



Head's Newsletter

Dear Parent(s)

YEAR 11 & 13 LEAVERS

Last Thursday, Year 11 began their Study Leave in preparation for their GCSE examinations. The occasion was marked with an evening of celebration during which pupils, staff and parents enjoyed a service of Holy Communion and the distribution of the pupils' Records of Achievement. It was, as usual, a very moving evening made all the more special by the beautiful singing of Keshia and Rochelle Estwick and Carys Groves. A fantastic Year 11 Prom, which included a red carpet and life-size Oscars, took place the following evening, organised by Mrs Rees and the Prom Team.

Year 13 took part in a service of blessing last Friday before commencing their Study Leave; I know they are looking forward to the Sixth Form Leavers' Ball which will take place once the A Level exams are over at the end of June.

I would like to thank Mrs Loveland, Mr Moss, Rev Mike Griffin and the Worship Team for the beautiful Leavers' Services they have organised this year, and Mrs Rees, Mrs Barnes and Mrs Teasdale for co-ordinating the various events last week.

YEAR 5 ENTERPRISE DAY

We are delighted to welcome into school today Year 5 pupils from the Emmaus School and from St Mary's, West Derby. They are joining us today for an event run by Compact. The children are taking part in a 'Birds of a Feather' Enterprise Activity and working together in mixed teams using ICT. As part of the activity, they will form a company, have job roles and make and sell origami paper birds. They will finish the day with a presentation to the whole group. Pupils will also be treated to a school lunch at our Casa Blanca Bistro and enjoy what we hope will be a memorable day.

CONGRATULATIONS

'MAKE IT ENTERPRISING'

Anna Parry, Hannah Whiteside, Laura Ford, Rebecca Ball, Eleanor Davies, Hannah Keiley, Olivia Ryan and Jayne Envis represented Merseyside in the Grand Final of the *Make it Challenge* held in May and were **victorious winners!** Originally the competition had 60 schools from all over the northwest of England. The final consisted of 14 schools from Lancashire, Merseyside, Cumbria and Greater Manchester who competed in various tasks involving designing, manufacturing, costing and marketing a product. The girls designed a new range of characters to promote their dairy based product 'Moo Shake'. Many congratulations to all the girls and to Mr Jones from the Design Technology Department for his support. The girls were presented with a handsome trophy, gift vouchers and goodie bags.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Congratulations to **Olivia Beesley** who has been chosen to deliver the 'Thought for the Week' this week on BBC Radio Merseyside. Olivia was heard speaking on the radio in an interview following her success at a public speaking competition earlier this year and impressed one of the presenters from the show with her maturity and eloquence. The topic of her daily thoughts has been centred on the examination season.

NEWS FROM GIFTED AND TALENTED

Congratulations to the following year 7 and 8 students who participated in the Northwest Gifted & Talented Workshop Day at St Nicholas Catholic High School in Lancaster on Saturday, 9 May: Caitlin Barton, Erin Boyes, Megan Coates, Elizabeth Foulkes, Robyn Harrison-Reid, Sophie McHale, Amber Nagra, Sophie Stuart and Bethan Williams.

Students selected an intensive workshop in which to participate, including "DNA", "Design for Performance", "DNA - genetic coding and 3D modelling", and "3D Art". Students thoroughly enjoyed the day and were such a credit to the school that their excellent behaviour and participation was even commented on by staff from other schools!

Photos of some of their completed works can be seen on the LCD displays around the school.

Well done, girls!

FOOTWEAR

I have noticed a growing trend in school of pupils wearing canvas shoes or trainers. May I respectfully remind parents that the uniform list states quite clearly that **sensible plain black shoes with a low or medium heel (no higher than 5cms)** are the only shoes that should be worn for school.

SCHOOL TRIPS

The Governors have asked me to remind parents of a limited fund we have available for parents who may struggle to finance their child's inclusion on a school trip. We may be able to make a contribution for those trips which are curriculum based and essential for a course of study. Anybody wishing to take advantage of this facility should contact our Business Manager, Mrs Donnison, and be assured that the matter will be treated in confidence.

SPORTS DAY

Please note that our annual Sports Day will take place during the afternoon of **Friday, 10 July**. This is a change to the provisional date previously listed in the school calendar.

MESSAGE FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

We will be re-starting the orchestras, bands and Choirs again after half term. These were given a rest during the examination period whilst GCSE, AS, A2 coursework was completed.

We will be trying out lots of new music and thinking about preparing for next year's events such as the Prize Night and Gala Concert. It will also be an opportunity for the younger members of the Senior Orchestra to try some first parts, as the years 11 and 13 have left and year 12 are on study leave for some of the term.

Anyone who is thinking about joining the orchestra for the first time, this is also a good time to do so as we will not be working towards an imminent concert or performance.

The Chamber Choir will also be holding auditions for new members. Please see Mr Moss or Mr O'Keefe if you are interested in joining this prestigious choir.

We look forward to seeing all the musicians in the **week beginning 8 June** (after the year 9 examinations). Thanks for all your continued support and encouragement.

HALF TERM

A reminder that school will close today for half term at 3.30 pm and re-open on **Monday, 1 June at 8.35 am**.

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to Year 7 who achieved the highest attendance during the month of April, with 97.3% and to 7MR who were the top form with 98.6% attendance. Well done, Year 7!

SCHOOL VISITS 2009-2010

At Archbishop Blanch School we are very proud of the extra curricular opportunities that we give to our pupils. Such activities involve visits to a wide variety of venues, which enrich the curriculum. However, next year it may be difficult to staff all the trips, given the high cost of supply staff cover. Therefore we are looking for a "bank" of parents who may be able to accompany staff and pupils on trips. If you would like to volunteer, please complete the tear off slip below and ask your daughter to return it to Ms Newman by Friday, 5 June.

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REPLY SLIP - PLEASE RETURN TO MS NEWMAN

SCHOOL VISITS 2009-2010

I am willing to accompany school trips:

Name: _____

Name of Daughter/Son:

Form: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

Email: _____

I *have / do not have* a current CRB Certificate

Certificate No: _____

Date of Issue: _____

I am willing to complete a CRB Certificate application: **Yes / No**