



Darton High School

A Specialist Humanities College



Newsletter



A Word From The Headteacher

The New School at Last!

A few weeks ago it was finally announced who would be building the new Darton High School. Barnsley Partnership For Learning (BP4L) are the "preferred bidder" to build our £25-30 million new school.

The new school will be built on the same site, with the new entrance off Ballfield Lane. This means that the building of the new school should not interfere with the life of the school as all the lorries and construction traffic will be kept separate from our students, staff & visitors to the school. It also means that we will finally have a solution to the dangers of our current entrance off Churchfield Lane.

But what will the new school be like? What will it offer the students who study there? Or the staff who work there? Or the community who wish to use the adult learning or community sports facilities?

To answer these questions and more the next open meeting of the Parents' Forum is to focus wholly on our new school. The meeting will include a short presentation by the school and BP4L and then an extended opportunity for you to ask questions. So please put into your diary:

Open meeting of Parents' Forum – 5:30 Monday, 19th January 2009 – The new Darton High School

I do hope you can join us for that.

In the meantime I hope you share my view that Darton High School is an improving school. All our monitoring and feedback from you shows that the school is a better school than it was; with improved quality of teaching and better student behaviour. We're looking forward to our current Y11 students doing even better than last year's record breakers. And, of course, we're looking forwards to our new buildings that are to open in 2010.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at school or via s.hill@barnsley.org. I always value what you have to say.

Have a good Christmas & New Year. With best wishes from myself, the staff & the school's governors.

Simon Hill, Headteacher



Specialist School Activities

House Activities Afternoon

On Friday 5th December, during the afternoon, the whole school took a break from normal lessons to get involved with a competitive house activity afternoon. Forms were split into teams and went to different rooms where teachers had set up fun activities relating to their subject. A team from each house competed in each activity and points were awarded for doing well. At the end of the afternoon the points were tallied up and Wentworth came in top. Well done! Both students and teachers alike found the afternoon enjoyable.

"I thought today was a success and a lot of fun. One of the reasons it was fun is because we won the G&T form in maths, gaining 10 points. I really enjoyed the R.E and Maths rooms because they were the most challenging and fun. I thought French was the hardest. Overall it was a fun day!"

By Chris Hinchliffe W12



"I was so impressed at how well behaved all the students were who visited the PE department and how well they supported each other in their attempts to be successful. The afternoon went so quickly because it was fun and everyone was enjoying themselves. Certainly worth doing again."

Miss Prescott, PE Curriculum Team Leader

Gideons International

Year 7 students were given a presentation by Gideons International and issued with their very own Bibles. Students found the presentation very informative. Gideons commented on how well behaved and polite our students were.

Well done year 7.



Specialist School Activities

Y10 Theatre Visit

On Wednesday 10th September 2008, one hundred and thirty Year 10 students boarded three coaches to visit the Alhambra Theatre in Bradford. Students buzzed with excitement and their expectations were fully met. The production of "Blood Brothers", a GCSE set text, was thoroughly enjoyed by all staff and students who attended. Students described the performance as "breath-taking", "moving", "one of the best ever seen" and "legendary".

The trip had a few purposes, one was to provide an opportunity for students to visit the theatre and enjoy a professional drama production, and the other was to provide students with a quality production to review as part of their GCSE coursework. Some examples of their reviews follow:

"Overall, I think this play is a must-see, and will sometimes have you rolling with laughter, yet other times have you sobbing your heart out. I would award it nine out of ten, and recommend it to anyone, especially teens and young adults."

Bethany Rutt

"YOU will decide if fate will lead you to watch this media masterpiece. I guarantee you will adore every second of it. Willy Russell at his finest."

Sarah Clegg

"Overall I love almost every aspect of the play and thought it was riveting, funny, dramatic and brilliant. With sing-along numbers, cracking comedy and possible tears, you'd best hear the story of the Johnstone twins. If not, you'll regret it."

Hayley Smith

"There is rather a dramatic and tear-jerking ending, which I would tell you, but it would ruin the play if I did. I highly recommend people go see this play because it is a really good play and it opens your eyes and makes you really think what you are willing to give up for your family."

Laura Todd

"All in all, I think Blood Brothers was a superb play. It is very moving, yet very exciting, with many twists and turns. At parts you will cry and others you will laugh... The songs will have you singing for weeks on end. If I could, I would definitely go again... and take the song words too!"

Katherine Riggs

"Overall the play is a mind-blowing watch, most enjoyable for any sort of person. Just about anybody could sit through and dearly enjoy the play. Five year olds to one hundred and five year olds should have enthusiasm towards it. Many people can empathise with the factors that make up the play."

Adam Lodge

"Altogether, it was very amusing to see. This performance will (hopefully) still be in the auditoriums in a decade from now and I would still watch it! The experience was thrilling! My favourite characters are Mickey, Eddie and Lynda, the cheeky lass. Overall, a brilliant play to observe!"

James Hanwell

"After watching Blood Brothers on the stage of the Alhambra Theatre in Bradford, I was eager to tell my friends and family about the laughs and cries I had experienced at the hands of this comical and adventurous, but also serious, play."

Cristo Cicero

"This is a tremendous play which is mainly funny; I definitely recommend this to anyone of any age or gender... This is most certainly the best play I have ever seen and I will remember this for many years to come."

Michael Burgess





Specialist School Activities

Citizenship Success

Citizenship is a key part of our Humanities specialist status. This July, we had the results from the first full year group at Darton High school who sat the Citizenship GCSE. We were delighted for the students who achieved excellent grades. We were so overwhelmed by the positive comments made by the exam boards moderator we thought we would share their comments with you:

"The weather must have been such a disappointment to Darton's students because they had clearly put a considerable effort into organising citizenship activities in conjunction with the local carnival. Great idea and, ultimately, there was no doubt in my mind that 'the students triumphed over adversity'.— The students had planned activities for Darton Carnival.

There was a genuine sense of engagement and enthusiasm in the sample that I saw and it certainly covered the whole ability range. I was particularly impressed by the planning of many of the students and the clear efforts they made to link what they did with citizenship. They also provided good supporting evidence, with a sense of pride in some of the photographs - and they pulled no punches in their evaluation.

Also evident was the support and clear thinking of the staff concerned who also deserve the greatest praise for the accuracy of the internal assessment. Although it's a bit unfair to single out specific candidates, those such as xxxx and yyyy at the top end did really well and then there was zzzz. I am often asked at INSET if anyone gets full marks for their citizenship activity. They certainly do. Not many, admittedly, but few have been more deserved than zzzz. I'd love to place it on the Secretary of State's desk and say;

"Look, this is what citizenship is all about and shows that a talented and committed student, well-supported and motivated by staff can achieve."



An exciting opportunity has arisen for Year 7s. On Thursday 8th January 2009 students will be visiting Sheffield Lyceum Theatre to watch a production of Aladdin starring Phil Daniels. Any Year 7 students interested see Mr Powell in A115 as soon as possible (all permission slips and money to be handed in to Mr Powell too)



School Activities

Get Cooking

Students in year 7 have been given a free cookbook 'Real Meals - Simple cooking that tastes great'. This cookbook contains basic recipes that students can cook with their parents at home.

Young & Junior Enterprise

So far this year in Enterprise we have sold buns and hot chocolate which was a huge success. Overall, we raised £60 for Pebbles, which is a charity in South Africa for children who have very little. We have many fundraising events planned for the new year which will hopefully raise more valuable funds for the Pebbles charity.

If you are interested in joining the Young & Junior Enterprise please contact Mrs Jackson or come to A115 on Friday lunchtimes.

By Frances Rhodes, Young & Junior Enterprise member

Is it on t'trolley Santa?

Stuck for an idea for a present?

How about - thrills, gasps, shocks, good laughs ???

Find all these and more in a good book -

- Any book in the 'Goosebumps' series for instance;
- Anything by Terry Pratchet or Michael Morpurgo
- Jacqueline Wilson or Anthony Horowitz

See Mr Jay and Mrs Gracie in the library for a list of good books to read.

Y11 Mock Exams

Curriculum Maps and Homework Policies for departments can now be found in each departmental section on the website. These documents outline what students will be learning and what types of homework will be set for each year. They can be a great reference tool, informing parents what their child is doing in each subject area and providing opportunity for parents to enrich learning at home.

The exam timetable for Year 11 mock exams is under the calendar section on the website. Be sure to take a look and ensure you know when each exam is.

"Good Luck from all staff at Darton High School".

Christian Outreach

The Christian Outreach centre in Darton gave two presentations to our year 7 students. The first was about things not being as they seem which was proven when the prize of a meal for two turned out to be a pot noodle. The second presentation was about encouraging Teamwork, which was demonstrated with a tug of war.



School Activities

Halloween Poetry Trail

During Halloween, Ms Bingley organised a poetry trail for students. Each student had to pick up an entry sheet then visit each English teacher and Mrs Gracie to collect missing scary/yucky words from the Halloween poem below. The first 10 students with all words in the correct places won a mask and a cape. The student who wrote the best Halloween poem of their own won a mask, cape and a cauldron of sweets.

Winners: Olivia Ellis, Hannah Mayo, Lauren Bateman, Callum Thornton, William Snowden, Connor Tebbs, Owen Powers, Danielle Barker, Jack Brannan & Luke Firth.

Cauldron winner: Shannon Dabbs

A spell to banish smelly feet

*First you need a cauliflower,
This will give you magic power.
Then you add a zombie's vomit,
Stardust and a little comet.
Dragon bogies, giant snails,
Chopped up guts and mouse's tails.
Eye of toad and toe of gnat,
Garlic sausage, vampire bat.
Mix it up till it turns green.
Add a bit of wizard spleen.
Put it in a copper cup.
Close your eyes and drink it up.
Gulp!*



Teaching and Learning

Thank you for the feedback on teaching and learning we have received this year.

You asked for clarity on the topics being studied at school as well as more information on our homework policy, more details on homework expectations within subject areas as well as how homework was to be marked.

We have uploaded this information onto the website www.dartonhigh.org - there are Curriculum Maps showing topic areas listed under individual departments, long with the subject specific Homework Policy. As well as letting you and your child know what types of homework will be set and marked, there are also homework extension activities. These can be used if homework is completed early, or simply to find out more about an area of interest.

The whole school policy is also on-line, under School Policies within School information.

So, thank you for your feedback it makes a real difference.

Karine Jasper, Assistant Headteacher



School Activities



Auditions and rehearsals for the Darton High X-Factor had been running over the course of this term. The standard this year was higher than ever. Unfortunately, only a select number of performances could make it to the final.

When the night arrived the cast were nervous and anticipation hung in the air. The show was split into 3 Acts, with only the performances from Act 1 & 2 judged.

Over the night dancers and singers gave excellent performances. The contestants ranged from years seven to eleven, with group and solo acts. The judges marked each performance and at the end of Act 2 they went to make their decision. While they did this, Act 3 took place which consisted of teachers singing and dancing and years 10/11 doing performances for their dance course. Among the teachers were Mr Doyle, Mr Cooper, Mr Sinton and Mr Bisley.

1st Place – Alice Naylor, Olivia Griffiths & Hollie Scorah

2nd Place – Sarah Thornton

3rd Place – Doolally

Commended Song – Jacob Steers

Commended Dance – Lauren Brook & Sophie Clayton

Originality Award – The Hobnobs

Costume - Bangtidy

A big well done to all who were involved!

By Dominic Booth, Y9



Grill The Staff

This term Christopher Hogg interviewed Mr Doyle, Deputy Headteacher.

Why Did You Go Into Teaching?

I am a fourth generation teacher within my family and I believe that teaching is within my family and blood. My father was a deputy head, my mum a head of department, her dad a head of department. I lived with teaching but at secondary school I wanted to become a journalist. I always wanted a job working with people and teaching is a good example of this.



Where Have You Taught Before Darton High School?

I have taught at Royston High School, Horbury in Wakefield as well as Thornhill.

What about your education?

I went to a catholic school in Gateshead, I gained nine GCSE's and at first failed my A levels but retook them to gain qualifications in Chemistry, Maths and General Studies. I went to All Saints/ Trinity University in Leeds and gained a BSc 2:1 in Maths in Secondary Education.

What Do You Like At Darton High?

I believe there is a heart at Darton High School and believe that are students are the finest in Barnsley and further a field. The staff and pupils are excellent here and are not praised enough for being such good people to be around everyday, I love coming to work in a morning as the feeling of the school is much better than any other school I have taught in. I am proud to work here and be part of such a fantastic school.

What would you like to see/maintain at Darton High?

I would like to see such an excellent team of staff to be maintained as to continue the good results we are having and get what is best for our students. I would like to see the new, fantastic school to be built and to be able to put perfect people in a perfect building.

What Do You Do In Your Spare Time?

I spend every minute of my spare time with my family and I love every minute with them. I have a lovely wife Sally and two daughters Eve nine, and Ami eight. They keep me sane and I couldn't live without them!

What Are Your Hobbies?

I love Sunderland AFC, I went to my first match in 1979 and used to be a season ticket holder. I like lots of different types of music but my two favourite bands are Muse and Sigar Ross. I love France and would love to retire there some day. I spend most of my holidays in Brittany, Normandy and Pas-De-Calais.

What Are Your Ideas For The Future?

I am currently on a aspirant Headship course and would love to be Head in my own school in the next few years.



Student Council

Student Council

Over the past few months student council has been very busy with organizing a new council for a new year. We have elected a new set of senior positions on the council. The new chair person is Christopher Hogg, Vice Chair Sophie Sanderson and Secretary Emma Taylor. The position of treasurer is shared by Lauren Jessop, Bethany Murton-Sykes and Sophie Rhodes. Over the last term the student council has organised 2 non uniform days in which we have raised money for local sports activities and Children In Need. If there are any local sports events that would like to apply for funding please contact Ms Kaye for further information.



Christopher Hogg



Sophie Sanderson



Emma Taylor



Lauren Jessop



Bethany Murten-Sykes

Youth Council

The Youth Council is currently working towards holding new elections for new councillors. If you would like to apply either contact Ms Kaye within school, contact Christopher Hogg your youth councillor for further details or visit www.barnsleyyouth.com. There was a 43% turnout this year so lets hope for an even better one this year.

Council information provided by Christopher Hogg, Y11

Barnsley Youth Council Elections
Have U got what it takes?
If you're aged 13 -19 and enjoy a challenge ... the Barnsley Youth Council could be for you!
For an info pack txt your name and address to
07980 512915
or visit www.barnsleyyouth.com

Logos for Barnsley Youth Service, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, and Barnsley Youth Council are visible at the bottom of the poster.





Generation Green

How you can help us sow the seeds for a greener tomorrow!

The school has registered with the 'Generation Green' scheme www.generationgreen.co.uk, a new programme from British Gas, supporting schools, students, their parents and the wider community in becoming more environmentally aware.

Greener at school

During the year we will be undertaking green tasks to encourage us to save energy and cut our carbon emissions. Tasks can be:

- Appointing a lights monitor for each classroom.
- Measuring our school's carbon footprint.
- Setting up a green notice board in each class.
- Asking students to photograph themselves doing something green and displaying the best ones on the green notice board.

Greener in the classroom

As well as tasks, Generation Green gives staff a wide choice of teaching materials at KS3 that we hope will make learning about green issues even more fun and inspire children to take an active role in protecting the environment.

Greener at home

Any support you can give us will be very welcome, in particular parents, friends and the wider community can be involved by completing a simple Energy Savers Report available on the website.

Rewards for students

The school is rewarded by collecting green leaves that can be exchanged for green, energy efficient rewards, e.g. PC integrated weather station, camera nesting box, wind turbine kit, botanical kits, bikes – there are around 100 rewards available. The school has already been rewarded with 5,949 green leaves just for registering, which is 5% of the total target for the school of 113,983. Setting up a green notice board in each class is worth 50 green leaves per class as is displaying the green photographs. Completing the Energy Savers Report earns 100 green leaves.

Please help in making this project a success, and good luck with your activities. The project runs up to 31 July 2010. Please get in touch with school to speak to our 'Green Contact', for activities completed in order that they are registered on the website and in order to credit green leaves to the school's profile.

Thank you for your support. Here's to a greener tomorrow.



Sports News

Young Sports Ambassadors

Two of our Y10 students were accompanied by Mr Foster to the Barnsley Healthy Schools and School Sports Awards on the 7th November. Katharine Riggs and Jack Smith, who recently became Barnsley Young Sport Ambassadors, helped present awards to various primary and secondary schools. Katharine had the particularly daunting job of opening the event with a speech in front of the 300 attendees that included councillor Linda Burgess. Both represented the school excellently and deserve a big pat on the back for their outstanding effort.





Kids Earth Group

Community

The Kids Earth Group is currently preparing the children's garden in Darton for spring 2009 and is organising its annual Christmas party. The group is setting up its own enterprise scheme to raise funds for the work it does and will hopefully be up and running by January 2009. The Darton Big Vegetable Show was a great success earlier on in the year and lots of people turned out. Some of the activities at the vegetable show included work charming, food tasting, onion weighing, snail racing, auctions and vegetable exhibitions. The group is also organising Green Week for June 09 in partnership with school.

School

The group is putting up its new nest boxes in the woodland area which has been funded by the youth opportunities fund 08 and has just registered the school under the RHS schools for gardening campaign. We are also in the process of setting up a number of new initiatives for 2009.

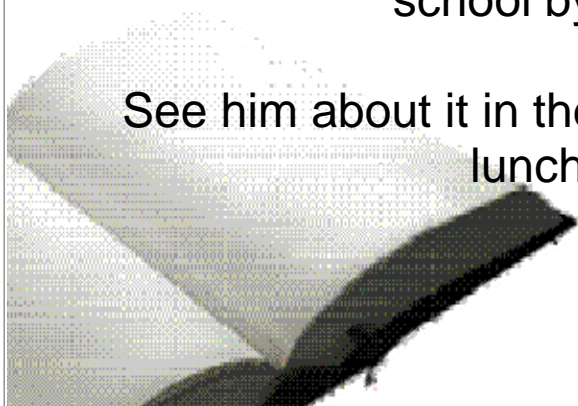
By Joe Untisz, Kids Earth Group

Looking To Improve Your Reading or Writing?

Need To Work On Those Computer Skills?

Easy-going and friendly coaching given after school by Mr Jay

See him about it in the library any break or lunchtime



STAMPS WANTED!

TYPE: ANY STAMPS NEW OR OLD!!!

Time: anytime

HAND IN ALL THE STAMPS TO MISS
GRACIE IN THE LIBRARY. ALL STAMP
PROCEEDINGS WILL GO TO
ALBATROSS RESEARCH AND WILL
BE GREATLY APPRECIATED BY ALL!

STAMPS NEEDED

Primary Business Address

LIBRARY!



A postage stamp!!!


STAMPS



Black browed albatross!!!



School Holidays & INSET Days

 Denotes a Holiday

 Denotes an INSET Day

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