



Keeping in Touch

Lees Brook Community School's Newsletter to Parents



19 December 2011

Dear Parents

The Ofsted inspection has made this term feel particularly long and the Christmas holiday will be very welcome when it starts next week. The positive report we received from the inspectors means that we can truly enjoy the festive season and be ready to start with renewed energy in January. I was hoping to bring you news about our bid for new buildings but the Department for Education has pushed back decisions about which schools will be rebuilt until 'early in 2012'. In the meantime we have sent them our Ofsted report with the comments about the poor nature of the school's accommodation highlighted. Ofsted reports rarely comment on such matters so this is strong support for our bid.

Refurbishment work continues in school. Although some classes have had to be moved, we are beginning to feel the benefit of the work with improvements such as roofs that no longer leak, some new flooring, some new windows, better lighting and an upgrading of quad. When we return in January, the main staff and student toilets will have been completely refurbished helping to make the existing buildings feel a little more more civilised.

Last Day of term - Wednesday 21st December

Every year on the last day of term, we have a Christmas Assembly in the Sports Hall. This is quite a long (but enjoyable) event and students are allowed to bring a cushion or rug to sit on. I am letting you know so you can remind them to bring something in to make it more comfortable on the cold hard floor of the Sports Hall. Students are also allowed to bring a Christmas hat which they can wear after we finish the Christmas story and Carols – just before we begin the Christmas songs.

Can I also remind you that:

- school finishes at 1.45pm on Wednesday 21st December
- students return to school at 8.45am on Monday 9th January 2012.
- Thursday 5th and Friday 6th January 2012 are Teacher Training Days. The main school building is closed for repairs from the 2nd to the 6th January and Reception will operate from the Post-16 Skills Academy.

Annual Bazaar

I would like to thank those of you who contributed to the Annual Bazaar by helping with stalls, donating prizes or just by coming along to spend money. We raised £2,305 in total which compares well with previous years despite the poor state of the economy at the moment. The money goes into the 'School Fund' and is spent on extras above and beyond the compulsory curriculum. School fund has: paid for minibuses; supported talented athletes; bought the book and gift tokens for the special Awards and Prizes we gave out to Y11 leavers at their Presentation Evening; and bought equipment for lunchtime and after school activities. As you can see, we use the money wisely and we really appreciate the contributions everyone makes.

Youth Sport Trust Young Ambassador Programme – Michael Woodward and Millie Dearie

Michael and Millie attended the Youth Sport Trust Young Ambassador Conference in Coventry on 1st December. The organisers said they were a credit to themselves, their school, their parents and Derby City as a whole.

The Young Ambassador role is part of a national programme which promotes Olympic and Paralympic ideals and utilises the pupils involved to act as advocates and role models to others in schools and at events across the City and School Sport Partnerships.

During the day of the conference the Young Ambassadors worked with current and former Olympic and Paralympic athletes going through the values and how they can use their skills and knowledge to engage and educate new leaders both in their own schools and across the city and School Sport Partnerships. They finished the day taking part in Olympic related street dances that had been choreographed by themselves within their allocated groups for the day.

Parking

People living in the houses on the bridal path, opposite Morley Gardens, have told us that there is a problem because some Lees Brook parents are parking up the lane. Please be considerate – there is very little space on the lane and only residents should be parking there.

Goodbye to...

Angela Restelli, who retires this month. Angela has taught at Lees Brook for over twenty two years - more than half of her teaching career. During that time she has played her part in transforming Lees Brook and making it a very good school. I know that there are many of you who will remember your own Art lessons with Miss Restelli - back in the 1990s or maybe even earlier! Angela has always shown the utmost dedication to her and I am sure you will join me in wishing her a happy and well earned retirement.

Also leaving us this term:

Lauren Croft, who is leaving teaching to study for a further degree.

Stuart Beeley, who is moving to Derby College.

DRESS CODE

Unlike some schools, the standard of dress at Lees Brook is very high. There are a few problems from time to time with a small number of pupils, but these are usually resolved quickly thanks to support from parents. The major problems are with:

Footwear (the rule about shoes being flat is for safety reasons; the rule about shoes or trainers being plain black is for conformity and to avoid competition about who has the most expensive trainers) and

Jewellery – especially body piercing jewellery.

We try to be understanding and patient where there are financial difficulties, but the rules about school dress are quite clear. All parents are given that information before they choose to send their children here, so we do expect the rules to be followed. Please get the new year off to a good start by making sure your child's school clothing and footwear conforms to the dress code and if they have any parts of their body pierced over the Christmas holiday, that the studs or whatever can be removed for school. This will avoid any difficulties.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Jan Rigley has asked me to say a massive thank you to all the form tutors and students who contributed to the appeal and a special thank you to Mrs Woodward, Mrs Kelly Ball and Ms Joanne Gray for generously donating extra gifts to fill the boxes. We filled and wrapped an overwhelming 110 boxes! Thank you again for your amazing support!



All the best for a great Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful 2012!



Phil Dover
Head

Trips, Visits and Events - Autumn Term 2011

(Next term's trips, visits, lunchtime clubs and after school clubs will be advertised on the school website very shortly)

Kibblestone Camp – October 2011

42 Year 8 pupils were rewarded for their outstanding behaviour in Year 7 by attending a camp at Kibblestone, Staffordshire. During the three days pupils experienced a variety of camp craft activities including; shelter building, challenges, boiling eggs on an open fire, local walks including a tour of a mill by volunteers, a mathematical challenge in a stream and creating a gadget to raise a rucksack off ground level. A DVD of the photographs is available for 50 pence.

Snowdome Trip

22 pupils went to the Snowdome on Monday 10th October in preparation for the skiing trip to Zell am See during February half term. This was the second two hour lesson for most and the first lesson for a few. By the end of the lesson everybody could ski from the top of the slope using a basic snowplough action.

Halloween Disco

90 Year 7-9 pupils attended a Halloween Disco on Tuesday 1st November between 7-9pm in the school hall. Almost everyone came dressed up in topical costumes. A digital camera was awarded to Gabrielle Parker of Year 9 for best costume as a haunted bride with full make up. Four Year 10 students bought the decorations which they decorated the hall with, supervised the door, sold refreshments and supervised ticket sales by Year 7 pupils.

Lake District

5 Year 10 girls went to Ullswater in the Lake District as part of an outdoor activities week organised by Rolls Royce for gifted and talented pupils with an interest in science and engineering. The week involved many varied activities including gorge walking and rock climbing and it culminated in an overnight camping and walking expedition. All of the girls threw themselves wholeheartedly into the activities and came back with increased confidence and team work skills.

Remembrance Day Service at Chaddesden Park Junior School

33 Year 7 students took part in the annual parade past the memorial garden. 4 pupils from each Tutor Group were selected for their excellent behaviour to take part. Those in charge of selling poppies also attended.

Year 7 Local Area Geography Field Trips

Each Year 7 Geography group experienced collecting data and information that they would later process. The trip took the groups to Woods Road where there were plenty of opportunities for geographical investigation.

Gymnastics training

20 girls attended training during October half term, at weekends and in school time in readiness for participating in the Derby City Gymnastics competitions with Mrs Harris. This is in addition to normal Gymnastics Club training!

Dance Y11 GCSE Study support – October 26th 2011

4 Year 11 students attended an extra session between 10-1pm during the Wednesday of half term to practise and improve their GCSE Dance choreography.

Football Plus festival at the Power League Stadium

7 SEN students, from Years 9-11, took part in the Derby City football plus festival on Thursday 3rd November. They took part in skills and drills followed by some friendly 6 aside. Rammie was on hand at the concluding awards ceremony to help celebrate the achievements of the day.

Trampolining and Tumbling World Championships at NIA

12 members of the Lees Brook Gymnastics and Trampoline Clubs went to the National Indoor Arena on Friday 18th November to see the world's best trampolinists and tumblers.

Dancers to Burton Town Hall

Eight Year 11 girls went to watch a matinee performance of 'Danceworks' at Burton Town Hall on December 1st. It gave the GCSE Dance students an insight into Dance courses available at Burton College and also inspiration for new ideas for their own creation of solos and group dances.

Drumming Parade

Three students, accompanied by Ms de Lange and Mr Hindmarsh were part of a parade through the town centre as part of the Surtal Arts Drumming Performance during the evening of Friday 18th November. It was a torch light parade and the culmination of the hard work put in by students on a Wednesday lunchtime.

Pulse and Pulsettes Dance Companies

Six girls from Years 7-10 attended a technical rehearsal at Deda on Friday 18th November in preparation for performances the following day. 'Future Light' was held on Saturday 19th November at 3pm and 7pm. The show was a great success and Deda staff commented on how professionally the students performed.

Construction visit to Derby College, Ilkeston

As part of the curriculum 19 Year 11 students visited the Derby College construction facility at Ilkeston on either 16th or 23rd November. Students gained a greater knowledge of the opportunities available to them post 16 at the Ilkeston site.

Theatre Trip to the Guildhall, Derby

On Wednesday 16th November as part of their GCSE Drama course, 33 Year 10 and 11 students visited the Guildhall Theatre in Derby to watch a matinee performance of 'One flew over the Cuckoo's nest'. Students followed up the visit by analysing the performance to prepare for their written exam.

GCSE Geography Field Trip to Bakewell

Geography students went on a day's field trip to Bakewell on 14th November to carry out coursework for their GCSE.

QR Code (for the
web link to this newsletter)

