



# Nuntius

WIRRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
A Business & Enterprise School for Boys



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

December 2011

## SUSTAINING HIGH STANDARDS – Record Results

Our public examination results for 2011 maintained the very high standards of recent years and there were a number of significant record breaking achievements.

At GCSE, results were on par with the best ever, with 98% of pupils gaining five or more GCSEs at grades A\* to C and 98% gaining five or more GCSEs at grades A\* to C including English and Maths at A Level. Every student who sat an exam passed in every subject this year, giving an A level pass rate of 100%. The overall pass rate including General Students, which all students took in Year 12, was 99% and 91% gained at least 4 A level passes. 14% of all entries were A\* and over a third of all grades (36%) were A\* or A, nearly two thirds (62%) were at top grades A\*/A/B and 84% at grades A\* to C.

In the last week of the Autumn Term we celebrated the achievements of all students in last year's Years 11 and 13 at our Certificate Evening at Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight.

## Christmas Fair



The school's Christmas Fair took place on Saturday 26 November 2011. The fair is organised by the Parents Association on an annual basis. Chairperson David Elliott said 'I am delighted to say that, thanks to the support of the boys and their parents, we have this year raised somewhere in the region of £5,235 which, in the current climate, is a fantastic result. In particular I would like to extend my thanks to all members of the PA and all our helpers who helped achieve this.

## Y10 Geography Trip: Nant Ffrancon Valley

We arrived at Nant Ffrancon Valley at about 10:30am. Half-way up the valley, we pulled in to a lay-by, so we could take in the views and start to fill in booklets we had been given.

When we arrived we split up into four groups, with each one going on a slightly different route around the area. We started off by walking up to Cwm Idwal, a large corrie at the top of the valley. We sat on a large rock, and filled the section of the booklets about corries, whilst Miss Strand discussed the key features, and pointed out where they could be seen.

After the stop at the edge of the corrie lake, we walked around the perimeter of it and saw more features along the way – steep backwall, another corrie, scree, moraine – the list goes on.

We stopped for lunch at about 1pm, where we sat on the rock lip. From here, we could see the whole of the valley, and its U-shape was obvious. We could also identify hanging valleys, the misfit stream and truncated spurs. On the way back down to the visitor centre, we saw moraine beside the path, and identified what type it was. When we arrived at the centre, we stopped for a few minutes, before continuing on a path down the rest of the valley. This took us beside hanging valleys and truncated spurs. We also saw scree, a dry river bed, waterfalls and boulder clay at the side of the misfit stream running down the centre of the valley.

Before we got back on the coaches, we stopped on a Roche Moutonnee – a small hill of rock formed by the glacier eroding the bedrock below it as it moved down the valley. When we arrived back at school, we were all now more informed about the features of glacial processes.



**More images of Nant Ffrancon Valley are available at [www.tiny.cc/wgsnantffrancon](http://www.tiny.cc/wgsnantffrancon).**

Andrew McLannahan 10PAC

**'Nuntius on-line'** Larger articles can be found by accessing the 'Nuntius On-Line' link via the school website [www.wirralgrammarboys.com](http://www.wirralgrammarboys.com) Articles included are: EU Mock Elections by Gareth Matthey U63, Killing Fields to Forgiveness by Aaron Smith U63, House Matters by The House Captains

## Welcome

Dear All

The Autumn Term this year has been an especially busy one. Over the pages you will read a wide range of achievements on both the academic and extra-curricular sides to school life. It is very pleasing to see so many boys fully engaging in the life of the school in such a wide variety of ways.

The term started with new of superb examination results and a number of new significant school records were made.

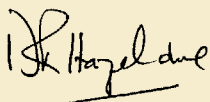
Support for our Parents' Associate continues to grow. This year's Christmas Fair raised £5,235 which is a very impressive sum from a single event. Each year, PA funding is spent directly on resources that are of benefit to the pupils. Our Friends' Programme has been very well received and supported and as you will be aware, without these funds we would have difficulties in providing many of the 'extras' that go to make experiences of school life as wide ranging as possible.

Charity fundraising has again been a focus during the Autumn Term. We were delighted to hand over a cheque for £6,000 which was the outcome of our fund raising efforts in 2010/2011. Our focus for the current academic year is Cancer Research UK.

During the Autumn Term, both Mrs Hynes and Mrs Finnegan left to start maternity leave; we are delighted to announce the arrival of baby boys for both of them and look forward to their return next year.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to extend very best wishes to everyone for the Christmas and New Year period. We have every expectation that 2012 will be another very successful year in the life of our school.

Yours sincerely,



David Hazeldine  
Headteacher

## SWITCH OFF FORTNIGHT



Our school has recently registered to become an Eco School and this term students from 7RB have been taking part in an energy saving project that will hopefully make it a greener place. The Switch Off Fortnight (12st November—4th December) is part of the Comenius project; it is designed to raise awareness of how much energy we are wasting and what we can do to become energy efficient, which means young people can help to make the world a better place.

Around school, audits have been going on to see which department is the most energy efficient. You may have noticed posters that have been put up; these are so we don't forget the good work we are doing. We have registered at [www.jointhepod.org](http://www.jointhepod.org) to show others our great work and hopefully win some awards!!

In addition, in a fortnight we run the audit again to see which department shall be crowned champion energy saver. 'Switch Off Fortnight' is going to teach us a lot about how to save energy around school and hopefully in our homes.

Harry Pickard/Samuel Gregory 7RB



## SAM Learning

SAM Learning is our on-line revision resource that pupils use to aid their understanding of school subjects. 'SAM' stands for 'Self Assessment Method'. 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](http://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.

## UKMT Maths Team Challenge

On Thursday 17th November, the school sent a team of 4 to the annual UKMT Maths Team Challenge at Christleton High School. It comprised of two upper and two lower sixth formers. As we set off for the venue, our minds were full of numerical optimism. When we arrived, we found that our neighbouring girls' school had taken the table next to us, and it was clear there was going to be competition. We went into the first round strong, with each of us sharing and working through the 10 set questions. At the end of the round the scores came back with us earning a strong score of 7 points out of 10. Next was the 'cross number' round where we had to split into two pairs. Each pair would attempt the 'down' or 'across' numbers. The catch to this, was that

a lot of the questions relied upon previous questions being answered, and so, with neither pair being allowed to communicate with each other, it was clear that it was going to be tricky. Nevertheless we shone in this round only dropping a few marks out of 50, and managing to complete the puzzle. We came into the interval in a very high position. Unfortunately, when it came to said round, we failed to deliver as well as we'd hoped, dropping marks in a variety of clumsy ways, and when the round finished, the challenge was over, we could do no more. We waited for the final scores in eager anticipation; we came in a respectable 5th place – a WGSB record. Thanks to everyone involved for a very enjoyable day; in particular Mr Ronayne for spending several hours driving us to and from the venue, and accompanying us during the day.

Yyanis Johnson-Llambias U61

## £6,000 Raised in Charity Appeal for UNICEF



Last year our school charity was UNICEF. After the devastating effect of the Pakistan Floods, quick action was taken by the Head Boy Team to donate to a cause in desperate need. Every single boy in our school contributed to the effort in ways big and small. The whole school joined in with non-uniform days for a small donation each, while members of the sixth form took the idea further with festive and silly tie days. Whole forms worked together on their own events; simple things like sponsored silences and bake sales, while individuals were able to shine in talent competitions and the annual Air Guitar Championship. Members of staff were willing to get involved with a 'Weakest Link' competition and the ever-popular Staff Karaoke.

The scale of events ranged from the small – collections tins in every form room and collections at lunchtimes – to the grand. Jan Greenshaw and two others, Michael Bowen and David Lawrie, took on the Three Peaks Challenge to climb Britain's tallest mountains – Ben Nevis in Scotland, Scafell Pike in England and Mount Snowdon in Wales – within the space of 24 hours. A truly amazing undertaking. Though less taxing, the physical effort of the school fancy dress fun run was also notable, if mostly for the costumes involved. The lower years especially played their part with a number of quiz competitions and film screenings helping to raise funds. The music department was involved with Andrew Rich recording a song with other members of the department and donating the proceeds to charity. Members of this year's Head Boy Team took part in the Wirral Coastal Charity Walk with members of the outgoing team in what was probably their last contribution. In total we raised over £6,000, a fantastic total that everyone should be proud of. A representative from UNICEF came in to give a presentation to years 9 and 10 where we were very proud to present him with the cheque.

Since the start of this year we have been raising money for Cancer Research UK. As well as the usual non-uniform days, we have been raising money through bag-packing with the Parents Association, not to mention a spectacular Wirral's Got Talent and a special charity concert organised by Mr Seaman. The traditional Christmas end of term events are coming up, including the Staff Karaoke, and we are looking to increase charity efforts after the winter break with form events planned. We hope that that this year can be even more successful than last year if everyone continues to play their part.  
David Field U65GA

## A Challenging Enterprise! First Prize for Year 9 Boys

On Thursday 10th November, seven Year 9 pupils, including myself, joined Mr Ronayne in entering 'The Manufacturing Institute's, Enterprise Challenge sponsored by URECO. The day started by being crammed into Mr Ronayne's office, completing a questionnaire and being briefed by Mr Ronayne on what, roughly today, was going to involve.

Eventually, it was time to leave for 'The Holiday Inn' in Ellesmere Port where the challenge was being held. The day was going to be challenging enough without making matters worse by arguing, before we even knew what they were, over the roles each of us was going to take. The main room was big; there was a stage, a buffet area and tables set out with the names of the school's attending the day and two tables set out for the two teacher tables - the teachers attending had to make their own team and take part. Our table was central in the room and we had a good eye on the competition. When it commenced, we were greeted by the 'Make-it' team who talked us through what they do and other things they organise after which there was a speech by URENCO telling us about them, what they do and finally, what today's enterprising challenge was.

The task was to create a container and method of transport to safely transport Uranium Hexafluoride, a radioactive substance. Eventually, after great discussion and difference of opinion, we all had our different roles, and, Directed by Sam Lock, we were off! I found the challenge quite a tough one to get my head round as I entered it completely blank, as I have no previous knowledge of the manufacturing business, therefore, anything I learnt was a great bonus. We all had our roles, the design team were designing, the financial manager was playing with numbers, the marketing manager was wasting our money and Alex and I, the Health & Safety Managers, were in charge of making sure our product was safe. By lunch, Wirral Grammar School for Boys had finished their paper work, built their containers and truck and felt rather pleased with themselves. It was decided that Sam would introduce us, the design team would talk about their input and I would 'baffle' everyone by talking about Health & Safety, marketing and numbers. I believe our pitch went excellently. The judges left and re-entered with their verdict...Wirral Grammar School for Boys were guilty of winning this heat of the enterprise challenge!

Overall, it gave us a great chance to get to know each other a bit more, have a laugh and after bringing home a great experience and £20 of bonds we also brought home an impressive glass trophy. I am thoroughly looking forward to the final next summer.

Ben Turner 9JHH



## Travelling by bus?

*Work is on-going to make sure that buses are a much safer, nicer place to be for all of our students travelling to and from school. We have regular meetings in school to ensure we are doing all we can and to discuss ways of improving the service.*



We are working closely with Merseytravel and the local Community Support Officers. The recent introduction of Merseytravel's reporting system means that bus drivers are now able to report any anti-social behaviour on the buses which in turn will be reported to us. Merseytravel have installed CCTV cameras on many of the buses and have asked us to encourage all our students to behave and consider other bus users. Students are also reminded that they must collect a ticket on every trip.

Following last year's pilot scheme on bus safety we are now pleased to report that we have a bus steward on every school bus. These bus stewards are sixth formers who have been chosen for their reliable, mature attitude. They report any issues of anti-social behaviour to Mrs Walker and these matters are dealt with in an appropriate manner by the respective Head of Year of the students involved.

We have recently completed a transport safety survey on behalf of Merseytravel, results of which will follow in the next edition of Nuntius. Further information can be obtained from Mrs Walker.

## Spelling Bee

On the sunny morning of Wednesday 16th March, we set off towards the stunning Cambridge University. The buildings were an amazing blend of classic architecture and new design. The judges for the three languages – French, German and Spanish – arrived, along with the creator of the Routes Into Languages Spelling Bee, Jane Driver. She gave a speech, and then we were told which room to proceed to, depending on which language we were competing in. When we got to the rooms, we were sat in rows, with parents and other supporters in rows behind, the judges and timer at the front. We were then called up to the front individually, in alphabetical order by school, so I was near the end. We waited for the judges to compare their results, but unfortunately I had not made it to the last four.

Aaron D'Cruz 9SMC



## Musical Composition for the Edinburgh Festival

**In the summer term of 2011, music GCSE students at Wirral Grammar were commissioned to write a composition, to be performed at the Edinburgh festival.**

Comedian, cartoonist, and published children's author, Phil Sheppard ([www.baacode.co.uk](http://www.baacode.co.uk)), asked Mrs Chalmers if one of her students would like to write the music for his new show. "Sheep Ahoy!" was a production for children, based on one of Phil's books. He needed a song that the audience would sing along with, and he had a specific list of criteria that the piece had to meet.

The students in the class all composed pieces and the winning composition was written by Ben Savage, now in year 11. Ben's piece was recorded over the summer, and was performed on a daily basis at the festival throughout August. Phil sent Ben a £20 HMV voucher and some signed books to thank him for his hard work. He said "The show went really well. The song especially was a hit!"

Thanks to Phil for giving our pupils this opportunity, and well done to Ben for producing an excellent piece of music.  
Mrs A Chalmers

## Concert for Clatterbridge

On the evening of 20th October, Peter Seaman, who teaches guitar and keyboard in school, and Radio Merseyside's Billy Butler successfully hosted a charity concert that had required months of planning.



Following the sad passing of Peter's wife, Margaret, last year after her brave battle with cancer, it was decided that a concert featuring both staff and students would be a great way of raising much needed funds for the Clatterbridge Oncology Centre and Cancer Research UK.

After hours of preparation Peter was certain that nothing could go wrong. But sure enough last minute hitches included a singer being taken ill, Billy Butler getting lost on his way to school to host the show and a projector screen that couldn't be moved from in front of the stage!

However the performances were consistently outstanding to the delight of a full school hall (and the show's host!) mixing classical pieces, big band arrangements and solo vocal performances. Particularly noted was the brilliant performance by Mrs Amy Chalmers who agreed to learn and perform the part of an absent singer with only hours to spare before the start of the show.

The concert raised a fantastic £1,445.34 and myself and Mr Seaman recently visited the Clatterbridge Oncology Centre to officially present them with a cheque. Afterwards we received a fascinating tour of their newest facilities, in particular the radiation department.

I would like to thank everyone who played and helped out in any way to ensure that the concert was so well received and also personally congratulate Peter on the success of his hard work and passion for the concert and its cause.  
Calum Redhead U66

## Visit by Alison McGovern MP

On 6th October 2011 Alison McGovern, Member of Parliament for Wirral South, visited Wirral Grammar Boys and spoke to over 60 sixth-form boys and staff in the newly re-furbished lecture theatre.

Questions asked included what were her thoughts on the current economic issues facing the country, what she thought of the new leader of the Labour Party and the amount of economic support to Wirral and Merseyside. Alison is pictured with Head Boy, Sean Cavanagh.



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## MUSIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE

A big welcome to all new musicians in the School! The Music Department now has 16 instrumental, vocal and ensemble teachers, together with 270 boys having lessons each week. There are seventeen instrumental and vocal ensembles which are represented by a Music Forum. This years' representatives are:

<b>President</b>	<b>Callum Redhead</b>	<b>U66</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Marcus Miller</b>	<b>L67</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Callum Bennett</b>	<b>L67</b>
<b>Concert Band</b>	<b>Tom Preston Cahill</b>	<b>U62</b>
<b>Choir</b>	<b>Chistoper Wiles</b>	<b>L64</b>
<b>Orchestra</b>	<b>David Field</b>	<b>U65</b>
<b>String Group</b>	<b>Sam Molyneux</b>	<b>11WS</b>
<b>Brass Group</b>	<b>Jack Hughes</b>	<b>11HS</b>
<b>Rock Bands</b>	<b>Liam Nye</b>	<b>11PC</b>
<b>Woodwind Group</b>	<b>Tom Wood</b>	<b>11HS</b>
<b>Junior Brass Group</b>	<b>Robert Foard</b>	<b>10PAC</b>
<b>Keyboard Group</b>	<b>Declan Barrigan</b>	<b>9JMC</b>
<b>Electric Guitar Group</b>	<b>Joseph Kershaw</b>	<b>9SMC</b>
<b>Treble Choir</b>	<b>Joe Wilkes</b>	<b>8JB</b>
<b>Samba Band</b>	<b>William Bracken</b>	<b>8JB</b>



A true and accurate likeness of each of these important people is displayed in the Music Department as well as on the music notice board outside the Headmaster's office 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 or sings 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!

The first few concerts of the new school year have now taken place, including the Concert for Clatterbridge Oncology Centre on October 20th. This one-off concert featured pupils from both Wirral Boys and Girls, as well as a number of music staff, and raised over £1,400. The Autumn Concert involved fifteen different ensembles which rehearse each week, and the highlights included the new Year 7 Choir and the large number of boys in both brass groups. The Carol Service with the traditional nine lessons and carols provided an opportunity for the Choir with accompanying brass group to provide a fitting musical setting for this joyous time of year, both during the afternoon to years 7, 8 & 9 as well as to parents and friends in the evening.

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Result</b>
Joshua Beale	8NM	Violin	3	Merit
James Bluck	9OA	Cornet	3	Pass
Thomas Broad	8GWG	Cornet	3	Pass
Matthew Corcoran	8RR	Clarinet	1	Merit
Reuben Crockett	9SMC	Violin	1	Pass
Aled Davies	8RR	Trumpet	3	Pass
Thomas Deakin	L66	Trombone	5	Pass
Ben Dobbins	8RR	Trumpet	2	Merit
John Fieldhouse	9JHH	Euphonium	3	Distinction
Daniel Hale	8GWG	Piano	2	Merit
John Kemp	L64	Clarinet	6	Pass
Thomas Lee	10AB	Violin	3	Pass
Sam Molyneux	11WS	Violin	5	Pass
Philip Powell	8GWG	Trumpet	3	Merit
Ben Savage	11PC	Trumpet	6	Pass
Ben Sharrock	N/A	Trombone	8	Pass
Adam Shorrock	N/A	Clarinet	8	Pass
Jamie Shorrock	11MH	Theory	5	Pass
Dominic Storer	8NM	Trombone	2	Merit
James Tarver	7AD	Saxophone	5	Merit
Freddie Tedstone	8KJ	Saxophone	2	Pass
Thomas Wood	11HS	Clarinet	3	Pass
James Keeble	10AB	Drums	1	Merit



The Music Department's tour to Italy was its usual resounding success, with a number of very successful concerts to large and receptive audiences, notably for the Concert Band in Ospedaletti and the Choir in St Peter's Church, Savona. The excursions were very varied, including Europe's largest aquarium in Genoa, the spectacular caves at Toirano and the visit to Monaco, though I expect some boys preferred the day at the waterpark and the many opportunities to swim in the Mediterranean!

There's lots going on, and if you want to get the most out of music at Wirral Grammar School, get involved and get practising!

Mr P Thomas

## Coming Soon...



## WE WILL ROCK YOU

### THE ACTING COMPANY

<i>Scaramouche</i>	Chloe Gleave
<i>Killer Queen</i>	Kathleen Holloway
<i>Meat Loaf</i>	Charlotte Williams
<i>Khashoggi</i>	Ben Caveen
<i>Galileo</i>	Yyanis Johnson
<i>Britney Spears</i>	Lewis Casella

### Ensemble

Jonathan Cooke	Callum Redhead
Andrew McEwan	Nick Iatridis-Jones
Jack Hughes	Dan Weston
Gareth Matthey	Daniel Galvin
Andrew Sefton	Graham Fisher
Kieran France	Chablis Peel
Sophie Brook	Katie Hutchings
Elle Parker	Helen Youde
Katie Lee	Sarah Whitehill
Alex Landrum	Golda McNamee
Anya Keating	Emma Keith
Charlotte Grisenthwaite	Francesca Forsythe
Caitlin Jackson	Rebecca Pegasio

<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Cobain Schofield
<i>Choreographers</i>	Claire Cooper, Pip Armer
<i>Production Manager</i>	Ed Foreshaw
<i>Musical Director</i>	Peter Snowdon
<i>Director</i>	Geoff Hinde

## Chemistry Work Experience at Bristol Myers-Squibb

Ten boys from lower sixth studying chemistry were chosen to take part in an open day at the pharmaceutical company Bristol Myers Squibb in Moreton. We spent a full day there on Wednesday 26th October and we all agreed it was a very interesting experience.

There were 3 parts to the day that we all took part in:

- Making the product
- Testing the product
- Analysing the product.

Firstly we started with testing the product. We did an exercise where we learnt how to do a double blind trial with placebos; using smarties as pills. From this, we learnt the importance of clinic trials in releasing a new drug.

Secondly we went on to making the product. This involved the group being split into two, where one half learnt how to make the powders for the tablets, and the other half learnt how to make the actual pill. The powder had to be specific in that it could flow through a hopper and to do this, you had to add a precise amount of water.

The pill making process involved the use of large machines which funnelled the powder through and compressed it into tablet form. We were making up to 100 tablets a minute, and that was on a small machine. After we had made the tablets, we tested them with machines that calculated the break point and the dissolving rate in an artificial stomach environment. Finally, we analysed the product in the laboratories with very expensive high tech equipment. We tested our tablets with high pressure chromatography devices and other machines. This showed us the strength of our active ingredient.

In conclusion, after a long day we had a debriefing and went home reflecting on all the interesting processes we had learnt. In all, it was a very successful day that we were lucky to experience. Many thanks to James Dennis' dad for making this trip possible.

Jordan Cossins and James Dennis (Lower 6)

## Careers Convention 2011

This year's Careers Convention saw over 50 delegates from all walks of life visit the school and give advice on their particular career. I was very pleased at the way the evening went and the reports received from visitors were extremely positive in many ways. A number of them drew attention to how well behaved the pupils were and also how responsive they were to questioning. There was an excellent range of delegates and pupils were happy at the spread of advisors. We rely on the good will of people for this type of event and I am grateful to the advisers who have attended.

Mr I Davies – Head of Careers

## Salters' Chemistry Camp 2011

Yet again several year 10 students were lucky to gain sought after places at Salters' Chemistry Camps. This is the recollection of one of the attendees:

Last summer I took part in the camp at Manchester University, doing everything from creating glow in the dark chemicals to attending a lecture which consisted of the lecturer attempting to blow up the theatre (in the prettiest way possible!) I enjoyed attending the camp as it gave me the chance to perform experiments I would never usually get to do in school. I got on well with the other camp participants and it was good to meet like-minded people.

Daniel Kowalski 11JLH

***The Salters' Chemistry Camps are residential events during which students can experience hands-on practical Chemistry in University labs, chemical demonstrations, a taste of life staying in University Halls of Residence and a variety of evening social activities.***

Schools may nominate up to four Year 10 students. Each student will only have to pay a non-refundable fee of £95 (the actual cost of each student place is £250-£300) and the student, or their school, will be expected to cover travel expenses.

We are looking for students who are enthusiastic about Chemistry, whether they have already decided to continue studying the subject post-16 or not. It is now time to apply again so anyone who is interested should see Dr Bromley as soon as possible. Places are allocated on a first come first served basis and it would be a shame to miss out on this once in a life time experience.

Dr Bromley (Head of Chemistry)

## SCIENCE CLUB

Over the last few weeks I have been helping at Science Club. It has been over-subscribed each week with Year 7's and Year 8's who are raring to get on with the exciting activities that develop and encourage their scientific skills. Using just household products, we have been making a range of items with the boys from alcohol fuelled fireworks to slime bouncy balls. I have enjoyed assisting Miss Burrows at Science Club and helping the boys learn new, interesting and fun science activities they can do themselves.

Nathan Thompson 11HS



## Year 8 Trip to Ingleton



Last month year 8 visited Whitescar Caves. There were two activities and the first one was the tour of the limestone caves - once we put our hard hats on we entered the old miner's entrance. It was interesting to find out how it was made and we found the waterfall and stalactites and stalagmites amazing. Some of the limestone structures had been named, and the ones that had looked like strange resemblances of what they were named after. We discovered lots of interesting things about the brave explorers and learned things about limestone landscapes which I didn't know before. The guide was really informative and provided us with much information that was relevant to our school work and new to us.

Our next activity was walking beside the river and visiting the water features. The hills were challenging to climb and were fun. The waterfall was beautiful and standing next to it made us get sprayed with water. The stepping stones were fun to cross and I nearly slipped. The money tree was fascinating and everyone wanted to have it! We ended our walk at the shop and bought well deserved drinks.

We were ready to have a rest on the bus as we were all very tired after an exciting and exhausting day. If I could go there again, I would because it was such a beautiful and interesting place to be.

Freddie Tedstone & Jack Davies

## Chess Club

Chess club has got off to a flying start this term, with lots of new members from Year 7. It is good to also see many of the boys from Year 8 who joined last year, continuing to come along too.

The current leaders on the chess ladder are :

**1st place James Davies 7AD**  
**2nd place Alfie Hardcastle 7AD**  
**3rd place Frank Larty 7LEM**  
**with Nicholas Ainsworth 7AD hot on their heels in 4th place**

We will be launching the UK Schools Chess Challenge in the New Year. This will take place during the Spring term and all boys are welcome to take part.

Mrs Turner

## History Trip to Munich 2012

The annual History Department trip this year is to Munich, Germany. 64 Year 9 and 10 boys will be leaving Heathrow Airport on the 29th March for a 6 day visit that will see them look at sites that saw the rise of Hitler and the Nazis, as well as other places of interest in that city. We will also be visiting Nuremberg. One more payment is due in January and I shall be calling a pre tour Parents and Pupils Evening a few weeks before departure to give final details of the trip. This will be the 11th trip that has left Cross Lane to go to places as far away as Moscow, Berlin, Auschwitz and other Historical destinations around Europe. I will be offering another trip to boys currently in Years 8 and 9 in the summer term, for a trip around Easter 2013 (destination to be confirmed), so parents and boys should watch this space for what usually turn out to be trips that give enormous fun as well as unique educational value. I am usually sold out very early so I just warn parents now that this will be the case!

Report by Mr McKibbin, History Department.

## Gifted and Talented News

Last term, pupils from Year 8 went to pitch their book-marketing projects to the management team at Lingham's book shop, Heswall. As ever, pupils impressed the team with their enthusiasm, attention to detail and sheer professionalism in the face of technological meltdown! Jake Lavelle, Alex Gore, Ian Jones and John Lacey were narrowly beaten by Oliver Webster and Matthew Sutton. Congratulations to these boys and well done to everyone who took part in this 'Apprentice' inspired activity. It should be noted however that any resemblance between characters on the programme and members of the English department is entirely coincidental....

George Anderson, Luke Goldsmith, Kurt Reilly and Patrick Richardson all took part in Durham University's prestigious summer school in August for which only the most able pupils in the country are eligible.

In September of this term one of our Year 9 classes was lucky enough to have a day of ICT master classes with our local animation expert, David Bulmer [resident artist at cult comic '2000 AD'].

Several Year 8 pupils have been attending Maths master classes at Liverpool universities over several Saturdays. Fifty Year 7 pupils went on a ghost walk round Liverpool to support and enrich their work on Gothic texts Joseph Crawford [Year 10], was selected to take part in the regional heats of the BBC 'Shakespeare by heart competition, reciting a speech from 'Romeo and Juliet'. 25 Year 10 pupils recently attended an 'able pupils' conference at Manchester University where lectures ranged from 'Are some humans born to kill?' to 'The consequences of longevity'.

Coming up - Year 8 English trip to London, taking in the Houses of Parliament, the Tower of London, the Imperial War Museum and the acclaimed play 'War Horse'.

Mrs K Campbell

## New Cashless Purchasing



The new cashless system is well under way and has received a very positive response from all users. Accounts are available for 'top up' at the relevant paying stations but parents are also able to 'top up' their son's canteen allowance through

## Wirral's Anti-Bullying Conference

**On Tuesday 15th November I attended Wirral's Anti-Bullying Conference, as Student Lead for our own Anti-Bullying Committee, held at the Multi-Cultural Centre in Birkenhead.**

A number of presentations were held throughout the morning. Kayte Eaton from Bullybusters gave us an update on the law and bullying. Billy Bradshaw, from Merseytravel followed on to explain what work Merseytravel were doing in order to make transport safer for young people. I was shocked to hear the stories of what some young people have to deal with on their journey to school, in some cases.

A presentation by Helen and Kai from the Brook Advisory Centre began with some worrying statistics about the number of sexual bullying cases they deal with and the good work that is being done to help support victims of sexual bullying on the Wirral.

Kayte Eaton gave an excellent presentation on Cyberbullying, describing how children and young people use technology to intimidate, make fun of and seriously harm their 'victims'. I was completely unaware of the impact this can have on people, it really opened my eyes as to what happens around us.

Kathy Gill, from the Wirral Youth Offending Team and PC Martin Ford, gave the last presentation of the session on Restorative Practices – a relatively new way of dealing with bullying, giving the harmed person and wrong-doer a chance to meet face to face in order to try to develop some understanding and empathy for each other. Children attend the meeting with their parents and together they come to a satisfactory conclusion about the behaviour and the outcomes.

The conference was informative and a real learning curve for me. It will certainly encourage me to continue with the work I do for the Anti-Bullying Committee. I learnt through the conference that Wirral Grammar School for Boys has done great work in trying to raise awareness of the impact bullying has, and how we have to continue to work hard to try to beat bullying.  
Aarondeep Bhullar U67

## Training Event for Anti-Bullying Committee

Our new Activities Hall was the venue for the Anti-Bullying training event this year. By taking advantage of this spacious area we were able to facilitate training for 35 reps, across all year groups. The event was run by Mrs Walker, Learning Mentor, Alex Keen and Aarondeep Bhullar, both of whom are student leads for the Anti-Bullying Committee.



The aim of the training was to encourage good listening skills, to gain an insight into bullying and its effects and to have empathy for those experiencing bullying.

The session was very interactive, encouraging the boys to work with others from different years.

The school fully supports the work of its Anti-Bullying Committee and the efforts it puts in throughout the year, especially during National Anti-Bullying Week.

S Walker – Learning Mentor

## School Eco Council

The newly developed School Eco Council has begun taking steps to make our school a greener place. As part of our Eco friendly plan, the school is participating in the 'Switch Off Fortnight' event and the Green School competition. As our new council is developing, we would appreciate your support in our short term goals, such as recycling bins and energy conservation in order for us to succeed at our long term goals, such as solar panels and wind turbines. Thank you for taking the time to read our announcement.

Craig Ashman and Ben Jenkins 9JMC

## Remembrance Day Service 2011

This year, our Remembrance Service was all the more special for being on Remembrance Day itself and in a year when the two minutes silence was at 11.00am on the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 2011. A total of



£258.97 was raised by the School from poppy sales. Eleven guests, including 'old boys' of the school attended the service which took place in the school hall and involved all pupils in Years 7 and 8. The service consisted of a reading, a prayer, the reading of the Roll of Honour and the singing of the National Anthem. Before the poppy wreaths were laid, Ben Savage played 'The Last Post' and this was a very moving, poignant moment.

Forty six former pupils lost their lives in the Second World War. In his address, our Headteacher, Mr Hazeldine said "It is important that we honour the annual tradition of setting time aside to remember the fallen". He said that "the meaning of their sacrifice rests with our collective national consciousness; our future is their monument".

# NUFFIELD BURSARIES



## Ryanis Johnson-Llambias U61

I spent 4 weeks working at Liverpool University's Maths department under the supervision of Dr Jon Woolf who was really helpful, really enthusiastic and lots of fun. I got to chat to him for ages about the topics and related areas that interested me - it's great to speak to someone who you can tell absolutely loves their subject! I got to find out about he spent his days researching in maths at the university and what

he'd done in his career as a researcher so far, which was very interesting. I had such a great time and it could not have cemented my choice to study maths at university more than it did! I would thoroughly recommend a Nuffield bursary for anyone who is genuinely interested in a STEM subject as they're great fun and extremely rewarding.



## Luke Cartwright U62

Over the summer I spent 5 weeks at Innospec, a company which specialises in fuel additives for petrol. My work, supported by Dr. Peter Radley, was on the stability of polyisobutylene at high temperatures. This chemical is the base chemical for most of the company's fuel products. I had to determine how the rate at which it turns into flammable gases changes when heated. These gases pose a significant

risk if allowed to accumulate, and the loss of polyisobutylene is wasteful.



## James Lewis U64

After applying for a Nuffield Bursary I was pleased when I was given a placement in the physics research laboratories at Liverpool University. I was able to work alongside a number of nuclear physics professors and post doctorate researchers. As they are the top physicists in their field I was able to ask questions about research and receive answers that few other people could give. The aim

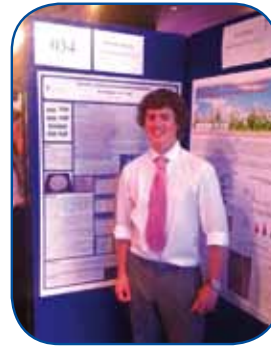
of my project was to apply energy absorption from ions, practically and theoretically, to destroying brain tumors. I really enjoyed my time undertaking this research project from the Nuffield Foundation. After my experience I am looking forward to studying physics at university and the project has persuaded me to pursue a career in a scientific background. I would certainly recommend applying for a Nuffield Bursary research project.



## Sean Cavanagh U63

For my placement I was kindly hosted by Liverpool University's Department of Health Sciences. I investigated the effect of CT scanning parameters on stent-graft migration measurement accuracy. The project gave me the opportunity to work independently as it was heavily research based and provided me with a chance to learn what studying medicine at university may be like. Following a presentation

of my research, I received a Crest Gold-ward and was selected for entry into the Big Bang Science Fair 2012. Overall I feel I have benefited immensely from this experience and appreciate greatly the opportunity that I was given. I would actively encourage students to become involved with the programme next year.



## Nick Harvey U61

When I was assigned my Nuffield Bursary last summer, I was a little disappointed to find out I would be working in microbiology as it was an area that I had little experience in and so didn't find particularly interesting. However, as soon as I got into the actual lab work I soon became engrossed in what I was doing. My project focused on the spread of antibiotic resistance genes in E.Coli by the conjugation of R-plasmids. This required me to carry out mating experiments and susceptibility tests to see how often E.Coli

passed on antibiotic resistance to donor bacteria. During the project, I came across many techniques and a lot of knowledge that were brand new to me and I enjoyed this greatly. As I am applying to study Biological Sciences at university this experience will aid me greatly as well as providing a topic to talk about at interview. I would like to thank all the staff at the Leahurst Campus of Liverpool University for helping me to carry out the research as well as Miss Clements for helping us to apply.



## Chris Hatter U64

My unusual placement was at the conservation science centre in Liverpool. Unlike other placements, generally set in a lab, mine was a thermal study and was tailored around my choice of university course, architecture. This study has been developed as an innovative idea to stop relying on the heavy economical strain of air-conditioning by removing its use in 16 areas across the Walker Art Gallery. By removing the air-conditioning the effects were unknown, the galleries could stay the same meaning the use of the air-

conditioning was a wasteful luxury. With use of an infra-red thermometer to precisely and accurately measure room temperatures to discover the extent of this innovative concept, and if the concept does dramatically change the internal environment with further research into the building temperature control field find solutions for this problem.

It was a privilege working with people who are at the top of their given careers and fully enjoy the path they have chosen. Being in meetings with the heads of the museums and galleries to talk about my readings and have them really take note to my thoughts and ideas is a very unique situation that I could not achieve without this Bursary placement. It was also constructive to speak to other placement students who have already gone through university placements and could talk to them about their universities, getting their thoughts and sharing their opinions about them.

As an added bonus I got to observe the full range of contemporary and traditional art on show inspiring me on my next year's artistic journey, I did however start to worry as one particular piece of very abstract scribble started to make sense and open my eyes to the world of 'very' modern art.

Finally I would like to give special acknowledgement to Sonia Jones and Siobhan Watts for putting in their time and effort to guide me on my investigation, setting me up in their work area, aiding me with information and countless cups of tea!

'Nuntius on-line' Larger articles can be found by accessing the 'Nuntius On-Line' link via the school website  
[www.wirralgrammarboys.com](http://www.wirralgrammarboys.com) Articles included are: EU Mock Elections by Gareth Matthey U63,  
 Killing Fields to Forgiveness by Aaron Smith U63, House Matters by The House Captains



# Community Development

Paul Ronayne - Community Partnership Manager

## King James Bible Anniversary at St Andrews Church

On 1st July 2011 the 400th Anniversary of The King James Bible was commemorated at St Andrews Church in Bebington.

A series of bible readings and performances took place in the church throughout the day until late that evening.

Wirral Grammar School for Boys had been

invited to participate in the event and a number of 6th Form boys gave readings including Jordan Perkins (pictured below).

The school choir attended and performed 16th Century period pieces chosen by Mr Snowdon. Mrs June Lancelyn-Green who organised the day was delighted that the school participated in the commemoration and gave each pupil and member of staff an engraved bookmark as a token of her gratitude. A special thanks to Mr Thomas and Ms Razbully for assisting with the school choir.



## Charity Bag-Pack at Tesco's Heswall

On 15th October 2011 students, parents and staff from Wirral Grammar School for Boys took part in the school's first charity bag-pack at Tesco's store in Heswall.

Starting at 8.00am and working till 6.00pm, teams of volunteers helped to raise almost £800 for Cancer Research and Wirral Grammar's Parents' Association.



## In the event of snow . . .

We all remember the event of 6th and 7th January 2010 the year when, for the first time ever, snow caused massive disruption to Wirral and schools were forced to close. As a guide, our action plan is as follows:

1. If heavy snow falls overnight, we would make a decision early in the morning and a message would be posted on our school website and/or be issued by Parent Mail.
2. If heavy snow falls during the school day we will make a decision on whether to close the school depending on the time within the day. Above all, we will not put pupils at risk by simply 'sending them home'! Whilst it may be inconvenient to collect pupils from school in the event of deteriorating weather, at least pupils are safe and warm and supervised.
3. Regular message updates will be issued through the school website and through Parent Mail. Please note that radio broadcast messages are not always reliable

## Building Programme Latest

In the last few weeks of the Autumn Term, work on our new Art Studios was completed. The new teaching area provides accommodation for two teaching groups, a sixth form studio area, an ICT area, a ceramic room and storage space. The first lesson will take place after the Christmas holidays. The new area is a fantastic facility and will greatly improve the working environment for both pupils and staff.

## Academic Mentoring



**A new scheme for Academic Mentoring has recently been launched in school.**

This scheme gives sixth formers the opportunity to develop and improve their social and mentoring skills, a great preparation for their life after school and enriches the life of younger students (mentees), who receive the benefit of inspiring sixth formers to help them with their work.

Sixth formers wishing to take part should see Mrs Walker/Mrs Bradshaw in the first instance.

## Memorial Garden - In Loving Memory of Mr Gordon Youd

A Memorial Garden has been created on the land opposite the Sports Hall and adjacent to the Design and Technology Building. The idea of a Memorial Garden came from discussions with the GCSE and A Level Geology students and Mr Youd's family. Mr Youd had been a teacher at Wirral from 1959 and had been in his 52nd year of teaching. A plaque in the garden reads "In memory of Gordon Youd, Teacher at Wirral Grammar School for Boys 1959 -2011. He loved the earth and taught its story"

## HOUSE MATTERS

During the last half term, the House Captains ran several house events - one of the most popular proved to be the year 7 'Inter-House' Quiz. Each house was split into several teams and battled it out for house points and a box of Heroes Chocolates! These teams earned themselves multiple points for their house.

**1st Place - Lever Legends**  
**2nd Place - Toffee Dodgers**  
**3rd Place - Barber Destroyers**

Well done to all those who participated, a house commendation will be earned for taking part. We look forward to more rivalry this half term! A 'Closest to the Pin' competition was also organised by the House Captains, in which boys attempted to hit a golf ball closest to a flag. Boys paid 50p to enter with all proceeds going to Cancer Research. Risking the threat of rain we set out to the school field, although even the dry conditions didn't help some of the boy's shots. Despite this, some of the boys showed a real talent for golf, with the winner being Aaron Cobe of Lever House who was treated to a tub of Celebrations! This was a fun event to organise, and we hope to run it again in the summer along with other events.

House Captains: Ben Caveen (Barber), Jordan Perkins (Dodds), Yyanis Johnson (Hodgson) and Aaron Smith (Lever)



## Parents' Surveys - The 2010/2011 Analyses

Many thanks to all parents who have reported through our Parents' Evening surveys which are always available at our Parents' Evenings. The full analyses for all year groups is available from our web site. Please follow the link from our website home page.

## 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.

## Carol Service 2011



Our Annual Carol Service took place at St Andrew's Church in Bebington. The service was a traditional mixture of readings and Christmas Carols.

It was very well attended on the night, and we hope that the excellent performance by the pupils, both with the musical items and the readings helped put the congregation in a festive mood. Our very best wishes for the Christmas period.

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## Active Drama production comes to School

Anti-Bullying Week has now been and gone, there were Cake Sales, Badge Selling and a visit from a Kooth.com representative. Years 7 and 8 were treated to an interactive and entertaining production from the local drama club, Active Drama. As part of the week-long event, Active Drama made a visit to the school to perform their touring production 'Bully'. 'Bully' is based on a true story that is told with amazing acting and live music. The story is based around five characters. The two main characters are both trying to fit in the group; one, a boy trying to fit in with his footie fanatic friends, the other, a girl trying to fit in with two fashion-freaks. Comical, musical and serious, it was interactive in parts. We were able to ask the bully questions and she gave her answers [not for the easily insulted!]. Then the problems started. The poor innocent girl started to receive threats via texts, then verbally, then physically. The girl couldn't stand it anymore, until she finally put an end to her own life... The audience was silent. This isn't just a play - this is a real issue. Thousands each year suffer the same problem. That is why Anti-Bullying Week is here to raise money for good causes, to help those who need it most. The next Anti-Bullying Week will hopefully raise more money for the excellent cause.

By Christian Walker & Aidan Barrigan 7JM



## Friends' Programme



Many thanks to all those parents who have chosen to join Wirral Grammar School "Friends' Programme". Parents can join at any time by requesting a membership form. Please email [friendsprogramme@wirralgrammarboys.com](mailto:friendsprogramme@wirralgrammarboys.com)

Contributions to the Friends' programme go towards the following:

- Subsidised travel
- Provision of picnic tables
- Provision of netbook computers
- Leisure time equipment
- Awards for pupils, including prize draws and on-line vouchers
- Subsidised 'off timetable' events
- Subsidised extracurricular activities



Membership benefits include:

- Friends' Programme Membership badge
- Annual prize draw
- Membership Card (presentation of this entitles the holder to a free drink at school events)
- Automatic entitlement for your son to join the Wirral Grammar Alumni after he leaves school

This year's prize draw winner of an Amazon Kindle with WiFi 3G was Mrs B Flavell. Parents who would like to talk to someone in school about the Friends' Programme can contact: Mr Paul Ronayne (Community Partnership Manager) on [pronayne@wirralgrammarboys.com](mailto:pronayne@wirralgrammarboys.com)

## Adobe Imagination Challenge

Earlier this term Robert informed our U6th A-level Art class that he had submitted an entry to the prestigious 'Adobe Imagination Challenge' competition. This is an industry standard competition in which young people use their creative skills in new media to create innovative imagery. He was subsequently short listed to a group of 10 candidates judged on the quality of the artwork submitted. Following voting by members of the public over several weeks he has been informed that he won a cash prize for achieving 'Runner-up status'.



This is how Robert described the inspiration for his artwork:

*"Being a fan of most types of music I wanted to create something which reflected my passion; starting from scratch and coming up with each part as I went along. I wanted to express the experience that when I listen to music I think up my own ideas of what could make the music better. When you get this feeling it's like a brainwave of an idea 'popping' into my head. I therefore transferred the idea of 'waves' into the background and the light bulbs as eyes as they are typically used to display an idea."*

Robert Burgess U61 LB

## "Movember!"

A number of teaching staff took part in the Movember Campaign: growing moustaches in order to raise funds for the awareness of Men's health issues, especially prostate cancer and other cancers that affect men. Donations can still be given via the [www.movember.com](http://www.movember.com) website.

*Our thanks to those who have supported this so far.*



**'Nuntius on-line'** Larger articles can be found by accessing the 'Nuntius On-Line' link via the school website [www.wirralgrammarboys.com](http://www.wirralgrammarboys.com) Articles included are: EU Mock Elections by Gareth Matthey U63, Killing Fields to Forgiveness by Aaron Smith U63, House Matters by The House Captains

## CPD Mark

*The school has achieved the CPD Mark! The CPD Mark is a national quality mark designed to improve Continuing Professional Development standards within schools. By doing so, we have had to demonstrate our continuing investment in all our staff.*



The process involved completing an 8 stage framework document assessing evidence in the following areas. The collation and evaluation of a portfolio of evidence supported the claims made by the school.

1. a vision for CPD and an understanding of its impact on raising achievement
2. an induction programme and on-going support of staff new to post
3. effective partnerships with a shared commitment to securing the best possible training and support for staff
4. professional standards embedded in the development process
5. curriculum development
6. performance management
7. a flexible approach to sourcing the best CPD/training and development
8. collaborative work with pupils, parents and the community

The final stage of the process was a visit to school by an Assessment Team. They met staff and students from across the school including a School Governor, the Headteacher and school council. The assessment evaluated the quality of evidence provided to support the 8 criteria from the framework.

The successful outcome demonstrates the commitment to the long-term development of our staff with the concomitant improvement in standards in teaching and learning. Thanks go to all staff that helped provide and collate the evidence and, of course, the staff, pupils and governors who were interviewed.

Mr A White

## School Lost Property Service

Since October half term, we have been putting into place a much improved Lost Property Service. The unclaimed lost property has been a growing concern to us and amounts to considerable replacement expenses for parents. The new arrangements are as follows:

1. The Lost Property Room is located near the gym, next to the playground entrance.
2. The room is open on three days each week: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8.45am to 9.00am.
3. The room already contains a wide range of items including; glasses, pencil cases, watches, sports kits (including boots and trainers), trousers, jackets, coats, calculators and keys.
4. MOST of the lost property is unnamed. This means that we cannot return the lost items to their owners.
5. If your son has lost an item, please remind him to go to the Lost Property Room at the stated time.
6. At the end of each term, unclaimed lost property will be given to local charities.
7. Please ensure that all items of personal property (clothing, bags, shoes, equipment etc) have your son's name on them. Where names are included, we are able to return items to their owners.

Finally, in the last few weeks alone, we have been able to return several hundred pounds worth of lost property to the boys and as a consequence, parents have saved this money on replacement costs. Mr McKinney is the Lost Property Service Co-Ordinator and boys can contact him in school.

## Cricket report for Wirral Cricket Club

Wirral Cricket Club is the home for old boys of Wirral Grammar School. We run three senior teams, and Junior teams from Under 9s upwards. Winter nets for Wirral Cricket Club will begin in February 2012. We are pleased to announce that Wirral Grammar School for Boys Sports Hall will be the venue for these cricket nets. For those boys who are current members in our Under age teams, the following times and dates have been finalised:

Senior and Under 17s nets will begin on Thursday February 2nd at 8pm until 9pm, and every Thursday until the end of March.

Under 13s players will begin on Friday February 3rd starting at 7pm until 8pm. This will continue on this night and every Friday until the end of March. Boys currently in Years 7

and 8 would be qualified to play for this team (for those parents with boys under 11s, they will be training from 6-7pm)

Under 15s players will begin on Thursday February 2nd starting at 7pm until 8pm. This will continue on this night and every Thursday, until the end of March.

Any new members who wish to join, you will be made most welcome to attend. For further details, you can contact me at the school, or phone Derek Gordon who is the Junior Cricket co-ordinator on 07952669781 or go to the websites at [www.pitchero.com/clubs/wirralcricketclub](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/wirralcricketclub) or [www.pitchero.com/clubs/wirralccjuniors](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/wirralccjuniors). report by Mr McKibbin (Secretary Wirral Cricket Club)



## World Marathon Challenge 2011

This took place on Wednesday 5th October and in a joint venture with the Girls School, we made a team of 30 Year 8 children. The boys and girls all ran 7 legs of 200m to complete the marathon distance. We finished a very respectable 13th overall in the world, with a time of 2hrs 04.20, just outside Patrick Makau's world record. To access the results use the following link <http://www.sportshall.org/VTL/wmc.aspx>



## Basketball Update

The Wirral Schools' Basketball leagues have recently resumed and we will have our work cut out to match last year's record of winning every age group competition. However, we have made a solid start as the results below indicate:

Year 8	v Oldershaw	Won 40 – 8
	v St Marys	Won 40 – 26
Year 9	v Oldershaw	Lost 24 – 29
	v St Marys	Won 45 – 35
Year 10	v Oldershaw	Won 53 – 14
	v St Marys	Won 66 – 24
Year 11	v St Marys	Won 40 – 18

Mr P Crowley, Head of Physical Education

## Year 7 Rugby

The year 7 Rugby squad has made an excellent start to the season. The squad is made up of a mixture of boys, some who have played the game before and some who have enjoyed their first taste of rugby as a Wirral Grammar School pupil. It has been very pleasing to see the squad improving and making progress, session upon session. It is also pleasing to see boys who have had no previous experience, learning the game quickly, and making an important contribution.

Congratulations must go to George Manger who has been appointed captain of the A team and has so far led the team to 5 wins out of 5 games played. The results have been very impressive, as the A team has faced a number of tough tests and shown great

commitment and character to come through all 5 games with a perfect record. Results have included a 15-14 win over a strong Kirkham side; a resilient second half performance against Stockport, which saw the team come from behind to win 15-5 and my personal favourite, a nail biting 14-12 victory against Bridgewater away, which saw our team camped on our own line in the dying minutes, only for the defence to stay unbelievably strong and ultimately hold out for the win. The defence has been superb so far, complemented with plenty of drive from the forwards and attacking flair from the backs.

The boys have worked hard so far and shown a positive attitude towards training and games. I hope this will continue as we look forward to some tough fixtures leading up to Christmas.  
Mr Atkinson



## Year 7 'B' Rugby

The squad has made a very solid start to the season and their performances have gone from strength to strength. It is a real pleasure to see how their skills and teamwork have developed and the effort they put into each match has been exemplary. This has culminated in our two best showings coming in the last two matches against Manchester Grammar, where we turned on the style against a combative side and ran out 32-0 winners, and against Lymm, where we were losing 17-0 against a very aggressive and organised team only to come back with three great tries to win 19-17 with the last play of the match. I have no doubt that these experiences will set us in good stead to complete the rest of the season with some further outstanding displays. Well done boys!

Mr J Marshall-Clarke

## Junior Bantams

<b>A team</b>	<b>Played 12</b>	<b>Won 11</b>	<b>Lost 1</b>	<b>for 423</b>	<b>against 41</b>
<b>B team</b>	<b>Played 10</b>	<b>Won 10</b>	<b>Lost 0</b>	<b>for 430</b>	<b>against 34</b>

Both the Junior Bantams teams have had an excellent season so far and have been involved in some exciting rugby matches. We are still in the Cheshire Cup, and have progressed to the Quarter Finals after an excellent 31 nil win over strong rivals Stockport Grammar School.

The statistics show the quality in depth of this squad and there are not many teams that can compete against us, the only blip so far coming against Lymm High School in the last game before this report, a very close 7-5 loss. Hopefully this will make the team stronger, and with two good wins against Bradford Grammar, will have made this an outstanding term's rugby.

The teamwork and effort of both teams has been superb, the forwards dominating and the backs, with pace and vision, finishing the moves off. I would like to make a special mention to Tom James, who has scored

28 tries already this season, and hopefully there will be more to follow. We have also collected a couple of long term injuries up, and I wish Sam Woods a speedy recovery after a very nasty broken leg.

Both teams have had excellent wins against all the top schools regionally including Kings Macclesfield, Kirkham, Hutton and Wilmslow, some with higher scores than expected. I would like to thank Mr Hughes for all his efforts with the B team and hope he can continue his 100% record through the season.

I would like to thank all the players for their efforts thus far, please continue to train, as we still have a long season ahead, I would also like to thank the parents for their magnificent support both home and away and to those parents who help with refreshments on Saturday mornings.  
Andy McKinney  
- Junior Bantams Coach

## Bantams Rugby report December 2011

(up to Saturday 3 December)

The new rugby season has brought new players into the Y9 rugby team with some positive results. For those who played in Year 8, it has been pleasing to see how much those players have developed into better players as the term went on. The boys are as keen a bunch of players as I've had and the fact that many boys have asked to be in the squad is perhaps a reflection on how close the players are in terms of a good team spirit, which has been all too evident this term.

The A team has been well led by Will Hardy and of their 11 games, they have won 6, drawn one and lost four. The B team, captained by Michael Morris, have played 6 and won four of those games. It's a pity there are not enough games for the B team, but it is mainly due to other schools inability to raise a second side. Nevertheless, many B team boys have forced their way into the A team, players such as Joe Madders and James Taylor. A mention should go to Ross Triggs who spent Y8 in the B team, but has sharpened up his attitude in becoming not only a regular in the A team, but a very important member of it. The A team have had a good set of results with them competing in all games to the final whistle. Many have stood out and it would be unfair to name too many as I think all those who have played have made significant contributions to the games they have played in...they know who they are and so do I! The only set back came against a very good Stockport GS team, although Wirral were short of many key players due to injury on that day. However, they have battled well in the other games with fine wins against Merchant Taylors, Hutton, Bradford GS, Lymm and St Ambrose. In the Cheshire Cup, they progressed after beating a very big Sandbach side by over 20 points. Probably the two most satisfying performances came against Kings Macc and Manchester GS. The former had beaten us by nearly 30 points last season but playing away, the lads played with a lot of passion and effort and we were very unlucky to lose by only 7 points in a game that could have gone either way. Manchester were another very big team who found Wirral's defence tough to break through in a 14-14 draw. The B team have been putting in some good wins against St Edwards and Kirkham and Mr Metcalf has commented on how well the boys played in those games. Thanks to him for taking the team on those occasions he did.

Finally, thanks to Mr Bowen for his refereeing this season so far, and for giving up his Saturday mornings to save the bad back of the team coach! I hope the boys continue to improve on their skills for the rest of the season and to show the sort of commitment that has so far been so impressive. I do believe they have a team ethic rather than be reliant on individuals, good as many of the squad are. I wish them all a merry Christmas and hope that 2012 results in a healthy and happy new year for them all!

Those who have played this term are: Will Hardy (Captain), Jake Clement-Jones, Lewis Davies, Liam Hayes, James McKenna, Matthew Crowe, Sean Griffiths, Sam Hannah, Tom Cook, Jamie Norris, Alex Ruscoe, Ross Triggs, Sean White, Lewis Adams, Michael Angu Armand, Collum Bedson, Lewis Favager, Matthew Jardine, Alex Lambert, Sam Lock, Joe Madders, James Bluck, Tom Flocks, Tom James, Ben Lockwood, James Parnell, Ben Parnell, Ben Reilly, Sam Reilly, Mat Sutton, Ed Williams, Harry Cumming, John Fieldhouse, Michael Morris, Jack Johnson, Ben Thomas, Mitchell Crabb, Alex Edge, Alex Lambert and James Taylor.

Report by Mr McKibbin

## Rugby Update: Colts

**Played 14  
Won 5, Drawn 2, Lost 7**

The season began with an away fixture against St. Edwards which resulted in a 17-17 draw. This was followed by our first home game against Merchant Taylors which also resulted in a draw. In both instances they were well contested game, but should have gone in our favour, the opportunities were there to win the games, but not taken.

The season from then on has been littered with its up and downs, mainly due to the unbelievable amount of injuries to key players as we entered a period of extremely tough competition. Our most difficult challenges were against Kirkham, Stockport, King's Macc', and Lymm who have produced some excellent rugby. Our most disappointing results were against Wilmslow and Manchester games we should have won.

However, we did have some relative success in the Daily Mail Cup reaching the 4th round before bowing out to Stockport, playing our part in a great game. Excellent wins against Weaverham, and Anselms College made us feel we could go a long way in the competition and confidence was on the up. Stockport are a great team and showed why they are one of the favourites to win it.

The Year 10 Squad has a lot of rugby talent. It is essential to fully understand the basic elements of the game, together with the improvement of personal fitness levels, which will ultimately benefit the players and their future success in the game. We still have a long season ahead, so continued effort in training must be maintained.

I would like to thank Jordan Price for his excellent Captaincy this year, and also to Mr Bowen who has refereed and coached the lads throughout the season. Finally to the parents for their continued support both at the games and especially serving on a Saturday morning.

Head Coach  
Brendan Bailey



## U16 RUGBY 2011

The first match of the season was against a huge Merchant Taylors side in really windy conditions. We played against the wind in the first half and were losing 17-0 at half time. Second half was much better and Wirral had most of the play but could not score. The match was called off when one of the opposition players was injured. At this point Wirral were well on top and really looked like scoring. The next match was against Kirkham and the boys played superbly to win convincingly 28-7 again, against a much bigger side, scoring some superb tries along the way. The defence was also superb particularly in the second half.

Next up was Stonyhurst College in the Floodlit Cup. After a brilliant performance by all the squad the team won easily 45-5. This was the highlight of the season so far and by far the best that they have played. Two weeks later the team again won easily

and played superbly well in the first half against Bramhall finally winning 38-0.

The next two matches were disappointing, losing to St Ambrose by 40-12 after being 12-0 up at half time. There were injuries galore but we simply did not tackle and gave up in the second half. The last match against Manchester Grammar away was a thriller with the game ebbing and flowing both ways. Wirral were 12 points up with ten minutes to go but then a couple of lapses in concentration let the opposition in and with three minutes to go we were still in the lead. However, Manchester scored in the last minute to win the match.

I would like to thank the players for a very enjoyable year so far. They are a really good group of young men who I hope will further develop into a very good first team. Thank you all for your efforts so far.

I F Davies

## 1st Xv Report

After the trauma of the last two years, the 1st XV have made a very solid start to the season, winning 8, and losing 6 of our first fourteen games.

A 35 - 6 demolition of the Past Captain's XV in our opening fixture gave us a hint of what was possible and provided the confidence previously missing.

Notable scalps have included local rivals St Anselm's College in the Daily Mail Cup (22-15), Stockport Grammar School (24-17), Hutton Grammar School (50-0), King's Macclesfield (39-20) and most recently Lymm HS, currently having an excellent season with only one previous defeat, 20-12.

The team is very young with only four or five Upper Sixth boys regularly in the side; and four U16 players, Ben Brooks, Ollie Wedgwood, Tom Parry and Matt Carroll making a very positive contribution. The rugby we are playing is far from the finished article - but some of it has been excellent, with good running and support play combined with real commitment and a competitive edge in defence. Sometimes, however, we still lack a confidence in our own ability which would enable us to win games we have lost by small margins! We are a good team with lots of talent and we need to realise that if we are going to full our potential.

Congratulations to New First XV Captain, Chris Burrows and his Vice Captain Elliott Speed. I am sure all the senior players will give them every support throughout what will hopefully be a successful season!

A big thank you to all the players for their effort and commitment to school rugby this term, and again to Mr Andy White and Mr Iwan Davies for their help in coaching the Senior Squads.

Mr P Crowley, Head of Physical Education

## 2nd XV Rugby

The usual scramble for the most prestigious position in the school rugby club, that of 2nd XV Captain, was won by Aaron Smith. His future amongst the other figures blessed with this accolade, is assured. It's nothing to do with the paramedic team that he brings with him every Saturday (thanks, again Barry and Sue).

There have been a couple of lean years for the 2nd XV. This year, there was more hope as we entered the first games. A drubbing of St Edwards College was followed by a close loss to an impressive Merchants side. Tom Parry starred in both games and his destructive tackling was a highlight when more aggression was needed across the team. No doubt, Aaron Smith will want me to record his side step around the full back for the conciliation try. A superbly determined performance against Kirkham followed by a game we should have won away at Stockport, left us with a record of 3 losses and 1 win; unfair given the performances.

A win against Hutton followed by another disappointing loss against Wallasey preceded a trip away to Wilmslow. The hospitality was warm, as ever, and the only thing warmer was Barry Smith who had to patch together bruised eyes, twisted ankles and sliced eyebrows. We were so disrupted that we failed to really get into the game. There followed something that has not happened since 2009-10; we won three games on the run! A fine win against Manchester, despite allowing their prop to run 60 metres to score under the post meant that we entered the last stage against Lymm. They didn't come with a positive approach but they had enough ball to cause us problems especially as we failed again to tackle their key player who score 4 tries. This term finishes with 5 wins and 6 losses. I am sure that with a more aggressive defensive effort and more confidence we can finish the year with more successes. Record: For 244, Against 199, Tries 39. Top try scorers: Frank Richards, Adam Gould, Aaron Smith, Ed Forshaw, Top scorer: Ed Forshaw. Thanks to all the parents that support the team both on and off the pitch.

Mr A White

## Hockey Update

**The Autumn term has seen the Wirral GS hockey teams successful this year with the 1st team so far unbeaten and they have qualified for the Wirral U18 Cup Final on Sun 8th January.**



The U16 side still await their Cup fate after a draw against St Anselms, despite wins against Neston and Birkenhead, but have played some great hockey and trained hard this term. It's a testimony to this group that all of the squad have played a part in the school games and recently the Year 10/11 House matches. The U18 squad has never been so strong with a group of 36 players who have on two occasions this term played as part of three teams. The First XI hockey team started against a very strong Kings Chester side, who were last year North champions! After a close first half we took a deserved lead and second half, took our chances in a close game coming out on top 4-3. The Second XI played against Birkenhead in a very close game drawing 3-3. This attitude has been maintained by this group captained by Dutton and Partington. What has been great has been the individual skill development and application within matches.

The Cup games saw us beat Neston 11-1, St Anselms 2-0 and draw with Caldy 1-1 and Birkenhead 3-3. The U15's have been making excellent progress in training and there are some excellent players developing in this group. The Year 9 squad is a group that has been developing their basic skills under the stewardship of Mr Money. Having played 10 matches, we struggled against a strong Calday side 3-0. Since then the lads have had a great win against Neston 1-0 and St Anselms 1-0. The best performance was a 0-0 against a strong Liverpool College. This is a group of players lead by Adam Rezel-Watson and they have improved so much in a short period of time!



Well done this term to the players and teachers who have been involved in the 40 matches including entering the National North Indoor Finals in which we performed very well on our debut. Follow the team on twitter and Facebook through the school website to see how the teams get on.

Mr A Metcalf

## England Hockey Update

My season as a member of the England Under Sixteen Hockey Squad came to a close in July, with the exciting, yet daunting prospect of taking on Germany at Lilleshall National Sports Centre, Shropshire. Recognised as one of the best sides in the world, German teams are famous for containing big, physical players with excellent fitness levels and great competitive desire. Their Under Sixteen's were no exception.

The experience provided me with a clear insight into the intensity and difficulty of international hockey. Coming on from the bench, I was thrown into the deep end with the match already in full flow. It was a completely new experience to me. The game basically becomes 15 minute stints of shuttles as you sprint forwards 50 yards on the counter-attack, before having to do the same all the way back again to protect your own goal once the ball has been lost.

Unfortunately, the Germans were too strong a force for us, winning the two games I played, 5-3 and 6-0. The experience, however, is something I'll never forget and hope to expand on with my school and club hockey. Now an under seventeen, I took part in a High Performance Camp in Leeds in October as part of a North of England Squad. The training weekend involved high quality coaching, preparing young players for the prospect of representing the national squad again at Under Eighteen level.

In recent years, plenty of new opportunities have come about for young hockey players. One good example is the local development centres held in Calday for those of all abilities. Quite a few boys at the school have been successful in making it to county, regional level and beyond. One particularly notable success is that of the First XI goalkeeper James Graham, who only began playing in year nine at the school and last Summer took part in the North West Regional Performance Centre held in Manchester. It would be great to see a few more of the players from across the school taking part in the sessions which begin in January. Not only would we see the improvement of individuals, but also the benefits it can offer for the school teams as well.

George Wilkinson L65JH

### 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](http://www.parentmail.co.uk) and following the 'parent login' link or by contacting the school office.

**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/admissions](http://www.wirralgrammarboys.com/admissions)

### Cars on the School Site

Please note that for safety reasons, parents must not drive onto the school site at the end of school. Only when buses have departed is it safe to do so. Parents are welcome to drive into the car park when collecting boys from extra curricular activities.



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