



STFA

Contents Spring 2008

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Dear Parents



We are producing this newsletter in April rather than at the end of last term as Easter was so early this year. Last term was in fact only nine weeks long and Easter was so early that we have celebrated it twice now within 12 months!

I read the other day that St Patrick's Day this year was moved officially by the Church to March 15th as it would otherwise have been celebrated during Holy Week, an event which will not happen again until 2160.

I hope that everyone was able to celebrate Easter which is our most important Catholic Feast. Lent was a time for reflection, Easter a time for making new promises and the time immediately after Easter for putting those promises into action.

This time of year is also when our pupils and students are in the final stages of preparation for examinations. All staff, students and pupils are working very hard. I would encourage all pupils and students taking examinations soon to pull out all the stops, have determination, courage and confidence. We all need to support the young people at what is a very stressful time for them. Success at the age of 16, 18 or 19 opens many avenues and I do sincerely hope that all involved are able to pursue their desired pathway.

I would also ask you for your continued support for Connor Bryson's family. It was very sad to learn of Connor's death at the end of February and he is greatly missed around school especially by his fellow Year 9 pupils. Please keep Connor's parents in your prayers together with his sisters Leanne, Kate and Faye.

The first three months of 2008 have been very busy and I hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter. I must thank all those involved in its production especially the pupils.

Yours sincerely
L D Rippon

Dates for Diary:

Monday May 5 School Closed	- Bank Holiday
Tuesday May 6 - Friday May 9	- Key Stage 3 SATs (Year 9)
Monday May 12	- Y11 Leavers' Mass and Breakfast (please note change from original calendar - this is due to GCSE RE examination on that day)
Wednesday May 14	- Y12 students begin study leave at the end of the day
Friday May 23	- Y13 Leavers' Mass and breakfast

The Newspaper Editing Team

Adam Kinsey	7BR	James Leyshon	8BR	Marc Barlow	8MA
Kieran Roper	7 LE	Jordan Roberts	8WA	Mark Farrell	8WA
Liam Daly	7RI	Joseph Irwin	8LE	Michael Manville	8OW
Michael Scrimshaw	7RI	Kieran Griffiths	8RI	Shea McCrystal	8KE
Adam Taylor	8LE	Liam Markey	8LE	Chris Barwise	9KE
Dominic McCaffrey	8KE	Luke Collins	8OW	Liam Jennions	9RI



In partnership with



PTA Update

The PTA would like to thank everybody who supported us in the recent Murder Mystery Night function held in February. A great night was had by all and we managed to raise £420. A Family Race Night was held on 7 March. It was a fun night for the whole family and over £1000 was raised.

Our next big project is to raise funds for a new sound system which is required for the Main Hall. The equipment will cost in the region of £7000 but will include much needed items to complement the lighting system which was installed by the school last year.

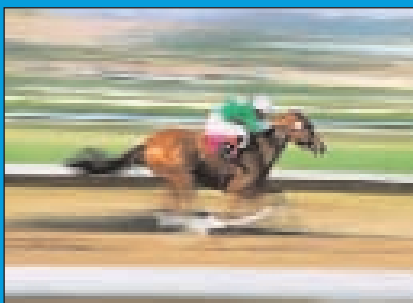
I am sure parents will be as supportive, as ever, in helping us to raise these funds throughout the coming months and reach our goal as quickly as possible.

Please remember, any donations made to the PTA can now be Gift Aided so we can claim back 28p extra in each pound donated.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best Wishes

Chairperson
PTA



Year Seven Charity Collection

Year Seven have been raising money for a charity called the Green Disabled Foundation (GDF). Their main aim is to educate the disabled and blind children who are living in poverty.

The charity run a school and as well as this they manufacture exercise books which they dispatch, making it much easier for the less fortunate children living in underdeveloped areas.

GDF is located in Sylhet, a divisional town in the north eastern corner of Bangladesh. All the workers are voluntary, and it is a non political, non profitable service and social development organisation working for the socio-economic development of disabled community. Their first major project was to establish a 'Bookbinding Training Centre' with ten trainees and an instructor. This was housed in a spare room in a hospital and was soon producing exercise books for school students.

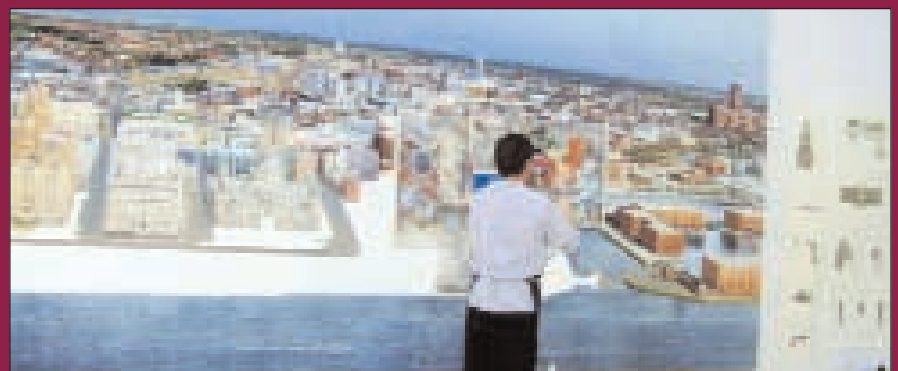
Up to now the foundation are doing really well, helping more and more people to realise their full potential and therefore move a step further towards a career.

Kieran Griffith 8RI

Liverpool Cityscape

To celebrate this year's European Capital of Culture, the National Museums Liverpool has commissioned Ben Johnson to paint the Liverpool cityscape. Ben Johnson was born in 1946, in North Wales, in a town called Llandudno. He studied at the Royal College of Art in London. His paintings all relate to architecture and are very detailed which makes them look very realistic. Liverpool Cityscape is a painting capturing the city of Liverpool at its most celebrated hour. The exhibition will be held from the 24th May to mid November and will be held at the Walker Art Gallery. This is just one of many exciting events which will be happening as part of our Capital of Culture celebrations this year.

Shea McChrystal 8KE



BEN JOHNSON: THE LIVERPOOL CITYSCAPE

The 6th Form Art cohort visited the Walker Art Gallery and experienced an inspirational talk from artist-in Residence: Ben Johnson who discussed his painting methodology. Ben is an internationally renowned artist who is currently creating a huge architectural portrait of the City to celebrate the Capital of Culture. His completed panorama and other city paintings will open in an exhibition in May at the Walker Art Gallery: This exhibition is certainly well worth a visit.

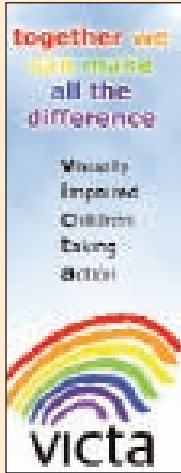
Ms Douglass/Mr Kelly



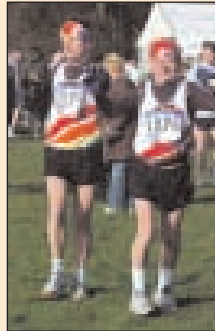


Fundraising for Victa

VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN TAKING ACTION



During the last series of Community Learning Classes, our Year 10 and 12 helpers decided that they would like to help one of our Adult Community Learners with his sponsorship for the London Marathon. John Courtney and his son James Hughes, who is blind, have run numerous Marathons and half Marathons including the recent Liverpool half Marathon (pictured) in an effort to raise money for a charity for visually impaired children. The students organised a fundraising night during one of our community classes and held raffles and a tombola and raised £200.00 for the charity.



Victa is a registered charity (Number 1065029) that provides support for families with visually impaired children. Victa provides support for visually impaired children and their families.

Their main aim is to work towards parents obtaining early diagnosis, correct medical treatment and the best social and educational support so that our children can reach their full potential. Victa's main source of fundraising is via charity marathon

runners

Since 1995 a substantial number of people have raised money for Victa by running in the Flora London Marathon. John and James will be participating in the London Marathon once again this year. We would like to take this opportunity to wish them both the best of luck for this event.

Manchester Classics Trip

On Wednesday 23rd January Mr. Browne and Mr. Slattery's Latin classes went on a trip to Manchester University and Manchester Museum of Science and Industry. The day started at the University of Manchester where the classes were asked to complete a worksheet, look at objects and at the end, had hands on sessions with some artifacts from Roman times.



We were split into four groups and looked at different objects between us. Then a person from each group had to show a chosen artifact and explain what we found out about it.

The afternoon saw us head to Manchester Museum of Science and Industry where we were taken on a tour of Victorian life and the underground sewers. We also visited the air and rail transport rooms followed by a lot of people's favourite part of the trip, Xperiment. This was a room filled with different experiments for people to try out!

James Leyshon 8 BR



A Level Art Students: STUDIO WORKSHOPS AT TATE GALLERY, LIVERPOOL

The Lower and Upper 6th Formers attended Studio Workshops at the Tate. The Morning sessions were spent in the Gallery with a working Artist engaging with Contemporary Art works, in the afternoon practical sessions were run in the Studio.

The emphasis for AS students was drawing skills and this theme continued throughout the sessions. The A2 students gained an understanding of Postmodernism, focussing around the 'Turner Prize' Exhibition. The afternoon session, with a practicing artist, saw students creating practical work for their own Turner Prize.

Ms Douglass/Mr Kelly



Staff and Students preparing for Uganda project visit Ploërmel, Brittany

Bro. Henri Caroff

The group met with Bro. Henri Caroff (centre), aged 85, whose father was an onion seller in England and Scotland. As a young boy, Henri came over with him and developed a love of languages. He still practices his English, German, Spanish, Italian, Breton and Russian every day! Bro Henri is an amazing character and a lovely man.



Sponsored Cycle for Uganda - 900 miles in 8 days

I will be undertaking another Sponsored Cycle this year to raise money for the schools in Uganda that we will be working in. I will be riding from Liverpool to the shrine of Notre Dame De La Salette high up in the French Alps (8 days, 900 miles, departing on Sat. May 24th).

Sponsorship forms will be coming round fairly soon. It would be much appreciated if people could take the forms home and ask their parents to take them in to their places of work to get sponsorship. There will be prizes for the 3 pupils who raise the most money.

You will find other articles on various topics (films, music, religion, etc...) on my blog at www.brojames.blogspot.com and on my web site www.brojames.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk.

Bro James

The astronomical clock in our Mother House grounds, built by Brother Bernardin (France) between 1850 and 1855 as a teaching tool for his Maths and Science lessons. People come from all over France to see this. It is quite an amazing machine with 10 clock dials measuring different things in relation to the movements of the Earth the Moon and the Sun, as well as having a Planetarium at the back which shows the respective positions of the Earth, the Moon, the Sun and the main planets at all times.



All Work and No Play



The group really enjoyed the trip, particularly rehearsing "I Am a Music Man".

Africa Educational Project - Uganda 08

On Thursday February 7th, 2008 those of us taking part in this year's African Educational Project in Uganda (July 15th-Aug. 1st) travelled by road and overnight ferry to the De La Mennais Brothers' Mother House in Ploërmel, Brittany (N.W. France) for a weekend of training and team bonding to prepare us for the challenges that lie ahead in getting our teens, aged between 16 and 18, to lead summer camp-style activities for children in Uganda. About 70 French teens also took part to pre-prepare for their own trips to Togo and Senegal during the summer. It was a very

successful weekend and one which saw our group gel really well (always a good sign) and come up with lots of ideas for activities to do in Uganda and fund-raising events beforehand. We decided to stop and rest for a group photo-call on the canal in Josselin (nr. Ploërmel) in front of a splendid château.

Bro James



Murder Behind Bars

On Saturday 2nd February the PTA held a Murder Mystery Night in the school dining hall to raise money for the school. Around 95 people went to 'Murder Behind Bars', The night was attended by all ages, varying from Year 7's to parents and other friends and relatives. The setting for the night was "an SFX Prison"

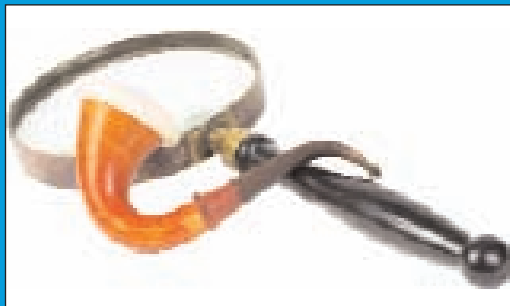
where some inmates had tried to escape, been caught and sent back to prison. This was acted out and culminated with the Prison Governor being murdered by a theatre group!

The audience sat at tables and viewed the performances and after the scene had been acted out, the cast walked round each table giving them a chance to ask them questions about the murder. At the end of the performance each table had to say who they thought committed the murder and give their reasons for their decision. The winning tables received prizes, wine for the adults and chocolates for the children.

The night ended at about 10:30pm and the total money raised was £420.00. The money will go towards a sound system for the school's drama productions. The full price of the sound system will be around £7000.00 and to help further with fundraising future nights like this will be taking place.

Mr. Rippon said 'The night was a great success, everyone enjoyed themselves and it raised money at the same time'

James Leyshon 8 BR



Year 7 Football News

The outstanding Year 7 football team have played 20 games this season, winning 19 games and drawing one game.

Congratulations to Jack Kemp, who has scored 21 goals this season, an average of 5 goals per match! Congratulations also to Declan Philips as Captain.

For a treat Mr Bright and Mr Burke organised for the football team to go to see Wolves' vs. Bristol. Mr Bright and Mr Burke would like to make a big thanks to the Year 7 football team for their fantastic attitude and efforts in every game and training.

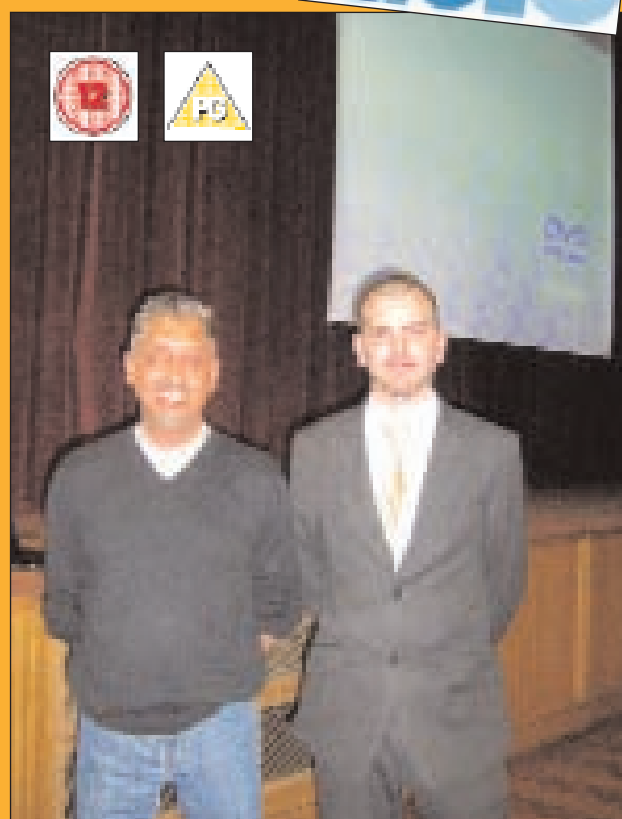
By Kieran Roper 7 LE

BBCF Presentation

In February Year 13 Film Studies students attended a presentation by Ian Mashiah from the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC). The BBFC is the organisation responsible for film, DVD and some video game classification within the United Kingdom. Their role is explored during the second year of the film studies course in a unit which focuses on 'shocking cinema' and 'censorship'. The topic is a rich source for debate as students are required to consider the social, political, and moral implications of censorship and regulation exploring, amongst other issues, the impact of violent and explicit imagery upon audiences.

The presentation involved plenty of useful clips and information covering the history of the BBFC, the legislation under which they work, the classification process and classification issues. A question and answer session at the end gave students a chance to express their views and raise issues discussed in the classroom covered on past exam papers. This will provide excellent preparation for the summer examinations.

Mr McGuire



Mock Interviews

Last term saw all of the pupils in Year 11 taking part in Employability Interviews. The interviews gave pupils the opportunity to practice various interview techniques, and employers from many different companies, including Price Waterhouse, Coopers, The NHS, Merseytravel, The Home Office and Liverpool Law Courts worked with pupils on different activities during the day.

The feedback from the employers was excellent and they were very impressed with the standards many pupils displayed during their interviews.

The pupils all really enjoyed the activities and many said they had found the experience invaluable.

Kieran Roper 7 LE

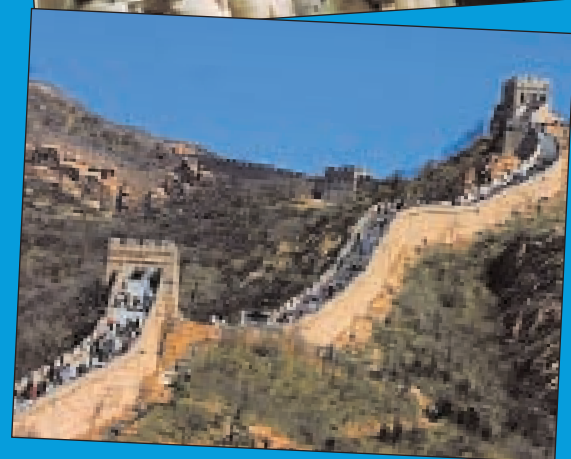


Musical Trio Fly to China

Christian Ryan, Adam Gilbert and James Sharples hit the Great Wall of China in the Easter Break. The group flew from Manchester to Beijing via Dubai and Shanghai. In between concerts organised by the Liverpool Music Support Service, they visited Tiananmen Square, The Forbidden City and The Great Wall of China. They also saw The Terracotta Army excavations as part of their tour of Xian.

The Liverpool orchestra played in Beijing, Xian and Shanghai and as Adam says, it was "a once in a lifetime opportunity to perform with some of China's best performers" particularly the Symphony Orchestra in Xian.

The appreciative audiences ranged in size from 60-500 with all expressing their approval of the English musicians.



The SFX Debate and Public Speaking Society

The SFX Debate and Public Speaking Society (DAPS) meet weekly to debate controversial and topical issues. They gain valuable experience of structuring rational arguments and listening to opposing views in a civilised, formal setting. Particularly talented and committed members are chosen to represent the school in various competitions.

The present Senior Team, which consists of the dynamic, precociously talented Matthew Handley(Yr 10) and the sincere, thoughtful orator Welwin Lobo(Yr 12), have achieved tremendous success in their first competitive year together.

In the National Mace Debating Competition, they were awarded Runners-Up in the Northern Final, held at Bradford Grammar School, which surpasses the school's previous record in this prestigious tournament. Matthew Handley was specially commended by one of the judging panel who awarded him the title of "best speaker". Along the way they have out-argued teams from King's School, Chester, St.Edward's, Liverpool College and Bradford Grammar School, to name but a few. They have been ably supported by other senior members, such as Louis Dowling and Dominic Clarke, who achieved second place in the first North-West round of the Mace.

We have also had success in the public speaking arena, with Charles McAlindin (Yr 9) reaching the final of the Soroptimists' Public Speaking Competition with his talk on animal rights and Welwin Lobo giving an entertaining

and thoughtful speech to the Catenian Association at Hope University.

As part of their training programme, the boys have attended various workshops run by the English Speaking Union and have listened to a heated debate about nuclear energy at Manchester University, where Matthew Handley won a prize for "best question". The team were then invited to watch an inter-varsity debate tournament in British Parliamentary style, which was

tremendously helpful to them as developing, young debaters. The senior team will also be attending a residential Debate Academy over the summer holidays, where they will be coached by organisers of the England Team and where they will have the opportunity to meet and debate with students from all over the country.

As the newsletter goes to print, our senior team are preparing for the Manchester Schools Debating Tournament, where they will compete with 40 other teams in four rounds of "short prep" debates for a place in the final. They have had the benefit of coaching from ex-pupil, Bryn Gough, who is now a student of Birmingham University and a keen member of the University Debate Team, recently winning a debate on foreign aid against a prominent Member of Parliament, no less!

We congratulate all members on their success so far and wish them luck in Manchester!

Mrs Boughey

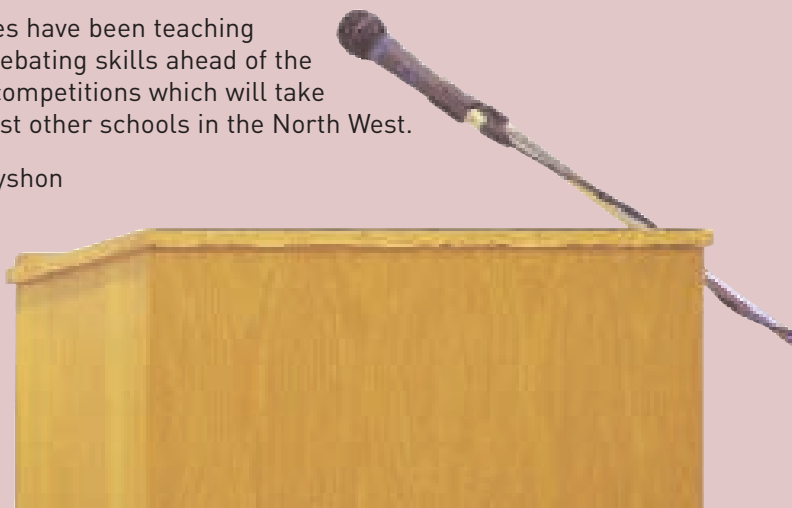


Let's Have a Heated Debate!

Every Wednesday night after school a number of boys have been attending the D.A.P.S.S (Debating and Public Speaking Society) with Mrs Boughey and Mr Cugley. The club meets every Wednesday at 15:45 in English 1 and refreshments are usually provided.

The classes have been teaching valuable debating skills ahead of the debating competitions which will take part against other schools in the North West.

James Leyshon
8 Bryant



goss poetry **live!**



Poetry Live

On 16th January, 2008, hundreds of school pupils from all over Liverpool congregated at the Philharmonic Hall to listen to 8 of the country's leading poets perform. On a cold January morning outside the famous art-deco theatre, 38 freezing SFX pupils, and several disgruntled teachers waited with feverish anticipation for the event to start. A half hour or so after being ushered into the hall, iPod headphones and mobiles were tucked into pockets as the first poet to took to the stage.

Gillian Clarke was first to perform, reading poems from the AQA anthology, such as "Catrin" and "On the Train". One of the themes throughout the day was getting to hear the individual opinions and perspectives of the poets themselves. This was never more apparent than with Gillian, who vividly described her inspiration for the poem "Catrin".

Throughout the day we were also given expert advice on how to answer questions from AQA chief examiner Tony Childs. Carol Ann Duffy was next up, to read to us poems such as "Anne Hathaway" before, again, answering questions.

Afterwards what came was undoubtedly the most popular performance of the day from Simon Armitage, who performed his poems "Kid" and "November" with unique vigour and humour, interspersed with tales of earrings and glass eyes, the latter of which resulted in a lengthy fit of giggles from Armitage.

After lunch, two more poets arrived to "strut their poetic stuff", namely Daljit Nagra and Imtiaz Dharker,



both of whom gave a poignant and occasionally comic account of Asian life.

The final poet of the day was John Agard, who provided yet more hilarious performances and anecdotes. With a virtuoso performing style and plenty of wit and liveliness John ended a brilliant day on a high.

As the pupils went their separate ways, everybody left with new and enhanced ideas and opinions about all of the poets, this was an experience which will prove invaluable come June 2009.

By Matthew Handley and Matthew Oldham 10GG

Drinks Scare!

Two fizzy drinks a day 'can give you gout'

Fizzy drinks can dramatically increase the risk of gout.

As sales plummet over other health concerns, scientists revealed a few weeks ago that carbonated drinks are behind a rise in the painful joint condition. Gout, which affects 600,000 people in Britain, was once known as "the disease of kings" because only the very wealthy could afford quantities of alcohol and rich food usually associated with it.

A study of more than 46,000 men found those who had two or more cans (or bottles) of fizzy drink a day were 85 per cent more likely to get gout compared to those who had one can a month or less. The risk also significantly increased among those who drank five to six cans (or bottles) of fizzy drink a week, according to findings published online by the British Medical Journal.

Gout generally involves very severe attacks of joint pain followed by long periods of remission. The condition is caused by the formation of urate (or uric acid) crystals within joints and other tissues (the white colour of bird droppings is uric acid). This is caused by the incomplete breakdown of uric acid to urea in the liver.



SFX does not sell or have vending machines that dispense fizzy drinks. The school sells water and a variety of soft drinks.

Som fizzy drinks contain almost 30% sugar in the form of glucose and fructose syrup (24%). The rest comes from fruit juice concentrate (5%). They also contain high amounts of artificial colouring (beta carotenes), preservatives (Sodium Benzoate and Metabisulphite) and flavourings (including caffeine - a stimulant!).

It is a fact that high energy fizzy drinks contain a lot of energy because they contains huge amounts of sugar. A single bottle (380 ml) would provide over 10% of a child's daily energy requirement. Exceeding this energy requirement on a regular basis would lead to obesity. Preservatives and flavourings can affect people's metabolism in different ways. There is strong scientific evidence linking these 'additives' with hyperactivity and a lack of concentration, especially in school children.

Obesity is becoming a serious problem amongst young people



Water

Water is a vital component of our diets, essential for the growth and maintenance of our bodies and is involved in a number of biological processes. However, most of us do not get nearly enough.

WHY DO WE NEED WATER?

Water comprises 70 per cent of an adult's total body weight and without regular 'top-ups', our body's survival time is limited to a matter of hours or days.

Water is lost from the body through urine and sweat and must be replaced through our diet. Many people do not consume enough water and as a result may become dehydrated, causing symptoms such as headaches, tiredness and loss of concentration. Chronic dehydration can contribute to a number of health problems, such as constipation and kidney stones.

HOW MUCH DO WE NEED?

The body gets its water from three sources:

- From drinks, either plain water or as part of other beverages.
- From solid foods, especially fruits and vegetables.
- As a by-product of chemical reactions within the body (Respiration!)

The British Dietetic Association advises that the average adult should consume 2.5 litres of water per day. About 1.8 litres - the equivalent of six to seven glasses of water per day - must be obtained directly from beverages. This should be increased during periods of hot weather or during and after periods of physical activity (when the body loses water through sweating).

Water is the major ingredient of all drinks: carbonated and still drinks are 65 per cent water, diluted squashes are 86 per cent water (after dilution) and fruit juices are 90 per cent water. Drinking plain water is still the most effective way of replacing lost fluids.

This would mean that if a person relied on Lucozade to provide themselves with all their daily water, they would need to drink nearly 8 bottles (or 3 litres) of Lucozade to quench their thirst! Imagine what all that carbonated water, sugar and additives would be doing to your body!

SFX is proud of its status as a healthy school, receiving the 'Healthy Schools Award' in 2005. As a result, it is very likely that fizzy drinks will be banned from the premises. Sorry lads (and lasses) but the scientific evidence is too strong. Yet another victory for "How Science Works"! Anyway, what's wrong with plain old tap water!

Mr Fox



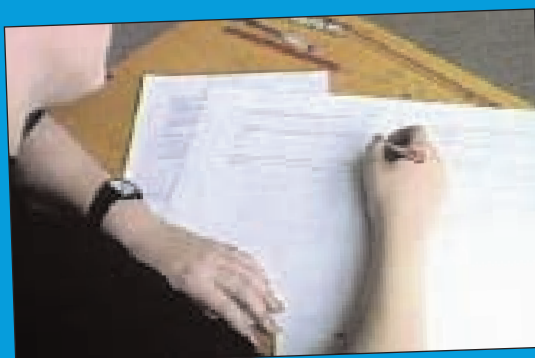
Revision Tips and Techniques

1. Arrange a quiet space for revision, without distractions.
2. Make sure that the room is well lit; you have a pen, pencil, rubber, ruler, the books needed.
3. Have lots of water available and healthy food, including fruit and vegetables.
4. Establish a revision timetable/plan and stick to it.
5. Use active revision techniques (mind-maps, diagrams, revision postcards dealing with topics, lists of key words) – it's faster, more effective and much more fun.
6. Break revision down into small manageable chunks.
7. Establish a good time to learn for example if you are no good until you've had your Dinner leave it till later but if you work better straight from school revise at 4pm.
8. Learn/revise something every day – even if there are built in 'lighter' days e.g. Saturday
9. Make it multi sensory, use at least two senses: hear it, say it, see it and do it.
10. You can: 1) **read** the information you wish to learn, 2) **write/draw** some brief notes/diagrams/charts on what you have learned, 3) **summarise** the information by talking it through/drawing/writing down key ideas, 4) **listen** to someone else's summary or look at someone else's diagram.
11. Highlighter pens are good for making notes, charts and key words.
12. Use revision cards (plain postcards work well): write down a topic and five key words about that topic. Turn over the card. See if you can remember all the words on the card. Design a set of cards for each topic.
13. Routine is important e.g. go to your learning place, turn off the TV/radio/music, sit at your desk and get everything around you that you need.
14. Structure is important, e.g. look at the last thing you did on this topic, read your work, work for 10 minutes, take a 5 minute break, work for 10 minutes, take a 15 minute break and revise for 5 minutes.



Six Simple Revision Techniques

1. **CONDENSE.** Fitting notes onto one side of paper makes them easier to stomach, so rewrite and cut down as you go.
2. **HIGHLIGHT.** Target key areas using colours and symbols. Visuals help you remember the facts.
3. **RECORD.** Try putting important points, quotes and formulae on tape. If you hear them and read them, they're more likely to sink in.
4. **TALK.** Read your notes out loud, it's one way of getting them to register.
5. **TEST.** See what you can remember without notes, but avoid testing yourself on subjects you know already.
6. **TIME.** Do past exam papers against the clock; it's an excellent way of getting up to speed.

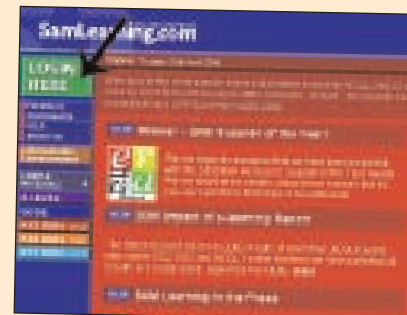


Revision Websites

The **Internet** has a huge range of **free resources** which can make a real difference to your grades - get online and try them out! Research has clearly shown that **eLearning** can make a significant difference to your overall grade at GCSE. Here is a list of sites which you may find useful to use as part of your revision.

1. **GCSE Bitesize Revision**
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/>:
 Brush up on your skills with Revision Bites and use Test Bites to check what you know. Loads of interactive exercises!
2. **Project GCSE**: <http://www.projectgcse.co.uk/>
 They offer many resources for students revising for their GCSEs including: GCSE revision notes and practice questions, a GCSE bookshop, GCSE help and advice and the 'take a break' section.
3. **GCSE Guide** - <http://www.gcseguide.co.uk/>
 The Chance To Revise, Test yourself and learn GCSE Topics FREE, With English Coursework, Maths Papers With Answers, Maths Revision Notes, A Bookshop and more...
4. **Doc Brown's Chemistry Clinic**:
<http://www.wpbschoolhouse.btinternet.co.uk/>
 Lots of useful GCSE, AS and A2 level revision support for Chemistry as well as links to other Chemistry revision sites.

5. **Revision Mind Maps**:
<http://www.bgfl.org/services/mindmaps/maps/minidmaps.html>.
 These map out key areas for revision in a large number of subjects.
6. **S-Cool**: <http://www.s-cool.co.uk/default.asp>
 S-cool is a new site dedicated to school students.
7. **Biology Revision Website**
<http://www.purchon.com/biology/revision.htm>
 GCSE Biology revision. Very useful site.
8. **SAM Learning** - <http://www.samlearning.com/>
 Exam revision for GCSE's. The school has a subscription.
9. **ICT Revision** - <http://www.teach-ict.com/>
 A really useful site for Key Stage 3, GCSE and A Level ICT and Computing Students.



SAM Learning

For the fourth year running the school has subscribed Years 9 and 11 to SAM learning. This is a top quality on-line learning service that can be used at home or in school, it is a brilliant way to help you to revise for GCSEs or SATS. GCSE pupils should try to complete at least one hour per night on SAM Learning.

Pupils can tackle a choice of revision, using drag and drop and test practice which essentially means that students do and mark their own work. In exam practice, every single mark is identified by the examiners who wrote the question so we see time and time again that pupil's benefit from improving their technique, their confidence and as a result their results.

Learners need three details to login:

School ID	L25SF
User ID	Date of birth followed by two initials; first name then last name. Example: 010885DJ is the User ID for David Jones born 1st Aug 1985.
Password	Initially same as User ID, you should change your password as soon as you login.

If pupils need a new password or are unable to access SAM they should speak to Mr Evans or Miss Lindop who will reset their account.



Science in Space

Dr. Alexander Martynov, from Russia gave Year 11 boys a unique Science lesson with a talk about the life and work of Scientists aboard the International Space Station last term. Dr. Martynov is a rocket scientist who has worked on many exciting projects sending spacecraft all around our solar system. He explained in great detail what space is really like; he showed us very interesting videos of what is involved on a space craft with astronauts from America and cosmonauts from Russia working side by side. It was surprising to find out how difficult it is to do everyday things like eating, washing and going to the toilet when you are weightless in orbit!



There are many procedures that you must carry out whilst on the craft and there are many interesting things on the craft which you would have never have thought of such as the Japanese quail. This is the type of chicken which is best for taking into space! But why a chicken on a space craft? Well basically they are there because Scientists are planning a trip to Mars. This is a 2 year journey so the astronauts and cosmonauts will need a source of food and the chickens play a good role for that. Dr Martynov mentioned in his speech that the chicken embryos in their eggs were mutated by cosmic rays and when they hatched some had four legs instead of two. This is good if you like eating chicken legs, as there is more to go around, but not so good if you're a chicken!

The information we were given was very interesting, the videos showed were amazing and we all really enjoyed it.

David Whalley 11MA

Trip to France

On Thursday 7th February Bother James took 10 pupils from years 11, 12 and 13 on a training weekend at the De La Mennais Brothers Mother house in Brittany, France.



The trip was to help them prepare for their two week educational project, working with young children in Uganda this July. In total, 70 young French people also participated in this weekend, as they will be going to Senegal, Togo and Benin in Africa.

Activities on the trip were:

- Games
- Arts and crafts
- Dances and other fun things.

They were learning about things that may be useful in Uganda, as well as learning about issues related to working with children. When they were there, they also took the opportunity to visit places of interest, as they were doing this, they came across a fun fair which had the scariest ride they had ever been on.

Dominic McCaffrey 8KE and Kieran Griffith 8R



Film Crew Visit SFX

On Friday, 22nd February SFX had a visit from a film crew interested in filming aspects of ICT within various subject areas to illustrate its status as a 'Specialist Mathematics and Computing College'.

The Science Department received a visit while pupils were using a 'Voting System' and 'Digital Cameras' to enhance learning and raise achievement.

Pupils in 9G4 (from L to R: Michael Griffiths, Joseph Clarke and Michael Devereux) demonstrated the Optivote Voting System used by the Science Department and Daniel Mercer (9G4) demonstrated the use of 'Digiblue' cameras to film experiments and record results.

The Optivote system encourages whole class involvement in quizzes, tests or tasks. Each pupil is able to use a remote hand set to record their answer. As the process involves 'voting', answering questions can be done anonymously. Unfortunately, the Science Department hasn't got a £1000 000 to give away like "Who wants to be a millionaire?" !

The films made using the Digiblue camera are edited to provide a learning platform for topics like 'Electricity'. Pupils can make short films using moving pictures, stills or PowerPoint presentations to explain and understand Science topics.

James Rockwood and Liam Noon (both 9G4) demonstrated an experiment to illustrate 'Newton's Colour Disc'. The hand-made, coloured disc appears white when spun using an electric motor.

Mr Fox



Year 9 KS3 Science

Mr Fox is selling Lett's Revision Guides and Workbooks for £2 and £1 respectively which cover all topics for the Science SATs in May 2008.

Buy yours today (if you haven't already) so that you are well prepared for the Science SATs in May 2008. The book can be used to cover a revision programme that Mr Fox has devised to help organise your time when revising.

Don't forget that your SATs results in Science determine which set you will be in for GCSE Sciences next year!

Mr Fox



Year 8 Native American Day

On Thursday 17th January Ms Finlay had asked a Native American Indian to come in to school, his name was Terry. Terry had brought Native American tools, clothes and weapons. He showed us how to make a fire the Native American way. Every student learnt quite a lot from Terry and enjoyed the experience of using the tools of the Native Americans.

Michael Manville 80W



Year 8 CLC trip with Mrs Cavanagh

On Friday 14th December 2007 Mrs Cavanagh took 5 pupils from Year 8 to the CLC (City Learning Centre) in Speke.

Technology Companies came to the CLC for the day and showed pupils all of the things that ICT could be used for, for example; pupils had the opportunity to look at how ICT is used in Broadcasting, Green Screen Technology, and Broadcasting over the Internet using a Recording Stick and Headphones. Pupils also listened to a talk about how ICT was used in the creation of games and how industries such as Jaguar had worked with gaming companies to include their cars in the games.

Everyone had a great day and learned about different pieces of technology and how to use them. The 5 pupils will be going again in April to take part in another event which focuses on different technologies.

Michael Manville 8 OW



UK Maths Challenge

On Thursday 1st February, 11J1, 11J2, 10G1, 10Y1 and 9A1 took part in the UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge (UK Year 11 and below).

The challenge is a nationwide competition. From our school, a total 220 pupils took part. Anybody who had the chance to take part could win a gold, silver or bronze certificate as well as getting through to the next round. Only the top scoring 40% of the entrants receive bronze, silver or gold certificates based on their mark in the paper. (The Gold award is achieved by only 6%, the silver by 13% and the bronze by 21% of the entrants).

Good luck to anybody who has been lucky enough to get through to the next round. Also, many thanks to Miss Arends and Mr Morgan for all their help.

Dominic McCaffrey 8KE



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