



March 2013

Sir William Robertson Academy

ASPIRE

SWRA News

A huge amount seems to have happened in school since I wrote my introduction to the last newsletter back in February.

The ski trip to Italy has been a fixture in the school calendar for at least twenty years, and this year has been no exception! The annual visit to Courmayeur in the Aosta Valley was, once again a fantastic experience for the 54 pupils from Years 8-10 who took to the slopes. Trips like this one teach pupils a huge amount: not only do they develop their practical ability and technique as skiers, just as importantly they learn vital life skills in terms of leadership, team-working and supporting others. Plans are now already well underway for next year's adventure.

On the subject of European visits, Year 10 Science pupils have now returned from their visit to Eurodisney, Paris. As always, it was fantastic to hear news of how well our pupils had conducted themselves, and the compliments they had received as a result. We expect this, so we are not surprised, but it is always a source of immense pride for everyone within the school to hear our pupils praised in this way.

The busy schedule for Year 10 has been relentless recently, and the whole year group has just returned to school following their week of work experience. Our thanks are due once again to the huge array of local employers who continue to support this extremely worthwhile programme for our pupils' benefit. At a time when other schools are dropping their work experience programme as a direct consequence of funding cuts, we are proud to retain this commitment to ensuring that our pupils can make informed choices about their future career paths. Particular thanks are due to Mrs Morton who co-ordinates the programme to ensure that our pupils receive a huge range of positive opportunities and worthwhile experiences.

It has been a pleasure to host Year 5 pupils from Coddington Primary School who recently attended Languages workshops in school. The day was a great success and the pupils' enthusiasm for learning languages was both admirable and infectious. We greatly enjoyed the day we spent with them and look forward to future events.

In my last newsletter I invited parents to contact me if they were interested in becoming a governor in the school. I am delighted to report that two parents, Mrs Debbie Parker and Mrs Kerry Hamilton did just that and have both now joined our Governing Body. Both parents bring with them considerable experience and expertise as school governors in local primary schools. In addition, I am extremely pleased to report that South Kesteven District Councillor Bob Sampson has also agreed to join the Governors. I am sure you will join me in wishing them all every success as they help to steer the school towards further success.

A number of parents have contacted me to find out when the new academy logo will be launched. The design has now been finalised and this will be launched shortly to pupils, parents and staff. While this will be incorporated onto our signage, stationery and the website shortly, it will be introduced as our new blazer badge from September and we are in the process of liaising with local uniform suppliers to ensure that they are aware of the new design.

Finally, thank you to all parents for your support and forbearance during this week's school closure day as a result of heating problems at school. The fault has now been traced and is in the process of being remedied. I hope parents found that our new text messaging system was beneficial in terms of keeping you informed during this recent unexpected and unwanted set of circumstances. Thanks again.

Mark Guest
Headteacher

Year 10 Disney Trip

On 12th February 2013, forty Year 10 pupils (accompanied by Miss Parry, Mr Quinn, Mrs Quincey and Mrs Hardy), set off on the annual Science department trip to Disneyland in Paris. The four day educational trip gave pupils the chance to apply their scientific knowledge in a real life context, as they took part in a series of lectures and workshops, focussing on the physics behind rollercoaster design, the environmental impact of developing a theme park, and also the use of fuels. However, pupils (and staff!) also had plenty of time to test the rides for themselves whilst spending time in the park! Everyone had a fantastic time, and the pupils who came on the trip were an absolute credit to the school. We very much look forward to taking the next Year 10 pupils on the trip again next year! **Miss Parry**



Fashion Academy Artist Workshop

The Year 9 pupils involved with the Fashion Academy had a the chance to work with the sculptor Nadia Monfrinoli last week. They discussed their ideas with her and began work on creating the garment they will wear on the catwalk in July. Buckets of dye containing coats, heads covered in cling film and paper mache and hats with ships were just some of the activities! The pupils will continue to work on their garments and hats in time for the show in July. **Mrs Lawson**

Fashion Academy Competition

This is open to pupils in Year 9. Pupils have all been asked to design a hat based on their study into Surrealism earlier in the year. We have had some amazing and original designs. If pupils wish to, they can choose to enter the competition officially by making their bag in fabric, giving them the opportunity to win complimentary tickets to the Fashion Show and a prize.

Entry forms and further details are available from the Art department. **Mrs Lawson**



Comic Relief Day



On Friday 22nd March 2013, pupils and staff held a non-uniform day to raise money for Comic Relief. Everyone had a great day, and each base group organised their own collection towards this worthwhile cause. The total amount raised was £547.61. Many thanks to everyone for their support! **Miss Parry**



On March 1st 2013, nine students from the Performing Arts department enjoyed an exciting and very intriguing performance of Steven Sater's 'Spring Awakening'. The musical, based on a German play of the same name by Frank Wedekind, dealt with the oppressed culture of 19th Century Germany, managing issues surrounding abortion, sexuality and suicide. The performance allowed the audience to question these issues raised but at the same time be entertained with some of the humour and very 'Laugh out Loud' moments that were created.

As the musical contained adult themes, it was suitable for our older students who were a credit to the school throughout the evening. *Mr White*

Hairspray Theatre Trip

On Tuesday 19th March, students who had been part of the school production of Hairspray last month, had the opportunity to go and see the West End show, on it's tour in Bradford. It was a fantastic evening with a really lively audience, though I think our students probably clapped, cheered and sang along the loudest, evidenced by many sore throats the next day! The students left the performance buzzing and it was lovely having had the opportunity to relive and celebrate the experience one last time. *Mrs Boott*



Year 12 Geography Fieldtrip to Nottingham

Geography is clearly based in the world around us and on Wednesday 6th March Mr Bensley and Mr Phillips took our Year 12 students on a whistle stop tour of Nottingham to investigate urban segregation by age, wealth and ethnicity. Visiting several distinct areas of the city we questioned the validity of census data and traditional urban models, as well as exploring the key features of different zones.

In the morning we visited the inner city with stops in both Sneinton and Hyson Green, finding clear evidence of segregation by ethnicity and wealth, which matched our expectations but then visited Castle Quay where gentrification had taken place to provide deluxe apartments for DINKY's (young couples with no children).

Sneinton



A fast food restaurant provided an excellent location for lunch where Mr Bensley and Daniel Pinfold engaged in a Man V Food challenge before heading back to the minibus. More stops were made in Radford and The Park, a housing estate which was built by John Player for himself and his high class friends in the 1880's, which challenged student expectations with such wealth literally two streets away from streets of run down terraced housing.

The Park

Additional stops in the wealthy suburbs of Woolaton west and 1960's social housing area of Bilborough both confirmed and confounded expectations, and students left with a much deeper understanding of urban settlement structure and how it has evolved over time as well as the inherent weaknesses of prejudging an urban area by only looking at census data! **Mr Bensley**

Year 11s encouraged to “Get out there and use your languages”

Year 11 pupils were treated to a lively assembly on 13th March by our guest speaker Paul Hughes. Mr Hughes entertained pupils with his engaging wit, fascinating anecdotes and passionate message about the importance of learning foreign languages. By his own admission, he was an unlikely candidate to become a linguist describing himself as an “albino, welsh dyslexic from a coal mining background” but he forged a rewarding career within the Royal Air Force as an aircrew man, which included a secondment to the UN Special Commission in Baghdad as a weapons inspector and interpreter. He was trained to speak fluent Russian, Arabic and Pashto and he shared with pupils some of his tips for memorising vocabulary- flashcards, word association (the ruder the better!), lots of repetition and putting effort into your accent. His emphasis to our pupils was that you can overcome any obstacles in life if you have the drive and the dedication to succeed and that if you have the chance to travel abroad or to talk to a native speaker, always give language speaking a go, even if you make some mistakes- the effort is appreciated! The pupils were buzzing afterwards, really enjoyed the assembly and they are still talking about him! **MFL Department**

Congratulations Yr 12

Regional Heat Winners

ICAEW Business and Accounting Competition



Sheffield United FC, Bramall Lane was the location for the regional heat and we competed against six other schools. James Bamford, Chloe Hill, Tom North, Holly Pickerill, Alex Sanderson and Danny Swanwick role played accountancy students tackling a business problem given to candidates as part of their professional chartered accountancy examinations. They were given three business plan options and presented for four minutes on their decision to the company directors. Marks were awarded for teamwork, presentation and knowledge. Chloe's organisational skills were brilliant in behind the scenes planning. Holly opened the presentation and set the scene in clear, cool, articulate tones. Alex followed, equally clear, with nerves calmed by Holly's opening. Danny excelled himself in reeling off millions and hundreds of thousands of pounds with accuracy. Chloe held up the presentation sheet. James persevered through his nerves and completed his speech with clarity. Tom discussed the ethical issues and timed his ending to perfection by thanking everyone for listening. Alex fielded the director's questions with confidence.

The Hilton Metropole Hotel, Birmingham, hosts the final on 27 June 2013 when our team will compete against 26 other teams followed by a celebration dinner, evening entertainment and overnight stay. Prizes will include £500 each to the winners and £100 each to the runners up.

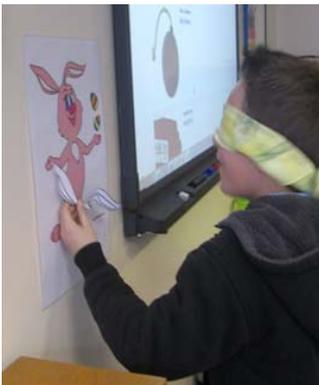
We made a strange, super smart, sight, holding the trophy in McDonalds on our way home. We hope our students continue their success for their AS exams in the summer. We expect brilliant mathematics results from them!

This nationwide competition is run by the Institute of Chartered Accountants for England and Wales. You can find out more from <http://careers.icaew.com/events/BASE/BASE-2013-heats> and see the photographs on the ICAEW facebook page. **Mr Barnes and Mrs Brewer**

MFL Easter Update

As promised, we in MFL have been taking thorough advantage of our new Language Ambassadors.

On Tuesday 12th March, we hosted the entire Year 5 cohort from Coddington Primary School at an Easter Workshop, planned and presented with the invaluable help of our Year 9 Assistants. Around 60 pupils joined us for a morning of Craft, Culture and Activity based upon a traditional Easter celebration in France and Germany.



The children learnt some essential seasonal vocabulary and put their new knowledge to good use making cards and participating in quizzes. Games, such as 'Pin the tail on the Rabbit', proved very popular and everyone enjoyed decorating eggs to hang on the Easter Tree – a German tradition – which were then taken home as a memento of the day



Our Language Ambassadors did a fantastic job and put in a great deal of commitment and effort over the weeks running up to the event which was rewarded by 'Thank You' cards from the children they entertained.

We as a department would also like to thank and praise their 'eggs'cellent behaviour and attitude to learning. They are a credit to the school! *Mrs Dover and Mrs Guz*

SWRA Book Week 4th—8th March



Wonderful
World
Book
DAY!



Sir William Robertson Academy held their annual book week incorporating World Book Day on Thursday, 7th March. All key stage three English classes celebrated by taking part in activities held in the school library. Year 7 looked at fiction set around the world, Year 8 played the reading Game which looks at different genre and Year 9 were matching book covers to starters of fifteen different texts. During base time, the whole school, including staff, came to a standstill as everyone 'dropped everything and read' for twenty minutes. One of the highlights was the quiz held on World Book Day held at lunch time where pupils from all year groups took part and was so successful that it is to become an event held every fortnight. The £1 National Book tokens were also distributed to all pupils. These activities supported the whole school literacy policy of encouraging our pupils to read for pleasure.



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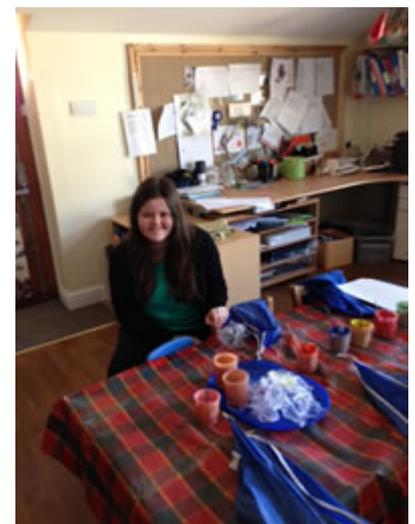
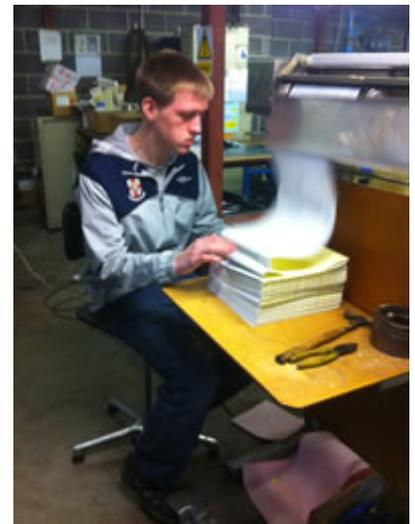


The Art department also supported the event by designing bookmarks and five pupils' designs have been submitted to the National World Book Day Design a Bookmark competition. Caitlin McNeil, Jaime Redmond, Wilf-Harvey-Davies, Chloe Sloan and Nicole Lyon eagerly await for the results to be announced in the summer. *Mrs Morton*

Work Experience 2013

During 11th—15th March, 172 Year 10 students experienced ‘the world of work’ for the weeks gaining valuable experience of life in the workplace with placements in the Grantham, Sleaford, Lincoln, Newark and Nottingham areas. Work experience gives students the opportunity to gain an insight into the world of work, to investigate possible career paths and a chance to put their learning into practice. Students also have the opportunity to develop their self-confidence and improve their communication skills. For many students, work experience can be their first taste of the world of employment. Work experience offers students the opportunity to gain an insight into what life will be like when they leave full-time education and leaves them better prepared for the challenges and rewards employment offers.

Preparing our students for this event starts back in September, ensuring that all the students get the best possible placement which is suited to each individual and it is always a pleasure when staff go to visit them whilst on placement seeing them in a totally different environment. The positive comments from the employers are always such an inspiration and a delight.



However, this success would not happen if it were not for the generosity of the local businesses offering our students the chance to spend time in their workplace giving them these opportunities. All students have to be supervised and are offered planned programmes of work by the employer. So our thanks go to all these employers! ***Mrs Morton***

Ski Italy 2013

Fifty-four pupils and seven staff ventured off to Italy on February 23rd with reports of significant snow fall awaiting them. They certainly were not let down as the snow fell heavily from the sky as the coaches travelled through the night in France. After a slight delay, the group arrived at their hotel to unpack rest and fill up on some lovely Italian lasagna.

The snow fell throughout the whole of Monday painting a perfect picture for all the pupils as Mont Blanc stood tall yet white in the background.

As the beginners began to progress out of the baby bowl the sun started to come out providing perfect skiing conditions for the remainder of the week.

The apres ski activities were just as much fun as the skiing itself, with all you can eat pizza night, tubing, ice skating, disco and presentation night giving the pupils opportunity to relax and try new things.

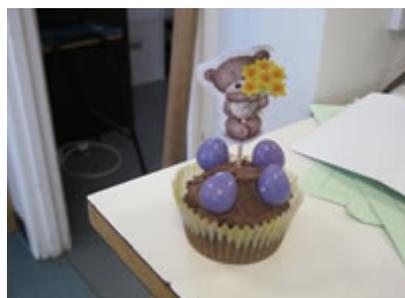
The entire group had a fantastic time with amazingly not one injury to report either! It was a privilege to take such a well behaved and determined group of young people.

Letters for next years trip are already out, see Mr Symmons or Mrs Davison for any details.



Year 7 Food Technology

Year 7 have enjoyed exercising their culinary skills during their food technology lessons this week baking cupcakes with an Easter theme. From the pictures below, this is obviously something that they have really enjoyed doing. ***Mrs Bromley***



Sport Update!

U14's Girls Basketball:

For the second year running Sir William Roberston Academy have become District and County Champions. They were unbeaten in all fixtures and conceded just 2 baskets at the County Finals.

They faced Christ The Kings School in Regional Round 1 which catered for what can only be described as the most tense and exciting fixture in years. The very talented Will Rob side came out eventual winners with a 35 v 32 victory. They now move on into Regional Round 2 where they face Nottingham side Emmanuel School.

Well done to the entire squad: Rosie Howard, Emma Peto, Kenya Watson, Freya Bennison, Emily Andrew, Casey Harker and Maddie Marchant



U16 Girls Gymnastics:

Three talented gymnasts were entered into the Kesteven District competition on 10th March. Kenya Watson came an impressive 4th place in the U16 Girls competition with the highest vault mark of her category. After huge success last year, Sarah Cliffe and Georgia Blades Richardson were entered into the advanced category where they produced outstanding floor routines with some brilliant complex skills. Well done ladies x ***Mrs Davison***

Mr Costello from the PE Department, competed for the England Kickboxing Team in the Irish Open International in Dublin on 1st – 4th March 2013. He had been training as part of the squad since April 2012, and this was the first time he actually competed for the England Team in an International tournament. The Irish Open International is the world's largest kickboxing tournament, with over 30 countries sending teams, including some of the top kick boxers in the world. Mr Costello was really pleased with his performance, only losing out narrowly to a world champion, 11 – 9, and was happy to be part of the England team's best performance at the tournament in recent years.





Friends of the Sir William Robertson Academy

The Lincoln Lions Club, in conjunction with the Friends of Sir William Robertson Academy, are organising a Duck Race to be held on Saturday, 4th May in the Lincoln Brayford Pool.

The money that is raised, through the tickets that are sold at school, will all go to the Friends Charity to support the school and provide the pupils with the extras that go beyond the school budget.

We are aiming to get as many pupils involved as possible by asking parents to sell tickets to friends and family.

There will be a prize for the pupil who returns the most ticket stubs.

There will also be cash prizes of £150, £100, £50 as 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively provided by the Lions Club, and also a prize for the last duck home.

Money, ticket stubs and any unsold tickets to be handed into Mrs Morton as soon as possible with a deadline date of Friday 19th April.

We would really like to make this event a success and to raise some much needed funds for the school but can only do this with you help. Please support this by selling tickets!!

Holocaust Education Trust Sixth Form Trip

Two sixth form students had the opportunity to go to Auschwitz in Poland for the day. They have both written a report on their experience. *Miss Bennett*

Becky Firmin

On the 12th March 2013, Hayley and I embarked on the journey of a lifetime to the notorious labour and death camp Auschwitz I and Auschwitz Birkenau. Seeing the famous “Arbeit Mach Frei” – Work makes you free – sign, crematoria 1, the infamous gate house and the barren landscape of Birkenau was a surreal experience and one I will never forget. Having seen many photos on the two camps, it was an indescribable emotion seeing it for myself. Throughout the visit I felt numb and walked around in shock. It was a day that will stay with me forever and I am sure in years to come, I will repeat my story and each moment will be as vivid as it was on the day I visited.

Hayley Simons

On 6th March we met an Auschwitz survivor at Nottingham Albert Hall. It made me feel so much more real when we travelled to Poland to the actual camp. We arrived at Auschwitz on a very chilly morning. What we saw and what we were shown were the most horrific thing ever. It certainly opened my eyes. It is something I will never forget.



Beaumont House



Following the sale of Valentine's Day cookies back in February, all funds have now been counted and a cheque has been raised to send off to Beaumont House. Our thanks go to pupils for all their efforts raising a grand total of £100, which is absolutely fantastic!! *Miss Parry*



Please keep sending the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers into school so that we can exchange them for sports equipment for the PE department and cooking utensils for the Food department.



HELP US TO HELP YOU! Keep us informed

Please make sure that we have up-to-date contact information if we need to speak to you during the school day. Forms are available from the school office.

Absences

If your child is absent from school or has a medical appointment, you can leave a telephone message by:

- Dialing 01400 272422
- Selecting option 3 to record pupil sickness/absence/medical appointment
- Selecting option 5 to report anything else or leave a message for a named member of staff.

Attendance is monitored weekly and parents are contacted about unexplained absence

WE ARE LOOKING FOR INVIGILATORS

to help oversee our examinations.

It is a part-time role, but can make a real difference to the smooth-running of examinations for the candidates.

Full training will be given and we pay approximately £6.85 per hour. A CRB check will be carried out for successful applicants.

If you are interested in finding out more about being an invigilator, please contact:

Mrs S Williams in the school office - Tel: 01400 272422

Or E-mail: enquiries@swrhs.org