

NORTH AXHOLME SCHOOL

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 06

ACTIVITIES



Great GCSE News!

Dear Parents/Carers

Since our last newsletter we have received our GCSE results for 2006 and we are delighted to be able to tell you that they are the best for at least 13 years! 50% of our students gained 5 or more A*-C grades, an improvement of 13% on 2005. We also increased our number of top A* and A grades as well as maintaining the high percentage of our students who gain 5 A*-G grades. We are delighted for our students, most of which have moved on to further their studies at college or with other training providers. We wish them well on the next stage of their life-long learning journey. We also congratulate and thank all staff and parents who worked as a team to help students gain this success.

It is a fact that the more examination success an individual gains, the better their prospects for a fulfilling career in work and a decent wage. That is why we want to work closely with all parents to ensure that all our students reach their potential. We will be launching our mentoring programme for the current year 11 pupils in January and will be targeting those who we have identified as needing extra support to achieve the best possible results in 2007. We will be meeting with them and their parents on an individual basis to get this underway.

This has been a long and busy term for students and staff and a lot of great work has been done. We are all ready for a break and to celebrate Christmas. At a time when, unfortunately, materialism has become ever more influential I hope it is heartening for you to read about some of the fantastic things that our staff, friends and students have been doing this term over and above 'the day job'. I hope that your children will take the opportunity over Christmas to do a little extra for you and that we can all reflect a little on what this festive season is all about.

Learning on Location at Butlin's!

There has been an even wider range of trips, visits, reward outings and so on this term than ever. The largest scale was the Learning on Location week at Butlin's, Skegness. Most of our year 8 students went with a dedicated team of staff to spend 5 days working with 900 other young people from all over the country in a wide range of curriculum subjects. We got great feedback from the organisers about how well our students worked and behaved. They, and the staff team, were exhausted on their return so they certainly put everything into their work and leisure time. The many other visits have included Art visits to the National Portrait Museum in London and Boston (Year 10 Contemporary Art) and to the Horse of the Year Show in Birmingham so our students are certainly getting out and about thanks to our dedicated staff.

Prefects

Our new Prefect system has been up and running since September and we are really pleased with the commitment of many of the year 11 team who sport their badges with pride. We aim to expand the number of prefects so that even more can benefit from the experience in taking responsibility and supporting staff and other students. Their responsibilities are to help supervision of the site at break and lunch, as well as showing visitors around the school. A Head Boy (Luke Gravel) and Head Girl (Hayley Took) were also appointed.

School Council

We have a new School Council following elections earlier this term. There are two representatives from each year group and they have already been active in representing the views of their fellow students. We are grateful, for example, for their views on the new anti-bullying policy and the work they have done in producing a 'pupil-friendly' version. They are now carrying out a similar exercise on our new school aims that were adopted this term following a lot of consultation with staff, students, parents (summer newsletter) and the governing body.

New subjects

A number of new subjects have been launched this term including BTEC in Sport, electronics, new ICT course—NCFE Level 1 and Level 2 and ASDAN. These courses are designed to meet the needs of more of our students so that they can go on to further study when they leave us. The curriculum is always developing and we are now working towards introducing new Diplomas for some of our students from 2008. This is a national requirement and we will keep you updated as we get more news.

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair, held on December 6th December was a lovely evening that raised about £578.50 for our Charity Term. This will be further added to by raffle ticket sales and proceeds from two non-uniform days. Many tutors, students, teaching assistants and other staff worked really hard to organise the stalls and prizes. The PTFA did a fantastic job in supporting the event in manning their own stall and providing refreshments. A huge thanks to everyone who supported the event. Our School Council will be deciding which charities will benefit this year.

Discos

We have held three discos this term and they have been enjoyed by up to 300 students on each occasion. There are very few, if any, secondary schools in North Lincolnshire that still do this and we keep them going due to a team of staff giving up their Friday nights for nothing to see these young people have a great time. Many thanks to them for this.

Pupil and Parent Questionnaires – July 2006

We conducted two surveys in July. The Parent Questionnaire got a good response from 226 parents and we are very grateful for your views. The results were very positive and encouraging on the whole. For example, 93% of parents think teaching is good and that their child is making good progress, 96% feel confident in approaching the school with any issue they wish to raise, 90% feel well informed about how their child is getting on, 93% believe that teaching is good.

Of course, even when the approval rating is in the 90's it means that a small number of people disagree and we do take these views seriously and aim to improve in everything that we do. We were concerned about the response to the question about student behaviour where 78% agreed that behaviour is good. Even though this is 2% higher than the response by parents across all schools nationally we are well aware that good behaviour allows good learning to go on. In response to this concern we are working closely with other agencies including Connexions, the educational psychology service, the educational welfare service, the police and young offending team and the local authority to name but a few to help identified students modify their behaviour. We also have our own team of mentors and student peer mentors who do a great job.

Unfortunately sometimes we have to accept that North Axholme is not the right place for some young people and we arrange for them to be educated elsewhere. Even then they stay on our school role and we take an interest in how they progress right up until they move on at 16. It is sometimes very frustrating for us when we deal with behaviour issues because very often they emerge from various disagreements between individuals and families that occur outside school and they are then transferred to here. In these cases and some others it is very important that parents are doing their bit to control their own children when they are away from school.

The pupil questionnaire also gave us much food for thought. All pupils in years 7 to 10 were surveyed in July. There was a lot to consider from the response to the 12 questions we posed. Around 80% of students agreed that North Axholme is a good school to be at, they are taught well and feel trusted to work independently. Issues were raised around behaviour (discussed above) and bullying. As a result of this we have spent a lot of time this term working on the new anti-bullying policy, clarifying what bullying is and what the school does about it when it is reported. We have trained peer mentors (year 10 students) to support younger students with work, bullying or other issues and we have talked to groups of students about their concerns. This exercise was really useful because a typical comment was that there is a 'bit' of bullying but a lot is 'just when we fall out'. We have always been very up front with our students in acknowledging that in any big organisation there will, unfortunately, be some cases of bullying. What we ask them to do is **tell us** as soon as it occurs so we can take steps to address the problem straight away.

Y11 Parents Evening

Year 11 Parents Evening will be held on Tuesday 9th January 2007 4-7 pm.

Coca-Cola Challenge

Eight of our Year 10 Applied Business students went to the K C Stadium, Hull, along with representatives from eleven other schools, to compete in a regional business competition set up by Coca-Cola Enterprises. They had to work as a team and develop a product and formally present it to the judges. They superseded all expectations but just missed being in the finals by one mark.
WELL DONE TO ALL OF THEM!

ATTENDANCE

We still ask for your support in ensuring that your son/daughter attends school regularly. If your children are genuinely too ill to attend and need to be kept at home, please remember to notify the office as early as possible on the first day of absence. The school now has a twenty-four hour answering service so messages regarding absences can be left at any time.

HOLIDAYS TAKEN DURING TERM-TIME

You may recall from our Summer Newsletter that last academic year we had a significant increase in the number of children taking holidays during term-time, which considerably lowered our overall attendance rate. Therefore, we have now had to implement new rules for the authorising of holidays:

From 1st January 2007 we may only authorise ONE HOLIDAY PERIOD for up to 10 school days per school year if the pupil's attendance is over 92% (and the holiday does not fall within examination periods). If holidays have previously been granted some time in advance and the pupil's attendance has dropped below 92%, permission for the holiday may be revoked and therefore the absences will be unauthorised, leading to Education Welfare involvement and possible Penalty Notices/Fines.

The new rules regarding holidays are printed on our Holiday Forms and an Education Welfare leaflet giving further information about booking holidays during term-time is available from School.

DEBIT/CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS FOR SCHOOL MEALS

Schools Catering are now able to process card payments either in person at 92 Oswald Road, Scunthorpe, or by telephoning (01724) 297907. Cards accepted are Visa, Mastercard and Switch (now Maestro).

The telephone lines will be open 8.00 am to 10.30 am and 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday. Credit received before 10.30 am may be used at lunchtime on the same day; credit received after 2.00 pm may be used at lunchtime the following day.

Each transaction will be limited to a maximum of £75 per student (minimum of £10) plus a surcharge of 50p will be added for this service. One payment may be split between several cards, thus incurring only one surcharge.

FORTHCOMING DISCO DATES

FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY

FRIDAY 23RD MARCH

**Thank you to all Year 11's who have helped
with selling tickets, refresh-
ments and DJ'ing.**



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

We close on Tuesday 19th December 2006 for the start of the Christmas Holidays at 1.30 pm following a whole school assembly. School Lunches will be provided as usual but a little earlier.

We re-open for school in the New Year on Thursday 4th January 2007.

SCHOOL CALENDER DATES – 2007

Tuesday 19th December 2006

Thursday 4th January 2007

Friday 9th February 2007

Monday 19th February 2007

Friday 30th March 2007

Tuesday 17th April 2007

Monday 7th May 2007 (May Day)

Friday 25th May 2007

Monday 4th June 2007

Friday 20th July 2007

School Closes

School Re-opens

School Closes

School Re-opens

School Closes

School Re-opens

School Closed

School Closes

School Re-opens

School Closes

School Safety Zone

After much planning and consultation parents, residents and school governors a School Safety Zone will be installed on Wharf Road as soon as weather conditions allow. We hope the result will be increased safety for our students and other road users. It does mean that parents who drop their children off at school in the morning will not be able to do so in a longer area along Wharf Road where extended zig zag lines will be painted.

At the same time that the safety zone is installed we would like to request that parents do not enter the school grounds to pick up and drop off their children at the start and end of the school day. This causes considerable traffic and congestion at times especially when the school buses are on site. In turn this increases the risk of accidents happening involving vehicles and pedestrians.

From January 4th please drop off children off the school site and away from the current, and once installed the new, zig zag lines. Part of the philosophy of the School Travel Plan, from which the safety zone has emerged, is to encourage young people to take a bit more exercise to help improve their health and fitness. We hope that this measure will contribute to this.

Peer Mentoring

Training has started for 18 Peer Mentors from Year 10 this term. Suzan Kemp, from North Lincs Behavioural Service has kindly agreed to train our mentors.

The training involves Counselling, Bullying issues as well as help with any homework problems Year 7 may have. They have a "drop in service" on Thursdays in the Conference Room.

If Parents or Carers wish to know more about the service please contact Mrs Mann or Mrs Smith at School.

Many thanks to all the Peer Mentors who freely give up their own time after school for training.

G.C.S.E Expressive Arts –After School Activity

With their first piece of coursework all wrapped up, the Year 9-10 group of students attempting the first ever G.C.S.E. Expressive Arts at North Axholme are going strong. They are beginning their second piece of coursework acting and singing their way through a scene from 'Grease' the musical.

I would like to thank the students for their hard work, determination and commitment. It is always difficult for the pupils as it is an after school activity, but the rewards will follow with some pupils achieving excellent G.C.S.E. results.

Student Council

With a new group of council members recently elected it is an exciting and challenging time for them. Their role in school is important for both pupils and staff, who gain a useful insight into the opinions and aspirations of the pupils and aim to meet their needs.

Their first challenge as a group was to rewrite the Anti-bullying policy to make it child friendly and useful to all pupils. Daniel Parkin a member of the student council was quoted saying 'It's a bit-technical and kids wouldn't understand it. Children need to understand it because it's for them to use when they are worried and upset and need it.' Thanks to the student council and their notice board children are now more aware of what to do if they are being bullied.

ART

Although we have a fantastic Art Room in School, its always great to get out for the day.....this term Year 10 G.C. S.E Applied Art & Design went on a visit to Boston (Lincolnshire-not USA!) and had a surreal time!! And on 31st October 45 Year 7 pupils visited the National Portrait Gallery in London

Mrs O'Horan

The Year 7 **French** Christmas Cards are judged in the last week of term and prizes awarded.

Year 8 Citizenship pupils have organised a party political campaign and voted for the party of their choice.

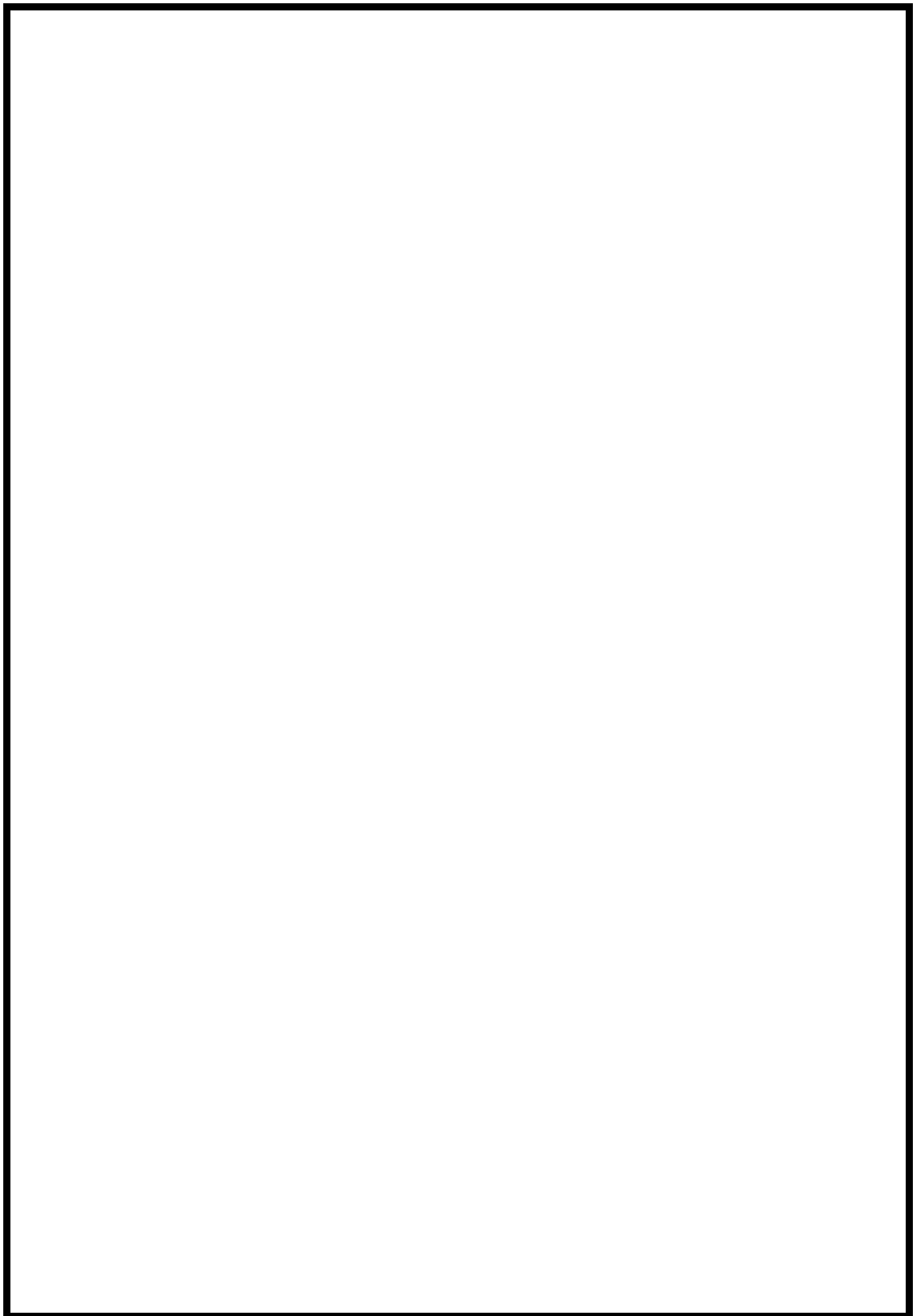
Year 9 pupils may have written and received letters from French penfriends.

Mrs Hall

Non-resident parents

We want to ensure that non-resident parents have the option of receiving information sent out by the school. We do our best to do this so we would be grateful if non-resident parents would make sure that we have accurate contact details that we can enter on our records. We always try to send documents such as school reports and letters about Academic Review Days or parents evenings to all parents.

We also give out many letters to pupils during the year. They are for example, flyers from the local authority for sports or other courses, from local colleges about open evenings or letters about school trips and visits. Pupils choose whether or not to take these letters. If they decide to take one they are welcome to take another for an absent parent or to ask the school to send one on.



Volunteers for Spain

The VFS group's booklet on the British end of the Spanish Civil War (1936-9) looked at Charity and Refugees from the war, as well as the role of the British Soldiers. The booklet has been well received. Copies are now in University Libraries of New York, Rio de Janeiro and Alba City.

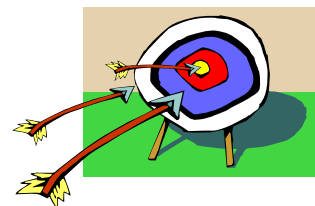
Pupils are now researching for the next booklet, 'Jarama 1937' for the 70th Anniversary of the first battle in which the British Battalion took part. Interviews have already been arranged with veteran of the war and the help is being given from academics from around the world.

Mr Thorpe

ACTIVITY HOLIDAY

A proposed activity holiday is to take place in the Dordogne region in France during the half term of May 2008. This is run by trained PGL personnel and is in a purpose built centre. Activities will include Trapeze, High wire, Climbing, Abseiling, Archery, Raft building, Canoeing, Sailing and others. This will be open to any students in the current years 7, 8 and 9 Details have been published but anyone who would like further information parents or interested students should contact Mr Bartley.

Mr Bartley



LAKE GARDA

Following the success of the study holiday in Venice at Easter 2006. Mr Walton has organised a six day Italy tour, based in Malcesine, Lake Garda. Pupils fly out on the 31st March, returning on 5th April 2007. Excursions are planned to Venice, Verona, Gardaland and around Lake Garda itself. **One place is available, at an anticipated cost of around £450**

DETAILS FROM MR WALTON

Mr Walton



TESCO Computers for Schools 2006

Thanks to everyone who has helped the school collect computer vouchers. Parents, pupils, friends of the school and businesses have again given us fantastic support, which is very much appreciated.

We have managed to get a laptop computer with the vouchers and look forward to your continued support next year.

REWARD TRIPS

Year 7 Reward Trip went to AMF Bowling on Thursday 14th December with Miss Collins.

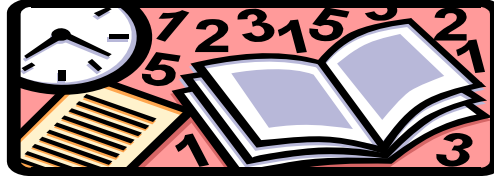
Year 9 Reward Trip went to Meadowhall, Sheffield to see Casino Royale with Mrs Price on Monday 11th December.

The Prefects Reward trip was also to Meadowhall, Sheffield on Monday 11th December with Mr Walton.

BUTLINS 2006-Year 8, Learning on Location

What can I say “It was great!”. You as parents should be proud of your children, their behaviour throughout the week was superb. They worked hard and played hard. Our pupils excelled in activities ranging from scientific experiments, testing our sense of smell and taste, to dancing the night away.

Mrs Price



NORTH AXHOLME ON A WINNING STREAK

For the first time we have entered the North Lincolnshire Schools Badminton League. We were a little tentative at first, were we good enough? Our Year 8 team would have to play teams of Year 9 boys and our Year 10 team would have to play Year 11's. The first team we played was Brumby-they were huge we thought we were doomed, but our team rose to the challenge beating them 5 games to 0. Thomas Sumpter met the same fate we'd had a taste of victory and wanted more. Our last match was against South Axholme who brought 3 teams, an A and a B Year 11 team and a Year 9 team. Did we let this intimidate us? Yes, we were petrified, but still won the match easily. Just one more match to go, High Ridge, we're ready and raring to go and will let you know the result as soon as we can.

So well done lads I'm proud of you all, North Axholme definitely rules the badminton circuit. Mrs Price



Maths Challenge

Some pupils in Years 9,10 and 11 will take part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge on Thursday 1st February.

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 will take part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge later in the year on Thursday 26th April.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL WHO TAKE PART.

Duke of Edinburgh

Some pupils in Year 10 have shown an interest in starting their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. We will begin preparing for an exhibition, which will be in April 07.

Anyone who wishes to join please see Miss Collins.



SPORTS NEWS



CROSS COUNTRY

North Axholme had a fantastic Day at the District Cross Country on Wednesday 6th December which was held at Central Park.

Team Results

Minor Girls	2nd	Minor Boys	11th
Junior Girls	9th	Junior Boys	16th
Intermediate Girls	6th	Intermediate Boys	11th

There were nine students selected for county representation (qualified by finishing in the top 20)

WELL DONE TO EVERYONE THAT TOOK PART!

PRIMARY FESTIVALS

A number of Primary Festivals have taken place since September. These include

Year 6	Buddy Training
Year 4	Uni Hoc
Year 3	Bench Ball
Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	Cross Country

Future Festivals for next term are Year 4 Gymnastics, Year 6 Cricket, Year 3 Multi Skills, Year 4 Orienteering.

NEW ACTIVITIES

A number of new activities have been set up this year. These include gym clubs, table tennis, aerobics and basketball.

The aerobics session takes place on a Wednesday lunch-time and is run by two Year 10 students. The club is a fantastic way of keeping fit and trying a new activity that could be participated in when leaving school.

The basketball club is a new club for Year 10 girls. The girls wanted a different activity to learn. It is now being taught in lesson and is also taking place as a lunch-time club. It is being followed up with a coach coming in and matches being played against other schools.

Along with this a table tennis coach will be coming in to teach a leadership course as a extra curricular activity.

Mrs A Dalowsky

