



SPOTLIGHT

SPROWSTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 18 July 2009

If the school sends out children with a desire for knowledge and some idea of how to acquire it and use it, it will have done its work.

Richard Livingstone

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers

July will see 16 colleagues moving on to pastures new. Some, Tony Rutherford (21 years), Nadina Johnston (20 years), Liz Barker (21 years), and Christine Dearson (18 years), are long standing members of staff and I 'thank them' on behalf of the Governing Body for their commitment over many years to the school, its children and the community.

The other colleagues leaving are: Ed Elmy and Eleanor Allsop (Science); Vicky Mash (Maths); Lee Deary and Wendy Fuller (D&T); Barry Rainbird (ICT); Claire Gregon (PE); Mel Plunkett (Premises); Katharine Jackson (English); Jason Moore, Miles Smith (SEN Team) and Phillippa Jenkins (Student Liaison Officer) . We wish them all well.

We also say goodbye temporarily to three of our colleagues who are commencing their maternity leave: Helen Watts (Deputy Headteacher); Naomi Hanner (English) and Hannah Seaman (Creative Arts). We send them our good wishes.

The new school year will bring many new colleagues to the team (who I will introduce in September) and new opportunities are being created with new doors opened for our young people and indeed our community.

In the meantime 'enjoy' an excellent, long summer!

Best wishes
Andrew John, Headteacher

YEAR 10

It is now nearly the end of a very successful year for Year 10 and, as I write this, we are preparing for Activities Week – I am sure the students will enjoy the different activities.

Work experience has been very rewarding for many students and it was fantastic to go round and talk to students and employers – always with the same reaction that the students are working well! I hope that it has stimulated interest in future plans and clarified ideas about what to do!

When the students return in September it will soon be time to start visiting **6th Form Open days** both here for the Kett, at City College and maybe at other Schools. Whatever plans your son or daughter has, it is vitally important that they start to think now about what they want to do in a year's time. Do try to talk to them during the summer and encourage them to do research.

Some students are regularly late for registration in the mornings, please encourage them to stop this bad habit as there will continue to be lots of important information given out then.



One of our fantastic tutors Ms Deary is leaving Sprowston this summer and I am sure you will all join with me in wishing her all the best in her new teaching post at Wymondham College. She has been a wonderful form tutor and I am sure that her form will miss her.

On a personal note, as many of you know, I shall not be here in September as I am leaving teaching (at least for a short while!). It is very difficult to leave the students in my year group at this stage of their education but I am sure they will be well looked after by their tutors and Ms Sully.

I have been at Sprowston for 21 years so it is time for a change! During those 21 years I have met many wonderful people – students, parents and colleagues – and I have many memories to take with me. I do wish all the students, particularly of course those in my year group, every success and happiness for the future – good luck to you all!

Mrs Barker, Head of Year 10

Shine Week 6-10th July 2009

The Creative Partnerships group have been involved in many activities as part of their project this year. The 19 Year 7 students took part in storytelling, film-making, capoeira and sculpting and had a fantastic time at our feeder schools and the adventure park, BeWILDerwood.

As the project draws to a close, we have chosen to celebrate their talent by joining the Shine festivities. This means that you can view their video and details about the project if you visit www.shineweek.co.uk and search 'Sprowston High'.

Our Shine Event took place on Monday 6th July when we had a special assembly in recognition of the amazing success that the Creative Partnerships group had with their project. The whole of Year 7 (who were involved in creating the stories on February 3rd 2009) enjoyed watching the film that was made. Certificates and special treats were awarded to the group who should be really proud of themselves!

In addition to this, the Evening News chose our school's project to be the focus of Norfolk Shine 2009. Four students, Morrighan and Leannan Humpleby and Justine and Sophie Pendrill went to the Evening News photographic studios to take part in a professional photoshoot. This was featured on Wednesday 9th July in the Evening News and in related media coverage of Norfolk Shine events.

They truly are incredibly talented! Well done!

Miss Harvey



CONNEXIONS

A guide for parents and carers

What is Connexions?

Connexions is a support service for 13-19 years olds, developed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and young people themselves. It works alongside parents and carers to give young people the opportunity to fulfil their full potential.

It does not replace the support that parents give, but builds on it to make sure your child gets the right information, advice and guidance to help them make choices about their future.

What does a Personal Adviser (PA) do?

Connexions Norfolk Personal Advisers work in the Schools and Community offering free impartial advice, guidance, information and support to young people. Personal Advisers give advice and guidance on careers, higher education, training, job search and employment. Personal Advisers also listen to and support your son or daughter to help them tackle any other personal issues or worries affecting them which may present a barrier to their progress,

If your son or daughter has a learning difficulty or disability (LDD), we also offer specialist Personal Advisers via our LDD Team.

How can Connexions help my son or daughter?

Working in partnership with a wide range of other agencies, we offer support on:

- Making choices about careers and education.
- Options for courses and training opportunities
- Health, relationships and bullying.
- Managing finances
- Leaving care
- Living with disability
- Housing issues

Any other issue affecting your son or daughter.

Connexions aims to smooth a young person's path through the challenges that face them, helping them to understand what is available to them as individuals. It does this by providing a range of services to young people, all of them free to access:

- Personal Advisers, to provide personalized guidance and support to young person.
- Publications to help them make choices about their future.
- Connexions Centres, where they can find information about a wide range of issues important to them. Your local Connexions Centre, contains a comprehensive library of resources. Websites-Information is also available through the Connexions Norfolk websites below.

www.helpyouchoose.org

www.talkaboutyou.org.

Connexions Norfolk website is one-stop site for young people in Norfolk; it contains plenty of information about jobs, courses, finances and a huge range of other issues, with useful contracts and links to other websites.

www.connexions-direct.com - National Connexions Website.

Want to learn more? There is information about Connexions aimed at parents/carers at www.connexions-Norfolk.co.uk/parentscarers

For appointment contact : Angela Okoro on 01603 215343 or 07717867766 or email aokoro@connexions-norfolk.co.uk

Angela is also available at OPEN, 20 Bank Plain, Norwich, NR2 4SF. 01603 215300.

Letters from the Learning Zone

The Learning Zone says a fond farewell to Mr Moore, Mr Smith and Miss Dixon. At the end of this term three members of our team will be moving on to pastures new.

Mr Moore has been successful in gaining a place on the Graduate Training Programme. He will no doubt be remembered for his wicked sense of humour. In the classroom, he was in his element, sharing his passion for literature and inspiring many of our young students to give classic novels a second look, as well as to enjoy writing themselves.

Mr Smith is also leaving to develop his skills as a teacher. He has shown great sensitivity to the needs of our children and helped the department enormously.

Miss Dixon leaves the Learning Zone, but continues at Sprowston in the role of Instructor of Food Technology. She has devoted much time and effort into the development of our lunchtime club to provide the highest standard of pastoral care for our children. With her wealth of experience in the Catering Industry, her winning smile, energy and enthusiasm, the school has quite wisely snapped her up as a member of the Teaching Staff!

We have enjoyed working with such talented colleagues and wish them every success.

**Mr C Davies
SEN Co-ordinator**

"Sprowston Spuds" raising funds for The Big C Centre

On a scorching Wednesday afternoon, the allotment club members harvested their potatoes. It was great fun and produced a bumper crop. Earlier in the year the children had suggested we sell the potatoes to raise money for charity. Their chosen charity was the Big C centre at the hospital, which provides information and support for families affected by cancer. This was the inspiration for "Sprowston Spuds".

The potatoes were carefully weighed, packaged and sold within the school community raising a total of £41. Marcus Abbs (Year 7) who was responsible for marketing said, "It has been great fun because I love gardening - it has been a great experience for me". The feedback from those who bought potatoes has been overwhelmingly positive, "they were delicious.....!"

We hope the children will develop a life-long love of gardening and we are proud that they have used their newly- learned skills to benefit others.

We plan to build on this success and make it an annual event.

Fiona Leggett
Allotment Club LSA



Year 8

Year 8 has flown by and I cannot believe that we are almost facing Year 9 already! Where has the time gone? This year has been another exceptional one with good attendance by students, many successful collapsed curriculum days and interforms, form competitions and academic excellence. Well done to Year 8 for a great year. Year 9 is a very important year. Not only is it the end of Key Stage 3 to monitor progress of students in subjects, but is time to look to the future and decide on option subjects to take for GCSE.

I would like to say congratulations to 8HR who have won the Summer Challenge for a second year running – well done!

A big thank you to all the Year 8 tutors for their help and support of their tutees this year.

Have a restful and enjoyable summer break – you have earned it. We will see you in September for another busy year! Miss Dawbarn

Italy Trip I would like to thank all the superb 30 students who attended the Italy trip last week. It was a huge success. We visited Rome's famous sites including The Vatican, Sistine Chapel, Roman Forum, The Colosseum, The Spanish Steps and Trevi Fountain. We also followed in the footsteps of the ancient Romans and walk through the streets of Pompeii and climbed to the summit of Mount Vesuvius. The weather during the week reached in excess of 30 degrees! The behaviour of the students was exceptional throughout and was mentioned by many of our tour guides on the trip. Well done and thank you for such a memorable week!

Miss Dawbarn, Mrs Hewitt, Mr Utting and Ms Copsey

