

Fred Longworth High School Newsletter



Name _____

Form _____

Autumn 2009



HEADLINES

I am delighted to welcome you to the first edition of our Parents' Newsletter in what we hope will be another busy and successful school year at Fred Longworth.

Results 2009

The big news of the summer for us was the achievement of the school's best ever GCSE results, with a massive 82% of students achieving 5 A*-C grades and 59% of these achieving the measure including English and Maths. These results mean that our Year 11 achieved results well above their targets and they continue the trend of improving results over the past few years.

There were some remarkable success stories amongst the individual results, with top performers Rachel Bell (8 A*s and 5As), Becky Anderson (8A*s and 4 As) and David Dunning (5A*s and 7As) just 3 of the students responsible for a bumper crop of more than 400 A and A* grades. 9 students also began their A level journey by passing AS Music on top of their GCSE successes.

Having seen how hard students and staff were working in the lead up to the exams, the results were no surprise to me. In addition to a real focus on achievement within lessons, staff

and students gave up time after school and on Saturday mornings for extra revision; the hard work clearly paid dividends and there was a real sense of a job well done on Results' Day in August. The challenge is now on for the current Year 11 to do even better next summer! In the meantime, congratulations to the students and staff who worked so hard to make the results happen.

Holidays in School Time

As we begin the new school year, I am keen to ensure that we continue to focus on high standards and am sure that you as parents will continue to give us your full support. One way in which you can do this is to encourage your child to aim for 100% attendance and to take holidays outside of term time. I am concerned by the number of holiday requests I am receiving, and must point out that these will only be granted in exceptional circumstances; it is particularly unlikely that we can grant term-time holidays for Year 10 and 11 students or for students with attendance already below 93%. A week taken out each year for a term time holiday means that a whole half term's worth of education is lost over a child's time at Fred Longworth and this is bound to make it more difficult to reach the highest possible

achievement.

Looking Ahead.....

On a lighter note, there is a great deal to look forward to this term, including a visit by the Halle Orchestra on 9th October. It is a testament to the hard work and success of our Expressive Arts Faculty that we have been chosen to host such a prestigious event and staff and students alike are really looking forward to the visit; I am sure there is a great deal we can all learn from the professionals.

A Brave Performance

Of course, the talent of our students is not confined to Music, and I cannot finish before congratulating our Year 11 students on a brave attempt to beat "Real Madrid" (the staff with delusions of grandeur!) in our annual "Champions League" match, held as part of European Languages Week. The students, who were representing Manchester United, were leading 1-0 and well on top before the referee allowed the staff to take a free kick early. The staff went on to win 3-1, but the moral victory definitely belonged to Year 11. Well done, lads!

Finally, I look forward to meeting

(Continued on page 2)

as many of you as possible over the coming year and hope that the spirit of home-school partnership will continue to be as strong as ever.

Mrs J Garretts

Gifted and Talented Summer School

Year 6 and 7 students were invited to a 'Visual Art' Summer School and were involved in creating an abstract sculpture based on music. The aim of the summer school was to encourage young people to explore and enjoy 'Art and Design' giving them the opportunity to be introduced to new skills and techniques. Students had the opportunity to work on a large scale piece of work.

Students were influenced by salsa music used in the dance summer school workshop. Work was produced by listening to music and creating an abstract outcome inspired by the artist Kandinsky.

The Art summer school was a huge success and I wish to thank the students for their efforts.
Miss Bolton

Wigan Poetry Celebration 2009

On July 2nd, four of our then Y7 students: Sam Tooley, Jake Piggott, Poppy-Jo Chester and Chloe Devenport attended a Poetry Workshop at Haigh Hall in Wigan, led by acclaimed local poet David Horner. They spent a lovely day meeting and working with students from other Wigan schools to write and perform several different types of poems.

Then, in the evening, two of our older students, Briony Chesterfield and Tom Collier, were invited to attend a Prize Presentation at Aspull Civic Centre to collect their certificates and prizes for the Poetry Competition. The theme this year was 'Who Do We Think We Are?' Their winning poems were

published in an anthology, which is now available in every school and Library across the Borough. Congratulations to Tom and Briony!

Mrs Waterworth

Here are the Prize-winning poems:

Who do you think you are?

Dear Descendant,

I wonder who you think you are
With your new technology and
flashy cars
How would you have coped
years ago
When all the rage was the radio?

We made our own entertainment
then
We'd be invited to dance by
gentlemen
We would whirl to a waltz or float
to a foxtrot
Not all bang, crash, boom, street
or hip-hop

Nowadays you're always sitting
at your laptop
But this modern lifestyle I
wouldn't swap
In my day we chatted face to
face
The world has gone mad! It's a
disgrace!

We fought two wars to help save
the nation
Now all you hear of are street
gangs and racism
No respect for your elders, you
push them too far
It makes me wonder, who do you
think you are?

By Briony Chesterfield Age 14
Fred Longworth High School

Who do we think we are?

I was led to believe my family
tree
Would be stout and broad.
A mighty oak enveloped in pride,
Golden and crisp.

I was expecting the thick trunk
To extend his arms and shake
my hand,
Feeling the same warmth and
pulse,
Within both of us.

Yet here I stand before a broken
elm,
Skinny and bald.
Past slander on the family name
Has left countless stab wounds
on the poor bark.

It did not embrace me,
It simply grimaced at my touch.

You may think you're descended
from rich and royals
Like I did.
But that doesn't make you who
you are,
It might just be all a lie.

Tom Collier Age 15
Fred Longworth High School

Artist in Residence Summer School

Year 9 and 10 students from Freddie's and other local high schools were invited to attend a ceramic summer school, working along side the schools' artist in residence Sarah Baker. They were shown how to construct their own clay sculptures based on her work and then fired them in an outdoor kiln.

This was an excellent opportunity for the students to gain new skills which they thoroughly enjoyed and was very well attended.

Sarah will be working in the school over the next year



continuing her ceramic business as well as sharing her industry and creative skills with the students.

The Halle Orchestra



Sir Mark Elder

On October 9th 85 members of the Halle Orchestra conducted by Sir Mark Elder will be in school to give two concerts to our students and to feeder primary schools in the sports hall.

The concert is massive for both Wigan and for 'Freddies'. It will be a once in a lifetime opportunity for many students to listen to a live orchestra that is truly one of the best in the world. Around 800 students will attend the two concerts at 12.00pm and 2.00pm.

Rick Asbury



Mobile Phones

Please note mobile phones are not allowed in school. If a student is seen with a phone in school it will be confiscated until the end of the week.

Is your child entitled to free school meals?

If you receive the following your child is entitled to receive free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (provided you do not receive working tax credit & annual income does not exceed £16,040)
The Guaranteed element of pension credit

Contact Details:

Benefits Department
Phone 01942 828609
E-mail benefits@wigan.gov.uk

Forms can be obtained from

Wigan and Leigh Housing Offices
Atherton Town Hall

You can get help to fill the form in from:

Leigh Town Hall
Wigan Civic Centre, Millgate, Wigan

If you are a tenant of one of the following Housing Associations you can visit their offices

Arena Housing, Coops Foyer, Chequer Street, Wigan

County Palatine, Turner House, King Street, Leigh

English Churches Housing, 82 Railway Road, Leigh

Mrs E Bailey
Behaviour Support Key worker

Dates for the diary this term.....

Half Term	26th - 30th October (inc)
Y7 Parents' Curriculum Evening	Wednesday 11th November
Staff Training Day (No students)	Friday 27th November
Y10 Parents' Evening	Thursday 3rd December
End of Tem	Friday 18th December
