, the Science Department has been working hard to integrate our interactive whiteboards into every Science lesson.

This has been a tremendous challenge and has involved a great deal of hard work, but it has made a fantastic difference to the way Science lessons are presented. We are now able to present video and DVD recordings in a new and exciting way.

Our next target is to keep up the 'e-teaching' and move

towards more 'e-learning' by investing in a class set of equipment called data loggers. These collect information from experiments which students carry out.

Looking further into the future the Department would like to invest in a set of laptops for classes to process their own data.

We are looking forward to welcoming Mr Jalal Quadri to the Department in September.

Keeping fit

Pupils now have the opportunity to improve their fitness levels during their PE lessons in the new fitness suite.

including running and rowing machines and weights.



The suite is also available to pupils and staff during lunch hours and after school.

The fitness suite has a wide range of equipment,

School elected to Most Improved Club

This Spring Term Earlsheaton was elected by the Council of the Specialist Schools Trust to become a member of its Most Improved Club.

This award is recognition of the progress and improvement that we have achieved since becoming a Specialist Technology College. The School was also presented with a framed certificate which will sit proudly in the School's foyer.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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Healthy Schools



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