

MONKSEATON HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

The last term has been yet another busy time in school and we have seen many exciting events take place, some of which you can read about in this newsletter. I have once again been completely blown away by the work that our students and staff have undertaken and in particular am proud of the efforts they have made to support more charities than ever. We have seen difficult times for so many this last year but more so since the summer. As always our school community has risen to the challenge and acted to support charities both locally and further afield.

As you know we celebrated our best ever examination results in the summer and have been delighted with the continued focus on even greater outcomes next year. Staff and students have achieved so much in and out of the classroom this term that is securing a sound future for our students.

Whilst I talk with great pride about our staff and students I feel that I must also acknowledge that without your continued support and the partnership with home this would not be possible. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during what has so far been a fantastic academic year. Together we are making a real difference to the young people of Monkseaton High.

On behalf of all the staff and students here at Monkseaton we wish you a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mrs Tracy Crowder
Headteacher



4th January - Teacher Training Day

5th January - New term starts

7th January - Year 10 Parents' Evening (4:30- 6:30)

13th January - Sixth Form Courses Evening
(5:30 – 6:30)





From the Premier League to General Franco of Spain!

By November 2015, our Year Thirteens were nearing the end of their studies for the Extended Project Qualification (or EPQ). At this point, their essays had been written and their log books virtually completed but perhaps the most intimidating part of the whole process lay ahead of them. One of their final tasks was to deliver a fifteen-minute presentation in which they spoke of how they had gone about their work and what they had learnt from it. They performed in front of Mr. Sherlaw and Dr. Shenton, who assessed their talks, other members of staff and their peers.

As each student had been allowed to formulate a research question about anything they wished, the variety of topics covered was tremendous. They were as diverse as 'Premier League Football', 'The Causes of Crime' and 'General Franco of Spain'. All the students performed creditably and the best presentations were outstandingly good. Some of the candidates gave exemplary demonstrations of how to provide scholarly treatments of what, ostensibly, were very non-academic subjects!

Monkseaton High School Centre for Life Visit

Monkseaton High School ICT students had 'the most wonderful time' on a Christmas visit to the Centre for Life last week. Hosting the largest computer game exhibition in the northern hemisphere students were treated to a games emporium ranging from 'Ping Pong' to 'Dog Frizbee' and 'Donkey Kong' to 'Manic Miner'. The Centre also hosted a fantastic planetarium experience which explained how ICT played a key role in the repair of the Hubble telescope. This was followed by full access to Newcastle's only 4D motion ride simulator which was jam packed with ICT related thrills and spills. After a spot of lunch we were given full access to the brilliant outdoor skating rink. There were bumps and bruises! Later we were on our way home looking forward to returning next year. I bet Pacman ends up on a few Christmas lists now! Oliver Stone (Year Twelve) commented "I had a great time today. I didn't realise that you could do so much with binary," whilst Sam Walton (Year Fourteen) said "It was simply fantastic. The 4D motion ride was so exciting – I had to hang on tight with both hands!"



Care Home Visit



On Thursday, 10th December students from Years Nine, Ten, Twelve and Thirteen, visited the residents of Rosemount Care Home. Music students began the afternoon's entertainment by performing Christmas themed music including group pieces and solos from Zara Matthewson, Rosie Townsley and Rachel Bateman. Next Sixth Form Health and Social students treated the residents to manicures and relaxing hand massages. Congratulations to our students on creating a wonderful atmosphere and enjoyable afternoon for the residents. The Care Home staff hoped that we could come and visit again and commented upon how lovely and kind our students were with the residents.

Year Ten Enrichment

Congratulations to the Year Ten Enrichment groups on their hard work this half term in raising money for Save the Children. During extended registration, groups of students planned and organised their own charity events that were held during break times and lunchtimes. The events ranged from a penalty shootout against staff from the PE department, to a tuck shop selling favourite sweets and treats to a luxury hot chocolate stall.



Football News

The Football Academy have progressed to the last sixteen stage (round six) of the ESFA U18 National Trophy, where we play Harrogate Grammar School at home on Friday, 8th January.

An amazing 507 teams entered the competition at the start of season and in reaching this point we have so far scored 2 goals and conceded only three.

League Table						
POS		P	W	D	L	PTS
1	Monkseaton High School Men's 1	6	7	0	1	21
2	York College Mens 1	9	6	1	2	19
3	Bally Carr Men's 1	8	4	2	2	14
4	Sunderland College Men's 1	7	4	1	2	13
5	Gateshead College Men's 1	6	3	2	3	11
6	Middlesbrough College Mens 1	6	3	1	2	10
7	Tyne Metropolitan College Men's 1	7	2	1	4	7
8	Bishop Burton College Men's 1	9	1	1	7	4
9	Barnsley College Mens 1	6	0	1	7	1

The Maths Challenge

Pupils at Monkseaton High School achieved one gold, three silvers and six bronzes in this year's Senior Maths Challenge event. Over 82,000 pupils from across the UK enter the competition with the top 10% achieving gold, the next 20% awarded silver and the following 30% bronze.

Congratulations to Jake Adamson (Year Thirteen) who achieved Best in School and a gold certificate. Well done to Andrew Sutherland (Year Twelve) who was best in his year group and achieved a silver certificate. Well done to everyone who took part and watch out for Number Day at Monkseaton High School on Friday, 5th February 2016!



Local Charity Work



Staff and students at Monkseaton have been collecting over the last few weeks for two local charities. The lower school have been collecting selection boxes for the homeless charity 'Making Winter Warmer' and have been successful in raising over 150 boxes to go to less fortunate people over Christmas. The Sixth Form have been collecting food donations for 'The Bay Foodbank' based in North Tyneside and collected an impressive amount which was delivered on Monday, 14th December. The Head of Year, Mrs. Thompson, said "For the second year running students have embraced the Christmas spirit and donated a vast amount to help those in need over Christmas."

Photography Project

The Creative Arts Department is proud to announce that 27 of our talented Year Ten and Year Eleven students took part in a photography workshop on 14th December and all successfully completed the Bronze Award in 'This Is Creative Enterprise'. A number of these students showed the potential and commitment that it takes to make it in the creative sector and have been selected to take part in the Silver Award in the Spring term! These students will be invited to a one off event with Northumbria University where they will create a photo shoot alongside current undergraduates and if successful could potentially further the experience with opportunities such as working alongside the sports photographers for Newcastle United in the Gold Award. A massive thanks to 'This Is Creative Enterprise' (TICE) for the opportunity to participate in this.



Monkseaton Football Academy Expands

Monkseaton High School is aiming to help develop star footballers of the future after announcing plans to expand its successful football academy. We have already achieved success with our Sixth Form Academy, and have created links with colleges and universities in America. But from 2016, we are creating an all-school Football Academy to help pupils aged thirteen and over develop as footballers and potentially secure places at professional clubs. We will team up with market leaders Improtech to provide the best coaching alongside their education.

Headteacher Mrs. Crowder said: "We are thrilled that from next year we will offer a five-year programme for talented young footballers which should greatly enhance their hopes of making a career out of the game. It's a bold step for the school but the right one because our partnership with Improtech means we are getting a proven Football Academy system of the highest quality. Improtech has been running at the Kepier Elite Academy in Houghton for the last three years with many of their pupils being picked up by professional football clubs and we want Improtech to produce the same success on Tyneside as they have on Wearside."

The new Football Academy model – the only one of its kind on Tyneside – will get under way in the 2016-17 term. Former Sunderland AFC defender Martin Scott, who created Improtech, said: "We are delighted to be given the challenge of making the best of emerging young players on Tyneside. Players like Newcastle United's Steven Taylor and before him Michael Bridges, who played for both Sunderland and Newcastle, have come through Monkseaton's school doors. And we want to ensure the next generation of young footballers from the region have an even greater chance of success. Talent that might have slipped through the net will now have a better chance of being spotted and developed through Monkseaton High."

Improtech Soccer was launched at Houghton Kepier School on Wearside in 2011, becoming the first dedicated Football Academy in the country. Now in its fourth year, it has already begun delivering a steady stream of players to professional clubs with the Academies of Newcastle United, Sunderland, Middlesbrough and Hartlepool all taking on pupils. Earlier this year, four pupils from Kepier signed for north east professional clubs in the space of three weeks. Scott, who holds the UEFA Pro Licence, the highest coaching qualification in football, said: "Our vision is that every region in the north east will have an Improtech School they can go to near them in the next few years which will maximise their life chances of becoming a professional footballer. We have Kepier covering the Wearside area and now I'm delighted to move that expertise into Tyneside with Monkseaton. Football is what Improtech is all about but it's important to mention that we also stress to the pupils the need for them to work on their academic studies too." He added: "All our coaching staff are of the highest standards and we use specially designed lessons, drills and equipment to bring the players on. We're proud of what we've achieved on Wearside over the last few years and we're all really looking forward to doing the same in Tyneside now through Monkseaton High School."

A free Improtech session for young players of all ages and abilities from five upwards is to be held on the 4G facilities next to the Foxhunters Pub on 11th January, from 5.50 pm to 7 pm. More information about Improtech can be found on the website www.improtechsoccer.com. Regular updates are also given on Twitter @ImprotechElite.



Photoshop Club, Monday Lunchtimes

The IT Department has started a new, exciting and creative club on Monday lunchtimes, open to anyone of any age or ability. During these weekly sessions you can learn tips and tricks of using the software, from making your name in molten lava to transforming a photo into something completely new! This takes place in Room

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