

Acton High School



Acton High School Newsletter

December 2008



Acton Rugby goes to Wembley

On Wednesday 3rd December, the Year 10 Rugby Team from Acton High School had the privilege of being one of the 'first' rugby teams to walk out onto the hallowed turf of the new Wembley Stadium. History books will claim that Australia vs Barbarians international in the evening was the first rugby match to take place on the home of football. However, about 8 hours earlier, 16 of Acton's finest rugby players put on their team colours and ran out onto the pitch to play a 10-a-side tournament against schools from all around the UK.

A great day was had by all. Thanks to all the parents who supported us: the PE Department, who without whom it would not have happened; and Mr Hicks and Mr Banks, for ensuring the day went perfectly. A fabulous day full of fabulous memories—the half time dancing will go down in history.



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Ocean Maths Project

A group of Year 7 pupils took part in Maths project called Ocean Maths on the 11th of December. This involved parents and their children engaging in rich Maths activities together at Acton High School. The idea behind the project is to get parents talking to their children about Maths beyond the classroom.

The activities involved Logical Reasoning, Mathematical Literacy and Applied Maths. Initial feedback indicates that the parents and their children really enjoyed the session. As a result a second session is planned for another group of Year 7 pupils and their parents during the spring term.



“Teach Your Granny To Text” Launch



Pictured are our Year 10 students Clark and Robert with Kevin Brennan MP, a Minister in the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Year 10 Creative and Media Diploma students attended the launch of Teach Your Granny To Text this term. The book is the latest offering from social change organisation We Are What We Do, who believe that small actions from lots of people can improve the world we live in. The students hope to launch a similar campaign in the school after Christmas.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme



Duke of Edinburgh participants have been working hard on their Expedition section this term. They've been learning about navigation, outdoor cooking, putting up and down a tent and packing a rucksack correctly. They've worked very well as a team and should be congratulated on their hard efforts, especially during the expedition when it rained all night on Saturday and all day Sunday!

Well done Gaganjot, Christine, Assalah, Daniel and Fahad in year 11!

Have Your Say

I'm sure that we are all worried about the increase in knife crime and violence affecting young people on the streets of London. The Ealing Gazette has launched a campaign to find out from young people what they see as the solution to this. At Acton we have decided to support this and Ms Yearwood is co-ordinating our letters.

If you have a suggestion or an explanation put it in a letter with your name and form group and get it to Ms Yearwood before Friday 30th January

Clothes Show Live

On the 10th of December, Year 10 Photography, Textiles and Creative Media Diploma students went to Birmingham (three hours on the coach!) to watch a live fashion show. We arrived at school at 7.30 in the morning when it was pitch black outside. I woke up at four thirty to go and meet my friends.

All of us enjoyed the show, watching the models walking up and down the cat walk, with some regular dancing and loud music in a big theatre. After the show there was

an indoor type market where people could buy designer clothes, perfumes and souvenirs etc. There were also food courts where people bought food which was really expensive, but most of us brought packed lunches.

We all bought at least one item, especially clothes. Some people even bought just designer plastic bags stuffed with tissue paper to make them look good!

On the way back, due to the tiring

“All of us enjoyed the show, watching the models walking up and down the cat walk, with some regular dancing and loud music in a big theatre.”

shopping and walking around the really big venue all day some of us slept on the coach. We all had a good time at the end of the day. We got back at 5pm, and we were all tired and ready to go home.

Daniella David 10LHY.

Drama Masterclass

This club have been working very hard all term, and created some very exciting pieces of work. They took a well earned rest in October to enjoy a Halloween Party, but a small group have been working very hard since then to devise a short play around the myth of "Midas and the Golden Touch" for this term's Christmas Assembly.



Year 8 Round Up

We have now come to the end of a successful Autumn Term 2008. Since our last newsletter, Year 8 have continued to be busy as well as taking part in the many extra curricular activities we have held over this last half-term:

Black History Notice Board Competition - In celebration of Black History Month we held a notice board competition. Our students put in a lot of effort and displays were informative and colourful. The winner was 8KBI who were rewarded with a tin of Celebrations as the prize.

Flexiday 3 - The day was devoted to Maths. Our students worked in groups engaged in a variety of mathematical activities as well as a competition to create and design a 'Maths Book'. Our students displayed exceptional talent and knowledge and created some out-

standing designs. The prize for the best group went to Aamina (8RSE), Natalie (8MJO) and Olivia (8SOC). Well done girls!

Flexiday 4 - Our students had a highly active and fun packed day of PE. The first half of the day was spent on fitness testing to find their base levels of fitness. These results will be placed on a new piece of software called 'Ultimate Coach', where pupils can record their test results and any other training they do. The second half of the day was spent on Inter-form Sport Competitions. Pupils were divided into four teams and played against each other in football, netball, handball and hockey. Overall it was a very successful day. 1st place went 8WHA, 2nd 8AGI and 3rd 8KBI.

Congratulations

Cultural Evening - On the 13th of November our Parents and students enjoyed an evening of cultural extravaganza. The entertainment was a showcase of African music and dance followed by a fashion show. Well done to Natalie, Charlie and Emmanuel for the star quality modelling talent they displayed on the catwalk - alongside that of our own Ms Golding!

Raffle Tickets - Our local community businesses have been very generous and donated many gift items for our raffle. We have been very fortunate to have had such lovely prizes ranging from a hairdryer to a football. Year 8 would like to give a big thank you to Morrisons, Superdrug, Boots, Wilkinsons, MacDonalds, Marks, Lloyds pharmacy and many of the local newsagents and food stores. Prize draw will take place at the end of term assembly.

Student Council



A new Student Council has been set up this year with 3 Representatives from each year group. They have been busy continuing work on the new school uniform amongst a range of other issues on the school agenda. They spent a day at "Sacred Heart" school in Hammersmith with other Student Councils across London to share ideas about effective practice.

They spent another day off timetable in the conference room where Representatives were appointed to different roles, Adrian Gardner is our President!

Tony Meehan has sought feedback from Student Council on the homework timetable and Mr. Pittaway has consulted the council on their opinions about behaviour in school.

A big project that Student Council are working on now is creating a shelter outside for rainy days, with a budget of £5000, which Student Council have to spend over the year, there is plenty of discussion!

If you would like more information about Student Council or have something you want us to discuss then speak to one of your year representatives.

Year 7 Round Up

London Zoo The Diploma Group were recently selected to visit London Zoo, as part of their educational outreach programme. We were extremely fortunate to have this opportunity; the children were able to interact with the animals, it was an interesting and enjoyable experience for both students and teachers.

Flexidays Our recent flexi-day was packed with fun and exciting displays from the Mad Scientist group. This flexi-day was all about science and its developments to date, students had the opportunity to mix substances resulting in exciting discoveries.

Residential The up-coming weekend residential to the Kingwood Activity Centre, Isle of Wight for Year 7, will be from Friday 5th June to Monday 8th June. The weekend will be packed with exciting activities. There are still spaces available, please request additional information from Form Tutors as soon as possible.



Year 9 Round Up

Two flexidays have taken place since the last newsletter at half term. On 13th November the Technical Arts flexi-day involved a myriad of activities including a visit to Acton College to try out carpentry, plumbing and car mechanics as well as a trip to The Transport Museum which involved interactive activities such as making a track to achieve optimum speed and safety for a train and designing and building a tram to run on a student built circuit.

On Friday 5th December ICT and MFL organised a day off curriculum to learn more vocabulary about their family and town and watch a French film as well as making podcasts, designing webpages, creating comic strips and lyrics to develop new ICT skills.

On Friday 12th December the year group wrapped up for an ice skating trip on Ealing Common.

Next term will be equally action-packed with a **residential mountain-biking trip** planned for **April 1st-3rd 2009** in the Peak District, Derbyshire. More information about this trip will follow shortly.

A Year 9 flexiday on **Tuesday 20th January** will involve visits to **West London College, Thames Valley University and Westminster University** for taster sessions in various academic and vocational courses which will hopefully serve to give students a taste of further and higher education in advance of choosing their options for Year 10.

Information about options for next year will be available at **Options Evening on Thursday 5th February**. **Parents Evening** and the distribution of student profiles will take place on **Wednesday 4th March**.

We would like to remind students in Year 9 that Study Support, which offers access to a computer and refreshments, is available every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 3.30 to 5.30pm. Students should be aware that there will be internal examinations in all their subjects in place of SATs exams. These will take place during the first week in May.



Sporting Moments

Our Year 11 boys' basketball team, who have been training really hard this term, convincingly beat Cardinal Wiseman last week. Hurrah!!

Another Hurrah for the girls' Year 8 netball team who beat Featherstone recently.

A group of year 8 and 9 boys and girls went with Mr McCormack and Ms Boyle for a coaching day at the David Beckham Academy in East London last week. Great fun was had by all. (Our girls have their sights set on 2012!!)

Mr Draper, Mr Hicks and Mr Banks took our Year 10 rugby team for a day of coaching and playing at the new Wembley Stadium last Tuesday. They actually played on that hallowed turf where all the greatest footballers dream of playing! In the evening some more teachers and parents

joined them to watch the International game, Barbarians v Australia. Ms Setttee was the only one happy at the end though, as the Aussies won!

Last Wednesday all Year 7 and Year 8 PE classes took part in a day of "Jump Rope For Heart". Everyone learned lots of new ways to skip and we are going to have a sponsored skip for the British Heart Foundation charity in the New Year. If you want to join in, have a word with Ms Setttee.

The junior boys' hockey team had a match on a full sized Astroturf pitch on Tuesday. We went over to Chiswick in a minibus and played Twyford in a very close match. Everyone had a great time and we are planning a match for the senior boys in January.

If you 'd like to be a part of these fantastic events and opportunities that are coming your way, make sure you come to the sports clubs next term!

Have a good Christmas, make sure you **keep active** and don't eat too much or spend too much time in front of a screen!

English Out and About

Year 11 Flexiday English - involved the year group watching a performance of "Of Mice and Men" by J.Steinbeck, performed by Mopa Theatre followed by drama work based on the text in their English classes. This is the GCSE English Literature set text. The performance of the theatre group was excellent, proving stimulus for the students' role play, which were assessed for GCSE English Speaking and Listening.

Next term we have booked to see "A View From The Bridge" - Arthur Miller, being studied by some Year 10 Classes, and also "GCSE Poetry Live" for Year 11. We are also hoping to arrange visits to the globe Theatre for Year 7 Classes.



HOW TO GET THE BEST OUT OF FAMILY LIFE

Would you like to meet other parents and explore new parenting ideas? If your answer is yes why not join our 10-week Nurturing Programme for Parents next term? To find out more about it please contact Christine Samuels on 02031102429 or Stacey Macsorley at SMacsorley@actonhigh.ealing.sch.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.