



CROWN HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A Specialist Sports College and Training School

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NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents/Carers,

The Autumn Term is quickly coming to an end! Our Year 11 students have completed their two weeks of work experience and are now studying hard for their final GCSE examinations. At the end of November we held two "Reach for the Stars" assemblies where students received mock GCSE results certificates and heard an inspirational talk from an outside speaker. The aim was to encourage all of them to work as hard as possible for their examinations so that they can feel proud in having fulfilled their potential.

At the time of writing, we are waiting for the final BSF contracts to be signed so that construction of the new school can begin (see proposed designs above). The hoarding is up, old mobile classrooms have been removed and drains rerouted. We are all ready to go but the final legal details have to be concluded.

The college is one of five sports colleges across the country chosen by the Youth Sports Trust and the British Council to participate in a project helping the Iraqi Government to rebuild its education system. The project is funded through the European Union. A number of Iraqi teachers and officials visited Britain last June with several spending a week at Crown Hills. On 12th November, Mr Keast, Mr Sheikh, Ms Pritchard and I joined twenty colleagues from the other colleges and flew out to Iraq to spend five days visiting schools, working with them at a two day conference to write their improvement plans. The visit was extremely worthwhile and made us all feel very humble. The Iraqi schools had learnt a lot from their visit here and made huge changes and improvements in just a few months. We will continue to work with them in partnership over the next three years. We learnt a great deal from them, especially about school ethos and hope to use the experience to benefit Crown Hills.

We say a sad farewell to Ms Hogan at the end of term as she is leaving to travel the world. We are grateful for all her hard work in the Humanities Faculty and wish her the very best for her trip. We have also said temporary goodbyes to Ms Lewis and Ms Brooker who have started maternity leave.

Finally, I wish you all a very restful holiday and thank you for your continued support. Term finishes at 3.00pm on 22nd December. The Spring Term starts on 9th January, 2012.

Bernadette Green (Principal)



The Silence is Deafening!

Walk around the college corridors any morning between 8.40 and 8.55 a.m. and you can almost hear a pin drop. This time has been set aside for the latest literacy initiative during which all students and staff are involved in a reading activity of one sort or another. At the behest of Principal, Mrs Green, Literacy Co-ordinator, Mrs Ramos, and the steering committee set about organising time and resources for students to enhance their reading skills. Those in Keystage 3, and soon to be extended to include Keystage 4, keep a journal as evidence of texts read and, upon completion of the required amount, receive stamps and stickers that can go towards a variety of rewards, including the highly-prized Principal's Commendation. Most have said that reading this way has been both interesting and fun.

Spades Come Up Trumps for BSF Project

The new Crown Hills College became more of a reality at the beginning of November as representatives of all interested parties in the BSF project met together on the new site to witness a tree planting ceremony, marking the fantastic progress that has been made in reaching the building stage. Rachel Dickenson, Director of Children and Young Persons Services (CYPS), architect, Clive Breese and John Hubbard Regional Development Officer for the English Cricket Board, were present. Students and staff from Crown Hills and several members of the Leicester City Council joined them in applause as Principal, Mrs Green and Miller director, Phil Harris turned the first spade (later presented to Mrs Green to commemorate the occasion) and planted the sapling. Vi Dempster, Cabinet Minister and Commons Lead for CPYS said these were 'exciting times' for Crown Hills.



Making the Right Choice is Not an Option

Many Year 9 students are already thinking about the choice of subjects they will make for their Key Stage 4 courses. Staff, especially Form Tutors and Lifeskills teachers, will work closely with Year 9 students as they go through the process of making their decisions.

All students will study English, Maths, Science, MfL, Lifeskills and Core PE.

Choices (one from each)

1 Humanities: History, Geography or RS (all will study RS in year 11)

2 Design: Construction, Food, Textiles, Graphics, Electronics, Resistant Materials, ICT, Sport, *Triple Science

3 Arts: Art, Dance, Drama, Music, ICT, Sport

*Students working at level 6 or beyond in Science will be offered the opportunity to study three Sciences.

Key Dates:

January	Wednesday 11th Monday 30th	(date tbc) Options Information Evening for Parents at 7pm Two weeks of Lifeskills Options lessons begin Students fill in practice copy of Options form
February	w/b Monday 6th Friday 24th	'Real' Options forms issued to students to take home Final deadline for signed Options Forms – return to Tutor

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!!

Traditionally the library is a place of quiet and tranquillity, with an atmosphere conducive to reading and study. This term there has been a real buzz around the place. 'Everybody's Reading Week' took place from 4th to 10th of October when staff were asked to name the book(s) they were currently reading and make a small poster to display around the college. The results were amazing; from romance to thrillers, it was obvious that staff are avid readers. One teacher was reading three books at the same time! Information about the students' favourite author was also collected and an Authors League Table is now displayed in the library and updated regularly to reflect the college's reading preferences. Topping the league for several weeks is Jacqueline Wilson with Roald Dahl being ousted from second place by increasingly popular author, Jeff Kinney. Recently appointed librarian, Mrs James, said "Kinney's books have really taken off. Students are almost queuing up to borrow them. Some have even asked if they can reserve one!" Remember. You can get your favourite author on the league table simply by reading as many of their books as you can.

National Poetry Day – fell during reading week and Miss Nagdi's 'Bookaholic' group (students who help organise the library), launched a competition designed to encourage the development of students' creative and poetic skills. Posters around the college advertised the competition and the winning entry came from Umeyma Musse, 10H. Her poem is displayed in the library's Celebrating Poetry exhibition along side several teachers' favourites including, 'Tam O'Shanter' by Robert Burns, 'Under Milk Wood' Dylan Thomas and Bob Dylan's '115th Dream'. In addition to this the day was greatly enhanced by a visit from local poet and author, Jess Green, who delighted the students with her knowledge and style of delivery during several poetry and creative writing workshops. Jess appears at poetry evenings all around the country and has a book to be published in February 2012 entitled, 'I Won't Share This City'. Guaranteed to be a good read, I'm sure the library will have copies.



Year 11 Star Trek Leads to Enterprise at Space Centre

*'Fly me to the moon, and let me swing among the stars,
Let me see what Spring is like on Jupiter and Mars.'*

So begins the song made famous by American singer, Frank Sinatra. His wish may not have been entirely possible but, a very good alternative would have been a trip to Leicester's Space Centre on Abbey Lane. Because of Leicester University's work on space exploration, funds were available to build this prestigious facility which Crown Hills' Leisure and Tourism students use regularly to support their coursework. This term's trip saw 28 year 11s receive a presentation on marketing the centre. They discussed its facilities, products and services, developing an awareness of marketing procedures. Having made the visit, the task now is to evaluate the Space Centre's success using techniques such as SWAT analysis and 'product life cycle', followed by proposal and justification of what the group might consider being possible future developments.

An added bonus during the trip was a visit to the 360 degree Cinedome Theatre to watch a film about life and conditions found on the planets of our own solar system – including Jupiter and Mars! If Mr Sinatra had seen it he probably would not have been so keen to make a visit!!

Readers' Writes

Two students submitted their poetry for this edition of the Crown Hills Newsletter; Abdr-Rehman Sherif 9L, and Umeyma Musse 10H, whose effort and skill won her first prize in October's National Poetry Day.

Both receive a £10 voucher to spend on the high street. **Well done!**



Teenager's Poem

Teenager, we're put aside to be blamed
An excuse for all life's problems
Our lives are all written up before we surface

World War 1, World War 2,
world's biggest problems weren't caused by us,
So how can you say we're the worst?
We're all different we're all unique,
But you guys think we're ALL the same,

Black or white,
The same race,
No disgrace,
My pace no race,
I rest my case,

To be honest the way we act the way we're raised,
Is because of the way we're raised
the way we're cared for,
The way you love us the places you take us,
No need to fuss,

Misunderstood, we walk the earth unpredictable,
Some are nice, some are angry, some are hungry,
and some are lonely,
But to be precise we're all human,
And those AREN'T lies,

Discrimination, we're all one nation
Showing our appreciation,
One day we'll all be men just like you.
No different,
Being a teen is only preparation.

As a wise man once said
"Don't judge a book by its cover"

Abdr-Rahman Sherif



Mind Games

Sitting on the gate,
Watching the world go by,
Soaked by the heavy rain,
I let out a deep sigh.

Why in the moments,
That I'd felt most content,
Did he have to go
And fill my heart with contempt?

He'd say one thing,
But mean another,
A change from our childhood,
When he'd felt like a brother.

But now those days are gone,
Trust replaced by doubt,
Always expecting the worst,
Whenever he's been out

And now we're as distant,
As distant could be,
Though no one could complete me,
Like he completed me

In spite of his lies,
And endless excuses,
In spite of his tries,
Of immaculate manoeuvres

I'll still forgive,
But never really forget,
He doesn't deserve it,
My mind is set

Unless he redeems himself,
Proving to be worthy of trust,
But worthy of love?
Well, let's just say: he made it, just.

Umeyma Musse



MFL Makes a World of Difference

Walking into the college library I was surprised to be greeted with a cheery 'Bonjour, Monsieur. Comment allez-vous?' from librarian, Mrs James. A little further on my tour and a wonderful aroma filled my nostrils; I soon tracked it down to the LEC. Approaching the Music room, the sound of Italian music grew louder. It didn't take long to realise that something different was happening at Crown Hills. Sure enough, upon further investigation, I discovered I was in the middle of the Modern Foreign Languages 'Language and Cultural Week', during which various activities celebrating cultures from around the world gave our students the chance to experience something different. International cuisine, pain au chocolate, brioche, croissants were all available at break and lunch time in the LEC plus a 'menu surprise' in the dining rooms. If it was a good old sing song you were after, then French songs could be learned courtesy of Mr Alison and the MFL staff. A short walk across the playground and the ever-energetic Mrs Boyce and Ms Iliffe were burning off the calories with the latest dance craze, 'ZUMBA' with a Brazilian flavour.

Round to soccer centre, GOALS now, where teams representing various countries were battling it out in the five-a-side MFL World Cup, organised by Sports Development Officer, Jamie Reynolds, and ably assisted by members of the Sports Leadership Academy. At every turn something different was going on; Mrs Mellor with the delights of Spanish 'Tapas'; hair braiding skilfully demonstrated by T.A., Mrs Francis or a 'Slovakian display' by students of EAL room 4. Whatever your taste, there was something for everyone during an exciting and informative week.



Students Go Nuts at the Royal Infirmary

The Leicester Secondary Education Improvement Partnership (EIP) is a partnership of the city's secondary and special schools, working closely with the Local Authority and many other agencies across the city. As part of the 'Opportunities for All' week, courtesy of the University of Leicester, secondary school students from across the city have successfully completed a week of seminars and workshops on healthcare at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. Furqaan Kanji (ex yr 11), Simra Ahmed 11N and Sukhveer Atwal 11O, three students from Crown Hills, took part in activities that included Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the use of a ventilator, as well as daily seminars run by staff from the Hospital School and Paediatrics Department. For the main activity of the week the students were split into teams, named Brains, Lungs and Hearts, and given an 'Apprentice-style' task to devise a campaign to raise awareness of nut allergies among 11 to 16 year olds. On the final day each team gave a presentation which included leaflets, role play and PowerPoint slides shows; they also used raps, quizzes, posters and Facebook to express their ideas.



In his closing remarks, Bill Morris, director of the EIP and currently based at Crown Hills, said, "The judges were overwhelmed by the quality of the presentations, but the winning team who best met the brief was 'Lungs'. They're hired!" Some of the students are now keen to pursue a career in healthcare. Furqaan said, "It's taught me a lot about health professions, and it's not just all doctors and nurses." Well done to all three.

A Message from the Leicestershire Police

Most young people these days have a mobile phone. They are very useful. Unfortunately, they are the top target for robbers. Robbery is theft which is accompanied by violence or the threat of violence. A lot of victims in Leicester are teenagers. You can reduce the chances of this happening to you by:

- Only using them in busy, well-lit areas, keeping an eye on those around you. Don't leave your device in full view on a table.
- Record the model number and IMEI number – dial *# 0 6 # to read this. You can record this free of charge on the property recording website www.immobilise.com. So if your phone is stolen, there is an increased chance the police will be able to return it to you.
- Check if there are any tracking apps (such as icloud or Mobile Me) which you can use with your device, and if so, activate them. Again, this could help police find your device and the people responsible for taking it.
- A lot of mobile phone robberies are carried out by other teenagers. Don't be tempted; the police and the courts take robbery very seriously.

Crown Hills Works Towards World Fame

The International School Award (ISA) is an accreditation scheme for curriculum-based international work in schools. The scheme provides recognition for teachers and their schools working to instil a global dimension into the learning experience of all children and young people.

The ISA supports schools to develop the following:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- A majority of pupils within the school impacted by and involved in international work
- Curriculum-based work across a range of subjects
- Year round international activity
- Involvement of partner schools and the wider community in the UK

In the past year Crown Hills has been working hard to move from 'Foundation' level to 'Full International School Status'. As well as two large world maps on walls around the college, each of 45 tutor groups has 'adopted' a country or city with which to become familiar, studying language, culture and customs that enables the group to bring an international flavour to an assembly.



College in With a Shout in BT's 'Big Voice' Competition

Big Voice is a national competition for students, created by BT as part of the Education Programme supporting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games. A group of year 7 students (now year 8), led by English teacher, Miss Punia, decided to enter the competition.

In the first phase, they worked as a team to agree what issue to tackle, what needed to be done and then how to make a compelling short film about their issue. Their choice was called 'What would improve our local community?', and their entry, or 'treatment' was submitted and evaluated by a team of experts who decided **it was a winner!** Their reward was £1,000 and the opportunity to move on to the next phase and work on making the short film, with Kieran Cassidy, a member of DeMontfort University's Film Production crew, seen here 'story boarding' with Miss Punia and some of the team. The finished film will be shown on the city centre video screen in Humberstone Gate before being judged in a Hollywood 'Oscars-style' Big Voice Film Festival in London, 2012. We wish the production crew success in the next phase.



Praise for College goes Worldwide

Liverpuddlian author, Alan Gibbons, has been writing children's books for seventeen years. He is the winner of the Blue Peter Book Award 2000 'The book I couldn't put down' for his best-selling book *Shadow of the Minotaur*. He was a judge of the 2001 Awards. His books have been published in Japanese, German, Italian, French, Thai, Spanish, Danish, Dutch, Swedish and other languages.

Alan has been a teacher for 16 years, working with KS1, KS2 and KS3. He has made annual visits to Crown Hills engaging KS3 students in 'Creative Writing' workshops. It was, therefore, a great honour for the college, and in particular, English teacher, Mrs Owen to be mentioned personally in the Author's Notes at the beginning of his latest book, 'An Act of Love':

'I would like to thank Mrs Owen and students from Crown Hills Community College for helping me with the background material'

Fine praise indeed! Well done.



Charity Collections Continue at Crown Hills

Crown Hills' charity donations in 2011 once again reflected our students' generous and caring nature as they raised nearly £3000 for national and local appeals.

From a non-uniform day on 27th May, £1,000 was collected for the "Make a Wish" Foundation, granting the wishes of children with a life-threatening medical condition.

15th July was another non-uniform day and £1,000 was collected for "Our Space Cancer Unit" a new dedicated area for "young cancer sufferers" at the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Team GB Ladies' Volleyball benefitted to the sum of £670 from Crown Hills' fund raising.

A Macmillan Coffee Morning in the LEC on 30th September collected £198.44 for the cancer charity.

On 5th October teachers, students & dining room staff donated a total of £530 to "Wear it Pink" breast cancer charity.

An excellent effort, yet again!



Women in Construction

Women in Construction is a Leicester City Council initiative where teams of women in construction-related employment organise and deliver workshops to girls in local secondary schools. Always keen to promote and develop the latest ideas, 20 year 9 students took part in a series of mini workshops to enhance the BTEC Construction programme offered at Crown hills, and encourage the girls to be more confident and informed about what construction involves before making their 'Option' choices next year. **The tasters included:**

- changing a tap washer
- wiring a plug
- fitting a door lock and handle
- painting and decorating

The girls reported back that the day was enjoyable and very worthwhile.



International Volleyball Player Visits Crown Hills

Last term, PE teacher, Miss Brailsford invited Great Britain and England Volleyball star, Rachel Laybourne into college to run a series of training sessions with KS4 students. International star, Rachel, put everyone through a tough warm up before going on to teach the rudiments of the game including the dig, set and spike, culminating in 3v3 games to round off the session. Later in the morning the England player held a question and answer session with a groups of girls, giving frank and honest replies to such questions as "What advice would you give to young girls who lack confidence?", "Should daily PE lessons be made compulsory to tackle the growing obesity problem?" and "Describe your fitness programme as an international Volleyball player." Rachel explained what level of commitment is necessary to become an international athlete and, once there, it is not always glamour and star treatment, especially in the minor sports such as volleyball; in fact, Rachel explained that Volleyball GB had just lost its government funding and their Olympic dream was in jeopardy. In true Crown Hills fashion a non-uniform day was dedicated to Team GB and £675 was raised towards making sure that volleyball in Great Britain is represented at the 2012 Games.

Rachel's visit was a great success and very worthwhile.



No Time for Students to Sit at Volleyball Games

Sitting Volleyball is a game derived from the usual standing game and is adapted to suit players with a range of physical disabilities. The Continental Cup 2011 was held over a week at the National Volleyball Centre in Kettering and, as the name suggests, teams came from Europe, America and Asia.

Nine KS4 students, Aadila Kanmi, Tabassum Patel, Ibrahim Hussein, Uwais Zanner, Kashar Raja, Faizhaan Panjwani, Mohammed Bilal Patel and Ridwaan Limbada, all part of Miss Brailsford's Volleyball Club or Jamie Reynolds' Leadership Academy, were invited to be Courtside Assistants, members of the 'Events Team' organising the Games. Their job was to ensure the matches ran smoothly, on time, courts prepared and equipment available, at the same time gaining a valuable insight about the organisation of a major sports event. At the end of the day everyone received a certificate and the praise of the tournament organisers. Well done.



Leading Edge.

