

NORTH AXHOLME SCHOOL

SPRING NEWSLETTER 07

ACTIVITIES



North Axholme Top of the Class!!

Dear Reader

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. As usual we have lots to tell you about the wide range of activities we undertake both in and out of the classroom. There have been lots of educational visits and trips covering the length and breadth of the country. These offer our young people great experiences, broaden their horizons, raise aspirations and are usually a lot of fun as well! Those students who have worked hard and behaved well have also had the opportunity to go on a range of trips as part of our reward system.

The confirmation that all the good things we are doing are actually making a difference came in the National Performance tables for key stage 3 (years 7-9) that were published in early March. The tables showed that in terms of value added we are **the best** performing mainstream school in North Lincolnshire. Our value added score of 100.3 places us above all 13 other secondary schools in the authority.

Value added is the difference we make to the performance of our pupils **over and above** that which might be expected. This is great news because it shows that all the hard work that your children, you and all my staff put in is actually giving them a great start at secondary school. Coupled with our best ever GCSE results we think this is a very encouraging picture that bodes well for the future. We now need to make sure that the results at key stage 4, including GCSE's and many other qualifications continue to rise until we gain an equally high value added score.

We are currently working very hard with our year 11 students to ensure that they reach their potential. Most are well motivated and are on target to gain top results. Some are rather more difficult to keep going! All of these young people need to know that parents and school are working in partnership to ensure they do their best because every bit of research available shows that whatever they choose to do at the age of 16, 6th Form College, other training, apprenticeships or work the better their qualifications the better they will do in the long term and that includes how much they will earn. There are lots of opportunities for year 11 students to attend extra lessons, revision and course-work sessions and so on so please do encourage them to do so.

On behalf of everyone at North Axholme I would like to thank you for your support over the past term and wish you a very happy Easter.

Joe Sellars (Headteacher)

Extended schools

We are working closely with our partner primary schools and the local authority to address the government's extended schools agenda. They have set out a core offer of services that they would like all schools to offer **access to** (in partnership with local authorities and local providers) by 2010. They include:

High quality wraparound childcare in primary schools provided on the school site or through other local providers, with supervised transport arrangements where appropriate, available 8am — 6pm all year round or to reflect community demand.

A varied menu of activities to be on offer, including homework clubs and study support, sport, music tuition, dance and drama, arts and crafts, special interest clubs such as chess and volunteering, business and enterprise activities.

Parenting support including information sessions for parents at key transition points, parenting programmes run with the support of other children's services and family learning sessions to allow children to learn with their parents.

Swift and easy referral to a wide range of specialist support services such as speech therapy, child and adolescent mental health services, family support services, intensive behaviour support, and (for young people) sexual health services. Some may be delivered on school sites.

Providing wider community access to **ICT, sports and arts facilities** and **adult learning** and sign-posting to existing community facilities.

These services will need to be shaped to meet the needs of pupils, parents and the community; this core offer ensures that there is a minimum of services and activities for families. Services will not necessarily be provided on the school site or by teachers.

Providing easier access to all types of services around the places where children and young people spend most of their time is key to the **Every Child Matters** objectives of ensuring that children stay safe, are healthy, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being. Schools developing extended services will also mean developing a multi-agency approach to children's services through closer collaboration between other schools, social services, healthcare professionals and the police. Clearly this is a huge undertaking and our first step has been to jointly appoint, with our partner primary schools, an Extended Schools Coordinator who will begin to develop a plan to take the agenda forward. Watch this space for more regular updates!
J Sellars.

Italy Skiing Trip



Mr Carter and 13 Students went on a successful skiing trip to Gitschberg, Italy in February half term. The week consisted of ski tuition each day and full après ski timetable including swimming, football and discos. Each student was presented with a certificate from PGL and one from their ski instructor for the week. Congratulations to Charles Baker who was voted skier of the week by his peers. All students enjoyed the trip and are looking towards the reunion to share photos and stories-like Mr Carter hitting a tree on his snowboard. **Watch out in the near future for trips to Xscape, Castleford.**

Volunteers for Spain– Jarama 1937

The Volunteers for Spain group 3rd booklet was published in February, to mark the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Jarama in the Spanish Civil War. During the Battle British volunteers went into combat for the first time, holding a vital section of the line and preventing Madrid falling to General Franco's Fascist-backed troops.

The group interviewed Ambulance driver Paddy Cochrane and rifleman Jack Edwards, both of whom fought at Jarama. They also interviewed Fernando de la Torre, whose father was a minister in the last Republican government, and who fled from Spain to escape Franco's death squads.

Apart from writing about the battle, pupils also asked leading academics and journalists, such as Professor Paul Preston, Dr Richard Baxell and Lala Isla, about the effects of the war on Spain.

Copies of the booklet have been requested for archives at the universities of New York, Albacete and Rio de Janeiro. They are available from Mr Thorpe for £3.00

MR THORPE (History Teacher)

ART & DESIGN

Pupils from all Year Groups have continued to work hard in the Art Room this term, both in lessons and extending their class work at lunchtime's.

37 Year 8 pupils visited the **National Gallery** in March to look at the collection of Renaissance paintings as part of their perspective project. 3 Year 10 pupils came with us to add their GCSE coursework research.

Also in March, Year 11 GCSE Applied Art & Design pupils visited **Lincoln Cathedral** and produced drawings from observation of the architectural detail inside the Cathedral in preparation for their exam which will be over two days after Easter (Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th April).

Congratulations to Anna Trotman who impressed the judges of the 'operation lifestyle logo design competition', she was awarded a certificate in recognition of her talents coming second in the whole competition.

MRS O'HORAN (Art Teacher)

VIVA LAKE GARDA



On Friday 30th March, 40 Students and 5 Staff leave for a cultural tour of Northern Italy. After landing on Friday, students will take a steam tour of the 30 mile lake and a cable car up Monte Baldo, 7000 ft above sea level. Sunday sees a full day in Venice, and on Monday, an exciting trip to Gardaland, the largest theme park in Italy. On Tuesday, students visit Verona, home to Romeo & Juliet's Balcony and the Roman Arena. We return on Wednesday 4th April.. All the Students and staff are very excited about the visit.

MR WALTON

All England Badminton Championships



The P.E. Department took 53 pupils to the Birmingham NIA for the second year running, and again it proved to be a very successful trip.

Last years trip had started a Badminton craze at the school which has continued every lunch-time. The trip was mainly made up of pupils who attend the extra curricular Badminton Club but also a few other pupils who have now since joined the club.

The trip gave the pupils the chance to see Badminton being played by all the best players in the world and hopefully gave them the opportunity to pick up tips on technique and scoring systems.

The pupils demonstrated perfect behaviour throughout the trip and we look forward to taking them again next year.

MR SENNETT

Both U14 & U16 Badminton Teams finish 4th in the Regional Badminton England Competition

Following on from the very popular extra curricular Badminton Club the P.E. Department entered two teams into the North Lincs School Badminton England Competition. After comfortably winning the North Lincs section we found ourselves representing North Lincs in the Regional Final at Tipton School in Sheffield. This tournament saw the best teams from Yorkshire & Lincolnshire meet to find out who was going on to represent the North of England in the National Championships.

The standard was extremely high with most of the players present playing for their counties and in some cases even their countries. But our pupils were not intimidated by this standard of play and went on to finish 4th in the Yorkshire & Lincs region. This is a massive achievement for the school considering they faces last years National winners and runners up and it was the first time our pupils had entered such a competition.

U14 Team: Tom Gravel, Richard Bullas, Joshua Jones, Luke Davidson, Ryan Hughes, Elliott Groom.

U16 Team: Tom Moore, Tim Mooring, Matthew Teal, Robert Jackson, Kyle Dancer & Scott Buttrick. (MR SENNETT)

DAILY MAIL SCHOOLS RUGBY FINALS (TWICKENHAM) 28TH MARCH 2007

The P.E. Department is taking a group of lower school pupils to watch the Daily Mail Schools Rugby Finals at Twickenham. This is the first time this trip has been organised and was set up due to the popularity of the game with lower school pupils. The upper school will get their chance to go to Twickenham again when they go on the annual trip to watch the British Universities Finals on the 25th April 2007. Both should be excellent opportunities for pupils to develop their understanding of the game of Rugby Union.

MR SENNETT

Health & Social Care

In February the Year 10 Health & Social Care group spent the day at Doncaster Dome researching its facilities.

They were treated to a guided tour of all areas of the Dome, collected information about the leisure, health & beauty activities on offer, evaluated the fast food outlets and then enjoyed participating in activities such as ice-skating.

Behaviour was impeccable and all girls found the visit enjoyable and useful for their GCSE course.

MRS GWYTHER

Year 11 Applied Business Studies

Year 11 Applied Business Studies were welcomed at Sainsbury's in Lincoln this term. Chris from Personnel and Paul a member of the management Team gave us a wealth of information on how businesses function. Year 10 had a similar experience at Edenthorpe the day before.

Our thanks go to all those who gave up their time, patience and expertise in answering the Students questions. They are now well informed and able to complete Unit 2 of the course.

MRS SELWAY

Engineering Challenge - March 14th 2007

Lucy Renton, Daisy Vollans, Cory Mercer, Ryan Whattam, Jordan Smith and Daniel Spruce.

The above team represented North Axholme in this annual event for all schools in North Lincolnshire.

The challenge this year was made more difficult and the students had to design and make a vehicle to collect and safely deliver a model terrorist device. They had to use electronics, pneumatics and resistant materials to make the vehicle and then give a presentation on their plans and ideas.

The day was spent at North Lindsey College and with help from Engineers and Professionals finally assembled their vehicle-during the trial run it fell off the test area and was damaged beyond repair.

All members of the team had a very interesting and enjoyable day.

MR CROOT

CAREERS

An Enterprise Activity Workshop was held for Year 9 recently and was hosted by Humber EBLO. An enjoyable day was had by all!

Work Experience will be taking place on 9th July-14th July for Year 10. Initial letters have just gone out for pupils who wish to arrange their own work placements and these are now in the process of being sorted out.

Placements arranged by Connexions will be made available after Easter.

ANY QUERIES REGARDING WORK EXPERIENCE PLEASE CONTACT MR BARTLEY.

Y10 Taster Days will be held at North Lindsey College, Scunthorpe on the 2nd July 2007 & John Leggott College, Scunthorpe on the 3rd July 2007.

Study leave

Last year we stopped giving 'study leave' to year 11 students as their GCSE exams approached. In fact, study leave used to begin as some exams began anyway. We believed that our students would prepare more effectively for their exams by being in school and revision in lessons where they have access to expert support and good facilities. We think that this new approach contributed to the much improved GCSE results in 2006 and we will continue with this system this year. All year 11 students must continue to attend school until the last major examination is over. This is a legal requirement. Mrs Allen will write to parents to confirm arrangements after the Easter vacation.

Holocaust Memorial Day

We were honoured to be asked to contribute to the Holocaust Memorial Day service at Pittwood House. Ellie Prendergast, Genevieve Hill and Danny Hague read a poem and a personal account from a child who survived the concentration camps to the gathered audience in the council chamber. They did superbly well in what was an emotionally charged event.

J Sellars

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.



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.

Please also remember that the new rules for the authorising of holidays require your child's attendance to be over 92%. 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.

All of 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.

TERM DATES

SCHOOL CLOSSES FRI 30TH MARCH –RE-OPENS TUESDAY 17TH APRIL

SCHOOL CLOSSES MONDAY 7TH MAY—MAY DAY

SCHOOL CLOSSES FRIDAY 25TH MAY-RE-OPENS MONDAY 4TH JUNE

SCHOOL CLOSSES FRIDAY 20TH JULY –SUMMER HOLIDAYS

SPORTS NEWS



INDOOR HOCKEY

The Indoor Hockey Season has again been a triumph for North Axholme. For the third consecutive year the U16 team has won their league; this year they have remained undefeated in all games.

The U14 girls had mixed results. They won, drew and lost games throughout the Season, as a result of this they finished fourth in their league.

For the first time ever North Axholme entered a U16 boys team. The boys really took to the game and performed at a very high standard. The team finished third in their league, missing out on first place by three points! A number of the boys have been recommended for Humberside Hockey Trials later this year.

VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball is a game taught in the curriculum but never as a competitive extra curricular team game. However, this year things have changed! Two Volleyball teams comprising of Year 10 and 11 Girls and Boys took on McCauley Catholic School in Doncaster. Both teams played exceptionally well and demonstrated great skill levels. The final scores:

1. Nax	0 - 2	McCauley
2. Nax	1 - 2	McCauley

AN EXTENDED CURRICULUM

A key issue when obtaining Sports Mark is that all Students are involved in the delivery of two hours of high quality P.E. a week. To ensure this is happening at North Axholme a number of new activities have been introduced in and outside of the curriculum. The activities are free to pupils as they have been supported by our Extended Schools Big Lottery Funding. They include:-

HORSERIDING

A programme of horse riding for pupils of all abilities has been taking place over the last eight weeks. Pupils have been visiting Brockholes Farm in Doncaster where they have been undertaking riding lessons and developing their equine knowledge. This has been a popular and rewarding project for all those participating, self esteem and confidence have all been enhanced greatly.

STREET DANCE

A number of Dance Workshops have been set up for all students in all year groups. Year 7's kicked it off learning a complex street dance routine led by and Instructor from K T Dance Studio. Years 8 & 9 developed this further and produced a quality routine to a high standard. Due to the popularity of this club it will be continuing after Easter for all to attend.

BASKETBALL

Basketball has been introduced into curriculum time as a new activity for students to try. It has been extremely popular and has been set up as an after school and lunch-time club. Boys and Girls from all years attend and are being coached by Ross Stafford (Epworth Basketball). Together with this matches are taking place against other schools. The players are improving and gaining confidence as each training session passes. I have very high hopes for the future within this sport.

TAE KWON DO

It was important that activities from different areas of physical activity were explored as it is clear not all students enjoy the traditional games at school. Tae Kwon Do was set up as a taster session during school time for all students to attend; with those who wished to continue with it as after school club. The numbers within the club are increasing week by week and it is proving to be a very popular activity. If you wish to start the club it is on a Tuesday evening 3.15 pm –4.30 pm in the Main Hall.

GOLF

After school sessions have been set up at Grange Park Driving Range for Year 10/11 Boys to develop their skills. This will hopefully result in a tournament after Easter with the support of Mr Croot, one of our technology teachers and a keen golfer.

POOL

Although not considered a sport by some pool is a very enjoyable and popular pastime. As a result of this, sessions have been arranged for Students at Riley's in Scunthorpe. This activity, whilst only in its infancy is attracting large numbers each week. If you wish to go please speak to Mr Barker.

TABLE-TENNIS

Again, another new activity at North Axholme. Table Tennis club takes place on Friday lunch-times for all students have been entered in a Schools Tournament in Doncaster on March 28th. Results will follow in the next Newsletter.

ROCK CLIMBING

A taster session has been set up at Doncaster Dome for Year 9 Girls to try Rock Climbing. The session will give students and incite into basic skills and enable them to attempt to traverse a small climbing wall.

ACTIVITIES AFTER EASTER

The following activities have already been organised for after Easter. If you wish to participate in any of them please see Mrs Dalowsky as soon as possible.

Street Dance
Tae Kwon Do
Fencing

Basketball
Golf
Pool

Trampolining
Fishing

D J Workshop
Archery

TESCO TOKENS

We are once again busy collecting Tesco tokens for Computer Equipment or Musical Instruments which would be of great benefit to our pupils. Please collect as many as you can and enlist the help of friends and family .

Thank you

SCHOOL WEB SITE

The school is currently developing a web site to promote the school and provide useful resources for parents, pupils and teachers. This will include things like calendars, exam dates, information about upcoming events, news ... etc. We hope to have the web site up and running before summer.

Peer Mentoring

Many thanks to all the Peer Mentors for their hard work this term.

New areas of Peer Mentoring are being developed all the time. One of these areas in the 'paired reading' with Mrs Taylor. Together they work twice a week with some Year 7 pupils. The Mentors will be able to see the improvement the pupils have achieved and how important their input is.

Charlotte Jones and Olivia Brennan recently participated in a Buddy/Peer Mentoring at the EDC with Suzanne Kemp. They represented the school very well along with Ben Lund. Well Done!

The Peer Mentors requested and have had a meeting with Mr Sellars to consolidate what they have achieved along with how they need to progress.

Once again a big thank you for your continued commitment. **Mrs Smith & Mrs Mann**

SCHOOL COUNCIL

It has been another fantastic year for raising money for charity. The pupils having participated in non-uniform days and school discos and have raised over a £1000 for charity. The pupils in the School Council have chosen two charities to send the money to; Barnados and Comic Relief. Both of the charities chosen help and support young pupils in Britain who are less fortunate or those children who support adults as carers and this gives them the money to enjoy themselves and become children again. It was something that the School Council had very clear, strong feelings about. A representative from Barnados is due to visit the school to receive the cheque and Comic Relief has sent a thank you certificate to the pupils for their hard work.

MISS WALTERS (School Council)

John Briggs made a visit to the school on Thursday 15th March to talk to Year 9 citizenship pupils about his role in the council and explain how the council run. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the visit and it was a real success, giving the pupils an interesting insight into the roles and responsibilities of councillors. As an extension to this visit the pupils have been invited to the council chambers at Pittwood House and I am hoping to organise that visit after half-term to extend and develop the pupil's understanding of meetings, which the council hold.

MISS WALTERS (Year 9 Citizenship Teacher)

MUSIC



RAF Band Visit

The school was delighted to host a visit by the RAF band who produced a superb concert for Years 7-9. The band showed off its versatility by playing a mixture of modern, jazz, and older popular music. Pupils were invited to join in, playing percussion for a Latin American number which was enjoyed by all.

Music Theatre Workshop

Year 7 enjoyed a workshop given by Sue Hollingworth which was a mixture of singing and theatre skills.

Class Act

The school will once again be sending two pupils as representatives for what has become a prestigious event in Scunthorpe. This year the two semi-finals are being held at the Wortley Hotel in Scunthorpe and tickets are available from the Hotel priced £2.50.

Scunthorpe Music Festival

The school is once again heavily committed to the Festival which takes place throughout the week beginning 21st May 2007. Any parental support for classes is always gratefully received.

Refurbishment of ICT Suites

Our existing ICT facilities are due to be overhauled in two phases during the coming months. Phase one of the plans will see ICT2 (Mr Bailey's room) being reorganised into a more suitable layout. After this reorganisation, the number of computers available in ICT2 will increase by 6 machines to a total of 30. The Art room (Mrs O'Horan's room) will also be equipped with additional computers to improve cross-curricular access to ICT.

During the summer break, we will be hard at work with the second phase of these plans. During this phase ICT1 is being relocated to the Drama room and the library is being extensively refurbished. Both areas will be transformed into state of the art flexible learning areas hosting a total of 72 computers.