



## SUMMER NEWSLETTER

July 2010

Dear Parents/Carers

The end of another school year arrives with changes in progress, issues unresolved and the usual welcomes and farewells as some colleagues leave and new appointments arrive.

Our new Vertical Tutoring system has been put into place over the course of the year and it will operate from next September. By creating smaller, mixed age tutor groups, we expect children to feel better supported in their social lives, as they progress through that sometimes challenging phase from 11-16 years of age. Mr Molyneux will oversee the general development of the system, which will be led by Mr Ryder. We will develop our behaviour and rewards policy, to clarify to everyone the kind of things that are and are not acceptable in school. As a large community of over 1,000 people the simple standards of care, courtesy and respect for each other form the foundations of a pleasant working atmosphere.

The main unresolved issue is that of the Building Schools for the Future project; whilst the Con/Lib government has stopped progress, based on the issue of waste of resources there is a strong debate developing around the abandonment of future generations of children, to an education in sub-standard and declining buildings. As parents you will have views on these issues which would benefit from being shared, particularly with the political representatives of this area. This debate will run well into the next academic year.

Sadly we have to say goodbye to several highly valued colleagues, they are: Mrs Fuller who is leaving to take up a new post at St John Fisher, we wish her well and hope that her career continues to flourish on the other side of town. Mrs Hodgins is leaving to pursue her ambitions as a writer, we wish her well; the profession is the poorer for her leaving. Miss Laycock is leaving to achieve her Masters Degree in dance, we wish her the very best of luck and look forward to her visits in pursuit of the evidence to support her studies. We are also losing the services of

Mrs Sagar, we wish her a very long and happy retirement. Mrs Malpas has retired due to ill health, she does so with our very best wishes for a good recovery. Finally, Mr Plenty is leaving to retire to sunnier climes having served this community for an amazing 38 years, we give him our thanks and wish him a long and relaxing retirement.

Arriving in September are: Mr Morley (second in science); Mr Thornton (science); Mr Salisbury (English) and Mrs Simpson (dance). Mr Langford has taken up the position of Head of House to support the new structure within school.

So ends another academic year. We look forward, with some concerns, over the impact of government policies on the provision of education in Dewsbury. Next year will be a watershed and we need to be ready to make our case in the public arena.

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

Yours sincerely

Paul Levey

M.A. Headteacher



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## **Budding Writers**

We have had 85 pupils from Year 7, 8 and 9 be successful in having their poems and short stories published recently, in The Young Writers 'Mini Marvels' and 'Bust-A-Rhyme' competitions.

The pupils developed their pieces in English lessons, with Mr Verity and Mrs Thompson, earlier this year and were selected from schools across the country to go to print.

Copies of both books are now on display in the LRC and show the fantastic talent and imagination we have at Earlsheaton Technology College.

The 'Mini Marvels' short stories of less than 50 words designed to excite and intrigue readers, within a light structure, and 'Bust-A-Rhyme' required teenagers to write poetry that is vibrant, modern and full of energy.

Well done to all of the pupils whose poems were entered!

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### **'So You Think You Know .....** **Quizzes in the Library**

The re-match of the 'Twilight' quiz between pupils and staff took place on Friday 14th May and this time the pupils were victorious! Both teams put in great performances and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the battle.

Following on from the success of the 'Twilight' quiz, we have recently pitched the pupils against the staff once again, to test their knowledge on another popular read called 'Cirque Du Freak' by Darren Shan.

Miss Sissons kindly wrote the questions and delivered the quiz so that Mrs Worthington could be a member of the staff team along with Ms Giblin, Miss Dara and Mrs Hodgins. The pupils were Darnell Dinsdale, Owen Ward, Bethany Binns, and Mehreena Gulastan.

This time the staff beat the pupils and claimed the trophy of a large black cast iron spider, which Ms Giblin has take to show off to her department! The pupils will have a chance to win the trophy back in the Autumn term and other book titles are being suggested for more quizzes.

### **Shakespeare Schools** **Festival**

In April this year we were selected to take part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival. This is a national festival, in which participating schools perform a thirty minute abridge version of a Shakespeare play. We will perform Macbeth at the West Yorkshire Playhouse on Friday 8th October, so rehearsals are well underway. Pupils will have the opportunity to perform in a professional theatre with professional lighting and sound.

The Shakespeare Schools Festival has been running for ten years and has some very famous patrons, including Dame Judi Dench and Kevin Spacey. If parents/carers have skills in costume, set design, printing or advertising we would very much appreciate your help. Please contact Mrs Kikezos (Shakespeare Schools Festival Co-ordinator) at the school.

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## **Aimhigher University Trip**

In March a group of Year 11 pupils went to Hull University for a Modern Languages day, where they revised their French and did activities in Italian and Japanese.

Everyone had an informative and entertaining day, despite a three hour wait on the motorway and the pupils were as always a credit to our school.

### **Parent Teachers' Association**

The PTA continues to meet on a monthly basis during term time. We usually meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the staffroom. There is a member of the senior staff present to discuss school matters and any parental concerns. The date of meetings is usually on the school website.

At the recent AGM the following appointments were made:-

Chair: Jean Reece  
Secretary: Janet Gregory  
Treasurer: Suzanne Cardus  
Auditor: Ian Jones

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th September at 7 p.m. This is the first full week that pupils will be in school. All parents and carers of pupils at Earlsheaton Technology College are welcome to attend.

### **Swap Shop**

Thank you to parents who have donated their children's uniform to our swap shop. Thank you also to our Credit Union Committee who run the school bank.

To access clothing or more details on any of the above please contact Linda Crayton or Suzy Coates on 01924 325230 or 07773 457610.

### **ETC Thank You**

Thank you to our volunteer sewing ladies Jean, Lillian, Madge and Yvonne for Rock Challenge and thank you to Shaw Cross Infant School costumes. Also we would like to say thank you to Sandra and Janice who have been busy gardening at our school and Earlsheaton Infant School.

We are proud to say that you all did a fantastic job.

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### **Duke of Edinburgh**

This year we have launched the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. The Duke of Edinburgh programme is a real adventure from beginning to end. It does not matter who you are or where you are from but there is more to life than sitting on a sofa watching life pass you by. There are three levels and we introduced our Year 10 pupils to the bronze level.

Pupils had to spend time each week taking part in something physical, (like a sport) something skilled (like photography) and something voluntary (like helping out at a club). They must also complete and expedition (for which training will be given). Most people find that they are already doing an activity which counts towards the award and when pupils come to apply for a job or university course, they will find that they may be chosen ahead of others who have not completed the award, as it is recognised internationally.

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### **Festival of Flight**

Eleven dancers from Year 7 - 10 took part in the Festival of Flight in York, at the air museum from Thursday 17th June until Saturday 19th June. The pupils danced live to local schools, MPs and the general public over the three day festival. We were allowed one day to learn the choreography from two professional dancers, for Indian and contemporary dance; the pupils were amazing and even dressed in full saris for the late performance. Pupils performed with three professional dancers and the main organiser in this fantastic air craft hanger. Miss Laycock would like to thank the parents and staff that helped or supported this event but the special thanks needs to go to the pupils, listed below, for a great three days and to say how proud Miss Laycock is of all of them for doing so great:-

Katie Wright 8JA, Luke Jobson 10MD, Brandon Bates 8JV, Sophie Cardus 9RG, Samantha Dawson 9NE, Emma Ward 9KS, Alicia Jennings 9RG, Bethany Wright 8ML, Claire Collett 9LV, Emma Robertshaw 7JQ and Taome Rogers 7JQ.

### Community - July to December 2010

There will be a **four week summer programme** running and this is open to all local adults and youngsters from Year 6 to Year 11. Activities include kite making, card craft, majorette skills, fencing and much more. The cost is £1 per workshop and if you buy 2 workshops you will receive 2 free! For more information call Linda Crayton or Suzy Coates on 01924 325230 or 07773 457610.

### Adult Learning

Congratulations to our English group, who won the Kirklees Adult Learners' Award. A celebration was held on Thursday 1st July to thank adults for their commitment and to congratulate them on their achievements. In September we are planning to continue the adult courses. To register call either Linda Crayton or Suzy Coates on 01924 325230 or 07773 457610.

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### Prom and Farewell

Year 11 had their farewell Prom in a suite at Leeds United Stadium. It was a super night and all kids (or should I say young adults) made Mr Irving and Mrs Bruce feel very proud .

As I am sure all parents realise, parenthood seems like a long road at the time but suddenly you blink and they are all grown up. We offer our special thanks for the help and support all of our Year 11 parents have given and we would like to wish all Year 11 pupils good luck for their future.

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### Examination Results



luck to all!

Year 10 pupils can come into school to collect their GCSE results between 11-12 p.m. on Tuesday 24th August. Good



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### Improving Standards

Good standards are very important and we are very grateful for the fantastic support that we receive from our parents on this very important issue.

In order to help our parents continue with that very valuable support and to avoid confusion, we would like to take this opportunity to inform parents of what is not acceptable within school:-

- Earphones of any sort will not be allowed in school from September.
  - MP3 players and ipods must not be brought to school.
  - The shaving of patterns into hair is not acceptable.
  - The colouring of hair should only be in natural colours.
  - Footwear must be plain black, entirely without any logos.
  - Ties must not be written on or altered in any way.
  - Bottles or cans must not be carried in blazer pockets.
  - Make up should be discreet and kept to a minimum.
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