

# THE HEREFORD ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



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Dear Parents and Carers

Coming to the end of the second term of the academic year, 2010-11, already we can reflect on the successes of our students and staff. Our Year 11 students have been very successful in GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics, results during this November examinations are, again, substantially better than this stage last year. Many students continue to attend further support after school as there is a real desire from Year 11 to be our best performing students. There will be further opportunities for students to study during the Easter holidays; a separate timetable will be released to students before the end of this term. We look forward to the results they will receive in August 2011. I would like to thank students, parents and staff for their continued support in ensuring this focus on greater aspiration and better results.

Attendance is also still improving. We are continuing with our draw every half term for a student in each year group who achieves 100% attendance. This has been a very popular feature at each end of half term assembly. I would like to congratulate all winners so far and encourage all students who haven't managed 100% attendance to make an effort for the first half of the summer term as it is very short with only 18 learning days.

The building work is now on track to be completed in July 2011 rather than August 2011. This is a bonus for the academy as we will be able to start promptly when we return in September. It does mean, however, that the last day of this year for students will be 14th July in order to allow the move to the new building to take place efficiently. This will mean a slightly extended holiday for all students but it will give contractors and staff the opportunity to ensure that the building has been thoroughly checked and tested before students return. Once we return I hope that you will take advantage of our Community Day where there will be an opportunity for everyone in the community, parents, carers and local residents to have a good look round. This will take place on Saturday 10th September; times for this will be advised.

As we now come to the end of the Spring term I wish everyone, students, staff, parents, carers and governors of the Academy a restful holiday. We look forward to seeing students return on Wednesday 4th May at the usual time of 8.30 am.

**John Sheppard**  
Principal

## Attention Parents

### **Enforced School Closure for Students Friday, 15th July and 18th to 22nd July 2011**

The Hereford Academy will be **closed to students on Friday, 15th July and Monday, 18th July through to Friday 22nd July 2011**. I am advising you of this situation in order to give you as much time as possible to make any necessary arrangements for your children at that time.

The reasons for this are that on the date of the Royal Wedding the school is closed for the Easter holiday break and staff are, therefore, entitled to an additional bank holiday which we have designated to be Friday 15th July, and, in addition, the week of 18th – 22nd July school will be closed to students to enable the staff to facilitate our move into the new building in readiness for the students return in September.

Therefore, the last day of the summer term for students will be **Thursday, 14th July 2011**.

The Academy will reopen at the normal time on Wednesday, 7th September and we will send you further details of the admission arrangements for this week to you during next term. As I am sure you will appreciate both students and staff will require some time to familiarise themselves with our new working environment and we will, therefore, be organising a phased return to school for each year group.

We are all really looking forward to taking up residence in the new building which is going to be an outstanding educational provision for our community. There are plans to hold an Open Day during the autumn term for all parents and members of the local community so that you can view our new facility. Details of this will be sent you when final arrangements have been made.

Should you have any concerns regarding these unusually exceptional arrangements please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your consideration and co-operation in these matters.

# Community News

The Hereford Academy Community Learning Centre is our adult learning education centre currently based in its own premises within the Oak Centre at the academy but soon to move to the new building.

The Centre is open to members of the public and offers a range of mainly short learning activities ranging from IT for beginners to those seeking to improve their skills through vocational and recreational courses. All our classes are small and informal and many are free of charge. The Centre also has a drop in facility

where you can use our computers free of charge to check your e-mails, shop or simply surf during the day or evening.

For further information on free courses available through out drop in centre, or for details of our opening times please telephone us on 01432 342075, e-mail us at hacommunitylearning@yahoo.co.uk or just call in.

**STOP PRESS: Watch this space for information on the range of new and exciting classes and activities for parents and the wider community in our new premises from September 2011.**

## The Hereford Academy Year 12 Students aim high in Business Game

The Hereford Academy students made their first foray into national battle of wits The Business Game, to help prepare them with the skills to build good local businesses.

Hereford are newcomers among a record number of teams entering Worcestershire's first Business Game, in which students are guided by local financial experts.

Teams including students from Hereford Academy were presented with a business challenge to solve at the heats of the national game, which were staged in Worcester for the first time in March.

The inter-schools Business Game competition, helps create job openings by giving senior pupils the chance to become problem solvers.

They were competing amongst 240 students aged from 16 – 18 in the heats on March 22 at Worcester Warriors Rugby Club's Sixways Stadium.

Leading local firms supporting the Business Game include Hereford Chartered Accountants Thorne Widgery, who are working with the Academy, and Baker Tilly.

"The Hereford Academy Business Studies teacher Sarah Williams said we are doing the BTEC National subsidiary Diploma in Business Studies, Business Resources Unit Two, which includes interpreting profit and loss accounts and coming to grips with profit ratios. These linked in nicely



From left to right: Kieran Speake, Jordan Threlfall, Liz of Baker Tilley (Accountants) Callum Bunn, Luke Williams, Chad Hodges.

to the decision-making element in the Business Game.

Celia Adams, chairman of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Worcestershire, said: "It is good to see The Hereford Academy joining in what has been a record response, with students taking part from 33 schools.

"We have had some brilliant support from local sponsors such as Thorne Widgery. The Business Game supports students with skills and knowledge to help them succeed, in careers such as accountancy, and help open doors for them, so that they can look forward to a good job."

She said that the Institute of Chartered Accountants wanted to attract bright

young people to accountancy as a higher education and career option.

Top grade 'A' Level students could choose to study in-house while working in accountancy, through learning and professional development programmes." The team were commended on the way in which they took part. They were also mentored by Liz, an employee of Baker Tilly (Accountants) who was impressed with the enthusiasm shown by the pupils. Mrs Sarah Williams would also like to congratulate the boys on the way in which they conducted themselves and attempted the tasks set.

For more details see [www.careers.icaew.com/events?type=Schoolevents](http://www.careers.icaew.com/events?type=Schoolevents)

## County Champions

### The Hereford Academy U 14's Basketball Team Triumph

The Hereford Academy U14 Basketball Team became County Champions beating Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School 48-37. The score didn't reflect the game as The Hereford Academy were behind at the

end of the second quarter with Bishop's dictating the play and the Academy unable to convert their chances into points. In the second half of the match the academy began to play together as a team and took the lead where they began to pull away. Top scorer for the academy was the team captain Billy Beaumont who led by example and had an outstanding game.

Team back row Left to Right: Joe Waldron, Ryan Quick, Mat Witucki, Luke Wall, Ryan Preece. Front Row: Billy Beaumont.



# Intergenerational Project Launch Success

Students from The Hereford Academy have been taking part in a 'Herefordshire During the War Project' in partnership with Herefordshire Council Heritage Services and South Wye Regeneration Partnership (SWRP). To launch the project that aims to collect and gather people's memories of Herefordshire during the Second World War, 15 students volunteered to attend a Wartime Tea dance on Saturday 5th March. A number of these students had been attending training with The Rural Media project; they used this training to film the event which is being turned into a short film, and interviewed people to collect their memories. The students' participation did not end there; they also dressed up in a Land Army uniform and wartime mayoress' costume, they enjoyed dancing along to wartime favourites such as the Lindy Hop and Jive. The launch was a great success with many memories being collected from former members of the Women's Land Army and people who were evacuated to the countryside during the war.



The students really enjoyed themselves with one Year 7, Laura Tyler saying "I thought the World War II community day was interesting because some of the memories people shared were amazing."

The students' participation in the project is on-going. They are currently designing and making a number of 'memory trees' that will be put in community centres in South Wye for people to be able to add any memories they have about the War.

# Library News

## New Librarian

The Hereford Academy appointed a new Librarian, Mr Walker, in March. He has already made some big changes creating more space in the library, updating the fiction books and getting a range of new magazines and newspapers. He also produces a weekly Library newsletter for all the students and staff. Soon he will be drawing-up plans for the move to the new library facilities in the new building.

Mr Walker previously worked at the University of Manchester Library for twelve years and has recently been at Hereford Cathedral Library and brings a range of experiences to the post. As a child he lived on the Newton Farm Estate and went to a local primary school before his family moved to Manchester. He went on to get a university BA degree studying part-time as well as a master's degree in the history of art. As well as working at Hereford Academy he also teaches lifelong learning classes on the history of art.

He now lives in a small village in north Herefordshire where he keeps Black Welsh Mountain Sheep and rare breed chickens as well as taking an active part in community life and the arts.

## More New Magazines

There are now lots more magazines and newspapers in the Library for students and staff. We now regularly get a daily paper and the local press as well as lots of magazines on sports and health, on science and technology, on food and farming. There are also recreational reads on fishing, horses, music and fashion.

## Fiction Re-Freshed

You may have noticed that many of the older fiction books have been taken off the shelves in the Library and replaced with shiny new ones. There are also more new books to come...

Why not call into the Library to borrow that favourite author or try something completely new?

There are also multiple copies of some books. So you can read them at the same time as a friend, or in a group, and see who finishes first. You can then discuss the book between yourselves, which makes reading more fun.

We have also had requests for more new books: students have asked for more Roald Dahl and more Horrid Henry. So, if you have got a suggestion for a book you think would be popular please tell the Librarian to add to his growing list.

When you return a book please let the Librarian know what you thought about it – good or bad – so that he can pass the recommendation on to others. Some will appear in future issues of *The Hereford Academy Library News*.

## THE HEREFORD ACADEMY EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES SPRING 2011

| DAY       | LUNCHTIME 12.45   | AFTER SCHOOL 3.00 PM   |
|-----------|---|--|
| MONDAY    | Fitness All (AD)<br>Year 7 Football Boys (JH)<br>Games in Info Zone (JT)<br>String Orchestra (KE)<br>Choir (GT)                 | Short Tennis (JH)<br>Toolkit (VC)<br>Shoot out – Film making (GT)<br>Science GCSE revision (AJT/CNO)<br>ICT Catch up 4-5pm learning zone (CA)  |
| TUESDAY   | Fitness All welcome (HG)<br>Year 8 Football Boys (MP)<br>Table Tennis (SL)<br>Games in the Info Zone (JT)<br>House Competitions | BTEC Travel & Tourism (SW)<br>ENG/PE collaboration club (NA)<br>Years 7/8 Rounders (HG)<br>Year 9 Cricket Boys (AD)<br>Golf (KG/MP)<br>BTEC Catch up (AD) Rm 42<br>BTEC Dance (VC)<br>Maths Revision<br>Year 11 History Rm 26<br>Science Club (FB/AC)<br>BTEC Science Practical Catch up (GR)<br>Science GCSE revision (AJT/CNO/AC)<br>ICT Catch up 4-5pm learning zone (CA)<br>BTEC support and Rehearsal - Performing Arts<br>GCSE French (LM) |
| WEDNESDAY | Girls Only Fitness (HG)<br>Games in Info Zone (JT)<br>BTEC Science Catch up (RB)<br>French Club (LM)<br>Table Tennis (MP)       | Girls Football (JH)<br>Yr 7 Cricket Boys/Girls(KG)<br>Gymnastics All (SB/AW)<br>Yrs 9,10,11 Rounders (HG)<br>Cheerleading/Dance All(VC)<br>Homework Club (LM)<br>Yr11 History Rm25<br>BTEC Hospitality Catch- up<br>GCSE English Literature Catch up/revision Rm14<br>Science GCSE revision (AJT/CNO/AC)<br>ICT Catch up 4-5pm learning zone (CA)<br>BTEC Catch – Up (JH)<br>Athletics + any fixtures (SL)                                       |
| THURSDAY  | Fitness All (AW)<br>Year 10 Boys Football (AD)<br>Games in Info Zone (JT)<br>Cheerleading /Dance All (AW)                       | Business Catch up Rm 36 (SW)<br>Primary Schools Sports(JH)<br>BTEC Dance (VC)<br>Maths Revision<br>Year 11 History Rm26<br>English revision KS4<br>GCSE French (LM)<br>GCSE Media (MB)<br>Inclusion Club<br>Athletics (NA)<br>Science GCSE revision (AJT/CNO/AC)<br>Maths Club (DB) KS5 Maths (PRH)  |
| FRIDAY    | Fitness All (MP)<br>Year 11 Football (AD)<br>Games in Info Zone( JT)  | Gymnastics All SB/AW<br>Cricket Nets All Years (NA)<br>Year 9 G & T Science (AJT)<br>ICT Catch up 4-5pm learning zone (CA)<br>Duke of Edinburgh Award (SL)   |

# BTEC Year 10 Students Educational Visit to Disneyland Paris

On Tuesday 01 February 2011 a mixture of Year 10 BTEC Students from the Health and Social Care, Business Studies and Construction programmes departed at 5.30am to participate in an educational visit to Disneyland Paris. The purpose of the visit was to investigate exactly how the theme park caters for all their visitors and how rides are designed and maintained. This meant attending 3 educational sessions on how the park is run and of course extensive ride testing of the parks technology.

The 4 day trip was enjoyed immensely by all participants whom as well as picking up some useful French phrases discovered just how much back up support a park like Disneyland Paris requires.

Despite being very tired on the return journey everyone agreed the long travelling time by coach was well worth the effort!



Castle Disney



Disney

## Students in photos - Left to right

**Castle Disney:** Carys Prosser, Caitlin Richards, Sarah Watkins, Chloe Goodman, Katie Watkins  
**Disney:** Katie Smith, Kirsten Vernalls, Sarah Watkins, Ashleigh Kirby, Caitlin Richards, Chloe Goodman, Ashley Bennett, Charlotte Jackson, Toby Simpson, Beth Johnson, Mollie Foster, Robert Tyler, Carys Prosser, Jordan Davies, Lewis Goodridge, Jason Perkins, Thomas Burroughs

# Year 10 BTEC go electric at Willmott Dixon



Kallan White, Thomas Hornsby, Jordan Davies, Charlie Thackaway, Lewis Goodridge, Thomas Burroughs, Jack Clarke, Jay Vaughan, Paul Hully

On Wednesday the 9th of March 11, Year 10 BTEC Construction students visited The Hereford Academy new build site to investigate how all the electrical systems would be installed. The Lead Electrical Manager escorted the students on a guided tour and showed how the mains supply, telephone and computing connections were being installed.

Students were suitably impressed by the complexity of the task the company have had to undertake and gained a deeper insight in just how important it was to label every wire correctly. They also discovered the new academy would have an estimated 250 thousand meters of wire within its structure. After the tour the students were then guided through how the wiring diagrams could be read to enable the site electricians to wire power and communications correctly.

Students were very impressed with both the electrical work as well as how much the new building had progressed. They are looking forward to learning in their new educational establishment.

## What's that noise in the workshop?

Deep in the back workshop area two Year 11 Students have been working on a special project after successfully completing their BTEC Construction course.

The project is to design and build a motorised 50cc Go-kart before they leave Year 11. With the help and guidance of our workshop technician (Steve Hackett) they are almost ready.



Mr S. Hackett, Sam Barrington and Shane Hadaway

The strange noises? Welding, grinding and lots of banging etc. Hopefully, the go-kart will be fired up just before the Easter break, watch this space for further developments.

# Academy Students return to court in 'Magistrates Mock Trial' competition

It was back to the Magistrates Court again for Mrs Atkinson, Mrs Crowson, Mrs Hutchison and our year nine students on the 12th March. Competing against five of the counties schools in an exciting trial involving alleged assault by battery, our student prosecution lawyers won the first round against the Steiner Academy, and led a successful defence verdict against Dean Magna High School in the second round.

The competition itself is run by The Citizenship Foundation, and aims to inform young people about the legal system in the UK, as well as strengthen speaking, listening and thinking skills. Each year, participating schools are sent a fictional 'trial', involving an allegation which needs to be proved in court to be true or false, according to the statements of four witnesses and two legal teams. Then, school magistrates, led by a real magistrate, retire to consider an overall verdict. Students also take on the positions of court staff – the legal secretary and the court usher, both of whom co-ordinate all events taking place during the fictional trial.

All roles are marked using demanding criteria, and competition is very fierce in-court. Our overall team performance this year was excellent, and mentions must go to Jayde Brown, for an entirely unscripted cross-examination, and Zoe Pemberton for an examination-in-chief during which she ensured that all relevant information was drawn out despite the reluctance of the witness. Chloe Apperley also presented an excellent cross-examination of Chris Tonks.



Other notable performances were those of; Joe Evans, for keeping his head under intense pressure, Aaron Smart, for his clarity and strength of response and Ryan Preece, for silencing an entire court successfully.

A big 'well done' also to our magistrates (Hannah Leonard, Chloe Baker and Jasmine Harris) for their fair and unbiased discussion, during which they had to strictly refer only to the evidence that had been presented in court that day. Other highlights included; Christine Rushforth's businesslike performance as the Legal Advisor, Courtney Gwynne's performance as the victim – Andie Daniels and Rachel Wainwright for her role as the defendant, Kelly Daniels.

Mentions must also go to Jamie King, for another splendid cross-examination in his role as Chief Prosecution Lawyer – once again bringing The Academy home an award for his and Jayde's legal skills.

Thanks are also due to our court reporters, Millie-Hope Macdonald and Joshua Mason. We shall see how successful their court reports are in due course.

Overall, the team were very successful, and returned to The Academy with The Prosecution Shield and the Magistrates Cup. This shows the fantastic cross-questioning skills of our lawyers, and our student magistrates ability to be fair and unbiased when under pressure.

## Mazak Uk Ltd and Year 9 Students

A group of ten Year 9 students were welcomed to the world of industry on Wednesday 9th March 2011 by Yamazaki Mazak Uk Ltd, Worcester.

Yamazaki Mazak Corporation became the Japanese company name in 1985 previously being known in 1949 as Yamazaki Machinery Works. Prior to that, in 1923 it was Yamazaki Iron Works, whilst its origin in 1919 was an ironsmith shop. This is where founder, Sadakichi Jamazaki, made various iron utensils and then his first machine, a Tatami (straw mat) weaving machine of original design. Today, Mazak specialize in award winning manufacture of machine tools and equipment.

The day consisted of a talk by Managing Directors of Mazak who explained how the family business started and how it is today. The students then had a tour of the manufacturing plant showing the machinery at work (face enhancing goggles were compulsory). We then viewed an exhibition showing some of Mazak's products which range from moulds for the base of a coca cola bottle / mobile phones / trainer soles / propellers for yachts / knee joints and hip replacements. The list was endless and made the students think about everyday items.

Students were then set Dragon's Den type challenges against 9 other schools (some local and others from the West Midlands – Hagley, King Charles, Kidderminster).

The students rose to the challenge and did themselves proud in a 2 minute presentation to the Managing Directors who then asked questions. The idea was to compete for business on behalf of Mazak which was worth in excess of £50million. Each School viewed each other's sales pitch.

The Hereford Academy didn't win but all students were complimented on their excellent behaviour by Mazak. In addition to an enjoyable lunch, all students were given a goody bag to bring home.

A second compliment was given by the Manager of Business and Enterprise from one of the other Schools who said our presentation was very good.

In summary we had an enjoyable day out. All students were well behaved and were excellent representatives of The Hereford Academy.

# Japanese Master Class

On Tuesday 25th January 2011, 15 'Gifted and Talented' Hereford Academy student linguists visited the University of Wolverhampton to take part in a 'Japanese Master Class'. The students met an authentic Japanese tutor and took part in a number of interesting activities, which gave them a 'flavour' of the language, people and culture of Japan. The activities included learning numbers in Japanese. Two groups of students even showed their moves, in performing a 'number rap'. They also learnt about some Japanese foods and how to order in a



restaurant. They were heard to shout that the foods were 'ooshi' (the sound of the Japanese for lovely!).

In the second session, students looked at Origami, the Japanese art of 'paper-folding', making jumping frogs to bring home and after learning the alphabet, had a go at writing their names in traditional Japanese script. Somebody even wrote 'The Hereford Academy', which will find a place in the Modern Foreign Language area of the new school!

All 15 students had a great day, learnt new language and skills and were last heard saying 'sayonara' as they left the building.

## Mathematics

### United Kingdom Mathematics Trust

The UKMT organises national mathematics competitions and other mathematical enrichment activities for 11-18 year old UK school pupils.

In February, several years 9 students took part in the intermediate UK maths challenge. Every student gained enough points for a certificate of achievement with one student, Courtney Gwynne gaining a national bronze award.

Younger students in year 7 and 8 do not miss out on this challenge. The junior competition is taking place on, Friday 6th May. Good luck to all of those students taking part.

### Millenium Mathematics Project

Following the success of last year's visit, colleagues from Cambridge University are returning to the Academy on 12th April to run the 'Hands on Maths Road show'. The aim is to support maths education and promote development of mathematical skills and understanding, particularly through enrichment activities. Year 7

will have the opportunity to take part in many practical challenges to help support their learning. Parents can also become involved in solving puzzles with students by visiting the website [www.nrich.co.uk](http://www.nrich.co.uk).

With the Olympics 2012 not very far away Cambridge University have also developed an exciting new project developing online resources exploring maths through the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Visit [www.mmp.maths.org](http://www.mmp.maths.org) for further details.

### Examination Dates Reminder

GCSE for year 11, 10 set 1, and 9 set 1  
Monday 6th June at 1.00pm and Friday 10th June at 9.00am.

GCSE for all remaining year 10 groups  
Monday 13th June at 1 pm  
Revision classes available every Tuesday and Thursday 3.00pm – 4.00pm

Maths intervention takes place Period 5 and 6 every Friday afternoon.

Numeracy at home.  
Focus for the summer term – multiplication tables. Some useful websites are listed below.  
[www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/numbers/.../timestables/game.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/numbers/.../timestables/game.shtml)  
[www.mathsisfun.com/timestable/html](http://www.mathsisfun.com/timestable/html)  
[www.teachingtables.co.uk](http://www.teachingtables.co.uk)

## Post 16 Student Zac Sirrell attends ProFC training in Warwickshire



Zac Sirrell, Post 16 Student had an exciting half term. He was one of 96 youngsters that had the fantastic opportunity of spending the week in Warwickshire being coached by ex-Cheltenham Town Manager Martin Allen of ProFC. With the aid of other top flight trainers and managers, Martin has set up the company ProFC with the aim of training youngsters to become potential trialists at Premiership clubs. Advising of nutritional aspects and exercise as well as being coached in the technical side of the sport was the order of the week and thoroughly enjoyed by Zac.

# 'Behind Closed Doors'

Year 10 GCSE Drama Group Production  
held at The Hereford Academy  
on 25th November 2010

At the start of the new term in September 2010, our GCSE Drama group were given a few phrases to create a devised performance about. We chose 'Behind Closed Doors' as we thought that there could be a range of ideas created from that phrase. Eventually, we decided upon 'Domestic Abuse' as we thought it was a topic that isn't widely spoken about and it can happen anywhere and at any time. It's real, it does happen to people and usually 'behind closed doors'; where it is rarely spoken about.



**Students in picture:** Liah Hughes, Amy Moores, Sarah McCluskey, Sarah Watkins, Kirsty Pethick, Jack Tandy and Bethany White.

When creating the drama we wanted to add as much emotion as possible, so that it was portrayed as thought provoking and for the audience to be able to feel real empathy for the performance and a connection with the performers. During our performance, the group each portrayed a character, either the abuser or the one being abused. We created monologues by sitting in different parts of the room and using our own ideas to create something that would have great impact upon the audience. Hopefully, getting our message across and attempting to make our audience realise what really happens in some cases of domestic abuse also opened us all up to feeling great emotion within ourselves.

The performance was held on 25 November 2010 to coincide with 'Domestic Violence Awareness Day' to tie-in with the meaning of the day. We wanted our audience to be 'stunned' by our performance and to realise that something needs to be done to help stop domestic abuse once and for all. We hope that we managed to achieve our aim. Among our audience on the evening we were honoured to have dignitaries, members of West Mercia Police and West Mercia Women's Aid attend.

**Article by:** Bethany White

## "Killing Bono" Review

Filmclub were giving away 2 free tickets for the Herefordshire Borderlines Film Festival so Jordan Worth and I went to see the new comedy film, directed by Nick Hamm, at the Courtyard in Hereford, on Tuesday 29th March. The Courtyard is a very smart venue and much nicer than Hereford's Odeon cinema with everyone rustling their crisp packets and mobiles going off. The cokes, cake and sweets were a bit expensive though.

We were really looking forward to the event and started laughing right from the beginning. The film is based on Neil McCormick's autobiography "I Was Bono's Doppelganger" and features Neil and Ivan McCormick, two Irish brothers, who want to be rock stars but have to stand by as their school friends, U2, become the biggest band in the world while their own success, with "Frankie Corpse and the Undertakers" and then "Shook Up", is confined to the local circuits. The best parts for me were the music: Neil McCormick's music was really quite good and I laughed a lot all through. I was a bit sad when it finished – it was quite a long film but I still wanted to know and see more. It ended with a really good laugh when they were trying to catch a bus.

It was interesting to see how U2 and Bono had started out from very ordinary lives, rehearsing at home and even playing homemade instruments. The story was interesting and unpredictable with plenty of action and changes in all of their lives. The leader of the band and his brother were really funny and you could imagine them as real people and their feelings about missing out on fame and fortune.

Visually the best bit of the film involved the Mercedes car and the very strong headlights that emphasised the crazy feelings at that point in the story. You get a good sense of place: the city of Dublin, the river and the nearby mountains; even though it was actually filmed in Belfast! I was interested to hear that the lead actor, Ben Barnes, stuck to practising his Irish accent the entire time they were filming even when he was on the phone to family and friends. This shows a lot of commitment and hard work.

When the film finished we stayed behind for a Question and Answer session with Neil McCormick, the author, and the film's producers Ian Flooks (U2's agent for 17 years) and Piers Tempest. Neil McCormick was the most interesting because he had plenty to say after the screening and he was obviously



quite excited by the whole thing: he was very keen to stress that the screenwriters had taken his memoirs and embellished them to make a really good "stand-alone" story but that not all of the events in the film were true. For example, he wanted to make it very clear that he wasn't as prone to letting people down as the film suggests but did make some bad choices. He is now a successful person in his own right and music critic for The Daily Telegraph. I didn't ask any questions as there were plenty of people asking about the main issues in the film.

This is a film I would recommend to all of my mates: there wasn't a moment when I felt bored; I'd give this film 4 out of 5 stars. I usually watch football, war and crime films so this was a change for me. I would be more prepared to see films outside of my usual interest area now.

**Article by:** Ben Price YR 12

# A Class Act

**11/12th May 2011 at 7pm in the Oak Centre, The Hereford Academy**

The Hereford Academy Year 9 Performing Arts group are set to perform **"Who Killed Cock Robin"** by Sue Gordon. This courtroom drama is based on the well-known children's poem of the same name but has some interesting twists along the way. Sure to be a hit with all the family. Keep your eye out for letters regarding ticket purchase. Don't Miss It and Miss Out!

## Nursery Rhyme & History

### The origin of the "Who killed cock robin" poem



'Who killed cock robin?' is best described as an English folksong or poem rather than a nursery rhyme. The words of "Who killed cock robin" are said to refer to the death of the legendary figure of Robin Hood and not that of a bird.

The legend of Robin Hood encompasses the theme that he stole from the rich to give to the poor. The words of "Who killed cock robin" describe how help was offered from all quarters following the death of cock robin thus reflecting the high esteem in which Robin was held by the common folk.

# WHAT'S ON

## Who killed Cock Robin poem

"Who killed Cock Robin?" "I," said the Sparrow,  
"With my bow and arrow, I killed Cock Robin."

"Who saw him die?" "I," said the Fly,  
"With my little eye, I saw him die."

"Who caught his blood?" "I," said the Fish,  
"With my little dish, I caught his blood."

"Who'll make the shroud?" "I," said the Beetle,  
"With my thread and needle, I'll make the shroud."

"Who'll dig his grave?" "I," said the Owl,  
"With my pick and shovel, I'll dig his grave."

"Who'll be the parson?" "I," said the Rook,  
"With my little book, I'll be the parson."

"Who'll be the clerk?" "I," said the Lark,  
"If it's not in the dark, I'll be the clerk."

"Who'll carry the link?" "I," said the Linnet,  
"I'll fetch it in a minute, I'll carry the link."

"Who'll be chief mourner?" "I," said the Dove,  
"I mourn for my love, I'll be chief mourner."

"Who'll carry the coffin?" "I," said the Kite,  
"If it's not through the night, I'll carry the coffin."

"Who'll bear the pall?" "We," said the Wren,  
"Both the cock and the hen, we'll bear the pall."

"Who'll sing a psalm?" "I," said the Thrush,  
"As she sat on a bush, I'll sing a psalm."

"Who'll toll the bell?" "I," said the bull,  
"Because I can pull, I'll toll the bell."

All the birds of the air fell a-sighing and a-sobbing,  
When they heard the bell toll for poor Cock Robin.

# LET'S GET COOKING!

**New to the Hereford Academy for 3 weeks only!**

Would you like to join our 'Let's Get cooking Club?'. If you like to here are the details you need to know:-

**Dates:** 12th 19th and 26th May 2011 (Thursday's after school)

**Time:** 4 – 5 pm

**Place:** Room 19, The Hereford Academy technology department

**Topic:** Healthier Eating or how to adapt popular recipes by selecting healthier ingredients

**All ingredients are provided so you just join in!**

We have 12 places on offer for each session. 6 places for any student attending the Academy and 6 places for their chosen partner (friend, family member). You are welcome to come along for 1, 2 or 3 sessions.

**Interested?**

**To book a place please see Mrs Polley in Room 19 before 3pm on Friday 6th May 2011**

If you are not able to come to the clubs in May we will be starting again in September in the new school building. Details will follow.

'Let's get cooking' is a lottery funded organisation dedicated to promoting Healthier Eating

# BTEC Dance Performing ARTS {Dance}

**Performance at The Courtyard Theatre  
on Mon 20th June 2011**

The BTEC dance students' Years 9 - 11 will be taking part in FRESH organised by 2 Faced Dance Company. Our dance students will be performing a jazz piece. The event will be taking place at 'The Courtyard Theatre' on Monday 20th June 2011. Please come along and support the troupe if you can. Further details will be announced on The Hereford Academy website nearer the time.

# Health and Beauty 'Salon Nouveau'

The Hereford Academy Beauty Salon 'Salon Nouveau' requires clients for waxing, eyelash & brow tinting & shaping, pedicure & make-up. To make an appointment and for further details parents/carers can telephone: 01432 355213 Ext 158 and ask for Donna Sockett on Wednesdays until 2.30pm or Thursday mornings until 12.30pm.