

SPOTLIGHT

SPROWSTON COMMUNITY HIGH SPECIALIST SCHOOL FOR PERFORMING ARTS AND MEDIA

May 2010

In summer, the song sings itself. – William Carlos Williams

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

We have held a non-uniform day to mark our respects to our loss of Charlie Smith in Year 9. We raised £1544.50 and this money will be divided to support a fitting memorial in the courtyard and the local Scout Group that he was an active member of. We wish to express our sincere sympathy to Miss Smith, family and friends. May he rest in peace.

Our exam season is in full swing again, with all Year 11, 12 + 13 involved. We hope that they perform to the very best of their ability

Thanks to our new Year 10 Prefects who take over supervising breaks and lunchtimes and being an active 'presence' at Parents' Evenings., especially our recent Year 7 and 8 events.



Andrew John
Headteacher

A School in Mourning

By now, we are sure you will be aware of the tragic death of Charlie Smith, one of our year 9 students. For some of our students, coming to terms with this news has been extremely challenging. We have students within the school that knew Charlie both through school and the scouts who are dealing with the loss of a friend. As parents/carers/guardians can we ask you to use your discretion in helping your child deal with this event and to contact the school office should you require further advice or support.

Heads of Year

Families and friends delighted by the Summer Music Concert

An appreciative audience of families and friends praised the talent and wide range of music styles showcased at the summer music concert. Thanks to all the students and staff who supported and took part in the concert and to Mr. Harvey and Mr. Causon for all their hard work in producing such an entertaining and enjoyable event.



Margaret Quigley
Arts Director, Specialist Status (Performance Arts & Media)
YEAR 9

YEAR 7

Family Week Picnic

With the weather set to improve, I hope that you will be able to join us on Bank Holiday Monday 31st May from 12pm to 4pm for the Family Week Picnic. The school is attempting to break the record for the biggest picnic. I will be there with my family and it would be great to see you and your family there too, I know many of the Year 7's are keen to meet my son Jack, about whom I keep them regularly updated in their assemblies.

Year 7 Parents Consultation Evening

Over the past year, I have made no secret of the importance that I place on ensuring good communication between the school and you as parents/guardians/carers. One of the best opportunities for this is through the Parent's Consultation Evening. I would like to personally thank all who attended on the 17th May and I sincerely hope you found the evening valuable.

The feedback received from those who attended was overwhelmingly positive and it is always nice to hear the positive things that you have to say about the school. Several parents also suggested ways in which we could improve and I would like to thank those parents too for voicing those opinions. It really is important to me that you feel you can openly voice your opinions about the way the school run, in order that we can continually strive to offer the best possible educational experience for your children. In brief some below are some of the most common themes of the feedback received:

The best thing I like about Sprowston Community High School...

Lots of opportunities for drama and extra curricular activities

High expectations

The range of subjects

Nice atmosphere, very friendly,

Well run and working hard for the students

The one thing I would like to see changed...

A bigger Library

More Sports opportunities

Less use of cover teachers

More regular homework

Summer challenge

As we approach the Half-Term break the Summer Challenge Competition is still wide open and there is still all to play for. Each form is being awarded points for 'form challenges' such as attendance and getting journals signed, 'Big Challenges' and 'Individual Challenges', with the score being added up each week, to go towards one big final prize.

In the second week of the challenge each form was set the challenge of 'baking a cookie for Mr Bidle'. I can't deny thinking that one up myself and I have to say, I was rather pleased with the result (if a little over full!). The judging panel made up of Mr Sewell (Head of Year 8) and I dedicated ourselves to testing each cookie; measuring them on appearance, taste and texture. The results of the competition and the overall standing are posted below. However, I have to make special mention to Travis Watson who (with a little help from his mum) entered for his form 7DG the most wonderfully moist fruit cake.

The Cookie Competition Results

Form	Position
BN	1st
DA	2nd
DG	(special commendation)
HA	3rd
RJ	4th
TH	6th
TP	6th

Form	Points	position
BA	20	8
BN	36	1
DA	14	11
DI	22	6
DG	29	3
HA	23	4
RJ	19	9
SC	34	2
SH	22	6
SL	23	4
TH	16	10
TP	12	12



Mr D Bidle
Head of Year 7

YEAR 9

I would like to congratulate Year 9 for their excellent effort and behaviour in this week's end of Key Stage 3 English test. This was the student's first experience of a formal exam setting and was held in the Sports hall in the same manner as our GCSE and A Level exams are held. Many of the students will get their first taste of GCSE exams in Year 10, so it is important for us to have a practice run before the real thing.

Don't forget that all Year 9 students will sit end of Key Stage 3 formal tests in Maths and Science later this term too. The purpose of these tests is to enable us to assess the progress made over the key stage but also look ahead to set groups and targets at GCSE. It is vital that Year 9 use lessons and homework time to complete good revision to cement in their minds their learning over the last 3 years.

A big well done to the Year 9 students who have played on our sports teams this year, especially to the Football teams in the year group who once again been very successful.

A group of Year 9 boys have been taking part in a scheme being held after school on Thursdays at the Viking Study Centre at North Walsham Rugby ground. It is designed to aid the students build confidence along with numeracy and literacy through Rugby. The group have made a promising start over the last few weeks.

The plans for the Alton Towers are well under way. Remember everyone is eligible to go on the trip as long as attendance and behaviour is good during this term. This trip is to reward those students who have worked hard over the busy school year.

Good luck to Year 9 in their end of Key Stage 3 exams.



Miss Dawbarn
Head of Year 9



Miss Smith
Inclusion

YEAR 11

The exam period is up and running – and the students have been fantastic. I am conscious it can be a stressful time for our Year 11s, and I would encourage them to speak to their tutor or subject teachers about any concerns that they have



Preparation and Revision

The key to doing well this summer is to prepare fully and revise. We have offered the students a variety of revision sessions and classes that they must fully engage with. Each student has a revision timetable and should be checking where they are and when. Students should be in normal classes if they are not in an exam or revision session. Year 11 students will officially start external study leave on 10th June – so their last day in school will be 9th June. We will be handing out Year Books and Hoodies over the next week – so attending form is more important than ever.

Mrs Nicklin and I have told the students that they are able to wear non-uniform until they leave as a sign of thanks for the hard work our students are putting in. We have said, however, that we would like our Year 11's to still pay for the charity days we have – namely the Big C Charity Fund Raising Day on Friday 28th May, as they are still very much part of our school community.



Prom

Can I please remind all students that there will be no access to the Prom on 24th June without an invitation – this can only be handed to the student after submission of a parental consent form. All forms are to be put into the Prom Permission Slip Box, in the year office, ASAP.

Leavers Assembly

Another date for our diaries is 25th June – 1.45pm, this marks our Leavers Assembly for 2010, a time to reflect on achievements and memories and thank our students and tutors for all of their hard work. I have already had numerous offers from students to perform at the assembly – yet again Year 11 students have amazed me by showing their enthusiasm and support.

Prom Committee

The Talent Show organised by the Prom Committee was an enormous success – raising Year 11 enough money so we do not have to charge for entry to the Prom. Lots of Year 11's helped out at that event – but special thanks must go to Jack Wootton who yet again provided all the music and equipment for the evening – beyond the call of duty! May I also thank Mr Utting, Ms Cook and Ms Byles for their help and support on the night. We raised over £400!!!

Nearly there Year 11!



As we approach the end of term (and the end of school life for Year 11's) I would like to say a massive thank you to all those parents/guardians/carers who have supported us over the last year. I feel the year group has come so far since September and I am really proud of them.

There are lots of things to look forward to over the next month – but also a lot of hard work to do first! As a year group they have shown great maturity during the recent difficult time in school – I look forward to all of them maintaining this over the short time they have left and achieving the very best they can in their exams.



Kate Sully
Head of Year 11

Year 11 Maths - Revision Classes:

Thursday 3rd June
Foundation 9 - 11
Higher 11 - 1pm, all in the AB block

Students should sign up in school if they wish to attend;
There are a limited number of places!

See Mr Daunt for any more details.