



SPOTLIGHT

SPROWSTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 October 2009

Everyone must take time to sit and watch the leaves turn. - Elizabeth Lawrence

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

Our Transition Open Evening was a huge success. I wish to thank a number of our colleagues by name: **Mrs Beames** (Assistant Head KS3), **Mrs Owen** (Admin link with our feeder schools), **Ms Sully** (Head of Year 7 from September 2010), **Mr Wright** (ICT Manager), **Mrs Money** and **Miss Rea** (Drama Department), **Mr Darlow** (Arts Technician) and **Mr Johnston and his Premises Team Colleagues** for all the hard work on the night. Well Done!

We had over 900 people attend and the parents I spoke to were most impressed with our "welcoming and creative" atmosphere. Special thanks too go to our Head Boy and Girl, **Oliver Joyce** and **Amy Edwards**, and **Lucy Kendall**, **Harry Joyce**, **Georgina Hill** and **Sam White** who spoke in the Hall. Excellent ambassadors!

We also had a huge turnout for our SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING. Our Year 11 students have the opportunity of discussing with our teaching colleagues and Year 12/13 students which courses are appropriate over the coming months.

There are 2 important Parents Evenings coming up; Year 7 on Monday 19th October and Year 11 on Monday 9th November. We look forward to seeing you there!

Have a great half term when it comes.

Andrew John, Headteacher

Attendance

We expect our students to maintain attendance at 94% or better throughout the year.

95% attendance = 10 school days missed over the school year.

90% attendance = 20 school days missed over the whole school year.

85% attendance = 25 school days missed over the year.

80% attendance over 5 years = ONE WHOLE SCHOOL YEAR MISSED!

Attendance matters.

Vera Beames
Assistant Headteacher

Mobile Phone Rules

We feel strongly that within a learning environment mobile phones are a considerable challenge. As a result of this last year the school instituted the following measures to maintain a peaceful and considered learning environment.

- Mobiles phones are only allowed within the school site if a student has returned a permission slip acknowledging the risk of theft and loss.
 - Mobile phones must be switched off at all times whilst on the school site (including school fields etc)
 - Mobile phones must be kept in a pocket or school bag at all times (including break and lunch times)
- Any mobile phone seen by a member of staff will be immediately confiscated and returned only to a parent of the student. No warnings will be given.

The school feels strongly that these stringent measures are important to maintain good order within the school. We also feel that this will alleviate many issues associated with phones, such as theft, cyber bullying, and videoing of other students.

We hope that you will join us in enforcing these measures and ask that you encourage your student to use their phone in a reasonable manner.

Mr Des Reynolds
Deputy Headteacher

Arts Clubs Autumn Term 2009



**Afterschool and lunchtime activities
open to students & community.**

Please see the website at www.sprowstonhigh.org and choose 'The Arts Zone' from the home page for full details of all our free activities.

Margaret Quigley
Specialist Arts Director

YEAR 7

Review of the first term

As our new Year 7's approach the end of their first half term at the high school there is an air of a prophesy being revealed! As many of you will be aware, one of the most prominent elements of our transition work is the close liaison with our feeder schools. That liaison came with a strong message, that these are a fantastic year group with a lot to offer the high school, and I am proud to say the students are living up to that reputation in many ways.

In the first instance there are the recently published CATS (Cognitive Ability Tests), in which the year group have made a remarkable achievement with scores in line with national averages. The impact of this was seen this week with students being streamed for Maths, Science, Languages, PSHE, Learning to learn and CZ lessons.

But perhaps the bigger indicator is the number of Good news slips that we have amassed. With a grand total of 911 we already have our first four winners of the prestigious 'S' factor award (for students who have been awarded 10 good news slips).

Congratulations to:

Solange Atoche

Alex Yallop

Chloe Higgenbottam

Spencer Alden

On top of this there are the continual comments that I receive from teachers saying how much of a pleasure the Year 7's are to teach; there is the sheer volume of students getting involved in extra curricular clubs and activities, not withstanding the performance of the Year 7 football team scoring 15 goals in their first 2 games alone.

Well done also to Catherine Rosby who has been selected for the Norwich City Football Club girls centre of excellence. This is a great opportunity for Catherine and we are proud to have her in the year group

Ok, I am not saying that the first time has been entirely without hiccups, but I really do feel that we should all feel very proud of the start that the Year 7's have made to the their High School life.

All About Me

Before the summer holidays, our prospective students were set the Summer Challenge of creating an 'All About Me' poster. Each Form Group picked out the best few and these were put forward for me to select the best one. Congratulations to all those who were put forward and a special mention to Rebecca Hewitt for her great poem which I include below. The Winner and nominees for excellent poster are:

1st place

Ciara Ivers

2nd place

JJ Elvin

3rd place

Rebecca Ball

continued.

Year 7 continued

Nominees

Rebecca Hewitt
Tina-Anne Hillier
Kate Bailey -Hunt
Laura Clabon
Hollie Plumstead
Chloe Carman
Francesca Tray
Stevie Jo Able
Calum Hardy
Devon Lauren Attwood

A Poem about Me

I'm a:

Sadness mender
giggling sender,
golden carer
friendly sharer,
secret keeper
chocolate eater.

peace dispenser
musical sensor,
sporting player
honest sayer
all time reader
flower seeder.

flexible hopper
argument stopper,
patient popper
expensive copper,
great shopper
because I'm me.

By Rebecca Hewitt

Black History Month

In recognition of Black History Month this October, the Year 7 students will be celebrating Black History Week with the theme of Zimbabwe. As part of this they will be performing various tasks across the week and we have the grassroots theatre company coming to do a live performance on Thursday.

The students will be set two pieces of optional independent study work, to complete before half term, the work will be judged with prizes available, before being used in a school presentation.

Darren Bidle
Head of Year 7

YEAR 8

SAS

The Sprowston Action Survival competition was launched earlier in the month. We had some fantastic entries, and eventually decided on 4 runners up each winning a £5 HMV voucher and an overall winner who wins a bush craft course for one child and one adult at SAS-Go. The winners were as follows:

Overall winner – Adam Dyson

Runners Up – Hannah Martin, Udai Nikhab, Leannan Humpleby and Morrighan Humpleby

New SAS Recruits – He Who Dares Wins

Last week we requested nominations from Science for students who have achieved consistently well in their lessons; the following students were acknowledged for their class work:

Laura Ward
Hannah Atsumi
Howard Buckles
Liam Burt
Tom Cranston
Lauren Siers

Norfolk's Rose at Norwich Playhouse

After an excellent visit from the actors of Norfolk's Rose in a special assembly where students got to interact with the actors, the whole year group were taken on a trip to see Norfolk's Rose at the Playhouse in Norwich. Norfolk's Rose is a gothic tale of a childhood lost, murder, and betrayal set between the present time and the 1800s.

The trip was a great success, and the behaviour of the students was on the whole brilliant. Both teachers and students enjoyed the trip.

Year 8 Student Council

We have held the first Year 8 student council meeting of the school year. The student council consists of Chloe Haines, Alex Hare, Ed Pearce, James Horth, Katie Lever, Harry Foreman, Robyn Nash, Elliot Gallagher, Leannan Humpleby, Keeley Sayer, Abbie Smith, Maya Hunneyball, Courtney Ivers, Tom Cranston and Stella Dodd. A lively debate was held and all of the students involved came up with very useful solutions to issues raised.

Billie Bell was successfully elected to be the Year 8 representative on the whole school student council.

Uniform

A quick reminder, that girl's skirts should be knee length plain black, with no frills. 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

New Year 8 Competition

There will be a new Year 8 Competition running after half term which will be announced in assembly next week, the theme is food.....more to be revealed shortly!

The Year 8 Team

Sue Worley, Anna Cook and Pete Sewell

YEAR 9

Football - Boys

Well done to the boys football team for their efforts so far this term they have made a flying start.

Sprowston High School 9 – Thorpe High School 0

Scorers ***Brad Waterman (4), Cain Eagleton (4) and Luis Tibbles (1)***

Sprowston High School 2 – Hellesdon High School 2

Scorers ***Zak Carey (1) and Craig Gilbert (1)***

Girls

Well done to the girls team who had a great start to the season.

Sprowston High School 7 – Broadland High School 2

Scorers ***Emma Brooks (4) and Emily Critchfield (3)***

Academic Achievements

Over the first 2 weeks of the new academic year, 113 good news slips were given to Year 9 students. It shows what a brilliant start you have experienced. Those 113 names went into a prize draw to win Chapelfield vouchers. The winners this week were:

Rachel Butterfield

Mark Riches

Kayleigh Page

Melissa Auld

Justin Leon

Joe Keeley

Jack Ackers

Georgia Jarvis

Jae Jeffries

Daniel Cullum

Well done for your hard work and effort. There will be a second draw in 2 weeks time for more vouchers!

Year Council - Form Representatives

Please remember to nominate and vote in your class form representatives. There must be 2 people from each form group. Remember that these students are representing your views at our meetings. You need to think carefully who is best for this role. Class reps must attend a fortnightly meeting to discuss key issues within the school – issues that involve YOU! When your form has voted the names should be passed to Miss Dawbarn.

Keep up the good work Year 9!

Miss Dawbarn
Head of Year 9

YEAR 11

Settling back in

Year 11 have settled back into this term really well – there has been a lot going on with lots of information being given to them, so thank you to all tutors and teachers for helping with the dissemination of this info!

After Year 11.....

We have had an excellent introduction to the opportunities available to our Year 11's at the Kett Sixth Form through an assembly by Ms Drury and the Open Evening on Thursday 15th October. I was so pleased to see that so many year 11s turned up and were actively looking at the wide range of courses and opportunities available to them.

I am aware that this can be a stressful time for you all.....thinking about what is ahead and what path to take. We have so many people here at Sprowston Community High School who can help and support our students through the choices they have to make, including our excellent tutors, learning mentors, Connexions Advisors, Ms Irving (Careers Development Office) and of course myself.

Attendance

I have been pushing attendance with the year group since they came back, and would like to highlight the importance of this, to you all. In year 11 more than ever every lesson counts, and we need to ensure that students are attending as much as they can. Please let us know if you have any concerns – I am here to help each and every student achieve their full potential and that means supporting them to be in school. I cannot stress how important attendance is this year – it is something we are closely tracking and monitoring.

17 missed days equals one grade lower in your GCSEs!!

Things to look forward to!

I am currently working with an excellent group of students who have volunteered to help me with the Prom celebrations. Thank you to all those involved, especially Ms Mallet, Ms Bales, Ms Copsey and Ms Owens – who are helping me prepare what will hopefully be the best Prom ever!!

Special thanks

My special thanks go out to all those year 11 students who helped out at the Year 6 Intake Evening on 6th October. They were all magnificent – I was so proud to be there Head of Year. Particular thanks must go out to Oli Joyce and Amy Edwards our great Head Boy and Girl who delivered exceptional speeches to a large number of potential students and parents.....not an easy task, but one they carried out fantastically!

Keep up the good work year 11!

Kate Sully
Head of Year 11