



ROSEMARY MUSKER HIGH SCHOOL
'A Specialist School of Technology'
November 2008 Newsletter



The Booktrust Charity

For the second year running the school has worked with the Booktrust Charity to encourage our year 7 students to continue reading for pleasure. As a result, every year 7 student is being given a reading book. They can choose from a selection of thirteen titles which include fiction, non-fiction and poetry. The total value of books donated by the Booktrust is in excess of £1000. On top of this the school received a set of the thirteen titles and a further set of fiction titles worth £150.00. These will be added to the library's catalogue for students to borrow.

All Year 7 students will also receive a free copy of the Department for Children, Schools and Families publication, 'Real Meals'. The book has over 30 versions of classic recipes with colourful, clear instructions and each page is laminated to protect it.



Mrs Aiano
Library

Taster Sessions

The school is hoping to run a few taster sessions in the forthcoming months to encourage parents to gain a better understanding of how they can help improve their child's learning and literacy skills. There may also be an opportunity for parents to study English and gain a qualification at either GCSE or A-level.

Please indicate if you would be interested in taking part in any of these opportunities by contacting the school office and further information will follow.

Portuguese Lessons

Any students and/or parents who would like to learn Portuguese, maybe for a forthcoming holiday, then please contact Mr Rushton or Mr Francisco at the school.

Geography News

Congratulations to Year 10, option group B, April Benton, Stephen Davies, Simona Dudova, Ryan Hutley, Jamuna Limbu, Connor McCartney, Niall Mitchell, Ben Tippet. Your first piece of GCSE Geography coursework was brilliant. Well done! Welcome to Tom Webb – you will be brilliant next time!

Blackthorpe Barn

Blackthorpe Barn are donating a Christmas Tree for the second year. We are now on a long list including Downing Street!! Many thanks to them and remember the barn is well worth a visit for all of your Christmas supplies/decorations. Blackthorpe Barn, c/o Rougham Estate, Bury St Edmunds. Three miles east of Bury St Edmunds, junction 45 on A14. Visit the website www.blackthorpebarn.com. Telephone 01359 270091.



Poppy Appeal

I am delighted to inform you that thanks to the generosity of our students we raised £58.25.



Samaritan's Purse

Shoe Box Appeal

Many thanks to all who contributed. We collected 32 boxes.

9RGE

Breast Cancer Awareness

Congratulations to Melissa Nolan, Cory Prigg, Georgia Fry and Rachel Lynch from 8LBE who baked cakes and sold them to staff raising £44 for Breast Cancer Awareness. Well done!

SPORT UNLIMITED



In the summer the PE dept applied for funding from Active Norfolk for an after school club for Years 7 and 8. I am pleased to say the funding was successful and on the 24th Sept the Dance and Movement club was started. The sessions are based on freestyle street dance and are delivered by Dance coach Michelle Clarke. The funding will run until the 10th Dec and it is hoped that we will be able to maintain the class which has seen up to 30 students both boys and girls attending.



We have just received funding for four new projects for the spring term they are an after school Kick boxing & self defence club, Volley ball coaching, girls football club and a recreational multi-sports session run at the Breckland sports centre for 16-19 year olds. Flyers and posters are now being printed so keep an eye out for them around the school.

Talented Runner Identification

On the 6th Oct a cross country squad selection/ training session was held at Wymondham College. The session was very intense and involved specific drills and coaching from the regional instructors. After a very close race the officials made their decisions and I am pleased to say the following students have made it through to the second round of trials. They are: - Megan Norry, Jordan Greenwood, Ryan Skipp and Jonny Mead.

These students have been given the opportunity to attend a squad training session on the 28th Oct at Earlham high school. Depending on how well they do there they will then go on to represent Norfolk at the English School Cross Country Championship in March 09.

Partnership Year 7 football competition.

Teams from the Breckland partnership gathered at Wayland High School on the 12th Nov to compete in a Year 7 football tournament.

The young side played some skilful football beating both Attleborough and Wayland high schools, they narrowly missed winning the event after losing to a very strong Wymondham team and so came a very respectable second over all..Well done boys!

Partnership Trampolining

Miss Harrison took a team of students to Charles Burrell High School to compete in the Partnership Trampolining festival. Our students have been practising very hard over the last few weeks to perfect their voluntary routines and it showed on the day with Dell Summers, Hayley Carden and Simone Bull making it through to the county finals later in the year.

RACE4EACH

On Sunday 30th Nov Jordan Greenwood, Jonny Mead, Megan Norry and Danny Pidd will take part in the Race4each 5K schools challenge at Norfolk showground. They will be racing for team Musker and have the chance to win sports equipment vouchers for the school. Good Luck team!!

UP AND COMING EVENTS

- 8TH DEC PARTNERSHIP INDOOR ROWING FESTIVAL
- 12TH JAN PARTNERSHIP TABLE TENNIS FESTIVAL
- 14TH/21ST/28TH JAN CSLA RUGBY COURSE
- LEVEL 1 FOOTBALL COACHING COURSE

Miss M Reidie

School Meals

We have a great selection of school meals on offer and a huge number of students do use the school meals service. An increasing number of students are forgetting to bring their dinner money and asking the school office to lend them money for lunch. Our school meals are now contracted out and the company do not allow for meals to be provided without payment. **Please ensure that your child has sufficient money to cover the cost of their school lunch as the school is unable to lend students money.** Thank you.

Christmas Dinner

Christmas dinner will be served on Wednesday 17 December. The cost of a two course meal will be approximately £2.50 - drinks will be available at an additional charge. There will be no alternative meal to the Christmas dinner, which will be delicious with all the usual trimmings!

Lateness to School

We are concerned at the number of students arriving late to school. Students begin lessons at 8.30am. After half term, we will be operating a detention system for those students who are late to school twice or more during a week, without justification. We trust you will support us in reinforcing to your children the need to arrive to school on time.

Mrs P MacDonald-Brown

Christmas Holidays

School closes on Thursday 18 December and reopens on Tuesday 6 January

The School Day

8.30	P1 – students register
9.35	P2
10.35	Break
10.55	P3
12.00	P4
Lunch	1.00 – 2.00
2.00	P5
3.00	End of school



Call to parents about successes outside of the School.

If your child is involved in any noteworthy activity outside the school please let us know. Often we do hear of successes but it would be lovely if parents let us know so that we can recognise all the achievements of our young people. Please see Mrs Price or contact the school office.

Ex Year 11 Presentation Evening

On Tuesday 2 December we will be welcoming back our ex Year 11 students who will be receiving their GCSE certificates and subject prizes. The evening starts at 7.00pm and we would like to see as many students and their parents/carers, as possible.

Let's Get Cooking

Let's Get Cooking is proving a huge success. The club has met twice and the next session will now be after Christmas. The club meets fortnightly on Wednesdays 3.15 – 4.30pm.



Technology Specialism Update

These are exciting times at Rosemary Musker, especially for those who enjoy subjects like Design and Technology, Science and Mathematics. We are starting to invest the money that has been made available, the first part of which we are using to develop a multi-purpose Product Design suite in Room 24. The room will have high quality ICT facilities and drawing equipment and will be used by staff and students across the age ranges to support Computer Aided Design and Manufacture.

The first activity to be launched as part of our specialism is the "Wacky Racers" after school club. This group is currently building radio controlled cars and designing the car bodies. It is open to girls and boys in years 7, 8 and 9 and is supported by Hethel Science Technology Engineering and Maths (HSTEM) based at the Lotus car factory.

We anticipate that this club will grow over time and are therefore looking for parents who might be able to offer time to help out on a regular basis. The club runs between 3.00pm and 4.00pm on Thursdays. Anyone offering to help will need to have a CRB record check done, but we are happy to organise this.

There are many more activity developments on the way, so keep an eye on this newsletter for further opportunities that you and your children might enjoy.

Mr M Foreman Director of Specialism



Term Dates 2008/2009

Term	School reopens	School closes on
Autumn		18 December 2008
Spring	6 January 2009	3 April 2009
Summer	21 April 2009	17 July 2009

Half Term	School closes on	School reopens
Spring	13 February 2009	23 February 2009
Summer	22 May 2009	1 June 2009

May Day Monday 4 May 2009

Professional Development Days 2008/2009

19 December 2008
5 January 2009
20 April 2009
20 July 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to parents and visitors for being so patient as the new administration and reception area begins to take shape! We are all certainly having to walk a lot further which of course is good for us. It will be wonderful when complete.

Spare a thought for year 11 who begin their mock exams on 4th December. Mrs MacDonald-Brown and I have begun to interview the students to talk through their priorities for the rest of the year as they prepare for the 'real' thing in the summer. Year 11 should be working on coursework aiming for a couple of grades above target. They should be meeting deadlines that Heads of Department set for a *reason* not to be awkward! Revision should be taking place. All students should know their targets in each and every subject and what to do to move on. Results will be presented just like the real thing in the week beginning January 12th. Good luck year 11 - though you will find the harder you work, the more you have of it! It is time to really aim high and push yourself – you *all* 'can' achieve with the right attitude and determination.

One exciting new development is the preliminary work and training that Mr Foreman is leading in preparation for launching our VLE (Virtual Learning Environment). Any student in any year group who is interested in joining a student working group, give Mr Foreman your name – we teachers need your help when it comes to ICT, you know that!

Liz Redpath
Head teacher

Dear Parents/Carers

I have had a very interesting first term as Executive Principal, overseeing both Charles Burrell Humanities School and Rosemary Musker High School. I have been warmly welcomed by staff, students and governors here at Rosemary Musker and I have been very impressed with the positive atmosphere in the school and the tremendous progress made. A very significant part of my role is developing the new Post-16 Vocational Centre to be based here in Thetford. Charles Burrell and Rosemary Musker, along with West Suffolk College and Easton College were successful in winning the Learning and Skills competition to manage a Post-16 vocational centre in the town. We will be in receipt of at least £20million pounds which will fund the building of a brand new state of the art college type facility here in Thetford itself. This will provide top quality education and training for young people within the town and the wider community. We have started to engage with local businesses and council members in order to inform our planning and there will be further consultation as the project develops. Obviously this is a very exciting project and long overdue, in my opinion, as our students have been disadvantaged by having to travel to Bury St Edmunds, Kings Lynn and Norwich in order to access vocational courses. I look forward to keeping you updated in the coming months.

Nancy Robinson
Executive Principal