



Earlsheaton Technology College

Newsletter

Summer 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

We have arrived at the end of probably the busiest year of recent times, when our regular activities as a school have been added to by the need to respond to our most recent Ofsted report. A tremendous amount of work has been completed to meet the demands of the latest government ideas on what makes a 'Good' school. However, we have not pulled back from all the extra activities that make school life rich and interesting for all those members of the school who are committed to getting the best out of their opportunities, details of which can be found in this newsletter.

Our Ofsted report gave us certain targets to meet, with the school receiving a monitoring visit to check on developments. I am delighted to say that in the monitoring visit in June, the inspector found that we were making 'good progress', which is a formal and seldom awarded grade. This achievement not only reflects on the commitment of all who work here, including the children, but it also indicates the potential

we have for continued progress in the future (please find a copy, on pages 7 & 8, of the report from HMI Bennett.) We now anticipate a full inspection in the autumn term, when I hope we will be recognised as a good school which is making excellent progress. To achieve this we require your continuing support in preparing and encouraging your children to do their best in all aspects of school life. There will never be an end point to this process; as we achieve one numerical target the government raise the bar further, however we will always seek to maintain those other aspects of school life, that are often the basis for the real and lasting memories of school days.

The end of term brings the sadness of staff who are leaving. We are saying goodbye to Mrs S Thompson who has made a big contribution to the school in several roles over the past fourteen years; we wish her well in her new post. Mr M Harrison, who has also served the school well in a number of positions over the last eight years, leaves us for a promoted post in Leeds;

he takes with him our thanks and best wishes. Mrs J Crossley recently took up a new post after being with us for twelve years in various roles, most recently as the Attendance Administrator. Finally we say farewell to Mrs M Jackson who has been working with us, on a temporary basis, in the maths department.

Given that the new focus for government targets is three levels of progress in English and Maths between Year 7 and Year 11, we are lucky to have recruited Mrs J Thompson, a highly experienced teacher of English and Miss R Shabbir, who is joining the Maths department. We are also benefiting from acquiring Mrs C Lowery as a MFL teacher and Mr K Audsley as a teacher of P.E. Please take a few minutes to look through this newsletter which is a reflection of life in school. After the summer break we will return to capitalise on the achievements of this year. Thank you for your support and do take advantage of the activities on offer in school over the summer.

Yours sincerely

Paul Levey M.A.
Headteacher

Red Nose Day 2011

Friday 18 March pupils and staff, along with the rest of the country, supported Comic Relief by doing something funny for money and managed to raise a whopping £1,170.00!

Pupils, in a real spirit of generosity, queued around the block to throw custard pies at Mr Fletcher, Mr Guest, Mr Qadri and Mr Dawson; that event alone raising over £100 in ten minutes. Big Congratulations to Year 8 girls Janey Gregory, Hannah Simper and Aliza Samnani who organised the big Red Nose pie throwing extravaganza.

Special mentions are also due to Forms KJF who raised lots of money with their book stall, BNW and CJK who made and sold wonderful cakes, Mr Guest's classes who paid handsomely to sit next to their friends, raising over £80 and many others, far too numerous to mention. As ever, the Earlsheaton community, pupils, parents and staff alike have responded to the call to help those in need and can be certain that the Red Nose team will put their money to good use.

Big, big thanks and very well done to all concerned.



Year 6 Science Transition Visit



Someone has stolen the emergency chocolate supplies from the science department office! Who could it be? There were a number of suspects including Mr Ryder, Mr Adams and Mrs Hirst. Year 6 pupils from Hanging Heaton and Eastborough became Forensic Scientists for the morning to help solve the crime. By carrying out five experiments and looking at the evidence that had been found at the crime scene, Year 6 pupils were able to eliminate all but two of

the suspects. Upon their return to school they were able to solve the crime and find out "who done it". The pupils enjoyed their trip to our school immensely and said that it "was the best science lesson ever" and that they were looking forward to joining us in September. If you want to find out who did steal the chocolates, then you will need to ask one of our new pupils!

Status Quo

Thursday 23 June the school played host to a true musical star when Jeff Rich, the ex-drummer of Status Quo, came into school to give a drum masterclass.

Year 7 pupils, 173 in total, were assembled into the gym to hear the fantastic percussive talents of this famous drummer.

Mr Ryder said "He was a pleasure to have in school and the kids really enjoyed it. He got some of the pupils playing parts of his drum kit and ended with them all having played a piece of percussion each..... even the staff!"



Duke of Edinburgh Award

We have a number of pupils who have completed three of the four sections required to complete their Bronze level. The practice expedition, which took place in Snowdonia, was a great success.

"From the bounty of the scenery to the wonders of wildlife and the people you meet, you'll never get bored as you strengthen your skills of map reading and navigation. As you overcome the heights, you'll enjoy The Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition and be grateful you had the chance. In my opinion, given the chance, go" Nathan Phillips Year 9.

We look forward to our first awards being presented early next year.



Extra Curricular Drama

Five pupils accompanied Mrs Sutton-Jones and Miss Lyons to see a performance of 'In The Woods' performed by members of the Dewsbury Arts Group.

It was a very enjoyable musical to watch, especially the performance from Mrs Fletcher as the wicked witch, which was particularly memorable!

Mayor Making Concert

Wednesday 25 May a group of pupils from school took part in a choir concert at Huddersfield Town Hall. This choir involved pupils from our school as well as Bywell, Chickenley, Hanging Heaton and Eastborough Junior Schools. The event was a very important occasion and celebrated the Mayor Making of Councillor Eric Firth.

Mr Ryder said all pupils did extremely well and the Mayor was very impressed and grateful that we took part.

Kirklees Secondary and Middle School Showcase Concert

Thursday 23 June, a number of our pupils were involved in the Kirklees Secondary and Middle Schools Showcase concert at Dewsbury Town Hall.

The Concert saw all the secondary schools in Kirklees provide a showcase musical item, which was performed to a crowd of more than 300 people.

Our pupils did extremely well and the items performed were:-

Ashleigh Black – 'Needing You'

Powerplay Group – 'Home'

Mr Ryder was extremely proud of all pupils involved as the concert got rave reviews.

Zulu Dance Performance

A group of pupils took their Zulu Dance performance that they learnt for the Easter Extravaganza, to a community performance in Huddersfield. Our pupils impressed the audience with their professionalism and really stood out amongst the other performers. Well done and thank you to everyone who gave up their Saturday evening to perform and support the pupils.



Visit to the Northern School of Contemporary Dance

A group of pupils, who are interested in studying dance in further education, attended a dance performance at the



Northern School of Contemporary Dance, in Leeds, on Wednesday 29 June. This is one of the main centres for dance study outside of

London and offers many different classes and courses up to and including degree level. Our pupils were very impressed and inspired by the performance from the foundation degree pupils.

"It was amazing to see the standard of the dancers. They were very professional and confident in their performance. The dancers inspired me and made me want to try harder in dance because I would like to study dance somewhere like the Northern School of Contemporary Dance when I leave school".
Shannon Edwards Year 9

Easter Extravaganza

The last newsletter went to print before the Easter Extravaganza had taken place. The show was a huge success with a packed audience on the evening.

The pupils who performed demonstrated just how much talent there is at Earlsheaton Technology College with many of the pupils performing work that they had created themselves. Other performances were created through extra curricular performing arts activities or were pieces that had been developed from performing arts' lessons. Well done to all pupils who performed!

Talent Show

Earlsheaton's Got Talent is our Talent Show for 2011.

We held a very successful first round of auditions with almost fifty pupils auditioning. Competition was very fierce and the performing arts staff were very impressed with everyone who auditioned. The acts were narrowed down to twelve soloists and nine group performances including dancing, singing, drama, music and stand up comedy!



The successful pupils appeared in Earlsheaton's Got Talent on Thursday 14 July where they were judged by people who were involved in the performing arts industry. One solo and one group winner were announced at the end of the night; unfortunately this publication went to press before the evening took place, so we were unable to name the winners. There were also special performances by various members of staff.



Performing Arts London Trip

During half term a group of pupils and staff visited



London. Pupils and staff went to see the musical 'Wicked' and 'Blood Brothers' in the West End. Pupils participated in a dance workshop at Pineapple Dance Studios, taught by one of the dancers from Wicked, in which they learnt actual choreography from the show. Pupils and staff also visited the London Eye, which provided impressive views of London from above and went behind the scenes at the National Theatre and were allowed to get up close to set and props from the past and current production. Another highlight was the river boat cruise along the Thames, the sun shone brightly as the boat passed famous landmarks such as Tower Bridge, The Tower of London and shopping trip at the famous market in Covent Garden. The trip was a fantastic experience for everyone who attended. "I really enjoyed the West End musicals, I preferred 'Blood Brothers' because it was emotive language and

made me laugh and cry. The trip was a life changing experience". Pallavi Sharma Year 7

"We went to Pineapple Dance Studios, it was awesome! The dancer from Wicked taught us some interesting moves from the show. I loved it!" Chelsea Bradley Year 7



Workskills Group – Year 11 Pupils

Starting in October 2011, pupils studying workskills will be producing and selling their own crafts to include:- birthday cards, bird feeders and jewellery items. These items will then be on sale to the school in the main hall during breaktimes; further details to be announced later. The purpose of this activity is to assist on the completion of the workskills course, give pupils valuable experience in a real life business setting and to raise money for the nominated school charity. A truly exciting development.

School Meals

Parents/Carers to be aware that pupils' school meals, from September 2011, will be £2 per child, per day.

After-School and Holiday Activities

My Time Group, this group meets every Tuesday afternoon. Come and have a go at cake decorating, glass painting, card making and enjoy the excursions arranged by the group. FUNetc Holiday Club, our activity-based club runs during summer holidays. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet up with or make new friends. Look out for the leaflets for more details.

Maths and English for Adults
COMING SOON FOR ADULTS:
GCSE Maths
VOLUNTEERS

ETC has adult volunteers who help our pupils with:-
Sewing
Gardening
Book Reading Scheme

Rowlands Pharmacy

Parents/Carers to be aware that Rowlands Pharmacy (Earlsheaton medical Centre, 252 Wakefield Road, Dewsbury, WF12 8AH, 01924 465714) will issue, free of charge, treatment for head lice to anybody who is in receipt of free prescriptions. Contact the chemist for further details.



School Field

Reminder to the public; the school field is not to be used for the exercising of dogs under any circumstances, as this causes a health and safety risk to our pupils.



Lunchtime Supervisors

If anyone is interested in working at the school, we currently have vacancies for Lunchtime Supervisors. Please contact Mrs A Lay at the school for more information on 01924 325230.

End of Term Arrangements

Summer term finishes on Wednesday 20th July

Newton, Priestley & Faraday Houses will finish at 11.00am approx.

Kilburn, Curie & Brunel Houses will finish at 12.00pm approx.

Academic Year 2011/2012

Title	School Closes	School Re-Opens
Autumn Term		Wednesday 7th September
Half Term Holiday	Thursday 20th October	Monday 31st October
Christmas Holiday	Friday 16th December	Tuesday 3rd January
Spring Term		Tuesday 3rd January
Half Term Holiday	Friday 10th February	Tuesday 21st February
Easter Holiday	Friday 30th March	Monday 16th April
Summer Term		Monday 16th April
May Day Bank Holiday	Friday 4th May	Tuesday 8th May
Half Term Holiday	Friday 1st June	Monday 11th June
End of Summer Term	Friday 20th July	



PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL RE-OPENS TO ALL PUPILS WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2011

Year 7 - 9 a.m.

Year 8, 9 10 & 11 - 10 a.m.

CFBT Inspection Services T 0300 1231231
Suite 22 enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
West Lancs Investment Centre www.ofsted.gov.uk
Maple View
Skelmersdale
WN8 9TG

Direct T 01695 566934
Direct F 01695 729320
gtunncliffe@cfbt.com
www.cfbt-inspections.com



23 June 2011

Mr P Levey
Headteacher
Earlsheaton Technology College
Old Bank Road
Dewsbury
West Yorkshire
WF12 7DW

Dear Mr Levey

Notice to improve: monitoring inspection of Earlsheaton Technology College

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school on 22 June 2011 and for the information which you provided before and during the inspection. Please pass on special thanks to the students who met with me at lunchtime.

As a result of the inspection on 10 and 11 November 2010, the school was asked to address the most important areas for improvement, which are set out in the annex to this letter.

Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time the school is making good progress in addressing the issues for improvement and in raising students' achievement.

The appointment of three assistant headteachers, to lead the areas for improvement, has had a very positive impact. They have brought renewed energy to the senior team and have sharpened the focus on the areas for development. Middle leadership is also stronger and lines of accountability are much clearer. Middle leaders are taking increasing responsibility for driving improvements and monitoring the performance of their teams. They are supported and guided well by the senior team.

Target-setting and monitoring have been strengthened considerably since the inspection and further improvements are in the pipeline for September. Middle leaders use tracking data to identify students needing support more quickly and to target interventions more accurately. Teachers have detailed information about individual students to inform their planning. More challenging targets are set for students and they are more actively involved in the review process. Students assess their own progress, identify areas for improvement and present their self-evaluation to parents or carers and their tutor. The new system has been received well.

Literacy development now has a high priority across the school. The reading levels of all students were tested following the inspection and a high proportion of students were found to have low reading ages. A reading scheme was introduced that ensures all students read

January 2011



regularly and choose books matched to their reading level. The test was repeated after three months and showed considerable improvements. Teachers are very aware of the need to develop students' literacy skills in every lesson and they pay careful attention to planning activities that develop listening, speaking, writing and reading skills. Students say that they are given more opportunities for discussion in lessons and are encouraged to give full answers to questions. It is too early to see the full impact of the initiatives to raise attainment but there are clear indications that students are beginning to make better progress and that achievement is improving.

There has been a very successful drive to improve teaching. Peer observation and coaching have been used to spread best practice very effectively. The lesson observation system is robust and has been externally moderated. It shows that the quality of teaching has improved considerably since the inspection. Most teachers now use student data well when planning lessons and all teachers include a good variety of activities and resources to motivate and engage students. Questioning is used very well to make regular checks on learning and encourage students to extend their answers and their thinking. Literacy skills are developed well in lessons as a result of the school's successful focus on this aspect of its work since the last inspection. Students participate actively in discussions and the vast majority are keen to learn. The quality of marking is still variable and is the current focus of attention.

The technology specialism is making a sound contribution to improvements. For example, mathematics teachers are spreading good practice by leading staff training sessions and the science department is building stronger links with partner primary schools.

Action plans from the local authority and the school have been devised and prioritised well. There are clear responsibilities, deadlines and success criteria. The local authority has made a key contribution to the improvements by giving intensive support and challenging leaders when appropriate. School Improvement Partners have also provided good support.

I hope that you have found the inspection helpful in promoting improvement in your school. This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Jan Bennett
Her Majesty's Inspector