



## E A S T E R N E W S L E T T E R

March 2010

Dear Parents/Carers

First of all I should like to thank you all for the manner in which you supported the school at the beginning of this term when the winter weather proved so challenging. The method of texting information has had a very positive response from parents. I can assure you that the decision to close our school is only taken after very careful consideration of health and safety on the site and on the roads. Staff are required to work from home if they cannot travel safely or if traffic conditions actually prevent the chance of coming to work at all. Obviously we have had to work harder to make up for lost time, particularly with examination classes and as you will see from the rest of this newsletter, extra activities have continued with the usual range and depth of opportunities on offer to our children.

In the coming term several important developments will take place: first of all the Building Schools for the Future project will pass the point of implementation which means that we will be developed into a recognisably modern school designed to reflect the future of education. This is a genuinely exciting and challenging prospect; our move to a vertical tutoring structure will be put in place for September under the leadership of Mr Ryder. We also have the exciting prospect of developing our status as a Royal Shakespeare Hub School and we are continuing to improve our access to information and learning through our on-line gateway facility. By the time you receive the summer term version of this letter all of these things will have progressed.

Please take the time to look at the remainder of this letter and take careful note of the term dates on the back page. Can I remind you that time SHOULD NOT be taken in term time for holidays. The expectations now placed on schools to deliver and young people to achieve progress in learning and achievement is massive and any time missed cannot be effectively recovered.

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

Yours sincerely

Paul Levey M.A.  
Headteacher



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## National Science Week

This year the Science Department went ‘egg crazy’ as part of our celebration of National Science Week. Pupils in Years 7-10 were challenged to design, build and test a device that would transport an egg as far as possible without breaking it.

Pupils were provided with a variety of materials and came up with a whole host of ideas including catapults, cars powered by water, balloons, elastics and even log flumes!

Year 9 pupils were asked to write a brief report on the event and their comments are written below.

### The ‘Eggcellent’ Race by Natalia Purcell, Ella Ineson and Kate Crookes

“Our group was fortunate enough to win the class prize. To do this we had to contemplate lots of different aspects of science and think about ideas like gravity. We had to change our original design quite a bit and we came up with a wacky idea of making a log flume. This meant that the eggs had less chance of breaking as we could put them inside a tennis ball.”

### The Great Egg Race by Daisy Staves, Anjum Yasin and Bethany Taylor

“The best thing about the project was that we could be creative. The funniest part was the testing because when I pulled the catapult back I hit Anjum on the head. We all laughed and knew that if there was no pain, there was no gain; we came second!”

### Enjoying ‘eggciting’ reactions by Mehreena Gulistan

“By the end of the afternoon everyone went home feeling proud of what they’d come up with, whether they had won or not”.

### Seriously Soapy

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February, Year 7 pupils took part in the ‘Seriously Soapy’ challenge as part of a STEM day activity run by the science team.

Working in small groups, pupils had to design and make soap that could be sold in aid of charity. Throughout the day pupils needed to use a variety of skills from across the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects.



After a morning spent trying out different scents and colours, pupils came up with their designs and went into production during the afternoon. After thinking about packaging and publicity, the soap was ready to be sold and pupils did a fantastic job encouraging people to part with their money. There were many different shapes and colours produced, although the most popular designs were ‘stars’ and ‘hearts’.

Year 10 triple science pupils helped out the younger pupils and also enjoyed making their own soap bars, although they were definitely messier than the Year 7’s!

Pupils from Year 9 and 10 visited the Science Museum and Natural History Museum in London on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Despite an early start, pupils and staff enjoyed the train journey and seeing some of the sites on the way to the museum, including some very expensive cars!

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## Rock Challenge

For the past six months pupils, staff and parents have been working endlessly for our next show; 'I ♥ NY' is the theme.



Every week five ladies who are either ex pupils or parents of ex pupils/existing pupils have volunteered their time to help hand making over 80 pieces of costumes. It is an eight minute competition against other schools in the West Yorkshire area. Please come and support the school as we have been taking part in this event since 1999.



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## Year 11 Prince's Trust

Eleven of our pupils gained a GCSE for their Prince's Trust work. This was a pilot scheme in which our school was one of two schools in the Yorkshire and Humberside region to be chosen.

Thanks goes to all pupils involved for their hard work and a special mention to Ms Mitchell, Mrs Barlow and Mrs Ratcliffe for all the support they have given to our pupils.

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## Festival of Flight

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March the 'Festival of Flight' came to Earlsheaton Technology College. This is a national project funded by the government which aims to use story-telling to challenge racism and xenophobia.

Six of our Year 9 and 11 pupils were trained by the project leader Sita Kumari to present the stories behind a series of photographs on the theme of flight. The photographs were then put together by the pupils into an exhibition in the hall. In the afternoon a large group of visitors came to school and were guided round the exhibition by the pupils. The visitors included our local MP Shahid Malik, local councillors, two pilots from the Royal Navy, representatives of the police and prison service, and pupils from Chickenley and Eastborough.

The afternoon ended with a conference call to the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, USA during which guests and pupils spoke to one of the remaining Tuskegee Airmen; the first African American fighter squadron in the US Airforce. These men overcame great prejudice and racism to serve their country during World War 2, despite the military authorities believing that African Americans were 'not capable' of becoming pilots. Their story is part of the inspiration for the Festival of Flight which teaches young people that they are capable of great achievements if they believe in themselves and work hard to achieve their goals.

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## World Book Day Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March

To celebrate World Book Day some fun events were organised, based on the very popular 'Twilight' book by Stephenie Meyer. Mrs Hodgins ran a 'Love Hurts' short story writing competition and will hopefully be publishing a book with all the entries. Mrs Thompson held a book club where pupils and staff joined together to discuss their thoughts on the book. On World Book Day chapter 4 of 'Twilight' was read out, in small sections, at the beginning of each lesson to give everyone a taster of what the book is like and at lunchtime Mrs Worthington held a Staff v Pupils quiz called 'So You Think You Know "Twilight"?' It proved very popular with many pupils wanting to take part and many more came to spectate; in the end the trophy went to the staff. However, as the pupils put up such a tough battle it was agreed that the prizes of 'Twilight' t-shirts or posters should go to the pupils. A thoroughly enjoyable lunchtime! The pupils now want a re-match to try to win the trophy too..... watch this space!



## Success For Year 7 Pupils In The Regional Times Spelling Bee

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March Mollie Scales, Ryan Walker-Wain and Hannah Simper competed in a regional team Spelling Bee competition sponsored by The Times newspaper. Competing against teams from nine other schools, the three superstar spellers named the 'buzzonauts' impressively finished in third place on 38 points, 4 points behind Hecmondwike Grammar. During the 3 hour competition, the pupils in question had to spell an array of puzzling, complex words such as: thwarted, similarly, restaurant, desultory, archaic, mesmerising and countless other challenging words. Congratulations for a superb performance!

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### Year 7

Last term Year 7 took part in a our annual fundraiser for the British Heart Foundation this was part of a YEAR 7 ACTIVE WEEK. The active week kicked off by pupils visiting Dewsbury Sports Centre and experiencing a number of different fitness classes, such as spinning and dance-mats aerobics. Throughout the week pupils represented their forms and competed in cross-country, benchball, dodge ball and uni-hockey. On the final day pupils worked round a number of workshops which included diet and nutrition, disabled sports and cheerleading as well as the fund raising event TRIATHLON. This involved a mile run, followed by a mile skip around a circular track on the yard. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and raised a fantastic £1,644.94. The PE department and all the Year 7 pastoral team would like to thank all who donated money. Well done!



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### Year 11 GCSEs

Exams commence Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June (see individual Timetable)

### Year 10 GCSEs

Exams commence Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June (see individual Timetable)

### GCSE Results Day

Pupils will be able to collect results between  
10 – 12 noon on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Pupils must bring a **BLACK** pen to all their exams, a calculator for some subjects (Science and Maths in particular) an Anthology and text for English and a few coloured pencils for Design & Technology.

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### Lunchtime Supervisors

At the end of this term we say goodbye and good luck to Deborah Webster who is moving onto pastures new after eight years loyal service; we wish her good luck in her new role. If anybody is interested in becoming a Lunchtime Supervisor, please contact Allyson Lay at school on 01924 325230.

## Functional Skills

For some time employers have criticised the practical communication skills of young people and demanded that this be tackled. As a result a new qualification which tests 'Functional Skills' in reading, writing and speaking has been piloted by the school with great success. A cross section of pupils from Year 9, 10 and 11 entered the January exam with over 95% achieving a pass. We are very proud of this result which reflects the excellent efforts of our English staff and the communication skills of our pupils.

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## Love Hurts Short Story

As part of our 'World Book Day' celebrations, Mrs Hodgins organised a short story writing competition with the theme of 'Love Hurts', inspired by the 'Twilight' novels. The winner was selected as Ellie Moffatt in Year 7 and her prize is the entire saga of stories, plus a DVD and key charm. Other super entries came from Kate Crookes in Year 9, Ryan Wilkinson in Year 7, Ashley Black in Year 9 and Natalie Hirst in Year 10.

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### Music

A number of lower school pupils have been allowed to take part in a fantastic opportunity taking place in school. Mr Ryder has been awarded some money to buy musical instruments and instrumental tuition for pupils at our school. The lucky pupils will be given an instrument free of charge and will also be given instrumental lessons for free for one year. The lucky candidates are below:-



Declan Kaye - Alto Saxophone  
Sean Lyons - Alto Saxophone  
Ryan Wilkinson - Alto Saxophone  
Bethan Pearce - Flute  
Charlotte McKelvie - Clarinet  
Rebecca Musgreave - Flute



Well done to all involved and Mr Ryder knows you will all make great musicians!

### Community Learning in ETC

#### **Calling all adults**

Come and join our courses at ETC:-

Basic IT, Flower arranging, Email & Internet, Maths & IT and English & IT. Relax in a friendly learning environment, join other adults and have some fun learning together.

Would you like to be a volunteer?

Help in our garden, join our sewing ladies, run a stall for the primary schools and much more.

Coming soon:-

Protect our youngsters on the Internet – E Safety evening at ETC.

**For further details on any of the above call Linda Crayton on 07773 457610.**

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## Non Uniform Day

We will be having a whole school non uniform day Friday 23rd April at a cost of £1 per person; proceeds to go to Rock Challenge and FRANK.

## **Building Schools For The Future Presentation**

For the past six months a Pupil Client Team from Earlsheaton have been working the internationally recognised design company the Sorrell Foundation on plans for the new school as part of the Building Schools for the Future Programme.

After six months of hard work which has involved design workshops in London and at the Galpharm Stadium the team made the final presentations at an event held at Batley Town Hall. Present at the event were other schools from the project, the Mayor of Huddersfield, parents and Officers from the Local Education Authority.

Congratulations must go to Joshua Broadhead, Chloe Dill and Zac Parkinson all in Year 10, Ashleigh Black and Mark Farrar in Year 9, and Melisa Foric and Millie Bradbury from Year 8 for all their hard work and for representing the school so well.

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## **Anti Bullying Conference**

The school held its second Anti Bullying Conference during the last week of term. Over fifty pupil delegates from across the school worked in groups with parents, governors and Local Authority Officers to discuss what they believe bullying to be and what strategies the school could adopt as part of its Anti Bullying Policy. An action plan will now be written and implemented during the next term.

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### **Technology Tournament**

Pupils from Earlsheaton Technology College took part in a Technology Tournament 'Re – Inventing The Wheel' organised by the Rotary Club at the Frontier Club Batley on Tuesday 2nd March 2010.

Four Year 9 pupils undertook an unseen challenge against the clock to design, build and test. We were one of the thirty teams taking part.

The pupils were set a task of designing and making a mechanisms and a circuit to flash a light on top of a 'beacon' and to display an advertising billboard for a charity.

The highlight of the day was the testing session where the teams could see the performance of competing designs and solutions.

Pupils who took part in the tournament were:- Phoebe Dawson, Mark Farrar, William Plachcinski and Shahza Syed

### **The Royal Shakespeare Company Learning Network**

During March the school made an application to become a Hub School for the North of England for The Royal Shakespeare Company's Learning Network. This is a three year project where pupils from across the school and its feeder schools, as well as members of the community will work with the RSC, in the exploration and understanding of Shakespeare. This will also involve the school in the 2012 Olympic Games Cultural Festival. We were selected for the final audition and a presentation was made to two representatives from the Royal Shakespeare Company. We are very excited to announce that we have been successful in our application for this very prestigious award and we look forward to working with The Royal Shakespeare Company over the next three years.



## Sport Relief

Huge thanks to all you amazing pupils and parents – a large percentage of you really pulled out all the stops to raise cash for Sport Relief!



The pupils at Earlsheaton Technology College have done something truly incredible; the money you have raised will help to make the world of difference to people living unimaginably tough lives both here in the UK and across the world's poorest countries.

Over the past week we held various events for pupils such as; the cross bar challenge, hula hoop challenge, hole of glory as well as other activities. On top of this, almost every child in Year 7, 8 and 9 (as well as various BTEC Sport pupils) joined thousands of other fundraisers around the country in the Sport Relief Mile.



During PE lessons pupils had the opportunity to run, walk, hop or even skip to raise money through sponsorship for the event. They chose how far they went – 1, 2 or 3 miles – whichever was a challenge for them; some even managed to push themselves to more than 5 miles. We managed to raise £2,084.00, you never cease to amaze us with your fantastic fundraising feats - we can not thank you enough!

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## School Camp (June 2010)

ETC has a proud tradition of taking pupils out of the classroom to give them experiences that are not part of the daily curriculum. The annual school camp gives pupils the opportunity to spend some time away from home, living with their friends and enjoying an exciting range of activities.

This year's camp will be our twentieth year in Criccieth, North Wales. Its popularity within school is still going very strong with all camps (Year 7, 8 & 9) already been over subscribed having only advertised them a few weeks ago. Despite many schools reservations at taking pupils out of the classroom, at Earlsheaton we believe the rewards to be gained by such experiences outweigh the time and effort needed to plan and prepare a successful camp experience. The school has worked hard to build an exemplary record for safety and quality provision and hopes to continue to offer pupils the exciting and unique opportunities to be gained from camp.

Over the years the ongoing success of camp has allowed the school to build an extensive range of equipment and resources, to offer a programme to rival many holiday companies who specialise in this kind of venture.

The school has its own modern house style tents and camping equipment, while the campsite is equipped with flushing toilets, hot and cold running water and a kitchen area which provides excellent food. We are able to keep the overall cost of the camp down by utilising our own equipment and expertise and by making use of the local amenities and attractions.

The price includes transport to and from North Wales, 2 nights (Year 7 & 8) and 3 nights (Year 9) accommodation in tents, all meals and a full programme of activities.

It is our intention to give as any pupils as possible this great experience although we will consider attendance and discipline records of pupils.

## Easter News Letter 2010 – SKI TRIP



During the February half term (2010) 30 pupils & staff ventured on the annual 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 participated on a 5 day ski course which included 4 hours of instruction per day with qualified, English speaking school instructors. The town proved an excellent place for our school offering everything that was needed for all ages and abilities.

On top of the skiing, the pupils had an excellent variety of evening entertainment. There were plenty of Après Ski activities for pupils to enjoy, such as the very popular and fun relaxing evening at Europe's largest health Spa, Caldea Paradise Spa Resort.

It gives us pleasure to say that the trip to Andorra was a great success, largely as a direct result of the behavior and attitude of the 24 young people who travelled with us. All pupils were a credit to our school and their families and on behalf of the staff, who greatly enjoyed their company, we would like to congratulate them all on their maturity and reliability throughout this trip.

All pupils coped with the long journey, inclement weather and the physical challenge with good humour and enthusiasm.

Thank you to those parents once again for allowing their child the opportunity to go on what we know was an educational learning experience, enabling them to acquire physical skills and knowledge, environmental awareness as well as developing both personally and socially.

**We are now currently organising our fourth ski trip to Europe for 2011. See Mr Fletcher who will be more than happy to provide you with more details.**

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### School Term Dates: September 2010 to July 2011

#### **Autumn Term 2010**

<b>Opens on</b>	<b>Closes on</b>
Monday 6 September (All Years)	Friday 22 October
Monday 1 November	Friday 17 December

#### **Spring Term 2011**

Tuesday 4 January	Friday 18 February
Tuesday 1 March	Friday 15 April

#### **Summer Term 2011**

Tuesday 3 May	Friday 27 May
Monday 6 June	Thursday 21 July

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#### **Please note:**

Bank Holiday – school closed to all:  
Good Friday 22 April 2011  
May Day Monday 2 May 2011

Staff Training Days - school closed to pupils:  
Friday 22 October 2010  
Monday 28 February 2011