

THE HEREFORD ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



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DECEMBER 2010
Issue 27

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of the autumn term and the Christmas holidays we can all take this opportunity to reflect on the successes of our students and staff. Our Achievement Evening for Year 11 Leavers was a well attended celebratory occasion where students were presented with their GCSE and BTEC Certificates by Tori James, Adventurer, who was the youngest British women and first ever Welsh women to reach the summit of Mount Everest in 2007. She was an inspiration to our students, guests, governors and staff with her expedition stories of endeavour. Tori drew particular attention to our students well deserved results which I wholeheartedly agree with.

We are very pleased to inform you that our Attendance continues to improve this term, reaching a peak of 95.01% attendance over all. 161 students have so far this term achieved 100% attendance. All those students still achieving 100% attendance by the end of term will be put into the £100 draw. Watch this space for the results.

I will not hesitate to remind all parents and students that attendance has a direct impact on student achievement and attainment so keeping up and improving attendance is imperative for student success at all levels. Thank you to everyone for going the extra mile to make that difference.

Thank you to our Parents' Forum for helping to organise Bingo on 9th December, which was a fun evening for all who came along. The Parents' Forum support the academy in various ways and are a way that parents can have a voice about what goes on. I hope that more parents will take up the opportunity to participate in this way. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs S Kowal, at the academy if you are interested. The more support and guidance you can offer, the more successful we are in understanding and responding to the needs of students and the community.

Our Christmas Carol Service at the Hereford Cathedral was again a very special seasonal event, with students displaying their superb vocal talents. Thanks to all who supported us by attending.

New Build and Lunch time arrangements

As you can see, our new build is progressing extremely well and is currently

slightly ahead of schedule. We hope this continues, weather permitting! The ethos of the new build has been focussed around a different educational learning environment for students and we will have a new and different approach to how we organise and do things because of this.

One of the changes that will come into effect, as I mentioned in my letter sent to you in November concerning eligibility for Free School Meals, is that it will be our expectation when the new building opens, that all students will remain on site during lunch times and take advantage of the superb contemporary café style facilities that will be on offer.

We are also anticipating having staggered lunch time arrangements for students, due to the initial lack of space we will have, until the older building is demolished and the area flattened out.

We are intending to arrange an Open Day for all parents, students and members of the local community to view the new build before the students and staff move in. I will send you further details about this in the summer term 2011.

School Uniform

We have been advised by the school uniform provider [The School Uniform Shop] that the wholesale price of Blazers is going up as of 1st January 2011.

The price of our Blazers to you is currently £25.00 and from 1st January 2011 this price will, therefore, be increased to £30.00 to cover the wholesale price increase. I would, however, wish to advise you that The Hereford Academy subsidises this price quite considerably as the retail price of our unique Blazers varies from between £45.00 for size 28" to £65.00 for size 46". We do this as we value our students looking smart and having a uniform that is instantly recognisable that students feel proud to wear.

I wish everyone, students, staff, parents, carers and governors of the academy a very merry Christmas, a happy New Year and a restful holiday. We look forward to seeing students back on Thursday, 6th January 2011.

John Sheppard
Principal

Poetry Slam

On 16th October 2010, eight Year 9 girls took part in the West Midlands Poetry Slam Final held at Birmingham College.

Team members, called Metaphor Monkeys, are: Demi Earlstone, Chloe Apperley, Christine Rushforth, Megan Hemmings, Hannah Leonard, Rebecca Smith, Charmaine Reynolds, Zoe Pemberton.

Having beaten the rest of the Year 8s in The Hereford Academy Poetry Slam the team were entered into the semi-finals at John Masefield High School, hosted by the Poet Laureate for Birmingham, Spoz. The team felt they gave a confident performance in front of three judges and a full audience. The anticipation at the end of the competition, while waiting for the results, was very tense. Demi said, "When they

announced the winners of second place we knew that we had come first and started screaming with delight".

The team were elated to receive our trophy from the expert poets: Spoz and Dreadlockalien.

As far as they knew that was the end; however, Miss Boyal informed the team that she had received an email from Spoz inviting them to take part in the West Midlands final in Birmingham. Knowing the group would have to improve their performance, the girls decided to bring something new and fresh to the final by wearing Disney costumes, which looked pretty cool! Despite not winning, the girls tried their best throughout the competition. They were not disheartened by the result because of the positive comments they received from the judges regarding the originality of the costumes and their relevance to the poem.



Every Child Matters Standards Award

The academy was pleased to welcome Beryl Oliver back to our department this term to present Mr Sheppard with the Every Child Matters award and certificate. As you already know, this prestigious award was gained by the academy last year and is a testament to our good practice in liaising with students, parents, the wider community and external agencies.

Fundraising Events for the Year 11 Prom

Bag packing at Tesco Belmont

Our bag packing date is booked for 14th December 2010 6–9pm. We will be taking a choir to raise money for the Prom and a charity of our choosing. We also have 2 more bag packing events booked for next year.

Ready Steady Cook

A Ready Steady Cook competition has been taking place amongst some of the teaching staff to

raise money for the Prom. These half hour lunchtime events have been very popular, with students and staff coming to support the teachers each week. We have raised £44 so far.

The semi finals will be taking place on 11th, 18th and 25th January 2011 and the finals on 8th February 2011; good luck to everyone taking part!

There will be further bag packing and fundraising events; dates to be confirmed.

Humanities Visit to Credenhill Hill Fort

An action packed visit for the whole of Year 7 to Credenhill Hill fort was arranged for our students to experience History; what life was like for our Iron-Age ancestors. The following are students' reflective diary accounts of the day:

Dear Diary

Today I went on a coach to Credenhill Hill Fort. We had to climb the hill and I was worried I was going to fall! When we got to the top we made shelters, fires and painted our faces and got fake tattoos like Iron-Age people. We made broomsticks and lanulas which are sticks with some wool wrapped round. I felt like I was achieving a life goal and I felt like it was an adventure for us when my friends and I built a shelter with string, leaves and logs. Then Jordan lit a fire and we put some sticks on but Emily and Caitlin put on most of them because that was what



they had to do. When we got back to school we were tired and when I got home I went to sleep, when I woke up it was teatime.

Charley Smith

Dear Diary

I found the Credenhill trip very good in many ways. I have to say the best thing was shelter making, I thought we worked amazingly well together and everyone tried as hard as they could and we were proud to say we actually made the shelter. We all managed to get in our shelter (without squishing up) and we sat on the conifers.

I was absolutely exhausted by the time



I got home, I felt so tired especially as we had walked up a hill (which was very steep). It was much better walking down!

My overall experience of the trip was fun and I thoroughly enjoyed myself, I just wish it had lasted a bit longer.

Bethany Ankers

Dear Diary

Yesterday I went to Credenhill Iron-Age hill fort where the actual hill fort was. It was covered in forest. It was a long walk up to the hill fort, however, there were lots of trees to look at. At the top it was very interesting to see where the ramparts were and what they might have looked like. We had our lunch by a fire and afterwards we built shelters and lit fires. I think our shelter was the best!

Next we painted our faces like Celtic warriors and we made spears. Making spears was fun, we had to find a long stick and wrap rope around it. When we went home I was very tired.

Conor Feakins



Silver Arts Award

In an exciting new initiative eight of our Year 11 students are currently working on their Silver Arts Award. Nick Davis, our Media Arts Tutor, leads the group for two sessions a week. Nick has exhibited his own work and the students were able to see some of his photographic prints, which are on display at the Castle Pool Hotel, during a short visit to Hereford before going on to the Hereford Cathedral where they took photographs of interesting aspects of the Cathedral. This award has three elements;



Photography, Film Making and Animation. The students are currently putting their photography portfolio

together. They have visited Hereford and taken interesting photos and interviewed members of the public.

A visit to The Hereford Photography Festival at Hereford Museum took place which allowed the students to look at a wide selection of prints from photographers and to look at how an exhibition is presented. These students will be selecting several of their own photographs to put into an exhibition which will take place in the New Year.

Students taking part are Ieuan Marlowe, Jordan Marlowe, Daniel Mills, Ryan Preece, Callum Mayo, James Phillips, Tim Rushforth and Brandon Dyke.



BTEC Dance – Performing Arts [Dance]

We currently have eight students in Year 9 to 11 taking this course [Shannon Broom, Leah Gould, Shannon Davies, Liah Hughes, Shannon James, Natasha Bounds, Ellie-May Kidley, Amy Saunders]. The course is run over two years and requires the students to complete both practical and written assessments. It takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school and therefore requires the students to be very committed. At the end of the course students are rewarded

with a qualification worth 2 GCSEs. Students are currently working on two jazz dance pieces which will be performed early next year. After Christmas they begin a performing dance unit which will require them to choreograph their own routines where they must tell a story. The girls have really developed their dance knowledge and understanding since starting the course and their jazz dance pieces look great!

Young Apprentices

On Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th November forty Year 10 & 11 Young Apprenticeship students went to a Careers in Sport & Leisure Exhibition in Telford. Students were given talks on possible career opportunities by a variety of presenters. Some were also given the chance to apply for trials at Premiership football clubs! All students were excellent over the two days and were a credit to the academy.

Year 9 Geography Trip to Barry Island and Cardiff Bay

On 11th October 2010, 26 Year 9 students went on a Geography Field Trip to Cardiff Bay and Barry Island. The purpose of the trip was to look at coastal defences and allow them to see in practice the things they had been learning about.

The trip started at Cardiff Bay Barrage where we had a guided walk over



Students on the Barrage

the barrage and were shown the 'fish stairs' and how the boats got in and out of the harbour. This was then followed with a talk on coastal erosion and how our coastlines are protected.

Following this we moved onto Barry Island where the students looked at coastal features such as wave



Barry Island

cut platforms, bays and headlands and also had the chance to develop their field skills. Once this was done students quickly went to hunt for the favourite places of Gavin and Stacey! The students had a brilliant day and were a real credit to the academy.



View over the bay from the Barrage

Basketball Report

Our Year 11 Basketball team have played 1 game this season, which they narrowly lost to Bishops. After a disappointing 1st quarter they came back strongly and were unlucky to lose the game. Man of the match was Ieuan Marlowe.

The Year 9 Basketball team are unbeaten so far this season. They have won 3 from 3 with 2 matches left to play before the winter break. The Billy Beaumont lead team have defeated all opposition convincingly, including last year's winners Bishops winning 34 - 21. The whole team have played consistently well and are hoping for a successful finish to the league and a win in the finals.

Curriculum PE

There have been some exciting things taking place in the PE department this term, which have made students' lessons different and more engaging. The greatest addition to PE this year has been the dance mats! Students in all key stages have been using these during lessons to improve coordination and fitness; even Year 11 boys have enjoyed using them.

In Year 7, Miss Gallant's PE class have made a dance video, with the

help of Mr Wilkinson, to show off their new moves. Hopefully this is going to be uploaded to the plasma screens around the academy. This was a great project, and something we can look forward to doing more of next year when we are in the new building.

Finally, Mrs Tunna's Maths class have had an exciting few weeks working in the Sports Hall, using number skills to analyse the performance of basketball players.

Extra-curricular PE

Trampoline Festival

In November five students helped host The Hereford Academy's Trampolining Festival. Two other Hereford schools, Bishops and Whitecross, were invited to attend to show off their skills and attempt some difficult routines. This was a fun evening for all involved and it was great to do something a bit different.



A Christmas Puzzle for Parents / Carers

Calculate the total number of gifts sent during the 12 days of Christmas then email your answer to Miss McAll nmcall@theherefordacademy.org.uk – The first correct answer received will win a prize!

On the first day of Christmas, my true love sent to me ... A partridge in a pear tree.

On the second day of Christmas, my true love sent to me ... Two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the third day of Christmas, my true love sent to me ... Three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me ... Four calling birds

On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me ... Five golden rings

On the sixth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me ... Six geese a-laying

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love sent to me ... Seven swans a-swimming

On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me ... Eight maids a-milking

On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me ... Nine ladies dancing

On the tenth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me ... Ten lords a-leaping

On the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love sent to me ...
Eleven pipers piping

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me ... Twelve drummers drumming

