

NORTH AXHOLME SCHOOL

SUMMER

NEWSLETTER 06



ACTIVITIES



North Axholme Win GOLD!

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the ARTSMARK GOLD award. This national award recognises the tremendous work that is undertaken at North Axholme in music and the arts. The award can be gained at Artsmark level, Artsmark Silver and the top award Gold. We were awarded the Silver award 3 years ago but this year we applied for the Gold and won!

Thanks must go to Mrs Keeler, Mrs O'Horan and all the other staff who make a great contribution in this area and give our pupils such a great deal both in lessons, in extra curricular work and in helping them achieve top exam results.

On 19 June Mrs Keeler, Mr Sellars and two pupils represented the school at the regional award ceremony at the Playhouse Theatre, Leeds where a lot of Artsmark and Artsmark Silver awards were presented but only a few Gold!

New courses and qualifications

We work hard at North Axholme to provide a curriculum that meets the needs of our pupils. We are challenged to provide a 'personalised' curriculum for all. From having a very traditional curriculum a few years ago we have taken steps to get away from this 'one size fits all' system. We have introduced applied GCSE's in a range of subjects such as Business Studies and Manufacturing.

This year we have added Applied Art and Design, Leisure and Tourism and Health and Social Care. We offered GCSE Statistics to more able maths pupils and a Performing Arts GCSE is being taught in twilight sessions by Miss Walters. In September we add electronics as a technology option and BTEC in Sport. New GCSE courses in Maths and Science will also be introduced in September.

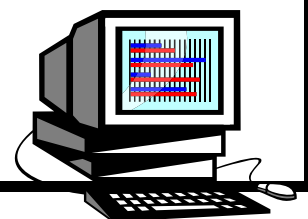
We have also offered the European Community Driving Licence (ECDL) to 65 of our year 11 pupils. More of that below! We will continue to evaluate and refine our curriculum to best meet the individual needs of all our pupils.

European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL)

Just before Easter, fifteen of our Year 11 pupils were given the opportunity to go to the Study United ICT facility at Glanford Park. Accompanied by Mr Morgan, they went on a "computer camp" to try and obtain their ECDL qualification. The European Computer Driving Licence is an industry recognised ICT qualification that many big businesses and companies encourage their employees to have. Holders of the qualification have demonstrated that they have high level ICT skills and are competent at using Office software.

After four intensive days of study and on-line testing, all fifteen of our students gained a GCSE grade B, and twelve obtained the full ECDL qualification. This was a fantastic achievement – well done to all concerned. Because of the success of this venture, it was decided to give a further fifty Year 11 pupils the chance to obtain the qualification, here at North Axholme. In late June, after most pupils had finished their GCSE exams, two further "camps" were held and the earlier successes repeated. At the time of writing, a further 33 pupils have gained the equivalent of a GCSE grade B and another 29 students now have their full ECDL.

We have already had some very positive feedback about the achievements of our ECDL students, both from the two Scunthorpe colleges, and from some local employers. It appears that our students with the ECDL qualification have a head start over those that do not, in both academic terms and in the "jobs market".



Every Child Matters

Every Child Matters is a new approach to the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19. The Government's aim is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to meet the '5 outcomes' to

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

This means that the organisations involved with providing services to children - from hospitals and schools, to police and voluntary groups - will be teaming up in new ways, sharing information and working together, to protect children and young people from harm and help them achieve what they want in life. Children and young people will have far more say about issues that affect them as individuals and collectively.

Over the next few years, every local authority will be working with its partners, through children's trusts, to find out what works best for children and young people in its area and act on it. They will need to involve children and young people in this process, and when inspectors assess how local areas are doing, they will listen especially to the views of children and young people themselves.

North Axholme in common with all other schools will also be working towards the Every Child Matters outcomes through:

- Information sharing with other agencies
- Partnership working with a wide cross-section of organisations and people, eg the children's trust, parents and the wider community, voluntary groups and the private sector
- The new relationship with schools, which addresses the Every Child Matters outcomes through, for example, personalisation, extended schools provision and the new school profile. (This replaces the governors annual report and elements of the school prospectus. It is an online document that can be accessed at <http://schoolprofile.parentscentre.gov.uk/> from July 17th. Hard copies may be provided on request).

IMPORTANT POINTS FOR NEXT TERM

1. For September we have now incorporated our new school logo into the design. All new Year 7 pupils will be showing off this new gear and as our stock of uniform runs down it will be replaced with the new style.
2. All pupils should wear black shoes at all times. Trainers should be worn **ONLY FOR P.E. LESSONS.**
3. Mobile Phones must not be brought into school unless in exceptional circumstances such as a visit or trip. If they are brought into school they will be confiscated for two weeks before they will be returned to pupils.
4. All pupils must bring basic equipment to school-pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, calculator in a pencil case and a decent sized school bag (**NOT A HANDBAG**) to carry their homework diary, exercise and text books in.

We are working very hard to provide the best possible deal for every one of our pupils. The partnership between parents and the school is absolutely crucial to the success of our young people and we rely on you to help us provide a consistent, stable place of learning for everyone.



TESCO Computers for Schools 2006

Thanks to everyone who has helped the school collect a total of just over 23,000 computer vouchers. Parents, pupils, friends of the school and local shops and businesses have again given us fantastic support, which is very much appreciated. We have already sent off our order for a laptop computer and other accessories. The items should be here soon after the start of the new school year, in September. Mr Morgan, who has coordinated the scheme for the last fifteen years, continues to be amazed at the response and reckons that over the years the school has obtained over thirty computers, software and other equipment. Thank you – and we look forward to your support again next year.

SCHOOL MEALS

You may already be aware that from September 2006 all School Meals will have to meet new standards. These ban and restrict junk foods high in salt, sugar and fat or made with poor quality meat. They also set minimal levels for the nutritional content of school meals.

The ultimate goal is to move all children on to balanced meals containing sources of protein and starch, accompanied by lots of vegetables, salad and fruit.

As a consequence there will be some changes to the menus offered at school, which will hopefully enable all of the pupils to move towards a more balanced diet.

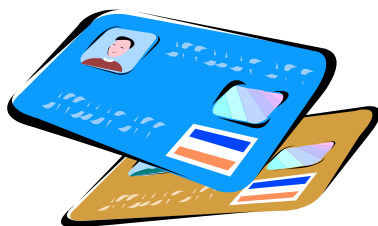


DEBIT/CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS FOR SCHOOL MEALS

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.



Maths Challenge



70 Year 7 and 8 pupils took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge.

Well Done to all who took part, the pupils gained 16 Bronze Awards, 5 Silver and 5 Gold.

Volunteers for Spain

The North Axholme VFS History group have produced a booklet on the British side of the Spanish Civil War. It looks at the Basque child refugees, Aid for Spain charity and a range of different topics, including how Spain has changed today. The pupils have interviewed veterans of the conflict and those who helped in Britain, including Cora Portillo, mother of Michael Portillo.

Copies of the booklet have been requested by the American, Spanish and British archives dedicated to the war. Copies of the booklet are available for £3.00 from Mr Thorpe-all profits going to the International Brigade Memorial Trust.

Specialist School Status

We were disappointed to hear recently that our bid to become a specialist school (technology) has not been successful in this round of applications. We will therefore have to submit an amended bid in October for a September 2007 start. It is a great shame that the DfES have decided to deny our pupils the access to more funding and resources that success would have brought.

SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS ON FRIDAY 21ST JULY 2006 AT 3.15 PM

RE-OPENS ON WEDNESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2006

ART

The Summer term has been a very busy one for the Art Department starting with GCSE Art Exams in April. We are now eagerly awaiting results, and hope for another successful year.

Lower down the school, Year 7 pupils enjoyed working with Leeds based artist Paula Todd in an Aboriginal Art Workshop. Year 10 pupils also took part in a workshop this term and produced some fantastic metal sculptures which were exhibited at the 20-21 Visual Arts Centre in Scunthorpe. 33 Year 9 Pupils went to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park for the day at the beginning of July.

Year 8 had their enrichment visit in the Autumn Term. This year we held our first End of Year Art Exhibition to celebrate the achievements of pupils from all year groups.



Multi Activity Overseas Adventure Course Half Term Holiday - May 27th to 4th June 2006

In the Dordogne area in France

This holiday was a great success all students and staff had a very enjoyable time in the lovely and picturesque Dordogne region and took part in a variety of activities including Trapeze, High wire, Climbing, Abseiling, Archery, Raft building, Canoeing, Mountain biking, Sailing and others.

The purpose behind this type of holiday was to give the students opportunity to work together in a different environment, being challenged to succeed in developing new skills, doing activities they might otherwise never be able to attempt and to build student' self-confidence and awareness. It was certainly achieved by all who went with some overcoming fears of heights to achieve personal success. I know that many who went would like to go again so I have arranged another visit to the same venue at the same time in 2008.



Work experience 10th to 15th July 2006

Nearly all of our year 10 students have been out on work experience placement this week. When talking to employers and the students involved in the placements I have been delighted that all concerned have gained so much – some students getting the offer of Saturday jobs because of the placement - but all gaining a valuable insight into the world of work and improving their knowledge and skills and expectations.

A very worthwhile experience
for all concerned

Thanks
J. Bartley



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.

Attendance

As ever we ask for your support in ensuring that your son/daughter attends school regularly. Our attendance rate is now higher than the national average, authorised and unauthorised absences are below the national average. All this is good news but we need to aim for even better. We really have to discourage you from taking your children out of school for holidays even though we understand the attractions of the savings available. We have the ability to authorise absences up to 10 days per school year. Where a pupils attendance is not already excellent we will not authorise these absences. When we decide not to authorise an absence for a holiday this will normally trigger a fixed penalty fine from the Education Welfare Service.

This academic year 1,251 school days have been taken for holidays by 243 pupils at North Axholme. Any absence, for holidays or otherwise, can make a significant difference to your children's performance at school. If these days were not taken as holidays and pupils were in school, our overall attendance rate would improve by 1.6% which is very considerable.

Of course, if your children are genuinely ill they should be kept at home and the school office notified as early as possible on the first day of absence. However, a few single days off school feeling 'a bit under the weather' or on holiday can add up to a considerable absence over a year. The following is a fictional case study - you may find it very interesting!

- **Sam is in Year 8. His attendance rate is always around 90% - he thinks this is pretty good!**

HOWEVER....

- **90% Attendance means that Sam is absent from lessons for the equivalent of ONE HALF DAY EVERY WEEK. This equals FOUR WEEKS absence per School Year.**
- **If Sam continues to attend for only 90% of the time, then over five years he will miss the equivalent of about ONE HALF OF A SCHOOL YEAR!**
- **Research suggests that 17 days missed from school equates to a full GCSE grade.**

Please help your children to do well in school by monitoring their attendance

SPORTS NEWS



Since the last newsletter a great deal has taken place within the P.E. Department. Ten Year 10 students have qualified as Netball Young Leaders. The girls participated in a day course that taught them how to deliver a game called 'High Five'. The game is a version of Netball played at Primary Schools for girls and boys in Years 5 & 6. After the course the girls decided to run a mini tournament for the year 6 pupils from our feeder schools. The winners of this tournament were Eastoft Primary School.

A number of the girls who attended the young leaders award went on to attend a netball umpiring course. These pupils are now able to officiate Year 7 netball games for the school.

The girls have also participated in a number of district rounders tournaments for their year groups. The Year 11 team finished 3rd in their group missing out on qualification by very small margins.

The **BIG STORY** within girls P.E this year has been our hockey success.

INDOOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

U12 - **Runner Up**
U14 - **Winner**
U16 - **Winners**

Together with this the Year 10 (U15) Hockey Team won the 11 a side District Hockey Tournament, beating all the schools across Scunthorpe. The team which includes Melanie Fillingham, Dannielle Kirk, Sarah Woolhouse, Jessica Murray, Alex Wilkinson, Hannah Turford, Stacey Dean, Harriet Ashcroft, Jennifer Senior and Stephanie Bailey are now District Hockey Champions.

INTER SCHOOLS ATHLETICS

Year 7,8 & 9 competed in the North Lincolnshire Schools Athletics Championships on Tuesday 12th July at Quibell Park. The pupils produced some very pleasing results these included.

Jamie Smyth	1st Long Jump
	2nd 100m
Nicole Manderson	2nd 100m
Bradley Stocks	1st Long Jump
Yr 9 Boys Relay Team	2nd



VISITS

The P.E. Department took its annual cricket trip to Old Trafford to watch a one day International between England & Sri Lanka. The pupils had an excellent day, unfortunately England lost the game. When the pupils arrive back in September the pupils have another trip to look forward to, this time to the Horse of the Year Show at the Birmingham NEC in October. There are still a limited number of seats left on this visit if pupils wish to attend.

CRICKET

The U12 Cricket Team have reached the final of the Northern Lincolnshire Section of the Calypso Cup. They play Queen Elizabeth High School away in the final. Good Luck to the team!

School Aims

Our school aims have not been reviewed for some time and so we are undertaking that process at the moment. So far a new set of aims have been drafted and shared with all staff and governors. They have had the opportunity to comment on them and will continue to do so until the end of September. We will also be consulting pupils in September so that they too can make comments and we can listen to their views.

Parents are the other very important partners in this process so I am including the draft aims in the Newsletter. I would be very grateful for any comments you might wish to make in terms of what might still need to be included, the wording and so on. If you would like to contribute please write to me by September 22nd.

North Axholme School

School Vision and Aims

'Students First'

Vision Statement

The shared vision for North Axholme School is to create and maintain an environment where we meet the needs of every child and our students are inspired and motivated to learn so that they achieve excellence in their achievements.

Aims

1. To enable every child to enjoy their education and achieve highly through
 - the provision of an excellent, personalised teaching and learning experience
 - exploiting the benefits of new technologies and creating a distinctive technological character for the school
 - equipping students with the necessary skills and understanding to lead successful and fulfilled lives in an increasingly technological world
 - regularly celebrating students' achievement and having an effective rewards system
 - promoting excellent attendance
 - providing an excellent range of extra-curricular and extended learning opportunities
 - ensuring that the needs of students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are met
 - ensuring that the needs of students who are looked after are met
2. To promote the physical, mental, emotional and sexual health of all students through
 - the promotion of healthy lifestyles through high quality physical education, extra-curricular activities and an effective personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme
 - providing excellent pastoral care
 - the promotion of physical and mental health through an effective PSHE programme including partner health and support services
3. To develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) values through
 - providing a wide range of opportunities both within and outside the curriculum to promote SMSC
 - the effective use of assemblies
 - an effective religious education programme
4. To promote the safety of every student through
 - informing students and parents/carers about possible risks to their safety
 - providing a safe, attractive and stimulating environment
 - ensuring that the incidence of bullying is minimised through employing robust policies and procedures
 - providing an effective PSHE programme
 - maintaining excellent collaboration with all relevant support agencies including those for child protection
5. To enable every child to make a positive contribution to the school, their community and their environment through
 - promoting voluntary and community engagement
 - having high expectations in terms of attitudes and behaviour and maintaining these through robust policies and procedures
 - promoting citizenship, work related and enterprise through high quality programmes and opportunities
 - maintaining an active School Council that contributes towards a meaningful student voice
 - providing an effective PSHE programme
6. To promote economic well being for all students by
 - providing an excellent programme of careers education and guidance and enterprise education and activities that broaden their experience, raise aspirations and help them see the relevance of their education to their future lives
 - maintaining excellent links with post 16 and higher education providers, employers and businesses to maximise the number of students who go into education, employment or training on leaving school
 - working closely with parents, carers and partner agencies to minimise possible financial stress on families associated with some school activities

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music

The summer session of the practical examinations saw a bumper crop of entries from pupils over a two day period. Once again 100% pass rate was achieved with some notable high performances and marks. Special mention must go to Jason Jones who achieved a very high distinction on his euphonium with 136 marks out of a total 150. Congratulations to all who took part.

Connexions-Aim Higher Project

On 15th May Year 9 pupils took part in an Aim Higher workshop given by Lisa Hanson-Dows from the Connexions branch in Grimsby. This gave real food for thought in developing the aspirations of our young people, to consider how best to achieve as high as possible.

Year 8-Taster Day

On 21st April the whole of Year 8 took part in a mini bite size of University life when six students from Hull University spent the day with the year group. They organised fun and informative activities and pupils asked many questions ranging from entry procedures to the lighter side of student life! An excellent day was enjoyed by all.

Hull University Aim Higher Project

On 5th June 54 of our Year 9 pupils went to Hull University to take part in the Aim Higher-Raising Achievement Project which aims to encourage pupils to aspire towards entry to Higher Education Institutions. Pupils took part in a series of workshops about University life in the morning and were then taken on a tour of the campus in the afternoon by under-graduates. An enjoyable and informative day was had by all and the experience provided a real motivator for many of our pupils who are about to begin their GCSE courses.

Oxford University

Three of our gifted and talented pupils also enjoyed a trip to Oxford University to enjoy lectures and a tour of the campus. These were Anna Trotman, Nathan Lamb and Alex Wilkinson.

Farewells and welcomes

At the end of this term we say farewell to Mr Morgan, assistant Headteacher, after 31 one years at North Axholme. Mr Morgan has worked tirelessly over this period to get the best from our pupils. I know he will have taught maths to quite a number of parents reading this newsletter when they were pupils here! Mr Morgan taught maths here and became head of department before more recently taking on the role of assistant Headteacher. He will most definitely be missed in his current role though links will not be completely severed as he will work part time for the school as examinations officer.

Mr Morgan will be replaced by Mr Creasy who joins us from a school in Nottingham. He is an ICT specialist and he will focus on this as well as his assistant Headteacher role. Miss Waugh (maths) and Mrs O'Callaghan (TA) also move on to pastures new. Miss Rawson joins the maths department and Miss Moore is our new scientist. We wish them all the very best.

SCUNTHORPE MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Festival took place throughout the week beginning Monday 22nd May, culminating with the bursary competitions on the Saturday evening. Once again our pupils shone and for the first time in the history of the school we had three pupils named to compete in the prestigious bursary competition. These were Daisy Vollans who won the Saxophone class, Charlie Moore won the under 15 Brass class and Tom Knowles who won the 15-18 years brass class. Charlie was later chosen to perform again in concert at the Plowright Theatre. **Congratulations to all three and to all those who took part.**

Other notable performances were

Brass solo 12 yrs and under	2nd	Jason Jones	
	3rd	Grace Wye	
Brass solo 13-under 15 yrs	1st	Charlie Moore	
	2nd	Nathan Lamb	
	3rd	Richard Metcalf	
	Certificate of Merit		Michael James
Woodwind Ensemble Open	3rd	North Axholme Saxophone ensemble	
	Certificate of Merit		North Axholme Clarinet Ensemble
Brass Solo 15-18 yrs	1st	Tom Knowles	
	2nd	Oliver Whiteley	
	3rd	Karen Lamb	
Saxophone Solo under 14 yrs	1st	Daisy Vollans	
	2nd	Charlotte Chisnell	
Woodwind Solo 12 yrs and under	Certificates of Merit		Danielle Shipman Adam Ingleton Holly Willerton Emma Hellewell
Woodwind Solo 13-16 yrs	2nd	Anna Trotman	
	3rd	Rebecca Oxborrow	
	Certificates of Merit		Rebecca Briggs Karen Lamb Olivia Brennan Abi Buckman
Brass Ensemble Open	1st	North Axholme Brass Ensemble	
Certificates of Performance also went to			Stephanie Webb Rebecca Webb Vashti Chamberlain-Hayes Eden Murphy Rebecca Oxborrow Anna Trotman

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

