



# SPOTLIGHT

## SPROWSTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 September 2009

Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere  
- Chinese Proverb

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

I wish to formally welcome all our new colleagues to the 'community'.

Mr Bugdale:	DT graphics
Mr Daubney:	Science
Ms Dixon:	DT
Mrs Dyer:	PE
Mr Endressen:	Maths
Mrs Gallagher:	Cover
Mrs Hansell:	Admin
Mrs Harris:	SEN
Mrs Henderson:	English
Mr Ibrahim:	Maths
Mrs Servant:	Humanities
Mrs Grand:	SEN
Mr Trubshaw:	Science
Ms Pearce:	Cover
Ms Campbell:	Creative Arts

We wish them all a happy and successful time with us.

Best Wishes

**Andrew John , Headteacher**

### **Request for Holiday Absence**

All schools discourage absence due to holidays in term time. There is an obvious link between excellent attendance and excellent academic results and we would all wish our students to achieve their potential in school in order to increase their chance in their chosen career, whatever that might be.

The Norfolk absence request form highlights this.

**Please note: Taking your child out of school during term time could be detrimental to your child's educational progress**

It is difficult for students to make up this learning especially, for example, in Year's 7, 8 and 9 when a two week holiday means missing 6 hours of teaching in English, Maths and Science and in Year's 10 and 11 essential coursework is missed as well as examination practice.

The request form also states that the Headteacher has the right to refuse permission based upon;

- 1. The child's previous attendance history**
- 2. The child's stage of education.**
- 3. The time of year ( exams).**
- 4. Whether the parents are restricted in terms of leave from their employer.**

At Sprowston Community High School we have agreed that we cannot authorise student absence at the following times:

Year 7 in term 1 when students are coming to terms with a new school and forming friendships .

Year 10 in term 3, the summer term, when they will be taking modular science examinations and sitting mock examinations which we know to be a key element in preparing for GCSEs.

Most students will also be taking GCSEs in English and some students sitting Maths in November so essential teaching is taking place in the summer term therefore any absence will have this detrimental effect as outlined on the form.

No holiday absence is authorised in Year 11 as students are preparing for examinations.

In addition to the reasons above, we feel we cannot authorise holiday absence for those students whose record of attendance is below the school target of 94%.

Please be assured that our response to holiday absence has our students' best educational interests at heart.

**Mrs Vera Beames**  
**Assistant Headteacher KS3 Achievement/Attainment**

**ARTS, PERFORMANCE & MEDIA EVENTS 2009 / 2010 TERM 1**

	EVENT	DETAILS	GROUP
<b>Sept</b>	Community Choir	Sprowston Community Choir – open to all members of the community meets every Monday evening.	Monday evening 7pm / School Hall - All Welcome
22	“Gothic” Cross-curricular project	Cross Curricular project linking Arts / English run in conjunction with The Start Project – Special pre-show talk with the Norfolk’s Rose writer Bart Lee.	All Year 8 students in the main Hall period 5
22	“Gothic” Cross-curricular project	Auditions for students to play the “Ghost” in The Playhouse Theatre production of “Norfolk’s Rose”	Selected Key Stage 3 Drama students
24	Community Partners Meeting	Representatives for Partner schools and the wider community meeting 2.00pm Community Room	Partner schools and the wider community.
29	NR5 / Future Radio	G&T Heritage Broadcasting & Production Project Linked to National Arts Awards, Tuesday mornings	Year 9 G&T Students
30	“Gothic” Cross-curricular project	Cross Curricular project linking Arts / English faculties giving cultural opportunities to younger students. Year 8 Students to see “Norfolk’s Rose”	All Year 8 students visit Norwich Playhouse to see ghost story, Norfolk’s Rose
30	Creative Arts visit	Arts curricular visit to Cromer and Sheringham – re: Norfolk landscape studies.	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Art and Photography students
<b>8 Oct</b>	Arts Governors Committee meeting	Arts Status school liaison meeting 5.00pm	Arts Governors and Associate Governors Representatives
<b>9</b>	“Lotte Mullen”	Performance by local singer / songwriter. Special assembly and workshops	Year 10 Assembly KS3/4 Music workshops
<b>21</b>	Cinema City	Film Documentary ‘The Age of Stupid’, morning screening 10.00 to 12.30 at Cinema City.	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Media students
tbc	Arts Strategic Management Group	Strategic Planning Group for Arts Development & Management	Key Stakeholders
<b>4 Nov</b>	Anti-bullying Day	Collapsed curriculum day based around the anti-bullying strategies	All Year 7 students
10	Exchange Radio	Radio broadcast to be delivered by students and community members on Exchange Radio – 87.7fm.	Student and community production
15	Grassroots Theatre Group from Zimbabwe	Special Cross-curricular Performance on ‘Fair trade’ as part of Black History Month. Special Cross-curricular Performance on ‘Music and culture and instrumentalism from Zimbabwe’.	All Year 9 students  All Year 7 students
18/19/20	**“The Revenge”	School Play – Drama and Performance Arts students perform a comedy farce by writer Simon Brett.	Open event – School hall All welcome
tbc	Rambert Dance Company	Students visit the Theatre Royal to see Rambert Dance Company 2009.	Year 11 Dance & G&T Science students
<b>Dec</b> tbc	“Chicago”	Students visit to the awarding winning Musical ‘Chicago’ at the Norwich Theatre Royal.	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Performance Arts students
10/11	**The Christmas Show	A Christmas Extravaganza, featuring a huge cast of students. Year 7 supported by other Year groups.	Open event – School hall All welcome

\*\* Major productions / events are open to all students, parents / friends / colleagues / staff and members of the wider community.

## Actors from the ghost-story, 'Norfolk's Rose' meet Year 8 students

On 22nd September actors from Norfolk's Rose visited our school to give a special pre-show assembly to all our Year 8 students who will be seeing the play later this month. The students really enjoyed working with the actors on how to use different styles of character acting to set the mood and atmosphere.



## **Future Dates for Arts Cross-curricular Projects by Year Group**

### **Yr 7 – Music & Instrumentation from Zimbabwe; 15<sup>th</sup> October period 2**

Yr. 7 Performance by Grassroots Theatre (Music from different cultures as part of Black History Month, SMSC, ECM\* and English)

**Anti-Bullying Collapsed Curriculum Day; 4<sup>th</sup> November** (ECM, SMSC\*)

**Christmas Production Spectacular- 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> December** (Year 7 & 6<sup>th</sup> Form students with Half-term rehearsal workshops (Performance Arts, ECM, SMSC\*))

**Yr 8 - Gothic Project; 30<sup>th</sup> September** - students see Norfolk's Rose at the Norwich Playhouse theatre as part of the Gothic Project in English & Arts.

**Murder Mystery** (Maths& Arts) all Year group – date to be confirmed.

**Yr 9 - 'Fair Trade' Performance by Grassroots Theatre; 15<sup>th</sup> October Period 3**

(Citizenship, Geography & Arts - SMSC & ECM\*)

**NR5 Future Radio, Gifted & Talented Heritage Project starts; 29<sup>th</sup> September**

(Media & Heritage, ECM & SMSC). The project runs for 12 weeks.

### **All Year Groups**

**'The Revenge' 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November** – A whole school cast of students perform a comedy, farce by Simon Brett. Rehearsals begin 23<sup>rd</sup> September (Arts, ECM, SMSC\*)

**'Fusion' Cross-curricular projects on Cultural Diversity** projects begin in partner schools and wider community after half-term, with partner schools and the wider community. (Community Cohesion, ECM, SMSC & Arts).

\*SMSC - Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education

\*ECM - Every Child Matters

**For details of all Arts Events this term please see the Arts Calendar which is on the school web-site and the Arts Zone which can be accessed from the main menu.**

**Margaret Quigley**

## **YEAR 7**

The start of this term witnessed the Year 7 visits to the Whitlingham Outdoor Education Centre. Stretching over three days, students were given the opportunity to get involved in various land and water based activities including sailing, canoeing, kayaking, raft building and archery. Here is what some of our students had to say about their experiences:

“It was great, can I go again?”

Lewis

“Whitlingham was the best trip ever!”

Callum

“Awesome, Great Nice!”

Danny

“Great, Exciting day!”

Callum

“Great, I loved getting soaked”

Emily

“Whitlingham was great fun, I wish I could go again”

Millie

Simon Cowell, Dannii Minogue, Cheryl Cole, Louis Walsh and Mr Bidle! It could only mean one thing, the launch of the Year 7 ‘S’ factor. Students deemed to have the famed ‘S’ factor, will receive a certificate and a ‘big up’ in assembly, to gain this status they must collect 10 good news slips. The race is on to see who will be the first contender.

Congratulations to the form of 7TH for their great attendance last week, they are presently top of the attendance charts for Year 7 and in recognition of this received a box of chocolates to share. Prizes for individual’s high attendance figures will follow later in the year and I cannot over emphasise the importance placed on ensuring your child is here as often as possible.

Football, Netball, Break Dancing, Folk club, Basketball, Orchestra, Climbing Club, Rugby Club.....

....and that’s just a hint of extra curricular activity currently on offer to the Year 7 students, but I bet they don’t always come home and tell you about them; I am sure you are as keen as I am for your child to get involved.

**Mr Bidle**

**Head of Year 7**

## **YEAR 8**

### **Attendance**

Year 8 have settled well and we are pleased that our attendance for the term so far is 95.1% . It would have been considerably higher however several students have been removed from school for family holidays which has brought the numbers down. We are a priority school for attendance this year and Year 8 is the time when attendance can start to slip. If you are worried and need support with attendance please contact us at school.

### **SAS**

Sprowston Action Survival was given a great start when SAS-Go came into our assembly on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September to launch the survival competition. The closing date for short stories about survival is Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September. The winning entry will be chosen by SAS-Go and will win an adult and a child place on a bush craft course.

### **New recruits**

Using the motto of the SAS – **He Who Dares Wins** – we have challenged the year group to show us what they can do in English lessons this week and are pleased that the following students have been recognised for their achievements

Ellie Bradford  
Lee Coppin  
Ben Shorten  
Adam Dyson

Adam has written a wonderful short story which can be downloaded from here <http://www.sprowstonhigh.org/cms/pupilzone/year-8.html>

It is called **The Door** and it takes us on a roller coaster ride through Adam's imagination as his hero, Daniel, explores parallel worlds and discovers a meaning and purpose in his life. What talent we have in Year 8!

### **Start project**

On Weds 30<sup>th</sup> Sept the whole of year are attending a performance at Norwich Playhouse as part of the start project. The play is called 'Norfolk's Rose' and it has a Gothic theme.

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

We hosted a Year Coffee Morning on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September to raise money for Cancer research. 8DK made a selection of cakes and buns to sell at the event

### **Uniform**

Can we remind all parents that girl's skirts should be knee length and plain black with no frills and that nail varnish is not to be worn. We are also asking that all students wear proper schools shoes and not the black plimsolls which made an appearance last year. These are flimsy and not suitable for the rigours of school life. If you are unsure please drop us a line and we'll help with any uniform problems

### **The Year 8 Team**

**Sue Worley, Anna Cook and Pete Sewell**

## **Year 9**

I am pleased to report that Year 9 have had a brilliant start to the new academic year. I have set them a challenge to work hard and settle down well by collecting good news slips. We will have a prize draw on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October for students to win Chapelfield vouchers for their hard work. I have already received 50 names to go into the draw! I will keep you updated of the lucky winners.

A 16 week programme for 15 Gifted and Talented students called the NR5 project will begin on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September. The project is based around the theme of Heritage and Media and works in partnership with Future Radio. The project also has cross curriculum themes linked to history, English, Media and Citizenship. Good luck to those students who are involved.

Well done to the Year 9 boys football team who played Thorpe High School and beat them 9-0! Bradley Waterman and Cain Eagleton both scored 4 goals each and Luis Tibbles scored also. Well done to Jack Goldsworthy for a detailed match report. Well done boys!

We are being visited by the Grassroots Theatre Company for a performance scheduled on Thursday the 15th October. This performance has a number of cross curriculum themes based around Geography and Citizenship as well as being part of Black History Month.

**Miss Dawbarn**  
**Head of Year 9**

## **Kett Quiz Evening**

The quiz evening was a great success with 130 people enjoying the quiz and nibbles and raising a fantastic total of £430. This will make a real difference towards student well-being as it will be used to purchase furniture for the sixth form social facilities. Many thanks to all students, teachers, parents and friends who took part and congratulations to the winning team of science teachers.

**Cathy Askham**  
**Deputy Director of Sixth Form**