

Abbs Cross School and Arts College



Commitment to Opportunity and Excellence

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2010

School House – Additional Support Centre

I am extremely pleased with developments of the school house at the front of our site. We have been able to refurbish the building through a significant grant from 'extended schools'. The new facility is now called the *Additional Support Centre ASC*, with the mantra; 'if you need additional support just ASC'!

The centre will be home to a range of internal and external resource, and support students from across the locality. Our students and their families will be able to access Behaviour Support Service, where Jackie Morris has replaced Kay Brown, the Home School Support team and counselling services, where Mike Paraboo is available every Wednesday. Family strategy meetings will meet in ASC, as will local team meetings with all agencies involved in supporting our students. We will even provide a base for the local community police team to drop in on their patrols. Other sessions will operate from ASC including our one-to-one tuition for targeted students and the drop-in facility from the health team.

Use of mobile technology

Parents are aware that we have not banned the presence of mobile phones in school. Instead we are accepting that most, if not all, students are in possession of a mobile phone and their appropriate use may support learning.

However, inappropriate use is clearly unhelpful and this includes the opportunity to contact friends and/or family at the wrong time. Students should not, under any circumstances send or receive text or any other communication with their peers or their parents during lesson time. Parents are reminded that they too have a responsibility of not interrupting learning by sending messages to their children during the day.

Conduct at lunchtime and immediately after school

I am always anxious that the image portrayed by all our students whilst in uniform is a positive one. I am disappointed and annoyed to receive the occasional complaint regarding the behaviour of students during lunch break and/or whilst on the way home at the end of the day. The local community police team have advised me that increasing numbers of students are gathering at these times, often being obstructive to the general public. I shall be advising students of my concern and advising them that they should not be loitering the streets, rather should be returning home. I urge you to reinforce this message.

I shall ask the police team to help identify particular culprits where appropriate sanctions will be enforced. I politely ask that you remain diligent as to the whereabouts of your children at these times to avoid your embarrassment should their conduct lead to question.

Good practice

I was pleased, recently, to play host to a crew from the Teachers' Development Agency. They wished to run a film feature on our Sports and Leisure Centre as an example of good practice with respect to the extended schools agenda and our work for the community. We have always been proud of what we have achieved for our students, our partners and the wider community. We feel we have a facility second to none and the students have significant advantage in having the opportunity of engaging in the array of sporting disciplines it affords.

G Mayoh

Letters to Parents

Letters sent out since the last Newsletter includes the following; please contact the school office if you require a copy.

Date	Subject	Recipients
January 2010	Key Stage Transition	Year 9
January 2010	History Visit to Somme Battlefields, 19 th March 2010	Yr 11–History
8 th Jan 2010	Osmington Bay Trip – Successful Students	Year 7
11th Jan 2010	Behaviour Support Service (BSS) – Staff change	BSS Students
15 th Jan 2010	School Production-Joseph Rehearsals/Performances	Cast of Joseph
1 st Feb 2010	Data Protection	Years 7 - 11
1 st Feb 2010	Year 10 Parents' Consultation Meeting, 4 th March 2010	Year 10

Congratulations to....

Jack Petchey Award Winners:

November 2009 – Alicia Murphy (N2) – for outstanding contribution to the Student Voice Global initiative.

January 2010 – Robert Golding (N5) – for outstanding contribution to the Student Voice Global initiative.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

The rehearsals for the school production of 'Joseph' are going well and the set is coming together thanks to the art, design and construction by Miss Carson, Mr Parry and Ron Knight.

Tickets will be on sale immediately after half term and after the success of 'Oliver' last year, we hope to sell out quickly so get your tickets sooner rather than later! Ticket prices are £3 for students and £6 for adults. For more information please contact the school finance office.

Abbs Cross Theatre Company

The new AX Theatre Company has got off to a good start with performers experimenting with different characters and scenarios. The company has created a firm foundation for a devised performance which, it is hoped, will later be turned into a scripted version for other students and year groups to perform.

Members of the company are using their devising, performance and directing skills to create a play that will shock, entertain, and challenge the audience. Watch this space for our first intimate studio performance!

TPAC - Teachers Perform at Abbs Cross

The first performance took place on Friday 5th February and was attended by many year 10 and 11 GCSE students. Miss Hughes and Miss Snelling devised and acted in this performance. Using the idea of site-specific theatre, it began in the Drama theory room and then moved in to the Drama studio.

This live performance art was based on the stories of people who had sold and bought babies on the internet and even though many of the students were shocked by some of the drama techniques used, they were inspired and motivated by what they had seen. This was evident in the post-play discussion that we had with the students where many of them were engaged in asking questions and listening to our responses.

Four year 11 students then approached us and explained how they were inspired by the performance and asked if they could devise their own work to show to the year 10 students. Not only did this confirm to us how live theatre can motivate the students but it was the first step towards what we are hoping to achieve in the long term.

Advanced Drama Club

After a huge turn out for the 'Abbs Cross Theatre Company' auditions, we decided that there were too many talented and enthusiastic students to turn away. As a result, after the final company had been selected we opened up a new, advanced drama club on a Monday lunch time for those who were unsuccessful in their application this year.

So far they have been devising a performance based on the local area and have begun to explore and create different characters. Hopefully they will have the opportunity to showcase their work in the summer term.

Year 7 and 8 Drama Club

The year 7&8 Drama Club on Wednesday lunchtime has been well attended so far this year. Students have been working on an ensemble performance based around the story of an earthquake using many different drama techniques.

The aim of the club is to extend students' performance skills through reflecting on social issues and problems. Next half term each member of the club will be asked to bring in a newspaper article which they think is important as a starting point for the drama. It is clear that students that attend drama club have become more inspired, confident and imaginative in their drama lessons.

GCSE Evening Showcase

As the summer term approaches, Year 11 students are preparing for those final exams. Drama GCSE involves devising or working on scripted performances in groups that last for approximately 25 minutes. These performances will be watched by an examiner on the 12th May and are worth 40% of the GCSE.

It would be a crime for all of this hard work to go unnoticed and for it not to be shared with friends and family. Therefore, we will be hosting an evening showcase to allow the students to share with you their imaginative and original work.

There is a wealth of talent in year 11 and I urge you to support and be entertained by the current year 11 students. The showcase will be on Thursday 6th May and tickets will be available in the summer term.

Miss Hughes and Miss Snelling

Big Dance

Congratulations to Mary Lucas-Afolalu and Ebele Nwangwu who are stars of the London Big Dance Event this year. The two girls were chosen to learn the 'Big Dance' and were recorded performing it. The DVD will be circulated in and around London schools so that students can learn the dance and then perform it alongside thousands of other London school students, at 1pm on Friday 9th July.

GCSE Dance

Reminder to all GCSE dance students, the final practical exam is on Monday 8th March. Prior to that date, students should have rehearsed all three pieces of coursework to the best possible standard and that includes working with dancers they are using for the choreography piece. Moderation is on the Monday 29th March and whilst marks cannot be improved on this day, dancers should continue to rehearse until then.

Dance Leader's Course

Year 10 GCSE dance students have begun a dance leader's course this half term. The course involves them going into local primary schools to teach the 'Big Dance' to year 5/6 students, who, in turn can teach the younger students, ready for the 'Big Dance' performance on Friday 9th July. Abbs Cross students were a credit to the school on their first visit to Suttons on Thursday 4th February and Benhurst on Monday 8th February. Well done.

Havering Dance Festival

Havering Dance Festival is taking place on Tuesday 23rd February at Sacred Heart of St Mary's School. AX Dance Company are performing in the senior category and four lower school boys are performing in the junior category. Good luck to you all and fingers crossed that we can bring back a trophy again.

Dance Off

'Dance Off' is coming up very soon so anyone that wants to compete needs to be choreographing and rehearsing. The auditions will be held on Monday 26th April, which sounds like a long way off, but we want high quality performances, so get practising. Solo work is welcome but we would prefer group dances.

Mrs Bird and Miss Smith

Jazz Workshop

On Tuesday 19th January 2010 the Year 10 GCSE Music class and some members of the Dance Band took part in a workshop about improvised jazz. We started by listening to the London Symphony Orchestra musicians, who were leading the workshop, perform a few improvised jazz pieces.

This was helpful because we were able to see how improvisation works. During the session, we clapped, played and copied other performers to help develop our improvising skills.

The LSO musicians showed us a number of different techniques we could use to play our instruments and introduced us to new styles of music. We all really enjoyed the experience and took away some great skills which we will use in our own music making. We hope that the musicians will come back to work with us at some point in the future.

Luke Priest
Nathaniel Welham

Forthcoming Events:

Monday, 1st March 2010

Tuesday, 2nd March 2010

Wednesday, 3rd March 2010

School Production - Joseph

Thursday, 4th March 2010

Parents' Consultation Meeting, Year 10

Thursday, 4th March 2010

DIP & Polio Immunisations, Year 10

Wednesday, 10th March 2010

'Guide to a Perfect Life', Visiting theatre group, Year 7

Thursday, 11th March 2010

Parents' Information Meeting, Year 9

Friday, 12th March 2010

PSE Day, Years 7 - 9

Friday, 19th March 2010

Somme, History Trip, Year 11

Thursday, 25th March 2010

Battle of the Bands

Badminton

Inter Schools Badminton Tournament at Hornchurch Sports Centre on Thursday 26th November 2009

Year 7/8/9 Girls - 3rd Place

Sophie O'Neill, Georgie Hodges, Grace Otuwehinmi and Kirsti McCleavy

Year 10/11 Girls - 2nd Place

Stephanie Cheung, Joanne Webb, Lucy Reipond and Terrii Flanagan

Year 7/8/9 Boys - 1st Place

Matthew Payne, David Balham, Stephen Payne and Jonathan Wake

Year 10/11 Boys - 1st Place

Robert Golding, Sam Hampton, Bradley Eve, Jamie Yau and Bradley Freeman

Both Boys teams will play in the East London Round on the 2nd February.

Havering Schools League

12 Havering Schools played in this League

Finals played at Hornchurch Sports Centre on Thursday 14th January 2010

Year 7 Girls – 4th Place

Amy Vincent, Hannah Collinson, Lucy Rose, Samantha Jones

Year 8 Girls – 3rd Place

Sophie O'Neill, Lyncia Mande, Georgie Hodges and Christina Morris

Year 9 Girls – 2nd Place

Ruby Baxter, Rachel Ward, Abbie Kenny and Shannen Blackman

Year 10 Girls – 3rd Place

Rebecca Clark, Abbie Schafer, Gemma Stevens and Ebele Nwangwu

Year 11 Girls – 2nd Place

Stephanie Cheung, Joanne Webb, Lucy Reipond, Charley Marshall and Terrii Flanagan

Year 7 Boys – 4th Place to be confirmed

Mehmet Shukri, Lewis Bennett, Ben Dunne-Abela and Josh Brett

Year 8 Boys – 3rd Place

Stephen Payne, David Balham, Felix Ngooi and Sam Short

Year 9 Boys – 3rd Place

Matthew Payne, Jonathan Wake, Charlie Dunne-Abela and Ryan Stokes

Year 10 Boys – 1st Place

Sam Hampton, Luke Overton, Jamie Yau and Jack Stallibrass

Year 11 Boys – 1st Place

Robert Golding, Neil Ellis, Bradley Eve and Bradley Freeman

Borough Finals at Abbs Cross School on Thursday 28th January 2010

Year 7/8/9 Boys – 2nd Place

Stephen Payne, Jonathan Wake, Matt Greatorex and Jordon Clark

Year 10/11 Boys – 1st Place

Robert Golding, Sam Hampton, Bradley Eve and Jamie Yau

Nationals - East London Round at The Hub, Newham on Tuesday 2nd February 2010

Year 7/8/9 Boys – 3rd Place

Matthew Payne, David Balham, Stephen Payne and Jonathan Wake

Year 10/11 Boys – 2nd Place

Robert Golding, Sam Hampton, Bradley Eve and Jamie Yau

Well done to all those who have represented Abbs Cross and taken part in matches this season!

**Mrs. Donna O'Sullivan.
P.E. Department**