



## Newsletter

Autumn 2011

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new academic year.

Firstly, let me say how pleased we are with our GCSE results. Our 5 A\*-C grades increased by 4% from 78% to 82%. We also exceeded our statutory target for 5 A\*-C grades including English and Maths by 2%, achieving 50%. We were particularly pleased with the achievements of our most able Year 11 students of whom 54 achieved 3 A\*/A, equivalent to 22.5% of the year group and 3.5% higher than 2010. The college is also delighted that the Maths and English results were at the national average.

We welcome the following new staff to the college:

Mrs Michalska English (temporary 1 term appointment to cover sick leave)  
Mrs Patel Science (two days job share with Mrs Z Patel)  
Ms Hart Humanities  
Mr Buick Humanities  
Mrs Dent Humanities (one year temporary contract to cover maternity leave)  
Ms Henry Technology (one year temporary appointment to cover maternity leave)  
Mr Jarvis Behaviour Support Manager  
Mr Mills Reprographics Assistant  
Mrs James Librarian (temporary one term post)  
Mrs Colclough Teaching Assistant

The signing of contracts for the new school is imminent and work should commence very soon after 10<sup>th</sup> October. The contractors are already on site rerouting drainage in preparation for the build. In addition, they have also erected the hoarding around what will be the building site of the new school. Very soon work will commence on constructing the contractors' compound. Mobiles have been moved over the summer to make way for the work. A consequence of all this is that for 18 months we will be short of space, especially for break and lunchtimes. We have therefore amended our policies to allow students into the main buildings at all times but obviously, we ask that **everyone** respects the site and behaves responsibly at all times. I would also ask that parents only park in the GOALS car park for dropping off or collecting students. The car park at the front of main reception is very small and unsafe with several vehicles waiting outside. The spaces in the CLC car park will be severely reduced once the contractors move on site and should only be used by their visitors. I am absolutely certain that all this inconvenience will be worth it once we move into what will be our wonderful new building.

Please be aware that holidays during term time should be kept to a minimum. Any absence from college has serious consequences for learning and, in striving to maximise student achievement, **our policy is not to authorise holidays in Years 10 and 11. Since examinations and assessments are spread across the two year period, we consider both years equally important.**

Thank you for all your support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Bernadette Green

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Leading Edge.





# WECA 2011

WECA... Wow, Excellent, Collaboration, Awesome

WECA... Wednesday, Extra, Curricular, Afternoon

WECA... Wonderful, Exciting, Creative, Adventurous

"something different"

"Exciting"

In the summer term of 2011 we decided to try something new. The idea was inspired by our friends from the schools in Zimbabwe where they finish academic learning at lunchtime and students are then encouraged to engage in a wide variety of activities to broaden their horizons and enhance their lives. We launched our first activity afternoon known as WECA; an opportunity to learn with different year groups, to work with different teachers and to give 'difference' a chance. And it certainly was different! We had over sixty activities to choose from, working both on and off the school site. WECA ran for the last six weeks of the summer term during the last lesson of the day.

We had TAs teaching Hair & Beauty in one of the Maths' classrooms. Students making paper models in Origami were neighbours to students in Choir, on one side, and students cooking up tasty treats, on the other. Alan Sugar would have been proud of our various Apprentice teams, assisted by the school office staff. Some staff taught knitting; others learnt to play the African drums.

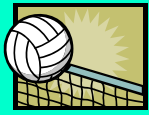
There was so much to see and it was such a delight; sign language being spoken, herbal remedies being made, cakes decorated, darts thrown, gardens looked after and jewellery being crafted. Poems were written, photos were taken, performances filmed and sculptures sculpted. Art teachers taught swimming, PE staff coached the guitar and Geography teachers shared their passion for Gaelic football. It was a chance to share and learn together and so many students and staff said they thoroughly enjoyed being part of WECA. 62% of students questioned said they made a new friend through WECA and over half the students said they would like to lead a WECA group next year.

When asked if they wanted WECA to run again next year, there was a clear and definite "Yes!" Let's hope next year it will be even better.

"I enjoyed seeing the students gain in confidence....!"

"Positive fun experience for all!"





# Sports Round Up



## AN A TO Z OF SPORTS DAY!

A is for athletes, sprinting to the finishing line.  
 B is for barriers keeping unruly students in line.  
 C is for chanting crowds, waving banners, anxious for their form mates to win.  
 D is for disqualified - keen runners trying to compete twice.  
 E is for Eight S - winning in fine style despite 8H's magic runner.  
 F is for fluorescent flags starting the sprinters off.  
 G is for 'Go' signs held up by the excited supporters.  
 H is for Habibo; first for the year 10 girls at 100 metres and speeding easily to first place with her relay team.  
 I is for instrumental accompaniment, provided by the saxophonists and drums.  
 J is for joyful voices raised in song, urging each other on to success in the relays.  
 K is for Keast, resplendent in his white shorts and t-shirt.  
 L is for loud laughter, cheering and screaming coming from the eager crowd.  
 M is for majestic - the style with which 8H boys won their relay race.  
 N is for Nine C - a fabulous win for them.  
 O is for organisation - essential for a successful relay team.  
 P is for photo finish for the Year 9 girls' 100 metres.  
 Q is for question: will the rain hold off? The answer is no!  
 R is for relay running and Ridwaan doing a great job at organising the troops.  
 S is for Seven N - a fine performance from a very loud, squealing form.  
 T is for Ten S - team supreme - winners of sports day for the fourth year running.  
 U is for unbridled enthusiasm of competitors and spectators  
 V is for violent screams of the overexcited competitors and crowd.  
 W is for Waleed Khan - the speediest 100 metres runner in year 8 - 13.22.  
 X is for extraordinary scenes as relay runners crowd the score table.  
 Y is for yelling in my ears as I try to compose this A-Z of sports day.  
 Z is for Zirak Khan - fastest 100 metres sprinter in the school - 12.66.

(Mrs Roberts)



Morning Field Events



## Sports Day 2011

This newsletter belongs to to: