

# de Ferrers.COMmuniqué

Number 046 Summer Half Term 2009

COMMUNICATING THROUGHOUT DE FERRERS SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

principal@deferrers



## Dear Parents

This is the half-term when major external examinations begin. Year 11 are on their revision programme making final preparations for important GCSE examinations. Year 12 and 13 also start important examinations at AS and A2 level. The International Baccalaureate students have taken their mock examinations and remain in full-time study until the end of term.

External examinations will continue well into June and, although not required by law, Year 9 (and some Year 8 students) will formally take SATs in English (only Year 9), Mathematics and Science under full examination conditions. Parents of Year 9 students (and relevant Year 8) will receive teacher assessments later this term. We wish all the above students every success!

Those of you who have visited Trent Reception will have seen our resident blackbirds nesting above our entrance doors. I am pleased to report that despite all the noise etc of a busy college the four chicks and proud parents have now flown the nest. A case of 'Bye Bye Blackbird!'

Enjoy the break!

M A York  
Principal



## AWARD WINNING STAFFORDSHIRE YOUNG ENTERPRISE COMPANY

# QWERTY MEAN BUSINESS!

Qwerty was crowned the best of over seven hundred student entrepreneurs running over sixty companies across Staffordshire at JCB Headquarters in Rocester in the County Finals of the Young Enterprise Company Innovation Competition 2009. They will now go on to represent Staffordshire at the West Midlands Regional Finals at Aston University on 18th June.

Chair of the judging panel, Ian Carlier, Director of Business Enterprise Support, said "The business acumen and entrepreneurial skills displayed by young people taking part in the Young Enterprise Company Programme just keeps getting better and better! This can only bode well for future economic success of Staffordshire"

Six teams of students aged fourteen to nineteen who had already been deemed the best at area finals competitions last month came along to JCB on the 6th May to compete. The teams have to run their own real business for an academic year. As part of their year in business, not only do they design and produce their own product or service and learn about how a real business works, they also take part in the Young Enterprise Competition. This includes taking part in a judged Trade Fair along with student teams from other schools, putting together a company report including their financial accounts and finally they have to present their business journey to a panel of judges and a packed theatre of guests.

Award winning company "Qwerty," and their quirky elastic band which keeps your work papers and pen organised, scooped most of the awards.

**Gold Award**  
Best Company

**Silver Awards**  
Best Company Report and Corporate Governance Award  
Innovation Award  
Most Entrepreneurial Company

Sue Mills, Programme Executive for Staffordshire and the Black Country, praised the students. "These fantastic young people will join our growing alumni of achievers who, independent research has shown, are more likely to be ready for the world of work, more likely to get involved in community projects and have a better understanding of the importance of lifelong learning than their peers. Well done to all our achievers, who have learned by doing!"

Young Enterprise needs the support of the local business community to pass on their expertise and skills to these young people. Learning outside the classroom is crucial in enriching and embedding the learning inside the classroom and preparing young people for the future. Volunteers and businesses also gain by the development of skills gained by mentoring and supporting the programme. One volunteer business advisor said "I am really proud of the team members and feel supporting the students through their successes and challenges has inspired me too."



## Ninth Annual



22.06.09 - 26.06.09

## COMING SOON – THE 9th ANNUAL TECHNOLOGY SHOW, OUR SHOWCASE OF TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE STATUS

The theme this time is International Mindedness. This year sees the return of the popular Staff-Student Cooking Competition, Assault Events, Catwalk Show and hands-on science experiments. There will be robots, ICT movie-making, TV weather reports, an MFL avatar workshop, high tech sports science and much more. Highlights will be on the website during the week.

Details will be sent out soon about Masterclasses for students and parents and the 'Bring a parent to college' Day. Watch out too for some exciting online competitions.

*The Technology Show Week runs from 22nd June to 26th June 2009*

## Key Stage 4 Burton College Bridal Competition- Year 10 winner Georgina Boothman

Year 10 and Year 11 Key Stage 4 Salon Services took part in a Bridal Competition at Burton College on 6th May to show off their creative skills with long hair. Students had thirty minutes in which to create a bridal hair put up. All students demonstrated high levels of dexterity and creativity to such a standard that it is the intention for students to be entered into regional competitions next year.



## DO NOT READ THIS!

The Humanities Curriculum Area excitedly announces the creation of the "Social Sciences." This new Curriculum Area brings together Psychology, Sociology, Health and Social Care and Child Development.

Specialist Social Science teachers make up a dedicated team with a focus on developing student pathways to achievement. Social Sciences lead the way for students who are interested in human society and the manner in which people behave and the impact on the world around us. We look forward to this vibrant area of study developing even more programmes and we will keep you posted on the developments! We are confident that students joining us will enjoy gaining knowledge that will serve them well throughout life.

Why did you read the above? The answer to this and many other questions lie in the Social Sciences!

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE TEAM

## COMING SOON - OUR NEW VLE

de Ferrers Specialist Technology College will soon be getting the next generation learning platform - FROG.



There will be far more for you to do as students and parents, with news feeds, access to timetables, revision resources, a virtual planner and lots more.

We would like to know your views:

- What would you like to have on the new VLE?
- What features do you think you need to push your learning forward?

You can e-mail suggestions to: [frog@deferrers.mg4l.net](mailto:frog@deferrers.mg4l.net)

# PSFA

What does the PSFA actually do? You may well ask.

Our primary, but not exclusive, purpose is to raise funds.

Every penny of profit that we make sooner or later is used to purchase items for the college. Every time you attend an event, not only are you having a good time but the money you spend will go towards something which most likely will benefit your son or daughter at some stage during their time at de Ferrers. Do they sit on the benches and tables outside at Dove? We bought them. Do they play rugby at the Year 7-9 Rugby Club at Dove? We bought training vests, rugby balls and tackle bag. Do they attend Geography field trips? We bought flow meters for them to use. Are they involved in drama or music? We have contributed towards the cost of extra staging and amplifiers. Do they use the new fitness suite in the Sports Hall at Trent? We donated £10,000 towards purchase of equipment.

How do we do this? Well, we run the bar at college events such as the Autumn Concert and the Evening of the Arts. We organise bingo nights, quiz nights and the occasional fashion show. We run the Christmas Fair at, yes you've guessed it, at Christmas time! Occasionally we even run celebrity football matches.....

The committee members give their time and energy freely and have a lot of fun in the process. We have sons and daughters in most years from Year 7 right through to the Sixth Form so share a lot of information and experience when we get together. If you would like to find out more about what we do give me a call or leave your name and contact number at either Trent or Dove receptions and I will call you.

Don't forget to check out our webpage in the Parents section of de Ferrers website:  
[http://www.deferrers.com/page\\_viewer.asp?page=PSFA&pid=24](http://www.deferrers.com/page_viewer.asp?page=PSFA&pid=24)

Anita McLean  
Chair  
01283 568201

**PS Duck Race results:**  
Winning numbers: 1st - 829  
2nd - 830 3rd - 135

## BTEC Art & Design

BTEC First Diploma Art and Design students put on their final exhibition of work on May 6th 2009.

Parents, friends, contacts and teachers all came to view. It was a great success. They have been asked to hold a public exhibition in July at Rolleston Church. A big congratulations to all students as they have now all passed the course.



Fifteen Year 12 students attended an Insignia Visit as part of their General Studies course, where they had studied a module on politics. They were given a talk by the Mayor, Liz Staples, explaining the history of the building and also how local government operates. It was an enjoyable afternoon for all.

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## Reading Quiz

The English Curriculum Area has started interactive quizzes to encourage students to read and test their knowledge and understanding for fun and a chance of winning a prize. This year we have held quizzes on Tom Becker's 'Nightrap', Derek Landy's 'Skulduggery Pleasant' and Stephanie Meyer's 'Twilight.' The quizzes are growing in popularity and the next reading quiz will be on 'Breaking Dawn' also by Stephanie Meyer.

Elina Baker reviewed the quiz: The 'Twilight' quiz took place on Monday 27th April; at the quiz there was a range of students from all year groups. For the quiz we used the Quizdom handsets which meant you had to answer the questions as quickly as possible. The quiz consisted of thirty multiple choice questions. Some of the questions were easy and some were difficult, so you had to have read the novel closely. I found the quiz fun and enjoyable.

Copies of 'Breaking Dawn' can be borrowed from the Learning Centre.



## Website Newsfeeds

You can now get all of the latest de Ferrers news sent straight to your phone or computer, as an RSS feed. Click on the hotbox at the top of our website homepage to find out what to do.

Also, you will soon be able to watch information channels about the college on [www.deferrersstv.com](http://www.deferrersstv.com). There will be revision clips, student movies and projects, pathways information and a lot more.



**The winners of the Twilight competition were Hannah Lewis, Dara Laughlin, Georgie Deaville and Laura Moss.**  
*Competition devised by Hannah Snelling.*

## Grub and Gruesome!

There have been some strange goings-on in the Humanities rooms on Dove this last month: porridge and portraits, swords and stew, castles and cake, along with lots of blood-curdling execution scenes, bloodied axes and heads without bodies.

Yes, it has been the Year 8 Civil War History Challenge and this year's entries have been particularly detailed, especially in the food and execution departments. Students have researched their topics so well the realism has been astounding. So much so that Judge Mrs. Wakelin was overcome with the vapours when she saw the winning artefact entry. It was a grisly reproduction of Oliver Cromwell's severed head, complete with

bones and 'food tube', meticulously recreated by Elliot Collins of 8C2.

Mrs Wakelin was equally moved by the winning project entry, a Civil War diary written by Alex Bird of 8P1. The stylish and poetic replica showed great warmth and attention to detail. A wonderful and worthy winner.

Runners-up include Adam Woodward, Edward Hardiman, Liam Farrell, Liam Chapman, Isobel Wood, Isabelle Fisher, Daniel Lee, Josh Rutland and Harry Daisley.



## Project Tanzania 2010

**Since the last term newsletter, the team has made some significant progress in reaching its Tanzania Grand Total!**

The Soul Evening was a great success, a night thoroughly enjoyed by all with well over £1000 raised for the project, a fantastic boost to the team savings. We'd like to say a huge thank you to all who supported us on the night!

Taking every opportunity possible to bag pack in our local supermarkets, the team booked more places in Sainsbury's and Marks and Spencer's. Both of these events were highly profitable, raising us nearly £900 for the two days.

Taking a role in the Dove Valley Community Project's annual Hatton festival alongside the de Ferrers PSFA, the team helped sell the thousand Duck Race tickets and along with the tombala on the day, the students were able to take home £374. With between approximately 2000 people attending, it was a very popular event!

The next ten week term of the 'Tanzania 200 club' is also about to begin. The first round paid out £500 to the lucky winners and helped us raise £1500 for the team total! If you would like to take part or help out in some other way, send an e-mail to [tanzania@deferrers.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:tanzania@deferrers.staffs.sch.uk).

The next big event to put on your calendars is the Race Night, being held in Trent Hall on Saturday 27th June. Tickets will soon be available



from the college offices, priced at £2. With a licensed bar and food available, it is set to be a fun-filled night for both students and adults. You can place bets on tote races on your own or as a group and even buy a horse prior to the event and sample the champagne lifestyle in the owners' enclosure.

Finally, in Coopers Square car park on Saturday 5th June, the team has organised a charity Car Wash. Throughout the day they will be there to wash your cars whilst you relax and shop! They hope to see you there!



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## Visit to Limousin

**At the beginning of May, a group of Year 9 Linguists went to the beautiful French region of Limousin where they spent a week immersed in the French language and culture.**

All of the students took part in a number of language classes and an excursion to Oradour-sur-Glane which was devastated during the Second World

War. This enabled them to use the new skills and confidence that they gained.

De Ferrers also won the Inter-School Rounders Tournament. (Which was a miracle considering that Mr Martin played too!)

All in all, the group enjoyed the week in Limoges and have gained a lot from the experience. Well done and congratulations to the students on their positive attitude and hard work!

## SPORT

### Basketball

The Sixth Form Basketball Team has finally been crowned Staffordshire county champions after beating Blake Valley in a thrilling final 84 – 66.

*Well done to all the players on a super victory.*



The Year 9 Basketball Team has also reached the County Final after beating Haywood High school 33 – 19. The final will be played in June along with the Year 10 team members who are also waiting to play their final.

*A very successful year for Basketball!*



### Netball

#### U16 Burton and District Netball League Champions

The team was undefeated all season. All played extremely well and team spirit was excellent. The captaincy was shared around giving all an opportunity to lead. An excellent season!

*Well done, girls.*



Back row - left to right - Kirsty Lane, Jenny Heathcote, Paris Hemming, Hannah Smith, Freddie Ford  
Bottom row - left to right - Hannah Ward, Elouise Freitas, Katie Robinson

You may remember that in the last newsletter item we told you that DeFJO were about to participate in the Regional Festival of Music for Youth in Birmingham. After a superb performance, which produced many great comments from the adjudicators, we were delighted to receive a letter inviting the band to play at the National Festival at the Adrian Boult Hall in Birmingham on 10th July. This really is a fantas-

## Music Notes

tic honour, and confirms DeFJO as one of the top school jazz orchestras in the UK.

The rock band D-Fused, whose members are all in Year 12 at de Ferrers, recently won the regional heat of the Staffordshire Rocks competition at Thomas Alleyne's School in

### Football

Each year group was entered into the Annual 7-a-side Football Competition at Pingle High school. All year groups played in group stages of the competition, with the top two teams to play in an extended final.

The only successful year group to make it to the Finals was the year 7 team, coached by Mr Campbell. They eventually went on to win the competition with a 1-0 victory in the final. Congratulations to all involved this year with the football.

### Cricket

The cricket season has recently started and fixtures are coming through thick and fast, with both the Year 8 and Year 9 teams having already played two games each. It has been an excellent start for the Year 8 team members, coached by Mr Lovell, who have won both of their opening league games, including beating their arch rivals, John Taylor! This success hasn't been shared by the Year 9 team, who have lost both of their opening games.

#### Results:

##### Year 8:

de Ferrers (177-1) beat William Allit (68-8) (16 overs)  
de Ferrers (54 all out) beat John Taylor (52-8) (16 overs)

##### Year 9:

Thomas Alleyne's (82-5) beat de Ferrers (72-6) (16 overs)  
(County Cup) Wolstanton (76-7) beat de Ferrers (58-7) (16 overs)

*Massive congratulations to Mr S Taylor on finishing 12th out of 381 competitors in the 'Fellsman 100km race'! That's right, 100km! The race is across the Yorkshire Dales and involves using a map and compass to navigate your route. Mr Taylor completed the course in a very respectable fourteen hours. So if any staff or students fancy having a go at this next year, or for information on similar cross country races, please see the expert, Mr S Taylor! Well done!*

Uttoxeter. They beat off stiff competition from other bands in the area, winning a place in the Grand Final later in the term, as well as a small guitar amp for the Music Curriculum Area. Well done, guys (and thank you)!

Finally for now, rehearsals are in full swing for this year's summer production, 'Little Shop of Horrors,' which takes place in the penultimate week of term. Tickets will be available shortly after half term - keep an eye out for details.

## ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE!

A recent trip to Shakespeare's Globe theatre in London proved extremely useful for Year 13 English classes last month as the students were invited for a tour around the famous theatre, as well as a private workshop with an actor of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

The students, currently studying 'Measure for Measure' and 'A Winter's Tale,' had the valuable opportunity to experience first-hand, how the plays would have been staged at the time of writing as well as in the present day, and the chance to experiment with performing sections from Shakespeare's Measure for Measure, something which is difficult to achieve in the classroom.

This gave students a chance to gain a better understanding of the structure, rhythm and meaning of one of the play's key speeches, an experience which was both enjoyable and useful for the fast approaching A2 examinations. The students also visited London's Imperial War Museum, which was for many, a moving and illuminating experience allowing a more in-depth insight into various forms of World War One literature being studied as part of the current A Level course.

Just to complete cultural activities, some of the above Year 13 students saw 'A Winter's Tale' at the Courtyard Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon - and that was a fantastic production too!

Key Stage 4 students need not feel left out as they will have been on a trip to see 'An Inspector Calls' at Nottingham by the time this newsletter is released. We are delighted to give students the opportunity to see high quality live theatre performances as part of the college's commitment to enrichment opportunities.

## de Ferrers

Specialist Technology College

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