

Childwall School News

No 68

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is the second Newsletter of the Spring Term 2009 and I do hope that all Parents/Carers have enjoyed an excellent start to the new year. We have had some superb news on many fronts at Childwall Sports College.

Childwall Sports College Identified as 'Most Improved Specialist School in England'

I am absolutely delighted to be able to advise Parents/Carers that Childwall Sports College has been identified by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) as 'one of the most improved specialist schools and academies in England for the period 2005-08'. Schools in this category were identified as having raised the **GCSE results for 5+ A*-C** by at least 10 percentage points.

Our percentage improvement between 2005 and 2008 was a massive 25%. This is a stunning result and I send my warmest congratulations to students and staff involved in yet another success for Childwall Sports College.

Our Sixth Form has been identified as being in the **top 7% of all schools in England** with a Sixth Form. This is a superb achievement and identifies how much **value** we add to the achievements of our young people. Currently we have over 300 students in the Sixth Form and clearly the excellent news from the Government regarding our Sixth Form indicates how well we cater for this large group of youngsters. For your information the **Year 11→12 Options Evening** took place on **12th February 2009**. Parents/Carers requiring further information should contact Mr. Cooper or Mrs. Gleeson. The

Years 12/13 Parents will take place on 25th February 2009.

Year 11: We have also received some superb news regarding the English and Maths GCSE results following the November 2008 GCSE English examinations and Modular Mathematics examinations. We are currently scheduled to meet, if not exceed, the Government's targets for **5 A-C including English and Mathematics** in 2009. It is imperative, however, that all Year 11 students attend on all occasions and continue the good work which has led to these first results. The Year 11 Parents Evening took place on 29th January 2009 when reports were distributed to all Year 11 students. All Year 11 students will take part in the Progress File Ceremony which takes place on **25th June 2009** with the **Year 11 Prom** taking place on the same evening.

Staffing: Mrs. D. Murphy was appointed to the post of Receptionist by Governors in January 2009. On 2nd February 2009 Governors appointed Mr. M. Rasmussen to the permanent post of Teacher of Mathematics. Miss S. Cooke was appointed Specialist Teacher of Dance. On 9th February 2009 Governors appointed Mr. A. Samy to the post of Teacher of Science and Miss L. Kilroe to the post of Teacher of English.

P.E./Sport: I am delighted to be able to inform all Parents/Carers that during the half-term holiday bookings have been made by some 170 youngsters for places on our **February half-term P.E./Sport** scheme. This means that during the half-term break which takes place from 16th-20th February 2009 some 850 youngsters will be participating in P.E./Sport activities at Childwall. These arrangements have been made by Miss N. Wray who is the school's Community Sports Development Officer.

Year 9: Parents/Carers will be aware that the Year 9 Options

Evening took place on 22nd January 2009. It is vitally important that Year 9 students have made the appropriate choices for the courses which they have chosen to study in September 2009, i.e. the beginning of Key Stage 4.

A special assembly was held in January to remember the events of the Holocaust. The arrangements were made by Mrs. Greenberg and Mr. Mullarkey. Aron Julius in Year 9 successfully auditioned for a part in Willy Russell's next production of **'Our Day Out'**. A group of Year 9 students are taking part in a **public speaking** contest on 14th March 2009. The arrangements are being made by Miss Stephens and Miss Conway of the English Department.

Year 10: Joseph Fallows and Emma Gilbertson, Year 10, were both successfully auditioned for parts in the Willy Russell's next production of 'Our Day Out'. We are delighted at the success of our Drama students. During January 2009 Year 10 students were involved in 'Employability Interviews' which were extremely successful. The arrangements were made by Miss Maddock who is the school's Business and Enterprise Co-ordinator.

Ski Trip: Miss Cassidy, Miss Wilde and Mr. Tyrer led a party of students from all Year Groups on a week long **ski trip to Torgon in Switzerland**. We received regular pod casts from staff and students which indicated they were having a superb time. My thanks go to the staff for the arrangements for an excellent trip.

Year 7: Swimming Club takes place every Monday at the Liverpool Aquatic Centre led by Miss Atkinson. I do hope students in Years 7 and 8 are able to participate.

Year 8: The Year 8 **Parents Evening** took place on 10th February 2009 and further details

March 2009

are available from Miss Cassidy, Miss Alecock and Miss Gall.

Year 6: We have received over **400 applications** for priority places for Year 7 in September 2009. We are obviously delighted to receive so many applications and Parents/Carers will be aware that in 2008 we were oversubscribed for places in Year 7. It is the growing and continued popularity of the school which allows us to continue to make high quality teaching appointments.

Attendance: I would ask all Parents/Carers to ensure that every effort is made to ensure 100% attendance on the part of every student in Years 7-13 inclusive.

In-service Training: All staff were involved in In-service Training on Friday, 13th February 2009. The focus of the day was to allow staff to complete contributions to the Teacher Learning Academy (**TLA**). Childwall is the only school in Liverpool to be admitted into the prestigious Teacher Learning Academy which is further indication of the professional development to which all staff at Childwall are committed.

Governors: Forthcoming **Governors** meetings are as follows:

12.2.09: Governors Buildings Health & Safety Committee

25.2.09: Governors Finance & Pay Committee

24.2.09: Full Governors

9.3.09: Governors Curriculum/SEN Committee

National Science & Engineering Week takes place during 6th and 15th March 2009 and departments at Childwall will be involved in this significant project. During this week the **Science** department will be holding a special series of activities. The arrangements are being made by Mrs. Naidu who is the school's Key Stage 3 Science Co-ordinator.

Fiveways Trust: As Parents/Carers know Childwall Sports College is a member of the Fiveways Trust which is the only such Trust established in Liverpool. We have close links through our P.E./Sport specialism with Everton Football Club and on 14th March 2009 we will be visiting the match as guests of Everton FC. In addition a group of Key Stage 4 youngsters will be playing against their counterparts from Broadgreen in a match taking place during the half-time period.

School closes for the Spring Term on Friday, **3rd April 2009** at 3.10 p.m. Parents/Carers will know I have already advised that there will be no half day closure and this practice has now ended. Merit Ceremonies will take place during the week beginning 30th March 2009. As always if any Parents/Carers have any issues which they wish to raise with the school regarding their son/daughter they should contact in the first instance the appropriate Pupil Progress Leader.

Best wishes D.W. Phillips,

Employability Skills at Childwall Sports College

Recently all Year 10 students undertook interviews with employers as part of the school's drive to ensure that all students leave Childwall Sports College with high level skills to ensure employability. We were delighted to receive a large number of employers to undertake the professional interviews. Students had to provide employers with a curriculum vitae and letter of application and the interviews were extremely rigorous with feedback being given. This was an excellent learning opportunity for our youngsters which was managed by Miss Maddock who is the school's Business and Enterprise Co-ordinator.



"Our Year 10 students all take part in a two week Work Experience programme during the course of this year and these employability interviews will hold our students in good stead for the real life world of work skills of which we are prioritising at Childwall Sports College."

Dewi Phillips, Headteacher.

Year 8

We had a superb turn-out for the Year 8 Parents Evening which took place on 10th February 2009. Parents will know that we ran a raffle and am delighted to say that the parents of Jack Fitzgibbon, Group 81, won the £40 voucher for a meal at our local Chinese Restaurant the 'Peking Garden'. We are most grateful to the Peking Garden for providing us with this excellent prize.

D.W. Phillips, Headteacher.

Frank Bus

The Talk to Frank bus came into school on 11th February to educate young people about the dangers of taking drugs.



Drama Stars at Childwall Sports College

Students at Childwall Sports College have recently been successful in auditioning for parts in Willy Russell's new production of 'Our Day Out'. Aaron Julius, Year 9 and Joseph Fallows, Year 10 and Emma Gilbertson, Year 10 have gained parts in the production. Unfortunately, during the taking of the photograph Emma Gilbertson was absent as she was taking part in yet another school activity involving Dance. We wish all three the best of fortune during Willy Russell's forthcoming rehearsals.



"We have an exceptionally successful Drama Department at Childwall Sports College. In the past many of our students have gone on to become professional actors and we are thrilled that Aaron, Emma and Joseph will be taking part in 'Our Day Out'. I am sure they will go on to make careers for themselves on the stage."

Dewi Phillips, Headteacher.

'Britain's Got Talent' Stars at Childwall Sports College

Three Year 9 students at Childwall Sports College, Alvin Christie, Abbie Morton and Sydnie Sorby have reached the national finals of the 'Britain's Got Talent' competition which will take place in London commencing in February 2009 and televised in April 2009. Alvin, Abbie and Sydnie are part of a dance group which has been practising for months and is delighted to reach the national finals. The Street Dance incorporates elements of drama and has been produced by the youngsters themselves in conjunction with MD Productions with the theme of opposing violence.



"I am thrilled that Alvin, Abbie and Sydnie have reached the national finals of 'Britain's Got Talent'. They certainly do have talent. I look forward to hearing some wonderful news of the finals which take place later in the year. My best wishes go to Alvin, Abbie and Sydnie."

Dewi Phillips, Headteacher.

Animations in Geography

The pupils in Year 8 recently made animations using digital blue technology of coastal landforms when studying a topic on coastal environments. By completing this activity the pupils were given



an opportunity to enhance their ICT skills whilst learning about key processes in Geography. All pupils enjoyed the task and produced outstanding pieces of work. Well done to all the pupils in 8A1.

D Mc Nally

Seal Students at Childwall Sports College

Childwall Sports College is piloting a Department for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) initiative known as Social & Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL). Recently Miss Cassidy and Miss Alecock, joint Heads of Year 8, undertook a session with all Year 8 students looking at Social & Emotional Education where the theme was to ensure that the students responded at all times



positively to the new curriculum developments at Childwall and were urged to make positive choices regarding the option system which is commencing in Year 8 at Childwall and also to ensure the highest quality Learning & Teaching. The session was led by Miss Cassidy and a very positive response was gleaned from all students, who enjoyed the experience of working together as a Year Group.

First Aid Training

Year 9 pupils within PSE are being taught basic First Aid Training. The course



is led by Student Doctors from Liverpool University who instruct the pupils in what to do in an emergency.

B. Thomas

www.childwallsportscentre.co.uk

Fitness Suite use for Childwall Students - 3.00pm - 4.00pm every night.

The February Half Term Holiday Programme, Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2009, will be launched on Monday 5th January 2009. Bookings will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Adult Gym Membership Available - No Joining Fees, No contracts, Just Pay as you USE! £15.00 per month.

Best Sixth Form in Liverpool and the North West!

In the most recent HMI Report from Government on performance in the Sixth Form confirms that Childwall Sports College is the best performing Sixth Form in Liverpool and indeed the Northwest of England. The figures show that Childwall Sports College is amongst the top 7% of all Sixth Forms in schools in England. Childwall Sports



College's Sixth Form numbers over 300 students with a wide variety of courses designed to ensure that students achieve at the highest levels. Students pictured were obviously delighted at the success of Childwall Sports College's Sixth Form which is led by Mr. Steve Cooper and Mrs. Louise Gleeson.

"This is a magnificent achievement and shows the depth of commitment on the part of staff at Childwall to ensuring that the potential within every student is maximised."

Dewi Phillips, Headteacher.

Health at Childwall Sports College

A group of Sixth Form students at Childwall Sports College have been successfully nominated to take part in the Liverpool Local Authority's Health Mates Scheme for 2009. David Musembi, Liam Riley, Adain Iniabere, Lisa Nkiwane



and Stephen Kelly will work alongside the Specialist P.E. Staff to enhance the opportunities for students of all ages to take part in health and sporting activities. In addition the students will work alongside Primary Teachers to engage young people in healthy living and sporting activities. The students are also involved in the Millennium Volunteer Scheme.

Duke of Edinburgh Award at Childwall Sports College

Large numbers of Childwall Sports College students in Key Stages 3 and 4 are embarking on the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The team of staff here is led by Mr. Stuart Cheetham of the school's P.E./Sport Faculty with help from other staff. Currently we have 15 students working towards the Gold Award with



over 30 in the Silver and Bronze category. Staff are currently planning the expeditions and community service which will allow students to be successful at the highly prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Award. Childwall Sports College expects to have some 15 youngsters all currently in the school's large Sixth Form achieving the Gold Award in 2009.

"The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a fantastic opportunity for our students to test themselves and to work on behalf of others."

Dewi Phillips, Headteacher.

Rugby Results

Childwall 5
Cardinal Heenan 39

The Year 9 rugby team suffered their first defeat of the season at the end of January against a strong Cardinal Heenan team. Conditions were heavy underfoot and Childwall battled hard from the start. Unfortunately for Childwall, despite dominating



in the scrum, our 'big' players didn't play well (notably in attack) and thus most of the game was played in our half. As the game wore on, we got tired and let in a few soft tries. Jack Coulson scored Childwall's only try after a great solo burst from the halfway line in the second half, beating 4 or 5 defenders in the process. Best players for Childwall were Paul Major, Jack Coulson, Ryan Janny and Anthony Murphy.

Chinese New Year

The 26th of January was the Chinese New Year day. It is the Year of the Ox. The Chinese believe that people born in a particular year take on the characteristics of the animal. If you are born under the Year of the Ox, you are a good leader, hard working, good organiser and loyal to your friends. On



Thursday 22nd of January, Katie Zhao's parents came to Childwall to cook and demonstrate Chinese cooking to Mrs. Emery classes. Staff and pupils were invited to taste the food at lunchtime. Pupils also worked in the Art Department on Chinese writing for display. A big thank you to all our Chinese students who worked very hard to make the delicious food and clear up at the end of the day.

Marcelle Greenberg (Bilingual Support)

Eco Warriors at Childwall Sports College

Childwall Sports College is committed to ensuring that the Eco Agenda is kept as one of our priorities. Mr. Crispin, Head of Science and Miss McNally, Key Stage 3 Humanities Co-ordinator have selected students from all Year Groups to act as Eco School Representatives 2008-09. The students have already planned a number of activities to improve further the superb environment at Childwall Sports College and over the next few weeks they will be planting shrubs and trees to enhance the learning environment both inside and outside the school. The school takes its responsibility to the environment very seriously and we are delighted to find so many students anxious to join in.



Pictured are students from Year 7.

Skiing Expedition

The large party of youngsters led by Miss Cassidy, Miss Wilde and Mr. Tyrer left Liverpool John Lennon Airport with warm clothing in readiness for the week's skiing in Torgon, Switzerland. Students from all Year Groups 7-13 arrived safely in Torgon and had a most enjoyable first evening with an excellent meal. The skiing began the following day with superb reports from staff about the attitude and skill of our young skiers. A feature of the ski trip this year was the daily ski blog sent from Torgon which told us that many of the group ventured into nearby France to sample the different slopes with beginners making good progress on the



'home slope'. The first evening saw our youngsters involved in a special skiing bingo competition with Adam Fairclough and Niall Ellison both winners.

Year 7 September 2009

Again we are oversubscribed in terms of numbers for Year 7 in September 2009. This obviously creates a waiting list and we are in touch with all those Parents/Carers who may have been unsuccessful in gaining a place at Childwall Sports College in September 2009.

D.W. Phillips, Headteacher.

World Book Day 5th March

Poet John Hughes came to Childwall School to help us celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. John worked with students from Years 7, 8, & 9 on looking at rhymes and encouraging the students



to write their own humorous limericks after performing a few of his own. John also looked at how words can make us feel and worked with students to produce a poem involving all 5 senses.

Team Building at the Trust

The Fiveways Trust was established in April 2008 as the first Charitable Trust on Merseyside. The School Partners included Childwall Sports College, Broadgreen International School, The Primary Care Trust (PCT), John Moores University and Hope University. One of the main aims of the Trust is to enhance the opportunities for the 2,500 students currently studying at Childwall and Broadgreen and to continue to raise the attainment and achievement of the young people from 11-19 who attend both schools. An objective of the Trust is to ensure that staff at both Childwall and Broadgreen work closely together and a team building exercise was commissioned by the Chief Executive of the Trust, Denise Barrett-Baxendale.



John Moores University made the arrangements for a 'cooking' competition to be held by 16 staff drawn from both schools with the teams mixed. Staff were briefed by colleagues at John Moores University and given 2 hours to produce a high quality five course menu. Amongst the meals prepared by the teams were the following: Goats cheese parcel with spiced salsa; Pomegranate sorbet; stuffed Portobello mushrooms; Moroccan lamb with chick peas and apricot served on a bed of red pepper couscous followed by a choice of either Caramel Apple Betty with cream or Ginger and Syrup Cheesecake.

"Staff certainly learned a lot about each other during the 2 hours. We were delighted to find high quality teamwork resulting in excellent food but more importantly a knowledge and understanding of how colleagues at both schools can work together which can only increase the achievements of our young people."

Dewi Phillips, Head teacher.

Travel and Tourism

The Travel and Tourism and Spanish Departments have been delighted to welcome Mr García from the IES Hurtado de Mendoza School, in Granada, southern Spain. Mr García is at Childwall School until the summer as part of a European Union Exchange programme for teachers. He has already made a great impact within the departments. Mr García has been holding Spanish conversation classes for Spanish GCSE, NVQ and A Level students and has delivered lessons on the future trends of the Spanish tourism industry in A Level Travel and Tourism lessons. Mr García is impressed with the City of Liverpool. He describes the people as warm, welcoming and chatty! He is impressed with how helpful people are. Mr García has commented on the amount of opportunities available to our students. He plans to travel around the UK during his time with us.



If parents have any queries regarding their children's education they should contact the school immediately.

Yours sincerely

D.W. Phillips
Headteacher

Fiveways, Queens Drive, Liverpool, L15 6XZ.

TEL: 0151 722 1561

FAX: 0151 737 1698

e-mail admin@childwallsc.co.uk

Modern Foreign Languages

Adam Fairclough, a Year 13 Spanish A level student, has been working with Miss Hafford's 9A1 Spanish class. Adam has been taking small groups of students and setting them language challenges in Spanish. For example, one week the groups had to complete a listening comprehension by listening to a Spanish song about Fernando Torres! Adam hopes to study at University next year, but is keen to continue working with our Spanish students!



Two more of our A level students, Lauren Porter and Adam Yip, attended classes in Liverpool University's Spanish Department as part of the Aimhigher Undergraduate Student Shadowing Programme. They attended classes in Spanish conversation, translation, Spanish film and had the opportunity to attend a lesson in catalan. They saw the day as a great way to gain an insight into studying Spanish at university!

Charity Appeals

We are still collecting old mobile phone handsets for our Royal Society for the Blind appeal. The phones are exchanged for funds which will enable the Liverpool Blind School in Wavertree to buy guide dogs for the children. This collection will continue throughout the year so please keep them coming!

I am collecting used stamps for a charity which is hoping to save the albatross from being killed in fishing nets at sea. If you would like to help with this please send any stamps into school and I will send them to the charity for you.

LL Bannister.

website www.childwallsc.co.uk