

# Fred Longworth HIGH SCHOOL



Welcome to the April edition of the Parents' Newsletter. In this edition, you will find plenty of news about exciting activities that we have been involved with over the term. Please forgive me, however, for commenting solely here on our biggest piece of news, the recent unanimous decision of the Governors to apply for conversion to academy status. I must begin by thanking those of you who responded to the Parent Consultation, by email or through attendance at the Parents' Meeting on March 10th. Your comments & questions were very helpful in helping us to make a decision.

## Our School in our hands

We believe that this decision will enable us to control the destiny of our school. As one of the new "converter" academies, we will have control over our own finances, admissions & curriculum; we want to use this to protect our unique "Fred Longworth family" & believe it will enable us to continue to serve our local community in the most effective way possible.

Our major reason for considering conversion is to take away the current uncertainty over future admissions as the result of the closure of Hesketh Fletcher. There is currently a fear amongst parents within our traditional catchment area that their children may lose the chance for a place here in future years. As an academy, however, we will be able to prevent this from happening; we will set our own admissions criteria and will have protection from externally imposed changes to our admissions.

This will enable us to work in close partnership with our Tyldesley & Atherton feeder primary schools & to make sure that all the children of our traditional catchment area continue to have the chance to come to Fred Longworth, their nearest school. We believe that this will have benefits for the wider community & will put parents' minds at rest that the oversubscription criteria for the school won't keep changing. You can also be assured that we will remain a completely comprehensive school

committed to inclusion and, of course, meeting all requirements for Special Needs.

We also believe that there will be financial advantages to conversion. We will have more control over ALL of our money & how it is spent & hope to be able to make improvements as a result. With budgets squeezed over the next couple of years, increased funding & flexibility will help us at least to maintain the currently excellent learning resources we have.

Finally, we would have more ability to be flexible with our curriculum so that it continues to meet the needs of our students & to reflect the focus on the Arts & Applied Learning that has helped us to succeed. We would, of course, remain accountable for results through league tables, Ofsted and, more importantly, students & parents.

## What are the new "converter" academies?

The new "converter" academies are state schools funded directly by the Department for Education rather than through the Local Authority. Unlike the "old style" academies you may have read about, we would NOT have any business sponsor— this move is about having the freedom to make the right decisions for ourselves. The school will NOT close - there will be a conversion to the new status. As an Outstanding school, we were one of the first schools to be granted the opportunity to apply for academy status in this way, & we have been exploring the implications very carefully since last summer.

## What changes will there be?

In many ways, there will be very few changes. We will continue to be called Fred Longworth High School & the values associated with our proud name will remain the same, with a focus on raising achievement built on a foundation of excellent relationships between students, staff & parents.

**Specifically, the following will remain the same:**

- The proud Fred Longworth High School name, aims, vision & ethos
- Our school uniform & the badge – the Tyldesley town badge;
- Current staff, their pay & conditions;
- The length of school terms & the school day. Students will be pleased to learn that we do not want to extend either, despite the rumours!
- High standards of behaviour, teaching & learning;
- The quality of our curriculum;
- Partnership work with other schools, especially our feeder primary schools;
- Our commitment to a fully comprehensive education – as an academy, we would not be allowed to select on ability but would not, in any case, wish to do so;
- Our commitment to inclusion, & to meeting the needs of ALL students, especially with regard to those with Special Needs;
- Our philosophy on admissions & our Pupil Admission Number; we will continue to serve our local community;
- Commitment to working in support of other schools; as an academy, this will be expected of us.

**The changes that will take place are as follows:**

The school will no longer be under the control of the Local Authority; we will be a state school maintained directly by the Department for Education;

We will receive our funding from the Department for Education, together with a sum of money usually kept by the Local Authority. This will give us increased freedom over how we spend our money;

The staff will remain the same but will be employed by an Academy Trust, formed from the current governors of the school, rather than by the Local Authority. Their pay & conditions will remain exactly the same, protected by law by the TUPE process; new staff will join us on the same pay & conditions.

**So what happens next?**

We will shortly make a formal application for conversion; we hope to have this completed by September. However, we will pull out if, at any point, we feel it will not be the right thing for the school. We are able to do this right up until the final conversion.

Consultation remains open until August 31st; you can email questions or comments to [parentconsultation@flhs.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:parentconsultation@flhs.wigan.sch.uk). Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions, is available on the school website [www.flhs.org.uk](http://www.flhs.org.uk). Alternatively, I would welcome the opportunity of meeting with you if you would prefer to discuss any concerns you may have in person.

**And finally.....**

On behalf of all the staff, I wish you all the very best for Easter. Let's hope the recent run of good weather does not disappear for the forthcoming Bank Holidays!

Janet Garretts



### Still Unknown

Four of Freddie's students have recently been going from strength to strength with their rock band 'Still Unknown'. James Dewhurst, Matt Jenkinson, Elliott Mills

and Connor Ashton all year 11, are four of a five piece band which includes singer Gemma Mellor from Walkden.

They have been working with Future Arts Co-operative, set up to develop young artists in the

Wigan area. Alongside producer John Kettle, Emma Welsby - percussionist with Sandi Thom, and Brian Cannon - artwork designer for the Verve and Oasis, they have developed song structure, performance, promotion and visual styling.

Gigs in Leigh, Walkden and Wigan have developed a strong fan base locally playing a mixture of covers and their own songs, two of which they have recently recorded.

The band recently played at the Roadhouse in Manchester and gets a buzz playing live. They admit "whilst it's everyone's dream to play the MEN we'd play in a bus shelter if we had an audience."

### Y11 Outward Bound



30 Year 11 students recently completed an 'Adventure & Challenge' weekend with Outward Bound. The trip was designed to encourage students to set personal goals, and to improve confidence and motivation. Activities included camping, walking, rock climbing, raft building, and a particularly cold dive into Ullswater. Everyone enjoyed the weekend, and we were very impressed with the students attitude throughout. Thanks to the William Jackson Food Group who sponsored the event, and have agreed to sponsor 3 students to go on to complete a 21 day adventure course in the Summer. Special thanks also to Mr McKeown and Mrs Roughley for giving up their weekend!



### The Art of Science



The Art and Science departments have been working collaboratively on a cross-curriculum project exploring Light and Colour. In January the project started by holding a G&T day for Freddie's students and for 5 other local High schools. The students worked alongside two professional artists for the day, as well as staff from the Art and Science departments. They explored using light boxes to mix colour, painting under coloured lights, prisms and 'drawing with light'. It was a very enjoyable and informative day and led onto all year 8 students having the opportunity to work with our 2 professional artists who visited and worked in our school over a period of 6 weeks.

Some of the students became science and art 'ambassadors' and in particular we would like to thank Lucy Smith and Bethany Martin from 8JO for all their hard work.

### Swimming Finals



The Junior Boys' Swimming Team qualified for the National Relay Finals on Saturday 5th February 2011 at Stockport Pool. Adam Toone, Alexander Marsden, Scot Cummings and Lewis Clough took part in the Medley and Freestyle Relays. On the day the team improved their PB from the qualifying round in the Medley Relay by 2 seconds and went into the final in 5th position out of 16 teams; they eventually finished 7th overall. Unfortunately the boys did not qualify from their heats in the Freestyle Relay but they did go into the competition 7th fastest out of 16 teams.

It has been a superb achievement for the team to reach the National Finals as they were amongst many elite swimming schools in England. The boys should be very proud of themselves and deserve to be congratulated for representing Fred Longworth High School in such a prestigious event.

## Anti-Litter Focus

Fred Longworth prides itself at being an 'outstanding school', in terms of the quality of teaching and learning that takes place & the quality of the facilities provided. However, the volume of litter in and around the school grounds is not befitting of this 'outstanding' image.

This situation will change. In a bid to improve this situation Mr Long will be running a competition open to all pupils to design the best possible anti-litter posters. Prizes will be given to the best 5, and they will also be reproduced and displayed around the school buildings & on Freddie's intra-net after the Easter Holidays. All entries must be received by Mr Long by Friday 6th May at the absolute latest.

We also plan to 'adopt' Printshop Lane- in an attempt to keep the surrounding area as litter-free as possible. Monday 4th April was our first official litter-pick, & this will in future become a termly activity.

Any pupils interested in joining the Eco-Team to help Fred Longworth achieve the prestigious Green Flag Award should contact Mr Long in S7.

## Tate Modern

The Art Department has been working on a collaboration about identity with Tate Modern and a partner school in Berlin. A group of Year 8 students worked with an artist from the Tate on a one day workshop, where they helped to make puppets of themselves. The puppets were then taken to an International school we have partnered with in Berlin by the artist and shared with them. The students in Berlin put our puppets together and have photographed them around their school environment.

Over the year we will be sharing work and ideas with Berlin which will be shown on the Tate website and will collimate in an exhibition in the Tate Modern in 2012.

## Terry Caffrey

Terry Caffrey award winning and nationally known poet from the Northwest will be working with a selection of Year 7 Able & Talented students from Fred Longworth High School on Tuesday 26th

April. The students involved are working towards a LAMDA Qualification in speaking, verse and prose. He will be giving them invaluable hints and advice on how poetry works and how they can communicate in an exciting way to an audience.

For further information please contact Miss Rowley on 01942 883 796 ex 219.

## On-line Reporting

The launch of our system for accessing student reports and other information via the Internet is drawing near.

Those of you who replied to the information request will receive your log-on details by post and will then be able to access the system. We'll include some details on how to use the web site with your account details, but we will also have more details and help screens on both the parents section of our web site and in the reporting system as well. There will be a special e-mail address to which you can write if you encounter any problems whilst using on-line reports.

You'll be able to see term reports, attendance and behaviour details and other general details for each of your children. More student information will be available later on. At the end of each academic year we'll leave the final report for that year on-line so that as students progress through school you'll be able to look back and compare results and progression.

Everything is secure and can be used in most web browsers and on Windows, Mac or Linux PC's. You'll just need to have a "PDF Reader" (free) installed to view reports. You do not have to have any "Office" software installed.

For those of you who didn't send back your account request form, if you still have it, then complete and return it as soon as possible. We'll endeavour to set your account up as soon as we can - although this will be after the first group of users have been dealt with. If you've mislaid or otherwise not dealt with the form then we'll post a version on our web site which you can download, complete and return to school after the main launch.

It is anticipated that on-line reporting will replace paper versions in time, so if you do have internet access and have not registered or have said "no thanks", then you can apply or reapply at any time by downloading the form off our web site and returning it to school.

## Put a Plug in it

Would you be interested in creating a film as part of an exciting intergenerational project?

'Put a Plug in it' is a mixed media project focusing on the role of technology and communication in our lives.

The project is taking place at Fred Longworth High School and is looking for people of any age to take part in some free film making workshops.

Experience in film making is not necessary, just an enthusiasm to get hands on and a keenness to be creative

For more information please contact Miss Rowley in the Drama Office on 01942 883 796 to secure your place.

You can also check out the website  
[www.putapluginit.webs.com](http://www.putapluginit.webs.com)

First two workshop dates at Fred Longworth High School are  
Wednesday 13th April 10-2pm  
& Thursday 14th April 10-2pm

## Science Competition

Congratulations to Jade Culver 9PM, Thomas Reynolds 7DH and Rhys Tootill 7DH who were winners in the recent Science quiz run as part of National Science and Engineering Week.

## Megan's Design is a Winner!

Year 8 student Megan Roberts is celebrating after a T-shirt she designed has hit the shelves in the Manchester City stores. Megan attended a CitySore design a T-shirt workshop and after impressing the judges, made up of MCFC, CityStore and Umbro reps, her design was chosen as the winner.

Mr Stalker - Head of Year said "We are so proud of Megan - she is an outstanding student and a credit to Year 8"



## School Idol 2011

On Wednesday 23rd March, Freddie's Music Department took part in 'School Idol 2011'. This is a national competition run by Piper Music Management label who are associated with

Universal Recording label. There were twenty-four acts involving over forty students. They were all competing for a place in the national final to be held in Blackpool on Friday 8th July. After an evening of exceptional talent, showcasing bands, soloists and instrumentalists, the audience and judges had to

reach a decision on which 2 acts to put through to the grand final. The audience vote went to Stephanie Ball after her amazing drum solo. The judge's vote went to Funked Up after their brilliant arrangement and performance of 'Mash Up'. Funked Up consists of Reece Cairns (drums), Joe Holdham (Bass), Ethan Fisher (Guitar) and George Gill (Saxophone). These 2 acts will now compete against the rest of the country for the ultimate prize of being named 'School Idol winner 2011'. The winner will perform on 'Children in Need' in November and get a recording contract.

Good luck to Steph and Funked Up!

## Halle



On Thursday 24th March, Adrian 'Benny' Morris, the Halle Orchestra's Bass Trombonist visited Freddie's Music department.

He worked with the Brass Band's Trombone and Tuba sections in a small workshop in preparation for the National Youth Brass Band Championships of Great Britain that the band will compete in on Sunday 10th April at the Royal Northern College of Music – Good Luck Freddie's Brass Band!

## Brass Band



Fred Longworth High School Brass Band have finally got their new uniform which consists of a black waistcoat with the school logo and black and red bowties. The uniforms have been made by local tailoress, Gina Crusham.

The Brass Band, who are currently Northwest Youth Champions, now look the part as they go head to head with the rest of the country in the National Brass Band Championships in April.

## Y11 Art Trip



14 year 11 students enjoyed a fantastic Art and Photography weekend at Low Bank Ground, Coniston. The group travelled by boat across the lake before undertaking activities around the waterfalls at Church Beck, Miners Bridge.

Sunday was an opportunity to explore the forest around John Ruskin's Bruntwood house before having a well earned tea and cake.

The Art Department would like to thank the students for their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm, they were a credit to the school.



## Skills City

A group of Y10 students took a trip to Skills NorthWest on Thursday 17th March. Skills NorthWest is the biggest skills and careers event happening in the region.

Aimed at 14-19 year olds its purpose is to inspire and motivate.

Students were able to get involved in hands on interactive features to get a real taste of future careers options.

Exhibitors included the Army who had brought along a climbing wall to try out and Reaseheath College where students could have a go at floristry and animal management.

## The Green Room



Things are gathering pace in the Green Room with the coming of Spring. Students have been planting lots of seeds over the last couple of weeks. The garlic and shallots are doing particularly well and the fruit trees are coming into bud.

Gardening clubbers have started to plant sunflower seeds for the Tallest Sunflower Competition

Look out for the Green Room Photography Competition 2011

The Green Room website will be online soon for more information on upcoming events

The Y10 ASDAN students will be completing a unit of work in the garden during April. This will include laying a path, concreting support poles for the fruit trees, filling the drainage trench and setting out the vegetable beds. Anyone interested in joining the gardening club is very welcome.

We meet in the Halliwell Room on Tuesday 1.15 and 2.50

## Caption Competition



What is Mrs. Faulkner saying to Mr. Kirby?

Answers on a postcard to the Halliwell Room.

There will be a small prize for the funniest!

## Wicked of Oz



Congratulations and thank you to all the students and Expressive Arts staff for a fabulous production of "Wicked of Oz" in February.

Comments from parents and in the local press confirm that this was an incredibly professional production. It was written and directed by Alison Bell, supported by an incredibly hardworking team. Special mention should go to TA Ben Fisher, who scripted all the musical arrangements – a mammoth task.



## **The Ogden Trust Partnership**

Fred Longworth High School has become the hub for a new partnership in Wigan.

Y9 girls to Byrchall High School where 360 pupils from across the Borough took part in different activities including an interactive demonstration packed lecture on space tourism from a commercial company and a hands-on rockets workshop run by A-level students from Winstanley College.

The Ogden Trust aims to encourage and promote the teaching and learning of Physics through various ways.

The first event held by the partnership was a Gifted and Talented day for Year 9 pupils. FLHS sent 30



## **Mitie Diversity Week**



On March 8th all Year 9 girls took part in Women's Career Day

As part of the days activities they took part in a discussion, about women's jobs in the construction industry.

Many girls minds have now been opened to a different career path within this industry.

The girls commented "People think that the typical jobs in the construction industry are brick and roof laying, painting and plastering. However this industry has many other exciting opportunities to offer, for example: project managers, quantity surveyor and visiting project sites."

## REMINDER OF DATES

|                          |  |                           |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| End of Term              | Friday 8th April                         | Progress Review Day       |
| Summer Term Begins       | Tuesday 26th April                       |                           |
| Bank Holidays            | Friday 29th April                        | School closed             |
|                          | Monday 2nd May                           | School closed             |
| Year 8 Parent's Evening  | Thursday 5th May                         |                           |
| Half Term                | Monday 30th -Friday 4th June (inclusive) |                           |
| Staff Training Day       | Friday 24th June                         | School closed to students |
| School Breaks for Summer | Wednesday 20th July                      |                           |

## CAR PARK

Despite several reminders there is still a number of parents who continue to drop off/pick up their children from inside the school grounds and also some who illegally use the disabled parking bays. This poses a serious safety risk for our students. Unless you have a prior arrangement with the school please refrain from dropping off/picking up your child at the beginning/end of the school day from inside the school grounds.

Thank you



### Freddie's Artist In Residence

Fred Longworth's Artist in Residence Sarah Ruth Baker has recently been part of the prestigious Designer Crafts Exhibition at The Mall Galleries, London. The gallery is on the same road as Buckingham Palace and was a fantastic location to show her ceramic sculptures. Sarah is hoping that this will be a springboard for further exhibitions. Check out Sarah's work at [www.Sarah-Ruth-Baker.com](http://www.Sarah-Ruth-Baker.com).



### Tesco Schools and Clubs Vouchers

We are collecting Tesco vouchers for The Green Room garden project. They can be dropped in to Reception or students can hand them into the Halliwell Room.

All will be gratefully received.

Thank you Mrs Faulkner.



### Aerobics/Boxercise

Every Wednesday  
6-7pm  
At Fred Longworth High School!  
(In the Gym)  
A mixture of hi/lo impact aerobics incorporating Boxercise moves and finishing with toning abs workout!

£2.00 per session

Please bring a drink

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