

## SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2008/2009

Term starts on Wednesday 03.09.08 for Y7 and 11 and on Thursday 04.09.08 for Y8, 9 and 10.

<u>AUTUMN TERM 2008</u>	<u>School Closes</u>	<u>Re-Opens</u>
Half Term Break	Thursday 23rd October 2008	Monday 3rd November 2008
Christmas Break	Friday 19th December 2008	Monday 5th January 2009
<u>SPRING TERM 2009</u>		
Half Term Break	Friday 13th February 2009	Tuesday 24th February 2009
Easter Break	Friday 3rd April 2009	Monday 20th April 2009
<u>SUMMER TERM 2009</u>		
Half Term Break	Friday 22nd May 2009	Monday 1st June 2009
Close For Summer	Friday 17th July 2009	

School will also be closed on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2009 for May Day Bank Holiday

During the year there are a series of staff training days, these dates are included in the above.

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2008  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2008  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2008

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS YEAR TERM STARTS FOR Y7 & Y11 ON WEDNESDAY 03.09.08.**

### YOUR VIEWS

Many thanks to all our parents who completed this years parents' survey forms. The information that you provide is very important and helps us plan for the future. The key findings are that 74% of you gave the school a good overall score and were very satisfied with the service that the school provides, 24% of new parents said that the school was better than expected with only 4% giving a negative reply. Overall 43% of parents said that the school had improved over the past year with only 1% saying that they felt that the school had got worse.

Parents that were happy with our truancy control strategy was 70%, 77.3% were pleased with our computer access and 73% approved of the school uniform, while 84% of parents said that the happiness of their child was the most important thing for them, whilst 73% stated that the strength of the school was its caring teachers and 71.8% were happy with the schools control of bullying.

The top priorities for improvement were discipline and school meal provisions. In response to these two priorities the school has developed a more robust Positive Discipline Policy and Mr Harrison has been appointed as Inclusion Manager to over see the new Restart Centre which will deal with pupils who misbehave. A new Biometric cashless system will be installed in September which will speed up the queues in the dining room which will also undergo a complete revamp in 'Eat In' area by the catering company, with new products being introduced. A new vending machine has been installed providing a range of healthy drinks. Finally we hope to install a covered eating area in the main playground during the Autumn term.



## SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers

July 2008

Yet another year speeds to a close with the promise that this could be our most successful ever. We have made progress in terms of examination results, extra-curricular activities and in planning to meet the new demands of the changed curriculum. If you take time to read the contents of this letter much of what we do is illustrated by particular examples with the important outcome being that our young people are getting better opportunities to learn and develop than ever before.

During the course of this year students have had the opportunity to take part in school trips to Paris and Andalo, bracketed by the World Tour of last summer and the New York trip of next Easter; there have been numerous out of classroom learning experiences including a whole year group visit to Eureka to look at 'Learning to Learn' and a very successful Technology Week when the whole school is reorganised to allow students to experience learning in a more active manner. If you are a reader of the Dewsbury Reporter you will have noticed the regularity of articles about activities in our school.

Most recently we have had some excellent work done with our upcoming Year 7 based on the ideas surrounding developing community spirit, sponsored generously by the Co-op and prompted by Cllr Eric Firth a governor of our school. Many of these examples are evidence of the new outlook on Teaching and Learning, strongly promoted by the government and generally welcomed by the profession; however there is a word of caution here — learning from experience is probably the best and most lasting form of learning but it is very difficult to measure in terms of examination results. This is perhaps the next major issue to be tackled.

In terms of traditional examinations we have great hopes that the Year 11 of 2008 will set us a new standard for high class performance. However in terms of KS3 SATs I am afraid the annual problem of delays means that our anticipated improved results are going to be late. The latest promise is that we will receive them on the 15th July and we will do our best to issue them by the end of term.

To conclude by looking forward: the biggest issue in September will be the publication of Kirklees' plan for Building Schools for the Future. There will be a specific set of recommendations with a six week consultation period to test public opinion. These plans will affect us directly and I will write to you, immediately after the publication, to see if there is a need to organise meetings at school to allow for opinions to be expressed.

From a personal view this has been my most rewarding year since taking up the headship of our school in 1998, for which I thank my colleagues for their willingness to do so much more than teach their lessons and simply meet their conditions of service. They also engage with constant change, which in itself is a full-time job. Now it is time for a break before the challenges of next year.

For and on behalf of the Governors, Staff and pupils of our school.



## Earlsheaton Technology College Parent/Teachers' Association

All parents/carers of pupils in the school are members of the PTA. Members meet on a monthly basis during term time to discuss matters which concern them and to hear what is happening in school. There is usually at least one member of the Senior Management Team present.

During the year the members help at a variety of school functions, e.g. Talent Show, Dance Extravaganza, Transition Evening and Open Evening. We also raise funds for the school to help buy extra equipment.

At the recent Annual General Meeting the appointments made were as follows

Chair:	Jean Reece
Vice Chair:	Stuart Irving
Joint Secretaries:	Janet Gregory Gillian North
Treasurer:	Suzanne Cardus

Although meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of the month, the meeting of the new term will be held on Thursday 11th September. This will be a more casual meeting to meet new members. We hope to see you there.

If you have any enquiries about the PTA then please contact the school office.

### English/Media Department

The English department are currently deeply immersed in top secret plans for an October residential to a highly controversial and spooky location. The only information they will disclose is that the event will require 30 well disciplined students with an interest in the supernatural from Year 8 to apply for the free weekend investigation. Further details will emerge when the spirits allow.....

Twelve motivated and talented Year 9 students have completed their GCSE in Media Studies this June and look set to break previous records with results.

Particular congratulations is due to Shannon Auty and Kate Benson who achieved A grades for their coursework.

### Revising Made Fun!!!

On Thursday 8th April, fifty Year 8 pupils (2 groups) did a Study Skills Workshop. They thought the presenter was, "really funny and he explained things really well." They also thought that they "Learnt different revision techniques."

All the students joined in and learnt a lot. Mrs Smith and Mrs Cromack were very pleased with how the day went and all students who attended received a certificate.

### Dance Extravaganza

Over 200 people, from a mixture of Secondary, Primary and Infant school ages and adults, danced on two nights at the Dance Extravaganza event, which was a great success. Miss Laycock dedicated a lot of personal time to ensure that the night ran smoothly and the dedication from all people involved was outstanding. Miss Laycock would like to thank everybody, staff, parents, pupils and all.

### Food Club! The Whole Story

The whirring of electric whisks, the clattering of pots and pans being lifted, the clang of spoons stirring a masterpiece creation and the occasional "mmmm...." Are frequent sounds which drift out of T2 on Thurs pm when Food Club is meeting and cooking.

The Food Club has been running from the end of April and through the second half-term of the summer.

The club is made of students from all year groups in school, including the Food Technology GCSE group. The GCSE students have led sessions, including providing recipes and demonstrating how to make curries.

A feature we are looking forward to next year is the addition of freshly grown vegetables provided by the Earlsheaton Horticultural GCSE group.

### Rosemary Conley

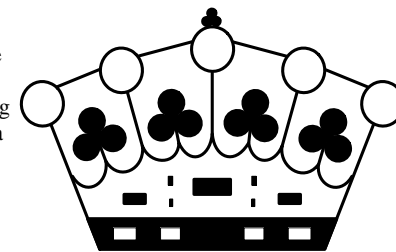
Did you know that Rosemary Conley Diet and fitness classes run every week (all year round) in our school gym? The classes are every Tuesday; the first class starts at 6pm and the second at 7.30pm Either turn up or ring Rachel on 08448 440076 for more information.



## Earlmpics the 2008 Technology Week

### EARLIMPICS 2008 UNITY THROUGH SPORTS

Each year Mr Gallagher has the unenviable task of organising the school's technology week. With the help of Mr Winder and Mrs Fry, the team put together an amazing week full of interesting and unusual events. This year's theme was based around the idea of hosting an Olympic Games style competition here at Earlsheaton. In total the school hosted events from 12 different organisations over the 5 days, finishing with an exciting closing ceremony to celebrate all the excellent work from the week. The normal routines and teaching timetables were suspended for the week, with all staff and pupils on bespoke timetables to allow a greater flexibility with the special lessons. All the departments put on innovative, dynamic and often very tiring lessons, in order to make the week an outstanding success. Pupils engaged thoroughly with lessons ranging from non traditional sports competitions, to building 2 meter high replicas of sport stadiums. Throughout the week the pupils were representing one of 6 countries as they progressed through their lessons and they were awarded medal stickers for their excellent work. After a gentle start on Monday there was a virtual flood of medals awarded, boosting the country totals and kick starting a closely run contest for overall victory, in the medal tables. At the closing ceremony there were superb performances by the dance and music groups, who had devised a closing ceremony production during the week. Mr Levey had the very rewarding task of congratulating pupils with medals awarded, on an Olympic style podium, in recognition of the hard work they completed during the week and their achievements in the non traditional sports competitions. It was fever pitched in the hall, as Mrs Fry tantalisingly revealed the final country medal totals; with an overall win for Russia over Australia by just one medal.



### Nuff Said!

The English department have launched a school magazine called 'Nuff Said!'

The magazine was launched on 14th July 2008 and there are 17 pupils, a mixture from Years 7, 8 and 9, who have helped with this creation.

### Promoting Positive Behaviour Year 6/7

The school hosted a special programme which ran over four days for the Year 6 pupils from our main feeder schools moving up to Year 7 in September.

The programme was designed to promote positive behaviour, as they move from one school to another. It involved 40 adults from outside agencies and was a great community effort involving the feeder schools, local police, Cllr Eric Firth, 3 Co-operative store managers, representatives from the Co-operative movement and Earlsheaton staff.

The whole event was funded by the Co-op 'Community Fund' to which we are grateful. Members of the Co-operative (you may have seen the new card at the Late Shop) can elect to have their dividend paid into this fund. Further information will be found by looking at the West Yorkshire Neighbourhood Police site.

### Connecting Classroom - British Council and Local Authority Programme

We are involved in a very exciting project which is designed to bring together schools in the northern part of Pakistan, with those in our pyramid. We have had a visit from colleagues who work in those schools and we will be visiting them sometime in the new year. The main organiser of this project is the British Council and obviously it could result in better understanding between our communities in the future.