



Nuntius

WIRRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL
A Foundation Business & Enterprise School for Boys

Cross Lane, Bebington, Wirral, Ch63 3AQ | Tel: 0151 644 0908

JANUARY 2007



Welcome to our 'New Look' Nuntius

To mark our new beginning as a "Business and Enterprise" specialist school, we have decided to launch a new, professionally created, issue of "Nuntius". For those of you who are new to this publication, Nuntius is the termly news publication for Wirral Grammar School for Boys. Through these pages we will bring you reports on the events of the term, student activities, visits, competition reports and details of sports fixture results. Nuntius is an important vehicle for celebrating the achievements of our students. Many of the articles have been written by the boys themselves. We hope you enjoy reading the first new issue.



Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

INTREPID explorers from year 10 braved the wild weather in north Wales for their first Duke of Edinburgh 'Bronze Award' expedition.

The boys successfully navigated their way around Llyn Brenig in groups, demonstrated their culinary prowess by cooking a multitude of different flavoured Pot Noodles and camped overnight at a campsite in the Denbigh area.

Expedition co-ordinator Miss Kelly said she was 'delighted' with all aspects of the weekend and was looking forward to the expeditions next year.

Mr J Maunder

A New Web-site for Wirral Grammar School

Last month saw the launch of our new school web-site:

www.wirralgrammarboys.com

Our web-site pages contain details of all aspects of school life. The next stage in our web-site development will be to create a new "Virtual Learning Environment" providing students with access to school created learning resources from anywhere that there is internet access.

Dear Parents

I am delighted to have taken up the post as Headteacher of Wirral Grammar School for Boys. I join the school at a significant and exceptionally exciting time in its history. We mark the 75th anniversary with the best ever examination results that follow an Ofsted report in 2006 that paid tribute to our very high standards of academic achievement, student support and extra-curricular provision. In September we began a new era as a specialist school for Business and Enterprise. Looking ahead to 2007, our building programme will start in the Spring Term and is due for completion towards the latter part of the summer term in 2008, ready for timetabled occupation in the following September.

The Autumn Term has been typically busy and productive. In this issue of Nuntius you will read about many of the activities that have taken place: the residential visits to Barcelona for Year 9, and the outdoor pursuits week to Yorkshire for Year 8. There have been numerous competitions and events: the Liverpool Film-makers Festival, the North West CREST awards for Science which was won by Phil Arathoon in Year 10, the Physics Olympics at Liverpool University and the Slaters' Chemistry competition, the latter being won by Sean Goodchild in Year 8. Students from Wirral Grammar School took part in part in a Youth Parliament held at the Town Hall. In this issue you can read Max Gopfert's (Year 11) account of how students were able to raise real issues and concerns before elected members of Wirral Council in the Council chamber.

The music provision at Wirral Grammar School continues to flourish. Two well attended performances have taken place this term: the Chamber Concert and the Autumn Concert. In excess of one third of all boys are having music lessons each week supported by nineteen instrument, vocal and ensemble teachers.

In sport, the Autumn term has been busy with numerous hockey and rugby fixtures. I have particularly enjoyed watching some of the Saturday games this term. The high levels of

student participation and the support from parents both on the pitch and with post match refreshments are particularly notable. Detailed team reports are contained in this issue of Nuntius.

Our Parents' Association have again given generously of their time towards the planning of fund-raising activities and support for school events such as the musical performances and open evenings. We are very fortunate to have such a flourishing Association, especially given the declining trend in the numbers of Parents Associations nationally. Those parents who are actively involved would always welcome additional support, even if it is just to help out at one or two of the main events during the year. Any parent who is able to assist can contact me in school. The Christmas Fair was the most recent PA event and was very well attended. In total, the sum of £5,000 was raised. All Association funds go towards providing extra resources above and beyond those that can typically be afforded through Local Authority funding.

All boys will be issued with a pocket calendar for the Spring Term, this will contain information on the dates of parents' evenings, school events and sport fixtures. One of the most significant events this term is our annual school production. This year our production is "Fame, the musical depicting the high school careers of students passing through New York's School for the Performing Arts. The performances take place from Tuesday 20th March to Saturday 24th March. Rehearsals for this are well underway.

Finally, I extend my thanks for the warm welcome that have received since September. I look forward to meeting parents at parents' evenings and school events over the course of the year. It is apparent that the partnerships between home and school are very strong and purposeful here. It is this supportive climate that optimises the potential for all our boys to achieve at the highest levels.

David Hazeldine
Headteacher

EXAMINATION ACHIEVEMENTS

The school year began with excellent examination results having been published in August. Results at both GCSE and A Level were the best that the school has achieved.

At GCSE all students attending gained at least 5 passes at grades A* to C. 44% of all entries were at grades A* and A. 55.4% of students gained A*/A in 3 or more subjects.

At A Level every student gained two or more A Level passes. 97% gained three or more A Level passes. 55% of all passes were at grades A and B. In terms of university places, 88% of students chose to go on to university and 84% of students were successful in gaining their first choice university.

In the last week of term we held our annual Certificate Evening at Hulme Hall in Portsunlight. On this occasion we formally celebrated the exam success of 2006.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

A big welcome to all new musicians in the School! The Music Department now has 19 instrumental, vocal and ensemble teachers, together with almost 300 boys having lessons each week. There are sixteen instrumental and vocal ensembles which are represented by a Music Forum. This year's representatives are:



President	- James Wellings	Guitar Group	- Aaron Parkinson
Vice President	- Tom Jones	String Group	- Callum Peters
Secretary	- Matthew Sarson	Orchestra	- Michael Carr
Concert Band	- Jamie Richards	Woodwind Group	- Chris Jowitt
Choir	- Andrew Pritchard	Brass Group	- Tom Williams
Treble Choir	- Sam Culley	Junior Brass Group	- Ben Sharrock

A true and accurate likeness of each of these important people is displayed in the Music Department for ease of identification. There is a Forum meeting once every half term, and the minutes of these meetings are displayed on the Music Society notice board. Every boy who plays in an ensemble is automatically a member of the Music Society, so if you have any questions regarding your ensemble, speak to your Forum representative!

Some examination results were not with us in time for the last summer edition of Nuntius. Congratulations and recognition should therefore go to the following successful candidates:

Daniel Matson	8H	saxophone	grade 1	pass
Christian Watts	8H	saxophone	grade 1	merit
Joshua Vaghaun-Hammon	10W	violin	grade 1	merit
George Turner	9W	flute	grade 1	merit
Thomas Salisbury	10B	jazz saxophone	grade 1	merit
Matthew Jones	9H	jazz saxophone	grade 1	pass
Ryan Boocock	9H	clarinet	grade 2	distinction
Callum Peters	10W	violin	grade 2	pass
Rowan Patel	10L	trumpet	grade 2	merit
Jamie Baxter	8D	piano	grade 2	merit
Alex Preston-Cahill	9W	violin	grade 3	pass
James Cowgill	9B	clarinet	grade 3	pass
Chris Salvidge	10L	violin	grade 3	merit
Thomas Keningley	10W	violin	grade 3	merit
Matthew Austin	10H	saxophone	grade 3	merit
Sam Harvey	11B	flute	grade 3	distinction
Chris Jowitt	10L	flute	grade 3	pass
Adam Shorrock	9L	clarinet	grade 4	merit
Ben Sharrock	9W	trombone	grade 4	merit
Joshua Cartwright	9W	cornet	grade 4	pass
Colin Salters	11B	violin	grade 4	pass
William Vick	9L	theory	grade 5	merit
Mark Ashton	8B	cornet	grade 5	pass
Kenny Wiles	11B	piano	grade 5	merit
David Ledger	U6	double bass	grade 6	pass

More exams taken in December (on keyboard) and in February will be reported on next term.

The first concert of the year took place on Wednesday 18 October, with 26 musicians giving command performances in the school hall, proving that they had actually practised over the summer. The next concert for individual performances will be in May, so get practising if you want to be involved.

The Department was delighted to welcome Mr Edmond Selwyn to the school on Tuesday 21 November to give a performance on solo guitar to an audience of year 8 boys and guitar students. Organised as part of the International Guitar Festival being held on the Wirral in November, Mr Selwyn is an international performer of great experience. The concert was well received during the afternoon, which included a masterclass given by Mr Selwyn to boys selected by their guitar tutors in school.

The Department's tour to the Black Forest in Germany in July is gathering pace, with a number of exciting venues being lined-up for performance by the Choir and Concert Band. Choices also need to be made over suitable excursions, although a possible visit to the Kronenberg brewery is currently finding favour with some of the more senior boys for some reason. We do however need some ideas for fund-raising events, so get your thinking caps on!

In the meantime, if you want to get the most out of music at Wirral Grammar School, get involved and get practising.

LANGUAGE DAY

On the 3rd of November, four boys were selected to attend a language day at Calday Grange Grammar School, which consisted of a competition, with the best school being awarded a cup for their skills in language and ICT. The four boys, Thomas Keningley (10W), Ben Plimley (10D), Adam Gardener (10L) and myself were chosen by Miss Faulkner, our Spanish teacher, to represent the school on the day and the team didn't let the school down.

Throughout the day the team showed superb teamwork skills and cooperated well to produce a newspaper, designed to requirements specified on the day. We were oblivious to the tasks prior to the event!. However, before we were able to begin writing the articles, Thomas Keningley had to receive a phone call from 'the editor', informing him about the desired topics for the articles. Thomas handled the pressure really well and was awarded 9 out of 10 for his quality of Spanish. After feeding the information back to the group, we pressed on with producing a newspaper.

Ben took the role as team co-ordinator and his IT skills proved invaluable throughout the day. He created a template for the paper and was able to collect the information and present it suitably in a stylish, yet practical format. After a decent lunch (kindly paid for by the staff at Calday), Ben and Adam went for an interview with 'the editor' about our school. They performed really well and their commendable language skills gained us another 9 out of 10 marks. Throughout the day I had been working on the front-page headline story and just managed to send Ben a copy of the file in time. The story was based on a fictional tale where a 'Dark Lord' from a different planet had invaded Earth and captured France. The piece was successful along with articles from Thomas on the topics of 'food and drink' and a piece about our school. Adam created articles on the specialist school status that our school recently attained and an account of a world cup match which were also credited for their creative use of language.

After Ben had completed the final alterations to the layout of the paper and the sheets had been printed off, we handed over the paper for judging. After a nervous wait, the schools were gathered in the library for the announcement of the winners. As I am sure you have guessed, we won the prize for best overall newspaper, topping all the sections and the school was credited for its quality of language, ICT skills and professional presentation. We were presented with the winners' trophy and Miss Faulkner was delighted at the result.

The school is looking forward to retaining the title in next year's competition.

Thomas Outram 10B

MOBILE PHONE POLICY – A REMINDER

Our policy on mobile phones could not be clearer. Students are permitted to bring mobile phones to school for the purpose of communicating with parents while travelling to and from school. It is not acceptable for phones to be used during the day. They must be switched off and left in bags and coats. Recently, students have been found using phones in school, blue tooting messages and using them as a camera. This is totally unacceptable. Staff are authorised to confiscate mobile phones. Repeat offences will result in more serious reprimands.



Physics Olympics 2006

This year's Physics Olympics at Liverpool University was attended by Jake Fearnhead, Chris McPeake, Andrew Rickards, and Mike Schumacker. There were 5 events: one involving map coordinates and another throwing a boomerang. We came third in designing a trebuchet, where we had to build a device out of certain items (e.g. rubber bands, metre rule) to throw a ball into a 5 or 10 point box. We came first in a signalling exercise where two of us had to send a coded message to the other two across a room. We also came first in finding out the track spacing of a DVD. Overall we came 12th out of 30 schools, but most importantly, we beat Calday who came 16th!

By Chris McPeake U66



Parking Concerns

Over the course of the Autumn Term there have been several occasions when the parking of cars on Cross Lane have posed a serious risk of injury to students.

Parents are requested NOT to park on Cross Lane before or after school. The length of Cross Lane from the new car park at the Scout Hut to the junction with Heath Road should be kept clear on both sides. At the start and end of school there can be up to give buses dropping off or picking up students. The presence of parked cars adds to the congestion creating a serious risk.

Please park well away from the front of the school and do not attempt to enter the school car park at these busy times. In the interests of the boys' safety, your understanding would be greatly appreciated.

LiveWire

LiveWire is Wirral Grammar School for Boys' online magazine offering teacher interviews and articles for the whole school. It can be accessed through the LiveWire icon in school, and on the intranet. Our online site has been updated especially for the new academic year – it's easier to navigate and we hope that there will be something for everyone. There's a variety of sections: News, Teachers, Fun and much more.



There is still plenty of blank space online for more articles, and we hope to have many more submissions. The submissions will be published online and would be good experience for anybody who wants to be a journalist or a published writer.

We also will take any articles relating to any school trips you go on, so remember to take pictures to add extra spice to those articles. If you want to submit an article, e-mail it, with any pictures, to livewire.mag@gmail.com or via the submissions page online.

If anyone is interested in helping or has any ideas, come along on Wednesday lunchtime. In fact, we're currently looking to recruit a Sports Editor!



There's also a talent contest, Take the Stage, coming soon, which will be open to all bands, singers, and any other talent (comedians, magicians etc.) A fantastic prize is in the pipeline for the winners, which for a band/singer, could be something as big as a day in

a recording studio! It will be judged in an 'X-Factor' style by Dr Favager, Miss Palmero and Mr Hinde. The contest will also be filmed and produced by LiveWire into a series of shows so students can watch and vote for their favourites. Starting 2007.

Gareth Madeley L61

BARCELONA TRIP 2006

On Wednesday the 18th of October the excitement had reached its climax as those going to Barcelona left school at 12.30 and returned home to make some last minute preparations. Later, we reconvened at Liverpool John Lennon airport and eagerly discussed what was to come in the trip. Naturally, Mr Mckibbin and Mr Beeley were the last to arrive and were met by great cheers from all the assembled students. Luckily, we passed through security with no problems and before we knew it we were on our way to Barcelona.

During the flight we were treated to a truly spectacular thunder-storm and, to Mr Beeley's delight, the touchdown in Spain prompted raucous applause from all the Wirral boys. We then boarded the coach to our destination and, after a short drive, unloaded all our ridiculously oversized suitcases at the hotel and got settled in for the night.

The following morning, we took a leisurely stroll up the nearby Las Ramblas and then walked to the utterly astonishing 'Sagrada Familia' cathedral, which was designed by Gaudi and is still unfinished despite hundreds of years of work. We took the elevator to the top of the 'Sagrada Familia' and savoured the dazzling views of the city. After trudging down the precarious steps of the cathedral, we moved on to see another of Gaudi's works, the famous 'Park Guell', a public park on the outskirts of Barcelona which features a host of Antoni Gaudi's weird yet wonderful buildings. Finally, we took the 'Bus Turistica' back to the hotel and that evening split up into groups and ate in some of the local restaurants.

On the third day, we again travelled with the 'Bus Turistica' to see one of Barcelona's modern triumphs: FC Barcelona's football stadium the 'Nou Camp', the largest stadium in Europe, with a massive 112,000 capacity. We enjoyed a tour of the complex and, amongst other things, visited the changing rooms and the immaculate director's lounge. Afterwards, we boarded the sightseeing bus again and were taken on a tour past the 1992 Olympic stadium and round the 'Montjuic' Olympic village. Unfortunately, following this, we couldn't ride a cable car to the top of the mountain as planned but we had great fun anyway. Later on in the evening, we visited other restaurants and then returned to the hotel.

On Saturday, we woke up at a more conservative hour and spent a day looking round the shops on

'Las Ramblas' and then heading down to the seafront, where we visited a large shopping centre. However, it was not that simple. We were set language tasks by Miss Faulkner where we had to ask the prices of gifts in shops or ask if they had something in a different colour or size. Ironically, often the most difficult part of the task was to try to cajole the shop assistant into speaking to you in Spanish rather than English. In the evening, we went to see a fabulous water show at the palace. However, in order to get there, we were told to once more use our linguistic skills and to ask for subway tickets to the station nearest the palace in Spanish. Unfortunately, this idea was somewhat thwarted when, upon arriving in the station, we were greeted by machines rather than the humans we had been expecting. Nevertheless, the water show was just as spectacular as had been expected, the colour of the water ranging from vivid blues to fiery reds.

The next day was probably the most fiercely anticipated. We travelled to the 'Portaventura' theme park and, as we pulled up into the car park, we were left speechless by the gigantic construction which towered into the sky before us. It was the 'Hurakan Condor', a 323 foot high tower drop ride. All who dared to take on the ride were left aghast by the sheer adrenalin rush. Throughout the day we were thoroughly entertained by Mr Mckibbin, whose comical excuses as to why he "shouldn't go on that ride" ranged from: "I've got a sore back" to "I'm sure it doesn't do your heart any good." Afterwards, we travelled back to the hotel, sharing our experience of the rides.

On the last day, we did some final shopping for gifts and then unwound on the beach as we waited for our coach to arrive. Once again, we didn't have to wait long at the airport and the flight was very calm. Once back in England, we said our goodbyes and drove back home for some well earned rest.

Finally, on behalf of everyone who went on the trip, I would like to thank Mrs Craze, Mr Mckibbin, Miss Faulkner and Mr Beeley for making the trip possible and for making it so much fun. I'm sure that everyone came back with some great memories thanks to you.

Jan Greenshaw 9B

Parents' Association

The Parents' Association, or P.A., meets monthly to organise activities to raise funds to support all the boys at school. Welcome to all Year 7 parents. If anyone would like to become involved, come to our next meeting, details below. If you would prefer to help at events rather than attend meetings please send your name and contact details to the school office and the office will contact our Chairperson, Peter Reeve. It is a great way to become involved in your son's school.

We can never have too many offers of help at our fund raising events. Please don't wait to be invited to help; just jump up and volunteer. The meetings and events are informal and friendly.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Bulb Sale

Thank you for your orders. We raised £69.50. Enjoy your flowers.

Christmas Fair

The PA would like to thank you for supporting this event. Thanks to all those of you who donated items, helped to set up and run a stall, those who stayed to the end to clear up and all the people who came and spent their money! Thank you everyone. Special thanks must go to Fiona Taylor and her team, Angela Booth, Jane Kemp and Jane Harris, who worked tirelessly to produce the festive event.

Murder Mystery Evening

CASTING is taking place as I write; members of staff will be involved! This postponed event will be well worth waiting for. Watch out for advertisements coming to a blazer pocket near you in the Spring Term.

Next Parents' Association Meeting

This will be Tuesday 16th January '07 and the following meeting will be Thursday 8th February '07. All meetings take place in the school library at 7.30pm. Everyone is most welcome.

100 Club

July Winners

£100 I Webb
£50 L Chadwick
£25 Dr Wood

August Winners (Special Draw)

£250 P Skelly
£100 L Egan
£25 Mrs Graham-Nudd

September Winners

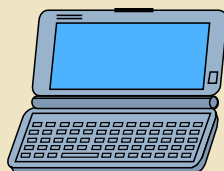
£100 Mr and Mrs Kemp
£50 Mr and Mrs Cooke
£25 Mr and Mrs Booth

October Winners

£100 C Greenall
£50 D Mackenzie
£25 K Turner

If you would like the chance to win, you have to be in it to win it! It costs £2.00 a month and raises valuable funds, which are used by the school for our boys. How do you enter? Contact the school office and ask for a form to take part in the 100 Club. (You can join at any point in the year.)

LAP TOP LEASING – LOOKING AHEAD



As part of a new ICT strategy we are currently looking into a number of options for developing a lap top leasing scheme for students.

Leading schools across the country are developing schemes to provide lap tops for students through competitive education leasing schemes. Typical leasing rates range from £20 per month and up to £30 per month. These schemes provide high specification versions that are pre-loaded with Microsoft Office Professional and a number of other software packages. All leasing schemes provide a full warranty and technical support.

Our intention is to determine the level of interest for such a scheme among sixth form students in the first instance before extending it to students throughout the school.

WINNERS OF PRIZE DRAW 1

This is an incentive to encourage our boys to work hard and earn commendations.

The boys can use 5 commendations to buy a Prize Draw Ticket. The more commendations they get, the more tickets they can buy and the higher their chance of winning.

A new draw takes place every five school weeks. There is now a separate draw for each form in years 7, 8, 9 and 10. There is one prize of a £5 gift voucher for each form.

Here are the winners of Prize Draw 1.

7B	Brett Sutton
8B	Jordan Perkins
7D	James Whitehouse
8D	Matthew Barnes
7H	Jamie Morris
8H	Gareth Matthey
7L	Daniel Sutton
8L	Nathan Walker
7W	Matthew Dobson
8W	Adam Stanley
9B	Harry Eadie
10B	Daniel Zema
9D	Michael Leonard
10D	David Ogilvie
9H	Jamie Lamb
10H	Thomas Beckley
9L	Luke O'Brien
10L	Mathew Howard
9W	Ian Holt
10W	Stuart Leech

Congratulations from Mr Hynes

In May, June & July 2006 we provided an opportunity for all year 10 students to apply for the position of



"The Apprentice". This idea was of course inspired by the hugely successful TV show featuring Alan Sugar.

The objective was to devise a series of tasks that would hopefully demonstrate the drive, flair and ambition of those students taking part. We were looking to appoint an individual who could prove that he could out-manoeuvre any other business brain in the school, displaying entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen throughout the process.

In keeping with tradition, those students who failed to meet our high standards would be "fired", and they would be asked to leave the competition.

The BBC panel was replaced by three equally tough members of staff who relished the chance to be involved in the hiring and firing process.

The first task required the candidates to look at ways of promoting Healthy Eating. The second task asked the candidates to organise an event for the school charity. The third task focused on Business & Enterprise and the task for the final involved the candidates attempting to sell an orange to our panel!

Congratulations to our first ever Apprentice winner - Max Gopfert of Year 10. Well done Max!

Young Co-operatives is a practical introduction to fair trade and co-operative working for young people, usually aged 13-17.



It gives young people the chance to work in their own co-operative, to acquire valuable business skills and to make a real difference to the lives of third world producers and their families.

Our Young Co-operatives attended a Specialist Schools showcase event at Pacific Road, Birkenhead, on November 29th to provide the refreshments for 150 customers. The refreshments were based on fair trade products.

Our Year 11 Young Co-operatives also ran a stall during Enterprise week (w/c 13th November) selling fair trade products in order to raise awareness of the fair trade campaign.

The Year 11 Young Co-operatives are Tom Dooley, Adam Heayns, Cameron Cunningham, Richard Crompton, Alastair Jordan, Owen Ford and Mark Gidman.

Each year The Bank of England and The Times invite selected teams of



four students aged 16 to 18 to make a presentation to a panel of Bank of England judges, giving their view on what interest rate should be set to meet the inflation target of 2.0%. Top prize is £10,000 for the school. The challenge gives students a chance to learn more about how the economy works and how interest rates affect inflation, as well as allowing them to demonstrate their team-working, presentation and IT skills. Support resource materials from the Bank are provided and regular features appear in The Times.

The Wirral Grammar School Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), better known as A-level economists Jamie Richards, Andrew Pritchard, Sam Mcpherson, David Nicoll, Chris Berry and Ben Kirby are working hard on their presentation for the regional final, and we aim to win it for the third year running!

Head of Economics and Business, Mr. Harrison, said " the students have undertaken a tremendous challenge. They have to assess the potential impact of a number of factors on prices. Factors range from the depreciation of the dollar to the buoyant housing market".

ENTERPRISING students from Wirral Grammar School have once again embarked on The Young Enterprise programme. Over 40 students from years 10 to 12 are involved and actively planning how to make their first million.



They are also undertaking some market research in order to see what types of product may be wanted. We have 3 groups running this year, two year 10 groups mentored by Ms Kennah and Ms Palmero and one Sixth Form group mentored by Mr P E Harrison. Last year the school won the coveted "Most Innovative Product" award.

Young Enterprise operates through support from the business community and the Government. This support is provided in a variety of forms: financial, in-kind, and through the provision and encouragement of volunteers.

The businesses and volunteers that support Young Enterprise take an active role in building a better-motivated, better educated and enterprising workforce, at the same time making a real difference to the existing lives and future potential of young people who live and attend school in their area.

Y12 Young Enterprise students will be attending a conference with "Ruth Badger" from The Apprentice during Enterprise Week.

MY CHEMISTRY CLUB REPORT

I'm here to talk about Chemistry club run by Miss Woods. It is probably the best club that I have ever gone to and I'm not just saying that. So far we have done fire writing, colour tests and fruity batteries. Miss Woods has also told us that we will be making hot air balloons, erupting volcanoes and we had Christmas quizzes with sweets. I have heard that we may also be going on a trip to a science museum guided by Dr Bunhead from "Brainiac: Science Abuse". Chemistry club has been great; even though one experiment didn't work, we still had fun setting it up. I couldn't think of a better place to spend my Tuesday lunchtimes. It also helps that Miss Woods makes the lessons very clear and is a fabulous teacher. I hope that I, my brother and everyone else are able to go there week after week long into the future and that I will be making more of these reports! Long Live Chemistry!

By Matthew Siddorn 7D
(On behalf of all regular chemistry members)



Chemistry Extra

This takes place every Tuesday lunchtime in CL2 at 12.30pm. It provides an opportunity for any pupil to get extra help with any aspects of their work that they find difficult. Anyone can come along and talk to any of the Chemistry teachers.

Dr L A Bromley and Dr J Randell

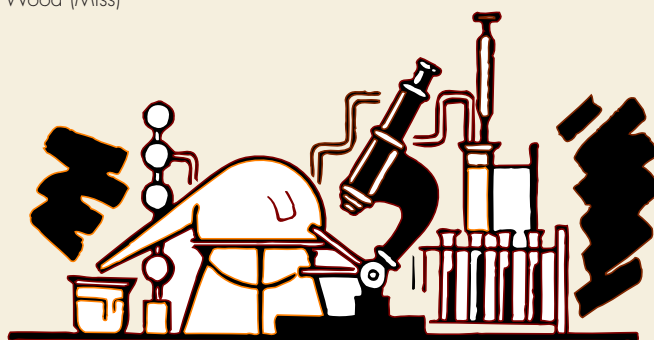
Chemistry Club so far

Chemistry Club runs every Tuesday lunch time in SL1 and is open to the lower school, years 7-9. Due to the high level of interest in the club, a sign-up sheet is put up on a Tuesday morning and the club runs on a first come, first served basis. This allows boys to choose which activities they think they will enjoy the most, allowing more boys to take advantage of the club.

The aim of the club is to increase the boys' interest in Chemistry through a series of fun and exciting activities. Activities so far include fire writing, fruity batteries and making hot air balloons. We will soon be building and exploding volcanoes and having friction car races, to name but a few.

If any boys may be interested, it's not too late – chemistry club operates on a first come, first served basis...So come along...

D Wood (Miss)



Salters' Chemistry Competitions

These are national competitions. Lots of boys entered last July and had their answers sent off to London. Congratulations to Sean Goodchild 8B who beat competitors from hundreds of other schools and won several fun prizes.

Sean said, "I am quite surprised that I won because I have never really won anything. I won a gym bag saying 'Salters Chemistry' on it. I'm really pleased and would enjoy entering some more competitions in the future."

Watch out for further opportunities as advertised in your Chemistry lessons and via your register. The winners of the school Christmas Chemistry competitions will be notified shortly.

There may also be a chance in the spring for an elite team to represent the school at the regional Salters' Chemistry Festival.

Dr L A Bromley and Dr J Randell

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

When I heard that I had been randomly chosen for the youth parliament I was quite excited. It sounded like a good opportunity to learn how the politics of the council worked and a chance to get the youth voice heard. The day consisted of three major events.

Firstly we had workshops which were aimed to find out the concerns and problems of youth and discuss issues such as what is there to do in helping young and old to understand each other. This got the students involved in asking questions and actively participating (on the whole). It also helped us to understand the kind of stereotypes that young people are put into. The workshops were held to gain an idea of the needs of the children and young adults on Wirral and find out what they want.

Secondly we had hot seating. This was similar to speed dating. We all sat at different tables with councillors, police officers and Connexions advisors for several minutes at each table discussing what they did. This provided a chance to us to question councillors individually.

The last part of the day was the Youth Parliament. This was where the views from the Youth Conference were put forward and read out to all of the councillors. There were only one or two representatives from each school at this point as there was limited space in the Council Chamber. Students had a chance to ask the councillors questions and put them in the hot seat. It was interesting to see how each question was met with cries of 'Hear, Hear' from different sides of the room from Conservative or Labour councillors, depending on what the issue was. The main issues that kept resurfacing and were brought to the attention of the Youth Parliament were:

- Lack of provisions of things for young adults to do at night. There were suggestions of Youth Barns and Youth Shelters for people to 'hang out' and sit and listen to music with mates.
- Many students complained about the price of public transport for over 16s still in education. This was discussed; however, it is difficult for the councillors to change this as the buses are privately run.
- The efficiency and frequency of the buses was questioned, many pupils finding buses hard to use as they were often late and unreliable.
- Cycle lanes were wanted as it was deemed unsafe to ride on the roads.
- Some students felt that there were not enough public toilets on the Wirral as many had been shut down. The councillor answering this said that it has been decided to concentrate of a few public toilets and keep them in good condition rather than keep many, but in a poor state.
- Section 30s were targeted by students as they felt that these were not needed and that the money spent of them would be best invested into the community, stopping anti social behaviour in the first place. For those that don't know what a section 30 is, it is something that allows the police to split you up and move you along if you are in groups larger than two. It only applies in certain areas such as West Kirby and results from large gatherings of kids causing problems in these places.

These were just some of the many issues that were raised throughout the day.

I am grateful for being given this opportunity. It was a chance to get youth issues heard by the council, as well as being able to socialise with many other students from the Wirral with the added bonus of good food. Also at lunchtime we listened to two school bands, both of which provided good entertainment and were very skilled. It was an interesting experience and I would definitely recommend it to you. You can see how local politics work and get your agenda heard. Even if you have no interest in politics this is not an experience that you should miss.

Max Gopfert 11W

Year Eight Trip to Stockley Farm

We visited Stockley farm in October. One group had left in the morning and our group left in the afternoon. Stockley Farm is an organic dairy farm that we visited to further our knowledge of farming and to help us with our upcoming project on Stockley Farm. We were given a tour of Stockley Farm by one of the owners. We were showed the milking room which had a special viewing gallery to see how the cows are milked.

There were pens for sheep, goats, pigs and cows. They kept animals such as rabbits to be sold as pets and birds of prey for shows. They grow many crops including wheat and barley. The trip was very enjoyable and all of us benefited from it.

Gareth Matthey 8H

Liverpool Young Film-Makers Festival

The FACT centre for film and video arts in Liverpool held a festival recently to celebrate young film-makers in Merseyside.

Our Cineclub submitted the short animation film "Art Attack" which we produced last year and, out of 124 entries to the festival, this was chosen, along with 13 other films, for screening at the FACT centre's main cinema on 19 October.

This was a great achievement by the boys involved in the filming and editing of the animation, many of whom attended the screening at FACT.

Congratulations should go to: Robert Woodward, John Ramsay, Nick Hughes, Niall Riordan, Richard Crompton and Kenny Wiles.

The boys are now working on their latest project, a music video with the band Vacant, winners of last year's Battle of the Bands.

Mr A Davies

YEAR 8 RESIDENTIAL: SKIPTON 2006

Year 8 pupils participated in a residential "outdoor and adventure" week at the "High Adventure Centre" near Skipton.

The programme included basic rock climbing for beginners, orienteering, caving and kayaking. The boys had a fantastic time and the reports that we had from the centre's staff indicated that they had been a credit to their school and had participated fully in the activities that were available.

Community Development



Community work is a key part of obtaining and retaining specialist schools status. As a result of our recent designation as a Foundation Business and Enterprise School for Boys, we have appointed Tony Boustead as the school's new Community Manager.

One of Tony's key roles is to promote and strengthen community links, which will hopefully be mutually beneficial for both the local and wider community and our school.

Tony is currently working with local primary and secondary schools, local businesses and other community groups to see how the partnership can be developed. The focus is Business & Enterprise, and as far as possible we are seeking to include our students in many aspects of this development process.

What kind of activities and projects are being developed within our community?

LOCAL BUSINESSES

On Tuesday 14th November during Enterprise Awareness Week, staff and students from the school spent a whole day developing and publishing a new Community Website.



Working alongside Mr Ian Linnegan, Director of the LocalBiz project, Ms Kennah (Business & Enterprise), Dr Warren (English) and 30 students (representing Y8-Y11) firstly became familiar with the skills needed to be able to create a community website, and secondly carried out some research that enabled them to publish information to the site which was able to go "live" within one day.



Business & Enterprise students George Schenk (Y9), Nathan Just (Y8), James Cowgill (Y9), help to develop our new website under the watchful eye of Lower Sixth mentor Robert Anson.

Throughout the day the students were involved in a variety of activities including "webmaster training" (learning how to administer the site and maintain an element of quality control), cold-calling local businesses providing an opportunity for them to advertise their products and services on our site free of charge, researching local schools so that links can be set up for their own websites and generally developing a real interest in website design.

The school has since recruited 12 of these students, who have now become our community website design team.

To see the site (in its early stages) visit www.bebington.localbiz.co.uk

If you have any businesses that you wish to advertise on our site, or any news that you may wish to share with the community then feel free to contact Tony Boustead here at the school on extension 275.

PARTNER PRIMARY SCHOOLS:

After meeting with representatives from our 4 partner primary schools (Brackenwood, Higher Bebington, Poulton Lancelyn and Stanton Road) we have identified a range of Business & Enterprise opportunities that the partnership could actively become involved in.

Fruit Tuck-Shops?



A common request has been made to help our schools to establish and operate a fruit tuck-shop, which will sell healthy eating products to junior school pupils. This has many advantages including:

- The creation of Business & Enterprise awareness in younger children
- An opportunity for students and staff from a cross section of schools within our community to work together with one common purpose
- A contribution to the "Every Child Matters" agenda, now an important aspect of our children's education, which includes Healthy Eating as one of its five objectives
- An opportunity to enhance learning opportunities for our students using innovative and practical activities which ultimately will help to prepare them for the world of work

We are launching the project with our schools in January, and we will keep you updated on its progress in our next edition of Nuntius.

LIFELONG LEARNING FOR THE WIDER COMMUNITY:

Finally, we are looking at ways of providing adult education classes to members of our local community. This will involve the use of the school's facilities, and of course the expertise of the teaching staff, as we look at ways of introducing Business & Enterprise to a wider audience.



"Computing for the Terrified"

We have identified a number of courses that we feel are suited to members of our community who are looking to learn a new skill, improve employment prospects, start a new business or even keep up with the kids!

Ideas include "Computing for the Terrified", "Silver Surfing", "Business Basics" and a course designed to help your children with their maths homework and coursework simply called "Improve your Maths".

Further details of these courses and how to enrol will be made available during the spring term.

Until next time thank you for your support and remember that community projects not only benefit the students but are also crucial in supporting local growth and regeneration.

Tony Boustead

The Alpha Course:



Explore the Meaning of Life

We are hoping to offer a chance for pupils to join a school-based group to explore some of the deep questions of life. The course will be run in conjunction with St. Andrew's Church, Bebington but will be open to pupils of any faith or none at all with no pressure or expectations beyond a willingness to come with an open mind. Initially the course will be aimed at pupils and will start in the spring term, running informal weekly meetings after school but the possibility exists to offer it to staff and parents at a later date if there is sufficient interest.

To find out more visit <http://alpha.org/> or contact Dr D Favager at school.

'Is there more to life than this?'

BUILDING PROGRAMME UPDATE

This is an exciting time in the life of Wirral Grammar School for Boys. During the Spring Term our new building programme gets underway and is due to be completed ready for the start of the new school year in September 2008.

Our new building and refurbishment programme is the result of a successful targeted capital bid for £4 million from the DFES. Our new facilities will include:

- A large ICT suite
- Business education rooms
- A new music block with practice rooms, recital rooms, classroom and recording room
- Mathematics teaching rooms
- Biology labs
- Languages teaching room

During the construction period there will be a number of changes to school routines including car parking, student movement around the site and fire assembly arrangements. Students will be notified of changes through assemblies and parents will be kept informed of developments through Nuntius and other information updates.

Included in the project is the refurbishment of other areas of the school. As part of the enabling works it will be necessary to take the sixth form common room out of use in order to accommodate the teaching that currently takes place in those areas that will have to be cleared in order to make way for the construction compound. Upon the completion for the project the sixth form area will undergo a comprehensive re-development.

'ABLE AND TALENTED' AND 'AIM HIGHER' UPDATE

The Academic year started with a bang as Geordie consultants 'Bridge the Gap' treated Year Twelve to a day of study skills specifically designed to help ease the transition from GCSE to AS. As well as learning some terrible jokes, pupils were treated to some really useful study skills tips, based on recent research into the way boys learn. Following hot upon their heels came 'Airborne' – a trio from Liverpool Hope University who delighted three Year Eleven groups with their own version of martial arts, gymnastics and street dance. 'Airborne' were able to explain how they set up their own business whilst still undergraduates and managed to leave university debt free.

Thirty-four Able and Talented pupils attended the Gifted and Talented Conference at Whitworth Hall, Manchester and heard some highly impressive lectures by two eminent speakers. They also took part in a debate about abortion.

Two GCSE English groups went to Theatre Clwyd to see 'An Inspector Calls' and twenty-eight sixth formers to see 'Amadeus' in London. The 'Dramania' club put on an after-school showcase for parents and friends in late November featuring several Year Seven and Eight pupils working together with girls from the

Girls' school next door. Several master classes were scheduled before Christmas, including Geography AS in Salford, Physics AS and Maths GCSE at the Discovery CLC, Prenton.

Money has been flying out of the budget. Funds have been allocated in many areas including subsidies for excursions to the Eisteddfod, an England cricket match, the Able and Talented conference, an AS Sociology conference, the Barcelona trip, Oxbridge visit and theatre trips. Resources have been bought for the staff room library, the Maths department, and the PHSE Department and Duke of Edinburgh excursions. The fund also paid for prizes for a 'Halloween' story writing competition, which generated an enormous amount of high-quality entries.

Activities for next term include a year ten Media Studies trip to the FACT centre, Liverpool and a visit by the 'Impact Theatre', giving a live performance about careers education for Year Nine.

Karen Campbell
Able and Talented Co-ordinator
Aim Higher co-ordinator

MANGO TREE CHARITY SUCCESS

The choice of school charity for 2005/2006 was "The Mango Tree". This charity is a community based orphan support programme that operates in Southern Tanzania. It is actively supporting 6000 orphaned children.

Orphans like Jestina who lost both her parents due to aids and who then looked after her uncle who died 2 years later. It is estimated that there are 2.5 million orphans in Tanzania and that this number is set to increase to 4,500,000 by 2010. The charity provides basic equipment for schools and uniform for the children. Our boys raised £8,000 in the charity fundraising projects. In practical terms, this funding could mean that over 4,000 children could go to primary school, or that 50 children can be educated right through to the age of 16.

Well done everyone, let's see what we can achieve for this year's chosen charity!

New Year 7 Mathematics Termly Bulletin

As one of the new initiatives brought about by the schools new status as a Business and Enterprise Specialist College, the Mathematics Department will be issuing every boy in year 7 with a termly Mathematics bulletin. This is to remind boys of their Key Stage 2 test level (from Year 6), inform them of their target for this term and whether their test performance this term has been in line with, slightly below or significantly below that target. To make it easier to follow, the level for the term will be colour coded. A green coloured level indicates a test performance that is in line with or above the target level. A yellow coloured level indicates a test performance that is slightly below the target level. A red coloured level indicates a test performance that is significantly below the target level.

The targets have been calculated in order to ensure that if a student keeps up with the termly targets until the end of year 9, they will reach or better the Key Stage 3 level calculated by the Fischer Family Trust. These targets are nationally acclaimed as the most accurate predictions of pupils' performance at Key Stage 3.

In some instances, it has not been possible to find out a boys Key Stage 2 test level. In this case, the pupil has been temporarily assigned a level that is the average level for the form and an average target has been set for these boys. Where necessary, new targets will be set for these boys next term.

We are confident that this system will keep you and your sons informed of their progress term by term, that the boys will be able to respond accordingly and that the Mathematics Department will also be able to intervene where necessary.

Mr G W Griffiths
Asst Head of Mathematics &
Mathematics Strand Leader for
Specialist College



Mathematics		Yr 7 Target Setting
Name	John SMITH	78
KS2 Mathematics Level		52
Yr 7 Target Term 1		54
Yr 7 Target Term 2		57
Yr 7 Target Term 3		6
Term	Average mark (%)	Level
Autumn Term	62	54
Spring Term		
Summer Term		

Remember: GREEN is on or above target, YELLOW almost reached target and RED is undertarget.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

ATTENTION ALL MATHS FANS!

*Are you thinking maths lessons aren't enough?
Do you like brain-teasing puzzles?
Well come on down to*

Maths Club

Try to beat our champion Chess Ladder or complete the brain-twisting maths puzzles. If you think you've got the brains to knock the leading chess champ Sam 'o' Connell off his lead, then come along!

There are lots of puzzles to do so let us see your ability to master them all. See if you have got the skills to be the ultimate brain gamer! Let's see if you can beat the brain boys of Maths Club!

By John Carr 8D

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SIXTH FORM ENGLISH LITERATURE- AMADEUS TRIP

On the 13th of October, the entire contingent of Sixth Form English Literature students departed for London to take in a performance of Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus* at Wilton's Music Hall, a decidedly atmospheric venue which was entirely suited to the feel and context of the play. Those who dismissed it as 'in need of restoration' of course missed the point; the theatre itself was striking, the surroundings of Tower Hamlets more open to criticism. The party reached London at around lunchtime, with free time available to enjoy what Oxford Street had to offer, before moving on later in the afternoon to the South Bank to visit the Tate Modern with a view to testing the newly installed slides - purely for the artistic experience of course.



The play began at 7:30 pm and from the moment Matthew Kelly, in the role of Mozart's jealous rival Salieri, took to the stage it was clear the stage belonged to him. He proceeded to deliver a masterful performance, aided by Jonathan Broadbent in the role of Mozart, whose youthful exuberance was the perfect foil to Kelly's cynical and bitter Salieri. The addition of live musicians to accompany the acting supplemented the play perfectly. The group left the theatre in a hurry, before even the applause had died away, to pursue the increasingly futile goal of catching the 11:30 pm train home, which was missed unfortunately but not unexpectedly, leading to a return home at the accommodating hour of 4 a.m. However despite this, it was clear that the trip was a highly enjoyable experience of both of London and the theatre and a valuable opportunity to see the text in performance.

Joseph Hales I62

Sixth Form Geography Trip - COASTAL PROCESSES AND ISSUES

On Tuesday the 31st of October the sixth form geography students, led by a five strong team of staff, embarked on a combined field trip to Thurston and Hilbre Islands to prepare for the GGB1 and GGB6 A Level Examinations. Despite precise planning by staff, they had picked the only wet day of the week, though luckily it cleared as we began the fieldwork, leaving us only the gale force winds to contend with. We then set about (with no small amount of difficulty) surveying the beach, measuring both slope levels and sediment size with the aim of investigating the impact of coastal processes on the geomorphology of the beach.



The second part of the fieldwork was the visit to Hillbre Island. After a tiring battle with the elements to reach it, the two year groups split up, Lower Sixth discussing the geological features with Mr Youd / Mr Kenyon and Upper Sixth being given a talk about the issues surrounding the island from the resident ranger accompanied by Mr Taws and Mr Christian. Overall the day was a success, being both interesting and informative as well as providing important data on the beach at Thurston.

Andrew Roberts U67

A BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE SPECIALIST SCHOOL

From the start of this term we began a new era in the life of our school. Following a successful application to the Department for Education and Skills, back in October 2005, we became designated as a Specialist School for Business and Enterprise with effect from this September. Over the next four years our school will receive £500,000 in additional funding from the DfES. Our lead subject areas are Business Studies, ICT and Mathematics and the additional funding will provide new learning opportunities and resources across the curriculum for activities relating to enterprise education.

This and future issues of Nuntius will keep you informed of developments relating to our new specialist status.

CREST Project report – Phil Arathoon 10H



Every year the BA (British Association) holds an event called the CREST Awards, designed to encourage and develop students from 13 –19 years old to better understand the world of science. Each candidate must conduct their own experiment and present it to judges in order to succeed.

Last year the school took part in the National Finals in London and came second in the entire country thanks to Tom Smith and Matthew Sweeney. This year's projects were chosen to go to the regional finals at Anfield in October. The following boys were chosen to go and have their projects judged:

- Charles Hughes & Rowan Patel
- Nathan Ellis & Josh Eaton
- Tom Kelsey & Chris Jowitt
- Phil Arathoon
- David Colman
- James Forshaw

When we arrived at the football ground we were ushered in and pinned our presentations onto our boards. The day's events included lunch, a tour of the ground (including a rest in the Manager's chair) and a demonstration on tasting chocolate!

The judging was done by members of the BA. It was extremely tense and the ability to answer questions about your project quickly was a necessity. The competition ranged from schools such as Helsby High, Birkenhead School and Altrincham Grammar. The variety of projects also ranged with titles such as 'Water Purification' all the way to 'Simulation of a Rocket Dispatch to Mars using Numerical Integration of Orbits of Java'. No I've not got a clue either!

Out of 41 projects, 6 were from our school. At the end of the day everyone gathered in the 'Shankley' Suite, already aware that the decisions had been made by the judges. We were given a speech on the development and importance of sciences by AstraZeneca. The speaker also mentioned that as he walked through the displays many had importance to real life and were similar to those carried out by his company. All those he mentioned specifically were from Wirral Grammar!

After the speech the award ceremony began. The winners were to be chosen to go to London in February for the National Finals. The winner for the Bronze Award was unfortunately not from our school. However, when the awards for the Silver came out we got lucky. Philip Arathoon's experiment, 'Action Spectrum', won first prize! Philip Arathoon, just so happens to be me!

I was extremely pleased at gaining the award and winning £250 worth of equipment for the school (and an ipod for myself). I am looking forward to visiting London in February to try and come top in the country (hopefully).

Thank you to Dr. Cooper, who took us all to the event, and Mrs Green, the Biology technician, for helping with the equipment and experiment.
Phil Arathoon 10H

The challenge now goes out to the current year 9 students to try and match the achievements of this year's contestants. Start thinking of ideas!



Phil receives his trophy from the Headteacher

DRAMA SOCIETY NEWS

To those of us of a certain age the mere mention of the title of this year's Drama Society production is enough to inspire a full rendition (complete with star jumps) of the title song – "Fame! I'm gonna live forever!" A ludicrous idea, of course, particularly if the secret of eternal life involves yards of spandex and an unlimited supply of leg warmers.

At this point I sense I will have lost the attention of the younger generation who have never experienced a single episode of the long-running 1970's TV show (It really did last forever). Ask your parents to reminisce about that plucky bunch of happy go-lucky, American kids who – damn right - are going to take the world by storm. Or, at least, by acting, dancing or singing their socks (pardon, leg warmers) off.

Watch them go misty-eyed as they recall Leroy and the others, whose names they will have forgotten, but there was one ginger-haired and troubled and another had black curls and talent bursting from every thigh-slapping, high-kicking pas-de-deux.

The best news about this is that the Drama Society of the Girls' and Boys' Schools is re-creating the whole thing in its up-coming production of 'Fame' (March 2007). All your favourites are in it, together with some great dancing, singing and, of course, acting.

As the photographs show we're already well into rehearsals and it promises to be a hugely enjoyable experience for all involved. The cast have a professional production in Nottingham to go to (13 January 2007) and Peter Polycarpou, our favourite actor, is coming in to give another of his inspirational workshops. So, to quote one of the songs from the show – 'Bring on Tomorrow. We can't wait'.

But you'll have to wait to seeing them all until 20 – 24 March 2007! Leg warmers optional.

G R Hinde
Director

The story of "Fame"

Tuesday 20th March – Saturday 24th March 2007



The story of "Fame" tracks the high school careers of a group of students passing through New York's High School for the Performing Arts.

The students come from a variety of backgrounds and ethnic mixes, and their interaction with each other, as well as their academic studies, serves as a vehicle through which they can explore their artistic ability and develop their skills as creative artists.



Romance and friendships develop as the story makes a social statement which could easily be relevant to the youth of today.

Geoff Hinde, Director, has cast an enthusiastic and energetic mix of students from both the girls' school and the boys' school. The productions are scheduled to take place between Tuesday 20th March - Saturday 24th March 2007.



Meet the Fame Company:

Our Actors

Nick Piazza Alistair Knights
Serena Katz Sophie James
Joe Vegas Paul Kemp

Our Dancers

Tyrone Jackson Ali Foroozani
Carmen Diaz Claire Sheridan
Iris Kelly Hannah Benson
Mabel Washington Nicola Eccles

Our Teachers

Miss Esther Sherman Louisa Edwards
Ms Greta Bell Yvonne Bagnall
Mr Myers Ashleigh Owen
Mr Sheinkope David Netherwood

Our Musicians

Schlomo Metzenbaum Phil Arathoon
Grace "Lambchops" Lamb Katy Seedhouse
Goodman "Goody" King Mark Owen

Students of Performing Arts

Carmen Bradford	Laura Johnson
Matthew Mellor	Jenny Carter
Sophie Bowen-Jones	Connor Riordan
Matthew Carter	Amy Jones
Andrew Roberts	Stef Cooper
Jenny Jones	Beccy Simpson
Sophie Cottrell	Lee Jones
Nick Taylor	Chris Dala
Tom Jones	Kenny Wiles
Charlotte Drummond	Owen Kean
Sean Harris	Janna Kirkby
Ryan Howard	Sam Lewtas
Vanessa Howard	Holly Martin

The Fame Production Team

Director Geoff Hinde
Musical Director Amy Chalmers
Production Manager Graeme Williams
Stage Manager Gemma Child
Costume Co-ordination Esmé Lewis
Continuity Ben Kirkby
Lighting Designers Callum Buckle/Jack Oxtan/Chris Salvidge
Sound Jon Hooper

WIRRAL CRICKET CLUB REPORT

Wirral Cricket Club, based at Clatterbridge, is the "old boys" Club. Many ex students play at the Club, as do many current boys from this school. The Club is 50 years old next season, and we are looking to celebrate the 2007 season with enthusiasm. We run teams at Under 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 level, and pre-season winter nets will take place in February. Details for boys interested will be placed on notice boards near the PE room near the time. If boys wish to join the Club, they can contact the Junior Section organiser, Roger Lambourne on 07836 769977. I am also the Secretary of the Club, so I am contactable at the school.

Wirral run four senior sides on a Saturday and a Sunday and midweek team. We have facilities that encourage good cricket, and we are committed to developing cricketers of all abilities at our Club. We are developing links with visually impaired cricketers and are committed making sure that there is a place for everyone who enjoys and plays cricket.

Mr L McKibbin
Secretary Wirral CC

ROYAL LIVERPOOL GOLF TOURNAMENT

TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2006

A team of five from Wirral Grammar School for boys consisting of Matthew Capman, James Atherton, Adam Mcgrath, Rob Jones and Michael Hinchcliffe played in a Stableford competition. The team played very well, coming fourth out of 15 schools. Adam Mcgrath did exceptionally well, coming first and winning the individual prize with a score of (42) points. Other scores were Rob Jones (36), Michael Hinchcliffe (28), James Atherton (26), Matthew Chapman (25).

Royal Liverpool Golf Club is generally regarded as being one of the best golf clubs in the country and where the Open championship was held in July 2006.

Let's not forget the day would not have happened without the assistance of Mr Money and Mr Christian.

Rob Jones 8B



HOCKEY REPORT

The start of the Hockey season has seen a new influx of Hockey players and improvements in the school's squads. I have been impressed with the development of our boys and their efforts in the games so far this year.

It has been a very encouraging start for the school to see such a positive approach and attitude to hockey in the first few weeks of term. A group of almost 35 Year 9 boys has been training at the Oval along with 30 Year 10 boys and the squads of both Year 11 and Sixth Form. There are many things that can be improved upon and the boys understand that they will have to work very hard this year. The main focus from myself has been that everyone enjoys playing and has fun whilst improving their skills on the field.

Hockey over the last twelve months has progressed nicely with lots of areas of improvement and the new arrival of players starting in Years 7/8 and 9.

The beginning of the academic year has seen changes to hockey training. On Friday evenings training is open to all boys in Year 7, 8 and 9. This has been a huge success with 60 boys attending for the first 4 weeks. Attending training gives the boys a new sport to play and helps them to improve their basic skills, which can then be applied to a game. There is definitely a lot of potential within this group of players and matches are arranged for them in the new year.

1st XI / 2nd XI Squad

This year has seen many of the boys who played a successful part in the second half of the season become the core of this year's 1st XI. With the addition of boys into the lower sixth, Bradley Cook, Peter Van Berkum, Luke Jarmay, Mike Cooper and Danny Walton have all played a part in the 1st and 2nd XI matches. This year's Captain is Lee Steadman and Vice Captain is Will Oldham. The boys will have to work hard this year to develop their fitness, basic skills and then apply this to the matches this season.

The results so far for the 1st XI side have seen mixed success from an excellent win against St Anselms to a mistake ridden game against Calday. The boys have worked hard at training and have seen improvements in their passing game and their ability to score goals. The best performance of the season so far was against Merchant Taylors and the result of the season, 4-1. We played fluent, composed and fiery hockey, with all players making excellent contributions. First-rate approach play and profound defending provided the platform for goals from Graves, Drew, Taylor and Steadman. An excellent performance against Sandbach saw the 1st XI win 4-0 and the 2nds 2-0.



U16's Squad

The Year 11 boys have had really encouraging results so far this season after struggling for the most part last year. A good 2-2 draw against St Anselms signalled this and a further 2-2 draw with Calday and a 3-0 win against Neston put us in a great position with just a win needed against St Anselms to be in the final. There was to be disappointment though as we lost 4-0. Goal scoring and clinical finishing was the difference in the game but good performances by many of the boys suggest this group of players will improve. Some of the U16 squad will play a part in the 2nd team this year giving them experience and preparation for the Australia tour.

There are some talented players who will improve this year through the coaching and support from Mr Cooper, Mr Kenyon, Mr Thomason and myself.

I am looking forward to working with and improving the talents of the boys and putting together successful teams, developing the skills of the boys in school lessons and the hockey squads. I have been encouraged by the attitude of the boys, especially in the lower school. I hope that I can bring success and develop talented youngsters who represent their school, join local clubs and play for the Wirral.

Well done to Chris Scott and Adam Liu who were selected for the Wirral U17's. Congratulations to Kieran Riddiough, Matthew Walker, Harry Bush, who were selected for the Wirral U15's. David Johnstone has been selected for the U14 squad as the goalkeeper.

This is a great achievement. Well done.

To follow the progress of the boys and their results, log onto the website.
<http://wgshockey.blogspot.com>

Anthony Metcalf
Master i/c Hockey



YEAR 7 RUGBY

The under 12's have made an impressive start to their rugby careers at Wirral Grammar Schools for Boys, with a large group of boys with a lot of natural ability and desire to win. This has been evident in the games with convincing performances against tough opposition.

The rugby squad has a mature approach to the game and their willingness to learn has been a major contribution to their success so far, with victories against Stockport, Hutton, Wilmslow, Kings Macclesfield, and St Anselms.

The boys have been aided in my absence by Mr Briers and Mr McKinney who have worked hard with the boys, Thank you both.

Congratulations to Chris Crowley who was named as captain of the A team. Jonathan Greenall has been made the B team captain.

Let's hope that the boys can put all the hard work into action and string a few more impressive performances together to have a really successful season.

A big thank you must go to all the parents who turn out every Saturday morning to support their son's playing rugby. It really does make a difference.

Mr S A Clarke



YEAR 8 RUGBY

JUNIOR BANTAMS

The Junior Bantams have had a frustrating season so far. The A team has played well in many of the games but has failed to have the killer instinct needed to finish off teams it ought to have beaten! Good wins against Hutton, Stockport, Arnold were followed up with a very good win against Bridgewater. Calday proved too strong, but other matches ought to have seen victories. Nevertheless, the lads train well and learn quickly, but there needs to be more consistency in order to show greater success. Winning isn't everything, and as long as the boys enjoy playing and showing development in their play, this has to be the important aspect of their rugby. Watching more rugby will help I suggest.

Gary Edwards has skippered the side well, and there are many good players in this squad. I congratulate the B team on their unbeaten status up to the end of November, only to lose to St Ambrose.

I would like to thank Mr Andy McKinney for his help in training the squad, and for his refereeing on a Saturday morning.

Those who have played this term are:

Sam Bowman	Luke Atherton
Adam Gould	Nick Harvey
Michael Stewart	James Broom
Keiran McKenzie	Sam O'Connell
Mark Triggs	Max Dutton
Eddie Forshaw	Chris Burrows
Tom Hutchinson	James Carey
Connor Hodson	Aaron Smith
Callum Redhead	Kieran Cook
Danny Smith	Peter Pegasiou
Elliott Speed.	

Ben Cavean
Chris Hatter
Joshua Simpson
Robert Kophamel
Tom Sweeney
Christian Lea
Danny Evans
Alex Keen
Ellis Healing
Daniel Light

Tom Byrne
Ryan Higginson
Ray Anderson
Oliver McGee
Jack Woods
Jamie Davies
Tom Charters
Sagar Jadeja
Gary Edwards
Alfie Heywood

Mr L McKibbin

Rugby U14

Played 8, Won 3, Lost 5
North West State Schools area winners
October 2006
Captain Yan Greenshaw 9B
Vice Captain Ronan Duffy 9H

An excellent start to the season saw the the U14 win 3 out of the first 4 games, playing some fantastic rugby. The win against Calday was a real highlight especially as the team had lost the previous game in year 8.

We moved confidently to the away game against Merchant Taylors, a team we beat comfortably last season. 17-12 up with 15 minutes to go we gifted the game to Merchants with basic errors and a lack of concentration.

That unfortunately has been a constant theme over the last weeks, getting ahead and giving games away or giving sides a start before playing like I know we can.

However all is not lost. A positive mind set is vital. Injuries have been at a very high level for weeks and players are out of position but crisis presents opportunity and new faces have done well and this is still a very capable and talented team.

Collective spirit will count for much in the next term and results will, I am sure, come. We must be prepared to work hard, learn by our mistakes and focus hard on all aspects of our game for all 50 minutes .

All the best
 G J Money

Rugby U16

U 16 NUNTIUS RUGBY REPORT

The U16 team has only played 4 matches so far this season which is a disappointment to all, especially with the forthcoming tour to Australia on the horizon. A number of matches have been cancelled by the opposition and there may be the possibility to re-arrange some of these in the spring term.

Of the games played, the team have won them all. These were against Arnold, Merchant Taylors, Rydal and Kirkham in the Floodlite cup.

There were good performances against Merchant Taylors and especially Kirkham where the team was completely dominant in all departments of the game and won both rather easily. Less convincing was the last match against Rydal who we beat easily last year but this year where we really struggled to find any form after taking a 10 point early lead. In fact we were very lucky to win by one point and really did not deserve to win. It is said that a sign of a good team is to win matches when playing poorly. If this is correct we must be brilliant.

The lack of games is a problem but so is the fact that a number of the players have not trained sufficiently well throughout the season on a Monday night. There are lots of reasons why this has been the case but a big effort to get to training must be a priority from now on if we want to compete and be as successful as we have been previously.

Mr I F Davies

Rugby U15



This season the team has shown great improvement, with good performances on the pitch and an improvement in overall attitude off it.

There was a positive feeling about pre-season training and many players took Mr Beeley's motivation and advice on board.

There have been many positional changes throughout the team from previous years but every player has adapted well and one sign of obvious improvement is that games that have been lost heavily in previous years have been lost by a much smaller margin this year. There have been high and low points so far, with a bad performance at home to Holmes Chapel, which resulted in us being knocked out of the Daily Mail cup in the second round, proving to be the low point. Wins at Rydal in the first round of the same cup and at home to Stockport, proved to be high points.

When all 15 players concentrate and we play our own style of rugby, we are a very good side. However short lapses in concentration tend to cost us dearly. I am certain that the best of this team has not been seen yet but I have every confidence that in the next part of this season it will be.

James Reeve- U15s Captain

1st XV Report

A mixed start to the season for the 1st XV. Of the 12 games played to date we have won 5, drawn 3 and lost 4. With a little bit of luck and a little more composure under pressure our playing record would be much better.

Our season started with the traditional opening fixture against the Past Captain's XV at Wirral RUFC. A last gasp try from the Old Boys earned them a 12-12 draw and a share of the spoils! Nevertheless we were not too disappointed and three days later got our first win of the season defeating Arnold School at home, 24-5. The following Saturday we travelled to local rivals Calday Grammar School, and despite not being at our best, managed a sound 17-5 victory. What happened next I can only describe as three days of madness! Firstly, in the Daily Mail Cup against St Anselm's we squandered a 26-7 lead with only 20 minutes remaining to eventually draw 26-26 and go out of the competition on the away team rule. Not content with this performance, 3 days later against Merchant Taylors' School we drew 19-19 after leading 19-0, again with only 20 minutes to go!

Still, after 5 games we were still unbeaten – despite the fact that we should have had 5 wins from 5 outings. However, this was not to last and we suffered our first defeat on the road at Kirkham Grammar School (18-3), and then somewhat unluckily lost again at Stockport Grammar School a week later (31-26). Undeterred, and showing excellent character, we pulled things around just before half term, with an excellent 29-10 win away at Hutton Grammar School.

Since the break we have suffered defeats to Wilmslow High School (15-10) and King's Macclesfield (28-8) – our worst performance of the season! Impressive victories against Ormskirk School (40-7) in the first round of the Daily Mail Vase, and Rydal School (48-10) have been much more encouraging, however, and in the latter game skipper Alex Murphy scored 5 tries! Quite a feat by anyone's standards!

All in all, a reasonable start to the campaign. Alex Murphy is Rugby Captain for this important 2006-2007 season culminating in an 18-day tour to Australia. He is supported by Vice-Captain Iain Lednor and a large and enthusiastic squad of senior players. Congratulations to them – let's hope it is a successful and, most importantly, enjoyable season for everyone!

Mr Phil Crowley
1st XV Coach

County Honours

Congratulations to First XV Vice Captain Iain Lednor who was selected for the Cheshire 18 Group.

In the Cheshire 16 Group squad we have a very strong representation from Wirral Grammar School. No less than 7 players have been chosen for the County Squad this season – James Annetts, Jack Ashcroft, John Ledger, Tom Smith, Chris Speed, Matthew Sweeney and Lewis Wilson.

Congratulations also to Sam Edgar and Tom Maynard who were selected for West Cheshire U15s in the recent District game against Central Cheshire. Hopefully they too will go on to gain full County Honours.

2nd XV rugby report

What a start to the year! Positive attitudes and training ethos helped the transition from a lazy summer to the start of the rugby season. We built to the first game against Arnold with a new team and captain, Ben Smith.

Need we have worried? Not at all. Nine tries spread through the forwards and backs boded well for the season ahead (although a greedy Andrew Roberts on the wing bagged four tries).

We confidently travelled to Calday, a game Mr White REALLY wanted to win. What happened, boys? The only game of the season we have failed to score a try in and an appalling performance. Back to the drawing board and a back to basics training session ahead I think.

St Anselms and Merchants paid the price as they conceded tries to a more determined and offensive Wirral side. 19 tries in two games (well they were both stopped just after half time, as we scored 56 in each) and no points against.

Travelling to Kirkham we were rather tense as we faced the first major challenge of the season. A lot of changes in the team and a much stronger Kirkham bench meant that, despite a superb effort and commitment to the cause, we lost. That Kirkham's Headmaster was refereeing was really nothing to do with it.....

That was the last loss. In the next five games we scored 27 tries and conceded only 29 points. That is testament to the fact that the superb forward pack had largely starved the opposition of the ball and the determined defence in the backs. As we approach the second half of the season, having used 35 different players, the commitment and determination remain. This is largely due to the hard-core of settled players led more than ably by Ben Smith. A massive thank you should go to him for his leadership and positive approach.

Success on the pitch has meant that many players are getting opportunities in the 1st XV. This is fantastic as we are, at the end of the day, a squad of players. As players get promoted into the second team, I hope that they come with the same attitude and approach that the players have shown in the first half of the season.

Top try scorer – Matthew Mullen 8 tries

Mr A Metcalf