



# DARTON NEWS 'N' VIEWS

*a Specialist Humanities College*

## March 2007



### **What parents want**

What is the most important thing that parents want from a school? Before you read any further, could you think about that? What matters the most to you (as a parent), about Darton High School?

My guess, and it is only a guess, as I haven't asked the question before, is that most of you would answer with one of three things. Here are my guesses, in reverse order:

- Third:* Academic success. This means passing examinations. Doing 'well' at school and leaving with the skills, knowledge & qualifications to progress to college or a sixth form;
- Second:* Happiness at school. I believe most parents would put this ahead of academic success. Although we do want our children to do well at school, their happiness is more important to us than a collection of GCSEs;
- First:* Safety at school. What is more important than this? Of course parents want academic success and happiness (for their children). But I believe most parents would put at the top of their 'wish list', the hope that their son or daughter would be cared for and come to no harm whilst at school.

Darton High School has a 'duty of care' to look after your children in your absence. You hand over your sons & daughters to us, for us to do everything we can to protect them from harm. Obviously this is as well as helping them do well academically and doing what we can to keep them happy.

### **The end of the school day**

In my opinion the time when our students are most at risk (in terms of their physical safety), is the few minutes straight after the end of the normal school day.

When the bell goes at 3:25 some of our students stay for an extra-curricular activity (such as take part in sport), but the majority leave the school buildings within a few minutes. This involves many hundreds of young people streaming out of school towards the buses, a waiting car or across the car park to walk down Churchfield Lane. This produces a number of safety concerns:

- Many parents choose to pick their children up by car and drive into the school car park for 3:25. This causes 'gridlock' and results in many students crossing the car park to get to their parents as other cars try to manoeuvre in the limited space. This is dangerous and could easily result in a child getting knocked down. Therefore, could I ask parents who wish to pick their children up, do so at 3:45. This short delay would actually save parents time, as the car park is less congested then;
- Children who walk home down Churchfield Lane put themselves at risk in two obvious places: Crossing the car park & walking along Churchfield Lane itself. We have a footpath that avoids crossing the car park. Can you suggest your child uses it? More dangerous still is the narrow pavement down Churchfield Lane. Cars are meant to drive past at 30 mph. Many don't. The problem is the pavement is only wide enough for two people walking side-by-side at most. Our students often walk along the lane itself. This is extremely risky. Could you please suggest they keep on the pavement. Help them to understand the impact of a car hitting a person at 30 mph.
- Many students travel home via one of the buses that pick them up at school. Occasionally we receive reports of students not sitting down on the upper deck and even leaning out of windows. You don't need me to point out the danger in this. Please encourage your child to stay seated when upstairs on buses.

I realise it isn't always easy talking to young people about their safety. They want to be treated like adults and often find our advice to be condescending. However, I'm sure you'll agree that we must try our best to safely guide our children through some of the dangers they face.

As always, if you have any comments or questions about what I have written, please do contact me at school. My e-mail address is [s.hill@barnsley.org](mailto:s.hill@barnsley.org).

With best wishes.

Simon Hill.  
Headteacher

## **SCHOOL RUN COURSES;**

- As part of the school Specialist status, we will be offering a Family Horticulture Course, in partnership with the Neighbourhood Learning Net, starting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April. We are hoping to recruit 10 families made up of at least one child in KS1, 2 or 3. The course will run for 10 weeks with alternative weeks being spent gardening at a site on the school premises and also at the UVP allotment at the top of Bridge Street and Dearne Street in Darton.
- Due to the past success of the Family PC Building courses the school will be offering the opportunity again. Ten families will be given the chance to build a PC, install software and at the end of the twelve week course take home their very own computer. The family should involve at least one child in KS1, 2 or 3.

**For more details about either course or to register your interest, contact Barry Knowles (Neighbourhood Learning Net Manager) on 381119.**

- The school has recently been looking into piloting a scheme led by BMBC called “Reclaiming Lost Learning”. The scheme acts as an incentive for pupils to reclaim lost school days (due to absence) by attending curriculum-based activities provided by the school outside the schools core hours. Both the PC Building course and Family Horticulture course will fall within the guidelines set by BMBC as well as many other extra curricular clubs offered in school. The overall aim is to increase students attendance levels at the end of the academic year by keeping a record of any relevant extra curricular activities they take part in, these can include homework clubs, revision sessions etc. Other schools in the Borough who have taken this initiative on board include Kingstone and Kirk Balk.

## **Darton Drama Club:**

Lots of interest has been shown at the prospect of a Drama club at Darton High School. This is a very exciting project, which as Mr Booth is the Curriculum Team Leader for Drama he wishes to endorse. The two problems, which stand in our way at the moment, are the numbers (412 Pupils at the last count) and the Year 11 curriculum of intervention. The latter is getting easier to manage but the former in terms of numbers remains the most difficult. Any ideas, please fill in the space here ? Suggestions so far are to charge money, invite pupils, use the behaviour system, use the Gifted and Talented system, plus many more. It is with this in mind that I have decided to call a meeting for like-minded pupils, and parents if they wish. This meeting is an open forum and will take place in the hall on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April. The only function of the meeting is to collect ideas.

Any advance questions to Mr Booth on (01226) 382568



### **School Holidays 2006/2007**

The school closes for the Easter Holiday on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 3.25pm**, re-opening on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 8.50am**.

The school will be closed for an inset day on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007**.

The school will be closed for the May Day Bank Holiday on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2007**.

The school closes for the Spring Bank Holiday on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at 3.25pm**, re-opening on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 8.50am**.

The school closes for the Summer Holiday on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at 3.25pm**, re-opening on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2007**.

### ***Support Staff:***

*Jillian Parkin*, School Support Assistant retired at the end of December following over 10 years service at the school. We wish Jillian very best wishes for the future, and thank her for her dedicated and loyal service.

Welcome to *Beverley Hatfield, Natalie Wilson, Carol Lunn and Renee Connelly* who join us during February and March as School Support Assistants.

*Amanda Warren*, Senior Science Technician leaves the school at Easter to join Rodillian School, Lofthouse in Wakefield as Cover Supervisor. Amanda is no stranger to Rodillian School, having been a pupil there! We congratulate Amanda on gaining this promotion, and thank Amanda for her dedicated and loyal service at Darton High School over the last two years. Amanda has been an asset to the Science department and we wish her every success for the future.

*Terry Johnson*, joined us in a temporary capacity as Caretaker/Handyperson to support the Premises team, providing assistance with community lettings. Terry has been with us just over a year, and completes his service with the school at Easter. We thank Terry for the loyal service he has provided, always with a smile and cheery quip, and wish him all the very best for the future.

The new sports building opens soon, and together with the new synthetic turf pitch, provides superb sporting, health and fitness facilities for the school and community; we have been particularly pleased to see an increase in community use over the last year. We now have a team of Sports Facility Supervisors in place to support these activities out of school hours during evenings, Saturdays, Sundays and school holiday periods. *Welcome to Luke Field, Warren Bird, Luke Bailey Kane Chambers and Simon Beavers.*

### ***Teaching Staff:***

#### ***GAVIN STURGESS – LEAVING;***

Christmas 2006 saw the departure of one of Darton High School's longest serving teachers. Mr Gavin Sturgess our Deputy Head, who retired after more than 36 years at the school. We wish him every success for the future.

Congratulations are due to both David Bisley and David Sinton on their successful appointments as Key Stage Pastoral leaders. David Bisley is now overseeing all Year 8 and 9 matters whilst David Sinton is dealing with issues concerning Years 10 and 11. They are working closely with Form Tutors and Senior Staff to provide an extra level of care for pupils at Darton High School.

Congratulations to Mrs Jane Ashmore on her successful appointment as Assistant Headteacher at Kirk Balk School. We wish her every success for the future.

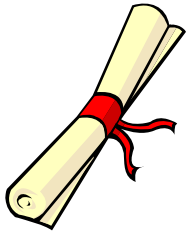
Congratulations to Allison Derbyshire on her successful appointment as Child Protection Officer.

#### ***A Darton High School Achievement Highlight:-***

A number of pupils who entered a national poetry competition named "I Have a Dream", have had their poems published in a book. This is certainly an excellent achievement that they, parents/guardians and the school should be proud of! A copy of the book is now available in the Library.

## Pupil of the Week

A new initiative has begun where all staff are able to nominate a pupil in both key stages (KS3, KS4) for the title 'Pupil Of The Week.' The criteria is wide and varied - academic progress, improved behaviour, helping others etc. The winner will be awarded a trophy which they keep for a week. Certificates will also be awarded. Winners so far are:



W/B 12 MARCH – KS3 – Sophie Sanderson, KS4 – James Elliston  
W/B 19 MARCH – KS3 – Nicola Dinsdale, KS4 – Jacques Cowen

**Congratulations to the winners so far !**



## **KS3 Gymnastics Competition**



This was held at Kingstone School on 1 March 2007. A total of 8 girls from Year's 7, 8 & 9 performed as a group in the competition. The competition was of a very high standard. Beth Tweddle the World Gymnastics Champion attended the event to give a talk and give out awards. Our team came 6<sup>th</sup> out of 10 teams. They had all worked very well together to choreograph their routine in a very short period of time. They are all keen to compete again next year and hopefully achieve a higher position.



## **Year 7 Girls Netball team**

The Year 7 girls netball team came runners up to Holgate in the final of the Year 7 tournament on the 15 March 2007 at Holgate. In a thrilling final our team played very well and only just lost 3 goals to 4. Well done to all ten players in the squad, who all played their part in getting the team to the final.

## **Year 10 Boys basketball team**

In the final of the Barnsley schools competition against Wombwell High School on Saturday 17 March 2007 at Foulstone School. The Y10 boys basketball team played in the final of the Barnsley Schools competition against Wombwell High on 17 March 2007. This is the first year this team had played together and had done very well to reach the final. They lost 36 points to 40 points in a very closely contested final. In the early stages of the game Darton had missed a number of chances to score and looked like they would be comfortably beaten. Darton then started to play a lot better and were making the game a lot closer contest. In fact in the fourth period Darton were the better team scoring 15 points to Wombwell's 8. Michael Tkaczuk was the top scorer with 10 points. Well Done! to all players.

## Panorama visits Darton High School;



### Darton High's Claim to Fame!!



On the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2007 Darton High School had a visit from the Panorama crew for the BBC. They wanted an insight about what year 11's think of joining the army. Keeley Powell and Alice Pollard had an exciting experience when they were able to meet Alex Millar aged 27 who presented the show. He told us he has been working as a journalist for the past seven years and the last five years with the BBC. This is what they found out:

Keeley asked, "From your visit to Darton what do you think of the school and surrounding area?" Alex replied "I am surprised at how close the area is to the countryside, it is a pleasant place and really nice. The school seems to be very organised and I am extremely impressed with Jayne Kaye who has organised this visit." Keeley then asked "What do you think about how the pupils answered the questions you asked them?" He told us that he got the feeling that when in big groups the pupils were quite shy and frightened because they were put off by the cameras but when in smaller groups the students were more natural and gave intelligent answers. Both Keeley and Alice got the impression that he thought Darton was a good school.

Alice then went on to ask, "Where's the most exiting place you have visited during your job as a journalist?" He replied by saying "Africa. I visited there because I was doing a piece on Margaret Thatcher's son in Equatorial Guinea. Visiting a new country was a whole new experience which I really enjoyed" Lastly Alice asked, "Would you ever consider joining the army?" Alex replied quickly "NO!! I'm certainly not brave enough!" Keeley and Alice would like to thank Miss Kaye and Miss Gillott for organising the visit, the year 11 students for participating in this discussion and lastly the Panorama television production crew for choosing our school to visit and letting us put the questions to them. Once again many thanks.

### Fair-Trade Tuck shop – Organised by The Student Council



The Fair-Trade tuck shop was such a success that it sold out two days before the end of Fair-Trade fortnight!!! The Student Councillors however, were smart, as usual, and kept back some of the delicious mini eggs to reward students for positive contributions to the school community!

### Hidden Stories

The Hidden Stories project has been a marvellous opportunity for our students to work with professionals from the museum service and Just

Addictive. Working with Year 5 and 6 students from Kexborough, one of our feeder primaries was a wonderful transition experience not just for students but staff as well.

The work that was produced was amazing as was the learning that took place over the 6 weeks. The project culminated with a presentation at Barnsley Town Hall to which parents were invited. Four students went on to give a presentation about the project to the Specialist Schools Steering group at Darton High school.



## Year 11 Mock interviews



People from local business, agencies and organisations gave up their time to interview our Year 11 students to prepare them for life after Darton High School.

One interviewer commented 'This was an Excellent event and all pupils were polite and took part in the activity' Angela Dakin, Barnsley College.



## Pyramid Student Council Meetings

Student Council representatives from Wellgate, Barugh Green, Mapplewell, Kexborough and Darton Primaries along with Darton High School got together to discuss community issues at the second 'Pyramid' Student Council meeting. The students hope to meet every half term to talk about common concerns and projects that the individual schools are working on.



## LEPRA Fundraising

Year 8 students took part in a sponsored workout to raise money for people with leprosy. Matthew Rimmington (seated at the front of the picture) raised a tremendous £100 and helped win the form prize for 8D, 8D along with form tutor Mr Atkinson have said they would like to have a BBQ as their prize. All students who raised over £21 were given a LEPRA T-shirt and will be treated to a night at Barnsley Bowl as a reward. Every one who took part received a certificate. The money raised will help 44 people suffering from the disease, **WELL DONE YEAR 8!**

## GCSE Leisure and Tourism Trip to Cadbury World

This term we have taken a group of Y10 Leisure and Tourism pupils to visit Cadbury World in Birmingham as part of their GCSE coursework. We were studying the marketing techniques adopted by the organisation as well as evaluating the Cadbury World tour. We were amazed at the size and scale of the tour and how many interactive exhibitions incorporated on the site. The tour lasted about 2 hours and included free chocolate tasting as we made our way through the different rooms. We would strongly recommend the tourist attraction to young families and teenagers as the displays are suitable for all age groups. To see how the pupils enjoyed the day see attached photographs.



## Year 11 Exam Timetable;

Date	Title	Duration	Start Time
12/03/07 - 23/03/07	Art and Design exam	3h 00m	Every Morn
13-Mar-07	Maths Modular exams	1h 00m	Tues AM
21/03/07 - 23/03/07	GCSE Drama Assessment		
26/03/07- 30/03/07	GCSE Dance Assessment		
30/04/07 - 11/05/07	French Speaking Tests		
10-May-07	Integrated Assignment for GCSE Music	0h 30m	Thurs AM
17-May-07	Religious Studies B (Philosophy and Ethics): Paper 1 (Philosophy without Coursework)	2h 00m	Thurs AM
17-May-07	Religious Studies B (Philosophy & Ethics): Paper 1 (Short course)	2h 00m	Thurs AM
18-May-07	Physical Education (Games) Written	2h 00m	Friday AM
18-May-07	Physical Education A Written	2h 00m	Friday AM
18-May-07	Physical Education (Games) (Short Course) Written	1h 00m	Friday AM
18-May-07	Physical Education (Short Course) A Written	1h 00m	Friday AM
18-May-07	Citizenship Studies written paper	1h 30m	Friday PM
18-May-07	Music (Listening)	1h 15m	Friday PM
21-May-07	Performing Arts: Dance Written	2h 00m	Mon PM
22-May-07	English Literature	1h 45m	Tues AM
22-May-07	Media Studies	2h 00m	Tues AM
24-May-07	Media Studies	1h 00m	Thurs AM
25-May-07	Design and Technology: Resistant Materials foundation and higher	1h 30m	Friday AM
04-Jun-07	Geography B Written Paper 1 Foundation and Higher	1h 15m	Mon AM
04-Jun-07	Mathematics: Written Paper, Higher, Intermediate Foundation	2h 00m	Mon PM
05-Jun-07	English Language Paper 1 Written Higher and Foundation	1h 45m	Tues AM
05-Jun-07	Design and Technology: Graphics foundation and higher	1h 30m	Tues PM
06-Jun-07	Science: Double Award A (Modular) Written Foundation and Higher	1h 30m	Wed PM
07-Jun-07	English Language Paper 2 Written Higher and Foundation	1h 30m	Thurs PM
08-Jun-07	French (Listening) Higher	0h 45m	Friday AM
08-Jun-07	French (Listening) Foundation	0h 35m	Friday AM
08-Jun-07	History Paper 1 AMERICAN WEST C1840-C1895	2h 00m	Friday PM
11-Jun-07	Geography B Written Paper 2 Higher and Foundation	2h 00m	Mon PM
13-Jun-07	Science: Double Award A (Modular) Written Foundation and Higher	1h 30m	Wed AM
13-Jun-07	Design and Technology: Textiles higher and foundation	1h 30m	Wed PM
13-Jun-07	Design and Technology: Systems and Control Electronics foundation and higher	1h 30m	Wed PM
13-Jun-07	Design and Technology: Systems and Control Mechanisms foundation and higher	1h 30m	Wed PM
14-Jun-07	History Paper 2	1h 45m	Thurs AM
14-Jun-07	Business Studies foundation and higher paper	2h 00m	Thurs PM
14-Jun-07	Applied Business: Business Finance	1h 30m	Thurs PM
15-Jun-07	French (Reading) Foundation	0h 30m	Friday PM
15-Jun-07	French (Reading) Higher	0h 50m	Friday PM
15-Jun-07	French (Writing) Foundation	0h 40m	Friday PM
15-Jun-07	French (Writing) Higher	1h 00m	Friday PM
18-Jun-07	Drama Written	2h 00m	Mon AM
20-Jun-07	Religious Studies B (Philosophy and Ethics): Paper 2 (Ethics without Coursework)	2h 00m	Wed PM
22-Jun-07	Hospitality and Catering Unit 1 Year 10	1h 30m	Friday AM
22-Jun-07	Design and Technology (Food Technology) Written	2h 00m	Friday PM
26-Jun-07	Science Modular exams. Year 10 and Year 11 (re-sits)	0h 30m	Tues AM
27-Jun-07	Maths Modular exams Yr10 and Yr11 (re-sits)	1h 00m	Wed AM

**Good luck to all year 11's**

## School Health - The Barn

The Barn is an under 18's drug and alcohol service. They offer a range of services to young people who want information about drugs / alcohol, need some support or have a family member who uses drugs. The Barn is open Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm. Young people and parents can drop-in without an appointment all day Monday and any afternoon after 1.30pm. Appointments can be made anytime during normal hours and also out-of-hours if required.



For an appointment you can phone us on 280532 or text 07624 803323 and we will arrange a suitable time. Or, just ask your teacher or learning mentor to phone for you.

## Confidential Drop In

The school Nurse, Mrs Julie Dowle will be available in school every Tuesday at lunchtime 12.20 – 1.30 in C16 (Citizenship Class room). If you have any urgent confidential matters which you would like to discuss at any other time you may contact Mrs Dowle via Mrs Derbyshire in reception who can arrange an appointment for you.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM – SALE OF STOCK**

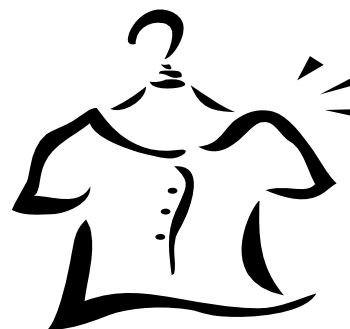
Grab a bargain from our sale of school uniform – these prices are less than half price of other suppliers: -

School Sweatshirts with **Red Logo** – size 32" now only **£6.50** each  
School Sweatshirts with **Red Logo** – size XL now only **£7.75** each  
School Sweatshirts with **Gold Logo** – size XXL now only **£6.50** each

Wrap up warm this winter in PE with our fully reversible rugby shirt – original price £26.00 from Trutex – available in school at the reduced price of: -

Size **30/32** at the bargain price of **£6.00**  
Sizes **34/36, 38/40, 42/44, 46/48** at the bargain price of **£6.50**

If you would like to purchase any of the above items of school uniform please call in to the school reception, but you need to hurry while stocks last.



## **And finally.....**

Hope you have enjoyed reading Darton News 'n' Views, if you would like to add any information to the next issue or give your comments please e-mail me at [s.lord@barnsley.org](mailto:s.lord@barnsley.org)

## Did you know?

**To all staff and pupils. We would like to run this item as a regular feature in the newsletter. If you have been involved in an event or have an unusual hobby or interest that you would like to share, please submit details to the Editor. To set the ball rolling.**

**Lorraine Wood, School Business Manager participated in the Festival of Brass and Voices during November 2006 at the Royal Albert Hall, singing with 1,000 voices, 59 National Male Voice and Ladies Choirs together with the Sellars International Band and YBS Brass Band. A superb experience and treasured memory. The event takes three years to organise and raised £95,000 in aid of Cancer Research.**

**Sarah Lord  
Editor of The Newsletter**