



A Message from Mrs Thrower



As we race to the end of another term and academic year, I would like to share some superb achievements with you. Through this summer newsletter and via the website you will see that our pupils have been working hard both in the classroom, and with our special guests.

The pupils have been given insights into different careers through meeting local company employees, work shadowing, and working with visiting deaf achievers. The most recent being the first ever deaf professional boxer and a street dance instructor.

We were very excited to have been nominated, by parents, for a Welwyn and Hatfield community award. Their kind words saw us in the top 5 schools for the borough, thank you.

We are sad to see some of our staff leave this term. Firstly, Stuart Williams, our PE specialist, who has run the Sports Leader Programme for some time now is having a half day to himself to hone his golf skills. He has taught his replacement, Mrs P, well and she will be taking over the programme from September. We also say goodbye and a thank you, from all she has worked with, to Mrs Pinney, one of our Speech and Language Therapists. Finally there are two other special teachers leaving, who have filled a maternity post for the last academic year. The first is Mrs Lovejoy, who has enhanced the English department with her enthusiasm and wit both, of which you experienced as she brilliantly wrote, produced and directed the theatre week production. The good news is that she has promised to write another piece and help with the production for next year's performance. Without wishing my life away..... I can't wait! Last, but not least Dr Dennis, who has been a great asset to the school and Senior Leadership Team. He has calmed the corridors and inspired learning throughout the year. He is returning to the independent sector and says he has learnt so much from his experiences this year. We wish him all the best and look forward to seeing him next year when he pops in (as promised!). He has spent some time with the incoming Deputy, Mr Bidwell, who I am sure you will all get to meet in the autumn term.

I would like to thank all of the staff and parents for their continued support, as Knightsfield would not be what it is without this. I would like to wish everyone a fantastic, restful summer break and look forward to seeing you all in September.

Visit from Deaf Boxer, Reece Cattermole

We all had a fantastic time, when Reece, currently the only professional deaf boxer, visited school. Reece came with his coach and members of his family. We had an assembly from Reece, which included a brilliant question and answer session. Pupils had prepared a range of interesting questions and were able to find out everything they wanted to know. The highlight for all pupils was participating in Boxercise sessions run by Reece and his coach. All are really grateful to Ms Berrington for organising this brilliant event and giving everyone the opportunity to spar with a professional boxer and his coach!



Visit from "The Punk Chef"

We had a great assembly from "The Punk Chef", otherwise known as Scott Garthwaite, who has been deaf since the age of 2. Scott talked about who had inspired him to become a chef and how he now enjoys inspiring others, particularly those who are deaf. The Year 8 group, who attained the highest



achievement points for the term, were lucky enough to have a practical session with Scott, where they made pear muffins with a salted caramel sauce. They looked great, as you can see from the photo, and apparently they tasted really good too!

Assembly from our Trustees

We all enjoyed the very informative assembly given by four of our School Trustees. Pupils enjoyed learning about the role of a Trustee through participating in a True or False Quiz. The generous chocolate prizes encouraged the full attention of our pupils, but more importantly ensured they came away with a much better idea of how the work that the trustees do, impacts on school. It was also a good opportunity for pupils and trustees to get to know each other a little better.

Dancing Workshop

We all enjoyed taking part in the workshop run by Chris Fonseca, a professional deaf Street Dancer. Pupils devised and shared their own moves as well as working on, and learning a routine, that they were taught step-by-step. Grace, Year 10, commented on how she enjoyed working as part of a group to achieve this. Thank you to one of our parents, Mrs Mackay for organising this fantastic event.

Visit to the Apple Store in Watford



Year groups 7-9 had the opportunity to visit the Apple Store in Watford. Students had an exciting time being taught by an Apple education expert on how to use the latest iPad and Apple's Clips app. This is a mobile video editing software application. Our pupils produced some really entertaining videos and had a great time, working in small groups, putting them together. A short quote from Harry, Year 8, sums up the whole experience: "Really cool!"

Sporting Activities



Again this term, pupils have participated in a number of different sporting events. A Sports Experience Day at Cavendish School in Hemel gave the opportunity for pupils to try a range of different sports and activities including boxercise and volleyball. At the beginning of July a group took part in the National Deaf Athletic Championships. They all did well, with Rayhaan and Tess coming first in the 200m and 100m races respectively. Jay was first in the shot put and Bruno deserves a special mention for battling the heat and coming a very commendable 3rd in the 400m. Archie performed well in the high jump, managing to clear a height of 1.3m, with very little previous experience. Once again this term, our Boccia team have had success, with second place in a District Event in Harlow.

Year 11 Prom



On Friday 25th May Year 11 went to the Prom. The Prom started at 19:00 and went on until 23:00. The Prom was held in Knebworth Barns. Mrs Thrower was there and took photos of everyone in their dresses.

We all had a nice time. It was great to spend time with our friends. There was lots of dancing, which Mrs P encouraged us to join in with, and there was lots of food.

Ilesha Connolly and Juhi Shah, Year 11

Year 11 Activities Fortnight

After their GCSE exams, our Year 11s took part in a range of activities, to help them prepare for September, whilst also, hopefully, enjoying themselves after all their hard work. There was a focus on the practical application of maths and ICT and sessions to help develop presentation and research skills. There were discussions about the differences and expectations of studying either at college or in a school sixth form environment with an opportunity to talk about options for audiology equipment with Mrs Cromack, They made a pasta dish with Mrs Wilson and Dr Dennis even ensured all were well briefed on the etiquettes associated with formal dining! All seemed to agree that the highlight was the Driving Experience, where they all enjoyed both having the opportunity to see what its like to drive a car and to watch others.



We hope all our year 11s are happy with the results that they worked hard to achieve. We wish them all the best with what they will be doing next and look forward to seeing all those who are continuing with us at school and college, back in September. We also wish our Post 16 students, who are leaving this term, all the best.

End of Year Activities Week

Well it's been a very busy end of term. We started with raft building at Stanborough Lakes, an activity linking in perfectly with a recent assembly on water safety given by the RNLI. We've been den building in the local woods, had a brilliant session on First-Aid from Mr Williams and have been working on Enterprise projects, which you will have found out about at our end of term summer fete. Before the fete we had our Sports afternoon. This was a warm up for our fun run, suggested by one of our Post 16 students, to raise money for the RP Fighting Blindness, a charity which researches the causes and treatment of Retinosa Pigmentosa. This proved to be a very colourful event for those who chose to run through the "Paint Zone". Nobody escaped getting wet, thanks to the wet sponges being thrown and a range of super and not so super soakers being operated by staff on the finish line.

Dates for September!

We look forward to welcoming our new starters, in both Year 6 and Year 7, on Tuesday 4th September and then seeing all other pupils on Wednesday 5th September.

We wish all pupils, and their families a very enjoyable and relaxing summer!