



# Wentworth High School

News letter February 2012

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year and I hope that 2012 will be a very happy and successful year for us all! The Spring Term started with new zone/faculty areas being introduced for all teaching staff. English and Modern Foreign Languages are the new Communication Faculty, Performing Arts and PE the new Creative Faculty, Maths and ICT become the Logistics Faculty, Humanities and SMSC are now Culture and last but by no means least Science and Technology are the Innovation Faculty. For pupils at this stage the differences will not really be noticeable but as we start planning the new school these zones will be housed together in the new building so it is essential that we work in these teams now so that the design is a collaboration of ideas.

The meetings for the design are taking place weekly at this point and we are all very excited by the prospect of getting a state of the art building which will enable us to offer pupils additional opportunities for learning which are just not possible in our current premises. We know that the building will be based on the design for St Patrick's RC High School but that we will be able to personalise it to represent Wentworth. It will be built on the field so we will be able to stay here uninterrupted until the building is ready to move into. This is very important as trying to build onto an existing building is a major upheaval for everyone.

Within the design we will be working with both staff and pupils regarding what they would want to see included. The dragon gates for example are always cited by pupils as being something of the old we wish to keep. There will be a mixture of traditional classrooms and more flexible open spaces where different groups of students can be taught using a variety of teaching methods. New technology will be built into the fabric of the school so all teaching areas will have equal opportunities. There will be a proper theatre area with retractable seating so that drama /dance can use the space. Outside teaching areas for science and humanities will ensure pupils get a wider understanding of the natural world and the need for us to protect it for future generations. The possibilities are endless....

Also this term we have 4 of our Parents' Evenings. Year 10 and Year 7 have already taken place and parents should have received the feedback from the results of the questionnaires you complete on the night. We do act upon your comments and always welcome feedback on how you think we are performing as a school so please try to complete those forms if you can. Dates for Parents' Evenings are in the planner so please have a look at the front pages as other information is there as well.

As always the School Council has been very busy with fundraising events and ideas. They are also looking at the quality of school meals with the catering company and will be reporting back to pupils on this issue. I am delighted that this has become an enterprising and successful group and I am sure we will be using this forum for more detailed discussions of the new school. Our thanks go to Miss Barratt for facilitating the meetings and ensuring that actions are carried out! The VLE is also moving on and Mrs Barrow will be giving out the passwords for all parents who

have yet to receive them very soon. Please try logging on as soon as you can as we hope to be able to use this facility to pass on more information about your child's progress.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs H L Aaron



Pictures of the new St Patrick's High School



### **Wentworth Lead the way in Computer Science**

Earlier this half term, pupils in Year 8 and 9 had the opportunity to experience Computer Science at Manchester University. The University prides itself at being at the forefront of computing, following Tom Kilburn and Sir Frederick Williams' invention, 'Baby', the world's first stored-program computer in 1947. By 1949 the team had built the full-sized Manchester Mark 1, the first computer to feature a hard disc.

The pupils at Wentworth High School had to quickly cope with the stresses and strains of University life. In the morning they listened to three lectures in computer science, Linux and Java and 3D Technology. They enjoyed a seminar with IBM and by the afternoon, they were creating their first computer programme on a Linux platform. Gareth Clarke, a Year 9 pupil said: "I took for granted what Widows does on a computer, so it's great to develop an understanding of Linux commands." The pupils also learnt how to compile and run their own programmes, which included the game 'Snake'.

The day was very challenging and it made the students think about computers in a new light. In January, Michael Gove, Education Secretary announced that the ICT curriculum in schools needs to be radically revamped with a flexible curriculum in Computer Science and Programming and here at Wentworth we are already taking his initiatives on board. Over the next six months, we will be looking at giving pupils more opportunities to develop their programming skills. Who knows, we may have the next Tom Kilburn!

Mr Hibbert

Assistant Director Logistics Faculty



### **Aim High!**

Pupils in Year 9 and 10 have taken part in two events hosted by The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). The universities have joined forces to offer a Widening Participation Programme to encourage pupils to find out more about higher education and the range of courses available.

Year 9 pupils took part in a Choices Conference in January where they got to meet current students at both the universities and go on a tour of both campuses. They also took part in a workshop that gave them the opportunity to think about what decisions people have to make, at each stage of their education, in order to reach their goals.

Year 10 pupils went on a campus visit in February where they took part in a tour of MMU's campus and three workshops all run by current students. The workshops encouraged pupils to think about the wide range of people they would get the opportunity to meet if they went to university, how they would manage their finances and the range of jobs needed to make simple everyday items like a pair of jeans or a CD.

Mrs Holly

### **Learning Platform**

We have now started issuing the Learning Platform passwords to parents. Year 7 parents have already had an opportunity to collect theirs and other year groups will be available at their respective Parents' Evenings. By logging on to the Learning Platform you will be able to see details of your child's attendance and merits as well as seeing their timetable and any work that is set using the Learning Platform. Our first priority is to enable homework for Year 10 and Year 7 to be seen on the Platform but if there is any other information you would like to be made available please let me know and I will see if it can be done.

Mrs Barrow

Assistant Headteacher



## Maths EAL visit to Manchester University Learning Platform

On January 15<sup>th</sup> Mr Bate took 10 of our Year 11 students to the School of Education Mathematics Department at Manchester University. The aim of the day was to help the trainee teachers at the University become a little more aware of the problems that pupils speaking and thinking in their second language have and how they cope being taught Mathematics. Out of the ten students that were present, there were 7 different first languages.

We have developed a good relationship with all of the teacher training institutes in the Greater Manchester area so this was an opportunity to help the University lecture team in their research, as well as giving the trainees valuable experience that should benefit them as they begin their teaching careers. The day was a total success. The trainee teachers loved our pupils who were thoroughly pleasant and honest and our students gained a great deal from working in an institute of higher education, several wanted to go back weekly.

Manchester University have sent us two trainees this year already and we are seen as something of a plumb placement judging by the response from the leader of the course. All of the Mathematics teachers from Wentworth have been trained as student mentors so our visiting trainees get input from the whole team. We have been able to help the University by helping to interview prospective teachers throughout the year.

It is important that we continue to be involved as we are learning as well as being inspired by the enthusiasm and work ethic that the future teachers of the country show us at Wentworth.

Mr Bate

Director Logistics Faculty

## Library News



Each year our pupils take part in the Salford Children's Book Award - open to Years 7 - 9. This year this involved reading a short list of 7 books then voting for their own particular favourite. The overall winner this year was Michael Morpurgo for his book *Shadow* - unfortunately he couldn't be at the awards ceremony due to commitments in America with the opening of *War Horse* and another film project, *Private Peaceful*, due to be released in November to coincide with Remembrance

Day.

Dylan Clarke in Year 8 was selected to do a short presentation on one of the shortlisted books, *Mortlock*, by Jon Mayhew and was actually joined on stage by Jon whilst he delivered his speech. Later our pupils were all able to get their books signed and meet some of the authors of these wonderful books. This was a great opportunity for our pupils who are all keen to be part of this event again next year.



Following OFSTED's new guidance regarding behaviour and safety in school Wentworth have launched some new initiatives around school to help raise awareness of all of the options open to students for reporting and tackling bullying in school. Although we have few incidents of this nature we have to ensure that it remains a high priority for everyone in school. As a school we have refined our Anti Bullying Policy to ensure we consider bullying through new communication mediums such as facebook and BBM. Each year group has experienced anti bullying assemblies and form period activities to help identify types of bullying and the differences between bullying and non bullying behaviour. We have launched a text service for students who wish to report bullying on their phone, this is an easy and anonymous way for students to raise their concerns about themselves or others. Following a student bullying focus group we have made significant

changes to the bullying report form by making it smaller and more discreet in colour as requested by the students. We have also appointed a bullying ambassador for each year group who will act as a contact point for anyone who wishes to report bullying to someone other than a teacher. The ambassadors will have the knowledge of how to escalate and resolve any issues reported to them. We would urge anyone who feels that they have a problem to report it quickly to an adult in school.

Miss V O'Farrell

Anti Bullying Champion

**Report bullying on your phone.**

**Text: 07624806408**



All information received will be handled in accordance with the school's Anti Bullying Policy.

## Drama

Hello from the drama department.

I know it is February and Christmas is a long distant memory, but I could not resist the opportunity to sing the praises of those students who took part in the pantomime. It is several years since we have performed the classic *Cinderella*; in fact the last time it was performed I seem to remember having to take the role of the fairy godmother.

Moving on swiftly, the students did an exceptional job of devising and performing the show, choreographing dances gathering costumes, doing makeup and wigs operating lighting and sound desks. The students did two performances one to parents and family members who were suitably impressed and another to year 5 and 6 students from the local primary schools, who also enjoyed cheering the good guys, helping find the ghost and booing the ugly sisters and their evil step mother.

Thanks again to all the parents and carers who supported the students; I am looking forward to next year's production, we might have a go at *A Christmas Carol*.

Kind regards

Mr O'Leary



## Year 10 Geography



Whilst the GCSE History students get to visit Berlin the GCSE Geography students spent an afternoon visiting Bury Landfill site! Pupils visited the landfill site to find out what happens to rubbish after it has been put in the bin as they are studying waste as part of their GCSE. Pupils considered how to reduce waste and understand and see at first hand the technologies that are used to treat household waste. They visited an active landfill site and were lucky enough to witness a falconer who uses his birds of prey to scare away the pests that are found at the site.

Mrs Gillies

Assistant Director Culture Faculty



Suggested images of what Wentworth could look like in 2014...