



The Appleton School

A Business and Enterprise Specialist College

Headteacher's Bulletin to Parents



February 2009

Dear Parents

We have had a very busy start to the New Year with Year 9 students beginning their option choices and embarking on an early start to GCSE courses in English and Mathematics.

Year 11 students are also working hard to complete the final pieces of coursework before their GCSE examinations begin in May.

After half-term, we will also be hosting HMI as they inspect our provision in Religious Education.

Year 10 students also had a very successful Mock Interview day on 30th January. We had over forty local employers interviewing our students and providing feedback on their CV's and interview technique. Every employer came to see me during the course of the day to inform me of how well our young people performed and their high levels of maturity.

All employers agreed to return next year to run the same programme with Year 9.

I am also able to confirm that our guest speaker for the **Year 11 Presentation Evening** on 2nd April will be **Steve Cram**, a BBC sports commentator, former Olympic athlete and also from Newcastle.

We are anticipating a very successful evening as we formally celebrate the achievements of Year 11 during their five years with us.

*Mrs K Kerridge,
Headteacher*

CONGRATULATIONS to Jack Lipton in Year 7 – Another 2012 hopeful.

On Saturday 24th January, Jack became the **Eastern Counties Schoolboy Boxing Champion**, as well as **Essex Schoolboy Champion**, and has been ranked **Number 7** in the country.



In March, Jack has been invited to box for Essex in **Denmark**.

We wish Jack well and hope to hear more of his success.

CONGRATULATIONS to Alex Delicata.

Alex has recently competed in the **43rd International Championship** in **Geneva, Switzerland**.



Alex swam against some of the best teams in Europe and his team was successful in winning the **Top Club Trophy**. I am sure we will be hearing more from Alex in the run up to the 2012 Olympic Games and wish him every success in representing his club, and hopefully his country, in the near future.

Well done Alex!

The Cultural Diversity Project

The project funded by **Lord Hanningfield of Essex County Council** has involved the Learning Committee of the School Council and 15 volunteers from **Years 7-10**.

Based on the work of **Hal Satterwaite (A thousand Faces of Walthamstow)** the project group set out to explore what cultural diversity is, why an understanding is important and to present the findings in an interesting way to show others what has been learnt.

Day One – Students learnt to take portrait photographs of people and ways to convince them to be a part of the project.

Day Two - Photographs were taken at **Tarpots, Business Opportunities for the Physically Handicapped** and at **Gowan Court**, a Sheltered Accommodation establishment.

Day Three - Photographs were taken at **SEEVIC College, the Mayor's Chambers, the Council Offices, Sandcastles Nursery and Basildon Shopping Centre**.

Day Four - Students selected their top 20 portraits and then their best three. Consideration was given to the learning points and how the final 100 portraits would be presented. It was agreed that each portrait would be A5 size and that there would be two frames 6 x 3 feet in size. There will be a presentation evening for those directly involved in the project group and those who had photos selected for the final product.

Ten assemblies have taken place around the Cultural Diversity theme and specifically the projects.

The learning points shared were :

- **The world we live in is rich in its differences and it would be boring if we were all the same**

- **The future can only be peaceful and enjoyable if we learn to respect, perhaps even admire, the differences that exist between people.**
- **It is difference that adds to our enjoyment as we travel to other parts of the world. We should not strive to make everyone the same.**
- **It is other people's differences that make them interesting and attractive, as well as sometimes making them difficult.**
- **All humans have the right to live in dignity without being mistreated or insulted. Tolerance is respect. We can and should say no to prejudice of any kind.**

We are most excited about now seeing the final product, but are fully aware that the value has been in the process of meeting and spending time with a variety of people with different cultural, ethnic and religious background and in building our skills to interact with others, work as a team and develop our skills.

We look forward to the unveiling, which is scheduled for sometime in March.

Castle Point Youth Council

A number of our Year 9 students recently attended the **Essex Youth Council Conference**.

They were invited to express their opinions on a number of key topics relating to services in the local area. These included voluntary work, policing facilities, road layouts and clubs.

Through discussion and a range of other activities, our students have given local councillors an insight into what priorities for area development the younger generation have.

Ideas generated included developing computer provision and study support in local libraries, improved road crossing facilities and greater variety of

low cost activity opportunities at weekends and during the evenings.

We will watch closely to see if their input has guided local councillors as to the way forward.

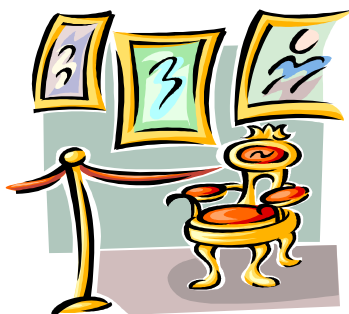
Thanks also to **Mr Higham** who accompanied the group.

Tate Modern Visit – 26/1/09

The Tate Modern Collection consists of four wings which offer an in-depth exploration of key periods in the development of 20th Century Art.

Contained in these wings are fascinating displays presenting works which pioneered, responded to or reacted against the main Art Movements in these key periods.

Twenty-three Year 11 students and seven Year 10 students were involved in the visit to the Tate Modern to take part in workshops to support their examination project or coursework. The tasks undertaken focused on portraiture, and the organised workshops, intended to foster imagination and curiosity, encouraged the use of sketchbooks to record information and develop ideas.



Many of the students had not been to the Tate Modern before and although they may have recognised some pieces of artwork from their studies, they had not previously been faced with the actual artworks in a vast gallery space. Many of the artworks in the Tate Modern are very challenging, and initially the students may have been puzzled by some of the more unconventional exhibits; but the purpose of the day was to encourage the students to engage with and respond to these works to get a better understanding of why they were made,

the nature of the artwork, and the role of the artist as a social commentator.

The organised workshops assisted the students to do this by requiring them to question the meaning of the chosen works, and to respond to the works in their sketchbook using different materials. The workshops were led by working artists, and the students worked in the gallery space, in front of the artwork, surrounded by visitors to the gallery. The day was very enjoyable and productive. The students adapted quickly to their surroundings, and throughout the day, developed their appreciation of Modern Art first hand.

Mr Barry, Adviser for Art, would like to thank **Mrs Davie** for organising the visit, **Miss Copeland** for organising tasks to be completed in the gallery, and **Mrs Cruse** for her support and advice on the day.

Connecting Classrooms Update

Pen Pal Letters

We have successfully sent around 50 letters to schools in both countries since the start of the academic year.

Unfortunately due to delays in the post, and an error at the Ugandan sorting office, although our letters were sent in October, they did not arrive until December. We are now waiting for our replies.

We would like to encourage students to continue writing, and we shall be scanning and sending the letters, via e-mail in future, to speed up the process.

Projects Received

We have received some lovely projects from the pupils at **St Maria Goretti School in Uganda**. We are looking for students to read the projects and write back. We will be asking Form Tutors to let interested students know that they need to see **Mr Hunt**, if they are interested in taking part.

This Term's Theme

Our theme this term is **Trees**, and we have discussed, through our Task Group meetings, how we can incorporate this theme into our teaching. Once we have completed the

work, we shall be posting or e-mailing the work over. We are hoping that we will also be receiving work in return.

Trip to Ethiopia

We are now at the early stages of planning our next trip to **Ethiopia**, and have begun to email the **British Council** in Ethiopia, and the schools, of our hopes to visit the country.

Mock Interviews

To help our **Year 10** students who are about to go out for interviews for their Work Experience placements, a very successful **Mock Interview Day** was held on the **30th January 2009**.

The Year 10 students were asked to come into school in business dress in order to attend a 30 minute interview with one of the 40 volunteers from local businesses.

All of the students were then given verbal and written feedback on how they performed in the interview.

The business volunteers who came in commented on the good organisation of the day and how impressed they were with the students they interviewed.

MOBILE PHONES, IPODS & MP3 PLAYERS

Could I please take the opportunity to remind parents that we do not encourage students to bring mobile phones into school.

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones and if students are found using a phone in school they will have this removed.

I understand that many parents wish students to carry phones for personal safety reasons but can I please ask you to reinforce with your child that these should not be used on the school site.

Ipods and MP3 players should not be brought into school at all. If students are found using these items they will have them removed.

Mrs K Kerridge, Headteacher

PARENTPAY AND CASHLESS CATERING

These systems are proving very popular. Parents can view the remaining balance on a student's catering account and see a record of payments made either via their ParentPay account or of cash and cheque.

Details of some trips/items remain visible after payment to enable payments by instalment or further purchases. Greyed out amounts are fixed. **Bold type** amounts can be altered to allow for variable amounts or multiple purchases.

LOST YOUR PASSWORD?

Please contact the school on ext. 279 to request a new one.

Please allow 24 hours for payments to go to the student's catering account.

As we now have a reduced amount of cash in school, the offices are **unable to give change**.

LOST PROPERTY

Clothing is displayed at the end of each term and then disposed of
All other items (including jewellery/glasses, etc.) – at the end of the Summer term

We will make every effort to return found items to their owners and therefore ask that you name all clothing/shoes/PE bags/pencil cases etc to assist us with this. Parents are welcome to come in, after school, to check the lost property.

ABSENCE CALLS :

To report a student's absence, please telephone the school on **Ext. 225** or e-mail –
 jwilliams@theappletonschool.org
 Thank you.

Reminder re. system for absence calls

Parents will receive a text message in the first instance on a child's absence, followed by telephone calls, which will continue until the end of the school day, or until the school receives a response from parents. Parents can also be contacted re. Consultatives, coursework deadlines, etc.

Please make sure your child's contact telephone numbers are up to date and inform the school immediately of any changes. Any queries with the above, please contact **Mrs A Cruse, Assistant Headteacher**

STUDENTS SIGNING OUT :

Can I please remind parents that students who need to leave school during the day for doctor and dental appointments, interviews, etc. must have their note with them, signed by a parent/guardian, and initialled by their Form Tutor, when they sign out at **Student Services**.

Important Dates Spring Term

| <i>Half-Term 16th – 20th February 2009</i> | |
|--|---|
| Monday, 23 rd Feb 2009 | Year 7 Exam Week |
| Thursday, 26 th Feb 2009 | Parents' Group Meeting |
| Wednesday, 4 th March 2009 | 15.30 – 18.30 Y9 (1-4) Consultative |
| Thursday, 5 th March 2009 | Year 7/8/9 Disco |
| Friday, 6th March 2009 | INSET DAY 3 |
| Thursday, 12 th March 2009 | 15.30 – 18.30 Y9 (5-8) Consultative |
| Friday, 13 th March 2009 | Charity Day |
| Thursday, 26 th March 2009 | 19.00 Spring Concert |
| Thursday, 2 nd April 2009 <i>(Please note change of date from 1.4.09)</i> | Y11 Presentation Evening |
| Friday, 3 rd April 2009 | End of Spring Term |
| <i>Holiday – 6th – 17th April 2009</i> | |
| Monday, 20 th April 2009 | 08.40 Summer Term begins |