

MONKSEATON

HIGH SCHOOL

I am writing this while we near the end of what has been a very busy and productive term, as I am sure you will gather from the variety and number of stories and events reported on in this edition of the newsletter. We have seen so many different activities take place in school ranging from the academic 'business' side of proceedings to those that are for fun and entertainment.

On the business side we have seen the majority of our students undertake their trial examinations in preparation for the summer, and even experience a trial exam results day. As you can imagine there were tears of joy and of disappointment but the fantastic thing is students now know exactly where they are and what they need to do for the real thing. Students have worked hard to prepare for their exams and have once again received amazing levels of support from staff who give up hours of additional time to prepare them.

Thank you also for giving the support the students needed at home to put in the additional work in preparation and for your support and attendance at parents' evenings and the information sessions we have provided. Working together is so important to the success of our young people.

On the lighter side of things, we have seen our students lead their own initiatives, pioneer and launch 'Walk To School Wednesdays', raise more money for charity, don a digit for numeracy day, dress up for St. Patrick's Day, have fun and games for Pi Day, win at the Maths competition, gain the 'You're welcome' award, achieve Healthy Schools award and much more.

As always, thank you for your continued support and I wish you all a Happy Easter and we will see you in the summer term.

Mrs Tracy Crowder
Headteacher



20th April - Return to School

22nd April - Higher Education Fayre @ WBHS

4th May - Bank Holiday

6th May - Sixth Form Information Evening

11th May - Summer Exams Begin

22nd May - Break up for Half Term



Thanks to all students and staff who supported the Red Nose Day Charity appeal by wearing red or buying a red nose. Students and staff managed to raise close to £150 during the course of the day. Well done and thank you.



Pi Day

Students celebrated π Day and all things circular by taking part in Pi Day Darts. Circular food prizes such as pizza, pies, cookies and doughnuts were on offer to those who scored over 40 points with three darts. Ciaran McClelland was the early leader but Mr Thompson won the overall prize with a score of 116 and looked pretty pleased with his efforts.



Year 11 Maths Challenge

Congratulations to the Year 11 students who achieved a certificate in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. Eleven students achieved the Bronze award, placing them within the top 40% of students nationally. A special mention must go to Kelsie Beckers, Emily Herron, Jonny Styles and Carla Melaco who all gained a Silver award, placing them in the top 20% of students nationally. Well done!

Maths Inspiration

A group of Year 12 and 13 students enjoyed a trip to Maths Inspiration at the Theatre Royal in Newcastle. We listened to talks from three engaging presenters. Coralie Colmez, author of Math on Trial, explored some of the criminal cases in which maths has been misused and how a better understanding of maths within the courts could improve justice. Hugh Hunt, a lecturer from Cambridge University, talked about his research in the dynamics of spinning objects and their unexpected and counter intuitive behaviour. There was plenty of audience participation with boomerangs, bouncing balls and spinning tops. Finally, Ben Sparks spoke about his interest in maths and music. He explored the ideas behind his favourite song (Sting – Shape of My Heart), the rules of Poker and why gambling doesn't pay, betting on birthdays, and dancing numbers. The show finished with a very entertaining Q&A session, including a challenge to recite the digits of Pi by MHS students.



Languages

The language café has had a bumper term celebrating different cultural events from around the world. To mark Burns Night on Monday 26th January we all got very poetic and wrote poems about our favourite food having been inspired by Robbie Burns' "Ode to a Haggis". 23rd February saw us limber up for the chopstick challenge to celebrate Chinese New Year. Special mention to the chopstick champions Christian Alcantara Turner, Jasmine Wilson and Mr Egner! Our latest cultural event saw us all become Irish for a day by donning leprechaun hats, beards and shamrock sunglasses to take some funny photos in our St Patrick's Day photo booth on 17th March. Look out for more events coming up next term. Also in languages, students of Spanish have had the opportunity to show off their writing skills by responding to letters we received from a secondary school in the south of Spain. In total, 63 letters are making their way to Spain and we are eagerly awaiting a response!



'Cindy the Musical'

Students from all year groups were superstars for one evening in an outstanding production of 'Cindy the musical'. Students worked hard to produce and deliver the show on the 12th February 2015. Year 10 student Danielle Douglas took on the main role of Cindy and gave a thoroughly moving performance. The student cast and crew did MHS proud and put on a truly amazing show. Well done!

Poetry By Heart

Erin McKnight performed in front of an audience of poetry lovers on Saturday 7th February in the 'Poetry By Heart' competition. She had to memorise and perform three poems, which she did beautifully. Erin was up against some very stiff competition from Emmanuel College and Whitley High, and was also the only lower school student to compete. She performed incredibly well, and although she didn't make it through to the national round she did a splendid job, Well done Erin!





Holocaust Memorial Commemorative Event

On Tuesday 27th January two Year 13 History students attended North Tyneside's Holocaust Memorial Commemorative Event. Hannah Denholm and Daniel McLeod were invited to speak about their visit to the death camp of Auschwitz in Poland in October 2014, as part of the Holocaust Educational Trust programme for schools. In school both students led the year group assemblies for this week, sharing their photographs and observations with the younger students. The memorial event took place in the council chamber at The Quadrant, with both the Mayor and the Chair of North Tyneside Council present. There was a range of guest speakers including Rabbi Aaron Lipsey who lead a prayer and George Lobel, a man who fled to Wallsend as part of the 'kindertransport' or evacuation of German Jewish children to safety in 1938. Both Hannah and Dan were commended for their confidence in addressing a gathering of more 200 people. Although nerve-racking, they did enjoy the experience.

Debate Team

Our debate teams have worked hard this year. In December one of our senior and intermediate teams successfully beat off tough competition from Whitley Bay High School to win the local round of the RIBI 'Youth Speaks' competition. This is the second year that Monkseaton High School students have won the 'Gofton Cup'. This competition, run by the Rotary Club, puts young people's speaking skills to the test, with students delivering speeches on topics they feel strongly about. James Leslie (13), Nathan Reay (14) and James Murray (13) delivered an emotive speech about animal testing. The senior team - Ciaran McClelland (16), Oliver Kelly (18) and Luke Warke (16) - offered up an argument on the controversial subject of prisoners' rights to the vote. The senior team won their round and with the addition of Darryl Hall (17) and Erin McKnight (15) went on to compete in the district and then regional final in Linlithgow, Scotland in March 2015. This is a fantastic accomplishment so well done to everyone involved!



Campaign in a Box

A group of six Year 10/11 students have been working in partnership with Living Streets on a project called 'Campaign in a Box'. The group had to come up with a scheme to encourage students to walk to school. After much deliberation, the group finally decided on Walk to School Wednesdays where Monkseaton students were encouraged to walk to school on a Wednesday and record their journey with a selfie and then tweet the image. Monkseaton students really got behind the scheme and weekly winners received shopping vouchers. The grand prize of a game of Bubble Football was won by two Year 11 students, Jonny Styles and Bethany Quintall. The group had to present their scheme at a Dragons' Den at Newcastle University in front of other schools and local councillors and presented brilliantly on the day. Students involved were Kelsie Beckers, Shaunna Jolly, Madeleine Peacock, Kieran Archer, Holly Mari Sutton and Tony Kingston. Well done to all students who got involved in the project.

High Borrans 2015

Fourteen lucky Year 9 and 11 students got to spend a weekend at the High Borrans residential centre in Lake District at the end of February. The journey was eventful on a very bumpy road but eventually the students arrived and were thrown straight into activities which included climbing, ropes courses, canoeing, orienteering and caving. All students were a credit to themselves and the school and some overcame some very big fears over the weekend. All students took part in a special 'Monkseaton Juice' on the Friday night and all were in very good spirits. On Sunday the snow came and it got a little bit chilly on the journey home. Although we were all tired upon our return, it was a fantastic weekend.



Centre for Life

Our Year 13 Biologists and Year 13 BTEC Applied Scientists took part in a genetic engineering workshop at the Centre for Life. They genetically engineered bacteria to contain a fluorescent gene from jellyfish.





Football Academy

Results on the pitch continue to go from strength to strength for the Football Academy.

On Monday 2nd March we travelled down to Thomas Telford School to play them in the English Schools FA Under 18 National Trophy semi final. Thomas Telford were the current holders of the trophy and after an exciting, competitive game, Monkseaton managed to prevail after a penalty shoot out, taking us to our seventh National Schools/Colleges final in the past ten years!

The final itself is due to be held at the home of League one side Fleetwood Town FC on Tuesday 31st March versus Barking Abbey School, Essex, who beat us in the same final four years ago. Ex-Monkseaton student, and NUFC star Steven Taylor has very kindly donated the NUFC first team bus for our journey to and from the game, which is an amazing gesture and something that will make the whole day even more special for all the boys concerned.

On Wednesday 4th March, we faced a very strong Liverpool FC Foundation side in the English Colleges FA Under 19 National Trophy quarter final. The boys put in a fantastic performance to run out 1-0 winners and progress to the semi final, which leaves us 90 minutes away from being the first school ever to reach a National Schools final and a National Colleges final in the same season. The semi final is to be played down in Coventry on Wednesday 25th March against Strachan Football Foundation who are overseen by the current Scotland National Team Manager, Gordon Strachan.

Other notable results include a 1-0 win away to Gateshead College Men's First team on Wednesday 18th March in the ECFA Premier League, which leaves us five points clear of Gateshead at the top of the table with three games to go. Also, the second team pulled off an emphatic 10-0 win over Bede Academy in the Evening Chronicle County Cup quarter final. The semi final sees us playing away to Cramlington Learning Village, date TBC.

Well done to all the boys for their fantastic performances and efforts so far this season.

Dance Festival Collaboration

Our Sixth Form dancers had the opportunity to work in collaboration with Marden Bridge Middle School on a very special dance for the North Tyneside Dance Festival in March at the Whitley Bay Playhouse. Our girls spent a day with Laura Prince, a local choreographer, and worked incredibly hard to put a dance together in such a short space of time. The performance was incredible and looked even better on the stage at the Playhouse in front of a full house. Both sets of students worked well together and they performed the dance in both schools during assemblies. The dancers involved from Monkseaton were Shannon James, Sian Gordon, Jess Kelly, Caitlin Gibson and Steph Lockey.



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