



SPOTLIGHT

SPROWSTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 7 January 2010

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's Resolutions. Joey Adams

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

I am delighted to inform you that our Ofsted Report is now available.

A hard copy will be sent to every household this week containing a letter from Fiona Hardman, our Chair of Governors.

We are obviously delighted with the large number of 'Good' grades and positive comments, and wish to thank everyone for the excellent contribution to making Sprowston Community High School such a success. I shall be referring to the report over the coming months in readiness for our next School Development Plan from April.

Best wishes,

**Andrew John
Headteacher**

Family Views Questionnaire

As you may remember, during the Autumn term the school conducted a family views survey to gain insight into how our parent body view the school and its achievement.

We are now very happy to be able to share with you the results of this survey. In the most part the results were exceptionally positive.

Positives

98% of parents report that their child enjoys school

98% say their child respects his/her teachers

97% say that staff teach well

97% say the school is a safe environment

However you clearly have some messages for the school which we would like to work on improving.

Areas for Improvement

18% did not feel the school kept them informed about their child's progress

16% did not feel the school encourages and appreciates parental involvement

15% did not feel they were kept well informed about school procedures.

Over the coming months we hope with our parent governors and other interested parents to improve these three aspects. Please keep an eye on Spotlight for news of the work we undertake.

Des Reynolds
Deputy Headteacher

YEAR 7

I would like to extend a warm (no pun intended), if slightly delayed welcome back for the new term. Despite the cold days and early nights, the spring term is one that I personally enjoy. For the Year 7's in particular, after the upheaval of the first term in a new school, the spring term offers the opportunity for the students, now firmly embedded within the fabric of school and familiar with the routines, to really settle into school life.

This term also brings with it the prospect of winning my PANTS, perhaps I should explain! Now in its second year of running the PANTS award is a Form Group based reward system that recognises not only the students who excel, but the students who, day to day, just keep on doing the little things that are important aspects of school life, such as turning up on time with the right equipment. The term PANTS is an acronym for Punctuality/Attendance/Naughty stuff/Team Work /Special Bonus. The purpose of the PANTS award is to develop a sense of community within the form groups and to reinforce importance of following the basic routines that are so important in school and future life.

I would like to extent my apologies regarding the cancellation of the Year 7 Christmas assembly due to the school closure on Friday 18th December; many of you had booked seats and I am sure were looking forward to the event. I would like to reassure you that this is only a postponement and that the event (with a slightly reduced Christmas content) will take place shortly. Details will be posted to you regarding date, time and booking procedures, I sincerely hope you will be able to join us

Darren Bidle
Head of Year 7

YEAR 8

A group of Year 8 students attended the Theatre Royal production of Robin Hood on Wednesday 13th January. The trip was financed by the HSBC Bank. The focus for the trip was for contribution to school life and making excellent progress through the Learning Zone.

The Year 8 nominees were

Tom Clasper
James Horth
Lydia Fulcher
Luke Barnes
James Millns
Udai Nikhab
Heidi Smith
Aston Howe
Ryan Fuller
Nikki Mouncer
Tom Cranston
Laura Ward

The Year 8 Team

Ms Anna Cook, Sue Worley and Pete Sewell

YEAR 9

I hope you enjoyed the Christmas break and had some relaxation time during this hectic time of the year.

Year 9 had a wonderful end to last term with their Christmas celebration assembly on Thursday 17th December 2009. It was packed full of songs, dances and certificates. I would like to thank those students who received subject nominations from their teachers. A special thanks to Robyn Allen who helped present during the assembly. Also thanks to Jenny Fennell, Josh Money, Carter Brooksby, Georgia Mae Shepperd and Bonnie Rae Wilson for their exceptional performances. We have a talented lot of students in Year 9! Well done.

Year 9 Preferences

This term for Year 9 is all about preparing for preferences at Key Stage 4. This route may be GCSEs, BTECs, Vocational subjects or Diplomas.

I would like to invite you to join us on the evening of **Monday 25th January 2010** for a parents' information evening held in school to present the details of how to make choices for Key Stage 4.

On Tuesday 26th running until Friday 29th January and Tuesday 2nd February 2010 there will be a series of special assemblies held in the school hall for students and parents. During these assemblies subject leaders will present their subject and provide information about the demands of their subject. A draft timetable of dates and subjects follows.

Date	Subject
Tuesday 26 th January 2010	RS/Philosophy and Ethics Economics
Wednesday 27 th January 2010	Media and Arts
Thursday 28 th January 2010	Vocational subjects
Friday 29 th January 2010	MFL Geography
Tuesday 2 nd February 2010	Technology Art

Students will be issued with a preferences booklet which summarises the different choices available. The final choice will be made on 3rd March 2010 when a Year 9 Academic Review Day will be held in school for parents and students to attend a meeting with tutors. Final preferences forms will be submitted on that day. If parents are unable to attend this meeting then students must attend on their own.

Rebecca Dawbarn
Head of Year 9

YEAR 10

Happy New Year....It is really important to keep working hard this term to make sure the foundations you have made in the first term in all your GCSE subjects are solid!

DRAGONS DEN CHALLENGE

Congratulations to 10LE for winning the competition. Their reward was a trip to the Bowling Alley at the end of the Christmas term! 10BG came in second and got a consolation prize of 'Heroes' chocolates.



THE DRAGONS LEAGUE TABLE

Week ending 03/12/09

Table 4



Form	Attendance	Good News slips	Special mentions by teachers	Bad News slips (-)	TOTAL
AL 9	736	22	30	1	787
BG 2	750	36	34	9	811
CT 5	734	23	44	4	797
FT 6	746	23	34	7	796
LE 1	740	49	52	2	839
LR 3	758	24	28	9	801
MG 7	731	20	44	3	792
MP 10	734	14	36	1	783
NC 11	730	15	34	6	773
SI 12	715	11	40	3	763
WE 4	724	36	44	5	799
YL 8	747	14	30	-	791

The points are totalled up at the end of every two weeks and the winning form gets a big box of chocolates for registration as well as there being spot prizes for students who have performed well in lessons and have been nominated by teachers. The winning tutor group at the end of term get a bowling trip.



CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY

Thank you to all the students who took part in the Christmas assembly...we really appreciate your participation.

A special thank you goes to Poppy Seggar, Adam Maskell and the Year 10 Drama GCSE group under Ms Rea's direction who gave us a new interpretation of Snow White, I especially enjoyed the performance of Joe Scholes as the doctor!

I look forward to seeing parents at the **Year 10 Parents Evening on the 18th January**. These evenings are always very important as it gives everyone the opportunity to discuss progress in the different subjects and look at ways in which students can continue to achieve and exceed their targets.

Mr Cordeaux
Head of Year 10

Design and Technology Competitions

We recently asked a number of students to participate in two Technology competitions outside of school. Both teams worked extremely hard and were superb representatives for school.

Year 8 students participated in the Faraday Challenge which combined science, maths and technology into one problem solving project. Students were required to use allocated materials and equipment to create a water pump. Our students managed to achieve **first place** for their fantastic product and received a trophy for their efforts.

The Design and Technology competition involved a number of students from Key Stage 3. They were asked to participate in various challenges to do with food, engineering and product design. Students came up with some inventive solutions and enjoyed the day immensely.

continued

Design and Technology Competitions (continued)

Thank you and well done to the following students involved.

Morrighan Humpleby
James Steward
Adam Dyson
Sam Webb
Ben Townsend
Stella Dodd



Mr G Parker
Head of Design and Technology

YEAR 11

Welcome back!

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas.

Its 2010 and time has gone so quickly. We are fast approaching the mock exam period – so lots of things to prepare for and think about.

Thursday 14th January

Its already time for some of Year 11 to receive GCSE results, in Maths and English. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the English and Maths departments for all of the help and support they have offered the Year 11 students during the examinations. I wish each and every student the very best of luck.

Students expecting results can collect them from the library from 8.00am onwards. I will be there along with Mrs Nicklin and Ms Wood to discuss results with any students who needs to.

Mock Exams

Our exam period starts on Monday 18th January, most students will be taking a real science GCSE. The 2 weeks after that will see a number of real GCSE Science and Drama exams along with mock examinations in all other subjects.

It is very important that each and every student takes this period very seriously and prepares and revises fully for every exam they are taking. It can be a worrying time for students, please help me support them. I am available for students to come and speak to, alongside their tutors who will be helping them throughout the 2 weeks. Students must be clear on what they are taking and when – they need to have the correct equipment with them and be confident that they know where they are sitting and in what room they are taking the exam. Timing is also vital – a lot of the forthcoming exams are real GCSEs and therefore punctuality is of the greatest importance. Timetables have been sent home directly and via students in form time.

Students will have a mock exam results day – details of this will follow soon.

May I take this opportunity to wish the whole of Year 11 good luck during this period and emphasise the importance of mock exams. This year group has great potential; they must ensure they take every part of the next few weeks seriously.

Applications – Help You Choose

Applications have been coming in thick and fast, I have had number of reference request from providers and students. Please make sure any queries are sent through as soon as possible. Students have full access to the 14-19 website (<http://helpyouchoose.org/>) as well as opportunities to see Connexions Advisors in school and discuss issues with Ms Irving.

Kett Sixth Form

We have had a good a number of applications for the Kett yet again this year – interviews will take place very soon, and students should be aware that interview dates and times will be given out during registration.

Another successful term has finished – only 2 full ones left for our Year 11s!
Thank you all for your hard work – good luck for the forthcoming weeks!

Kate Sully
Head of Year 11

'Christmas Live Week' concert

Year 7 students really enjoyed their festive Christmas treat as Norfolk Music Service's own pop band paid a special visit to our school in the last week of term to perform a 'Live Concert'. Students really showed their appreciation in the traditional manner and it was great to see them all dancing and singing along. Here's what some of them said:

'Live performances are more entertaining than CD's as you have to look somewhere and we are dancing and watching them play'.

'What I enjoyed the most was being able to sing along'.

'I loved 'Dancing Queen'

Margaret Quigley

Assistant Headteacher

Director of Specialist Arts

