

SPOTLIGHT

SPROWSTON COMMUNITY HIGH – SPECIALIST SCHOOL FOR PERFORMING ARTS AND MEDIA

ISSUE 9 FEBRUARY 2010

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant." – Anne Bradstreet

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

We have added to our website a new zone 'Supporting Charities' in the Home Section of the main menu.

Included is a list of all the charities and donations our students have made, which accounts to a staggering £28,791.29 since becoming Head in September 2006. 'Thank you' for your support as it is a really important message that we send to the students (your children), the role to serve and support others, who perhaps have less opportunities and life chances than us.



I hope you all have a very rewarding and enjoyable half-term break. I will obviously be watching Norwich City, seeing 'Les Miserable' at the Theatre Royal, taking time out to visit my father in Exeter and also doing some work!

With my very best wishes,

Andrew John
Headteacher

University of the First Age

Sprowston Community High School is delighted to be working in partnership with the University of the First Age. The information below is taken from the UFA website and provides a useful insight into what the UFA is and what it stands for:

The UFA is a national education charity. Founded in Birmingham in 1996 by Professor Tim Brighouse, we work with Local Authorities and other partners across the UK. The UFA is committed to working in innovative and creative ways with Local Authorities, schools, organisations, communities and individuals to enrich and extend learning for young people aged 5 to 25.

Our aim is to create an 'open' university for young people, so that they can access a range of challenging learning opportunities in and beyond their school. Being part of a 'university' in early life helps to raise aspirations, increases the likelihood of young people going on to Further and Higher Education and develops skills that will help them succeed in their future lives and employment.

Raising young people's aspirations and achievements by improving confidence and self-belief through exciting and memorable educational experiences is at the heart of what we do. Young people are supported through the UFA to become role models and leaders who develop and lead learning opportunities for others in their communities.

The UFA explores imaginative approaches to training in order to engage teachers and other professionals, parents, carers, community organisations and businesses in transforming their own learning practice. From this training we create learning teams of the adults and young people with whom we work.

This year we were chosen as one of only 3 schools nationally to develop closer links with the UFA. For us this has given us the opportunity to recruit and train 2 very important student groups. We hope that these groups will grow over time so that young people are leading learning both inside the classroom and out.

(1) STUDENT ACTIVITY LEADERS (SALS)

We have recruited and trained 25 students who will be responsible for planning and executing their own out of hour's provision (clubs). We have been really impressed by the enthusiasm and passion of the students involved and by their ability to plan and market their activities.

Continued...

University of the First Age (continued)

These activities include: a mini musicals club; a "Fun to Cook" club; a club making music and recording music videos ; a multi-activity club aimed at giving Yr 7 students more confidence and a club that makes clothes and fashion accessories out of recycled materials.

(2) STUDENT LEARNING PARTNERS (SLPS)

We have recruited and trained 25 students who are taking the lead in examining (and implementing) strategies that we can use to give students more decision making and power over their own learning. At present some of these students are carrying out some exciting action research based on themes such as:

- The reward system-does it work?
- Why do boys underachieve?

In addition, some of these students will act as lesson observers, working with classroom teachers to observe how learning takes place in the classroom. These students have worked with teachers to design their own lesson observation pro- forma. Another group of students have designed "Learning Logs" which they intend to trial with Yr 7 students as a way of encouraging them to reflect more on their own learning and the process of this learning at the end of the year, the SLPs are also planning a "Super Learning Challenge Day" aimed at Yr 7 students.

I hope you will agree that these are exciting developments that reflect our fundamental desire to involve our students fully in decision making about their learning and the wider school environment and opportunities. The students involved have been an absolute delight and a real credit to the project.

We would like to publically thank Elaine Abbott from the UFA who has trained both staff and students and been an incredible support. Her insights and experiences have allowed us to really move forward with the project and "make a difference".

Liz Wood

Acting Deputy Headteacher



YEAR 8

Year 8 Theatre Trip

On Wednesday 13th January a group of 30 students from Years 7-9 accompanied by Sue Worley, Anna Cook and Pete Sewell were entertained by the cast of the Theatre Royal in the performance of Robin Hood. The Year 8 students had been chosen by their form tutors for their contribution to school life. The other students had been chosen by the Learning Zone for their work in school. The trip was financed and supported by HSBC Bank. They not only paid for the tickets but met us at the Theatre and provided ice creams at the interval.

We had a great time — oh no we didn't — oh yes we did!

A wonderful event so thank you HSBC.



Waiting for the performance to start!



Studying the programmes!



The Excitement Mounts !

Year 8 (continued)

Year 8 Rewards

This term we are focussing on working together as a team and our reward system is based around the theme of EASTER EGG

Embellish (decorate) an egg – create a hollow egg and decorate it. Points awarded for decoration and number of eggs produced per form.

Attendance – Points awarded for the best attending forms.

Signed Journals – Points awarded for the forms with the highest numbers of signed journals.

Trivia Quiz – Points awarded for the highest scoring forms.

Eggstravagant Eggs – which form can make the largest egg using a balloon and papier-mâché

Raise money for charity – one week to raise the most money as possible

Equipment Check (pen, pencil, ruler and calculator) – Points awarded for the forms with the highest numbers of students with all equipment present.

Good News Slips – 2 weeks to collect as many GNS's as possible. GNS count as 1 point, Bad NS as -5 points.

General Attitude to Learning – Year 8 Spring Reports

The winning form will have a celebration feast at the end of term.

Year 8 to Wear Hats for Haiti

On Tuesday 9th February Year 8 students have been challenged to wear a Hat for Haiti to help raise money for the earthquake appeal by bringing in £1 to wear the hat. We have assembly on Tuesday and we will be giving out prizes for those with the best hats!

Year 8 Form Tutors Re-enact Play in Assembly

Year 8 students were challenged before Christmas to come up with a script for a play that their form teachers would then re-enact in assembly! Two students came up with scripts and Billy Bell's script was chosen to perform. In today's assembly there were some amazing performances by Mr Utting, Mrs Howes, Miss Hill, Mr Hopwood, Mr Wavell and Mrs Dawson!

Year 8 Go to the Playhouse

On Wednesday 3rd March the whole of Year 8 have the opportunity to go to the Playhouse Theatre in Norwich to see an exciting production by ACE Dance and Music entitled "Switch". This is the second part of the Start Project which is funded through the Princes Foundation Trust and the schools Specialist Arts Status; our first trip was to the Playhouse Theatre in September to see the production "Norfolk's Rose". We are also lucky enough to have the theatre company in to do a pre-show assembly before hand. Please make sure that all permission slips are returned to Debbie Jay in the main office by Friday 12th February.



Sue Worley



Anna Cook



Pete Sewell

The Year 8 Team

Vocational Education

As part of the Health and Social Care Course our students have the opportunity to work outside school.

Here we have Charlotte helping at the Clare School and Tiff at the Mulberry Bush Nursery in Mulbarton.



Vocational Education (continued)

All Year 10 and Year 11 students in 'Health and Social Care' will work with Year 10 students from the Clare School this year. Georgia, Alice and Hayley 3 of our John Oliver Young Apprentices are doing some hair-dressing with their girls and we have teamed up with a local beauty salon to incorporate make-up into the programme.



Other vocational students spend one day a week in the workplace to increase their knowledge of their chosen subject.

This is Adam doing roof repairs at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital



Vocational Education (continued)



Chris in the Airport Holiday Inn restaurant



Max cleaning central heating with Premier Heating



Rhys doing accident repair at the Body Centre

We currently have two boys looking for work experience on Wednesdays, Tom is hoping to do some carpentry to complement his NVQ Level One Woodwork and Liam needs some plumbing as part of his Construction Young Apprenticeship. If you can help or know someone who can, please call me on 481857 (direct line) for more information. Thank you.



John Reeve
Head of Vocational Education