

de Ferrers.COMmunique

Number 039 Easter 2008

COMMUNICATING THROUGHOUT **DE FERRERS** SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

principal@deferrers



Dear Parents

This term has been one of the shortest I can remember. Trying to complete all the tasks, normally completed in a wider time frame has been a challenge to every one involved.

The recent training days for staff have been used to tackle the tremendous change in curriculum and examinations qualifications that de Ferrers, and all schools nationally, face over the next five years. Our work focused on changes to the Key Stage 3 curriculum, and Year 7 in particular, in readiness for September 2008.

I would like to thank Year 9 parents for the exceptional attendance at our 'Pathways' evening. The event was a great success!

Enjoy the Easter break.

M A York
Principal

PLEASE NOTE
College
re-opens on
Thursday
3rd April 2008

DE FERRERS RECOGNISED BY THE SSAT AS ONE OF THE MOST IMPROVED SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY

De Ferrers, along with a number of specialist schools and academies, has been recognised by the Specialist School and Academies Trust (SSAT) for making outstanding improvements to its GCSE results in 2007.

359 schools (out of a total of 2,886) were invited to attend a celebratory dinner in London on 26th February 2008.

Commenting on the schools' excellent achievements, Elizabeth Reid, Chief Executive of the SSAT, said:

"I would like to congratulate these schools for achieving outstanding improvements to their GCSE results. It is important that we recognise success in the education system as it is the product of hard work, good leadership and innovative approaches to teaching and learning. This is the success that enables more young people to reach their potential."

"Good schools have a story to tell and the specialist schools programme supports the identification of what works and how it can be replicated, so all schools are making improvements year after year."

De Ferrers was singled out for its on-going improvement in G.C.S.E. results between 2004-7. This includes not only the overall 5 A*-C but 5 A*-C including English and Maths.

London Calling for our young Mathematicians

The de Ferrers team, comprising Robert Stanyon and Eleanor Shaw in Year 9 and Mitchell Taylor and Amelia Hunter in Year 8, competed in the Regional Final of the UK Mathematics Trust Team Challenge. After a gruelling three hours of mathematics they beat off the challenge of twenty nine East Midlands schools to win the regional title.

Their reward is a place in the National Final which takes place in June in London. We wish them and Mr Tyson, who will be accompanying the team, all the very best in London.

GAMBIA APPEAL

After a very busy term we finally handed over a cheque for £1,300 to the representatives of the Gambia Deaf Children's Fund.

The Year 7 students worked extremely hard to make this event a successful one and we have decided that this will be

our annual fund raising focus for Year 7 from now on. A photograph album was also presented so that the children and teachers in the Gambia could see the work and enthusiasm put in by our students.

We are very proud of them and hope that they feel that they accomplished something very special. We would like to thank the parents, relations and friends of the Year 7 students who helped in making this a successful event.



READING CONNECTS

2008 is the National Year of Reading. Try the website to find out what's going on! www.yearofreading.org.uk

Reading is everywhere and it's not just about books: you can read anything, anywhere and anytime.

What do you like to read?
Where do you like to read it?

Reading is: newspapers, magazines, comics, graphic novels, short stories, braille, subtitles in films, text message, websites, online games,

COMPETITION – GET CAUGHT...READING!

Take a photo of yourself, friends or family reading or sharing a book with others. It can be a book, newspaper, magazine, recipe, car manual, cereal packet.... anything that you get caught reading! Entries to the Learning Centre by 30th April 2008.



computer screens, blogs, signs, emails, audio books, podcasts, websites on your mobile, storytelling. Any more?

And you can do it anywhere:

At home, at work, on the tube, on the bus, in the park, cafes, waiting for the doctor, in bed, at the station, in the bath, in the garden, in the supermarket, in an internet café. Any more?

Try reading something different or somewhere different.

Read a book on the underground, a newspaper article online, or a short story in a magazine. Read a manga cartoon in a café. Download a podcast. Email links from online articles to friends. Read lyrics. Start up a wiki where you and others can write stories.

Year 7 History Challenge

The History Challenge to de Ferrers was introduced five years ago, and staff have consistently been impressed and often amazed by the sheer quality of what is produced by Year 7 students, when all we give them is a title: The Romans.

However, the creativity and effort applied to this project has never been so high as this year! The current Year 7 have raised the bar to such a level that we even had to invent a new category to celebrate what has been achieved. This is precisely the reason why History teachers don't judge the History challenge - it's just too difficult! This year, that honour fell to Mr O'Hare and Mrs Hulcoop.

The winners of the Year 7 History Challenge 2008 were Laura Bailey, and Carla Holt.

A collection of the very best from this year's History Challenge is on display in Dove reception.

How to save documents at home

When you want to save in any application at home to open at school be it MS Word, MS Works Word or even Open Office, you need to do the following.

File, Save As, when the area you want to save in comes up and you have given your document a name, go to the box below where you named the document and select the dropdown arrow within the box on the right hand

side. It then opens another menu below it. Within this menu you need to find the following selection; "Word 97-2003 & 6.0/95 - RTF" and select this. You can then save to your selected area, and when you come into college this will then open on the college network after you are logged on.

Further information with screen shots will be posted on the VLE in due course.

INSIGNIA EVENT

Eight Year 12 students, along with Miss Andjelkovic and Mr Galloway, went to an Insignia event at the Town Hall where the students were given a talk about the Council Chambers and their history.

They also were able to have a look at the treasures that were on show, from the Mace to the Mayoral chains. All the students really enjoyed the visit, especially when one of them was dressed in the Mayor's regalia.

PEER MENTORING COURSE

During March 13th and 14th 29 of our Year 7 and 11 students took part in a Peer Mentoring course at Branston Golf and Country Club. The two day course was run by the Staffordshire Youth Service. The students looked at many issues that affect young people and at how to help and support people of their own age. From the course the students will receive their "Young Achievers Award."

The Year 7 students will be helping to support and work with the new intake from September. Some of the work will begin during the summer term as they help with the transition work.

The Year 11 students who will be in the Sixth Form will support the Year 10 students as they embark on examination courses.

The students certainly gained a lot from the course and equally the course tutors were very impressed with their approach to this important initiative.

PUPILS SCHOOLWEAR
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Stockists of Brownie, Guide, Scout, Cub, Beaver and Rainbow Uniforms.

Ballet wear/Ballroom/Tap/Jazz
de Ferrers college and gameswear always in stock
Junior schoolwear also available

Tutbury Youth Club

(Youth Service)
Volunteer Treasurer needed.
Two hours per month.
Please contact: Denise Butler 01283 239075



Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates are busy learning First Aid, expedition food, how to cook outdoors and expedition equipment. The 113 candidates have undergone several weeks of intensive training in preparation for their summer expeditions.



Sixty two Silver candidates recently spent a day orienteering on Cannock Chase, during which they learned how to find points on a map using a compass and measuring distances by pacing. They will be using these skills on their practice expedition in May.

UK Mathematics Trust Intermediate Challenge

A record breaking thirty seven of our most able mathematicians aged from 14 to 16 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Challenge earlier in the term.

This is an individual competition with the students attempting to answer twenty five very demanding multiple choice questions within an hour.

Twenty three students gained either gold, silver or bronze certificates putting them in the top 20% in the country.

Special mention should be made of the performances of Paul Stanyon and James Ward both of whom have been selected to compete in the follow on round. Paul in the Mathematics Olympiad and James in the strangely named Pink Kangaroo! We wish them well for the future events.

ROCK ON!

Over the past few weeks, select students from years 7-11 have embarked on a journey they will never forget. Upon arrival at the Nottingham Rock Climbing Centre, some students were fazed by the precarious looking rock climber, hanging from a single rock, whose picture serves as the logo for the club. Emily and I relished the opportunity for a challenge.

During the three week period, we all learnt a variety of skills, including traversing (a fundamental skill for all aspiring rock climbers), belaying (a tedious yet essential section of the course), bouldering (climbing without rope support), and rope climbing. However, as I'm sure the rest of our group would agree, we found that one of the most enjoyable parts of the course was listening to our extremely enthusiastic rock climbing guru, Paul, speak passionately about the importance of rope tying!

The entire group concurred that the singing on the coach was of the highest standard, and that it will be sorely missed. We would like to say a heartfelt thank you, to Mr Brown, Miss Lynchehan, Mr Hand, Mr Orchard and Mr Grady, not to forget Anton and Paul the climbing instructors, for providing us with an educational, fun filled three week course. If you are interested in furthering your rock-climbing horizons, then please, do not hesitate for one second, to contact Claire Wood (11.11) (self-proclaimed champion boulderer) or Emily Morris (11.7) (self-proclaimed champion belayer).

by Claire Wood and Emily Morris



PSFA

We raised just over £96 at our Cash Bingo evening on 6th March. It was great to see some new faces and everyone had a very pleasant time. Our next Bingo session is on Thursday 22nd May – why not come and join us? The more players we have the bigger the prizes. We don't quite compete with Mecca Bingo yet, but it's just a matter of time !!!

Please come along to our Family Quiz Night on 11th April. This will be a fun evening for all the family. You should by now have received an entry form via "pupil post" and we are looking forward to a great evening. Please send your completed forms back to college as soon as possible.

Another family event is on Friday 9th May. This will be a Family Disco and Karaoke night. Mr Hand has kindly offered his expertise with the Karaoke machine and Mr Wilson will be demonstrating his considerable circus skills. More details after Easter, but please make a note in your diary. We look forward to seeing you there.

The PSFA committee is working hard organising these events and cannot make them successful without your support. Please consider coming along to at least one of the above events – your PSFA needs you!

Before Christmas we sent out details of a very simple way to raise funds for our college. It seems that no-one (except committee members) is using this option, which will cost you absolutely nothing and will raise funds.

When shopping online log on to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and you will find hundreds of your favourite sites who will donate cash to our PSFA. Please give it a try.

Also try a new search engine – www.easysearch.org.uk – every time you do a search via this site it will donate 1p to our cause. Now I know that 1p isn't very much, but apparently the average person does around ten searches at a time so that would raise 10p for our funds; if 500 of you do that it would raise £50 – if we could raise that each week think how it would mount up. Please consider it, it takes no longer to purchase or search via these sites and it will all add up and make a difference.

We have exhausted our supply of Raffle Prizes and are now having to buy prizes for our events. Do you have anything lurking in a cupboard that you would consider donating for us to use? Obviously the more prizes we have to buy, the smaller our profit will be. We would be very grateful.

Hope you all have an enjoyable Easter break and we look forward to seeing you at future events.

Kind regards
Pat Thorpe
PSFA Chair

SPORT

BASKETBALL

The Basketball League has now finished for another year. The de Ferrers Sixth Form team and Year 9 team could not progress further in the County Cup Competition. Both teams were beaten by Blake Valley High School. *Congratulations on getting this far!*

The undefeated Year 11 team members continued their unbeaten run in the league with victories over Robert Sutton and William Allitt. The new league champions are also waiting to play their semi-final match in the County Cup, with high expectations of yet another County win.

Well done boys, a superb season!!

RESULTS:

SIXTH FORM:

- (Friendly) de Ferrers (32 – 50) Paulet
- (County Cup) King Ed VI (56 – 57) de Ferrers
- (County Cup SF) Blake Valley (100 – 20) de Ferrers

YEAR 11:

- (League) de Ferrers (90 – 40) Robert Sutton
- (League) William Allitt (14 – 80) de Ferrers
- (League) de Ferrers (146 – 60) John Taylor
- (League) John Taylor (28 – 106) de Ferrers
- (League) de Ferrers (Win by default) William Allitt
- (League) de Ferrers (114 – 31) Robert Sutton
- (National Cup) de Ferrers (89 – 39) Leasowes
- (National Cup/County Cup) James Brindley (8 – 89) de Ferrers
- (County Cup QF) de Ferrers (80 – 47) John Fisher

YEAR 10:

- (League) de Ferrers (44 – 43) John Taylor
- (League) Granville (36 – 47) de Ferrers
- (League) de Ferrers (48 – 49) William Allitt
- (League) de Ferrers (51 – 68) Paulet
- (League) de Ferrers (41 – 63) Thomas Alleyne
- (County Cup) King Ed VI (73 – 28) de Ferrers

YEAR 9:

- (County Cup) Codsall Community High (26 – 38) de Ferrers
- (County Cup QF) Blake Valley (60 – 30) de Ferrers

FOOTBALL

Results:

- Year 7: (Coach – Mr Lovell) League: (Played 8, won 5, lost 3)
- Year 8: (Coach – Mr Dolby) League: (Played 7, won 3, lost 4)
- Year 9: (Coach – Mr Baxter) League: (Played 8, won 5, lost 3)
- Year 10: (Coach – Mr Hand) League: (Played 5, won 2, drawn 1, lost 2)
- Year 11: (Coach – Mr Grady) League: (Played 6, won 6)

The highlight of the football league this year was the year 11 team preparing to leave school on a high. The team have been outstanding this season winning six from six, crowning them Burton League Champions.

Also massive congratulations to Kane Hemmings on signing his contract at Glasgow Rangers! Well done and we wish you the best of luck!!

HOCKEY

During the season we have had hockey teams playing in the Burton and District leagues at Shobnall. This year we have had representative teams in the Year 7, Under 14 and Under 16 age groups. The teams have been successful and we have a firm base within the Year 7s from which hockey can develop in the future.

NETBALL

This year we have had netball teams playing in all age groups. The teams have had mixed success but enjoyed a packed season of fixtures. The Year 11s performed extremely well and the other teams won many of their fixtures resulting in their finishing in the top half of the Burton and District Leagues.

Year 11 Netball Team - Undefeated for TWO seasons now - Burton and District Champions - Captained by Luisa Valente - Vice Captain - Erin Hughes



Back Row - Rebecca Brooks, Victoria Jones, Zoe Pelech, Beth Rimmer, Laura Fisher, Sophie Thomas

Front Row - Antonia McMeechan, Luisa Valente, Erin Hughes, Annabelle Hardy

STEP INTO SPORT

The Step into Sport initiative is run by the Youth Sports Trust and focuses on young people giving them opportunities to become involved in sports leadership and volunteering.



de Ferrers Young Ambassadors this year are Natalie Starkey and Kieran Slaney.

On Tuesday 11th March 2008 they were presented with Certificates as they have both completed 100 hours Community Volunteering which gives them their Silver awards - they were the only two to be presented with this award so far.

Congratulations to them both and keep up the good work!

de Ferrers Theatre Buffs!

Year 8 Trip - Frankenstein

Our Year 8 went to see an intriguing production of Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" at the Royal and Dergate Theatre, Northampton on Saturday 8th March.

With superb seats close to the front of the stage, the students had a fantastic time being frightened out of their wits, especially when the monster came onto the stage. The monster was played by a normal actor but appeared ten feet tall! As well as being great entertainment, the play was intellectually challenging with an interwoven plot set in two different times: one based on the original Mary Shelley story and the other in a modern day psychiatric hospital. This wasn't beyond our students though – they were engrossed throughout!

Year 10 Trip – Romeo and Juliet

In the same week our tired but happy English teachers took Year 10 to see Romeo and Juliet at the New Vic Theatre, Stoke. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to see the play just before they start studying it for their GCSE coursework.

The production incorporated lively choreography and music together with superb acting to recount Shakespeare's sad tale of young love amongst warring families. Some students found it a little hard to get to grips with the language but they will undoubtedly benefit from seeing the play live when they come to write up their coursework essays!

de Ferrers

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