



# Newsletter

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## Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your support in this first term of 2013, especially during the days affected by snow. I am very glad that we were able to avoid any major disruption to school, and I thank you for your understanding on Friday 18th January when we had to bring forward lunchtime and close early so that we could get the buses safely on and off the drive. I should like to thank our site team, who did an excellent job continually clearing the snow throughout that day so that it was safe for pedestrians and vehicles. Even though many of our students dearly love the snowy days, I am hoping that we have seen the last of them for this year!

As you will know, we are currently moving towards setting all homework via the Learning Gateway so that students and parents can access it online. Thank you to all of you who have signed and returned the Acceptable Use Policy so that we can include you in our online homework trial. After half term, there will be a focus on ensuring students know how to access their homework in this way. At the same time, we are continuing to use planners to encourage good organisational skills and to ensure that everyone can check on homework, whether or not they can access the Learning Gateway.

We are keen to improve our use of communication technologies to work with parents, and I am glad that so many of you are finding that the new online booking system for Parents Evenings is a big improvement. We are also in the process of preparing a new website that will be accessible on smartphones. I know that there is still more we can do to communicate with you in smarter ways, and we are keen to keep on improving in this area.

This is a busy time for school trips, including several visits abroad. I should like to thank all the staff involved in organising these exciting opportunities, and parents for your support. Well done to the students who took part in the Berlin and Paris visits; your behaviour was outstanding and as well as enjoying a valuable educational experience, you were a credit to your school. The same applies to those who took part in day visits to Poetry Live, The Imperial War Museum and the Museum of Science and Industry. The Ski trip takes place to Italy this month, then in March, the Rugby Tour to Paris, and in April, the Spanish visit to Barcelona, and also our first ever trip to China. These are wonderful opportunities for the students taking part, and I know they will be excellent ambassadors for Tarporley High School and 6th Form College.

Finally, a very big well done to Mrs Eaton's Year 10 students, and the 6th Form students, who took part in the BBC's School Report, presenting a very relevant and thoughtful report on young people's use of social media, to coincide with Safer Internet Week. Last year was the first time we took part in School Report, and the team from the BBC said that our students were outstanding in their mature approach and presentation skills. This year's Tarporley School Report Team rose to the equally high standards, and we are delighted that the BBC are keen to continue to develop projects with us. To find out more, please see the articles in this edition of the newsletter.

Wishing you all a good half term break.

Best regards

*Sarah Lee*

SARAH LEE  
Headteacher

## Casual Examination Invigilators Required

We are looking for more invigilators to help oversee our exams. Invigilators need to be reliable, punctual and highly flexible, able to relate to learners and comfortable in a high-pressure environment. This is a casual part-time role over all exam seasons including the main exam period during the summer term.

Previous experience is not required as full training will be given. For job description and an application form please visit our school website [www.tarporleyhigh.co.uk](http://www.tarporleyhigh.co.uk) or alternatively contact school reception 01829 732558.



**Friday 1st March**

**7.30 – Midnight**

**Tickets £10 – Available from the school office**



Maths & Computing



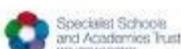
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## Tarporley Rotary Club Interviews with Year 11 Students

From Monday 3rd to Wednesday 5th December Year 11 students took part in the annual 'mock' interviews hosted by Tarporley Rotary Club. There is always a "buzz" of excitement around school over these days as students experience what is, for the vast majority of them, their first ever formal interview.

The students were highly praised for their punctuality, appearance and interview technique and 12 candidates were selected to receive prizes for the superb efforts. Students were presented with their awards, by members of the Tarporley Rotary Club at a special assembly held on Monday 21st January.

Below are some comments from Year 11 students about the process:

"I really enjoyed the mock interviews. They helped me to understand how to impress at interview"

"The process will be really helpful when I come to go for interviews for further education"

"The Rotary members were really knowledgeable and gave me lots of tips for the future"

"It was a valuable learning experience that will definitely be useful to me in the future"

"What fears I had before being interviewed are now replaced with new skills that will help me for those important life experiences."



Rotary Club prize winners Stuart Russell 11KP, Lucy Howell 11KP, Jack Harrison 11KH, Chloe Lupton 11SD, Allister Venn 11HN, Keriann Lawson 11GJ, Callum Ridley 11JP, Emily Ankers 11GJ, Thomas Hardy 11SD, Rachel Cox 11JP and Thomas Critchley 11HN with Mr D. Lilley & Mr S. Shaw from Tarporley Rotary Club. Missing from photo Cassine Bering 11KH

## School Council Update

Exciting things are happening with School Council. The group has now grown with the addition of two members of staff. We would like to welcome Mr Brand and Miss Smith on board. There are several exciting projects currently underway including a possible vegetable patch, a student newsletter written by students for students and the defibrillator fundraising efforts.

All members of the council are working hard to help improve and develop our school. We will keep you posted with all our exciting activities as they happen!

Miss Wade

## Tarporley Business Alliance Update

Two sixth-form students from Tarporley High School are working alongside the Tarporley Business Alliance and helping them to re-launch the TBA. Gemma Penk and Ellie Sharp are working alongside Angela Bartlett and Katrine Lidster to get businesses from Tarporley and the surrounding villages to work together and network to improve their working relationships. Anyone interested in joining the alliance and benefitting from advertisement at events and in publications should contact [awade@tarporley-high.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:awade@tarporley-high.cheshire.sch.uk) to register their interest.

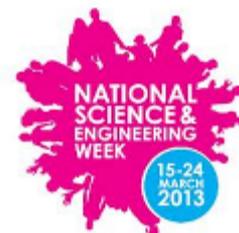
## Sixth Form Oxbridge Offers



Two students at Tarporley High School and Sixth Form College have been offered a place to study at Oxbridge next year. Zak Dunstone (Mathematics, Cambridge University) and James Melia (Engineering, Oxford University) are delighted with their offers having had to go through a rigorous selection process which included interviews and entrance tests.

The scale of their achievement can be understood when, in addition to the high demands placed upon them in terms of their studies and the selection process, limited places on the courses are on offer and they were competing with the most academically able students nationally and internationally.

## Coming Soon.....National Science and Engineering Week



In the Science Faculty we are preparing for an action packed week of engaging, inspiring and highly motivating lessons as part of the National Science and Engineering Week.

Events in the week will include: KS3 Gadget Shop, "I'm a Scientist Get me Out of Here", live exotic animals to handle, explosive demonstrations, Stardome, Rocket Launch, Magical Mentos, competitions and much more.....

For further information please visit our website at [www.tarporleyhigh.co.uk](http://www.tarporleyhigh.co.uk)

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## 'To tweet or not to tweet': Tarporley High School students produce BBC film for Safer Internet Day



Two weeks ago, a group of news-faring Y10 students from Mrs Eaton's English class were excited to hear that their story idea had been well received by a producer from the BBC School Report project. After an exciting phone call to the school, students learned that they had been selected to produce a film and accompanying article exploring the safety of social networking sites for Safer Internet Day.

Soon after, a day of intensive preparation and scriptwriting ensued with students researching the topic including high profile cases involving the use of Facebook and Twitter. On Friday 1st February, excitement was in the air as a film crew from BBC Television Centre in London arrived to shoot the piece. Firstly, students were encouraged to debate the use of Twitter and the dangers of young people using such sites whilst the BBC captured every word. Following this, students split off into key working groups. Some of our aspiring reporters worked closely with online journalist Phil Harlow editing the script whilst others set off to interview key people; our sixth form safeguarding team and police liaison officer, Karl Williamson. It's safe to say that each student's skill set was well matched to their task – making Noah Aldous a prime candidate to operate the Boom microphone due to his height! Over the day students learned about the 'magic of television' as several silent 'nodding' shots were filmed during group debate and the delivery of questions during interviews was filmed several times at varying camera angles! Presenting the film, Harry Warr and Annie Huntbach also demonstrated high levels of professionalism and patience (!) as lines had to be delivered in many takes due to the interference of bus engines during the period 5 outdoor filming session!

Over the day students gained an invaluable taste of the high-pressured world of journalism and represented the school in an excellent capacity as BBC journalists told us they had been 'singing their praises' back at the office. They also were proud to have explored such an important and relevant issue for young people.



Following the students' hard work, on Tuesday 4th February 2013 they were delighted to see that their film was published on the BBC website alongside the article written by Ellie Corlett-Moss and Annie Huntbach. When students realised a link to their film had been selected to appear on the main BBC News homepage for the majority of Safer Internet Day – they knew they'd made it!

On 21st March 2013 the students, alongside more of their classmates, will be reporting news for the BBC along with many schools across the country as part of the official BBC School Report day. Students will also be uploading their news items to the school website on this day and the BBC website will link directly to it. Look out for their work!

Mrs Eaton.

## A Successful Show at Marmalade Café!

Year 12 and 13 students were given a fantastic opportunity to show their talented work off in The Marmalade Café in Chester. This work is on display for the whole month of February and everyone is welcome to pop in and enjoy the work within this public setting. Well done to Emma O'nions, Lorna Robey, Catriona Elvin and Jade Downes who all have their work in the exhibition. The exhibition is already receiving lots of positive feedback on how talented these Tarporley students are! Thank you to Dawn from Marmalade for allowing the work to be on display.



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## Safer Internet Day: Teens 'must take responsibility for internet safety'



How often do you use a social networking site? Do you use one every day?

The UK Safer Internet Centre conducted a survey of 24,000 youngsters, which showed that practically all of them are using the web to communicate.

96% of the respondents, who fell into the 11-19-year-old category, said they use some form of online communication tool and they are becoming more defenceless against online dangers.

In simple terms, today's teenagers are becoming more vulnerable as they are losing control of the images and videos they are being exposed to. The School Report team at Tarporley High School focused heavily on the effects that sites like Twitter have on our generation.

However it is not only teens who are being targeted by online cyberbullies - there have been many cases where celebrities have been victimised and abused over Twitter.

One incident that stood out to us was the Tom Daley bullying scandal. On this occasion, Daley was abused during the Olympics over the tragic death of his father. When he came fourth in the Olympic men's synchronised 10m platform diving event, one individual sent some disparaging and deeply offensive tweets to him.

This is a prime example of how people can be abused through social media.

Consequently we think teenagers in particular should be protected and informed on how to stay safe over the Internet.

Our team talked to PC Karl Williamson, a police school liaison officer who works closely with the Safer Schools Partnership in Cheshire, who told us about some of the dangers posed by social media.

"It's important young people have confidence that the police will deal things sensitively," said PC Williamson, who recommended that people should look at the Thinkuknow and Childnet websites for more information.

Overall, it is essential for young people in our generation to be taught and made aware about the many dangers of social networking.

Our message to teens is that they have to take responsibility over what they post and share on the internet as, if deemed inappropriate, they could be faced with unwanted abuse.

Our experience working with BBC News School Report has helped us understand what happens when people are not educated about the dangers of the internet.

It has been very rewarding as we are now more aware of what threats social networking sites can contain.

### OUR TOP FIVE TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE ONLINE

- If you see or receive any abuse online, make sure you report it straight away, even if it is not directed at you
- Always keep your password to yourself
- Never say or do anything you could regret later
- Don't spend too long on social networking sites - it can interfere with your life outside of the internet
- Never say something online to someone that you wouldn't say to their face

By Annie Huntbach and Ellie Corlett-Moss

## Tarporley Students Descend on Exchange



On Thursday 8th November, Head of English Mrs Eaton, assisted by Mr Brand, Mrs Walsh and Mrs Everton, took a selection of KS4 and KS5 students to see Tennessee Williams' Orpheus Descending at the Royal Exchange,

Manchester. For many, staff included, it was their first trip to this unique performing space, situated within the old Cotton Exchange. For the vast majority Williams' atmospheric tale of illicit love in a Deep South ridden with prejudice was also unfamiliar, since students aren't studying the play but attended simply to enjoy the visceral thrill of theatre.

Despite a slightly dubious Italian (or was it Eastern European?) accent, Imogen Stubbs' spellbinding portrayal of a woman infused with bitterness, but whose passions are reignited by the arrival of a stranger in a snakeskin jacket, kept the audience captivated. Olivia Gregory in Y10 said "It was really interesting to see how all the characters were represented," and many students wanted to stay for the cast and director Q and A session afterwards, but unfortunately an 11.30pm return to school was considered late enough already. There was still time however for a bit of star-spotting... a number of soap stars and thespians were also in the audience and several students left the theatre giddy with excitement at having had their photo taken with none other than Coronation Street's Roy Cropper!

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