



Nuntius

WIRRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL
A Foundation Business & Enterprise School for Boys

Cross Lane, Bebington, Wirral, CH63 3AQ | Tel: 0151 644 0908

April 2011



ICELAND 2011

The 2011 Iceland trip was a fascinating and incredible trip for everyone who was lucky enough to go on it! It enabled all the geographers and geologists in the group to get a first hand glimpse of some of the things we are taught about in lessons; the beautiful glaciers, volcanoes, geothermal power plants, and so much more! Not one minute was put to waste and I'm sure that it was an experience that we will never forget.

We jumped on the plane for our 3 hour flight to Iceland. We arrived in Reykjavik airport to be greeted by our bus driver who became a legendary figure of the trip. His name was "Otto", which became a catchy chant from the boys at back of the bus. We were warmly welcomed by the geothermal heated pools of the Blue lagoon, where we were all eager to get in, mostly because of the freezing cold Icelandic air!

We then went back to our 4 star hotel called Hafnarfjorour, where we went back for dinner; not the most appealing food I must say! It was a comfy sleep, although, much to our displeasure, we were woken up very early in the morning!



In the morning we had a two hour coach drive where we travelled to the waterfall Selfoss. It was a magnificent sight where we skidded across the ice to get a closer view. We all got great photo shots of the waterfall. We then had a mini snowball fight and then went into a nearby cafe

and got a warm drink and snack to warm ourselves up. The Mid-Atlantic ridge presented a beautiful river with some cracking views! Not only this, we visited the 'Strokkur' geyser where there were colossal outbursts of water reaching up to 100 feet in the air every 5 minutes!

On the Sunday, we got the chance to visit a 30m high waterfall where we were able to be intrepid hikers and walk behind the waterfall. We didn't half get wet though! Another big highlight of the trip was the glacial walk; armed with our pick axes like true Icelandic walkers, we put on our crampons and explored the crevasses and sinkholes amongst



the ice. Slipping over was probably not the most fun experience for Matty Stewart, whose 'life was saved' as he liked to say, by Joe Clegg. In the evening we went to a hotel in the countryside where we hoped to see the Northern Lights, but most of the lads were not too upset when they did not appear as they were distracted by another school (with girls) from Manchester.

There was a long coach journey on Monday morning to the glacier outlet lagoon where there was a range of sky blue icebergs. We also went on a beach where there were hundreds of outcrops of wacky-shaped ice blocks! On the way back, we went to see some basalt columns which were about 5-8m tall with very distinct and tessellating hexagonal edges. Jack Farthing acquired the nickname of "Bear Grylls", (an English adventurer/climber) as he was determined to climb every tall obstacle we met!

The final day was very "non-stop". We went on a brilliant coastal walk where we saw a range of coastal features, arches, stumps, and we once again got a glimpse of some basalt columns. The guide told us of how one man flew a plane through one of the arches, which, considering the small space was very impressive! We even saw a double rainbow near the end of the walk which was a spectacular sight!

On the final day, we were woken at 4 in the morning to get our early flight home. In a nutshell, the Iceland 2011 trip was just the most incredible, enjoyable and fun trip that we will never forget

Oliver Wedgwood &
Andrew Heath 10WS



'Nuntius on-line' Larger articles can be found by accessing the 'Nuntius On-Line' link via the school website www.wirralgrammarboys.com

Articles included are: Metz Work Experience – Jack Mercer U6 and Lower Sixth Paris Trip

Welcome

Dear All

The Spring Term this year must have been just about the longest on record, on account of Easter being so late. The term has included a spectacular array of extracurricular events and sporting achievements. Residential visits to Iceland, Paris, Austria and Spain have all taken place and you will find reports on these in this issue. Over the Easter holiday over fifty boys are taking part in the History Department visit to Berlin.

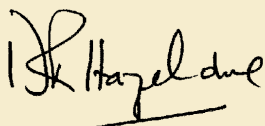
Please take your time to read some of our sporting achievements. We have had a number of spectacular successes in Basketball and Hockey that have involved regional and national recognition. The Spring Term would not be the same with all of the Rugby 7s tournaments taking place at venues all across the country.

Performance has been an important aspect of the Spring Term with our music concert and annual music competition. Of course, our biggest performance event is our annual school musical which this year has been Cabaret.

Towards the end of the term we have had a period of sadness with the passing of Mr Gordon Youd who was a great friend and colleague to many staff over the years. More especially, he was an exceptional teacher who inspired so many boys with his unique style of subject delivery. Our thoughts continue to be with his wife, Morag, and the rest of his family.

At the close of the Spring Term, I would like to thank all parents for their continued support for the school and wish everyone a very pleasant Easter break.

Yours sincerely,



David Hazeldine
Headteacher

Best Wishes! With the GCSE, A Level and AS Examination period fast approaching we extend our very best wishes to all boys who are taking public examinations this Summer. We are looking forward to another set of excellent results!

Tribute to Gordon Youd

**GORDON YOUD BA (Hons) MA
Cert. Ed. : 1935-2011**

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Geology and Geography Teacher, Gordon Youd and we extend our sincere condolences to his family.

Gordon Youd was born in 1935 and had been a pupil himself at Wirral Grammar School from 1947 until 1953. He took his O'Level examinations in 1951 and his A Levels in 1953 before going on to the University of Liverpool to study for his degree.

He graduated in 1956 and continued to study at Masters' Degree Level in 1958. Gordon returned to Wirral Grammar School in 1959 as a teacher of Geography and Geology where he taught, from 1959 until his retirement in 2000. During this period Gordon held the posts of Head of Geography and Geology, Examinations Officer and Senior Teacher. Following his official retirement he went on to teach for one year at Calday Grammar School where he was Acting Head of Geography. He returned to Wirral Grammar School in 2001 to teach Geology at both GCSE and A Level through until the time of his illness.

Gordon had been in his 52nd year of teaching, 51 years of which had been at Wirral Grammar School for Boys. He was an inspirational teacher with a passion for his subject. Many of his students went on to study Geology in further depth at University and follow related careers.

He will be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike.



UK INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE 2011

This year's competition was again a great success with 50 Wirral students in years 9 to 11 pitting their mathematical skills against the country's elite. We had three qualifiers for the next round, the Pink Kangaroo Contest; **Haydn Lloyd** (score 93) was best in school and close behind was **James Whitehouse** (92) and **George Anderson** (92). Best in year 9 was **Robin Leach** (61).

Other creditable gold certificate performances came from **Liam Hunt** (87), **Ben Sanders** (85), **Matthew Dobson** (78) and **Patrick Richardson** (86).

Well done to all those who participated and cooperated so well during the competition. Anyone can access the details of this and future competitions at www.ukmt.org.uk. Next up is the UK Junior Maths contest and any boys in Years 7 or 8 who are interested in taking part should ask their maths teacher before the event later this year.

Mr J Hough – Maths Department

Family Welcome Reunion

For all those students and parents who took part in the Yr 6/7 Transition Programme in 2010 (Family Welcome) we would like to invite you to attend a reunion on Tuesday 10th May 2011 at 4.00 pm. Refreshments will be provided.

GIFTED AND TALENTED NEWS (INCORPORATING 'AIM HIGHER')

Pupils from Year Ten attended a 'Gifted and Talented' Conference at Manchester University in January and others had a day at Liverpool John Moore's University on study skills and motivation. Two theatre companies came in this half term to work with Year Eleven on the set texts 'A View From The Bridge' and 'Of Mice and Men'. Year Eleven also had visits from our chief examiners to help them access the A* grades at GCSE. Forthcoming events include creative writing days for years seven and nine, a theatre club excursion to 'Oedipus', an Oxbridge admissions lecture and the usual book club meetings.

Mrs K Campbell

Prime Games – Maths Challenge

On the 4th March 2011 our school initiated a live video conference called Prime Games with a lecturer from Cambridge University. A number of local schools came to Wirral to take part in the conference. These included Brackenwood, Thornton Hough, Higher Bebington, Poulton Lancelyn, St Andrews and Irby. After a brief introduction, the university lecturer challenged the pupils in a number of games using prime numbers. They were designed to help the pupils learn about prime numbers and their properties. The games were challenging and so everyone had to take part in order to help the rest of their group. The primary school pupils worked really well and the morning ran smoothly. By the end of the session, everyone was much more confident regarding the importance of prime numbers and returned to their primary schools with ideas for creating their own prime number games. It is safe to say that every pupil learnt a great deal from this event as well as having fun. The technology worked flawlessly and the video quality was very good. Many thanks must go to Mrs Brinkman for her assistance in running the video conference.
Mr G Griffiths – Maths Department



UK Team Maths Challenge

This February, Elliot Fisher, Sam Fisher, Robin Leach and Rhys Cullen-Lloyd took part in the UK team maths challenge for our area at Birkenhead Independent School. Eighteen schools competed with an overall total of 19 teams. One of the many activities that we took part in was a cross-number (A crossword with numbers in it). It was quite challenging, but we came in the top five. This was followed by the relay race. We were split into teams of two, and had to run around to get our questions. This was difficult, but we were one of the teams that actually finished. We came in the top 5 for this as well.



We came in the top 5 for all of the events and this contributed to our 2nd place VICTORY!!! We would all like to thank Mrs Brinkman for organising the event and for teaching us the skills and Mr Adamson for taking us to Birkenhead and for motivational support. We would also like to thank the members of the maths challenge staff and the whole maths department of Wirral Grammar School for Boys. We were beaten unfortunately by Calday Grange Grammar School. Everyone was given a cube puzzle as a prize for participating; the top 3 teams each won a puzzle ruler and a bookmark.
Elliot Fisher & Sam Fisher 8GWG

GCSE Revision Support

Exam time is nearly here! For anyone requiring any extra support with revision plans/technique, coursework, or just wanting quiet time to study, GCSE Revision Support has already started and takes place in the IRC after school Mon - Thurs. For further information please see Mr Davies (Head of Year 11) or Mrs Walker (Learning Mentor).

World Book Day 2011

On the 3rd of March 2011 The English Department celebrated World Book Day by teaching dressed as literary characters (The Queen of Hearts from Alice in Wonderland, Miss Havisham from Great Expectations, Black Jack from Treasure Island, Lady Macbeth from Macbeth, Professor McGonagall from Harry Potter.
Mrs H Davies – Head of English



The West End comes to Wirral Grammar

A View From A Bridge

On the 24th of January, Top Box productions helped Year 11 as they came and acted out an edited version of "A View From A Bridge". This play was key in understanding about the themes, the characters and the play itself. We discovered other information about Arthur Miller's other works such as "The Crucible", and it helped increase our knowledge to aid us in our exams for the summer. We also acted out some of the key scenes in the play in the workshop that we did afterwards. It was a lot of fun and some of the acting was really good. I thoroughly enjoyed it and most other people did as well.
Jay Panchal 11HD

Of Mice & Men

On 7th February Year 11 were lucky enough to watch the play version of "Of Mice and Men", produced by Top Box Productions. This play aided our knowledge and understanding of the book "Of Mice and Men", which we are all studying prior to our summer examinations. On this day we watched an edited version of the play, followed by a theatre workshop and questions and answers. This experience gave us a new perspective to the play and we learnt about themes, attitudes of the characters and the context of the play. I am sure that everyone who was privileged enough to attend found that it was beneficial to their learning.
Max Hunt 11HD



Year 8 Trip to the Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds

The Royal Armouries Building was colossal. It had six floors filled with galleries related to all aspects of weaponry; War, Tournament, Oriental, Self Defence, Hunting and the Hall of Steel.

On the second floor was the Hall of Steel. It was a towering, octagonal room with a high ceiling. On each 40 foot wall hung many items of medieval weaponry and armour. Shining breastplates, long pikes with spear-like ends and gleaming rapiers with ornate hand protectors were just some of the many items displayed. There was a flat-based prism in the middle of the room with each triangular mirror reflecting images of dazzling weapons and armour from the Medieval Age.

We wandered round the galleries for thirty minutes then got together at the meeting place and entered the dress-up room. It was quite entertaining; the two members of staff who worked in that room allocated a few people to stand up in front of the whole group and dress up as different kinds of people from the time of the English Civil War. We then had a chance to try on whatever we liked, and a man at the back allowed people to hold an artificial pike (a long spear-like weapon) and showed us how to hold it correctly.

In the Oriental gallery we saw a sword fighting demonstration with a few training weapons used by the English army in the 16 and 1700s; fencing blades, hollow wooden swords and long wooden staffs. A few people stayed behind to have a go at holding them. We visited the War gallery; a gallery based mainly around the two World Wars.

To conclude our time at the Royal Armouries Museum; we went to the museum shop. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Royal Armouries Leeds; and it was an unforgettable experience for me as well as all who went that day.

Sam Reilly 8RR

Charity Update

Fundraising has continued throughout both the Winter and Spring terms; a wide range of events – notably, the ever-popular annual Staff Karaoke – have thus far raised a total of £3500 on behalf of UNICEF, this year's nominated charity. We expect that further fundraising activities such as the yearly Fun Run will add to this total in the coming months.

The school has also launched an emergency fundraising initiative in response to the earthquake and subsequent tsunami which have devastated Japan's North-East coastline. Collection boxes have been distributed to form tutors and the boys' response has been overwhelmingly positive.

Jan Greenshaw (Head Boy)

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM VISIT

The visit to the Imperial War Museum on 13th January promised to expand Year 10 historians' knowledge of the causes and effects of the two world wars which makes up our GCSE course.

Conflicts after World War II such as Ireland were also mentioned. We were shown two picture shows which gave personal accounts of war such as an evacuee who was locked away by his guardians. When we weren't looking at picture shows we could look at the other exhibits. One was a letter from a soldier just telling his family that he was coping. As a school we were allowed to do a workshop. In this we were given various artefacts. One told us how rough it was to serve in the Navy. We were also shown damage from the Blitz. The Imperial War Museum shows how war shapes lives.

Adam Hitchcock 10MH

Religious Education: Year 9 Holocaust Memorial Visit 2011

Holocaust Survivor, Rudi Oppenheimer



On the 2nd February 2011, the whole of Year 9 visited the Floral Pavilion in New Brighton. This was the official Holocaust Memorial Commemoration day for the Wirral. The day is about remembering those who perished in the holocaust, those who died afterwards because of it and those who are still with us today. We were greeted by the mayor and the memorial staff whilst a piece of music from the holocaust was played.

The mayor of Wirral came onto the stage to officially open the day. After this we were given a briefing on what the day is about and how it has been remembered in the past. We then had a short talk about some untold stories of the Holocaust which a presentation was then given by Upton Hall School on their experience during a visit which they had to Auschwitz. Finally, it was time for Rudi Oppenheimer himself to give his speech about his Jewish family before, during and after the Holocaust.

A bit about Rudi Oppenheimer

Rudi was born in 1931 in Berlin before moving to Holland in 1936. In 1940 when the German troops invaded, Rudi's family avoided deportation because his father worked for the Jewish Council. In 1943, when Rudi was just 12 years of age, his family was captured and sent to Westbrook and later to Belsen. After the war, Rudi and his brother moved to England where they have lived since 1945. Rudi is now retired and regularly gives these talks like his brother used to, before he unfortunately died in 1997.

Finally it was the end of the memorial service. Overall it was a very interesting experience. If you want to know more about Rudi and the Holocaust then visit (www.het.org.uk)

Alex Farrell 9OA

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ANNUAL SCHOOL MUSIC COMPETITION

The Annual School Music Competition attracted almost 70 boys, each attempting to reach the final on Wednesday 16 March whilst gaining house points as well. Now in its fourteenth year, the audience was treated to some command performances in the final adjudicated by Mr Edward Peak, a professional conductor, arranger and double bass player who lives in Irby.

Congratulations to this year's winners:

Years 7-9: Ben Turner 8KM
Years 10-11: Jamie Shorrock 10MH
Years 12-13: Adam Shorrock U67

Commiserations to the other finalists listed below, but well done to all performers for entering this year - I'm sure that all enjoyed their chocolate bar, courtesy of sponsorship from the local Co-op! I hope everyone will try again next time - remember you will be competing against different people as you will be a year older.

Finalists: Joshua Beale 7AD, Christopher Wilkinson 7AD, William Bracken 7LEM, Ben Albuquerque 9PT, Alex Roberts 10AB, Ben Savage 10AB, Sam Molyneux 10WS, George Anderson 10WS, John Keeble 11HD, Alex Whittaker L64, Martin Kupilas L67, William Vick U61,

Congratulations as well to the following successful Music Exam candidates who took the exam in February. There are a particularly high number of merits and distinctions this time so well done to all the following:

Name	Form	Instrument	Grade	Result
Ben	Dobbins	7GA	Trumpet	1 Merit
Haydn	Ward	7GA	Saxophone	1 Merit
Nathan	Morton	7RB	Cornet	3 Pass
Samual	Wood	7RW	Saxophone	1 Merit
Ben	Noble	8AJM	Horn	3 Merit
Druvi	Edirisinghe	8KM	Violin	3 Merit
John	Lacey	8RR	Violin	3 Pass
Joseph	Jack	9JHH	Saxophone	1 Merit
Robert	Foard	9JMC	Trumpet	2 Merit
Ryan	Clarke	9JMC	Saxophone	2 Pass
Sam	Bilton	9OA	Trumpet	3 Pass
Aaron	Cove	9SMC	Saxophone	1 Merit
Jonty	Shannon	10WS	Trombone	3 Pass
Phillip	Wade	11JLH	Violin	2 Merit
Luke	Goldsmith	11JLH	Saxophone	3 Distinction
William	Ekuban	L64	Violin	4 Pass
Thomas	Smith	U64	Saxophone	3 Distinction
Mrs	Brinkman		Clarinet	1 Merit

A particular mention should go to Mrs Brinkman, who becomes the first teacher to enter for a music exam in school. It is NEVER too late to learn.

Results of keyboard, guitar and vocal exams taken just before Easter didn't quite make the Nuntius deadline, so watch out for those results in the summer issue.

Jazz music is always popular, and Year 7 were treated to some exceptional demonstrations in the afternoon on Friday 11 February by Parr Jazz, a professional jazz quintet. After an hour of performing to the whole year group, the 5 musicians invited 30 selected pupils from across all age ranges to join in with a jamming session, learn about some of the different jazz styles, and discover what life is like as a professional musician.

Members of the Concert Band were able to obtain very valuable experience of performing outside of school when they took part in a Wirral Schools Concert at the Floral Pavilion on Sunday 13 March. As well as performing at an event advertised across the whole of Wirral to a good-sized audience, money was also raised for the charity 'Help the Heroes'.

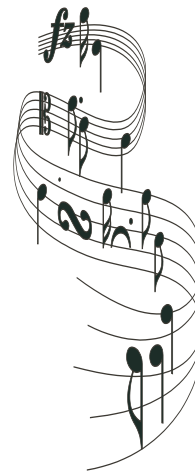
The usual Spring Concert is on Tuesday 12 April with a matinee performance in the afternoon. This matinee concert is given to an audience made up of children from local primary schools, this year attended by Stanton Rd and Brackenwood Primary School. The school show, Cabaret, was its usual runaway success but congratulations as well to Calum Redhead L66, William Vick U61, Matthew Lochhead U61 and Adam Shorrock U67 for making the step up and playing with the supporting band, made up of professional players.

Fundraising efforts for the tour to Italy including a special 'Italian' themed Spring Concert and a bag pack at Morrison's have been organised, and much thanks should go to Mrs Kemp, Mrs Preston, Mrs Redhead and others for their hard work and dedication in supporting these events. 57 pupils will be travelling to Liguria in July of this year, and as well as concerts at bandstands and churches across the region, at which audiences are expected to be large, trips will be arranged to venues such as the city of Monaco, La Caravelle (a popular water-park), and Europe's largest aquarium in Genoa. This means that the statement I made last year still stands - if your son misbehaves on the tour, we really can feed him to the sharks.

Practice hard over Easter!
Mr P Thomas Music Department



winners of the Music Competition: Adam Shorrock, Jamie Shorrock and Ben Turner with the adjudicator Mr Edward Peak'



Visit to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Hall

On Thursday 17th March, Year 8 attended a concert at the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Hall. This orchestral concert was aimed at Key Stage 3 students, and was entitled "Beyond the Final Frontier". The programme consisted of music that has links with space; this included famous classical works, such as Holst's "The Planets Suite", and popular film music like "Star Wars". The audience had the opportunity to hear each family of instruments being played independently, which was of great benefit to Year 8, who are currently learning about orchestral instruments in class. There were plenty of interactive moments where we sang along with the music, and took part in a "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" style quiz. The concert was very well received by the pupils, who recently wrote reviews of their experience. The following are some of the comments that were made:

"The concert was amazing. They introduced each section of the orchestra by playing songs which best represented the sounds of the instruments. I thought this was very effective and interesting."
Adam Rasell-Watson, 8KLJ

"This was an inspiring concert with fantastic choices of music, expertly played by the orchestra."
Joshua Devoy, 8KM

"I was pleasantly surprised...I would go again."
Jake Clement-Jones, 8AJM

"I really enjoyed the trip because of the music they played. It wasn't boring because they made it interactive and included us in it."
Jack Henderson, 8GWG

I would like to congratulate the boys on a successful trip. Their behaviour was excellent, and they represented the school really well. I'd also like to thank the staff who supported this event.

Mrs A Chalmers

HOUSE MATTERS: FORTHCOMING CHANGES TO THE REWARDS SYSTEM AT WGSB.....

Please watch this space for more details, but there are some significant changes on their way to our Commendation / House Point systems.

These are as a result of feedback from students and staff and follow on from changes to the house system over the last year or so. The main changes focus on:

- An amalgamation of Commendations and House Points - the new awards will be called **House Commendations (HC's)** – reflecting the fact that an individual is being rewarded for personal effort whilst also simultaneously contributing to their House total.
- As the total of House Commendations per individual / house will significantly increase, a new tariff for rewards has been produced and will be made advertised very soon.
- There will still be five main areas for reward, namely: Achievement; Sport; Music & Drama; Enterprise and Creativity; Attendance plus a Miscellaneous category for anything else!
- The 2011-12 student planners will carry information regarding these changes.
- Staff will be able to pilot the electronic recording of House Commendations, to complement student collection of awards in planners.
- Round-ups of House Commendation totals will continue to be carried out and publicised on the plasma screens on a half-termly basis.

Hopefully this streamlining of the system will boost the levels of HC's, encourage further achievement and competition and allow students greater knowledge of their HC totals.

More details to follow.....keep watching and let's see which house is able to claim the House Rewards event this summer.

Stop press: It's looking good for Lever again so far but Dodds are catching up fastcome on Barber and Hodgson – get collecting those rewards!

Mrs L Ahern.

Spelling Bee

For the first time boys from years seven and eight participated in a French and Spanish spelling B. All students took part in round one and the winners from each class proceeded to the next stage. The boys practised every Wednesday lunch time and quickly became very efficient with some students correctly spelling as many as fifteen words in a minute. Thursday the tenth of February saw the school final take place in the hall. All boys performed extremely well and their class mates offered superb support. The top four French spellers were Ellis le Gall, Daniel Craven, Lewis Clarke and Matthew Bowen, and the top four Spanish spellers were Aaron D'Cruz, Ian Jones, George Watson and Declan Barrigan. Ellis le Gall, Daniel Craven, Aaron D'Cruz and Ian Jones represented the school in the regional final in Manchester Metropolitan University on the 16th of March.



Aaron D'Cruz and Ian Jones successfully made it through to the grand final in Cambridge in July after coming 2nd and 4th in the whole of the north west.

This was an amazing achievement and representatives from the Spanish Embassy who were there were also extremely impressed. Well done to all boys who took part in this event.

Mr J Hughes
Head of Modern Foreign Languages



Rights and Humanity Conference

To celebrate its re-location to Liverpool the International Human Rights organisation **Rights and Humanity** held a seminar for young people on International Human Rights Day last December. Eleven students from the 6th Form attended at R&H's impressive HQ in the Royal Liver Buildings. A presentation was given about the work of the organisation in helping the poor and disadvantaged of the world realise their basic human rights and dignity. In September 2011 a major Human Rights conference will be held in Liverpool, co-ordinated by Rights & Humanity. Wirral Grammar will again contribute and participate in this event.

Mr P Ronayne
Community Partnerships Manager



Parent Mail:

Is your email address up to date? The majority of parents with computer access have registered an e-mail address with us and 'Parent Mail' is proving to be a fast and effective means of getting letters and messages to parents. To remain effective, parents need to keep their e-mail address information up-to-date. If you have not registered, or if your e-mail address has changed, this can be amended by logging into the Parent Mail website: www.parentmail.co.uk and following the 'parent login' link or by contacting the school office.

Building Developments Up-Date

During the Autumn Term and the start of the Spring Term, our building programme suffered a few delays which were the consequence of very poor weather and then the bankruptcy of the building contractor.

The programme has now recommenced at a pace and three new areas are due to be handed over by the middle of May. Our new facilities will include: new changing rooms for physical education, a new 'Activity Hall' that is located next to the Sports Hall and a new Food and Cookery Room. Our Lecture Theatre is also being re-furnished with a multi-purpose conference/exhibition and performance space.

The next stage in our programme is the new teaching area for Art and Design. This will include a mixture of the refurbishment of the old PE changing rooms and a new extension alongside. Our Parents' Association has agreed to support the creation of an Art garden/project area that will be immediately outside the new Art teaching area. We expect this project to commence in the latter part of the summer Term and continue through into the Autumn Term 2011.



Our new on-line payment facility

A reminder that we now have a new payment system available for parents to use. This allows payments to be made 'on-line'. Increasing numbers of parents are finding this to be a much more convenient arrangement for payments of school visits and related activities. In order to set up +Pay, parents need to take the following steps:

In order to activate the option for +Pay please follow the steps detailed below;

Go to www.parentmail.co.uk

Click the "Parent login button"

Enter your user name and password (if you cannot remember your details please select "forgotten password" and follow the prompts)

Once logged in to your account please check and confirm your details after making any amendments

Click on the Home tab and the green activation box will be displayed.

Enter the Activation Key 902AFE2866E6905 into the field

Click 'Activate'

Change for Life - Handball

In January of this year we launched a new initiative in school, based around the Change for Life Programme. Handball has always been an important part of our curriculum in the Spring term but rarely formalised into an extracurricular club. 25 boys have signed up for this new venture and have attended regularly on Wednesday evenings. Thanks also must go to Rob Price, an ex pupil and now student at UJMU, for his contribution and input into these sessions.

Merseyside Handball trials, March 2011. Thirteen boys attended the two trials at Woodchurch High School, 8 boys then found themselves selected for the Merseyside Squad to play in the Regional Championships in Wolverhampton on the 19th March 2011. Those boys were:

Ben Thompson	Haydn Gatley
Ben Brooks	Will Kelly
Oliver Stapleton	Sam Wick
Jack Oliver	Jordan Price Y9

Congratulations to them all, well done.
Mr G Money

PEER SUPPORT GROUP

The current U6th PSG will shortly be stepping down from their posts and introducing the new reps to year 7. Many thanks to the following students for their commitment and enthusiasm to the PSG and to supporting lower school - Jamie McCann, Islam Ahmed, Jack Neil, Neil Oldham, Matthew Keith and Andrew Rich.

The standard of applications from lower sixth to take on the role of PSG rep was fantastic - congratulations to Alex Keen, Adam Davies, Aaron Bhullar, Joe Molloy, Yyanis Johnson-Llambias - who will shortly be trained up to take over their positions as year 7 representatives. Due to the high standard we have also taken on three further representatives as Associate Representatives - Daniel Salisbury, Saad Qureshi and Usman Hayat.

Academy Update

At the Governing Body meeting held on 15th March 2011, Governors agreed unanimously to the school proceeding with a conversion to Academy status.

All Governors were issued with the individual responses from the consultation process that took place from 1st February until 8th March 2011. The majority of secondary schools in Wirral are at various stages of conversion to Academy status and this reflects a national pattern. As we have indicated previously, becoming an Academy will make little difference to the day to day management of the school. As a former 'Grant Maintained' school in the 1990s we are very familiar with independence and local resource management. The main concerns reflected in the consultations were for reassurances that academic selection will be unaffected and the name of the school will not change. It is our expectation that additional funding will follow as a consequence and that we will have greater flexibility on how resources are deployed. The precise date for conversion remains to be finalised as there is a legal process involved for which the Governors are receiving professional advice and guidance. Our school website contains further information and background to our Academy deliberations.

Molecular Genetics at Liverpool University

Upper sixth form Biology students proved their "gene-ius" at The University of Liverpool Molecular Genetics laboratories in January. The students were kindly invited to the department by Dr Andy Bates and experienced a day of DNA extraction and manipulation.

They started by taking the DNA from their own cheek cells. In order to analyse their DNA, each student and the teachers had to make millions of copies of their genes using a process called PCR. The DNA was visualised using a gel and the students could see what genes they had. The teachers, in particular Mrs Clements and Mr Marshall-Clarke, were significantly more skilled in this process as was evidenced by their impressive outcomes.

After this, they removed more DNA, this time from bacteria, and used special enzymes to cut the DNA and analyse it. Again, Mr Marshall-Clarke and Mrs Clements revealed why they would not be out of place in a real forensics laboratory. The final part of the day allowed the students to visit the departments within the Life Sciences building. Impressive, up to date research on DNA sequencing using £500,000 machines and cancer cell imaging revealed some of the impressive work being carried out by University staff.

We would like to thank Dr Andy Bates and his colleagues for generously giving up their time to accommodate us for the day.

Parent Surveys: Thank You

Parents will be aware that we ask for surveys to be completed at each of our Parents' Evenings during the year. Increasing numbers of parents are responding to our surveys and on average, we have a return of over 55%. The higher the return, the more representative the sample is. Parent feedback is helpful with our forward planning and developments including the introduction of 'Parent Mail', the initiation of the 'Parent Weekly News Bulletin' and the extension of Parents' Evening times are all partially attributable to parent survey feedback.

Where parents include a personal message with their name, we do endeavour to respond. The analysis of each survey is sent directly to the parents of that respective year group within two to three weeks of the survey having been conducted. Parents are able to view the analyses of all of the surveys from the previous year through the school website (www.wirralgrammarboys.com)

Catering Contract

During the Spring Term, a new catering contract was issued to a North West based firm called 'Catering Academy'. Members of the School Council took a proactive part in the tender process and gave a presentation to hopeful contenders. Catering Academy will be taking over at Easter and over the Summer Term and Summer holidays they will be making a number of changes to the catering operation. New menus and investment in kitchen equipment and dining hall furniture are all part of the plan.

Cashless Payment System: part of the investment will include a cashless payment system for making food purchases. Boys will be able to pay money into an account using 'top up' machines in school and parents will be able to pay directly into each boy's account 'on-line' through our new +Pay System. Eventually the system will allow parents to view the purchases that have been made. Boys who are eligible for free school meals will be able to make electronic purchases without the need to provide any documentation. Further details of our cashless payment system will be issued to parents during the Summer Term.

Wirral Languages Competition

In December 2010, Ryan Oliver, Aitor Izquierdo, Adam Hitchcock and I, along with Miss Burns travelled to Calday Grammar School for the annual Wirral Languages Competition. We had to compete alongside Wirral Girls and several other schools in a series of tasks in which we had to work in our target language, which was Spanish. Tasks included telephone interviews, business meetings, and PowerPoint presentations in Spanish. Throughout the day we worked and tried our best, and with minutes to spare until the deadline, we suffered a computer error which nearly lost us most of our work!. However, we worked through these problems to finish the day on a high.

When it came to the prize giving at the end of the day, we were awarded prizes and certificates for developing the best business idea that was presented to the board in a similar situation to that on Dragons' Den. We enjoyed the day and we tried our very best.

Dan Thompson 10MH



'Nuntius on-line' Larger articles can be found by accessing the 'Nuntius On-Line' link via the school website www.wirralgrammarboys.com

Articles included are: Metz Work Experience – Jack Mercer U6 and Lower Sixth Paris Trip

At The European Youth Parliament

On 9th February 2011 8 boys from the Lower 6th represented the school at a regional session of the European Youth Parliament held in the magnificent surroundings of Liverpool Town Hall's Council Chamber.

12 schools from across the North West contributed to the debates which reflected many of the difficult issues facing the European Union in the second decade of the 21st Century.

The session was opened by Liverpool's Lord Mayor, Hazel Williams who was delighted to see so many young people taking a passionate interest in local, national and international affairs.



Some of the boys inside the Council Chamber



Sean Cavanagh makes a point during a debate

Mr P Ronayne, Community Manager.

Chess Club

Over the past seven weeks we have had an exciting event in Chess Club: The British Land UK Chess Challenge. Over 40 year 7s took part and each and every one of them gave it their very best although it is worth taking a moment to congratulate our winner: Adam Shirt 7RW with 20 points and our runners up: Alistair Dodd and Daniel O'Halloran 7AD collecting a notable 19 points each. Secondly, can you please raise a hand for the competitors, accumulating 15 points or more, getting them through to The Megafinal!

Prior to this, The Chess Ladder is keeping us all occupied, and some games have proven very surprising. Currently, Daniel Hale 7RB is top, however I'm sure there are some determined minds just waiting to take his place.

Finally, I'd like to thank Mrs Turner for giving up her lunch to run Chess Club and to everyone for giving each other some great games! Well done everyone. Keep it up!

Aaron Aspell 8GWG

HISTORY TRIP APRIL 2011

About the time this magazine is given out, 48 boys from Years 9 and 10, plus 5 staff will be preparing to leave for the annual History trip. Departing on the 15th April and returning on the 20th, this year we will be heading for Berlin and Auschwitz, and I am sure the boys will be looking forward to it. A report on the trip will be issued in the next edition. At some point in the summer term, I will be handing out information about next year's trip, so boys eager to go should look out for details which will also be placed outside my room in Hi1.

Mr L McKibbin

Y9 History Presentation: Local Boys who served in World War One.

On the 7th of March, a selected group of year 9 pupils were asked to attend a presentation about World War 1 veterans and what life was like back at home and how the government and the families coped with the fatalities or injuries of their boys. Also there was an insight on women's rights and how they were affected by the war. In Hi4, all the boys attending were attentive to every word Mrs. Fisher quoted and all found it extremely interesting. They learnt how medals were given out and what families were given to them when their husbands and sons died (memorial plaque, certificate and receipt). The supervising teachers, Dr. Favager and Mrs. Ahern were thoroughly pleased with how the presentation went and were deeply grateful for all the research and work Mrs. Fisher had put into teaching the boys on World War 1. Since Christmas Year 9 have been studying the causes, weapons and much more of the Great War and have found the information given to them very useful in homework and schoolwork including essays. They also learnt how underage volunteers did not receive as many medals and awards as men who were legal volunteers.

Finally the boys were taught how Mrs. Fisher managed to gather information about the soldiers of Eastham which included ancestry.com and others. Overall year 9 had a great time and found it extremely educational and helpful.

James Barnes 9JHH.



Community Development

'Solar Crows fly into Irby Primary School!'

Sixteen Primary Schools competed in Global Entrepreneurship week during November 2010. Their task was to put together a project that would show that we don't need to use as many non-renewable energy sources as we presently use and to design something that uses and creates renewable energy. Their design had to be eye catching and have a list of features that would help people to understand energy and its uses. The following three schools, Brackenwood, Irby and Thornton Hough made it through to the final held at Wirral Grammar on 2nd February, 2011. All three schools presented superb projects to the panel and eventually the judges decided on a winner; Irby Primary Schools Solar Crows, solar powered scare-crows made from recyclable materials and using tiny solar powered panels to power moving parts. All of the finalists were presented with embossed certificates supplied by Outhouse Design of Irby. The winners received Tesco gift vouchers and will be presented with T shirts with a logo of their winning design. Pictured below are the teams from Thornton Hough and Brackenwood with their projects.

As a result of a successful GEW competition, Wirral Grammar School was awarded a Badge of Honour, High Impact Award.



131 out of over 700 GEW event organisers have qualified for this prestigious accolade. Enterprise UK said "You successfully ran an inspiring, impactful event during Global



Entrepreneurship Week and we want you to shout about it". I would like to thank the children and staff of our partner primary schools who made this possible, together with our sponsors and Enterprise partners.

Forging International Links

Since arriving at Wirral Grammar I have been actively encouraging international partnerships with schools both from the first world and the developing countries of the world. I am grateful to all the staff and pupils I have consulted about this, including Gareth Horton from the School Council. In February Mr Nick Clayton visited the school from Cambridge English School, Hawally Kuwait to discuss establishing links between the two schools.

Paul Ronayne
Community Partnerships Manager



CABARET - This year's school production is Cabaret.

Cabaret is a musical based on a book written by Joe Masteroff, music by John Kander and lyrics by Fred Ebb. The 1966 Broadway production became a hit and spawned a 1972 film as well as numerous subsequent productions. It is based on John Van Druten's 1951 play I Am a Camera, which in turn was adapted from the novel Goodbye to Berlin by Christopher Isherwood. Set in 1931 Berlin as the Nazis are rising to power, it focuses on nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub and revolves around the 19-year-old English cabaret performer Sally Bowles and her relationship with the young American writer Cliff Bradshaw.

A sub-plot involves the doomed romance between German boarding house owner Fräulein Schneider and her elderly suitor Herr Schultz, a Jewish fruit vendor. Overseeing the action is the Master of Ceremonies at the Kit Kat Klub which serves as a constant metaphor for the tenuous and threatening state of late Weimar Germany throughout the show.



SAM Learning

The Summer Term is when the majority of pupils who are studying for GCSE examinations make full and effective use of the SAM (Self Assessment Method) website. Statistical evidence shows that a minimum of ten task hours completed on-line increases pupils' examination performances.

SAM learning is available at www.samlearning.com. The Centre ID is set at CH63WGZ and the User ID and password are both set as date of birth and initials (for example 12th January 1993 for Joe Smith would be 120193JS). As the school pays a subscription for this website, it is free to pupils.

Learning Resource Centre (LRC): NEWS

The LRC Has continued to arrange for visits by prominent teen authors. This term has seen a visit by Curtis Jobling, one of the animators responsible for the making of Wallace and Gromit, and also the creator of Bob the Builder, who has just published his first teen novel, the first in a new fantasy saga about werewolves. He spoke to year 7 and 8 pupils in January.



Curtis Jobling speaking to pupils in the LRC

In February, Jim Carrington, who writes for older teens, also visited, to speak to boys from years 9 and 10, and to promote his new novel, a thriller about 2 boys who find a holdall full of money and have to



decide what to do with it!!!

Jim Carrington speaking to and meeting with year 9 and 10 pupils in the LRC

Both visits were very successful, and all the boys who took part enjoyed the opportunity they had to meet with these authors.

WORK EXPERIENCE AT AS Creatives

In November 2010, I was given the opportunity to undertake weekly work experience at 'As Creatives', an independent creativity consultancy based in Liverpool. Their objective is to work alongside various schools across Merseyside to enhance the school's artistic and creative skills. My work experience activities involved being set various tasks to utilise my IT and Creative Skills.

I was made very welcome by the pleasant staff, and from day one, felt comfortable in a good working environment. The first project I was given was to design a PowerPoint presentation to engage pupils in thinking about



Liverpool from various aspects including the history, tourism and present day. I was extremely pleased about the feedback I was given on my presentation which led to the team at 'As Creatives' using it on their visit to St. Johns Fisher Primary School.

Obviously I was delighted when I was asked to return after the Christmas break to undertake a further project, because I was thoroughly enjoying the experience. The second project I was given was to identify icons and images to represent six key areas of information, advice and guidance to secondary school students, and to present it on a PowerPoint Presentation. This was again approved by the team at 'As Creatives' and it was used on their visits to Newton High School and Maghull High School. It is rewarding to think that two projects I have solely worked on are now being used within a business organisation.

The atmosphere in the workplace was very friendly and the staff treated me as a friend rather than as a work colleague. I also feel that I have gained valuable skills during my time there and as a result I will feel much more confident when I enter the real world of work.

On the whole I would highly recommend this opportunity to any pupil to undertake Work Experience, as doing so would improve your University Application Form, look good on your CV and also give you an insight into the running of a business.

Ryan Mackenzie U67

Rainforest Roadshow Year 9

Recently, in school we had a visit from the Rainforest Road show to introduce us to our new topic on ecosystems. It was a great way of teaching us about the rainforest, its diverse cultures and the Ameridan way of life, as well as the animals and insects that live around them. We saw a big display of all the tribes and places in the rainforest and the souvenirs that Dave Shaw had collected on his trips to various rainforests throughout the world. Also with him were some of the insects you may find in the rainforest; including a tarantula, a praying mantis and a scorpion, in addition to some Brazil nuts and a manioc (or cassava), which the tribal people use to make their bread.

He showed us many of the spectacular things of the rainforest and one of the most interesting things was the blowpipe in which he loaded a dart and shot a balloon across the classroom, showing its deadly power. In the rainforest they would poison the dart, and be able to shoot a distance of over 60 metres. The insects were very interesting and he told us that the larger more scary looking ones, which he kept, were actually a lot less harmful than others.

Overall, the whole experience was invaluable, and everyone enjoyed learning about the rainforest. Thank you to the geography department for organising the visit.
Joe Lawton 9SMC

Annual Ski Trip

The annual ski trip has just arrived back from a very sunny Austria where all the pupils involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves yet again. We returned this year yet again to the same resort and Hotel and as usual were given a very warm welcome. We have built up an excellent relationship over the years and this year's group further enhanced the reputation of the schools and are to be congratulated for the way they conducted themselves both on and off the slopes. The pupils were absolutely superb in every way and were a credit to the schools and their parents. They were as good a group as I have taken away.

The Boys and the Girls Schools join together to make a combined party; this year 48 boys and 28 girls took part in yet another very successful trip. I am already being asked if we can go next year again.

The weather was fantastic and the snow conditions were remarkably good, with some snow falling the day after we arrived. The party was a mix of some very good skiers and complete novices to the sport and they all got on very well indeed. Inevitably there were one or two (hundred) crashes during the week but nearly all escaped unscathed. That is except Jack Davies who hurt his ankle on day 2 and did not ski for the rest of the week. To be fair Jack dealt with this very well and never moaned at all. Well done Jack and better luck next time.

I am pleased to say that all the pupils made excellent progress on the piste, coming back much better skiers than when they went. They were fortunate to have blue cloudless skies for most of the week with almost perfect conditions to ski and soak up the atmosphere of Austria.

There were very few problems apart from the late start because the driver got lost and then the coach would not start! Also the minor issue of Mr Davies almost leaving all the passports in the hotel safe. Thank you Mrs Crowley for the reminder. Apart from these issues the pupils made this one of the easiest trips I have taken away and considering the large number of pupils this is no mean feat.

I would like to finish by thanking the pupils for their behaviour during the trip which was excellent and also to the staff who worked very well together throughout and gave of their time to make this trip possible.

Mr I F Davies



Visit to Parliament

On 28th January twenty sixth-form students took part in a trip to London as part of their studies for their Politics and History A-Levels alongside Mr Ronayne and Mrs Ahern.



We arrived at Portcullis House, an architecturally interesting building, close to Parliament used as meeting space and offices for MP's and their staff whilst in Westminster to meet our tour guides for the trip. We were then able to use the underground passage from the building to the Houses of Parliament – a place which is usually closed to the general public. After passing underneath the road we were led into Parliament itself.

Our tour guide, gave us background information and answered questions as we walked through the impressive and varied areas of Parliament. We began in the Central Lobby, the area usually used on television for interviews with politicians within Parliament. We then moved through to the Members Lobby of the House of Lords where MP's meet before entering into the House. Around the perimeter of the room are statues and busts of selected Prime Ministers include Margaret Thatcher, Winston Churchill and Lloyd George. It's considered lucky for members to rub the toes of the last two statues mentioned on entry to the Chamber.

We then went into the House of Commons, the room which we are all probably most familiar with in Parliament. The familiar green leather seats and central desk seemed almost to be part of a set from a film rather than real life. Afterwards we visited the Divisions Lobby where MP's make their decision on votes within parliament and the voting system and voting etiquette was explained to us.



We then did the same for the impressive House of Lords chamber which was grandly decorated. We were shown the throne where the monarch sits during the opening of parliament, the benches which the Lords sit on and a brief explanation of the concept of hereditary and life peers. Finally we were taken to Westminster hall, a building several hundred years old, and were given a brief history of it.

After the trip, we were also lucky enough to have local MP and for Wirral West and Wirral Grammar student, Alison McGovern, come into school to talk to politics students about her role in government as well as answering questions put forward by students.

Thanks from everyone who went on the trip to Mr Ronayne and Mrs Ahern for organising and supervising this very enjoyable and informative day in London and the Houses of Parliament.
Calum Redhead L66

'Nuntius on-line' Larger articles can be found by accessing the 'Nuntius On-Line' link via the school website www.wirralgrammarboys.com

Articles included are: Metz Work Experience – Jack Mercer U6 and Lower Sixth Paris Trip

Bantams Season 2010-2011

County Honours

West Cheshire U14s Aaron Drury, Jordan Price, Jack Kelly and Taylor Craven

A TEAM. Played 17 Won 11 Lost 6 Pts for 416 Pts against 288.

B TEAM. Played 6 Won 5 Lost 1 Pts for 151 Pts against 62.

Sedbergh 7's ¼ Final Main

Barnet 7's 3rd in Group

Wirral GS 7's Semi Final Main

The season has been long and hard for the players of both A and B squads and I would like to thank them all for their commitment and effort throughout the season. At the start of the season Mr Baker was the coach; after Christmas Mr McKinney and Mr King took on the role and for the sevens Mr Atkinson became involved as well. The lads responded brilliantly to all the changes and all the coaches have commented on their attitude to training and playing. Particular mention must go to Aaron Drury for captaining the side, and also to Jack Kelly who amassed 29 of the 60 tries scored by the team, a fantastic effort.

West Cheshire Aaron Drury

15 A Side Report

After Christmas results were not up to the standard previously set, the highlights being convincing wins over local rivals Calday, and Birkenhead. The former was also a Cheshire Cup Game. A heavy defeat to Adams Grammar and defeat by 10-5 to Anselms meant the season finished a little bit disappointingly. We played Lymm HS in the semi-final of the Cheshire Cup at home and although we knew they had an excellent side and would be difficult to beat, expectations were high as home advantage would be a help. The players fought hard and were outplayed by a rampant Lymm side. The final score of 43-0 left the lads deflated, thought knowing they had played against a great side. The overall statistics show the team has progressed and with some hard work over the summer, we can hopefully close the gap on the sides that beat us. The B team have only had a few games, but again their results show how much depth we have in the year. A great season that without numerous cry offs and cancellations, would have been even better.

7 A Side Report

At Sedbergh we lost out narrowly to Durham School in the quarter finals of the main competition, after having beaten Rossall and

KEQM to finish 2nd in a tough group. We then travelled down to the Barnet sevens, an event in which we were the only Northern team to be invited, and were placed in the same group as Abingdon, St Benedicts and Ryde Schools. This is one of the top festivals on the sevens calendar and one in which we had to be on top form. In a very close opener against Abingdon we lost by a controversial try. Abingdon eventually got to the semi-finals of the main competition. Another loss and then a win against Colfe's meant we finished a respectable 3rd in the group. Our final tournament was the Wirral GS sevens, again filled with established schools and of course our good friends from Oratory. We convincingly won our group with successes against Birkenhead, and Merchant Taylors, and also a draw against KEQM. This brought about a tasty quarter final against Calday, a 34-0 victory with some scintillating rugby got us a semi final tie against London Oratory. We had played Oratory in other competitions and were due a win, however with mounting injuries and the fact that the lads had played in 3 tournaments in 6 days, our Southern friends ran out winners. The team had also hosted the Oratory boys overnight so it was played in a great spirit, and new friendships had been bonded for life. I would also like to mention the B team sevens squad who stood in for Altincham GS, and put in some fine performances in a very tough group which included St Ambrose, Manchester GS and the eventual winners Lymm HS. Well done to all the boys who never gave up from start to finish, even though a logistical error by Mr Atkinson meant they had to play their quarter final plate match with half a kit on.

I would also like to thank all the parents of both sides who have supported the teams throughout the season, both home and away. Thank you to parents who have helped on a Saturday morning serving the tea and coffee, and a special mention to Lil Herbison who has helped behind the scenes all season.
Mr A McKinney/Mr O Atkinson.

Colts Season 2010-2011

Played 17 Won 12 lost 5 Pts for 323 Pts against 188

Bradford 7's ¼ Final main.

London Oratory 7's 3rd in Group.

Kings Macclesfield 7's Runners Up Plate to London Oratory.

Cheshire 7's Wed March 23rd @ Lymm HS.

This season has been excellent from start to finish and I would like to congratulate the whole squad for their effort and commitment throughout a long and tough season. All should be credited for the successes the team has gained.

Cheshire A; Tom Parry, Ben Brookes, .

Cheshire B; Josh Edgar.

Both Tom and Ben were involved in Cheshire victory 22-5 over Lancashire, and Josh played in a narrow 10-5 loss to Lancashire B.

Trialists; Andy Woodworth, Matthew Carroll, Joe Morris.

Daily Mail Cup

A tremendous run in the competition was dramatically ended by Woodhouse Grove, when a try in the corner with the last play of the game won the match 20-17 for a very relieved Woodhouse team. Previously unbeaten in a six year run we pushed them all the way in what was a fantastic game ebbing and flowing all the way to the final whistle. The other Northern team to qualify for the finals were St Ambrose a team we had previously beaten, showing how far the Wirral side had come over the past four months.

In the fifteen a side game we stayed unbeaten in 2011 and that form was taken into the Sevens season. We are competing in high quality sevens festivals, and the fact that we are the only Wirral, and sometimes northern school that is invited, shows the recognition that Wirral has achieved over the years. At Bradford we won the group, but were beaten in the quarter finals by RGS Newcastle. A tough London Oratory tournament saw us beaten with the last play of the game by Colfe's School, and in a high quality Kings Macclesfield Sevens we lost in the Final of the Plate to London Oratory. The lads had hosted the boys from London the night before, so the game was played in a great spirit, with fitness proving to be the major difference. It was also memorable for Mr McKinney achieving winning status in the crossbar challenge, executed with the style and grace the boys were used to.

The fifteen a side game saw good wins over local rivals Anselms and Birkenhead, and a memorable occasion was given to Blacon High School, who played their first ever competitive game of rugby. The attitude of the players was excellent, as it has been all season, in making the game a great experience for the staff and players from Chester.

I would also like to thank the parents for their magnificent support both home and away and thank those parents who help with refreshments on Saturday mornings, and who drove us all to Macclesfield for the sevens festival.

This season has been excellent, none more so than the Daily Mail cup run where some old rivalries were put to right. The attitude and commitment of all the squad has been superb and I would like to finish by thanking all the players for their role in a thoroughly enjoyable season. WELL DONE.

Wirral Colts Coach
Andy McKinney



1st XV REPORT

Unfortunately the 1st XV season continued in the same vein after Christmas as it had previously, with further defeats despite some brave performances. Nothing seemed to work in our favour as fixtures we had targeted for wins fell victim to the weather.

Injuries and lack of form resulted in us having to blood an unusually high number of U16 players in the First XV this season, and so we were a very young and inexperienced side, but they will undoubtedly have gained invaluable experience and will hopefully enjoy the benefits next year!

Despite the lack of success in terms of results, the mood within the camp has remained very positive throughout the season and for this the players deserve great credit; especially the Captain, Jan Greenshaw and his Vice Captain, Jack Yarker who have worked very hard to maintain both spirit and momentum during some tough times. Not all 'doom and gloom' to report, however! In March our Senior Sevens Squad won the Plate Competition at the Birkenhead Schools' Sevens, a prestigious event and one which attracts some very strong entries. A thrilling final saw us beat local rivals, Calday Grange Grammar School 26 - 21 after trailing 21 - 7 early in the second half. A thoroughly deserved and magnificent achievement after a tough, tough season! Well done and thank you to all the players for maintaining their effort, commitment and good humour throughout.

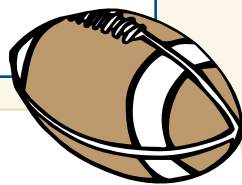
Finally, a big thank you to all those parents who have helped out with Saturday morning refreshments this season. Your efforts are very much appreciated.
Mr P Crowley, Head of Physical Education

RUGBY SEVENS

The boys have continued to perform excellently in the sevens season. The year 7 team entered three competitions, the first being at the London Oratory School where Wirral GS were pitched against the top school teams in the South. The boys did exceptionally well in the tournament, narrowly losing to John Fisher School in the final 29-24.

In the following two tournaments at Bradford and our very own at Wirral the team again performed well but were narrowly beaten in both tournaments at the semi final stage 14-10 by Lancaster RGS at Bradford and St Anselms 26-24 at Wirral. It has been something of a hard luck story for the boys as but for the bounce of a ball they could have been in with the chance of winning three tournaments, but it wasn't to be and with the experience they have gained I fully expect them to be successful in year 8.

Special thanks must go to Mr Marshall Clarke for his effort, enthusiasm and commitment with the squad throughout the season and to Mr McKinney for his continued assistance and lastly to the squad as a whole for their efforts in what has been without doubt an unforgettable season.
Mr O Atkinson



Year 8 Rugby report

**End of Season stats: A team Played 16 won 9 lost 7;
B team played 10 won 4 lost 6**

The season ended for the Junior Bantams on a good note! The A team did not lose a 15 a side game in the scheduled season in 2011. They started to play some good rugby and I am satisfied what we set out to achieve way back last September has been done. The boys have worked hard on their skills and are now in a position to move on to Year 9 with confidence. I enjoyed working with them and I thank them for their commitment. May I also thank the referees that helped out (Messrs Bowen and Bailey) and of course, Mr McKinney. Winning their own version of the "Triple Crown" with wins against Birkenhead, St Anselms and Caldy was particularly pleasing! In the 7s season, the lads reached the semi final in the Birkenhead 7s, before losing to the eventual winners, and they reached the quarter finals of the Bradford 7s, scalping Sedbergh and Barnard Castle on the way! All in all, a good season!
Mr L McKibbin

U16 RUGBY 2011

Played 10 Won 5 Lost 3 Drawn 2

Since the last report we have only played 2 games. Winning the first against St Anselms 38-5 and losing narrowly to Birkenhead 17-22. Both were good matches and the players again gave a good account of themselves. St Anselms was an easy win with only one team playing rugby but the second was very close and Wirral could have won against a huge Birkenhead side.

The team have so far played in three 7 a side competitions with mixed results. They have lost in the quarter final of two competitions and the plate semi final in Sedbergh. Having said this we have played some excellent rugby schools along the way and beaten a significant number of them, as well as beating Birkenhead School, St Anselms, Kings Mack, Wilmslow and Stonyhurst. In every competition we have played some excellent rugby but seem to let ourselves down in one important game.

I would like to thank the players for a very enjoyable year. They are a really good group of young men who I hope will further develop into a very good first team. It has been a pleasure to be involved with this team because they are such a pleasant, cooperative set of players who get on well and share a joke. Thank you all!

Danny Adkins	Jack Portbury	Alex Griffiths
Max Hunt	Frank Richards	Simon Flavell
Ted Kinsella	Cameron Hibbert-Jones	Danny Phillips
Tom Arthur	Chris Crowley	Mark Griffiths
Dave Neil	Brad Taylor	Danny Harris
Harry Camp		Reece Orton
Luke Harris	Adam Ietts	Olly Jackson
		Sandy Richardson
		Johnny Greenall
Mr I F Davies		

Year 7 Rugby

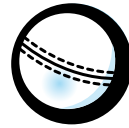
After an excellent start to the year 7 campaign which saw both the A and B teams unbeaten in all matches played, the squad started the second half of the season in the same vein. The squad continued to work hard and with this positive approach came improvement week on week. There were some excellent performances in the second half of the season with wins against Calday, Adams Grammar school, Merchant Taylors and St Anselms.

In all it has been a fantastic season with the A team winning all but two of their games, drawing one and losing one and a special mention must go to the B team who have won every game they have played this season. With the comprehensive fixture list we enjoy at Wirral GS the season we have had has been some achievement. Well done!!

Wirral Cricket Club

The cricket season will soon be upon us and Wirral Cricket Club have been preparing in their winter nets. Outdoor practice will begin at the Club the first week after the Easter holidays.

For any boys who would like to come along, this is the schedule:
Tuesdays for Under 17s at 6.30pm
Fridays for Under 13s and Under 15s at 6.30pm



For parents who have younger children there are Under 9s and Under 11s nets on a Thursday at the same time. For further information, boys can speak to Mr McKibbin or go to the Wirral Cricket Club Junior website. Just a reminder for anyone who didn't know, Wirral CC is the home for all past and present boys of Wirral Grammar School for Boys and they are more than welcome to join in and enjoy playing at its venue in Thornton Common Road in Clatterbridge.

Mr L McKibbin

Year 8 Rugby tour to Cowbridge, South Wales

On 18th March, 19 Year 8 rugby boys travelled to Cowbridge, South Wales. We left at 7.30am and arrived five hours later at Barry Island, famous for the Gavin and Stacey TV series. We went to the beach, had lunch at Marco's cafe then lost some money in the arcades! We then travelled down to Welsh speaking Bro Morgannwg School where we played a match and beat them 31-27. After that we met our hosts for the weekend and travelled with them to their homes.

On Saturday morning we travelled to Cowbridge Comprehensive for a match which we lost to a very good side, 43-12. Following this we went to the Millenium Stadium where we had a tour, and saw plaques of all the players who have been capped for Wales. The tour also took us around the changing rooms and the Royal Box. We then went to Cardiff Arms Park and watched the second half of a match. We met our hosts and spent another evening with them where we watched Wales get thrashed by France!!

On Sunday, we all met back at Cowbridge school, said farewell to our hosts and travelled back to Bebington in the early afternoon after having a great weekend. Thanks to Mr McKibbin and Mr McKinney for taking us down on the tour.
LIAM HAYES 8KJL

England Hockey U16 Training Camp

Writing this I have recently returned from the Lilleshall National Sports Centre having taken part in a four day England Hockey Under Sixteen training camp. The few days provided me with the experience of national squad coaching as well as the opportunity to train with many talented players, some of whom no doubt will be representing the senior England team in years to come. Despite being a physically tiring experience due to the fitness tests and hockey sessions, it has also been an eye-opening few days. The squad boasts outstanding physios who have shown us various exercises to improve our core strength and prevent injury. In addition to this, various presentations have taken place, most importantly regarding anti-doping. In the last few years hockey has really taken off as a sport at Wirral Grammar School for Boys. Having won the North of England cup, the year eleven squad will be competing in the National Finals in May. What's more, many boys are beginning to take part in Local Academy Centres giving them the opportunity to play at county level. In order to make it to the England Squad players have to spend months training and playing with various county and regional sides. I'm sure with the teams' current progress we will be seeing many more boys representing these various sides in the near future.

George Wilkinson 11HD

BASKETBALL

This year saw us achieve unprecedented success in the Wirral Schools' Basketball League, with all five of our teams winning their respective leagues or competitions and 'sweeping the board' in terms of honours.

The U16s and U15s had perhaps the most exciting end to the season on their 'Finals' night. The U15s defeated Calday Grammar School 41 – 39 in a very close encounter, and the U16s went one better, beating Mosslands School by a single point, 26 – 25 in a last gasp win! The U14s, after winning their competition, went on to represent Wirral at the Merseyside 'Emerging Schools' Event. They won all three games to bring the trophy home for a second successive year. The U13s and U12s showed great promise in winning their respective competitions, playing some good basketball, and this clearly bodes well for the future.

Numbers have been very healthy at Basketball Club this year, and this has clearly been reflected by the success of the school teams. Congratulations to all the players for their success. A great season!

Mr P Crowley
Head of Physical Education

Swimming Gala Congratulations

Congratulations to Thomas James (4th Heswall Sea Scout Group, St Peter's) who, with his team, beat 23 other Royal Navy Recognized Sea Scouts group's from around the UK in a closely contested competition held in Plymouth. The scout group have participated in the The Royal Navy Sea Scout Swimming Gala for the last 35 years and this has been their first win – it has been a long wait, but worth it in the end.

Thomas James 7RW



U16 Hockey Team reaches the National Finals at Cannock

For the second year in succession a Wirral GS Hockey team has reached the National Hockey Finals, therefore competing against mainly the best independent schools in the country. This is a great achievement and it all began by winning the Wirral Cup in a tightly fought game against our arch rivals, St Anselm, where we came out winners in a 1-0 victory early in January.

This then meant we qualified for the North West regional round at Timperley HC on the 1st March. We were placed in a difficult group but achieved good wins, firstly, against Merchant Taylor's (2-0) and then a comfortable win against the Lakes School (5-1). We then played Altringham Grammar School who had many players from the Bowden HC club side, yet we defended superbly with strong performances from Heath, and Parsons. Matthew Dobson then scored the winning goal that ensured our qualification to the North Finals.



The North Finals was a round robin tournament against the four best teams in the North. The boys went toe to toe against Rossall, putting in maximum effort against the favourites for the tournament. Neat play down the right hand side by Lamen led to Roberts scoring the only goal of the game, 1-0. It was an excellent start to the competition, but a set back against QEGS Wakefield saw us lose 2-1. Draws from the other competing teams meant we had everything to play for against St Peters, York. We started superbly with two great reverse stick finishes from Roberts meaning we were 2-0 up at half time. We consolidated and at times struggled to maintain possession but as the time ticked away St Peters scored and made the game very tense! But a late finish from Roberts to complete his hat trick ensured we won and with results from the other games going our way we won the North Finals. We will now head to the National Finals at Cannock HC on Tues and Wed the 3rd/4th May.

This is an amazing achievement and the progress made by all of the lads involved is immense. I would also like to congratulate the captain of the team George Wilkinson on his England U16 selection; he has worked very hard and deserves every success!

Information Evening 2011

Each year we hold an Information Evening in the Summer Term for parents of boys who are currently in Year 5 of their primary school and who are considering Wirral Grammar School as their preferred choice for the following year (September 2012). The Information Evening is primarily intended for parents who are less familiar with the school. Please note that this does not replace the Open Evenings which take place in September.

At the Information Evening, parents will be able to have a look around parts of the school and hear a talk given by our Headteacher, Mr Hazeldine about the life at Wirral Grammar School and our admission procedure. This year, our Information Evening is on Tuesday 28th June 2011 at 6.30pm.

RUGBY CLUB DINNER

This year's School Rugby Club Dinner will take place on Friday 6 May in the School Hall (6.45 for 7.00pm). All School Rugby players are encouraged to attend what is always a successful evening.

A report on the Dinner, including news of Award winners will appear in the next edition of 'Nuntius'.

Mr P Crowley
Head of Physical Education

Mobile Phone Policy

– Reminder

Our policy on mobile phones is very clear. Pupils are permitted to have phones available for use before and after school but during the school day they must be switched off. Staff will confiscate mobile phones that are on view/in use during the day.



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Admissions Enquiries: Enquiries relating to admissions should be directed to Mrs Tanya Fry in school on 0151 644 0908 or by visiting the school website: www.wirralgrammarboys.com/admission

www.wirralgrammarboys.com

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