

# SPOTLIGHT

SPROWSTON COMMUNITY HIGH SPECIALIST SCHOOL FOR PERFORMING ARTS AND MEDIA

## ISSUE 12 March 2010

Easter tells us that life is to be interpreted not simply in terms of things but in terms of ideals. - Charles M Crowe

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

We finally come to the end of a VERY busy Spring Term and through perhaps one of the longest winters we have experienced in years. Some are saying it has been the coldest winter for 30 years! I would be the first to admit it has been a term of many changes and challenges, such as long periods of snow as well as some movements in our Leadership Team.

I am delighted to report that Mr Reynolds has been successfully appointed to the Headship of the 'Pupil Referral Unit' in Norwich for a seconded four term period starting this summer term. We all wish him well in his promoted position. As a result of his appointment, Ms. Wood will be leading our school community as our Deputy Headteacher for 'Every Child Matters, Inclusion and Student Services'. As Mrs Watts returns from her maternity leave on the last day of the summer term, I am delighted to report that Mr Utting will take over the responsibility of Deputy Headteacher for 'Teaching, Learning and Teacher Services', until she returns. Mr Utting has a wealth of experience in his current role as 'Advanced Skills Teacher' supporting colleagues and schools across the whole of Norfolk.

I am so looking forward to our summer term as Ms. Wood and Mr Utting will make a significant contribution to the leadership and management of the school and our overall success.

I also wish to inform you that two other Leadership Team members will be retiring at the end of the summer term. Mrs Beames (Assistant Headteacher) and Mrs Drury (Deputy Head of The Kett Sixth Form College). I will pay tribute to their commitment to our students and families over many school years during the summer term newsletters.

After Easter everyone will be writing their development plans to address our OFSTED inspection report outcomes. We aim to continue to improve our students' independent learning skills, their full engagement in the opportunities we offer them especially through The Arts Status, stretching the more able and generally improving all students' basic skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT. Our new School Improvement and Development Plan will run from April 2010 until 2011 and will be closely monitored by our Governing Body lead by Fiona Hardman and Angela Capper, our Chair and Vice Chair of Governors.

I wish to conclude my letter by thanking all our support and teaching colleagues for their hard work and service to your children and young adults. We have a lot to be proud of as a 'Community School'.

May I also convey my sincere "thanks" for your contribution and wish you a very 'Happy Easter' not forgetting to wish Norwich City all the very best in their drive to be promoted to the Championship at the end of the season.

With my very best wishes,

Andrew John  
Headteacher  
On the Ball City!



## YEAR 7

As we approach the end of the spring term, I hope you and your family are looking forward to the Easter Holidays. For many students (and us teachers too!) this offers a well needed break and a chance to refresh and refuel ready for the Summer term. Norwich is a great city that offers a wide ranging programme of excellent Easter based activities and I hope you and your family get the chance to make the most of the time and the improving weather.

### Reports

By the time you read this edition, you will have received a copy of your child's second school report. This report, which is formally known in school as the 'long report', contains details about the academic performance along with written targets which have been set by each of your child's teachers. My advice to any parent at this time is to take the time to sit down and read through the report with your child; look at the ATL, CPL and TL and then read through the targets which have been set and try to identify common threads that have been raised and discuss ways in which you can work together to address them. The following information may be of help:

#### **ATL = Attitude to learning**

This is an indication of how hard your child is trying in lesson. The grade is from 1 to 5, 5 being continuous effort.

#### **CPL = Current Performance Grade**

This explains at what level your child is currently working. Levels range from up 1 to 8 with each level sub-divided into lower, middle and higher.

- 4L This child is working at a level 4, but is at risk of dropping to Level 3
- 3H This child is working at level 3, but could easily rise to Level 4
- 5M This child is a comfortable level 5

#### **TL = Target Level**

This is the level we would hope your child is achieving by a certain time (i.e. end of Year 9). You can use this level to assess whether the current performance is high enough. If your child is exceeding this level that is great news and means your child is process beyond expectation.

### Internet Safety

Last Monday saw the presentation of one of my more challenging assemblies aiming to promote a greater awareness of internet safety. In light of the recent case of Ashleigh Hill, the young girl who was lured to death by a sex offender through Facebook, I felt the need to challenge the students over their awareness of the dangers of on-line communication platforms.

Whether or not you as parents choose to allow your children access to sites such as Facebook, Bebo or My Space is not a school decision to make. It has however come to my attention that many parents are unaware that the minimum age for use of Facebook is 13 and that many children are lying about their age to get on.

## Year 7

What I want to ensure I do is to express my concerns regarding the safe use of such platforms. Many students using platforms such as Facebook are oblivious to the fact that they are openly displaying quiet in-depth information about themselves for anybody to read; many are also unaware of the potential risks of such actions. What I would like to ask is that, as parents, you ensure that your child's access to the internet is monitored and ensure that when they use these communication platforms, they do so with understanding of the risks involved. Facebook offers many ways to protect the information you display and browsing can be done safely, but this requires user competence to put the safeguards into place.

For more information regarding Facebook, I would like to refer you to the following site from the BBC:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/brunel/A56208945q>

### Homework

One of the most common themes parents raise with me is in regard to the setting of homework. For this reason I have written a short booklet for parents giving advice on many aspects of homework; you will receive a copy of this booklet shortly.

In conjunction with the homework booklet and to further promote the importance of homework, I have also launched the Year 7 'Independent Study Challenge'. This will run over the Easter holiday, closing on the 23rd April

The students have been given a card to complete, which they will need to fill in any time they do 20 minutes of homework/ independent study that was not set by a teacher. This, for example, could include: researching a topic on the internet, preparing for a lesson by reading up, reading a text book, doing some on line maths, using the BBC Bite size website, reading a book, reading a newspaper.....the list goes on.

In order to ensure quality control, I am asking parents and form tutors to sign against each piece of completed work to confirm that it has been done.

## Mr Bidle's Independent Study Challenge

Independent study is about doing homework that has not been set by a teacher! It could be researching a topic you are studying in school, using revision websites such as BBC Bite size, reading a book or newspaper.

### Instructions:

1. Complete at least 20 minutes of homework, that has not been set by a teacher (maximum of one per day).
2. Use the back of this card to write down what you have done
3. Ask your parents to check your work and sign the card.
4. Ask your form tutor to sign the card.
5. Once your card is complete hand it to your form tutor.

(Prizes will be awarded)



## Year 7

### Eggcellent Awards

This week will see the last nominations for the 'Eggcellent' award. The full list of nominees and winners is simply too long to post here, but the award has been well supported and an awful lot of students have received certificates. This reward initiative will be replaced next term with the summer challenge, but I will wait until next time before I let you know about that.....

### Parents' Forum - Coffee Morning

On the morning of 16th March, the third Year 7 coffee morning was held. Focusing on support, the meeting was well attended and proved to be a valuable morning for all involved. Below are some of the main issues we discussed:

Things the group felt were good about the school:

- The SEN department
- The children are happy at school
- The school is happy to discuss issues
- Incidents that arise are dealt with efficiently

Things the group would like to see improved:

- Playground supervision at lunchtime
- Homework guidance
- iPods in lessons
- Bullying
- Timing of the Parents' Evenings

If you want to have your say, then please join us at next term's meeting.



**Mr Bidle**  
Head of Year 7



**Julie Betts**  
Inclusion unit

## YEAR 8

### School in India

Mr Sewell visited a school in the region of Madhya Pradesh in India last October. Sprowston Community High School is establishing links with this school. A small group of Year 8 students have agreed to form a working party with a remit to build up these International Links.

They are:

Khadiza Sikder  
Kiera Brown  
Saskia Summersgill  
Alibhe McCann  
Ruby Lewis  
Frances Jonson  
Billie Bell, Ryan High  
Tom Airey  
Lipa Lucky  
Shayla Pottle  
Issy Seeley  
Rosy Bell  
Freya Hagan-Palmer

The first task of the working party is to decide how best to distribute the proceeds from last week's charity events in Year 8. The school is in a very poor rural area where many parents feel that it is better to send their children out to work than to get an education. The teachers at the school have thought about teaching aids they would need to make the curriculum more exciting for their students and which they do not have funds to purchase.

We look forward to hearing about how this working party develops and the links that they form.

Follow this link to see brief PowerPoint about the school.

<http://www.sprowstonhigh.org/cms/resources/2010-year-8-supporting-a-school-in-India.ppt>

### Easter Egg Challenge

In the last two weeks Year 8 were challenged to raise money for charity and to have a good attitude to learning. Year 8 rose to the challenge of raising money for the school in India that Mr Sewell visited earlier in the year by selling homemade cakes, quizzes, t-shirt design competition, guess the number of sweets in the jar, graffiti boards and playing on Nintendo Wii. They raised an amazing £144.22!

The form that came in 3rd position were 8DK with £24, in 2nd position raising £27.20 were 8YN and in 1st position were 8JO raising £33. Well done to the whole year group.

The second challenge was for the year group to have good attitude to learning, in 3rd position were 8HI, in 2nd position 8GD and in 1st position 8DK.

So with two challenges to go (Eggstravagant Eggs and Good News Slips) in 3rd place are 8GD, in 2nd place 8MS and in 1st place 8DK. The scores at the top are very close!

## G&T

Miss Cook and Mr Sewell met with Steve Gaskin from Rightangle Events <http://www.rightangledcsi.co.uk> with plans for a Gifted and Talented Day later on next term. We are hoping this will happen on 5th May so watch this space

### **Parents' Evening Thursday May 6th 4.00pm – 6.30pm**

Year 8 Parents' Evening is fast approaching. This is your designated annual opportunity to talk to your child's subject teachers to discuss progress and make plans for Year 9. This is an ideal opportunity to start thinking about Options next for January 2011.

If you have not yet received a yellow appointments form please ring the school and ask for Mrs Owen and we will send one home with your child.

We cannot stress how important attendance at this evening is. It sends an important message to both the school and your child that you consider the links with Sprowston Community High School to be important. If you are working please try to rearrange your work schedules for this day. If this is impossible then please contact your child's Form Tutor and ask for a separate interview with either the tutor or ourselves.

### **Coffee Morning**

On Thursday 25th March we held our second coffee morning. This was very successful with 14 parents attending. We heard about the extended schools network and the opportunities available for our students outside of the normal school day from Viki Bailey and Malcolm Johnston. Please read the minutes from this meeting to get a flavour of what was discussed.

We also investigated the proposed end of Year 8 event in more detail. It looks like The Talk or The Open were the most attractive options with Miss Cook and Mr Sewell looking into the actual costs in more detail over Easter. We are hoping to be able to put on an affordable and rewarding end of term event for our students. It must be stressed that those students with poor attendance or poor behaviour may not be invited to this event. Please follow the link shown below;

<http://www.sprowstonhigh.org/cms/resources/2010-03-25-year-8-coffee-morning-minutes.pdf>

### **Year 8 Trip to Pleasurewood Hills**

On Friday 16 July we are hoping to take Y8 students to Pleasurewood Hills for the day. This trip is a chance for students to relax at the end of the year and to enjoy a day out with their friends. Obviously we want everyone to enjoy themselves so we will not take students who have consistently caused problems in school.

If you would like your child to take part in this trip would you please complete the Parental Consent Form that your child has been supplied with and return it to the school office addressed to Mrs. Owen. We are asking for a contribution of £14.50 to cover the cost of the trip. Please note that both the payment and Parental Consent Form are needed to secure a place.



Anna Cook



Pete Sewell



Sue Worley

### **The Year 8 Team**

## YEAR 9

Well done!

I would like to take this opportunity to say well done to the students in Year 9 who so far this academic year have achieved 100% attendance. Those students are:

Samantha Barber	Liam Firth
Emily Blagden	Jacqueline Hall
Elliot Charnock	Zoe Norman
Amber Clarke	Alisha Playford
Hannah Conway	Lois Rockett
Lydia Cooper	James Shen
Adam Davies	Ryan Warr
Zoe Doy	

In addition many of the Year 9's have achieved an average score of over 4.6 on their latest short report. Well done for your hard work and positive attitude! Those students are:

WICKS Adam	ELKINS Zoe
FYNN Alexandria	FENNELL Jenny
BULL Aidan	MUDEL Hannah
HOWARD Jessica	HOLMES Shannon
REED Rebecca	NORGATE Amy
PRATT Kieran	MACE Jack
WICKS Daniel	SHEARING Naomi
SMITH Calvin	PARFITT Freya
CLABON Ryan	TAYLOR Hannah
ALLEN Robyn	ANDERSON Lisa
SEENEY Helena	VICKERY Gemma
BARRON Charlotte	BECKHAM Toby
VENTRESS Isobel	CARVER Thomas
BROWN Elisha	BUTTERFIELD Rachel
BEARE-GOTTERSON Thea	COOPER Michelle
BURROWS Megan	DURRANT Nicole
DENT Ebony	HORNAGOLD Olivia

As a reward those students named above will be given a place at a rewards movie party to be held on Thursday 1st April during Period 3 in WS27. Well done!

### **SAM Learning**

A good resource for students to use is the SAM Learning interactive packages. All students have their usernames and passwords for this system and have been shown how to use this in assemblies and lessons. This package can be accessed via the school website and has a full range of revision and learning resources for Key Stage 3, GCSE and A level subjects. It has been independently proven by Fisher Family Trust to raise the grades students achieve at GCSE. It has been proven that using SAM Learning GO! for 10 hours + it can:

- Help low prior-attaining students to show significantly greater improvement per hour's use. Improvements, in terms of overall GCSE points score, were greatest for these students. e.g. on average, students in this group achieved 30.3 more GCSE points than expected.

*Continued...*

## Year 9

•Make improvements, in terms of attaining 5+A\*–C passes, were greatest for students in the middle prior-attainment group (group 3). e.g. on average, 6.9% more students in this group achieved 5+A\*–C passes. This percentage increases to 9.7% when English and Maths are included in the 5+A\*–C passes.

•Help students with high prior-attainment, with an average of 4.7% more students in this group achieving 5+A\*–A passes.

This is an excellent opportunity for Year 9 students to ensure that they reach their target levels by the end of Key Stage 3 and start Year 10 with the best possible opportunities.

### Alton Towers

On Friday 16 July we hope to take Year 9 students to Alton Towers for the day. This trip is a chance for students to relax and to enjoy a day out with their friends. It is always welcome for staff as it gives us a chance to talk to students in a social situation and get to know them better. Obviously, we want everyone to enjoy themselves, so we will not take students who have consistently caused problems in school.

We are inviting all students, but will not take a student if:-

- He/she has been referred to the Inclusion Unit 3 times from the date of this letter onwards.
- His/her attendance is less than 93% (without good reason).

Letters for this trip will be out after the Easter break.

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



**Pip Smith**  
**Inclusion**



### YEAR 10

This week culminated with the Prefect Elections, in total we had over 360 voting slips nominating 5 students from the year group. The voting included all students in Year 10 together with teaching and support staff who wanted to vote.

On Friday 26th March the students undertook their training session which included a team building exercise and presentations given by the Prefects about the role of the Prefect within the school.

#### TEAM 1

Kieran Long  
Thomas Roberts (TL)  
Harry Partner  
Daniel Hill  
Billy Lewis  
Matthew Johnston

#### TEAM 2

Shauni Collingsworth  
Lauren Wells  
Jasmine Barnes  
Maisie Dawes Ayres  
Katie Piper  
Lewis Alexander

#### TEAM 3

Sam Walker (TL)  
Jack Roll  
Ryan Livermore  
Daniel Vince  
Michael Painter\*  
Bradley Bartman\*

#### TEAM 4

Hannah Wicks  
Zaira Palumbo  
Kim Davies (TL)  
Gaia Sharma-Evans  
Gemma Hawkes  
Fleur Kenneally

#### TEAM 5

Hannah Grant  
Issy Ford (TL)  
Lizzy Harris (TL)  
Andrew Tierney  
Ollie Monk  
James Sneesby

\*:Absent on the day

TL:Team Leader



Team 5 won the team building challenge  
Creating a structure to support their Mars Bar! The structure was just over 5 feet!



The Prefects will start their duties at the beginning of the summer term.

I would like to thank everyone who put themselves forward for the election – we had 66 nominations (20% of the year group) but unfortunately only 30 could be elected.

The training day was very positive and the Prefects came up with very constructive views and suggestions which will be passed onto Mr John and the rest of the Leadership Team.



**Mr. John Cordeaux**  
**Head of Year 10**



**Helen Cunningham**  
**Inclusion**

Kett 6th Form Drama students present:



**Friday 23rd & Saturday 24th April 2010 7.30pm**

**At The Garage** 14 Chapelfield North, NR2 1NY Tel: 01603 283382

**£5.00 Adults, £3.00 Concessions**

Tickets from Debbie Jay, Sprowston Community High School,  
Cannerby Lane, Sprowston, Tel: 01603 485266



## Performance Arts Students visit London's Olympia Centre

Led by Performance Arts teacher, Hannah Rea, a group of our excited and talented students had the opportunity to take part in an amazing celebration of dance in all its forms.

The event was at London's Olympia Centre at the "Move It 2010" event where students had the chance to see spectacular shows from some of most exciting artists and dance companies from the UK and Europe and participate in classes and workshops with other Performance Arts students from all over the country in a fun atmosphere.



**Ms. Margaret Quigley**  
**Director of Specialist Arts**



**Hannah Rea**  
**Drama**