



Whitburn World



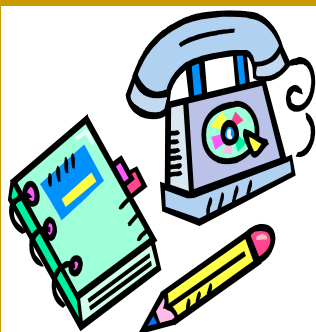
The Principal's Post — December 2014

We are finally at the end of a very long but productive Autumn term and I'm sure that everyone is looking forward to a well deserved Christmas break. We recently held our first ever Sixth Form Open Evening and the response from the 300+ prospective students and their parents/carers was overwhelmingly positive. It was interesting to hear many comments that our staff seemed more knowledgeable and better prepared for delivering A level courses than staff they spoke to at existing Sixth Forms.

Our 'field of dreams' is gradually becoming less of an excavation site and is starting to look more like a building site as the foundations are laid. The steelwork will arrive in January and the building will quickly take shape after this. Progress on the build has been good and we are well track for completion in the summer.



Thank you all for your incredible support for the school and our wonderful pupils. I hope that all of you have a very Merry Christmas and enjoy a happy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous year in 2015.



Contact Us

Phone: 0191 529 3712

Absence Reporting: 0844 239 3457 or text
07624 816806

Fax: 0191 529 5569

Email: office@whitburncofeacademy.org

Web site www.whitburncofeacademy.org



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Diary Dates		Diary Dates	
Thursday 29th January	Year 11 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 11th February	Ash Wednesday
Friday 6th February	Year 9 Church Service	Thursday 12th February	GCSE Options Parents' Meeting

Last Day of Term—Friday 19th December 2014

This was a day full of pre-Christmas excitement among both pupils and staff! As part of the development of our House System, we held our first ever House Pantomimes (Oh no we didn't!) The House Captains worked incredibly hard to pressgang pupils and staff to take part and perform to gain valuable points towards the House Cup.

Many pupils and staff wore Christmas jumpers as part of the non-uniform day, with donations of £1 towards the charities Shelter and Leukaemia Research. The day finished with our Christmas Assembly where we had a final chance to enjoy some of the highlights from Thursday's school carol concert.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Olivia Mingles with the Stars

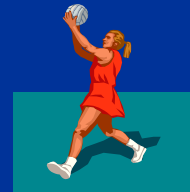
On Friday 28th November Olivia-May Oughton performed as backing dancer at Metro Radio Christmas Live. Over 60 girls auditioned to perform with the supporting act Michael Rice, but only four girls were chosen.

Olivia (pictured far right) said “after many hours of rehearsals it was really rewarding to perform on the same stage as huge artists.” After the performance she saw some amazing acts such as Ed Sheeran, Labrinth, Nicole Scherzinger and Clean Bandit.

A fantastic achievement for Olivia, what an amazing experience!



Sporting Roll of Honour



Badminton

Congratulations to the Year 10 Badminton A team Joshua Atkinson, Daniel Hall, Jerin Juby and Matthew Laws, who dominated the South Tyneside competition on 1st December. The boys won all of their games to claim Gold.

Also well done to the B team, Ewen Frazer, Henry Forrester, Adam Hayes and Alex Palmer, who just missed out on a final spot losing 19-17 in the decider and finishing 3rd overall.

The Year 10 girls' team, Hannah Buchanan, Lauren Cook, Robyn Wilson and Jess Young also stormed to victory in the same competition, again winning every game to claim Gold. The girls (pictured right) were very pleased with their achievement!



Despite being a year younger than the other teams, our KS3 Badminton team also won Gold on 8th December in the competition held at Mortimer Community College. Congratulations to Matthew Agar, Jacob Briggs, Marcus Robinson and Ethan Robson.

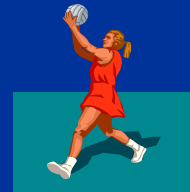
Fencing

Congratulations to Matthew Dickinson in Year 11 who recently gained a podium finish of 8th when competing in Bonn. As a result Matthew has qualified for the European championships, he is one of only two cadet fencers in the UK to be selected.

Matthew may also be selected for the Junior Commonwealth Games, which take place in South Africa in July.

Well done Matthew, what a fantastic achievement!

Sporting Roll of Honour



Rugby League

On the 10th December our Year 11 boys' team played in the North East Regional Finals and what a game they played! The team beat Whitley Bay to be crowned North East Regional Champions, qualifying them for the National Finals where they will play a team in Lancashire.

Tries were scored by James Wade, Tyler Bowes and Joe Langdon, with Rory Nettleton receiving the 'Man of the Match' award.

The team was made up of Tyler Bowes, Matthew Glover, Jack Heighes, Sam Hopper, Joe Langdon, Thomas Lewis, Adam Lyons, James McGurk, Rory Nettleton, Daniel Smith, Charlie Thompson, Harry Turnbull, Max Turnbull, James Wade and Adam Wilde.



Pictured above: Rory receives his 'Man of the Match' award and the team pose with their trophy.

Whitburn Leads the Way in South Tyneside

We are pleased to announce that we have clinched top spot in the South Tyneside Secondary Schools Participation and Performance tables with 36 points and 63 points respectively. Teams are awarded one point for every attendance at a game and three points for winning a competition, two for 2nd place and one for 3rd.

This is a fantastic achievement and the PE department would like to thank everyone who has participated this term!

GCSE Certificate Evening

Our annual GCSE Certificate Evening was exceptionally well attended with 142 of the 2014 Graduates welcomed back to the Academy with many more guests than ever before. The graduates were presented with their certificates in the Septimus Hall in celebration of their incredible GCSE examination success; the best ever! It was also good to hear how well they had settled into their post-16 placements, although I am sure many would have wanted to remain with us to continue their studies. Graduates purchased their Year Book on the evening and were shown the Leavers' DVD, put together by Mr Smailes, who had also created a montage of photographs from Results Day and the Leavers' Ball which pupils have as part of their Leavers' Book.



Our Guest Speaker once again was Katy Storie, who engaged our graduates with her presentation about having the confidence to be proud of being unique and to strive to be the best they could be in whatever they chose to do. Katy has captained the England 'A' team, played 24 times for the senior England team, won a record four consecutive Six Nations titles and three European Championships and narrowly lost out in the World Cup final in 2006.

As well as the GCSE certificates we awarded our usual in-house certificates for Progress, Outstanding Progress and Subject Excellence. This year we issued nine pupils with Overall Outstanding Progress (exceeding their target grades in 6 or more subjects) and an astonishing 73 additional pupils with Overall Academic Excellence (achieving A*/A grades in 6 or more subjects).

There were also nine pupils who achieved full marks in a GCSE examination, including two pupils who received full marks in more than one subject.

We are delighted to be able to award yet another new in-house certificate for those pupils who achieved 100% attendance for the entirety of their time at secondary school. Again, the request for an award such as this came from parental feedback. 35 pupils achieved 100% attendance for Year 11; three of these pupils had 100% attendance for Years 7 to 11 which is an amazing achievement

PTA Christmas Fayre

Due to last year's incredibly success event, the annual PTA Christmas Fayre took place this year on Thursday 27th November in the Septimus and Sports Hall. There were more stalls than ever with Christmas crafts, gifts and cards, jewellery, toys, sweets, cakes and many more. Packs of Christmas cards using images produced by the pupils for the Christmas card competition were a great seller.

The "big prize draw" was drawn on the night and three lucky people had a nice windfall to begin their festive season; the first prize of £150 undoubtedly helped towards the Christmas shopping! There were also some amazing prizes donated for our raffle and tombola. Our wonderful choir and band performed throughout the event and got us all into the Christmas spirit. Festive refreshments and cakes will be served for those who wished to just sit and soak up the atmosphere.

A great big thank you to all who supported this event. We were absolutely packed out with visitors and raised over £2,000.

Funds raised by the PTA last academic year have been quite substantial; over £4,000 was donated to subsidise whole school trips and events for all pupils, which helps to reduce the overall cost to parents and carers. Of course we must not forget the purchased of the Easter eggs for every member of the school community. Funds raised also help to maintain a hardship fund for the Academy which supports many of our disadvantaged children.



Showing Support for Macmillan

by
Megan West 9ER

On the 27th September I held a coffee morning in my back garden to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. With help from my mum I held games, tombolas and raffles which included prizes donated from local shops. Examples of prizes included vouchers, facials, handbags, wine, flowers and our top prize of a tour to Emmerdale village. Everyone enjoyed the cakes and coffee; the Victoria sponge proving the most popular!

Later that night my mum held a Macmillan evening that added more money to the pot. My friend Amy and I became waitresses for the night and I think it is fair to say everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves! At the end of the night I counted my money and with a grand total of £1,350 I was very pleased. All of this was in honour of my two best friends, Charlotte and Amy, as both their grans have had cancer; one recovering now after being given the all clear and one unfortunately leaving us earlier this year.



What a wonderful achievement by Megan, the Academy are very proud of you!

STEM Day 'Medicines and Diseases'

by
Mrs Dembry, Head of Art

Way back in July on STEM Day our fabulous Y7's created a tile based on the theme of 'Medicine and Diseases'. Pupils really enjoyed the process of drawing onto the Perspex square, adding tissue paper and shredded felt.



The results were amazing and everybody who has seen the finished artwork comments on how good it looks! The tiles have now been installed on the first floor stairwells so all pupils within school can see this stunning work.

Hmmm..... wonder what we can create next year for STEM Day?!

December 2014

Our annual Christmas card competition once again produced some outstanding entries, making the judging process extremely difficult for our Governors! The successful designs are pictured below. Congratulations to all of our winners!

All finalists were sent to the local authority for consideration in their borough wide competition and we are pleased to announce that Erin Geary's design was chosen by the Council as one of their card designs for this year.

