



Newsletter

Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers

In the first newsletter of 2012, there is plenty to report from a busy five week half term. First of all I would like to thank the HSA (Home School Association) for funding the improvements to our outdoor facilities. Despite a big reduction in our annual capital funding, we were determined to continue to improve facilities for students, and especially to provide more outdoor social areas with sheltered seating. Thanks to the support of the H S A, we have built two substantial shelters with benching, and provided additional benches by the library entrance. These spaces are being well used by students and the whole area between the first linkway and the sports hall looks so much better. We have plans for more refurbishment of the playground and garden areas between the C Block and D Block as part of a longer term plan to offer our students of all ages a much more functional, welcoming and tidy outdoor space. Your support for H S A fund-raising events and your donations to the Friends of Tarporley High School and Sixth Form College scheme have enabled us to start this transformation. Thank you for your generosity. Please keep the support going and consider joining the Friends by making a regular monthly donation that is gift-aided. For more information, please follow the Home School Association link on the left side menu bar on our website.

The governing body's consultation, on the question of whether Tarporley High School and Sixth Form College should convert to an academy, continues until the end of February. There will be a meeting of the full governing body on 20th March to vote on the question. Meanwhile, governors have been gathering views from students, staff, parents and others in the community. They have listened fully to all points of view and will take these into careful consideration when reaching a decision. They have also carried out detailed research into all the implications of an academy conversion. At the governors' annual meeting for parents, the academy question was the main item for a very full and open discussion. Thank you to all who took part. The presentation that was given at the meeting can be accessed from the school website via the Academy Consultation link, under consultation documents, headed Academy PowerPoint AGM Presentation, where you can also find all of the consultation information.

Our consultation began in November 2011. Since then, there have been some local developments. In January, the secondary school headteachers in Cheshire West and Chester attended a briefing by the council's chief executive on the stance of the executive members of the council towards academy conversion. Whilst recognising that conversion to a "Type 2" academy is a decision for individual governing bodies, their view in line with government policy is that the borough's secondary schools should all become academies. This is also a capital funding issue; we have been informed that the council does not have the capacity to secure the future capital funding needed for its secondary schools. To date, there are 5 out of 19 secondary schools in the borough that are academies; Christleton and Bishops' Bluecoat High Schools are Type 2 academies, whilst The Winsford EACT Academy, UCEA (University CE Academy in Ellesmere Port) and UCAN (University of Chester Academy Northwich, formerly Rudheath High School) are Type 1, sponsored academies. In addition, the governors of Neston High School have taken the decision to apply for Academy Status and the governors of The County High School, Leftwich, have begun a consultation on academy conversion.

If you would like to put forward your views or ask a question as part of the consultation, there is still time.

Please use the email address:

academyconsultation@tarporley-high.cheshire.sch.uk

The governors will see and take notice of each comment or question received. Following the meeting of 20th March, the governing body will write to parents and carers to inform you about the outcome of the consultation.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to parents, staff and students for your patience and support over the late return of the Berlin visit, owing to the re-direction of the return flight from Liverpool to Manchester. This was a long night for everyone concerned. The students on the visit deserve to be complimented for their excellent behaviour.

Enjoy your half term break.

SARAH LEE

Headteacher



Maths & Computing



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A Day in the Life of a Journalist: Year 10 Workshop



On Friday 16th December 2011, the school library was transformed into a busy newsroom as 24 Year 10 English students were involved in a journalism master class courtesy of Peter Henshaw, the Editor of SecEd Magazine. Students were given the challenge to research, interview and write news stories around the topic of 'cyber bullying' with a strict deadline of 2.20pm.

In order to secure the most exclusive interviews, students adopted a true journalistic approach with dictaphones and notebooks at the ready whilst interviewing staff across the school. Despite the heavy snow on this day, students were not deterred and even ventured out of the building, braving the snowy and precarious path to the sixth form centre to obtain that all important interview!

After working tirelessly throughout their lunch break, as per the working world, students went on to produce some cutting edge and sharply written articles which will now be scrutinised and edited by Peter Henshaw, before publication. This day served as excellent preparation for their upcoming BBC School Report project where students will be writing and producing news for the BBC later this term – watch this space!

Miss Hanks

McDonald's School Visit

Year 12 Business Students were lucky to receive a visit from a McDonald's employee earlier in December who spoke to them about the factors involved in setting up and marketing a franchise. Sarah Leigh has worked at the company for several years and spoke to students about the brand and the enormity of operating a business with such a huge reputation to uphold. Students really enjoyed the session and welcomed the opportunity to ask questions. The group are hoping to follow this up with a visit to one of the stores in order to see the business in action and no doubt leave with a burger or two! Many thanks to McDonald's and Sarah for this insight.

Year 8 Christmas Challenge

At the end of last term, Year 8 gifted and talented students were set a challenge to find a range of unusual items for the lowest price possible. They had to use their thinking hats and also suggest a cost-effective method of wrapping the gifts for Christmas. Big congratulations to Megan Macwilliam in 8SW who managed to source all items for a very reasonable cost and well done to all who took part.

Revision Day Success

On December 6th a group of Year 12 students went to Salford Quays Cinema for a Business Studies revision workshop held by Tutor2u. The students were looking forward to gaining some helpful advice on how to face their exam in January. All students really enjoyed the revision day and felt it was a great experience which is likely to assist them in achieving top grades. "The day really helped me to consolidate the hard work we have been doing in school and I think I will now be able to revise in a more organised manner" said one year 12 student. I would like to thank Mrs Bailey for accompanying us on the trip.

Miss Wade

Year 8 Gifted & Talented Cohort

The Year 8 gifted and talented cohort is excitedly awaiting a visit from a former star of BBC TV show The Apprentice. Zoe Beresford appeared on the show last year and is coming to Tarporley High School to answer questions from the group, regarding setting up and running a business and also the trials and tribulations of starring on a television show. "We are really lucky to have this opportunity and are so excited" explained one Year 8 student.

Young Apprentice



On Thursday 19th January, Year 8 Gifted and Talented students were treated to a question and answer session with BBC's The Apprentice star Zoe Beresford. Zoe appeared on the show last year but unfortunately missed out on the final after the infamous "biscuit task." Zoe spoke to students about her experiences on the show and in business in general and we all agreed how inspirational she was when talking about her experiences in business. Students spent 30 minutes grilling Zoe on issues such as what filming is really like on the show and what would she do differently if she repeated the experience. Year 8 Leader, Mrs Pinnington was delighted by the maturity of the students and the way in which they made the most of this opportunity. Students really appreciated the experience and we would like to say a huge thank you to Zoe for taking the time out of her busy schedule to come and see us.

Miss Wade

Tarporley Rotary Club Interviews with Year 11 Students

On Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th November, 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. This year there was an outstanding, record-breaking student attendance of 99.4%.

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

Below is a statement written by one of these lucky students.

Rotary 'Mock Interviews' with Year 11

I really enjoyed the November mock interviews. They were a very valuable experience and I believe everyone will have gained from it. It gave us the opportunity to gain experience in a job interview situation and to get tips from successful rotary members. We have learned a lot from the experience and it will benefit us greatly in the future.

By Tom Rees 11SB

Rotary Club prize for 2011-2012 were; Gemma Penk (11HH), Fern Gibbon (11RG), Tom Rees (11SB), Henry Heath (11RR), Harry Huxtable (11RG), Abbie Mulherin (11ER), Kathryn Murie (11HH), Lee Shackleton (11SP), Harriet Farrow (11RG), Alex Law (11SP), Francesca McCready (11HH), Sam Dale (11SP), Ryan Gaskell (11HH)

Tarporley High School & 6th Form College would like to thank Tarporley Rotary Club for their ongoing support of the students and PSHE and Citizenship programme at Tarporley High School.

Tarporley High School's 'Safeguarding For Parents' Booklet now available

I would like to take this opportunity to notify all parents about a guide which is now available on our school website entitled 'Safeguarding for Parents'. The booklet is designed to give you some useful advice if you have any concerns about the use of mobile phones and the internet, bullying, the welfare of a child or how to get help or advice. We hope you will find it useful.

Miss Watterson

Celebrating Success in the Maths Department!

There have been many achievements in the Maths Department so far this term. In Years 7 and 8, 12 pupils were nominated by their teachers for their outstanding achievement and effort. They were:

Year 7	Year 8
Rebecca Barry	Rhodri Gale
William Threlfall	Hannah Faulkner
Josh Hinchley	Ewan Price
Isabella Ashdown	Camilla Torella
Hatty Moss	Katie Faulkner
Libby Kendrick	Charlotte Higgins
Jonathan Melia	Jack Martell
Tegan Berry	Niamh Jones
Hannah Ashdown	James Ryder
Sophie Hemingbrough	Emily McLaughlin
Lydia Hickey	Kieran Price
Abbie Williams	Daniel Keogh

They were presented with certificates by Mrs French in assembly. Well done – and keep up the good work! In Year 11, some pupils are already celebrating gaining their GCSE in Maths. 34 students achieved Grade C in the early-entry exam in November, and while some of these are going to be aiming to improve on this grade in the Summer, others have been given the opportunity to gain an extra GCSE in Statistics.

Pantomime



It was all quiet and calm... until Tarporley students came along; music was bounding off the walls, characters dancing until their feet hurt, singing until they lost their voices. Rainbow lights prancing around like butterflies, everyone enjoyed themselves. Teachers were dancing, and laughing, and it was an extra special treat for Mr Hutchinson, pantomime and another year older!! The year 8's and the year 9's enjoyed themselves watching the amazing 'Sleeping Beauty Rock and Roll Panto' which is held every year.

By Niamh Kelly

Contacting the School

If you need to get in touch with the school for any reason, the contact number is 01829 732558. Depending upon the nature of your call, the following information may be of assistance to you:



For all general enquiries – speak to one of the Reception Team – Mrs Hill, Mrs Sinnott or Mrs Wright.

For absence notification – speak to Mrs Lovelock – Attendance Officer

For school visits – speak to Mrs Fallows – School Visits Co-ordinator

For a specific concern/enquiry/request for support etc about your child, then there are often two different routes depending upon whether it is a pastoral issue or a subject based issue. In the first instance, speak to the first contact as detailed below. Reception will be able to put you through to the appropriate member of staff or take a message and ask someone to ring you back. As school days are often very busy, we will always endeavour to respond to you within 48 hours.

	1 st Contact →	2 nd Contact →	3 rd Contact
PASTORAL	Form Tutor	Year Leader	Deputy or Assistant Headteacher
CURRICULUM	Subject Teacher	Curriculum Leader	Deputy or Assistant Headteacher

If you feel that there is an issue that is more serious or is difficult to discuss with the first contact, then please do not hesitate to contact the Year Leader or the appropriate Curriculum Leader directly.

Finally, if you need to contact your child, please do so through Reception and they will be able to pass a message on for you. Although students are allowed to bring mobile phones to school, our policy clearly states that they must be switched off throughout the day, so could we please request **that you do not contact them directly during the course of the school day**. There is a telephone available in Reception for students to use if they need to contact you.

Miss Watterson
Deputy Headteacher



The Sharp System



We would like to introduce you to SHARP, the School Help Advice Reporting Page which we have just launched from school. The above logo can now be clicked on from our school website or the Tarporley Learning Gateway (TLG) by students or parents to be able to confidentially report any concerns, worries or incidents relating to school or the local community. Please visit the home page to find out more information so that we can all continue to work together to help keep our school and our local community safe. You will also find some short educational video clips with key messages about current social issues.

Please share any feedback about the site with us too, so that we can continue to develop it to reflect the needs of our community.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Miss Watterson



The Diggers (Year 7 and 8, History Club) has been building their very own Trebuchet during lunchbreaks under the expert guidance of Mr Voyce. Students enjoyed building the medieval siege engines out of wood and are looking forward to their first launch! *'Making the Trebuchet was fun!'* Rebecca Preece 7SM.

For further information please visit our website at www.tarporleyhigh.co.uk

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