



WINCHCOMBE SCHOOL NEWS



FEBRUARY 2010

It has been a tremendously busy half term so far, with great things being achieved by many Winchcombe School pupils.

Our Rugby team continue to triumph, while our netball teams are beginning to live up to their excellent potential.

We have also enjoyed success in the English Speaking Union's Public Speaking Competition. Laura Langton, Emma Stocks and Rosamund Herapath put on a magnificent and inspirational display in the Gloucestershire final at the Council offices in Cheltenham. They narrowly missed progressing to the Regional final at Magdalene College, Oxford, being pipped by a very polished performance from Cheltenham Ladies' College. Well done to all three girls and their dedicated coach, Mr Jones.

The end of January also saw the final parents' evening for our Year 11 GCSE cohort. Parents should be reassured, however, that teachers are available at any time in the run up to the exams if they have concerns. Just contact either myself or Mr Hall if there is any way in which we can help.

Year 9 students are already beginning the important process of choosing their Key Stage 4 options. It is vitally important that the youngsters make the right choices for the right reason. Again, do not hesitate to contact the School if you have any concerns.

You will probably also be aware that Winchcombe has entered the 21st Century! Our new text-messaging facility will help to further improve the communication between School and home. It will help us in emergencies, for instance you will be informed instantly if we are forced to close early due to snow, floods or other extreme weather conditions. It can also be used for more routine matters, for instance to remind you of Parents' Evenings or other School events. We hope you find the facility useful. Do not hesitate to contact us with your views on this or any other aspect of our provision. Your feedback helps us to continually improve all we do.

Mrs L Cooke



URGENT – CALLING PARENTS IN SWINDON VILLAGE, BISHOPS CLEEVE AND GOTHERINGTON

- Are you interested in your child travelling to school by a new bus service?
- How much would you be prepared to pay each day?

Winchcombe School does not organise travel to and from School, however with so many children now choosing Winchcombe who live in Swindon Village, Bishops Cleeve and Gotherington it might now be cost effective for parents to organise a 'contract-hire' school bus.

This would involve payment, in advance, of a set amount each term.

We are happy to gauge the interest from parents and pass this onto interested transport providers. Please contact School before Friday 12th February and leave your details and an idea of the maximum amount you would be willing to pay for such a service each day.

Science College News



We are very pleased to be launching a new initiative within the Science Department - a group of 5 Year 9 pupils will be trained as Science leaders. Interested pupils have had to apply by writing a letter of application and will be selected to take part in the programme. Science Leaders will help with various aspects of Science College including helping with Science events and practical days. Good luck to all who have applied - we look forward to informing you of the successful candidates in a future newsletter.

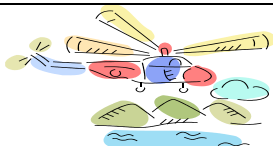
The Science Department is very pleased to welcome our PGCE trainee, Ben Aspey, to the team. Mr Aspey has already taken many classes and will continue to do so until the Easter break.

On the 20th January the snow did not deter the Gifted and Talented pupils from our feeder primaries from attending a day full of fun and experiments hosted by Chem Labs, Bristol University. Our own Year 7 pupils enjoyed a session of Flash and Bang Science during the day as the team performed some entertaining and educational demonstrations. Our thanks to Mrs Oliver for organising this event.

On the 3rd February Miss McIntyre and Mrs Edgerton took some Year 9 pupils to Bristol University to take part in an event organised by ISSP (Independent State School Partnership). The pupils took part in various experiments which included extracting caffeine from tea in their state of the art facilities. A great day was had by all. Also in conjunction with ISSP 8 Year 9 pupils attended an Engineering Day.

From September 2010 we are hoping to run the Environment and Land based Diploma with Hartpury College. 12 pupils attended a taster day which allowed them to experience some of the practical aspects of the Diploma. They had a great day and even enjoyed the manual labour which included mucking out the calves!

Mrs Yeates



Charity Committee

As an impromptu fundraising event, we managed to raise just under £200 for the DEC Haiti Appeal - we would like to thank all the pupils and staff that supported this extremely good cause - especially the anonymous member of staff that donated £50. Thank you!

Mrs Yeates

It gives me great pleasure in announcing that the Charity Committee has raised £1082.92 for Air Ambulance, based at Strensham. On Thursday 21st January we were lucky enough to be invited to the Air Ambulance base, where we presented our cheque. We would like to thank you all for your generosity and hope you will continue to support the Charity Committee in the future.

**Rosie Crutchley – Year 11
Chair – Charity Committee**

Green Day – Friday 12th February



School will be holding a Green Day on Friday 12th February. Pupils can buy tickets for £1 which will entitle them to wear non-uniform preferably wearing something coloured green. The day is being held to promote Eco awareness and we will also be monitoring energy usage.

For £1 pupils will also be able to send a confidential Valentines message along with 4 love heart chocolates. Other activities taking place on the day will include a break time quiz and a treasure hunt.

Mr Smith



Medical Conditions/Medication

In order to keep our records up to date we would be grateful if parents would keep us informed of any medical condition their youngster may have.

For pupils with **long term medical conditions** please contact the school office in order that a care plan can be put in place.

May we also remind you that we are unable to prescribe any pain killers although we are happy to keep a pupil's own supply in the school office.



Cheltenham Spa School Sports Partnership

We have 18 pupils taking part in DanceFest 2010 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 10th February. The Wednesday Dance Club will be dancing "One Last Dance" and the GCSE group "Casino Royale". (Tickets are available from the Town Hall box office).

Time is fast approaching for the Winchcombe Dance and Music Festival. This is on Tuesday March 23rd at Evesham Arts Centre, 6.15pm start. Tickets will be available from school very shortly. There will be performances from both dance clubs, Mr Salmon's music/jazz group as well as dance and music from our cluster primary schools.

We have girl's cricket and rugby lined up for the summer term, as well as some exciting new dance activities. This will include breakdance for the boys and Capoeira for everyone.

Tickets for the Winchcombe Dance and Music Festival will be available from the Finance Office after Half Term. Prices are £2.50 for adults and £1 for under 16s.

Mrs Ratcliffe

Hospitality and Catering News

We were delighted when Eleanor Forsyth won 18 Kenwood Hand Mixers, 31 Aprons and 30 tea towels for the school in the British Food Fortnight Cook a Life Challenge. Eleanor had to plan a menu for a two course meal using local produce. We have arranged to give our old mixers to Winchcombe Abbey primary school – well done Eleanor!

Congratulations also to Elizabeth Tearle who won the District semi final of the Rotary Young Chef competition on Thursday 28th January at the Launchpad Kitchen in Tewkesbury. Elizabeth had to produce a 3 course meal for 2 people for under £14. Elizabeth will now compete in the District final in Stroud on Saturday 27th February – so fingers crossed.

Hannah-Jane Row represented Gloucestershire in the South West Regional Final of FutureChef on Wednesday 3rd February in Tiverton, Devon. Hannah had to prepare and cook a hot main course and dessert for two people for under £8. This was a fantastic experience for her and we were delighted that she enjoyed the occasion.

Mrs Groves



LOST PROPERTY

We are starting to accumulate quite a large amount of lost property once again. If your child has lost any uniform you are most welcome to come to Reception and see if it has been handed in.

W.E.A.(Workers' Educational Association) Evening Courses at the School

Mrs Margaret Warmington the local W.E.A organiser would welcome some help in running the W.E.A courses. At present there is an 'English Short Stories' course running on a Tuesday evening between 7.30pm and 9.00pm.

Course topics are very varied. In the past they have ranged from historical subjects, to French lessons and opera appreciation.

If you would be interested in helping Mrs Warmington please telephone her on 01242 602445.

CONTACT DETAILS

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e-mail: admin@winchcombe.gloucs.sch.uk

DIARY DATES



Sat 6th Feb
Wed 10th Feb
Thurs 11th Feb
Fri 12th Feb

Duke of Edinburgh Practical
Poetry Live trip – Oxford - KS4
Year 10 Parents Evening
End of Term 3/Green Day

Mid Term Break – Monday 15th Feb – Friday 19th Feb

Mon 22nd Feb

Term 4 begins

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