

Date:
16.10.2009

THE RECORDER

The Archbishop Sancroft Newsletter



FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Although it now seems a distant memory, I hope that you and your families enjoyed a good summer break. In the relative short space of time since the last Recorder there are so many successes to report and the future looks very good for the school and our community.

Firstly of course are the excellent exam results from the summer. The GCSE results were the second best in the school's history- 71% of students achieving at least 5A*-C grades. This exceeded the target of 68% set as this cohort started their GCSE courses. The Government now uses a new measure including Maths and English. Our result here increased from 49% last year to 56% this year, which is a record for the school. This is a clear indicator that the focused work last year specifically in these two areas is paying off. This too exceeded the expectations for the year group and is in no small part down to the hard work of both students and staff in providing targeted support for individual students.

I was particularly impressed with results of our students who find learning a real challenge- this is the true measure of a school like ours and one that we must never lose sight of. As Ofsted reported earlier this year: *"Based on their starting points, most students, including those who find learning difficult, make good progress"*. Our core business is to enable all to achieve in a way that prepares them for the next step in their lives. This includes all of the extra-curricular activities, Music, PE, and Drama for which Sancroft is well known. The current list of activities can be found in this edition of the Recorder.

The trekking trip to Bulgaria went very well and the students gained a huge amount from the experience of some very challenging mountain climbs and from immersing themselves in a foreign culture. Thanks to Mr Roberts for leading the trip.

Thank you to those parents who returned the Parent Questionnaire sent home last term. I have attached a copy of the responses and intend this to be an annual exercise.

Also I have been very pleased with the way in which the new Year 7 students have handled the transition to High School. They appear to be enjoying their new environment and managing all the challenges that come with such a huge change to their (and your) lives.

The 'Year 6 family interviews' that we introduced in the summer have helped in this area. Our three new teachers have also made a very good start at the school. Ms Muir in Science, Miss Picnic in Languages and Miss Cadge in PE. They bring new ideas and approaches from their recent training and have already enriched our community in many ways. Another staffing change is in English where Mrs. Millea has been promoted to Head of Department.

There has been a lot of work going on over the holidays to improve the teaching facilities and site. The old bike sheds have been removed, PE changing rooms renovated and classrooms redecorated. In the very near future we are having a projector and screen fitted in the Hall, the visitor entrance and foyer redesigned and a cover over the quad. The main boiler has been replaced and we are currently working on a bid for funding to improve the canteen. This is without the building of a new Creative and Media centre and Food Technology suite at the front of the school!

Thank you to those parents who have signed and returned the ICT Acceptable Use Policy sent out recently. Please return any outstanding ones to the office as soon as possible.

Richard Cranmer
Headteacher

Open Evening

Our annual Open Evening will be held on Thursday, 22nd October starting at 7.00 pm. There will be displays and exhibitions of student's work and practical demonstrations. Do come along and see the school in action.

School Nurse Drop-in

As from this term, the School Nurse drop-in sessions will be running, offering health advice and support to young people. This will be every fortnight on an Even week in Room 1B from 1.10 pm. This is a free **confidential** service that will take place in the school on a regular basis. Our aim is to help young people feel valued and offer them non-judgemental advice. The range of advice may include:

- Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing – often young people face a range of situations that make them upset. We are here to listen. Sometimes talking to someone is enough to help the young person understand the situation more clearly.
- Physical Health – this is an endless list and can include anything from dietary advice to help to stop smoking.
- Sexual Health – some young people become sexually active and it is important that they stay safe and receive appropriate help and advice. We can offer advice on contraception methods but cannot provide contraception.

We do not always have the answers and may sometimes have to recommend or refer young people to other professional agencies. This would not be done without the young person's consent. Discussions that take place are **CONFIDENTIAL** unless a young person confides that they have been hurt, abused, threatened or their life is at risk. In this situation, other professionals would have to be informed to ensure the safety of the young person. Students can access the service without parental consent, however, we always try to encourage students to involve their parents/carers if possible. I am based at a Long Stratton Health Centre and am employed by the NHS (not the school). If you have any questions my contact number is 01508 531175. Sarah Archibald, School Nurse
Linda Smith, Student School Nurse

Bulgaria 2009

Fifteen year 9 students along with Mr Roberts and Mrs Lewis embarked on a mammoth 10 day trekking expedition during the last week of the summer term and the start of the summer holidays. We visited the Rhodope mountains in Bulgaria, and spent 10 days climbing some of the biggest peaks in the Rhodopes, the highest being nearly 3000 metres. We camped for a few nights and stayed in small guest houses at other times. The walking was tough and we had to work together as a team in order for all of us to manage the walking.



As well as walking, we mingled with the Bulgarians, who were very interested in meeting young English people. We played international football, made music and sang, visited caves, swam in icy mountain streams, cooked on open fires and saw some amazing sights. All in all it was a fantastic experience, and one that all students really enjoyed. Schools worldwide, who organised the event were extremely impressed by the enthusiasm and endeavour shown by the ASHS crew. Well done everyone!
Mr. Roberts

Library News

Book Sale Thursday 12th November in the school dining hall 3:30-4:30.

Quality books for children of all ages. Ideal Christmas presents. 10% discount on all books. Refreshments available. Organised by **The Waveney Valley Children's Book Group** a local branch of the National charity that seeks to promote the love and enjoyment of children's books. For more details about the group, enquire at the school office or Harleston library.

Do you need a quiet place to do your homework? The Library Resource Centre will be open each Wednesday until 4:15pm starting on 4th November. Please see Mrs Gillham if you are intending to use the LRC.

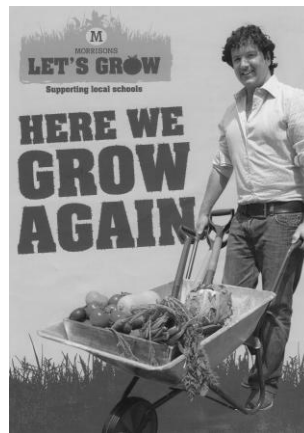
Older students have been reading the six books on the Book Trust short list. They will meet to discuss the books on Wednesday 4th November 3:30 -4:15 in the LRC.

Year 7 and their teachers are eagerly awaiting their **free book** from the charity **Booktrust**. The most popular title ordered is 'Blood Hunters' by Steve Voake, a detective thriller with the added menace of hungry predators. Surely a page turner!

Chris Ryan, 'the one that got away' is the next author treat arranged by the Library on Wednesday 11th November at Aylsham Lodge Hotel.

Chris was awarded the Military Medal for his escape from Iraq and has written both adult and a very successful series of books for children.

If any Dads are interested; contact the school and I will get tickets for you.



We are once again collecting the **Morrisons Let's Grow** vouchers. A collection box for your vouchers has been put in the reception area of the school. Please send your vouchers into school with your son/daughter as soon as possible as the closing date for ordering equipment is the 25th November 2009. Thanks to your help last year we were able to order gardening equipment and

seeds which will be put to good use in school later this term.

Credit Awards

Well done to the following students who have received Credit Awards:

Commendation for Library Assistants 08/09:

Saffron Arnkels-Webb, Zoe Bond, Leanne Batram, Abigail Broadbent, Lucia van den Berg, Sarah Long, Gemma Littlewood, Shona McGregor, Beatriz Sanchez-Flores.

Bronze Award 50 Credits: Ryan Shadbolt

25 Credits: Esther Hibbler, Andrew Hadingham, Jack Parsons, George Turner, Edward Chenery, Olivia Day, Sophie Long, Kayleigh Cook, Stephanie Goodall, Ryan Shadbolt, Kara Kilbourn, Lauren Stokes, George Couchy, Chloe Pearce, Amy Seggons, Aaron Ward, Emma Taylor, Robert Anthony-Maclaren, Craig Ellis, Ashleigh Hawkes, Emily McCluskey, Dominic O'Neill, Harvey Clarke, Poppy Hanner-Smith, Christie Mullen, Ruby Skilton, Laura Staff, Thomas Parsons, Robin Lewin, Joshua Walker, Jordan Walker, Joshua Davies, Taya Ballard, George Couchy, Aaron Willett, Holly Sleightholme, Chloe Berg, Ewan Davies, Abby Smith, Ryan Shadbolt, Josh Bailey, Thomas Girling, Ruth Melton, Jessica Wimbledon, Jimmy Long, Alden Millican. Well done everyone!

Extended Schools

Archery Pupils in years 7 & 8 enjoyed a morning of archery with European and National Champion Archer, Alec James. This opportunity is just one of a range of Extended Schools activities taking place at the school this term. Following this taster morning Alec will be coaching a group of 12 pupils during an 8 week archery course running after school on Tuesdays.



Street Dance Local dance instructor Kate Garwood entertained year 7, 8 & 9 pupils recently with a morning of Street Dance. Instead of their usual PE lessons all students joined Kate to create a dance routine. Kate is now running an 8 week Street Dance course on Wednesdays after school.

I am keen to extend the after school opportunities to pupils and would welcome comments or suggestions for activities. The archery and street dance clubs have been subsidised through funding from Active Norfolk via a Sport Unlimited grant. A further grant has been applied for and I hope this will enable us to deliver an even greater range of opportunities in the Spring Term.

Family Learning We have recently been awarded a grant by the Campaign for Learning as part of the Family Learning Festival. We are planning an afternoon for year 7 pupils and their families which will be run by a Norwich based company; 'Mad Science'. Parents and carers will be invited to join their child for this afternoon of hands on science experiments, letters will be coming out shortly with full details of this event which will run after the half term break.

If you have any questions or suggestions around Extended Schools activities please contact me at emmajane.johnson@yahoo.com or call me on 07827 309098.

Emma Johnson
Extended Schools Co-ordinator



Archbishop Sancroft High School is putting on a play called '**NEW**'. It is an exciting original piece of theatre which tells the story of Finnish immigrants to the United States of America at the start of the 20th Century. The play is a collaboration between the Music and Drama departments and contains live music performed by students.

There are still a few tickets left for the Friday and Saturday performances at a cost of £5.00 for adults and £1.00 OAP/Under 16 and tickets are available on the door.

Performance dates are Thursday, 15th, Friday, 16th and Saturday, 17th October 7.00 pm in the School Hall.

SCHOOL TERM DATES

Year 2009-2010

Autumn Term: Monday, 7th September to Friday, 18th December 2009

Half Term: Monday, 26th October – Monday, 2nd November 2009 (**Please note extra day**)

Spring Term: Tuesday, 5th January 2010 – Thursday, 1st April 2010

Half Term: Monday, 15th February – Friday, 19th February 2010

Summer Term: Tuesday, 20th April – Friday, 23rd July 2010

Half Term: Monday, 31st May – Friday, 4th June 2010

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday, 3rd May 2010

Working together to give everyone the best chance in life

