

Fairfield High Newsletter

Comet

Autumn-Winter 2008



Zaragoza in the evening

ZARAGOZA

Elevens enthuse over exciting exchange

Eleven Year 11 students were fortunate enough to attend this year's Spanish exchange to Zaragoza with IES Pedro de Luna. The trip was a huge success that, although seemed daunting at first, resulted in friendship bonds and a language learning experience you cannot replicate. Pupils spent time in school exposed to lessons taught in Spanish, they visited museums, wine factories, monasteries, local nature reserves and were able to sample local cuisine thus enriching their cultural understanding. More importantly, however, were the regional fiestas that meant pupils were able to witness Spanish celebrations and were surrounded by a buzzing city. We look forward to the return of the Spanish students in March!

CHARITIES' AFTERNOON

Competition in DT as Mr. Ewins challenges 8 Dore.



8 Monnow made Christmas decorations with Ms. Conway.



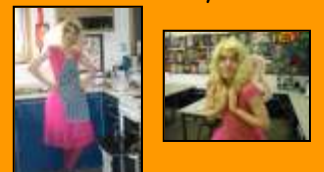
Mr. Eggerton and Mrs. Rodgers ran a Victorian school for 10 Monnow



9 Dore went hi-tech with Mr. Provis.



Tarrow Barnes raised money for Children in Need on Charities' Afternoon by dressing as a fairy.



An angelic-looking Tarrow

READY, STEADY, COOK!

Charities' Afternoon in Food Technology saw an impressive Ready Steady Cook for 11 Dore. Working in pairs, they were given an hour and a half to prepare a two course meal for under £5. A variety of diverse and fantastic dishes emerged as the minutes ticked by - some of which were clearly aimed at the judges! Mr Barker, Mr White and Mr Dillon willingly tried and tested every creation - finally choosing the classic combo of 'Bangers and Mash' followed by a beautiful 'Raspberry and Apple Crumble Tart' as the winner. Well done to everyone who was involved - we were really impressed with the presentation and standard of cooking.



7 Escley got creative with clay for 'Lambananas'.



There was Salsa for 10 Escley...



It was murder and mystery with Cluedo and other 'old school games' for 10 Dore.



Musical mayhem for 7 Monnow with a radio show challenge.



It was all about the exercise for 8 Escley.



CHARITIES' AFTERNOON (continued)

11 Monnow went on safari with salt dough in the *Krypton Factor* challenge.



9 Escley and 9 Monnow were put through their paces with a fitness



It wasn't just Tarrow who went the extra mile to raise money...



Teamwork for 7 Dore:



Pantomime silliness with 11 Escley.

Here are Blousy Mike and Cinders waiting for their handsome hero, and some good (and not so good) fairies.



NESTLE BOX TOPS FOR BOOKS

House Competition

There is a competition underway, primarily but not exclusively for Years 7 and 8, to collect as many Nestlé box tops for free library books as possible. A house point is awarded for each box top, which counts towards the House Cup. So far it's going really well with the current totals at Monnow 85, Dore 41 and Escley 23.

FOOD AND TEXTILES

We've had a creative explosion this half term; eccentric puppets, innovative bags and not forgetting wonderful cakes, biscuits and pastries! With all this artistic activity we are now running short of some vital items; if you have any of the following to donate to our department, we would be extremely grateful:

tins/Tupperware/containers

fabric remnants

haberdashery

wool

coloured plastic bags



Year 10 profiteroles - tricky but tasty!



Year 9 'Bag it' project

ENGLISH

On 12th November we were able to take all Year 10 students to see *Romeo and Juliet* at Theatr Brycheiniog in Brecon. It was wonderful to take the whole year group and it was thanks to Gifted & Talented funding that we were able to offer the trip at a very reasonable cost. It was great to see a modern production of Shakespeare's most well-known tragedy, although students found that some areas of the play had taken modernity too far; the apothecary being portrayed as a drug dealer and Romeo ending his days by injection rather than drinking the poison. Some pupils also felt that the blend of original text with modern clothing and stage setting was not entirely convincing. Nevertheless, and after Ms Conway had a refreshing 20 minute nap in the first half, the second half of the play was very satisfying and dramatic, with some well choreographed fight scenes and impressive dance-style routines involving metal chains for weapons. Overall we had a brilliant afternoon that we are sure will help the students' understanding of a truly iconic text.

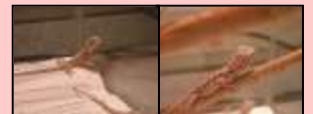


MATHS

Well done to Year 10 who have completed the first module towards their maths GCSE - only another two to go! We will look forward to the results coming out just after we return in January; a late Christmas present for them all. The Year 9s were jumping for joy when the news came out that they will not have to sit SATs exams in May. We are still looking at what we may do to replace them. The Year 7s have settled in well with some very promising mathematicians amongst them; may they carry on the good work.

ANIMAL CARE

The animals continue to delight pupils, staff and visitors alike, while enabling a large group of pupils to work towards a BTEC in Animal Care. This group recently enjoyed a visit to Bristol Zoo, where they were given the opportunity to see all the animals and listen to talks given by the educational staff at the zoo. The number of animals at school continues to grow; the latest arrivals being Bearded Dragon babies, hatched in our labs.



PE - FOOTBALL

Well done to the boys pictured who reached the final stages of the H.S.F.A 5-a-side tournament. In the first match we defeated Kingstone 5-0 and then drew 2-2 with John Kyrle. Our superior goal difference meant we finished top of the table to qualify for the finals at St. Mary's. We had a pulsating 4-4 draw with Whitecross in which Jake Cleves scored a hat trick. In the final match we were well beaten by eventual winners Weobley 4-0. Goal scorers in both of the tournaments were Jake Cleves 4, Matt James 3, George Jones 2, Ollie Strong, and Reuben Money.

Back row: Seb Martin, Reuben Money

Ollie Strong, Ben Williams.

Front row: Jake Cleves, Morris Garrard, Matt James (Capt), George Jones.



PE - BADMINTON

Badminton has really taken off this term with over 20 pupils attending since September. Currently we are running a ladder tournament with each pupil challenging up to 2 players above them - so we are seeing many changes as to who is up and who is down! In January we hope to arrange our first fixture against Kingstone. Two Year 8 girls' doubles entered the Herefordshire Badminton Association tournament in November with Emma Winney and Annie Roper beating Georgia Matthews and Ellie Griffiths to win a trip to the Badminton Championships in March.

HISTORY

Already this year the History department has been on its first trip; taking Year 11s to Ludlow castle to investigate the remains of what must be considered one of the most interesting fortresses in England. Pupils were intrigued to learn about how the local tourist attraction was once the home of future kings of England. Thanks to their investigative skills they were able to use their findings to complete GCSE coursework in record time, giving them all a positive foundation for their final exams next year.



Ludlow Castle, Shropshire

SPANISH

On 15th October, Fairfield was thrilled to welcome the Onatti Theatre Company who performed *El Visitante Desconocido* (The Unknown Visitor), a play written especially for secondary school audiences. The story involved several characters but the performance was very interesting since only two native Spanish speakers played all the parts. There was a clever twist at the end when the woman turned out to be a man! The play was thoroughly enjoyable and included a lot of GCSE vocabulary, as well as being very visual, allowing all years to follow the plot. We look forward to inviting the company again.

ART - THE SPRING SCHOOL

This will be held on Monday and Tuesday 16th-17th February 2009. Spring School is a two day Art, Design and Performing Arts experience held at Hereford College of Arts for Year 9 pupils. This is an opportunity for them to experience College life and widen their appreciation and understanding of the Arts prior to the selection of their Year 9 options. The workshops will include animation, screen printing/fashion illustration, jewellery making, photography, film and video production, ceramics, drama, dance and music. The cost of the two day Spring School is just £25.00. I will forward any more information when I have the brochures and booking forms. K. Francis, Head of Art

ART

Once again we have been fortunate enough to exhibit at the Schools Expo Exhibition at the Hereford College of Art. The aim of the exhibition is to give pupils in the Herefordshire schools an opportunity to show off their outstanding work and to celebrate the talent that is out there.

We have managed to present work by pupils in Years 7, 8, 10 and 11. The work ranges from painting, pastel and drawing to photography and 3D textiles. The pupils and their parents were invited to attend the Private View to launch the month long exhibition and I feel everyone agreed there are some very talented young people out there!



Some of the amazing work on show. Background as in bottom left.

LIBRARY - MORE FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS (BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP)

Further to the Nestlé 'Box Tops for Books' scheme mentioned on the previous page, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* are launching a 'Books for Schools' programme starting in January whereby the school can obtain yet more free books for the school library. The tokens will be published every day for 12 weeks (1st January through to the end of March) distributed as follows:



Mon-Fri - 1 token each day
Saturday - 3 tokens
Sunday 4 - tokens.



This equals a potential 96 tokens per person. We are aiming for particularly special and worthwhile books which can cost 85 tokens each. However, if every child in school took part, we could get **over 550** amazing books! Please join in as every token counts - even if you only buy the paper on a Sunday just for us! Of course, we have a daily copy of *The Times* at school, so we will be doing our bit, too! *Both finish at the end of March; Times tokens can be posted in the same pink box in the library, or given to form tutors/Mrs Parsons.*

GEOGRAPHY

Year 11 Geography been on a field trip to Hereford with a visit to the Edgar Street Grid office to view the model and ask questions about the proposed regeneration project for Hereford. Some students decided they wanted to find out the public's opinion of the shopping and leisure facilities provided in Hereford and what the public would like to see introduced in the new development. I was very impressed with the behaviour and commitment shown by the students as most of the fieldwork involved them approaching members of the public to answer questionnaires. From reading the coursework it appears most people are in favour of the Edgar Street Grid Development if it improves the shopping and leisure facilities in Hereford.

For the first time we have held a Geography House Quiz for the Juniors (Years 7 & 8) and Seniors (Years 9-11). The final results of the quiz are

Juniors

Monnow - 28 points

Escley - 19 points

Dore - 16 points

Seniors

Escley - 22 points

Dore - 16 points

Monnow - 9 points

Overall winner: **Escley**. Well done everyone!



DRAMA



We have been on an incredible and truly eclectic series of theatre trips with Year 11 this term. First came *Lola* - a two-woman show with Spanish guitar accompaniment telling the life story of Lola Montez, an Irish-born Spanish dancer. *Bouncers* took us back to the 80s with a hilarious take on club life at the time. Next we went to Cheltenham to see a breathtaking production of *Lord of the Flies* - a show I would recommend to anyone, whether they have read the book or not. Our most recent GCSE expedition was to the chilling *Woman in Black*. This was a show that is still making me look twice at dark corners of school and home! Finally, 7 Dore came with us to the Hereford Cider Museum to see an educational and very entertaining piece on the importance of orchards, starring an ex-pupil. Overall it has been a superb term and we look forward to any more trips we can fit in!

ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION

Three Year 11 girls, Zoe Geraghty, Becca Watkins and Katie Champ, gave their absolute all on Friday 28th November in front of a packed audience at the Council Chambers at Brockington, Hereford to come runners up to the eventual winners, St Mary's. They were accomplished, professional and a first class delight to spend an evening with - no-one was home before 11.00pm! Becca was also runner up in the best performance of the night award in her role as a speaker on the subject of 'American influence in our society is regrettable'. This is our best result to date in four years of entering the competition and Ms Conway and Mrs Williams could not be more delighted!

PUPIL

ACHIEVEMENTS

Geography -

Regional GA Quiz

Recently, Charlotte Watkins (year 10), Adam de Bell (year 9) and Isabella Ferros (year 8) represented Fairfield in the regional GA quiz held at the Hereford Cathedral School. They all performed well and were joint fifth.

ICT

The Year 7s started off their year in ICT by building up their basic word processing skills. They researched and then produced a word processed letter to their idol requesting a signed photo from them. This proved to be a popular assignment with the pupils... now let's see who gets a response - fingers crossed!!!

SCIENCE

Mr Neeson recently conducted a fascinating dissection. Watch it on www.youtube.com. Search for: 'Fairfield - Heart-lung dissection'.

SCHOOL



Please visit our new website on www.fairfield.hereford.sch.uk

There's lots to read and lots of photos and LOTS more to come! Navigate using the sidebar down the left of the pages and by clicking on the many hyperlinks.

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

Several pupils from Fairfield will soon become published authors.

They have been attending a creative writing workshop, run by the Hay Festival team in conjunction with the school, working with author Jenny Valentine, a journalist and a trained illustrator. Look out for their interview of Marcus Brigstocke!



SPEECH NIGHT 2008

We were delighted to have as our special guest Josie Pearson, former pupil and Beijing Olympic athlete.

Josie, from a small Hamlet in Herefordshire, is the first female to force her way into wheelchair rugby. This has been therapy through which she has pieced her life and her body back together after a head-on smash in North Wales five years ago in which her boyfriend was killed and she was left tetraplegic, her neck broken and paralysed from the chest down. She was just 17 years old.



Speech Night was a very special occasion for the school and we were really happy to see last year's leavers, prize-winners and their families on November 6th.

Read the full article on our website - address to the left.

A WORD FROM THE HEADMASTER

This year has been a strange one. Let's dwell on the end of it! The school is in very good spirits and I am most optimistic about the future. I am hoping for very good news in the New Year. I shall reveal all when I can but rest assured the Governors and Senior Leadership Team have been working very hard to protect Fairfield, and all it stands for, for the future. Meanwhile we have enjoyed a very successful term with lots going on as can be seen from this new-style Comet. I would like to thank the English Department and especially Mrs. Jo Parsons for its production.

One of the highlights of this term for me was the Careers Convention. All year 10 and 11 pupils were invited to meet employers, college representatives and training providers. I asked the pupils to dress as though attending an interview. You could not have met a smarter group of people who turned up that night. Many of the contributors commented on how articulate and interested the group were. Congratulations to all the pupils on the positive impact they made. I was also pleased that so many parents commented on how useful the evening was. I would like to thank Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Matthews for arranging such a constructive meeting.

Speech night was a wonderful event and I was so pleased to meet Josie Pearson again. She was an inspiration to all and I have huge admiration for the way in which she handles herself. She has already booked Speech Night 2012 so that she can show us her gold medal!

I am looking forward to the Carol Service. Mr. Eatough-Smith has been working very hard with the choir and orchestra and I have no doubt that we can expect another up-lifting service to herald Christmas.

I would also like to thank the members of the PTA who have supported us at all our major events. Their support is vital and they host our visitors very well; thanks to all of you for the jolly and friendly way in which you support the school's work.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year and I shall see everyone on Wednesday 7th January 2009. Oh Lord, doesn't time fly; it seems only yesterday when it was the Millennium!!

C. Barker