



Easter 2008



Message from the head

Lent is almost over and we will be remembering the events of Holy Week in a special service that we are holding on Thursday. Normally we would have a Mass but on Holy Thursday the only Mass celebrated should be the Mass of the Lord's Supper in the evening. This begins the Triduum—a long haul of services but really worth it if you can attend.

We prepared in school for the great feast of Easter by holding reconciliation services in school. These were for Year 7 to 11. These consisted of readings, reflections and an examination of conscience. Students then took part in a simple action

that represented letting go of the things they regret. Students were really well behaved in the services and it is something we will look to develop next year. As the term draws to a close I am very aware of all that has been done in school over the last few weeks—the music events, the visit to Manchester, the ski trip, the extra lessons for exam classes, the sports fixtures, to name but a few. I am delighted that the school is such a vibrant place. Thanks to the students who gladly give of themselves, the parents who support them in all of this [which usually means a lot of

taxi-ing around!] and huge debt of thanks to the staff of the school—both teaching and support staff. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy and Holy Easter. I hope you will be energised and re-created by a well earned break.

God bless
Phil Smith



Snow Report !! Successful Skiers 2008

46 tired but elated students, and 4 members of staff, arrived back at school on Sunday 16th March, having completed the Staffordshire Schools Ski Association Course. Our students from years 10, 9 and 8 joined students and staff from Painsley Catholic College and Clayton High School in a group of 90 spending a week based at Le Corbier in the southern French Alps.

Ski instructors were full of praise for the group,

acknowledging their determination and courtesy and applauding their skill levels. All students progressed by at least one level of achievement, many, including some of the beginners, progressed by two levels!! Progress was so high that all students took part in a 6 hour Ski Safari to St Sorlin D'Arves a neighbouring resort, a first for Staffordshire Schools! Congratulations.

Students are keen to show their parents their

certificates and badges and some superb photographs showing our budding down hill racers in action.

Lots of thanks to our students and their parents for their huge support for the Staffordshire Schools Ski Course.

Mr Jehu, Miss Kay, Mr Richards, Mrs Jehu

Volume 4

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PTA Information

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Members of the PTA are to be heartily congratulated for their on-going efforts to raise valuable additional funds for the school whilst, at the same time creating wonderful social opportunities for members of the school community. During this short term alone members of the PTA have raised around £1,200 - a really princely sum - from three contrasting activities: the Prom Promotion Evening, the Quiz Evening and the Bags2Schools initiative. Thanks to all involved.

Prom Promotion Evening a Huge Success

This event, the first of its kind, was a really special occasion where male and female members of Y10 and Y11 modelled elegant eveningwear in preparation for that all important annual right of



passage, the School Prom. Attended by over 150 people, the atmosphere was fantastic with flowers and limousine transport complementing the event. The models performed with real flair and they were supported by several musical items which added an extra sociable dimension to the evening. The school is grateful to Deborah James Bridalwear, April Flowers and Diamond Limousines for sponsoring the event and to Mrs. Potts and Mrs Bundy for their attentive organisation.

PTA Quiz Evening

Possibly the best attended quiz evening ever at BWH. Some twenty teams competed in a well humoured and high scoring competition where there was a warm and supportive atmosphere. If you have not been to one of these events, try to make the next one. They are a lot of fun and there are many opportunities to win prizes regardless of your

intellectual prowess! Thanks to Mr. Thickett for his hard work in preparing the event.

Bags2School

Many parents and pupils turned up to school with bags to support this initiative and it was a squash to load everything that had been donated on to the lorry. We were hoping that we might make £200 from this event but, thanks to the support from parents, the proceeds totalled an excellent £328.

Your PTA needs you!

You may not have time to be part of the committee but you can help in other ways like joining the 200 club for example where, for a £1 per month subscription, you could win up to £50 per month and help the school at the same time. Contact the school for details and do whatever you can to come and support future events.

Arts College Activity

Once again much has happened this term under the auspices of the school's specialist status. A particular focus has been to make the status benefit subjects across the curriculum in addition to specialist arts subject areas. This has been done handsomely with an opportunity for GCSE History students to attend a production and workshop called "Hitler on Trial" and a GCSE English conference on War Poetry and the play "Journey's End". Year 9 were involved in a production and workshop on Shakespeare's

"Much Ado About Nothing" and we have also had two modern foreign language plays in school: "Les Garçons" and "Meine Neue Schwester". Art students from Year 11 and the sixth form have visited the Liverpool Tate Gallery and there have been West End Drama trips for members of Y10 ("Blood Brothers") and Y8 ("The Woman in Black"). 120 Key Stage 4 Geography, History and Music students visited Salford Quays and Manchester in a collaborative cross-curricular venture looking at urban regeneration, wartime ar-

chive and forced repatriation; the students variously roamed the quayside conducting fieldwork, travelled into Manchester by tram, visited the Imperial War Museum and enjoyed a performance of "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Palace Theatre. Our dancers gave a stunning performance in Dance '08 at the Regent Theatre and a very moving modern Lenten reflection on the Passion Story was presented in words and music at St Austin's Church in anticipation of Holy Week. All of this has taken place on top of a short term

(just ten weeks) of intense activity surrounding examination coursework deadlines. The staff involved in the organisation of these many activities are to be commended for their commitment over and above

the call of duty in support of enriching and broadening the school educational experience and upholding the arts college aims of bringing the world into the classroom and taking the classroom into the world. It

is hoped that the students, whose behaviour has always been of the highest standards in all of these ventures, have felt great personal benefit as a result of such opportunity.

Music Department

The music department were once again invited to perform at The Gatehouse Theatre in Stafford as part of the Newsletter's 'Celebrating Music'. The Senior Orchestra performed four contrasting pieces 'Paup and Circumstance March No 1' by Elgar, 'March from Carmen' by Bizet. An orchestral arrangement of some popular songs by Abba and two movements from 'Carnival of the Animals' by Sain-Saens. The performance given by the Orchestra was superb and was extremely well received.

Lauren Baker (Y10) completed the BWH performance with an outstanding performance of 'Baiyo and Fiddle'. Congratulations to all students who took part representing the school in

such an excellent way.

The two choirs; Senior and Junior Choir and readers from Y11 took The Passion Story to St. Austin's Church last week. A fresh approach to the Biblical account was given and supported in song. £145.00 was raised for Katherine House Hospice. Well done to all pupils who took part.

Next Term

Any pupil wishing to continue with instrumental tuition next year should register for lessons during week one of next term. Letters will be available via the Peripatetic teachers. There will be vacancies for students to take up new places: violin, viola, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba,

keyboard, singing, electric guitar, bass guitar and drum kit. It is vital that registration forms are completed as soon as possible so as to guarantee lessons.

It is with regret that we say farewell to our drum teacher, Mr Heywood, he will be taking up a permanent post with Sandwell Music Service. We thank him for his work with our pupils and wish him success in his new job.

Summer Term

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 26 June : Year 7 Music Festival (9.00 a.m.—12.00 noon)

Friday 27 June : Year 8 Music Festival (9.00 a.m.—12.00 noon)

Year 9 Music Festival—Date to be confirmed.

Music Department



Extra Curricular Achievement

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Tia and Zara Chander-Kumar have taken part in a series of successful performances for Chinese New Year Celebration 2008 with the Deyin Taijiquan Institute. This institute specialises in Anglo-Chinese

Martial Arts and Cultural activities.

These performances involved Chinese Tai Chi, Kung Fu and Cultural Activities and were staged in Wolverhampton and Telford. Both

Tia and Zara have shown a high standard of discipline, willingness to train hard and deliver the performance with lovely confidence.

Year 8

Year 8 - Alton Castle

Year 8 students will be going on a trip to Alton Castle on Friday 9th May until Sunday 11th May.

This trip involves many exciting and interesting activities.

If any student is still interested in going to Alton Castle, please see Mrs Collier who will give you more information.

Lenten Fund Raising Activities

The Year 7 - Staff and students were involved in a sponsored aerobics session to raise money for Father

Hudson's Charities. This is a Birmingham Diocesan Charity which supports homeless, elderly and looked after

children. It was organised by Mrs Fryer and her team of tutors and led by Ms Parkes.



Gifted and Talented Workshop

Gifted and Talented Workshop

30 students from Key Stage 4 have been involved in two workshop sessions which have focussed on using speech and language to raise achievement. Initially they worked as teams exploring texts and developing their ability to discuss in groups. The final session will involve the students investigating and researching a number of ethical and moral issues. They will be expected to present a formal speech in a

competitive format with Year 10 competing themselves against Year 11.

