



**Sir William Robertson
High School**
A Language Specialist School



ASPIRE

February 2011

SWRHS School News

Many thanks to all of the parents who have written to their MP and the County Council in support of developing a Sixth Form at Sir William Robertson. If you have not yet seen the full proposal, there is a link on the school website which will allow you to download a copy. Your letters will be extremely important in demonstrating that there is a clear demand for post-16 learning for our pupils. If you haven't yet written, please consider putting pen to paper on our behalf!



We were fortunate to receive a visit from Stephen Phillips MP on Friday 28th January. He was very interested in our plans for a Sixth Form. During his visit he attended a Year 7 assembly, enjoyed a lively discussion about our 50th Anniversary celebrations with Year 10 pupils and was greatly impressed by our new Apple Mac suite. This new area is a £250,000 extension to the Dixon Building and provides state-of-the-art facilities for music technology, art, graphics and media studies.

The first big event in terms of our 50th Anniversary celebrations takes place at the end of this week as the school was first opened in February 1961. Pupils have been invited to attend school in costumes from the last 50 years so visitors on Friday may feel that they have stepped back in time to the swinging sixties! Lessons will be linked to key ideas and events from the last 50 years and even our school dinners will be influenced by some nostalgic favourite dishes. I am extremely worried that certain members of the teaching staff might be resurrecting their 1970s flares and kipper ties – I'm sure the pictures of the event will be 'illuminating', entertaining and will demonstrate the strong staff-pupil relationships which have always been at the heart of the school's success.

Year 9 pupils will shortly be making their Option Choices and parents of pupils in this year group will be invited to our Options Evening on Tuesday 1st March (6.30-8.30pm). The evening provides an opportunity for parents and pupils to discuss possible options with the teaching staff and a presentation at the start of the evening will outline the implications of various subject choices in the light of key educational changes such as the introduction of the English Baccalaureate. We hope that you will find the event informative and useful in terms of opening family discussions around the next important stage in the education of your children.

Finally, just a quick reminder about the important work of the SWRA as the school's parent-teacher association. The Sir William Robertson Association continues to organise a range of fund-raising activities to support the pupils in school. The next date for your diary is their Pamper Evening which takes place on Thursday 31st March from 6.30-9.30pm. Tickets are only £1 for adults and it would be fantastic to have a well-supported event.

Thank you for your continuing support of the school.

Mark Guest, Headteacher

BTEC Performing Arts Students hit Lincoln Theatres!

On Wednesday, 8th December, Year 10 BTEC Performing Arts students visited Lincoln Theatre Royal to see Leslie Grantham as Ebenezer Scrooge in *The Christmas Carol*. The students were entertained by a 20 strong cast with fantastic acting, singing and effects. The best thing about the day was that students had back stage access after the show. They saw how the show was put together technically regarding lighting, sound and organisation.

This term, the students are going to Lincoln Drill Hall on Tuesday 15th February to see a Physical Theatre performance which received 5* reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Lets hope they enjoy it as much as the first show!



The Christmas Concert – a sparkling success!

Sir William Robertson annual Christmas Concert is always a brilliant way to get everyone into the festive sprit, and this year was no exception! A huge variety of year groups and talents were showcased in 2 hours of great entertainment. Acts such as choir, bands, drama club, soloists, musicians, duets, Shakespeare and dancers! We had a tremendous turn out having to add extra seats at the back of the hall! The students were extremely committed and professional throughout the whole process. A huge congratulations to all students involved!

Sing66



On 9th February, eight of our students took part in a county project called Sing66. We had been working for the past few months learning songs and taking part in workshops with other schools to prepare for a concert which was held at Grantham Meres Centre. There were sixty-six schools across the county taking part and each secondary school led a cluster of local primary schools. Our young people had been undertaking training as singing leaders and have done a great job. We had also worked closely with Liz Lenton, a local composer commissioned to write a song for all the students to sing on the day. We were really excited to hear 1000 voices of all ages singing together.

In addition Ruby Boyd, in Year 11, had written a song which had been adopted as the Young Singing Leaders' song and this was performed by the seventy or so secondary school students involved in the project and a terrific achievement for Ruby. We were also the school selected to support the BBC radio coverage of the event and had an interesting lunchtime seeing how articles are recorded and edited for BBC Lincolnshire. All of this has been part of the 'Sing Up' national singing initiative and the performance date is National Sing Up day 2011.

Miss Bennett and Mrs Lomax

**One-to-One Tuition in
Acting/Singing/Instruments
Available in School**

See Mrs Lomax or Miss Bennett for details








Singing Success!

Five SWRHS pupils took a trip late November to “The Music Tutor” in Lincoln to take graded exams in Music Theatre (a singing exam based on theatre and film). The trip was a huge success and the pupils achieved fantastic results: all Merits and Distinctions in Grades ranging from 4 to 7. Special mention should be made to Chloe Astleford and Melissa Allenby who also gained UCAS points for their exam results. I am hoping to continue this success later in the year when, hopefully, we will have an examiner visiting the school to examine a range of subjects; including, for the first time, Acting (coached by Mr I Ganderton). All exams are accredited by The London College of Music and Thames Valley University.



Mr Norton

It's Showtime!

Rehearsals are well on their way ready for the production of ‘It’s Showtime’ with a tribute to Broadway which will be held on 16th, 17th and 18th March. Tickets will be on sale very shortly!

Art and Design News!



Year 10 GCSE Art pupils participated in a very enjoyable felt making workshop this term, led by Mrs Lawson and Miss Dowler. The theme was ‘landscape’ and even though it was the first time they had used this technique, the results were outstanding. Everyone agreed it was a great way to soothe away the stress of a day at school!

Gifted and talented pupils in Year 9 along with Mrs Lawson and Mrs Bond, had the opportunity to visit London last term as part of their involvement in the Lincolnshire Fashion Academy 2011. We travelled to London to draw from the fantastic collection at the Victoria & Albert Museum and to view the Diaghilev exhibition. We drew historical costumes as well as stage costumes used in *The Lion King* as well as seeing many of the costumes worn by Kylie! There was even an opportunity to try some of the costumes on (an opportunity not missed by Mrs Lawson!)

The Diaghilev exhibition was worth the trip on its own. As well as costumes designed by artists such as Braque, Matisse and Picasso, there were examples of huge stage sets and film of dancers from *The Firebird*. It was spectacular. We all learned a great deal from the experience and pupils are currently developing their ideas into their own designs which they will wear on the catwalk at the Fashion Show in July.

Mrs Lawson, Miss Dowler and Mrs Bond



Disney 2011

At the end of January, a group of thirty-three Year 10 pupils went on the annual Science trip to Disneyland, Paris. During the stay the pupils attended three evening lecture sessions which focussed on six aspects of science in Disneyland. These topics included the physics of rollercoasters, the impact on the environment, and the use of special effects on theme park rides.

During the day the pupils were free to explore the two Disney parks and look for science in action. Due to the time of year they were able to make the most of short queues for the rides, and had plenty of opportunity to ride the rollercoasters multiple times, with most pupils choosing "Crush's Coaster" or the "Tower of Terror" as their favourite. Many pupils also met some of the Disney stars and were able to have photos taken with them.

Overall an enjoyable time was had both by staff and pupils, largely thanks to the excellent behaviour of the pupils who were a fantastic example of the school. Pupils currently in Year 9 should look out for a letter about Disney 2012 later this year.

Miss Withers



Eco-Learning Centre

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a National Lottery grant to develop one of our existing science laboratories into an Eco-Learning Centre. The money will be used to install energy efficient lighting and windows as well as providing new laboratory equipment for data-logging which will allow students to carry out a variety of environmental investigations. The centre forms part of our strategy to become a more sustainable school and is another step towards the school achieving our Eco-schools Silver award. As well as being of benefit to pupils at SWRHS, the eco-learning centre will be used to stage workshops for groups of local primary schools aimed at increasing their understanding of sustainability.

Mr Mann

Valentines at SWRHS



William Robertson held its annual Valentine's event this week. Pupils were invited to send each other messages of love in two ways. Either they could send a message in the William Robertson Love Sheet or send a personalised cookie hand made by Mrs Bromley and her team of helpers and wrapped by Mrs Parsons. Cookies were iced with pink love heart decorations and definitely made anyone who received one feel loved. The event helped raise money for Beaumont



House, one of our school's chosen charities, which are currently fund raising to buy a new wheelchair for residents. A big thanks goes to all of the staff and pupils who supported this event and helped raise a record total of £100. *Mrs Phillips*

Has your son or daughter grown out of their school uniform?

If so, we would gladly accept charitable donations of blazers and ties which are in a reasonable condition at the school office.

Year 11 Grantham College Taster Day

We were fortunate in being able to re-schedule our Grantham College Taster Day to this term. It was an excellent day and Year 11's were able to attend a variety of taster sessions in subject areas that they were interested in; sport, public services, beauty therapy, A Levels, business, and so on.

The staff at Grantham College were all very helpful and really made everybody feel welcome. They supplied plenty of information and advice relating to the courses available. They had a huge enthusiasm for their subjects and for the College in general. A number of the students who attended the day have already filled in application forms and submitted these. I am sure that, thanks to the staff, in particular Joanne Sharpe who was paramount in organising the day, there will be a number of other applications submitted very soon. It was an excellent day! *Mrs Levey*

We are collecting the following:

TESCO Vouchers from 28th February



**SAINSBURY'S Active Kids
vouchers 2011**



Collection boxes in the School Reception

Poster designed by
Branna Richardson



THURSDAY 31 MARCH, 6.30-8.30PM

TICKETS: ADULTS £1.00, UNDER 18's 50p

(Includes refreshments, cost of treatments not included)

CONTACT: JULIA PERCY 01636 626228

All proceeds to be donated to the Sir William Robertson Association

50th Anniversary Celebration—11th February, 2011

The whole school including staff took part in a non-uniform day, dressing up in costumes from the sixties to celebrate the opening of our school fifty years ago. The bright colours, jazzy patterns, big hair-dos and unforgettable characters were a delight and for some, brought back some nostalgia of that era.



The day was focussed on the last fifty years and pupils particularly enjoyed seeing how the school had grown over the years and some memorable events that had happened during this time. Old photographs of the last five decades were shown during assemblies highlighting some of the memorable events such as the 60's school band, fashion show and even students from the sixth form. Seeing photos of when the roof blew off Robinson Block in the 90's surprising our present pupils seeing the damage caused and then there was the planting of the time capsule, the first Year 11 prom and the first house events all contributing towards this sentimental day.



Even the kitchen staff joined in producing food from the past which went down really well and one of the highlights of the day being the staff photo competition, where pupils had to guess the names of staff from their own school photos —this proved a very entertaining task!

Lets hope the next fifty years are as successful as the last fifty years!

Swimarathon 2011

On Saturday, February 5th 2011 thirty pupils, including staff, represented S.W.R.H.S. in the local Rotary Club Swimarathon, held at the Meres Leisure Centre Grantham.

This event is held as a house swimming event and the result was:-

Dragoon house	313 lengths
Simla house	290 lengths
Lancer house	281 lengths
Chitral house	158 lengths

Congratulations to Dragoon house!

All pupils and staff combined, swam a maximum of 1042 lengths, totalling 26,050 metres. Hopefully when all the sponsor monies are collected, we will have raised a grand total of £800. A big thank you and well done to all those taking part and their sponsors.



I would like to thank Kyle Durham and Robert Love, ex pupils, for returning to help the school in this event.

Mrs Parsons



Trampolining

A team of four girls took part in the Kesteven and Sleaford Trampoline Championships on Saturday, 5th February. As a team the following girls came 3rd overall competing in the under 16 category; Louiza Chrysanthou (Year 11), Tobey Vidler (Year 9), Sophie Burgess (Year 9) and Martha O'Brien (Year 9). In the individual competition Louiza came 3rd with Tobey 6th, Martha 7th and Sophie 10th. Apart from Louiza this was the first competition they had taken part in. Well done girls!

Cross Country

Cloe Hubbard ran at South Park in the Lincolnshire Cross Country championships. She ran a fantastic race and was placed 8th overall. This qualified her for the Anglian schools Championships which took place in Northamptonshire where she came 12th, so this will lead her onto English schools in Nottingham. Well done and good luck!

Mrs Brewin



Our Young Leaders!

Some of our outstanding Year 10 PE students have recently become part of the School Sports Partnership Leadership Academy.

Skye Jennings, Jordan Sowerby, Molly Hawthorne, Amy Cormor, Chloe Hill, Alex Stayne, Emma Sanderson, Thea Thompson, Daniel Stocks, Alex Sanderson, Daniel Pinfold, Jade Lawson and Daniel Lee have been recognised for their efforts in PE and will now receive many opportunities to develop their leadership skills during the rest of the school year. Several of the group have already begun their experience by volunteering as leaders at the Primary School Badminton tournament held at Carre's Grammar School earlier this month.

We wish our young leaders well in their involvement with the Academy and feel sure they will represent Sir William Robertson High School admirably during many sporting events in the near future. Good luck!

Mr Newell

Table Tennis

Once again, our Year 8 boys were successful in the district table tennis. For the second year running we came 2nd. This year's team were: Tom Lane, Tom Laycock-Ivory, Liam Green, Henry Woodman and Sam Cormor. Well done boys!

Mr Costello



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 absences!



www.swrhs.org



The school website is frequently being updated with new information. Please visit our site; there is a new section for parents where you can find such things as useful school information, lost property and the letters that are being sent home.

Also, don't miss out – register your email address now to receive the latest newsletters and letters home via your inbox.

Visit the school website and click on the Parental Registration link or email enquiries@swrhs.org

Remember to register your email address for each of your children.

Term Dates for your Diary 2011

Term 4	Monday, 28th February 2011 - Friday, 8th April 2011
Term 5	Wednesday, 27th April 2011 - Friday, 27th May 2011
Term 6	Monday, 6th June 2011 - Wednesday, 22nd July 2011

Bank Holidays: Friday, 29th April (Royal Wedding)
Monday, 2nd May (May Day)