



# Castle Views

The Castle View Enterprise Academy Newsletter

Issue 7

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## The Royal College of Defence Studies' visits the Academy



On 18 January 2011 the Academy hosted 13 very special visitors as part of the Royal College of Defence Studies regional tour of the North East.

When the guests arrived they were welcomed into the Academy by Mrs Bridges. The party were escorted to the Business and Enterprise zone for a special presentation, showcasing life in the Academy and the achievements made since opening in September 2009. The guests were then given a tour of the building and visited lessons to observe the wide and varied curriculum on offer, whilst exploring the Academy's fantastic facilities. The Lead Students welcomed the visitors back into the Business and Enterprise zone and hosted a superb business lunch, expertly prepared by Mrs Hughes and her kitchen staff. The students representing the 'Student Voice,' talked to the guests about the academy, the opportunities, and support made available to them. They discussed the role of the Lead Student and their individual goals and aspirations. The guests spoke with Mrs Bridges about international links and how the academy students could connect with other schools to exchange information about life in the academy and the local area. There would also be opportunities for students to visit places of interest within the UK and overseas. At the end of the visit, each guest was presented with an inscribed glass paper weight and academy embossed memorabilia to commemorate their visit. On behalf of the group, Vice Admiral Charles Style CBE, Commandant, thanked Mrs Bridges and all in the academy for an extremely interesting and enlightening visit and commended the students for their dedication, focus and eagerness to succeed.

# Anti-Bullying Day

On October 14th 2010, whilst the year 11 students were focussed on their English and Maths Booster sessions in preparation for exams, the regular Academy timetable was collapsed and years' 7-10 students took part in multi-themed 'Anti-Bullying Day.'



Each year group were assigned a specific topic to work on, throughout the day. Year 7 students focussed on general anti-bullying awareness whilst year 8 students focussed on the effects of homophobia and racism.

Various organisations worked alongside the students to deliver topical sessions. Year 7 students worked with the Fire Service, SureSafe and Elite Family Specialists whilst students from years 8 and 9 worked with the SAFC Foundation, ARCH, Victim Support and the Family Intervention Project with Sunderland City Council.



## Valentines Day 2011

Mrs Bridges decided to celebrate Valentines Day in style this year. The academy restaurant was decorated with heart shaped balloons, the televisions displayed messages and Mrs Bridges read out 'lurve messages' written by the students, on the tannoy at a cost of 20p each, all money going to charity. The day started off with a special assembly by Ms Scott explaining the origins of Valentines Day and then played a presentation of famous love related images accompanied by 'All You Need is Love' by The Beatles.

# 'Go Pink Day'



During October, year 9 students organised various activities to help raise funds for 'Breakthrough Breast Cancer.'

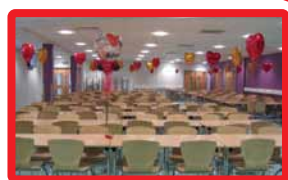
The whole school was invited to take part in Pink Day and, as part of the day, could wear as much pink as they liked! Staff and students donned pink socks, ties, jumpers and shirts and donated £1 each to the appeal for the privilege.

Mrs Bridges, the Principal got in on the act too with a pink jumper, boa and matching wig. Some of the students had to do a double take to realise who was under the wig!



The event was a huge success and not only raised awareness of the essential work that 'Breakthrough Breast Cancer' do throughout the country but, the Academy students raised an amazing £533.22.

We would like to say well done and give thanks to those students and members of staff who worked so hard to make the event a big success.





# Community Fun Day



On Thursday 28th October, the Academy hosted the 'Your Community through the Generations Fun Day' **which offered lots of fun activities and information** about the north area service providers.

This fantastic community event was organised in partnership with Sunderland North Community Business Centre, Sunderland City Council, Gentoo and Sunderland Children's Centres. The event attracted over 350 visitors to the Academy over the course of the day.

Activities included; 'Pets for Therapy', 'SNCBC Youth Activities', circus skills, 'job linkage', 'Fire Service', 'Toy Library', 1960's hair and makeup demonstration, free NHS health checks, craft demonstrations, jewellery making, karate and much, much more. After the huge success of the "Fun Day," the academy is now planning to repeat it.



Special thanks must go to Mrs Smith at the academy who arranged both the activities and the publicity for the event. Thanks also to Gentoo, Sunderland North Community Business Centre, Sunderland City Council and Sunderland Children's Centres.

# Macmillan Coffee Morning



On Friday 24 September 2010 Year 7 students took part in the academy's second world's largest coffee morning for 'Macmillan Support.'

Students worked in their tutor groups to produce posters to publicise the event and used their enterprise skills to organise raffle draws and other competitions to help raise funds for the charity. The students invited their family members to the morning which was held in the main hall. The students were able to develop their customer service, sales and financial knowledge as they escorted visitors to the hall and encouraged them to buy, buy, buy!

Miss Jennings created a beautiful celebration cake for the event and people were encouraged to pay a donation to guess the weight of it. The lucky winner was year 7 student Samira Boussaid. The students worked very hard all morning making sure visitors were served, tea and coffee was refreshed and clean crockery was available.

The event was a complete sell out and everyone left having enjoyed the morning. A grand total of £318.60 was raised. Thanks to everyone involved for all of their hard work.



Head Boy, Sam Grewcock and Head Girl, Bethany Hollinshead launched the 'Shoebbox Appeal' to all students during assemblies, in October. The students were shown a film about the vital work that 'Samaritan's Purse' do, including the journey of a shoebox, from being wrapped in the UK to the children overseas unwrapping them!



Sam and Bethany showed the students the different items that would be suitable to send in the shoeboxes, such as hats, gloves, toiletries, toys and stationery.

Many of the students donated a complete shoebox whilst others donated single items; bags of unwanted toys. They also helped to wrap the shoeboxes. The Academy donated a total of 104 boxes beating last year's total of 68. Well done to everyone!





# Challenge Day

Remember, remember the 5th of November?

Students at Castle View certainly will - as November 5th saw our first challenge day for this academic year. Year 7 students participated in a carousel of activities to find out about different world cultures. The year group had their 'moves' put to the test. One tutor group could be seen salsa dancing in the activity studio, another was learning the art of jujitsui in the sports' hall. Students learnt about how different life can be for children in other countries with guest speakers from Uganda and Iran. To complete the carousel, with Miss Swan's expert guidance, students got to grips with the Japanese art of origami.

Students from year 8 focussed on keeping safe. The science area was like a scene from 'Casualty' as students were asked to practise their first-aid skills on a number of 'accident victims'. Northumbria Police delivered a thought-provoking session on personal safety with tips for students on how to stay safe. Other sessions considered the risks associated with fire, water, alcohol, drugs and knife crime.

Year 9 focussed on healthy living. SAFC put the year group to the test with a fast paced workout, and there was no let up! Mr Travis challenged the tutor groups to his own version of 'The Cube'. If that wasn't enough, Chris Yeats tested the power of year 9 students' minds with his very popular 'Mind Over Matter' session.

Just how did you all manage to get those polo mints to swing round?



# Mayor's Award Christmas Lunch



As part of 'Mayor's Award', students invited some residents from St. Margaret's Court and the local community, into the academy for Christmas lunch and entertainment. Mayor's Award students served a three-course Christmas lunch to our guests. Mrs Roberts and Danielle Darbyshire sang Christmas carols throughout the afternoon. Then, our very own Santa Claus came along to do a raffle and hand out prizes, one of which was a beautifully iced Christmas cake donated by Miss Jennings.

Our guests thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, as did staff and students. Our guests said they had a wonderful time; felt they had been spoilt, and hoped it would be an annual event. On leaving, every guest was given a Christmas card and a bag of truffles as a parting gift.



## Street Dance Club

The performing arts team has arranged for dancers from the 'Bad Taste Cru' to work with boys from the academy, after school. They are to learn the latest break dance and hip hop moves! It started with just a few students and has now become a very popular after school club.

The 'Bad Taste Cru' are nationally renowned for winning dance battles and they are planning to take the boys from the club along to watch them perform soon. This has boosted the confidence of the Academy students within the school and it will hopefully encourage them onto performing arts courses in the future.



## Chinese Day 2011

During February, the academy had a special day celebrating all things Chinese. The dining hall and television screens were decorated with dragons and lanterns, the kitchen staff devised a Chinese food menu for the staff and students and the lunch was rounded off with each student receiving a fortune cookie.





# Lead Students trip to Derwent Hill



Each year, Lead Students are given the opportunity to attend a weekend residential to work on skills that are necessary for carrying out their role in the Academy.



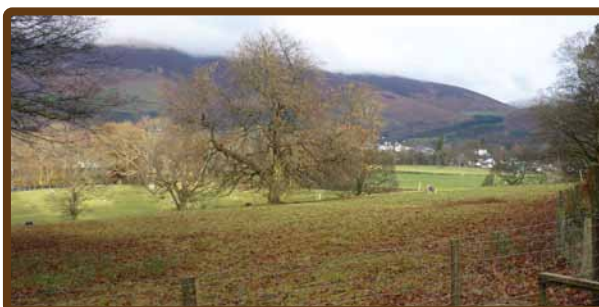
This year's course took place at Derwent Hill, in November. Although the conditions were cold, the students and staff were pleased that the snow stayed away until the week after they returned. The 24 students were accompanied by Miss Barker, Miss Jennings, Mr Knight, Mr McLean and Mr Marshall.



Students participated in canoeing, gorge walking, night navigation, climbing, abseiling and challenges in and around the Derwent Hill Centre. Some of the staff braved the elements on the lake and in the gorge, although heights seemed to be off limits! While the students reigned supreme on the rocks and the water it was a different story on the pool table, where at least one member of staff took the honours! On the Friday evening, the Lead Students worked on how to develop their own leadership skills and how these could be beneficial to their work with younger students in the Academy.



Working late on a Friday evening was made slightly more palatable with the superb cakes once again provided by Miss Jennings! The skills learned over the course of the weekend have had a positive impact, as the Lead Students continue to make an extremely positive contribution the life of the Academy.



# Budding young journalist!

Castle View Enterprise Academy is host to a lot of very talented students. We like to showcase their abilities and let everyone know just how good they are. Here is a short piece of investigative journalism from Year 7 student, Jack Feechan. He swears to me it's a true story!

## When crows attack!

I interviewed my friend and fellow Year 7 student, Thomas Croarkin, who was recently attacked by an angry crow!



He explained, "I was walking round my nana's home with the local newspaper when a crow swooped past my head. I nearly jumped out of my skin with shock! I noticed it circling high above me and I realised it was following me. The angry crow started to swoop down at me, attacking me again. I started to sprint until I reached my Nan's house and then dashed through the front door, panting for breath. I heard a loud banging against the window, the crow was trying to get into the house. I was terrified!

Luckily, my Nana saved the day. She ran outside and threw her walking stick at the bird. The crow had met its match and flew away. It was the most terrifying thing ever."

This is just one incidence of angry crows in Sunderland. There are many more attacks happening all across the City. Please be very careful when your out and about, and if you see a crow, BEWARE!

## Poets' Corner

Sophie Anderson, a Year 7 student here at Castle View Enterprise Academy, has had one of her poems published in a book entitled, 'Poetry Rivals-Collection 2010. The World Is Your Playground.' This book is a collection of some of the best work written by school children across the country.



Buzz, buzz as a bee goes by,  
Sting, sting as the bee goes down,  
Gently falling through the air,  
Gently landing on the ground,  
As his little eyes close,  
The last buzz he does,  
No more buzzing shall there be.

by Sophie Anderson (Year 7)



# Healthy Living Week

During September it was Healthy Living week in the Academy. There was a range of activities for staff and students to get them thinking about good health. A number of staff and lead students wore pedometers for the week to see how far they walked. The champion was Mr Wallace who walks an average of 4 miles every day!

Years 7, 8 and 9 students were treated to some fruit platters at lunchtime to get them trying different fruits they may not have tasted before. The feedback from the students was very positive and they appreciated the opportunity to try new things. There were various other activities for students during the week including juditsu, cross country and non-alcoholic cocktails to name a few. All students had a healthy start to their day in registration, covering topics from diet to the harmful effects of smoking.



## Carol Concert

This year our annual carol service was another huge success. We had a total of 31 students taking part in the event and they loved every minute of the show. We chose to do a traditional Christmas service again. Several members of staff and a few students were kind enough to do readings from the "Nine Lessons of Genesis". We opened the show with an introduction from Mrs Bridges, followed by Mr McNally playing piano to "Mad World" as Sophie Golden sang the lead along with the rest of the choir. Other performances included Hannah Harding singing, "Once in Royal David's City", Laura Hale sang "Away in a Manger" and Daniel Grey singing a rendition of "Silent Night". The evening came to an end with the fantastic vocals of Danielle Derbyshire performing, "Oh Holy Night" and Miss Warburton closed the show with "Hallelujah". Parents, teachers and students attended the service and contributed to the singing, as the evening came to an end. Thanks to Mr Marshall's mum, we all had the pleasure of very festive mince pies before the close of the event.

## NSPCC and Childline Charity Event

Year 8 students organised a 'Stop for Tea' refreshment and gift stall on Thursday 18th November as part of the 'Enterprise Week' and 'Career Evening.' Students and visitors who attended the event were able to take part in a raffle draw and to buy cakes and biscuits to support the fundraising appeal. Its the second fundraiser that Castle View has held for these two very deserving charities and a total of £325 was raised. A fantastic effort from all involved!

**NSPCC**  
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

**ChildLine**  
0800 1111

# AimHigher

## Star Student Board Game



In February, as part of the AimHigher initiative, organised by Mr Picken, a group of Year 8 students participated in the Start Students' Giant Board Game. Two students, Emma and Laura, from Northumbria University visited the academy to host the game. Our Year 8 students had lots of fun and also gained a lot of knowledge about university life and the benefits of further education.

The day began with a question and answer session. The students could ask anything they wanted about university life, what would be expected of them and what they would get out of it. The students then organised themselves into teams of four. The teams were given t-shirts with their team numbers on them and each they had to nominate one student to be their board marker.

The teams took turns to roll the huge dice then the board marker moved that number of spaces around the board. Depending on which colour they landed on, they were asked a question from one of four key topics; Social Life, Education, Finance and Pot Luck.

Each team member had the chance to answer various questions from these key topics, such as, Spell It, Multiple Choice, Artists' Impression and Pantomime.

Every time a team answered the question correctly, they were given 'Reward Stars' to add to their points totals. If they got the question wrong, they received a penalty card which deducted stars from their totals.



At the end of the 40 minutes playing time, the team with the most 'Reward Stars' won the game. They were rewarded and dressed up in university style cloaks and caps and did a lap of honour around the board! The students then did a short recap session about what they had learned.



Mr Picken was given a password so that the students could play an online version of the game to help to build up their knowledge of university even further. The Year 8 students made some comments about their day:

"I thought it was fun and educational."

"It was nice to get out of our normal lessons and learn about something we're interested in."

"I really enjoyed the board game and it will encourage me to go to university and help me to go further in life."





# Community Litterpick



For the second time in less than a year, and as part of our community engagement programme, staff and students from the Academy and Castletown Primary School conducted a community litterpick in and around the Hylton Dene area. They worked alongside representatives from the 'Durham Wildlife Trust' and the 'Community Neighbourhood Officer.'

Year 7 students volunteered to take part in the event which was held in November as part of their 'Passport to Success.' The students were issued with protective gloves, litter pickers and refuse bags and each student paired up with a student from the primary school to commence the big adventure. Luckily, it was a dry morning (but very cold).

The students worked extremely well in their teams, forming lines along the grassy banks and through the trees, passing back the empty drinks cans, sweet and crisp wrappers, old shoes and other items of litter from the Dene. They collected more than 20 full bags of litter! Fantastic team work!

Amongst some of the stranger items they found was an old plastic child's car!



## Jamie wins Karate Bronze

Jamie O'Donnell, a Year 7 student here at Castle View Enterprise Academy, has won a bronze medal at a National Karate Championships in Sheffield.

Jamie, whose Father is a Karate Instructor, shows great dedication to his sport and one day would love to be a World Champion.

He has displayed the hard work and commitment needed to succeed and he has made us all very proud of him.

Well done Jamie! Keep up the good work!

## Kieron Thoms - Black Cat for the day!



Year 7 student Kieron Thoms became Castle View's second student to be a Sunderland AFC mascot.

Kieron was chosen to represent Sunderland AFC at the West Ham United game on 5th December 2010. He turned out to be the lucky omen as Sunderland won the game by one goal to nil.

Kieron had a great day out and met his favourite players as well as Sunderland Chairman, Niall Quinn. He was also given a stadium tour and some 'goodies' to take home with him.

# A Breakfast with...



Castle View Enterprise Academy students had a rather different start to their school day by sharing their breakfast with a 6' 8" professional basketball player. Kadiri Richard (pictured right) who plays for Newcastle Eagles, was in the Academy to launch our exciting new 'Breakfast with ...' programme.



Kadiri spoke about his own experiences at school, life in the USA and his sporting career. He discussed the importance of having positive role models, focussing on your goals and making the most of the opportunities presented to you. Students then fired questions at Kadiri; finding out that he is both the fastest and tallest player for the Eagles, his role model is his mum, he has played in Canada, the Netherlands, the USA and England and that he is scared of sharks and jellyfish!



Brian Manning of the Esh Group (pictured left), and also one of the academy's Governors, came in to do a talk about himself and his successes. He is a successful local boy who went to a nearby school and is now a key player in his organisation. Brian's advice was, "The harder you work, the luckier you get."



Jimmy Potts (right) a local businessman who has ran a successful grocery store in the area for 30 years and John Mowbray (left), the Corporate Affairs' Director at Northumbrian Water and an academy Governor have already been into the school to do their 'Breakfast with ...' sessions. Over the year, a total of twelve guest speakers from a range of backgrounds will be visiting the academy to share breakfast and their experiences with students. These will include local entrepreneurs and a real life 'Indiana Jones'. Come along and be inspired!



## Contact us

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