

Fred Longworth High School Newsletter



December 2009

Name _____

Form _____



HEADLINES

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the Parents' Newsletter at the end of a very productive and exciting term at Fred Longworth. The Autumn Term is always very busy and our students and staff have responded, as usual, by working incredibly hard; they are no doubt ready for their Christmas break as, I am sure, are you!

The highlight of the term was the visit of the Halle Orchestra to school; the whole orchestra held a full morning's rehearsal in the Sports Hall followed by two concerts for our students and some from local primary schools. Sir Mark Elder, the conductor, was keen to involve the students and many found themselves sitting amongst the orchestra members during the performance. Even luckier were the students who actually had the experience of conducting the orchestra. One really keen Year 7 student asked Sir Mark if he could "do it mad" and proceeded to lead the orchestra in slowing down almost to a stop then speeding up with incredibly comic effect! All the students who had the chance to conduct will, I am sure, remember the experience for a very long time but all of Year 7 had a great time hearing the power and very special sound of such a big orchestra in our Sports Hall – something that certainly doesn't happen every day.

The Halle's visit was, as it turns out, just the start of a partnership between the orchestra and our school. The organisers were so impressed with the behaviour and enthusiasm of our students that they would like to work with us on other projects; at the time of writing we are looking forward to a joint project between the Halle and Maths students on 11th December and we hope that other great learning opportunities will follow.



work with the Halle is, of course, part of our wider work to provide our students with as many opportunities as possible to enjoy and extend their learning. This term, as you are probably aware, we have added access to an on-line learning package called SAM Learning to the range of activities available to students. Access to this website means that students have the chance to complete important revision at home and we are keen to ensure that students, especially those in Years 10 and 11, make the most of it. If you have not had the chance to see the package in action, why not ask your child to give you a "guided tour" of what it has to offer?

Within school, we continue to focus on achievement and hope that your child's report showed that they are making the progress you would expect. We understand that it is vital to work closely with you as parents if we are to help our students to achieve their best and I was delighted to see so many of you at the Year 10 Parents' Evening last week. With this partnership in mind, we have published in this newsletter the direct line numbers of the Heads of Year, to enable easier communication between home and school. Each Head of Year now has an answer phone, so that you can be sure that your messages reach the right person to deal with any problems or concerns you may have.

Mobile 'Phones

We hope that, together with Truancy Call, this will help to improve communication between home and school. However, I must ask that you do not try to contact your child in school via their mobile 'phone. As you are aware, we do not allow mobile 'phones in school as they are a distraction and can, on occasion, be used in bullying. It undermines us if you ignore this rule and contact your child on their mobile 'phone; by doing so, you risk disrupting

a



lesson or other activity. Some students have even had their 'phones confiscated when using their phone to speak to or receive a text from a parent – and this has occasionally happened during lessons! If you need to contact your child during the day, you can always do so via Reception and we will make sure that the message is passed on. This is a far more reliable way of getting through with a message and it also means that we are kept aware of any issues such as students needing to leave school for an appointment.

The ban on mobile 'phones is not a new rule and the Parents' Handbook makes our expectations clear; if your child has their 'phone confiscated, it will not be given back to the child until the end of the week. There have been (thankfully isolated) incidents where parents have been argumentative with or even rude to Reception staff over this issue and I am sure you will agree that this is not acceptable. Please help us by reinforcing to your child that school is not the place to be using their mobile 'phone – especially if they are given a new one for Christmas!

On a lighter note, I would like to remind you that we finish at lunchtime on Friday, 18th December, our last day of term. Many students will be on an ice skating trip on Friday morning, with the rest expected in school. Year 11 students are also expected to be in school unless you receive a letter confirming that your child has earned a day's study leave through our new rewards system.

Finally, I am pleased to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and New Year. I hope that all our students have a safe and enjoyable holiday and return rested and refreshed for 2010.

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SAM LEARNING

SAM Learning is now available in school. The service, which is accessible to all staff and students, covers a wide range of subjects across the curriculum and can be used both in school and at home. Students can log in and complete interactive tests, exam practice questions and exam papers, while staff can assign homework and monitor students' progress. SAM has a proven track record: studies have shown that using the service leads to better exam results.

Login details: www.samlearning.com

CENTRE ID = M29FL3
USER ID = Date of birth followed by 2 initials (1st name then last name)
Example 010297DJ
PASSWORD = Same as user ID

Any questions about SAM Learning please contact Mrs Michalakakos

YEAR 11 REWARDS SYSTEM

I am pleased to announce the new 'Rewards System' for Yr 11 is up and running in school! Each student in Yr 11 has been given a 'Passport 2 Success' booklet which can be found at the back of their Planner. Students can now gain tokens by meeting certain criteria and then have a choice to bank or cash them in for rewards!

An E-brochure has been created in school with prizes available. The first stage of the rewards is a '20 token' prize. If students **have completed all coursework and met all deadlines set**, they can qualify for a study day on **DECEMBER 18th** which is the last day of school before Christmas. Alternatively, they can go ice-skating for free!!

However, I must clarify that any student who **does not achieve 20 tokens or completes deadlines set by teachers must be present in school on the last day.**

If your child doesn't want to cash in their 20 tokens then they are very welcome to join in on last day activities planned in school.

Feedback from students on the new system has been very positive and hopefully, they will be motivated to go that extra mile!

Any questions on the 'Rewards System' can be answered by Mrs Michalakakos.

A Big Thank you to the following local companies who have donated prizes towards the system.

Morrisons Volare
Lidl Carlton's
Tesco's

A NEW DINING ROOM EXPERIENCE

The dining facility at school will be undergoing a facelift over the Christmas period and a more modern, vibrant dining area will be launched in January 2010. To coincide with the relaunch a competition will be run in conjunction with the School Council to come up with a catchy name for the new facility.

The school has been working closely with Metrofresh over the past few weeks on plans to create a new dining room environment and the improvements will include:-

- Redecorating
- New flooring
- Furniture replaced and seating capacity increased
- Remodelling of the serving areas
- New signage and displays
- More efficient queuing system/till operation introduced
- Improved food presentation with new crockery and utensils
- Greater variety and choice including bespoke sandwich service
- Promotional events/Theme days

The new facility will be open for breakfast, mid morning snacks and during lunchtimes.



THANK YOU FOR THINKING OF OTHERS

The Religious Studies Department and the charity Samaritans Purse would like to say a big thank you to students for helping the Operation Christmas Child Appeal. Each year Samaritans Purse organises OCC and hundreds of shoe boxes filled with gifts and essentials such as toothpaste and soap are sent around the world to poor and developing countries, to be received by children whose lives are filled with poverty and misery but knowing that someone has made the effort to think of them at Christmas time may give them hope. Freddie's students made 90 shoe boxes which will be sent to Eastern Europe and the school's student council donated £50 to Samaritans Purse. Thank you for making a difference!

HEAD GIRL NETS FIRST EVER PERFORMING ARTS PRIZE

This year, for the first time, a new prestigious prize for excellence in the Performing Arts was created to reward the immense contribution which some students make in this area of school life during their school career. The first ever recipient of the award was last year's Head Girl, Rebecca Anderson. Rebecca was unable to pick up the award at Presentation Evening since, typically, she was already performing at her new college in a production of *The Roses of Eyam*, but we would like to offer our congratulations to her and thank her for all her hard work over the last five years.

During her time at school Rebecca was a member of the Fred Longworth High School Brass Band which won the National Championships, she featured regularly in dance productions and starred in *Brassed off*, *Billy Elliott* and the school's production of *Henry V* at The Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. Her talent was spotted by the Royal Shakespeare

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Company and she was selected to play Puck in A Midsummer Night's Dream which was performed for Prince Charles whom she met and chatted with after the show.

Becky was also the top student in this year's GCSE Drama exams, scoring a perfect 100% and, of course, gaining an A*. She fully deserved every success she achieved and we hope she continues to distinguish herself (and the fair name of Freddie!) in what no doubt will be a glittering future.

ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNORS

The interest in the vacancies for the positions as Parent Governors was exceptionally high and you will be aware that there were eleven candidates for three positions. The abilities, skills and qualities offered by the respective candidates were very impressive and it is no understatement to say that the majority of schools would be grateful for even a fraction of such interest.

The votes having been counted and verified resulted in the following three candidates being elected:

Rev Julian Hartley
Mrs Suzanne Partington
Mr Daren Trussell

Coincidentally, a further vacancy has since arisen and the local authority has confirmed that it would be proper for that vacancy to be filled by the candidate who came fourth in the ballot. That being the case I can confirm that the following person has also been elected:

Mr David Aspden

Commiserations and thanks are extended to all those who were unsuccessful.

For information the remaining existing Parent Governors are:

Mr Craig Cohen
Mrs Debbie Marland
Ms Lisa Massey

Yours sincerely

Mr B Wilson
Chair of Governors

SAFEGUARDING

We welcome all visitors to our school and certainly actively encourage parents and carers to come into school as often as possible. However, we are committed to keeping our young people safe and ask that you comply with our safeguarding requirements. We expect all visitors to:

- Report to Reception *immediately* upon arrival;
- Sign in using the visitor book on Reception;
- Wear the visitor's badge AT ALL TIMES when in the school buildings; Sign out on leaving the school.

Parents/Carers

You will be collected from and taken back to Reception by the person you have come to see. If we are unsure about your identity, we may ask you for proof of who you are.

Please do not be offended if you are asked for this proof – we are simply making sure that all our students, including your child, are safe.

Other visitors

You will be asked to prove your identity. If you have a photographic identity card or badge from your employer, please show it to the Receptionist.

You will not be allowed unsupervised access to students unless we have proof of your enhanced CRB clearance.

**OUR STUDENTS ARE
REGULARLY REMINDED TO
REPORT TO A MEMBER OF
STAFF IF THEY SEE ANYONE ON
SCHOOL PREMISES WHO IS NOT
A MEMBER OF STAFF OR WHO IS
NOT WEARING A VISITOR'S
BADGE.**

A FLOCK OF WORDS by Lewis Clough 7MH

The sky is as white as my page
With its misty white clouds floating,
Suspended in the air
As if by a puppeteer's strings
And the birds that plummet and soar
From all directions
Are the words that appear on this page.
As a writer at this moment in time
It is my job to feed them with ideas,
To turn them into poems.
But if they are not the right words to fit,
They will fly to another page ...

WANTED



Are your children growing up too fast?

If so, please send outgrown uniform into school

All items gratefully received

Thank you

**Mrs Bailey
Halliwell Room**

HEADS OF YEAR CONTACT NUMBERS

Please note that the Heads of Year can now be contacted directly on the following numbers:-

Mr Stalker (Y7)
01942 881988

Mr Fallows (Y8)
01942 881990

Mr Hall (Y9)
01942 881996

Mrs Roughley (Y10)
01942 881450

Mrs Killey (Y11)
01942 881459

STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is absence from school please telephone the student absence line **01942 881986** to report this.



SPORTS NEWS



Year 9 Badminton Team

Well done to the Year 9 Badminton Team who won the Wigan Championships and will now go on to play in the Greater Manchester Championships



(L-R) Beth Kiggin, Hollie Tomkinson, Nika Jelisejera, Hannah Rhodes



(L-R) Kyle Swindells, Sean Carney, Charles Tyson, Michael Hall



Remaining Holiday Pattern 2009-2010

School closes on Friday 18th December 2009

Spring Term

Starts Monday 4th January 2010
Half Term Monday 15th February—Friday 19th February
End of Term Friday 26th March 2010

Summer Term

Starts Tuesday 13th April 2010
(Staff Training Day Monday 12th April)
Half Term Monday 31st May—Friday 4th June
End of Term Friday 16th July 2010

Holiday Pattern 2010-2011

Autumn Term

Starts Wednesday 1st September 2010
Half Term Thursday 21st October – Friday 29th October
End of Term Wednesday 22nd December 2010

Spring Term

Starts Wednesday 5th January 2011
Half Term Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February
End of Term Friday 8th April 2011

Summer Term

Starts Tuesday 26th April 2011
Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May 2011
Half Term Monday 30th May 2011 – Friday 3rd June 2011
End of Term Wednesday 20th July 2011

Staff Training Days

Wednesday 1st September 2010
Monday 1st November 2010
Friday 24th June 2011