

de Ferrers.COMmunique

Number 040 Summer Half Term 2008

COMMUNICATING THROUGHOUT **DE FERRERS** SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

principal@deferrers



Dear Parents

The assessment season is with us all again. Nearly four hundred students

took their SATS exams this year with both Year 9 and some Year 8 involved. Their behaviour and attendance were excellent and we look forward to some outstanding results later this term.

Year 11 have transferred onto their Revision Timetable as GCSEs begin. Year 11 have also shown a very responsible approach to these important examinations. Year 13 leave us this Friday and Year 12 have limited study leave.

I would like to add a personal thank you to Year 13 for their contribution to de Ferrers over the past seven years and wish them all the very best for the future.

The new sports hall is complete and we are awaiting the 'official handover' next half-term. It is truly a magnificent addition to the resources of de Ferrers. There are many other smaller premises projects planned for the Summer as we constantly strive to offer students the best possible learning environment.

We are, naturally, delighted to be designated an International Baccalaureate World School. In a record year of Sixth Form interest from our students in Year 11, we believe the new post-16 curriculum will allow us to move from strength to strength.

Our Parents' Focus Group has worked very hard on your behalf this year. I thank them for their contributions to important college developments.

M A York
Principal

International Baccalaureate

Following a rigorous accreditation process, de Ferrers Specialist Technology College has been authorised as an IBO World School and will deliver the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, starting in September 2008.

The IBDP is a two year course which many students consider as an excellent alternative to 'A' levels. It will be attractive to students who have enjoyed studying a wide range of subjects at GCSE and want to continue doing this post 16. It is an academically challenging and balanced programme of education, with final examinations that prepare students for success at university and life beyond.

The programme will be taught to Years 12 and 13 and is open to all students who meet the entry criteria for post 16 studies. We will, of course, continue to ensure the delivery of a curriculum that meets the needs of all our students; the full range of AS and A levels will still be offered as well as a growing range of Applied and BTEC courses.

The IBDP is an internationally recognised university entry

qualification which was originally designed in the 1960s. This prestigious international award is recognised in over 100 countries throughout the world, including many of the top schools in England. The diploma programme is taken by over 30,000 students world wide and is now recognised by many universities as a highly respected qualification and excellent preparation for university.



for Children, Schools and Families. All our members of staff who will be delivering this programme have already attended or will be attending training courses so that they are fully prepared to deliver the new course.

We really do believe that the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme will offer some of our students the chance to study a much broader range of subjects post 16 than is currently possible. We also welcome the opportunity to place a real emphasis on the ideals of international understanding and responsible citizenship, which are core values of the IBDP. Students following this course are expected to show how they can offer skills and services back to the society in which they live and this fits with our firm belief that the development of young people is not just about what happens in the classroom.

If you would like to find out more about the IBDP at de Ferrers please contact Mr P A Galloway 01283 239936 or e-mail de Ferrers office@deferrers.staffs.sch.uk

De Ferrers has the full support of the Local Authority in developing and providing this programme and indeed, it forms a vital element in the Local Authority's 14-19 Action Plan. The IBDP is also being promoted by the Department

de Ferrers Students Celebrate National Recognition...again!



Following last year's win by Sinae Hudson and Sonham Vadher, the high standard work produced by de Ferrers students was once again recognised this year with Emily Lakin and Emma Margetson receiving runners up awards for their designs to promote the Fairtrade brand.

St Paul's in London provided the venue for the PrintIT! 2008 Awards Ceremony, which saw Year 10 de Ferrers students, Emily and Emma, receiving their prizes of digital cameras worth over £130 each. PrintIT! is a major initiative to encourage young people to embark on careers in the UK printing industry. This is a joint venture between the printing industry (led by Picon, the business support organisation for suppliers to the printing industry), the Specialist Schools Trust and leading charity, The Fairtrade Foundation, which is targeted at Year 10 students studying GCSE Graphics Products and Product Design.

Being short-listed was a significant achievement by Emily and Emma in view of stiff competition from over 23,000 entries; additionally, a further sixteen students were awarded certificates of merit, recognising the quality of their work. The original 23,000 entries were submitted by more than 500 schools and of these, de Ferrers was one of only seventeen top schools short-listed, reflecting both the high standards set by the college and those achieved by our students. I think we can safely say...de Ferrers got talent!

Further details of the competition and awards can be found at www.printit.org.uk.



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SKI TRIP TO AUSTRIA

Once again we have had another successful skiing trip. The students had a wonderful time in the very snowy resort of Grossarl in the Amade Ski region. With the snow reaching depths of two metres in places the conditions lent themselves to spectacular skiing and unbelievable scenery.

During the week the students were able to ski from the top gondola station to the bottom. In the evenings the students were kept entertained with swimming, a Pizza Night, an Ice-cream Evening and our traditional presentation disco and karaoke party. Our top skiers this year were Ricky Shilvoek and Siobhan Docksey. Miss Port won the staff race. Several photographs of the trip have been displayed in college.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Burton Open Award



The 2008 expeditions are now well underway. Over the May Bank Holiday, sixty-six 'Silver' candidates took to the hills in the Peak District for their practice expedition. Our new tracking system was in full operation over the three days. Once the thirty-five foot aerial was erected, technology took over and leaders were able to track the movements of each group, and even speak to them if necessary!

A week later it was the turn of the 'Bronzes' and their training weekend

was a huge success. Ninety-six candidates took over the campsite at Wetton. On day one each group completed a six kilometre accompanied walk and learned how to map read in the humid sunshine. They returned to camp and leaders taught tent pitching, rucksack packing and camp craft. On day two, technology came to the fore as the groups were sent out on another six kilometre walk, this time without leaders.



Expeditions planned for



June are Bronze Practice and Silver Assessment. *Well done to all our de Ferrers candidates.*

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE ART AND DESIGN

May 8th was a major event for the college holding its first exhibition of BTEC First Art and Design work from the first cohort of Year 11 to achieve the qualification. The exhibition showed students' specialisms in Fine Art, Textiles, Photography, Graphics, Print and Craft.

All students are expected to pass with one hundred per cent gaining the equivalent of two GCSEs at C or above, and many students gaining Merit and Distinction grades.



Sue Mayfield

Award winning author Sue Mayfield, paid an inspirational visit to Dove campus on Wednesday 14th May. She gave talks to classes throughout the day, as well as signing books and having pictures taken with students. She spoke to the students about what inspires her to write books and answered any questions we had. She also described what her life is like as an author. Her visit definitely encouraged us to buy her books and read for once!

Rachel Freeman
9P4

G+T Update

The staff responsible for Gifted and Talented students would love to hear from anyone who has been successful in any event, both within and outside college, especially at county or national level.

Notable successes so far, involve the following: 'Defused', a Year 11 rock band fronted by Max Kendall, beat off stiff competition to win a place in the final of the 2008 Staffordshire Rocks competition which will take place on June 26th at the Stafford Gatehouse; Kane Hemmings in Year 11, a gifted footballer, has signed a contract with Glasgow Rangers, and Ellen Holmes, also in Year 11, will be performing in a new show called 'Endangered' at the Barbican Theatre, Plymouth, in August this year after auditioning with YMT:UK, an organisation for the performing arts. Good luck to you all.

June will also see Mr Grady holding two maths sessions for parents, which will uncover the mysteries of Interactive Whiteboards, Virtual Learning Environments and online assessments.

Can all G&T students please register with the YG&T website (www.ygt.dcsf.gov.uk) and check it regularly as there are regular updates and notices about residential courses etc.

If you would like more information, or help with applications please see Mrs Glover or Mr Grady.

KEY STAGE 3 TRIPS

During the last few weeks we have taken the Year 7 and Year 8 students on their Summer term trips. These optional trips are arranged outside college hours and opportunities for the students to perhaps visit somewhere new or try a new skill. This year the Year 7 students had a very enjoyable evening at Waterworld in Stoke while the Year 8 students tried their hand at ice-skating at the Nottingham Arena. Both trips were very successful. Year 9 will soon be receiving their letters for their end of year trip to Alton Towers. As with the other trips it is hoped that we can take one hundred students.

Reading Connects

The shortlisted titles for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2008 have been announced. These are regarded as the best books published for young people over the last year.

Seven children's writers, including two previous winners and a first-time novelist, go head to head for the 2008 CILIP Carnegie Medal. Their stories take young readers on exhilarating journeys across two millennia and three continents that are guaranteed to challenge their perceptions of both past and present.

KEVIN CROSSLEY-HOLLAND - Gatty's Tale

LINZI GLASS - Ruby Red

ELIZABETH LAIRD - Crusade

TANYA LANDMAN - Apache

PHILIP REEVE - Here Lies Arthur

MEG ROSOFF - What I Was

These are all available to borrow from both Learning Centres now! If you want to write a review of the books on-line, submit your review to www.ckg.org.uk/2008awards and find out more about the books, authors and previous Carnegie winners.

PSFA

Fourteen teams enjoyed our first Family Quiz Night on 11th April. Neal Upchurch proved to be a great Quiz Master and everyone had a good evening. We raised £146.48 which will be added to the coffers to kit out part of our new Sports Hall. First prize went to "Bonhams & Stores", second prize was awarded to "The 4 Musketeers" and third prize was won by "The Crunch Frogs." Well done to them and to the other family teams. We are hoping to hold another Family Quiz in September.

Our Family Disco and Karaoke evening scheduled for 9th May was a huge disappointment. Only one ticket was sold in the whole college and therefore the event was called off. We had a great evening planned but obviously it didn't appeal to you. Never mind, we tried.

We sincerely hope you will support our next event which is to be another Charity Football Match, when our fantastic football team will once again meet the stars of HOLLYOAKS! Yes, we've managed to persuade them to come and play again to see if they can beat us! Make a note in your diary for SUNDAY 15th JUNE. Tickets will be on sale soon - first come, first served, so be sure you get your ticket order in quickly.

Kind regards
Pat Thorpe - Chair

SPORT

FOOTBALL

Cup final: Pingle 1 – 1 de Ferrers
The Year 10 District Football Final was finally played three weeks ago against tough rivals, Pingle. The match was the 'game of the season' with end to end action. Pingle took an early lead from a controversial penalty decision. However, a superb twenty yard left footed lob from Jamie Salt pulled de Ferrers level just before half time. Both teams had opportunities to win the game in the second half, but neither team could capitalise on their chances. The game went into extra time at 1-1 and finished at that score line. There is no penalty shoot out in the final, so therefore the Cup is shared. A cracking game to watch and a super end to the Year 10 season. Well done to the whole team!

BASKETBALL

County Sup Semi-Final: Cheslyn Hall 28 – 76 de Ferrers
The Year 11 super team continued their winning season by easily brushing aside Cheslyn Hall High School in the Semi-Final of the County Cup. It was a moderate performance by the undefeated de Ferrers squad as the competition was well below the standard they were expecting. The final is to be played some time in June, hopefully in de Ferrers' new sports hall. An incredible season, lads, well done and only one game away from the County Cup!

CRICKET

The cricket season is now underway and it has been a relatively good start for de Ferrers. It has been an excellent start to the season for the Year 7 team coached by Mr Lovall, winning both its opening league game and the first round of the County Cup. This hasn't been the case for the Year 8 team so far. The team, coached by Mr Birt, has lost both of its opening league games and has also made a first round exit from the County Cup. The Year 10 team, coached by Mr Hand has also lost its opening league game, narrowly beaten by a very strong John Taylor team.

Results:
Year 7 (League – de Ferrers beat Abbot Beyne)
(County Cup 1st round – de Ferrers beat Oldfields)
Year 8 (League – Abbot Beyne beat de Ferrers)
(League – John Taylor beat de Ferrers)
(County Cup 1st round – Friary beat de Ferrers)
Year 9 (League – de Ferrers beat John Taylor by default)
Year 10 (League – John Taylor beat de Ferrers)

ATHLETICS

De Ferrers has entered into the Nation Athletics competition and the results of the first round are as follows:

Junior Boys

Posn	Points	School
1	347	De Ferrers Specialist Technology College, Burton-on-Trent
2	338	Chase Terrace Technology College, Burntwood
3	320	The Friary School, Lichfield
4	301	Newcastle-under-Lyme School, Newcastle-under-Lyme
5	206	Kingsmead Technology College, Cannock
6	179	Blake Valley Technology College, Cannock
7	159	Hagley Park Sports College, Rugeley
8	131	Cheslyn Hay Sport and Community High School, Walsall

Inter Boys

Posn	Points	School
1	361	The Friary School, Lichfield
2	297	Newcastle-under-Lyme School, Newcastle-under-Lyme
3	291	Chase Terrace Technology College, Burntwood
4	279	Cheslyn Hay Sport and Community High School, Walsall
5	265	De Ferrers Specialist Technology College, Burton-on-Trent
6	255	Kingsmead Technology College, Cannock
7	171	Hagley Park Sports College, Rugeley

Junior Girls

Posn	Points	School
1	337	Chase Terrace Technology College, Burntwood
2	280	Newcastle-under-Lyme School, Newcastle-under-Lyme
3	216	De Ferrers Specialist Technology College, Burton-on-Trent
4	196	The Friary School, Lichfield
5	172	Cheslyn Hay Sport and Community High School, Walsall
6	153	Hagley Park Sports College, Rugeley
7	147	Blake Valley Technology College, Cannock
8	64	Kingsmead Technology College, Cannock

Inter Girls

Posn	Points	School
1	319	Newcastle-under-Lyme School, Newcastle-under-Lyme
2	295	De Ferrers Specialist Technology College, Burton-on-Trent
3	203	The Friary School, Lichfield
4	179	Chase Terrace Technology College, Burntwood
5	164	Hagley Park Sports College, Rugeley
6	99	Kingsmead Technology College, Cannock
7	92	Cheslyn Hay Sport and Community High School, Walsall

Congratulations to all the athletes who represented the school. Everyone worked really hard for the team and produced some excellent results!

RUGBY

Year 7 Rugby – Staines Rugby Football Club

Saturday 3rd May saw the Year 7 Rugby team travel to Staines RFC to compete for the chance to play at the home of Rugby - Twickenham.

The league stage saw de Ferrers play against opposition of the very highest standard and each player, many of whom had only been playing a few months, rose to the challenge of the day with the best rugby they had every played and getting better and better as the day went on. With four very close, well played games, de Ferrers was unable to progress to the Final, but as a consolation the players were able to watch the annual Army v Navy game at Twickenham amongst a crowd of over 50,000 people.

Well done to:

Dan Shaw, Dan Thompson, Ben Ward, T J Ward, Jack Styne, Grady Brooks, Lewis Doherty, Jackie Waddington, Phoebe Jay, Raida Ali
Alex Bird, Jamie Jenkins, Matt Robinson, Liam Collett, Connor Ellis

DANCE

The Dance Club has had quite a busy term with several performances taking place. The KS3 students performed in the recent Spring Concert while a selection of the KS4 Dancers performed in the Unite Dance Festival at the Brewhouse Arts Centre.

In April, members of Burton College brought their annual tour to Dove Campus. After working with the Dance Club in a workshop during the morning they then performed their tour pieces to the Year 9 girls and Dance club. It was rewarding to see ex-students showing their talents on Dove stage.

Dance club has now changed its focus as we prepare for the annual summer show. Friday evenings now move to the sounds of the 80's!

ACTIVITY DAYS FOR KS3

During the Summer term all of the students at KS3 will take part in a variety of days.

Thursday 22nd May will see Year 9 taking part in an "Eco-Footprints" day that will help them to understand their impact on the environment.

In June the Year 8 students will have a Health Day that will involve both project/research work and several sporting events. It is hoped that the Basketball Tournament will take place in the new Sports Hall on Trent.

On July 9th, 10th and 11th the Year 7 students will have three days following an alternative curriculum. They will go on visits to both Bosworth and Conkers and also have one day in college where in tutor groups they will be involved in a Gardening Challenge. The aim is to transform an area of land on Dove Campus into our own "Chelsea Flower Show". This is a new challenge that we want the Year 7 students to enjoy and take pride in achieving. We have approached some local companies for sponsorship and we are awaiting their replies.

DOVE VOICE

This group of eighteen students continues to be busy on Dove working with staff to put together new ideas and suggestions for the benefit of the students and the college. Their work is valued and they have recently met with the new catering manager to discuss ways of expanding the lunchtime menu and provision of food on Dove Campus. We are sure their views will bring about some exciting changes to what is on offer and how it is served.

Music Notes

We're now on the hectic run-up to the end of the year with rehearsals for our production of 'Back to the 80s' in full swing. It's proving to be something of a nostalgia trip for Mrs Glover & Mr Aston (Mr Goldstein's too young!) and we hope that it'll be the same for you. Tickets will be on sale soon after half term, so dust off your leg-warmers & shoulder pads in preparation...

The Spring Concert in April once again proved a great success, with soloists and ensembles, made up of mostly Dove students, showing off their talents. Dancers, musicians and actors provided a great evening of variety with music from 'High School Musical', 'Grease', 'The Simpsons', Enya, and much more.

Souled Out played their final gig of the year over the Bank Holiday Weekend, as they made a triumphant return to Conkers. Following the success of last year's 'Local Live Aid' event, they were invited back as the headline band. People in the packed amphitheatre were on their feet as Souled Out first performed a tribute to the music of The Commitments, followed by a set as the backing band for two local singers as the Blues Brothers.

There is only one further event to inform you of at the moment. DeFJO will make their final appearance of the 2007-8 season at the Tutbury Music Festival, in the grounds of Tutbury Castle on the afternoon of Sunday 13th July.

Thanks again for all your support.

de Ferrers

Specialist Technology College

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