

# July 2009

## Message from the head

Once again we are at the end of an academic year. We have had an eventful end to the year. As I write I am reflecting on the success of the Y7 Learners to Leaders event at the Regent Theatre. It was truly an outstanding event. It was a real testament to the creativity of the young people, their hard work and their dedication. It also displayed just how committed the staff are in all that they do for the young people. On the same day we also had the Y8 Multi-cultural Day and the Y9 Vocations Day. All students present were involved in participating in great learning events. Y10 were involved in a

very successful Enterprise day just before they began their work experience. These are all extremely positive experiences that enhance the curriculum for our young people. The staff have been working tirelessly in their efforts to put in place the practices required by our Action Plan in response to the Ofsted report. It was great to see so many parents at the Parent Focus Group on 13 July. In all the meetings I have conducted – in school and at our feeder primaries, I have been encouraged and heartened by the support that exists in the community for our school. I am very confident

that all this activity will lead to success in our next two visits by HMI/ Ofsted. I wish staff and students a good break – they are all in need of relaxation and refreshment! Thank you to all who have supported the school this year whether it be as a member of the PTA, attending meetings, coming to events and productions ... it is greatly appreciated. I will be writing in the summer to inform everyone connected with the school how we performed in this years examinations. I look forward to success for those students. Enjoy your summer. God bless—  
Phil Smith

### Farewell and adieu!

Our thanks go to all the staff that are leaving the school this year.

Mr Johnson [Science] is leaving us after to take up a position as a teacher of Science at Painsley Catholic High School.

Mrs Parkes [English] is moving on to Kingsmead High School to take up an English post that also has a media studies element to it.

Mrs Todd [Art] is leaving us to focus more of her time on her family commitments.

Miss Mann [Drama] is leaving to take up a post at Etone College in Nuneaton.

Mrs Gair [cover supervisor] is also leaving us to take up a position working with bereavement support for young people.

Mr. Alebon [Design and Technology] is leaving the school after 30years service. I am sure many if you will join me in thanking him for his service to the school community over so many years.

We wish them every success in future careers and ventures. I will introduce the new staff in t he first newsletter of the new academic year.

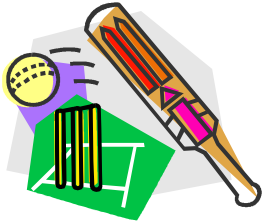
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## PE Department News



In June the GCSE PE Class were entered into the Stafford and District Rounders Tournament with mixed results but good playing opportunities experienced.

This term Y7,8 and 9 boys have once again represented the school in a number of cricket matches.

Over the past few weeks the Y7 and Y8 athletics have been busy competing at Rowley Park. A number of children have achieved personal bests and the following have been selected to represent the

District Team:  
Y7: Jimmy Elliot in High Jump,  
James

Faulconbridge in Javelin  
Y8: Alice Leo in shot put, Sam Hollyman in Sprinting.

There is a wealth of talent in these year groups and it would be lovely to see them getting more involved in inter school competitions. Congratulations to all athletes who participated.

Interhouse Athletics was held on Thursday 9th July at Rowley Park. All year 7 students attended this year with just a few not actually participating. Only Y8 and Y9 participants went up to the park.

This year for the first time our Y10 GCSE PE groups will be assisting with

They definitely stood out in the crowd as they wore their GCSE t-shirts! All students appeared to enjoy the opportunity to compete in such an environment.

Guest and presenter Duncan Carey who is a past pupil and still holds the Year 8 boys 1500m record since 1969 with a time of 4 minutes 49.2 seconds will be attending the Athletics.

All staff, both at the park and in school were a great support and without this the day could not have run so smoothly.



BWH pupils have continued to support the Stafford and District Catholic Primary Schools sports competitions. Y10

GCSE PE students helped officiate at the Athletics competition, Y11 GCSE PE umpired the Rounders

Tournament and most of our feeder primary schools have had support from Y11 pupils for their Sports Days.

## SCIENCE CLUB



Science Club has been an amazing success this year and has been attended by many year 7 pupils. There

has been a range of fun activities from making slime, fire writing and forensics. As a final activity on July 1st the club visited the National Space Centre in Leicester where we trained to be astronauts, watched a space show in the

observatory and travelled into Space on a simulator ride. It was an extremely enjoyable trip. Thank you to all pupils who have attended Science club this year and to the PTA for your help. Miss Whitehouse



## PEER MENTORING

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July a group of Year 7's soon to be Year 8's took part in extensive training to become peer mentors for the new Year 7's who will be joining us in September. They reminisced about their first day at

Blessed William Howard and participated in team building activities to prepare them for their role within school next year. The peer mentors will buddy up with Year 7's to offer guidance, support and reassurance

around school. They have been presented with certificates and are now armed with yellow badges, Good luck and congratulations on passing your training. Ms Keeley, Miss Dunphy and Miss Whitehouse

## SUMMER FAYRE

Good weather, great music and good food all contributed to make the summer fair a great occasion. The grand finale, Mr Broadbent and Dr Murray in the gunge tank, provided a grand finale enjoyed by the students, parents and especially those teachers who

escaped the ordeal. Thank you to everyone who helped on the night and behind the scenes and to all parents who provided raffle and tombola prizes. A list of raffle winners and an announcement regarding the amount of money raised will appear on the web site shortly.



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

So far this year the Duke of Edinburgh Award has been very successful 71 students from year 10 completed the expedition section of the award. A practice expedition 16th 17th May and an assessed expedition 13th 14th June. On both occasions the assessor for the area commented on how good the students were. Local villagers in Ilam also made a point of

saying to the local coach company based in Ilam how well behaved the students were considering the numbers present. Well done to all those students now is the time to finish the other sections by Christmas it would be great to have 71 students achieve their award.

Also 30 students have taken part in the Silver Award practice expedition

27th 28th June on a very hot weekend they will now be looking forward to their three day expedition 11th, 12th and 13th September these students are from year 11 and year 12.

May I also take this opportunity to thank parents and all staff who have supported myself and Dr Murray so far this season.

Mr K Richards



## Music Department

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 have been preparing for their annual Music Festivals. This year marks the twentieth anniversary of Music Festivals at Blessed William Howard School. Many pupils performed solos and duets. All pupils performed in both an instrumental and a vocal role. Each class played a class orchestra item and all pupils sang as part of the Finale. Once again the standard achieved was outstanding. Over 100 parents, grandparents and friends supported the Festivals raising £150.00 for Katherine House Hospice.

Some of our pupils, like their teachers, never grow too old for Music Festivals. The current Year 10 GCSE Music class requested a Year 10 Music Festival. They performed their

coursework of solo performances and compositions to a very supportive audience. It became clear to parents just how music education has advanced and changed since their days in the classroom. Well done to all pupils who took part in the concert especially to Matthew Large and Hannah Gamston who compared the evening so well.

Many pupils annually pass external music exams. It is possible to receive recognition for the standard achieved in UCAS pints. It is therefore essential that all pupils taking music exams, private tuition or peripatetic instrumental tuition, pass on their results to Mrs Helliker so that this information can be transferred appropriately.

Ten pupils attended the voluntary Grade 5 Theory sessions throughout the Spring and Summer Terms. This work supports the work of the instrumental staff; it is also a necessary requirement to enter Grade 6 practical exam work. A remarkable achievement to start in January 2009 at Grade 1 level and attempt the Grade 5 theory exam by the end of June. Well done to all pupils who put in the extra hours!! I am sure your hard work will pay off. Results will be expected during the summer holiday.

The Jazz Band gave their final performance of the year at the PTA Summer Fayre. They performed some of their favourite pieces including Rock Around The Clock, Freedom At





## MUSIC NEWS cont..

They performed some of their favourite pieces including Rock Around The Clock, Freedom At Midnight and Surfing USA. Some members of Junior Choir joined them as they also performed a medley of songs from Joseph And His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. A lovely Summer's Evening of

Music. Thank you to Year 13 Jazz Band members for their support to the Music Department throughout their time at Blessed William Howard.



## SKIPPING WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT

On 30<sup>th</sup> June at 12.00 noon 180 pupils and 2 members of staff took part in an attempt to break the world record for mass participation skipping. This was organised by the ten School Sport Partnerships in Staffordshire and partnerships in Lincolnshire. All those involved had to skip continuously for three minutes with

no more than a ten second break throughout that time. We should know in September

whether we have managed to break the existing record.



## CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY

Y8 Celebrating Cultural Diversity Day on 15<sup>th</sup> July. There will be three workshops which all pupils will experience in - Challenging Racism, Understanding Islam, Graffiti Art

and they will take part in either Street Dance or African Drumming. The work shops will be run by outside artists. In the afternoon the pupils will have an opportunity

to show the work they have done during the day.

## Y7 & Y8 MUSIC FESTIVAL



### REMINDER—CHANGE TO THE TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY

The timings of the school day from September 2009 are as follows:

Morning: 8.40 a.m. to 1.20 p.m.

Lunchtime: 1.20 p.m. to 2.15 p.m.

Afternoon: 2.15 p.m. to 3.15 p.m.

Bus times will NOT be changing.