

PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENINGS MARCH 2009

This year we will be doing things a bit differently. Instead of having separate year group parents' evenings, there will be three evenings where any parent with children in Years 7, 8, 10, 12 and 13 can attend. The dates are:

Tuesday 10 March 3.30 - 6 pm

Wednesday 18 March 4.00 - 6.30 pm

Thursday 26 March 4.30 - 7 pm

You are welcome to attend any one or more of these sessions. Further details will follow after half-term.

GCSE RESULTS

The official 2008 GCSE results were published in January. They confirmed that Hookergate's 5xA*-C figure of 45% was one of the biggest improvements nationally. The comparison with other local schools is very favourable as you know.

APOLOGIES for the closure on Monday 2 February. We have to make the decision by 7 am at the latest and conditions were pretty grim on the site with a poor forecast. I know it's inconvenient for parents, but it's the first time I've had to do it in 9 Years!

EXTENDED SERVICES

Over the past three weeks, on Wednesday mornings, a group of parents have attended a short course focusing on ways to engage with their children in discussions around puberty, relationships and safeguarding issues when using the internet and mobile 'phones. The sessions were delivered by members of the Gateshead Health Team and our Family and Young People's Worker, Vicky Harrison.

Feedback from the parents who attended the course has been very positive. If you would like to take part in future sessions, or you would like to suggest topics for future courses, please contact Joy Fletcher, Extended Services Co-ordinator, on 01207 542862.

BLOOD BROTHERS

In January, fifty students and staff visited the Theatre Royal, Newcastle to see the musical production of 'Blood Brothers'.

Willy Russell's Blood Brothers is set in Liverpool, and tells the story of twin brothers separated at birth. The brothers go on to lead very different lives before their paths cross again.

The production was enjoyed by everyone with not a dry eye in the house!



WHEEL OF FORTUNE ROADSHOW

On 23 January Year 11 students took part in an interactive roadshow 'Wheel of Fortune'.

The roadshow was both visual and interactive. It used the services of a professional theatre group to raise awareness of the importance of staying in learning, the career options relating to apprenticeships and support available from organisations such as Connexions.

SPORTS INDUSTRY DAY

On the 11 February forty PE students took part in the 'Sports Industry Day' organised by the Education Business Links Service.

Representatives from Connexions, Whickham Sports Partnership, University of Northumbria and Gateshead Thunder where all on hand to offer the students the right level of advice and guidance about various careers in the Sports Industry.



PRIMARY SCHOOL EVENTS AT HOOKERGATE SCHOOL

Hookergate School has hosted two primary school events this term.

Multi-sills event

The Year 3/4 Multi-skills event was attended by 116 children from four primary schools: Rowlands Gill, Highfield, Winlaton West Lane and Chopwell.

Sports Hall Athletics event

The Year 5/6 Southall Athletics Event was attended by 64 children from three primary schools: Highfield, Winlaton West Lane and Rowlands Gill. Winlaton West Lane were the overall winners.

Both tournaments were organised by Mrs Needham the SSCo and were umpired by post 16 students studying CSL (Community Sports Leaders).

Many thanks go to all involved for making these events so successful.

STEP INTO SPORT

Hookergate is proud to have enrolled two students on this course. Robert Barnes and Rebecca Bullerwell gave up their free time to help coach at local sports clubs. 'Step Into Sport' is a nationally recognised qualification that rewards young volunteers for the amount of time they give to a club.

They will be awarded either the bronze award (50 hours volunteering), the silver award (100 hours) or the gold award (150 hours).

Good Luck!

DANCE COMPETITION KEY STAGE 3

On Tuesday 16 December at lunch time, Years 7, 8 and 9 students turned out in force to watch and take part in the Dance Competition

Each year group had four dance groups who had won their class competition and were now dancing to be the overall year group winners.

The work was as a result of their PE lessons: they had half a term to produce a dance routine. The girls showed some excellent routines that were judged by the PE department staff and the dance club members. The winners were:

Year 7:

- Lauren Hill, Louise Pilman, Sarah Thompson, Charlie Woods, Megan Wooldridge

Year 8:

- Jadine Eskdale, Kayleigh Hendry

Year 9:

- Sally Wood, Anna Peel, Erin Wakefield

Well done to all students who participated in the final.

RECYCLING

The school has facilities for the collection of empty ink cartridges which are then sent for recycling. A wheelie bin located in the IT Technicians room (within the school library) is available for used cartridges. If anyone has used cartridges at home they could bring them to school for recycling.



A request is also made for old mobile 'phones (irrespective of condition) which are being collected on behalf of the North East Air Ambulance Appeal. George Storey is responsible for this collection



UNDER 15 GIRLS' TENNIS

On a cold, windy Friday afternoon in November, we greeted a team from a top private school from Edinburgh. They were the Scottish tennis champions who had come to compete for a place in the North Regional finals.

Our team fought well but were overcome by the strength and depth of the team from George Watson School.

Our students deserve credit for their achievement in previously becoming the Gateshead Champions, and also for approaching a tough fixture with both enthusiasm and commitment.



Well done girls!

BOYS' TENNIS 2008

Also well done to both the Under 13 and Under 15 school teams for all their hard work and determination that they showed last season.

In particular congratulations should go to the Under 13s for winning the Gateshead Schools' league.

LEARNING 2 LEARN

Three groups of Year 11 students were involved in the Learning 2 Learn workshop that took place on the 4 and February 2008.

Supported by Mrs Julie Roberts, the students were shown how to use mind maps, mnemonics and various reading strategies to help them prepare fully for the summer exams.

Overall it was a busy and productive morning that was enjoyed by both students and staff.