

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Volume 10 Issue 4



December 2008

Dear Parents,

The Christmas holidays are now in sight and I wanted to share some of the many activities in which the girls have participated recently.

North of England Education Conference (NEEC) 2009

Our Chamber Choir have been practising hard as they have the honour of being the only Choir on Wirral to be invited to perform at the North of England Education Conference, on the evening of 7 January 2009, at a cabaret event being held for delegates at Thornton Hall Hotel. The NEEC is a three day education conference being hosted by Wirral and Chester in 2009 which attracts delegates from across the globe among them Baroness Estelle Morris as conference president. Congratulations to the girls and Mrs Miller and good luck with their preparations.

Berlie Doherty – Visit to Upton

We were delighted and privileged on Friday 5 December 2008 to welcome the distinguished author and former pupil, Berlie Doherty back to Upton Hall. Over lunch break Berlie signed copies of her books and chatted to readers in the Library which bears her name. After this she spoke to Years 7 and 8 about the inspiration for some of her books, in particular her novel “Abela”, which draws on her experience of living in Tanzania. Her visit clearly made a deep impression on her audience, and brought the 2008 Year of Reading to a stimulating and enjoyable conclusion.

Feastday Report

We celebrated Feastday on Monday 8 December. It was 146 years to the day that the FCJ Sisters purchased the Upton site and began the development of our school. The school had moved from the centre of Liverpool to Lingdale House in Birkenhead in 1849. All that remains of that site is the sandstone wall in Lingdale Road.

Having reflected on the work of the FCJ Sisters and their wish to support those who cry out for justice, members of the Sixth Form presented their analysis of how the American Civil Rights Movement has culminated in Barack Obama becoming President elect and how the courage and determination of Nelson Mandela led the end of apartheid in South Africa. The work of our Sixth Form girls was inspirational.

Year 11 Well-Being Day

On Tuesday 9 December, Year 11 spent the day in a carousel of activities designed to develop their self esteem and encourage positive thinking which it is hoped in turn will help them learn more effectively.

Dates for Your Diary

January

- Monday 5** School Development Day
- Tuesday 6** Pupils return
- Thursday 8** AS/A2 modules begin
- Monday 12** Year 10 Science modules
- Thursday 15** Celebration of Success – 7.00 pm
- Sat 17–Sun 18** DoE Bronze Training, UHS
- Monday 19** Year 11 Science modules
- Sunday 25** DoE WWCEC Gold & Silver Training Day, WKGS
- Wednesday 28** Year 11 Parent Teacher Meeting-5.30 pm

February

- Thursday 5** Upper 6th Parent Teacher Meeting-5.30 pm
- Sunday 8** DoE WWCEC Gold & Silver Practical Training, Hadlow Fields
- Monday 9** DoE WWCEC Gold Route Checking
- Tuesday 10** Year 9 Parent Teacher Meeting – 5.30 pm
- Friday 13** Year 9 Option Form submission deadline

Mon.16 – Fri.20 Half-Term

Pupil Attendance on Monday 5 January 2009 - Reminder

All schools are obliged to provide 190 days of schooling for their pupils. Attendance at the School Mass counts, for our pupils, as one school day. In order to ensure that we meet our legal requirement, school will be open on an additional day for those pupils who were not able to attend mass on 8 November. This day has been fixed for Monday 5 January 2009. Parents of those girls concerned have been notified and they will be required to attend school in uniform from 9.00am until 12 noon on that day.

Sporting Achievements

- Year 7 & 8 Cross Country runners went to Barrow in Furness in early November to take part in the North West rounds of a Cross Country competition. We came fourth so well done to the girls who ran in very poor conditions.
- Six girls have been selected to compete at county level for Cross Country.
- Sports Ambassadors - Lucy Flavin and Laura Clarke have been selected as young ambassadors for the Wirral 2008. Nicole Haviland and Hannah Twist have been selected to represent the school as ambassadors.
- Sixth Form netball team finished runners up in The Merseyside Netball tournament.



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- Year 7 netball teams have started extremely well beating Birkenhead 17 – 1 and West Kirby 8 – 4, both matches were away fixtures.
- Football Team U16 beat Plessington by 4 goals to 2
- Hockey U13 team drew with Wirral in an away match
- Two Year 7 pupils (Anna Beattie and Emma McKeown) and a Year 8 pupil (Lisa Beattie) came third in a regional Trampolining competition at the beginning of December.

Marriage and Family Life in the Diocese

Attached to this newsletter are the following items we have received from the Diocese which they have requested we highlight to our school community:

- A Marriage and Family Life Newsletter detailing some of the work and also upcoming events.
- An up to date “Where to find help sheet” and
- A flier from Ushaw College advertising an online module of Marital and Family Spirituality.

Extended Schools Recognition!

We received a letter from the DCSF on behalf of Beverley Hughes (Minister) congratulating us for being one of the schools who has achieved the full core offering as an Extended School. This covers a whole range of activities such as breakfast club, extra curricular activities, the library opening before and after school and also the Summer Camp. These activities may not seem anything out of the ordinary but they do fall under the Extended Schools provision umbrella which all schools are expected to provide. We have been externally audited regarding our provision and the wealth of our activities has been officially recognised. These opportunities are available to all pupils and I would encourage each pupil to explore what is on offer.

Library News – Scholastic Book Fair 20-23 October 2008

The arrival of the Scholastic Book Fair on 20 October created a buzz of excitement as pupils browsed the latest titles from a variety of authors and made their selections. Total sales were just over £600, which earned commission of £333 to spend on new books for everyone to enjoy. A big thank you to all who supported the Fair, in particular the English teachers who ran book quizzes and Laura Fox for her help in handling sales.

Off the Rails

A group of Year 10 GCSE Art students have designed dresses inspired by the work of famous artists and entered their work in the *Off the Rails* competition

staged by Liverpool community College on 6 December. Anya McDevitt won first prize for her exquisite dress inspired by the work of Gustav Klimt and modelled for her by Anna Graham. Well done Anya who together with Anna modelling her dress appeared in the Liverpool Echo..

Christmas Carols – Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 December

A final reminder that all parents, friends and family are welcome to join in our festive celebrations at Sacred Heart Church, Moreton from 7 pm. Make time, in what can be a feverishly busy time of year, to pamper your spirits by listening to a beautiful programme of music produced by our very talented young musicians. Please come along with family and friends.

Don't forget **Lost Property** afternoon on **Tuesday 16 December from 2 pm to 4 pm** in Main Reception. Parents are welcome to call in and assist in retrieving lost items.

Website

Our website is constantly being updated, please keep yourselves informed of School achievements by visiting www.uptonhallschool.co.uk.

Stay Safe

Sadly over the Christmas period many young people will compromise their safety and well-being by drinking alcohol. I appeal to the girls, and ask for the support of parents, to ensure that you stay safe by being confident enough to say no to alcohol. Long term, alcohol will paint your nose red and do even worse to your liver! Over indulgence so often leads to tears. Stay safe, happy and beautiful!

May I ask you to pray for those members of our community who are ill. Finally I would like to thank all parents for your support this term and wish all of you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year rich in blessings.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Young