

Comet

Fairfield High Newsletter

Summer 2009



TEACHER SWAP!



Northbridge High School

Miss Sheppard will be spending Autumn (or the fall!) in America this year, as she is taking part in a teacher exchange programme. She will be teaching high school students at Northbridge High School, Massachusetts (www.nps.org) whilst her counterpart, Ms. K DeJong, will be teaching at Fairfield. Ms. DeJong will be accompanied by her daughter, Micoela Zidelis.

The exchange is a fantastic opportunity for both schools to learn about new cultures and ways of learning; we'll be looking into setting up online projects and video conferencing between students in both schools. We're lucky to be having Ms. DeJong, as few teachers are selected to participate in the Fulbright exchange programme.

Miss Sheppard will be keeping a blog during her exchange. If you'd like to follow her American adventure, you can do so by clicking on the link on the school website, or by using: <http://fairfieldteacherexchange.blogspot.com/>.



(As of August) Miss Sheppard is here!

COMMUNITY ARTS

These are a collection of images of 8 Monnow with their landscape murals for the Broomy Hill Nursing Home.

Each small group spent six weeks painstakingly crafting their chosen landscape, with themes ranging from African Sunset to City by Night.

The murals are now displayed in the nursing home, accompanied by a photo album of the work in progress.



Lydia Crump, Amber Gjerstad, Elliot Taylor & Emily Evans



Erin Stewart, James Kitchen, Ash Cox, Bella Ferras & Vicky Miller



Sophie Box, Emma Winney, Jonny Senft & Luke Dowe



Tom Pryce, Lauren Dovey, Ross Madison & Alice Harman



Background image at top: Broomy Hill Nursing Home, Hereford

Above: Robyn Cadywold, Beth Jones, Fleur Betambeau, Loz Mayne & George Spencer

See page 2 for Community Arts events list

HISTORY

Although term three often represents a massively busy time for the History department following the onset of revision and GCSE exams, there has been some time for some real creativity this year from our Year 7s.

During the early part of the year, Year 7 became the first year group to study in depth the religious schism in the Middle East that led to the Crusades of the 12th and 13th centuries. After some enthusiastic work on the subject the pupils focussed their new found knowledge into writing a historically accurate story about the knights who risked life and limb, literally, to fight in the Holy Land.

We had some fantastic pieces of work, but one stood out and, as a result, it was chosen to be entered into the Write Your Own Historical Story Competition 2009 run nationally by the Historical Association.

Although our entry, by Alex Jones of 7 Esceley, didn't win, it did get shortlisted and highly commended amongst a staggering 111 entries from 51 schools across England and Wales. A considerable achievement! We have therefore decided to dedicate some of our entry for this term's Comet to sharing with you just some of Alex's excellent story, 'A Taste of Apricots':

Rook scrambled at the dust and the sand as he tunnelled under the western wall of Jerusalem, with the screams and battle cries of a full scale siege following him down the entrance like a banshee. Dirt dogged his mouth and eyes. The only light source was the sun that shone through the unnoticeable hole at the bottom of the outer wall. Rook was not claustrophobic, but the thought of the entire wall caving in above him and crushing him, and no one to notice his disappearance, was slightly worrying.

When Rook thought it was safe to surface, he dug in a gradual upwards direction. It took longer than he had expected to reach topsoil, but he barely registered that fact.

The street he had emerged into was completely deserted.

LANGUAGES

This month, Year 7 French pupils got the chance to experience their own French breakfast! Pupils indulged in the delights of croissants, brioche, pains au chocolat and much more. All this was washed down with a mug of delicious hot chocolate. The students enjoyed the breakfast and sampling some traditional French products.

MATHS

Well done to all those who took part in the UK Maths Challenge which tested their problem-solving skills. The following pupils received certificates for their high performance:

GOLD: Matthew Congreve, Lydia Crump and Vicky Miller

SILVER: Emily Lewis and Alex Lovell

BRONZE: Luke Dowe, Lucy Rawlins, Amber Gjerstad, Louis Jones, Charlotte Lloyd, Blyth Longden, Ross Madison and Michael Thompson.

Congratulations to you all!

CARNEGIE DEBATE

On 23rd June Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Parsons took nine enthusiastic readers to Shirehall for the Carnegie Medal debate.

Before the debate, the pupils read and reviewed the seven shortlisted books for the award which is given for an outstanding book for young people.

On the day, they were split into multi-school groups and quizzed on their knowledge of the books. Then followed presentations by each of the fifteen participating schools, on one specific title each, and a vote for Herefordshire's winner.

Our group did very well; in fact, it was Libby Keir's team who won the quiz – the third year in a row for Libby!

They were a pleasure to take out for the day and we hope they will consider participating next year.

*Standing from left: Alex Jones, Libby Keir, Erin Stewart, Tom Brisland, Isaac Florence, Sophie Box and Lauren Milward
Front centre: Lydia Prosser
During their presentation on Keith Gray's 'Ostrich Boys'*



GCSE DRAMA

Specialist Arts Status funding has allowed us to buy in workshops recently. Amy and Lyndsay from Non-descript Theatre Company delivered a brilliant, fast-paced and often hilarious devising and improvisation workshop where a feather duster or piece of rope became a walking stick, a kitten, a hairbrush, loofah, pony and bicycle – perhaps you had to be there!

The following week saw David Durant from The Courtyard delivering a stage combat workshop. This was even more exciting – particularly with the necessity of following instructions to the letter to avoid accidents. At the end of the afternoon we showed the work we had been doing; one punch looked amazingly realistic... then we realised it had been; a misjudgement. Fortunately Chris Rooney was none the worse for the experience.

Many thanks to both providers who supplied our pupils with lots of transferable skills as well as giving us two afternoons of great fun.



Year 10 warming up



David Durant gives Emily Craddock a beating!



A sucker punch from Anna Kerby for Mrs. Dyer

TIMES TOKENS

A massive thank you goes out to everyone who has been collecting the *Times* book tokens for us. In the second round, which finished on July 11th, you collected 475 tokens; enough for another nine great new books for the school library.

Particular thanks also go to Mr. Walker and Mr. Farmer who have collected an enormous amount of tokens over the two rounds.

NESTLÉ BOX TOPS FOR BOOKS



In **September**, the Nestlé Box Tops for Books scheme recommences and runs until **March 2010**.

Once again, *please* collect as many as you can! Every token is valuable as it takes around 45 tokens for a book suitable for our age range. Don't forget to write your house group on the back – every token is a house point! Dore collected the most this year... who will win in 2010?

Thank you to everyone who kept collecting tokens after the closing date this year – you collected 56 tokens which are still valid for March 2010; giving us a great head start to the next collection!

FOOD AND TEXTILES

Another whirlwind of a term has passed and despite battling with builders and their drills we have still managed to create a fantastic collection of work in the department.

'Crazy Creatures' with scary features and deep sea collages packed with vibrant recycled materials are but a few of the magical projects we have completed in the past weeks.

In the Food department the new GCSE group have been hard at work trialling cakes and biscuits, building a wealth of skills and creating some of the most unique cake designs the department has ever seen!

We have also been busy with the new Licence to Cook scheme with Year 7, creating a range of food items from fruity flapjacks to cheesy muffins. One happy baker was heard to say 'homemade muffins make you smile'.

Success all round!

A TRIP FOR

2009/10'; YEAR 8;

The Geography and Art departments are currently organising a residential school trip for the current Year 7 to go to the Eden Project and the Tate gallery at St Ives. We will also be looking at coastal formations, doing beach art and we hope to include a trip to the Minack Theatre. The trip will take place on 14th-16th of June 2010 (end of Year 8) and will cost £130. For further information please contact Mrs. Rodgers.

COMMUNITY ARTS DIARY

AUTUMN 2009

Pirates! Summer Holiday Workshop Ages 6-13. Weds 5th Aug at Vowchurch Village Hall, call 01432 340 555

Vowchurch Drama and Fun Club Ages 6-12 Saturdays Sept 12th-Dec 5th at Vowchurch Village Hall, as above.

Discovering the Ramayana Ages 8-14

Fetch Theatre Company presents an interactive, multicultural workshop. Sat 24th Oct, Vowchurch Village Hall, 01544 231 579

Fairfield Youth Theatre

Tuesdays from Sept 15th to Dec 8th at Fairfield **Umdumo Wesizwe**

Ten young Zimbabweans sing and dance in various musical styles. Thurs 17th Sept, Fairfield, 01432 340 555

*Top: A Ramayana puppet used by FTC
Bottom: A few members of Umdumo Wesizwe*



ART NEWS

Uptake for Summer School at the Hereford College of Art has been incredible. The numbers grow each year and the Art College are pleased to report that the week is fully booked up by all schools in Herefordshire. There are fifteen fantastic workshops to choose from and these include: pots and pieces, animation, digital photography, fashion design & illustration, jewellery making, urban art, batik & tie-dye, recycling clothing & accessories, film & video production, black & white photography, graphic design, sculpture park, dance, music and drama.

I know it will be a great week and the pupils participating will enjoy many new experiences. A big thank you needs to go out to Max Williams who organises the whole event. I will try to get some photographs of the week for the next issue of Comet.

Now the Year 11 pupils have left, and I have to say I am confident of success for them in their Art GCSE, our attention is turned to the 2010 examinations. With this in mind the new Year 11 group will have an examination paper to prepare for over the summer. It is our intention to run a mini mock exam on the pupils' return in September. They will have ten hours in controlled conditions, over three weeks, where they will have to produce a final piece of artwork. Please encourage your child to prepare themselves and have an idea ready.

Finally, may I just say enjoy the summer holidays; be happy but be sun safe!

K. Francis

DANCE TOUR 2009

A massive well done to the Dance group: Reuben Money, Lucy Rawlins, Shannon Clarke, Sally Curley, Emma Giles, Naomi Lamdin, Caitlin Samsworth, Robyn Collins, Poppy Vaughan-Winter, Penny Williams, Chloe Gilbert-Smith, Bonny Herington, Rose Miyonga and Louis Provis who were once again part of the Youth Dance Tour organised by DanceFest. Their commitment and energy is something to be admired. Michelle, who runs the tour, said 'it wouldn't be the same without Fairfield'.

It was a pleasure to take the performers to each of the three different venues around Herefordshire – Minster, Kinastone and Whitecross. A. Cornwell / D. Provis

Celebration of 2 FACED DANCE Co. 10th Birthday

As part of the celebrations we were invited to join a full day of workshops and then an evening performance to showcase all the good dance work. It was a fantastic day full of ideas, fun and challenge. The group performed so well in the evening – it finished the day off superbly.

Fairfield has a regular club which runs every Thursday after school. We are always looking for new people to join so why not come along in September and have a go?

A. Cornwell / D. Provis

ANIMAL CARE

The highlight of the term has been the visit from Chris Nock of Proteus Reptile Trust with a few of his slippery friends! Several pupils overcame their phobia of snakes and there are some superb photos from the talk on the Fairfield website.

There have also been some new cold-blooded arrivals. These reptiles seem to be coming in twos just like in Noah's Ark. We have two emperor scorpions, two chameleons and finally a beautiful but some what lonely tarantula. Rumour has it that a new species has also arrived in the science labs; 'antlions'!

Finally, congratulations to the Year 11 pupils who have all successfully passed their BTEC Animal Care course.



Kathryn Hopkins, Meg Greenow, Lucy Rawlins & Emily Harding deal with a slippery customer!

ENGLISH

A question for you...

What do Caroline Bird, Gillian Clarke, Imtiaz Dharker and Ben Crystal all have in common? That's right, none of them have been round to my house for tea... however, they have all been here to Fairfield, courtesy of the Hay Festival outreach programme for schools, to speak to Years 9, 10 and 11.

Caroline Bird is a wacky young poet who, at the tender age of 22, has won several awards for her poetry already. She entertained us with poems such as *I Have Eaten Your Parrot*, which finishes with the line 'He tasted of chicken. I'm sorry.'

Both Clarke and Dharker are major poets on the GCSE English Literature and Language syllabi respectively and to have them chatting about their poems, their lives and the FHS alpacas was an amazing experience (rather like getting Picasso into the Art department or Pythagoras into Maths) and one that certainly gave the burdened, bedraggled Year 11s a much needed boost just days before their exams.

Ben Crystal, an actor and expert on the simple clues that make Shakespeare not just crackable to a 21st century audience, but mesmerising, worked his magic with Macbeth and Year 9. Aided by RADA worthy performances from Tyrone Roberts and Naomi Lamdin, Crystal decoded the infamous iambic pentameter and explained quite why fully-grown, battle-hardened soldiers would quake at the sight of three little old women.

The school is currently in talks with organisers from the Hay Festival, planning even bigger and better events for next year. Watch, as they say, this space!

Caroline Bird



Gillian Clarke



Imtiaz Dharker



Ben Crystal



I.C.T.

In ICT this term we have been looking at adapting documents using various formatting techniques. The end task set to pupils was to review a movie, book or game in the style of a magazine report. Here are some edited highlights of 8 Monnow pupils' work:



I really like the book 'Twilight' because I love vampires and this book is about them. It is also a very good love story. The author is very good to be able to write this story. I have also read the next three books and watched the film which is quite good as well. The only bad thing about it is that sometimes the writing doesn't make sense.

By Erin Stewart



I think this is a very good game. I enjoy playing it and you can play with friends too. I find it very hard on legendary difficulty but that is good because it lasts longer. I rate this game 4/5 because it is amazing and you can play online with friends on all the different maps and you can even talk to them on co-op and against each other.

By Jonny Senft

MUSIC

From July 13th – 17th, the orchestra, jazz band and smaller ensembles toured the Rhineland area of Germany. They stayed in the impressive Burg Stahleck (background picture) and performed in Linz, Bad Ems and finally in Bonn as part of the Summer Festival.



YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHY TRIP

Sculpture Trail in the Forest of Dean

Year 8 had an exciting day out at the Sculpture Trail in the Forest of Dean on 7th July to look at sustainable tourism; a topic they have been studying over the last term in Geography. It was lovely to have nearly the whole year group out in one go and the pupils behaved very well. Many pupils had fun trying to decipher what the sculptures represented and why they were there, especially why there was a staircase that led to nowhere in the middle of a forest. On our return lots of exciting stories were told including sightings of wild boar by the pupils and wild children by the staff! The pupils have had lively debates over which sculpture was the best and why.

One of the rails of the rail track sculptures



Pupils walking among the sculptures

AUDIO BOOKS AND MUCH MORE!

We now have a wonderful range of audio books in the school library which can be enjoyed at home or in school. You can check them out in the usual way, or relax at lunchtime on a beanbag, throw on our lightweight, padded headphones and fire up the brand new CD player with a book of your choice. The range will only keep growing over time but if you have any audio books you're finished with, donations would be greatly appreciated!

Not only this, but Elwyn has kindly arranged for a new carpet to be laid in the library over the holidays. This has given me the chance to rearrange the layout and create a chill-out area for reading, listening to audio books or generally enjoying the calm of the library. Please check it out!

Alex Jones and Matthew Franks enjoy 'Horrible Histories' read by Terry Deary himself!



P.E.

| | Inns | Not out | High score | Runs | Av. |
|---------------|-------|---------|------------|---------|-------|
| Alex Richards | 3 | 1 | 66n.o. | 134 | 67.00 |
| Ollie Strong | 10 | 4 | 47n.o. | 182 | 30.33 |
| Alex Lovell | 5 | 1 | 42n.o. | 44 | 11.00 |
| | Overs | Maidens | Runs | Wickets | Av. |
| Jake Cleves | 13 | 2 | 37 | 6 | 6.16 |
| Matt James | 32 | 3 | 127 | 15 | 8.40 |
| Dan Elkerton | 27.2 | 1 | 94 | 9 | 10.44 |

Dorstone Cricket Club played a game this year against Ewyas Harold Taverners. The team consisted of pupils past and present. Oh, by the way, we won by 103 runs!

Best 3 batting averages for Fairfield 2009

Best 3 bowling averages for Fairfield 2009

Congratulations to Matt James and Ollie Strong who have both represented the County Under 12 cricket team.

TERM DATES FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

Autumn 2009
 First day Mon 7th Sept
 Half-term Mon 26th – Fri 30th Oct
 Last day Fri 18th Dec

Spring 2010
 First day Mon 4th Jan 2010
 Half-term Mon 15th – Fri 18th Feb
 Last day Thurs 1st April

Summer 2010
 First day Mon 19th Apr
 Bank hol Mon 3rd May
 Half-term Mon 31st May – Fri 4th Jun
 Last day Tues 20th Jul

Please see the [Google calendar](#) linked from the [school website](#) for other events and activities.

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Fieldwork is an integral part of Geography GCSE coursework. I have organised a fieldtrip to Hay-on-Wye for Thursday September 10th from 10.15am - 12.45 pm; this period of time is during Year 11 Geography lessons.

There is another fieldtrip for Year 11 on Thursday September 24th when they will be visiting Hereford for the day.

Pupils will be gathering primary data to help them test hypotheses connected to urban environments.

HEAD'S REPORT

I have to mention the wonderful Ofsted report the school received. Your massive response to the parental questionnaire provided important evidence for the inspector; thank you very much. He told me he had never seen such a response before in terms of quantity and quality. Lunch with a group of pupils did likewise, not to mention the spread which Kath put on for him! This report was important for the school as we prepare for the future.

In September, 86 new pupils will arrive; formerly it has been 70. We will also have three new buildings, with a fourth to commence early next term, and two new teachers. We will also be employing Mr. Richards full time; previously he has been working in three schools.

Fairfield is continuing to develop and improve with exciting plans for the curriculum and for what we can offer to your children. I find it hard to believe that the end of another academic year approaches – it has been action-packed and there is far too much for me to mention, but I would like to thank everyone for their support and cheerful approach to most things.

One farewell is to Mrs. Pat Burt who has worked in the Art department for many years; thank you for all you have given to so many cohorts of pupils and enjoy a lovely retirement.

C. Barker

NEWS FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

OR THE SAD TALE OF THE CURIOUS CHILD

The curious child came on a visit, With questions filling her head. "Why must I stay with you?" she whined

"To keep safe dear" the mother said. *Hush! Hush! Whisper who dares! Bearded dragons stir in their lair.*

The child ran off to the Science labs, She'd heard of the animals there. The Science staff scowled and growled at the child "Oh gosh!" thought the child "there's bears!"

Hush! Hush! Whisper who dares! Scorpions and tree frogs peer from their lair.

The child made faces at the animals, And tapped loudly upon all their doors.

Then finding an empty cupboard, She crept in and curled up on the floor.

Hush! Hush! Whisper who dares! Leaf cutter ants are escaping their lair.

Unnoticed by all but the animals, The curious child failed to see The caretaker arriving to switch off the lights

Shut the door, and turn the key. *Hush! Hush! Whisper who dares! Tarantula's door opens. Keep still if you care!*

The Science staff all arrived early Next morning before the first bell. Despite their search they failed to find

Either the child, or the curious smell. *Hush! Hush! Whisper who dares! The well-fed animals just burp and stare.*

Mrs Wright