



March 2012

# Sir William Robertson High School

*A Language Specialist School*



## ASPIRE

SWRHS School News

As the Spring sunshine is now starting to break through, it is great to see our pupils on the school playing fields enjoying a huge range of sports through their PE lessons. It can be easy to take for granted the exceptional rural setting we have during the dark days of winter, but we are extremely fortunate to have such fantastic outdoor space for team games. This is a privilege greatly enjoyed by our pupils but denied to many others in urban schools.

Our location makes us unique and when I show prospective parents around the school it is generally the calm and safe rural environment, the small class sizes and the friendly atmosphere that they comment upon. More recently parents are also commenting on the exciting development of a Sixth Form at Sir William Robertson. We have received almost 70 applications so far to join our Sixth Form, from both our own pupils and from pupils currently attending other schools who have been very impressed by what we have to offer. If you have not yet seen a copy of our Sixth Form prospectus, a link is available through the Sixth Form section of the school website. I would encourage you to take a look to see the broad range of courses we have available.

As you will be aware, we are currently consulting on academy status for the school. The consultation ends on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March and the governors would like to hear your views, either in favour or against the proposed conversion, so that they can make an informed decision on whether to submit a formal application to the Department for Education during the Summer Term.

We seem to be in state of continual change in education but the one constant is probably the inevitability of GCSE exams being the focus of the Summer Term for Year 10 and 11 pupils. My advice is always that thorough preparation is the key to success. A revision timetable which breaks down the main topics for each subject is vital, as are regular breaks to reflect on what you have learned. It is an investment of time now from which you should benefit for many years to come! As the great football philosopher Bill Shankly once said to one of his Liverpool players, 'If you're not sure what to do with the ball, just pop it in the net and we'll discuss your options afterwards.' Exams are just the same. You might not necessarily see where a particular subject may take you at the age of 16, but a few years down the line that qualification may help you to secure that dream job or university place over all of the other applicants. We wish all of our pupils well in their forthcoming exams.

It has been fantastic to catch-up with our Year 10 pupils following their Work Experience. Whereas many local secondary schools have dropped Work Experience from their curriculum on the grounds of cost to the school, we believe it is hugely beneficial for all of our pupils to experience the world of work. Their positive comments since returning to school confirm to me that we have made the right decision to continue this programme.

On the subject of welcoming pupils back, our pupils returned from the annual ski trip to Courmayeur in Italy tired by the journey but having found some excellent snow conditions and having developed their skills on the slopes. The ski trip has been a key event in the school calendar for nearly twenty years and is a distinctive feature of our school experience in terms of learning opportunities beyond the classroom. Further pupils are sure to benefit from our commitment to the value of such experiences in years to come.

Finally, I should like to wish all pupils and their families an enjoyable Easter break.

Mark Guest  
Headteacher

## Italy Ski Trip February 2012

This year the ski trip was a little later than usual; we did not set off until Saturday 25 February. Pupils arrived at school with smiles on their faces ready for their trip to Courmayeur. The first part of the journey went very smoothly and meant we caught an earlier ferry from Dover to Calais. The down side to this was that we had to wait for the café to open before we could have breakfast in France.

We finally arrived at the resort and immediately were fitted with skis and boots. The sun was shining and the slopes looked deserted.



On Monday morning everyone was up and ready early. After a continental breakfast we headed for the gondola to take us up to the slopes.

Lessons began and everyone went off to learn how to ski or to improve their technique. By the end of the day there were lots of stories to tell regarding pupils who had fallen over but everyone was still smiling.

Due to the warm weather it was decided that for the rest of the week pupils would begin to ski earlier in the morning so that there was less slushy snow when they had finished their day. Each morning pupils were up on time and did not need to be woken up.

Some of the beginners progressed very quickly and came out of the baby bowl area and onto the bigger slopes. The more advanced groups improved further and skied some difficult areas.

As in each year the stories that pupils told us at the end of the day were interesting; falling off lifts, falling over whilst standing still and of course, tree hugging.

Après ski events kept everyone occupied during the evenings. On Monday evening we ate all that we could in a pizza restaurant (I think pupils beat the staff!). Other activities included karaoke and disco. Tubing proved to be a very noisy activity with boys and girls shouting and squealing as they came down the run on tyres. On Friday evening, staff proudly watched the pupils receive their certificates and awards in celebration of their achievements during the week.



Saturday was the final day for skiing before packing up to come home. Luckily, this year, we did not have any serious injuries amongst pupils or staff.

On the homeward journey we were all tired so everyone managed a bit of sleep. We arrived back in England to rain which was such a contrast to the weather we had been used to for the week.

Parents clearly missed their youngsters and were at school waiting to pick them up.

Once again we would like to congratulate pupils who went on the trip for their behaviour and their efforts on the slopes. The group was praised by our coach drivers, the hotel rep and the instructors.

We look forward to Courmayeur 2013. *Mrs Hardy*

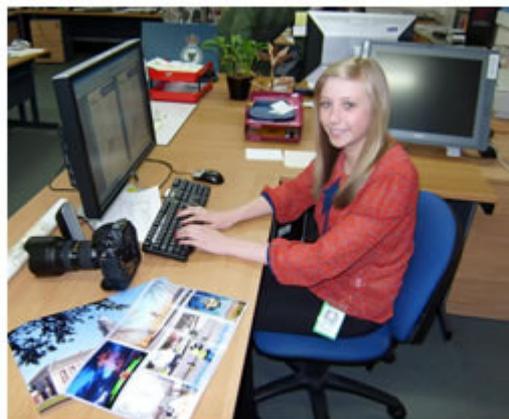
## Work Experience 2012

During 12th—16th March, 183 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. We even had one student this year in London! 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



## Disney 2012



At the end of January a group of 38 Year 10 pupils went on the annual Science trip to Disneyland, Paris.

During the stay the pupils attended two lecture sessions which focussed on different aspects of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) in Disneyland. These topics included the physics and design of rollercoasters, the use of special effects on theme park rides and possible STEM careers.

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 Aerosmith's "Rock 'n' Rollercoaster" 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. *Miss Withers*

## Table Tennis Challenge

Four boys from Year 10 successfully completed a 24 hour table tennis challenge over the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February to raise money for their school expedition to Romania in July 2012.

James Evans, Harry Vaughan, Callum Smart and Sam Smart took it in turns to play table tennis from 10am on Saturday until 10am on Sunday. At any given time at least one or all of them were playing and they managed to grab cat-naps in between turns.

They were supported in their efforts by community groups including the cubs and scouts and many local people from the village of Bassingham turned out to help them.

Food and drink was served throughout the event and a raffle also took place.

The boys raised a total, including their sponsorship money, of approximately £1000.00. **Well done boys!**

In partnership with Lincolnshire County Council

# Beginners French/Spanish

at

**Sir William Robertson High School  
Welbourn**



Would you like to learn French/Spanish in  
a relaxed, fun atmosphere and be able to.....

Learn a new language for fun  
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Learn how to ask for directions  
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## Our popular 8 week courses start

**Spanish - Wed 25<sup>th</sup> April (6.00pm - 8.00pm)**

**French - Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> April (4:00pm - 6:00pm)**

**£40 for 8 weeks**

Concessions may apply. Please contact the 'Community Team' for further  
details on

**01522 876258**

[communityeducation@lincolncollege.ac.uk](mailto:communityeducation@lincolncollege.ac.uk)

## Can We Talk About This?

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, the Performing Arts Department took 35 students to London to see a piece of physical theatre called 'Can We Talk About This?' by one of the best companies in the world – DV8.

We arrived by coach to London's Southbank for 1pm and walked down the embankment taking in the sights and the street theatre. We sat under the London Eye eating ice cream in the sunshine before heading to the National Theatre. The performance was fantastic and the students learnt a great deal about the style of performance and are now able to use those skills in the BTEC and GCSE performances. It was a long journey home, but the typical performing arts students



serenaded the bus driver with a 15 minute long 'Old MacDonald had a farm'. The students were extremely well behaved - an amazing day had by all. *Miss Bennett*

## SWRHS celebrates multiculturalism on International Day

Being a language college with International School Status means we take multicultural awareness very seriously and International Day is the perfect opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity. Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February saw a variety of activities take place in Maths, English, Art, Food Technology and of course Languages! Our language students were treated to lessons led by guest teachers where they learned all about Chinese and Japanese culture including writing in Japanese and Tai Chi! The English department ran activities which taught pupils about Haiku, a form of Japanese poetry. Pupils learned maths through currency conversion and Japanese was the focus in Art. The lunch time menu also took on a multicultural flavour with European dishes being planned and prepared by our Food Technology students. We would like to say a big thank you to all involved in organising International Day. Our pupils got a lot of enjoyment out of it and we are looking forward to next year! *Miss News*

## SWRA - 100 Club

The winning numbers for the spring term's draw are as follows: week 1 - 24, week 2 - 28, week 3 - 57, week 4 - 40, week 5 - 4, week 6 - 46, week 7 - 42, week 8 - 52, week 9 - 10 and week 10 - 60—38 The jackpot winner being number 49. Congratulations to you all!

The '100 Club' draw is held three times a year raising money for the Association and will commence again in May. Tickets will be available in April and the information will be on the school website which can be downloaded. It is an easy and 'hassle free' way for parents and friends to support the school, providing our pupils with the extras that go beyond our school budget. At the same time, you get the opportunity to take part in the weekly draws and a jackpot win at the end of each term.

**Shares are sold at £5 each and these admit the subscriber to:-**

**10 draws for 2.5% of the pool and a Jackpot draw at the end of the term for 20% of the pool**

**The remaining funds generated will go towards the SWRA fund.**

***Remember the more people subscribing, the bigger the jackpot!***

## Go the extra mile...



On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Sir William Robertson went the extra mile for Sports Relief.



At 3pm, while the sun was shining, 890 students along with many staff, descended onto the school field, where a track was marked out for them to run a mile. Some came dressed in funny hats, wigs and socks; while others tied their ties around their heads as sweat bands! All were armed with their trainers and ready to raise some serious money for charity. Some students ran the mile, while others walked and skipped. A group of Year 11 boys chose to do the mile arm in arm while walking backwards!

Even though it was not a competition, George Lorenti in Year 8 passed the finish line first, completing the mile in under 10 minutes.

Students donated 50p to this create cause, and the school raised just under £400. Well done to all involved - it was a great, fun and positive event, all with one aim – to raise as much money for children all over the world.



A special mention needs to go four wonderful Year 11 boys; Tom North, Alex Sanderson and Jake Mathews who jogged and James Bamford who cycled 13 miles to school and then 13 miles back from school – all to raise money for Sport Relief. They raised over £200! Well Done! **Miss Bennett**



## Volley Ball Tournament

On 2<sup>nd</sup> March Sir William Robertson High hosted an under-11 Volleyball tournament, which turned out to be a highly enjoyable day for all!

Twelve Primary Schools from the area sent teams to the event, delivered by Mr Newell's team of young leaders. Teachers from the Primary Schools were delighted with the atmosphere on the day and the young people involved certainly improved their skills during the event!

50 children attended the event and enjoyed taking part in some fun activities to hone their skills before the competition started! Teams then competed in 2 groups and the best 4 won through to the final and 3<sup>rd</sup> place playoff game.

In an exciting finale, Church Lane Primary School won the event and they now go on to represent us at the County Finals in May. Good luck!!

The leadership shown by our Year 10 and 11 students on the day was amazing! Well done to Skye Jennings, Amy Cormor, Jade Lawson, Hannah Tiller, Harry Vaughan, Kelsey Roberts, Chloe Hill, Alex Sanderson and Molly Hawthorne.

### TESTIMONIAL:

"Thanks to you and your excellent young leaders for your enthusiasm and your encouragement of the Caythorpe team at the volleyball competition. The children really enjoyed themselves and have not stopped asking about a volleyball club for next term!" (Mrs Adey, Caythorpe Primary School)

*Mr Newell*

## An Elemental Success

A project dear to Mrs Lawson's heart for some time now has been completed. Liaising with the Science department, the Art department and some pupils in Years 8 and 9, have completed a large textile wall hanging for Lab 6. The layout of the design is that of the Periodic table of Elements that all pupils have in their planners. Each pupil who worked on the project (and Mrs Lawson, Miss Dowler and Mrs Bond) designed and painted an image based on research into the element they were given. The result is a vibrant and imaginative visual version of the Periodic Table. It was the sterling efforts of Miss Dowler that finally



brought this dream together: Miss Dowler spent many hours assembling the 108 pieces & completing the letters and numbers required – so many thanks! The wall hanging will be going up in Lab 6 any time soon.

*Mrs Lawson*

## COMMUNITY SAFETY DAY

Year 9 pupils enjoyed taking part in Community Safety Day on February 7<sup>th</sup>. They learnt about road safety, alcohol awareness, anti-social behaviour, crime and its impact, fire safety and arson, and internet safety (e.g. Facebook).

At the start of the day some of us got a shock when we heard Inspector Mike Jones from Lincolnshire Police shouting at people whose top buttons were undone! The expectation that pupils would be correctly dressed was used as an example of the need to follow rules - and this was linked to the 'real-world' need to keep within the law. Keeping out of trouble was easy, so long as pupils followed the rules of the day. We learnt that keeping out of trouble in the community can be just as easy.

The day's activities were led by Police Officers, Anti-Social Behaviour Officers, Road Safety Officers, Firefighters, an Internet Safety Officer and the Co-op's Safer Measures Team. It was a treat for Year 9 PSD teachers, who followed their groups round and took part in the workshops alongside pupils.

### Why have a Community Safety Day?

- To learn that staying within the law is an important step towards achieving personal goals;
- To learn about the different services that support us in the community;
- To develop knowledge and understanding of personal safety;
- Every pupil in Year 9 is involved in a range of interesting workshops;
- To learn the importance of showing respect to others;
- To extend pupils' horizons beyond home/school life and understand aspects of our local community.
- In other words, learning to ASPIRE!

At the end of the day, pupils completed a questionnaire to give their thoughts and opinions about Community Safety. Everybody said they had enjoyed the day! The aspect of personal safety that pupils found most useful was learning how to use Facebook safely – and lots of pupils said that they would change their profile/settings as a result. The most popular part of the day was the alcohol awareness workshop, where pupils saw the impact of alcohol on hand-eye co-ordination when they tried to play catch whilst wearing 'beer goggles'. Pupils told us that the best parts of the day were the practical activities, such as having a go with handcuffs, and watching film clips. *Mrs Ackland*



**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

**FORTHCOMING SWRA EVENTS**

The Sir William Robertson Association is in the process of planning some forthcoming events for the next few months.

We have a Summer Raffle scheduled for the Summer term. There will be some big prizes up for grabs so do not miss out on buying your tickets when they become available.

In the Autumn term there will be a Fashion Show with prom outfits being modelled and lots of stalls to buy accessories etc.

Look out for further information on these events.

**E-mail & Website**

The school's website is frequently being updated with new information. Please visit us at

**[www.swrhs.org](http://www.swrhs.org)**

Also, don't miss out - register your e-mail address now to receive the latest letters and newsletters straight to your inbox. Visit the school website and click on the Parental Registration link or e-mail your details to [enquiries@swrhs.org](mailto:enquiries@swrhs.org)

*Remember to register your details for each of your children.*