



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers

December 2010

We have come to the end of another term in which much has been achieved. We have made excellent progress as a Royal Shakespeare Company hub-school and we performed well at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in the Shakespeare festival.

Our sports teams have continued to have success across the range of disciplines and age and we have recently achieved recognition for attaining national standards in Careers Advice and Investing In People; Investing In People was received in February 2009 and we will be reassessed in February 2012.

Three weeks ago we were inspected by Ofsted using the new, much more demanding level of school performance standards. Judgements in schools are now limited by certain very specific items; attainment, safeguarding and potential to improve.

We were judged to require improvement in the speed at which pupils progress in learning. The inspection noted the excellent support for school shown by parents in the parent questionnaire and that the care taken of children in the school is very good.

In order to increase pupil progress, to meet the new levels of expectation, the key issue identified is literacy. To tackle this issue, we will expect you as parents/carers to play your part in encouraging the development of **reading** in particular.

Electronic games, TV, facebook etc are all naturally more attractive to the average 11-16 year old. However, time has to be made for developing the ability to read widely and effectively.

We will be writing to you again in the new year to set out our plans for the future. In the meantime may I wish you a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us.

For and on behalf of children, staff and Governors of the school.

Yours sincerely

Paul Levey M.A.
Headteacher



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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The Government Standard

SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

In early October Mrs Kikezos, Mrs Thompson and Mr Salisbury took the cast of Macbeth to the West Yorkshire Playhouse to perform a 30-minute version of the play. We were one of four schools performing on the night as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival.

The casts from each school were invited back on to the stage after the performances and were given a critique of their performance. Two MPs and Chris Grace, Director of the Shakespeare Schools Festival, agreed that our pupils worked very well to create an atmosphere and they said they were amazed we only had a cast of ten.

Our pupils played to a packed house of parents, staff and dignitaries who really enjoyed the evening; they made us proud with the level of professionalism they showed and the months of hard work certainly paid off!

Mrs Jan Kikezos

LEARNING GATEWAY

As part of our plans to keep parents/carers informed about our pupils we have introduced a parents' portal to our school Learning Gateway this term. This allows you to log on from home, if you have access to the internet, and see details of your children's progress on a day to day basis.

At the moment you can find out details of attendance, punctuality, behaviour issues and positive achievement points. We are hoping to increase this soon so that you can access their attainment grades and targets and to allow you to see their annual reports online.

All families should have received a letter with details of how to sign up for this new service. If your son/daughter has not brought a letter home or if you would like another copy, please check the 'letters home' page of the school website.

We hope that you will want to take advantage of this new service that will help you to be better informed about how your son/daughter is progressing. If you would like any further information please contact Mr Gallagher at school.



YOUTH MUSIC POWERPLAY DEWSBURY PROJECT

On Friday 26th November the Youth Music Powerplay Dewsbury project was launched in school. This involved over eighty Year 7 and 8 pupils, in four vocal workshops during the school day. The styles learned were Beatboxing, Rapping, Song Writing and Harmony Singing and the artists were top quality professionals, who said they thoroughly enjoyed working with our children.

Project Manager, Matthew Evans, said "It was a fantastic day, where all pupils really tried their best and worked hard".

After Christmas, the pupils involved and others will get the fantastic opportunity to become involved with making vocal music in collaboration with all the other Dewsbury secondary school children, in the areas of Beatboxing and Vocal Harmony.

Mr Ryder said, "The whole idea of the project is to bring the children of Dewsbury together, so that they can see each other as music makers and not just children from different areas".

SCHOOL SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR

School sport has recently been thrown into the political arena and is having to compete for funding. Following the Government's spending review in October, the School Sports Partnerships have been axed. We are one of 49 schools which make up the St John Fisher partnership. Over the last 6 years there has been a transformation of PE and School Sport. Now almost every pupil from years 1 – 11, has 2 hours of PE on a weekly basis and access to out of school sessions and competitions. An end to this funding will result in many opportunities for young people being removed. In the last month, a wave of support for PE and School Sport has applied pressure to the government to reverse their decision. To show your support there are a number of things you can do, like contacting your local MP or signing the 'Save School Sports Partnerships' petition; for more information please contact Mr Hodgkinson: SSCO Co-ordinator. Technology College.

COMMUNITY

There are lots of adult courses/groups running in the afternoons and evenings, throughout the year and most are free; newcomers are always welcome.

We urge parents to continue donating items of uniform to our Uniform Swap Shop; this is proving to be a very popular scheme.

Parents who would like to pop in for an informal chat, can contact Linda Crayton on the school number or 07773 457610.

Well Done to the Young Carers who have now launched a Young Carers Card Scheme; this will be in all schools in the new year.



Additionally the My Time Group, who meet every Tuesday afternoon, have sent in a grant application to fund art and craft activities; fingers crossed!



PARENT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

The PTA continued to meet over the Autumn term, although meetings were spasmodic because of the weather and other unforeseen circumstances. Members of the PTA served refreshments at the Open Evening in October.

The next PTA meeting will be held on Thursday 6th January at 7 p.m. in the staffroom; all parents/carers are welcome. Any changes due to weather etc will be noted on the school website.

Jean Reece: Chair Earlsheaton Technology College PTA.



SKI TRIP 2012

We have recently promoted the ski trip for February 2012 where we have had a great response. During the February half term (2012) 60 pupils & staff will be venturing on the fourth ski trip to the beautiful resort of Arinsal in Andorra.

Staying in the Hotel Solana just a snowball throw away from the slopes, the pupils will participate on a 5 day ski course which will include 4 hours of instruction a day with qualified, English speaking school instructors.

On top of the skiing, pupils will also have a good variety of evening entertainment. There are plenty of Après Ski activities for pupils to enjoy, such as the ice skating and a fun relaxing evening at Europe's largest health Spa, Caldea Paradise Spa Resort.

PLACES ARE STILL AVAILABLE. PLEASE SEE MR FLETCHER OR MR QADRI FOR MORE DETAILS.

Photographs of last year's trip:



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TRA CURRICULAR FIXTURES AND CLUBS

The PE department continue to offer a large range of extra curricular activities to all year groups; although many have been affected of late due to the adverse weather conditions.

PE EXTRA CURRICULAR REWARDS TRIP—MANCHESTER UNITED V BURSAPOR (CHAMPIONS LEAGUE) - WEDNESDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2010

A large percentage of pupils have made a great contribution to extra curricular PE since the beginning of term. In the age of computers and video games, participating in after-school activities is a lost art. We as a PE department are fully aware of how activities outside of the home are important to the development of a child's physical development, creativity, self-confidence, team spirit and camaraderie.

Since September we have introduced a Physical Education Rewards Scheme where pupils receive achievement points on their school behaviour log for every extra curricular activity they attend. Throughout the year their individual points are added together to gain the opportunity to join the department on various trips that will be organised.

We set pupils the task of attending 6 separate extra curricular activities over the first half term, where a large percentage of pupils reached this goal with ease, so were invited to join us on our first trip to watch **Manchester United V Bursapor in the UEFA Champions League**. The game took place at Old Trafford, Manchester on **Wednesday 20th October 2010**.

The trip was a fantastic sporting spectacle for 42 pupils, who had the chance to experience Champions League Football at the 'Theatre of Dreams'.

Congratulations to all pupils involved who not only showed a great attitude to gain this chance but also the way they applied themselves on the trip.

SPEN VALLEY SCHOOLS FOOTBALL

Due to recommence in February 2011:

Years 7, 8 and 11 boys have all progressed to the next round of the Spen Valley Cup competition which is due to recommence in February 2011.

Year 7 Boys 5-a-side

Our Year 7 Boys won the Spen Valley first round competition on Tuesday 9th November. We then held the next round at Earlsheaton on Thursday 9th December. The boys again won the competition overcoming St John Fishers, Batley Grammar, Castle Hall, and drawing with Gomersal. The boys now progress to the National Finals which is usually held at the JJB Soccer Dome, Manchester in the New Year.

Year 7 Girls 5-a-side/7-a-side

The girls have also progressed to the next round of the same competition winning their last game at Earlsheaton during November; next round is due to take place in January 2011.

The same girls competed in the St John Fisher 7-a-side outdoor tournament with the same outcome, winning the tournament outright; we won 4, lost 1 and drew 1.

Well done Year 7. The future looks bright for sport at ETC.

BADMINTON

A number of pupils from all year groups have taken part in the school badminton club since September. We have 16 pupils representing school for the first time this year on Thursday 9th December in various competitions: U14 Boys, U14 Girls, U16 Boys and U16 Girls. These competitions are due to take place at Westborough High School and St John Fisher Catholic High School.

BASKETBALL

Thursday 25th November both the U14's and U16's Basketball teams went top of their leagues by beating The Community Science College in two tight games. Under the guidance of Adam Fisher, the boys are playing at a level above the other local schools and look set to win the league.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Tuesday 16th November the Year 8 Rugby team put in another outstanding performance to see off Ossett School, winning 46-14. After a tight first quarter Earlsheaton began to dominate the game with strong defence and superior ball handling. The team will now progress to the second round of the Champion Schools taking place on Wednesday 15th December; weather permitting.

VIRTUAL MARATHON

Tuesday 19th October, a team of ten Year 7 pupils took part in the first International Virtual Marathon. The team representing Dewsbury competed in real time with other children around the world. Although a team from Madrid finished first, our team came first in Yorkshire and eighth overall with a fantastic performance.

DANCE MATS AND CONCEPT II ROWERS

We had a set of dance mats and rowers in the sports hall from September until October half term. These are exceptional pieces of equipment shared by the School Sport Partnership.

Most lunch times between 15-35 pupils from all year groups, boys and girls, came down to the sports hall to use the equipment; the atmosphere and interaction was great. As well as pupils doing some fun activity, they were also accessing virtual competitions between other schools.

CHEERLEADING

ETC Cheerleading Leaders have been busy putting together routines in our seven feeder primaries during after school clubs.

There are fifteen leaders from ETC working with over one hundred pupils from Years 1-6.

ETC girls will compete in the Kirklees' cheerleading competition on Tuesday 11th January 2011.

PLAYGROUND TO PODIUM

The P2P program is about giving pupils with disabilities, a pathway to take part and progress in sport. The last event was on Tuesday 12th October at the Sports Barn in Huddersfield.

This program has developed well over the last three years and one success story is Sean Wigglesworth, in Year 11, who now plays at the Football Centre of Excellence and is being tracked by GB Athletics.

SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

As you may be aware the School Sports Partnership has been axed by the government, despite bringing a revolution to PE and school sport and exceeding all targets for over ten years. Mr Hodkinson, Schools Sports Co-coordinator, is currently working tirelessly to maintain the work but many of the events mentioned in this newsletter could be the last without a dedicated, innovative, resourceful, passionate workforce prepared to continue the work.

PRIESTLEY HOUSE

Thanks to all pupils in Priestley House for volunteering their services at the Asda bag pack to help raise money for 'Children in Need'. They raised £500; well done!

Another bag pack to raise money for a local charity plus achievement prizes for Priestley House pupils will be coming in the new year. All pupils and parents are welcome to help.



SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2010-2011

Autumn Term 2010

	School Closes	School Re-Opens
Christmas Break	Fri 17th December 2010	Tues 4th January 2011 Please note that school will start at 9.55 a.m. on this day.

Spring Term 2011

Half Term Break	Fri 18th Feb 2011	Tues 1st March 2011
Easter Break/May Day	Fri 15th April 2011	Tues 3rd May 2011

Summer Term 2011

Half Term Break	Fri 27th May 2011	Mon 6th June 2011
Close for Summer	Thurs 21st July	
Teacher Training Day		Mon 28th Feb 2011

VEHICLES



Can all parents please adhere to the following...

No cars should be driving up the main drive to drop pupils off at school. If pupils get a lift to school then they should be dropped off outside the school gates and walk the remainder of the journey.



Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

YEAR 11 PROM

The prom has now been confirmed for Friday 1st July 2011. It will be held at Elland Road Stadium in Leeds. We currently have 80 pupils wishing to attend and have paid their deposits. The next payment, a minimum of £10.00, is due after Christmas. Any pupils who still want to go, should see either Mrs Cromack or Mrs Bruce as soon as possible.



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

During this term, Mrs Worthington has been running a general knowledge quiz for pupils to take part in at lunchtimes. There have been five rounds and the winners and runners up from each round, have come together for the grand final. Twenty questions on a variety of topics from history to pop music and geography to nursery rhymes were asked. Pupils did very well and enjoyed taking part. At each event a strong audience watched and privately tested themselves! Our champion of the Grand Final, winning a copy of the Guinness Book of Records 2011, was Lauren Walshaw 9BLV with Josh Eteson 11PKF coming a close second.

More quizzes are planned for next term so come along and try your luck!

EXAM DATES

Thursday 6th January/Morning
ICT Functional Skills

Tuesday 11th January/Morning
Maths Functional Skills

Thursday 13th January/Morning
Additional Applied Science
Biology Unit 2

Monday 17th January/Morning
Chemistry Unit 2 and 3

Wednesday 19th January/Morning
Physics Unit 2 and 3

Thursday 27th January/Morning
English Functional Skills Unit 1

Thursday 27th January/Afternoon
English Functional Skills Unit 2

All pupils have been given their individual exam timetable.