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The Phoenix



Issue 55

The Meadowhead School Newsletter July 2009



Sheffield Athletics Champions - Again!

Meadowhead School has won the Sheffield Track and Field Athletics League Competition for the second year running, beating 17 schools. All 6 teams - Y7, Y8 and Y9 boys and girls - qualified for the final on Monday 8th June and Meadowhead became overall Sheffield Champions, winning by 300 points.





This is the biggest athletics competition of the season and there is a history of competitiveness amongst the Sheffield schools each year for the Vickers Shield. Meadowhead has gone from strength to strength, narrowly missing out in previous years to winning last year and retaining the trophy this year.

Greg Hill, Curriculum Leader PEPA, said "it is fantastic to see so many committed, talented students rewarded for all their time and hard work throughout the season, all working together as a team winning such a prestigious event."



What's New In Science?

We have been using one of our display boards to keep Years 9, 10 and 11 informed of the times and dates of the GCSE examinations. In addition, as of September this year, we will be using another display board that will keep students updated with the topics that they will be studying each term. Mr Stephenson has produced eye-catching posters; one per term for each year group. Here's a sample:

	Chromosomes Alleles Recessive	Pollutants Catalytic-converter	Tectonic Parallax
	Cloning Asexual Ethical Implantation	Particulates Correlation	Light-year Continental Drift
Y9 Autumn Term	<h2>You and Your Genes</h2>  <p>B1</p>	<h2>Air Quality</h2>  <p>C1</p>	<h2>Earth and the Universe</h2>  <p>P1</p> 
	Fertilisation Genes Variation	Combustion Hydrocarbon	Fossil Geo-hazard Red Shift
Genetic-cross Genetic-Screening	Atmosphere Emission	Sedimentary Orbit Meteor	

The posters will also include key scientific vocabulary for each topic to help the students' literacy. We are hoping that students will also discuss these topics with you to help keep you up-to-date.

The Science Faculty

Sainsburys and Tesco Vouchers

A big thank you to all parents who have sent in their Sainsburys and Tesco vouchers. We have purchased PE, ICT and Home Economics equipment.

Mrs Bowker



Y7 Visit to Castleton



The dead lay waiting in their grave,
Who to kill and who to save?
Waiting silently, slow and strong,
But then Year 7 came along.

We searched the graves here and there,
Not bothering about the massive scare,
That would shock us when the Church Bells
rang.
It was Mrs Holland, she sang...

“Right, come over here you lot!”
So up we get and off we trot.
Mind you, when I talk about Miss,
She’s not nearly as scary as this!

We went in the church in a single line,
The weather was perfectly fine.
We went, gradually, indoors,
Stepping over the wooden floors.

We discovered things all over the place,
From family pews to Jesus’ Face.
We even saw the stand for the preacher,
“But don’t go up there!” said the teacher.

Next, we would be going up high,
To see the castle! (A moaning sigh).
The hill was really really really steep,
But it was worth it when we got to the keep!

The view could absolutely astound!
(The castle was on a huge great mound!)
We looked at the castle, well, the ruin that it’s
in,
The view we could see still to take in!!

I was starving, I have to say,
But I carried on forward anyway,
The class got a lift by the bus to Mam Tor,
(My belly groaning, really soar.)

Let’s take this opportunity to thank the staff,
Allowing us to have a great laugh,
The trip was really a gem,
And we wouldn’t have gone if it weren’t for
them.

Ben Jackson 7B



Something for the Weekend

Y11 Geography Trip

The 20-22nd March 09 saw the maiden Y11 Geography skills and revision weekend to North Wales. Led by Mr Podbury, Mrs Cousins and Mrs Vincent, we were short of a member of staff to assist with the proceedings of the two day visit. With no one wanting to give up their valuable time to visit foreign shores, we were reduced to doing a background check on all staff to find someone, anyone, with a decent qualification in Geography. We struck gold, well bronze actually. A big shiny bronze statue in the shape of the one and only Mr Affleck – mission successful.

To the tune of 'Men of Harlech', 44 Students, 4 teachers and Steve (the driver) set off for the shores of North Wales on a bright and warm spring evening. Crossing the border into Wales, and with a strange new language to contend with, the students were apprehensive but excited at the prospect of a weekend away. The weather was great, students were a credit to the school and James Ravenhill managed to go the whole weekend without changing his yellow shirt. Thanks to the staff and students involved for such a super weekend. Good luck with your GCSE examinations, and well done on all your hard work.

Mr Podbury



Photos courtesy of Hope Marsden Y11

Meadowhead Geographers in Wales



Our soon-to-be miners outside the entrance to Sygun Copper Mine – Beddgelert.



The whole group outside Electric Mountain after a shocking tour of the HEP station. Llanberis.



Our 'Bronze Affleck' and very enthusiastic Y11 boys. Podsol and forests. Foot of Snowdon.



Coastal work in Anglesey's hidden gem – Moelfre. Wave cut platforms, swash & backwash!!!



Beach formation in Benllech... or perhaps that should be 5-a-side destruction! Chopper Affleck....!



Settlement study. Braving the elements on the top of the Great Orme in Llandudno.

Sports Day 2009

Sports Day was a fantastic event this year. It was our second time at Don Valley Stadium and like last year it proved to be a first class venue. All students taking part experienced what it is like to compete at a world class athletics venue.

The atmosphere created by Y7, 8 and 9 students was brilliant. Students were supporting each other throughout the day. It was great to see so many students taking part in sport and competing for their form.

There were some outstanding achievements both by individuals and teams, eight school records were broken on the day.

But it is important to remember that all those who took part gained valuable points for their form. Sports Day is about participation and I have got to say that it was the best year yet! Students should be proud of their achievements.

I would like to say a big thank you to all students and staff for making the day such a success.


Mrs Tym





Records Broken

8 school records were broken at Sports Day. Some hadn't been broken for over 20 years!

Y7 Triple Jump	Charlotte Green	8.44m	(Original Record Kirsty Llewellyn 8.00m in 1987)
Y7 400m	Emmanuel Kanteh	62.3sec	(Original Record James Stevenson 66.86sec in 1984)
Y7 Turbo Javelin	Ryan Leaper	24.61m	
Y7 Ball Throw	Jade Birley Tom Snookes	42.16m 52.0m	
Y8 Long Jump	Joshua Edwards	4.78m	
Y8 Ball Throw	Drubo Tarafdar	59.7m	
Y9 400m	Amy Beanland	63.6secs	(Original Record R Stock 66.48sec in 1981)

U14 Mixed Rounders

Congratulations to the Y8 and Y9 pupils in the Under 14 Mixed Rounders team who were runners up in the Sheffield Schools U14 Rounders Tournament this year.

They qualified for the South Yorkshire County Rounders Tournament on 16th June and came third overall.

What a super achievement as the majority of players are only in Y8. The team is as follows:

Reece Halifax (Capt)
Chris Syphas
Lewis Langton
Drubo Tarafdar
Lauren Morley
Evie Gilmour
Jess Lee
Daisy Cutts
Amber Parry
Beth Wood

Mrs Tym



Ironman 70.3

Now and again we need to step outside our comfort zone and set ourselves a challenge. For me, the Ironman 70.3 2009 was one such challenge.

This year I passed a milestone birthday and decided to celebrate it in a slightly unusual way. My children thought I should book a holiday or throw a party but me, I decided to attempt a Half Ironman.

For those who have not heard of this, it consists of a 1.2 mile swim in a lake wearing a wetsuit, followed by a 56 mile bike ride then a 13.1 mile (half marathon) run. Not wishing to do things by halves, I entered (unwittingly at the time) the hilliest half ironman in the world in Exmouth.

Here are the pro's and con's of triathlon training...

Reasons NOT To Do It

- No life for about 20 weeks preceding the event – 11 training sessions per week
- 6am bike rides on bitterly cold mornings, lasting 4 ½ hours at a time
- Early swims before work – up to 5,500m (220 lengths) at a time
- Runs of up to 2 hours when you really don't like running
- Learning to ride a bike with cleats and falling off in embarrassing places
- Practising swimming in a wetsuit. Other lane swimmers at Ponds Forge think you are completely ridiculous
- Practising cold water swimming in a wetsuit at Rother Valley early on a Saturday morning
- Doing a long bike ride then trying to run when the legs won't work

Reasons To Do It

- Working towards a shared goal with a group of like-minded individuals
- Feeling physically and mentally healthier
- Gaining an incredible sense of achievement during and after the event
- Proving to yourself that by setting realistic goals, nothing is impossible

All finishers are winners!

Would I do it again? Once the memory of the pain has subsided, absolutely!

Would I recommend it to others? Definitely. You can begin with shorter distances i.e. 16 length pool swim, 12 mile bike ride, 3 mile run – but, be warned! Once you have tried it, you will probably be hooked and inspired to try longer distances.

Remember – pain is temporary, pride lasts forever!

Mrs Mintoft



PS—Mrs Mintoft completed the 70.3 miles in 8hrs 3mins and 53 seconds. She was 2nd in her age group and qualifies for the World Championships in Florida in November. Congratulations to her.

Mrs Bowker

County Representatives

Discus and Shot

Nick Hudson, 10J, recently qualified for the South Yorkshire Schools Track and Field Championships held at the Keepmoat Stadium, Doncaster on Saturday 13th June.

Representing Sheffield, he won the Intermediate boys discus and came second in the Intermediate boys shot.

Well done to Nick for this wonderful achievement!

PE Department



Cricket



Tom Snookes, Y7, has played for the U12 Derbyshire cricket team all season as a bowler.

Mr Morgan

Rugby



Ethan Reaney, Y9, has represented the Under 14 South Yorkshire team this season.

Mr Morgan

Y9 Mentors Transitions Project (SUFC)

Five of the new Y9 Pupil Mentors went to Thornbridge for a scheme sponsored by Sheffield United to help some of the Y6s from Lower Meadow to cope with the transition between primary and secondary school. I feel privileged to be one of the Pupil Mentors involved.

We went on the course for five weeks plus one extra visit in the holidays. On the first week we introduced ourselves to the Y6s, then we went to the indoor climbing wall and built a giant out of newspaper—this was a maths challenge for the Y6s to make the giant in proportion.

The second time we met, we were given a series of challenges to do with a kit list. If we had chosen the correct piece of kit we would get points.



On the third week we completed a low ropes course. The course demanded teamwork and balance, the latter a few of us lacked! The fourth week was different, we prepared flapjack and while they were cooking we went and did a night line, more difficult than you think!

The fifth week at Thornbridge was without the Y6s and we did a den building exercise which was really fun—we were split into two groups and we got totally covered in mud!

There was a bonus trip to the Sheffield United ground in the holidays where we could go everywhere except the pitch. It was a lot of fun, we went in the changing rooms and took pictures. This was a really good opportunity for not just the Y6s but the Y9's too. It was a great team building experience and I would love to do it again!

Lucy Barrott 9I

Gifted and Talented Sponsored Event

I was given the opportunity in March 2009 to go to Concord Leisure Centre for two days to learn how to be a Water Polo Coaching Assistant.

It was funded by G&T funding and has meant that I now have more job opportunities open to me in the future as I am able to be both a player and a coach in my sport.

Thank you Gifted and Talented!

Eleanor Gaywood 11F



Curriculum Innovation in Lessons

What's your brain age?

Mr Healey has recently acquired a set of Nintendo DS games consoles from the newly refurbished South Sheffield City Learning Centre. You'll have probably seen these devices advertised on TV. We are now trying them in lessons such as Maths, Science and ICT.



In Science we've been using them with the 'Brain Training' software to build confidence and increase mental agility. Apart from having fun using them students also measured their 'brain age' and found that they improved by between 12 and 39 years over about four lessons. The best 'brain age' is seen as being about 20 and most people get a brain age much higher than this when they first start using the software. The idea is to train your brain so that the 'brain age' lowers to as close to 20 as possible.

Mr Weale has also done some research into using the technology in Maths. Mr Healey has used them in Learning Management lessons. We'll keep you posted on future innovations.

Mr Ridley and Mr Healey

Year 9 Charity Cakes

Since September 2008, Year 9 have been completing challenges in their Food Technology lessons to make items to sell in order to raise money for a charity.

The groups have made a variety of cakes, buns and biscuits and have raised £133.12 in total for the following charities:

Sheffield Children's Hospital = £45.60
Yorkshire Cancer Research = £38.52
NSPCC = £28.00
RSPCA = £21.00

Mrs Laybourne



Eden Project & Adventure Okehampton Y9 Geography Trip – February 2009

Not often do you come across a bunch of keen and mature Y9's who are able to sleep on an overnight coach, race up and down a beach, swelter in a tropical rainforest, ride horses, scramble up gorges, mountain bike and be hung upside down off a rope 50 ft up in the air!! However, as a well known advert proclaims; "These are no ordinary Y9's..... These are Meadowhead's deluxe range Y9's."



The maiden Y9 Geography trip to Eden Project and Adventure Okehampton set off late on a Thursday night and most students awoke at 7am to the crashing waves and smell of sea air in Newquay, Cornwall. A very fast journey down the M5 meant that we were ahead of schedule and calling in at the UK's most famous surfing resort gave the students a chance to experience something new.



It was then off to the Eden Project where the descent down into the old clay pit and first sight of the famous Biomes caused great excitement amongst students and staff alike. Our tour guides were ready to

meet us and the students spent the day in the care of experts who taught them all they needed to know about ecosystems and most especially, the Tropical Rainforest.

Did you know? There are about 135,000 plants of 4,500 species in the biomes. The Humid Tropics Biome is 55 metres high, 100 metres wide, 200 metres long and covers an area of 15,590 square metres (1.55 hectares).



After a full day of activities at the Eden Project, tired students and staff boarded the coach for a 45 minute journey into Devon and our home for the night – Adventure Okehampton. Mr Sockett did the Geography department proud and proved that there is no substitute for map reading by leading a very successful, and at times scary, night walk through the forests of Devon. Stories of the Beast of Bodmin soon surfaced and those at the back of the walk had to watch their step. 'The Beast' apparently likes a bit of Yorkshire Pudding with his normal diet of lamb chops!!

Next day activities:- **Gorge Scrambling**
Half way up the cold and fast flowing gorge, the instructor kindly told me that no group had ever done this in February as it is nor-

mally too nippy. It was made even colder given the fact that the water was snowmelt from the previous weekend's blizzards. However, Meadowhead's finest took it all in their stride.....jump, fall and slide! Credit to Nicole Butler for being the first to jump off the top of a waterfall into a freezing cold pool of water. I don't think I have ever heard screams like it!



Pony Trekking

Our wannabe John Waynes spent an hour trekking over the top of Exmoor and according to Mrs Clapham, they did themselves proud. One or two, although opting for horse riding, were quite scared of horses and did well to conquer their fears before heading off into the sunset to the theme of 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly'. Well done to you.



Mountain Biking

Meanwhile, somewhere further to the west, our mountain bikers tore through the forest led by the ever youthful Mr Sockett. No breakages to bodies or bikes were reported and once again, although opting for mountain biking, those who hadn't ridden without stabilisers did themselves proud! The boys who completed this activity unexpectedly but inevitably ended up with Devon's finest mud pack facial and left for Sheffield with skin as soft as a baby's behind.

High Ropes

South of the mud packers, our fearless high rope contenders zipped, balanced and dived their way across the course with boundless fear. Led by Miss Clegg, most students attempted 'The Leap of Death' and did so with the usual grit and determination. Mr Podbury had specifically asked not to partake in this event as a similar activity in a Welsh Fusiliers training camp had led to a painful, 'leg crossing' outcome. However, submersion in a freezing cold gorge pool may have actually been worse in hindsight.

Thanks again to Mr Sockett, Miss Clegg and Mrs Clapham and to all students for making this a trip one to remember.

Mr Podbury



Mr Rosling



Mr Chris Rosling, our Chair of Governors, very sadly died on Saturday 13th June. He had been diagnosed a few months previously with pancreatic cancer and he had faced his illness with the same brave integrity he dealt with everything else in life.

Chris joined the Governing Body in 1991 and he became Chair of Governors in 1994. He served the school for almost 20 years and he provided us with an excellent template for compassion, humanity and intelligent gentleness.

He supported the school through all the traumas of the new building; he attended every Governors meeting; he produced reports; chaired sub groups and reviewed curriculum and staffing issues. He was famous for his attendance at every function celebrating children's achievements. He came to all the concerts, presentations, exhibitions and festivals and delighted in their success. He had a genuine respect for all people, and for children particularly; he wanted them to do well.

He was a wise counsellor and a true friend to the school.. The last visit he made was to be presented with a plaque commemorating the 'naming' of our central atrium. It is called 'The Rosling' in recognition of the outstanding contribution Chris has made to our school. Chris' family were present and it was important that they were able to see just how much he meant to the staff and governors of Meadowhead.

The new Chair of Governors, Jim Mould, said at the presentation how appropriate it was that the physical heart of the school should be named after the person who had proved to be the metaphoric heart of the school.

Although Chris was too ill to make a speech, he provided the words to be read out by Mr Fowler on his behalf and I make no apology for reproducing it for all to read.

Chris Rosling was a lovely man. He was generous with his time, his energy and his patience. I will miss him more than I can say and I want to publically thank him for the legacy of honourable service to our school and to the City of Sheffield.

Cath James

Presentation To Mr Rosling 05.06.2009

Unveiling a plaque must be rather like launching a ship, so, may all who come on board have, like me, a happy, enjoyable, exciting, joyful experience. How could it be otherwise with such a splendid captain and crew?

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A speech on such an occasion is to walk a tight-rope. Say too little and you are churlish and ungrateful; say too much is to be self-indulgent and boring. I hope, like Goldilocks, I can select the dish that is just right. I do note that Goldilocks had only a one in three chance of getting it right the first time. Fingers crossed and hope for the best.

There is an old story of the Oxford Don who, many years ago, lectured on some obscure academic discipline. His great ambition was to appear on national radio or television and give a talk on his arcane subject. One day he received a letter asking him to give such a lecture, albeit at an unpopular hour on a slack day on an obscure channel. The letter added that naturally there would be the usual twenty five guinea fee. He replied with alacrity enclosing a cheque for twenty five guineas. Like the professor I find it difficult to accept that one can be honoured with a task one has cherished and then rewarded for taking it.

I have loved the role of Chair of Governors, made so many friends, been given so much support, been in receipt of so much kindness and, in my view, been given so much unwarranted praise that saying "thank you" seems hardly adequate, but it must suffice.

For me there have been many highlights, but worry not, I shall not attempt to describe them all. The most recent was being part of a team which has given Meadowhead School the richly deserved status with the accompanying freedom by becoming a foundation/trust school. That was a bit of a hairy ride at times, with opponents confusing, not purposely I hope, Trust Status with becoming an academy. Some seemed to believe we would finish up with "flat earth fanatics" taking control of the curriculum. Religious fundamentalists might impose unbalanced schemes of work. At times one was reminded of the story of the monkey sitting with a copy of the Bible in one hand and a copy of Darwin's "On the origin of species" in the other, muttering "I am now unsure whether I am my brother's keeper or my keeper's brother." But Trust Status for Meadowhead will lead to further enlightenment for pupils, not greater confusion.

I have talked long enough but maybe not stressed my gratitude to friends and family sufficiently. Staff, governors and pupils alike I have come to regard as part of a lovely family circle. What more is there usefully to add?

I am deeply grateful for the sympathy of both my families, the adopted and the real one, even if I am inadequate when it comes to putting feelings into words.

May good fortune go with you as you achieve the status of being adjudged an outstanding Secondary School. That day will unveil a memorial to all who have passed or are yet to enter through the school gates. Good fortune to you all. You have given me, among others, many rich rewards.

I end with the immortal words of the cartoon film maker, "That's all folk".

**Chris Rosling**



### **A tribute to a very special man**

I have always thought it fitting for the Rosling to be so aptly named after such a stalwart character. It is the focal hub of the school, whatever the weather and most staff and pupils use it numerous times per day.

As Chair of Governors, Chris Rosling supported every aspect of school life for many years after the vast majority of people would have normally retired. He was entwined with our very substance and he was always scrupulously fair in his dealings with people. He always made the time to stop and have a word, showing genuine interest in whatever you were saying.

I never heard him have a cross word with anyone, whatever the gravity of the matter being dealt with. I have always been astounded by his knowledge of procedure, reflecting his vast life experience and his degree of preparation before a meeting.

As staff governor I was impressed by how he examined every issue minutely and how he was always a voice of reason ensuring that every proposal was indeed good for Meadowhead.

As Head of Year, my disciplinary role was scrutinised and as well as stating a pupil's misdemeanours, I always had to satisfy him that every avenue had been exhausted to support and modify the behaviour of an individual.

I believe that Chris Rosling genuinely liked people and he always showed great humility. However, he was never afraid to grasp the nettle and wrestle with a problem until the best solution for all concerned was reached.

He was always totally professional and a tireless school supporter right up until the end. He will be truly missed by the whole community and we are all richer for having known him.

**Mr Laybourne**



# Medical Conference University of York

Recently a group of Y8 students attended an event called 'The Emergency Room' at York University. This was aimed at Y8 students who hope to pursue a career in Medicine and applications from our students far exceeded the number of places the school was allocated.

Olivia Wade of 8I wrote 'We were greeted by our student ambassadors and after a talk about the opportunities and facilities at the university we were taken around the campus. Our ambassador, Amy, showed us the grounds, the lake and the sports facilities. There are many places to live on campus. You could have either a standard or an ensuite room. Which would you choose?

At the university there are students from different cultures and backgrounds so you won't have any difficulty making friends. Some people can get funding for their courses and with a student discount card you can get discount in shops and on travel too. So is university the thing for you?

Dylan Richardson of 8K continued the story. 'After lunch, provided by the university, we went to the Department of Medicine. Students were put into school teams and were quizzed about their knowledge of the human body. Pupils guessed the shape of different organs, where they should go on the human body and how to detect certain conditions such as punctured lungs. We then took part in a role play about a young

woman called Rachel Browning who had been injured in a traffic accident. We all got to wear white coats and using video footage and instruments such as blood pressure monitors, each group came up with a diagnosis of her injuries and a treatment plan.'

The day was a great success and the consultant was so impressed with the knowledge and attitude of the Meadowhead students that he offered them all a place at the university starting next September! [tongue in cheek, of course] The visit was funded from the school's Gifted and Talented budget and was part of the enrichment programme on offer at Meadowhead.

## Mrs Holland



# Work Experience Congratulations Year 10

Work Experience is always a challenging feature of Year 10 but never more so than this year. The recession made finding placements more difficult than normal but a number of loyal employers and schools continued to offer their support to our students despite the difficulties they faced. In addition to this parents and friends of Meadowhead School rallied round to provide some excellent experiences for our pupils.



Katie Scarborough, Trainee  
Nursery Nurse at Kingswood Day  
Nursery

The majority of students found the experiences challenging and demanding, often pushing themselves beyond their comfort zones. However the students have returned to us with improved levels of confidence and self esteem, they are more enlightened about the “real world” and have a more realistic idea of what is needed for the future.

We expect our pupils on Work Experience to create a good impression, and they certainly did that. The feedback from employers was excellent.

Here are some of the quotes from employers:

- ◆ “Very adaptable and enthusiastic”
- ◆ “A credit to himself, his parents and the school”
- ◆ “I would happily have him back to gain further experience”
- ◆ “I would not hesitate to employ her”
- ◆ “Outstanding in every area.”

On behalf of Year 10, I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents, teachers and employers who have helped in any way throughout the Work Experience process.



Vaughan Richardson,  
Trainee Chef at Cutlers Hall

Congratulations Year 10 you did a good job. We are proud of you.

**Mrs Maleham**



## Army Barracks Beckingham Camp

26 Meadowhead students decided to lay aside their civilian lifestyle to willingly endure the physical and emotional challenges set by the British Army Yorkshire Regiment.

From early morning drills to midnight rescue missions, this Year 10 Work Experience placement has proved to be far more adventurous than stacking shelves or answering calls.

But the students weren't the only ones to have fun. Mrs Bowker, though injured, led the pack from the frontline and would be very much deserving of a medal of honour!

Staff and students are both thankful to The Yorkshire Regiment, Mrs Maleham and Mrs Thornton for making the visit possible and it being a memorable experience.

### Mr Ferrigon

The army was amazing! I couldn't have chosen a better Work Experience. The soldiers were so friendly and professional. It was four days of physical fitness, learning new skills but most importantly—FUN!

There were times where I could have cried, such as leopard crawling across the field or doing press-ups, but we got through them as a team.

The night time activities were brilliant, I had such a laugh. I'd say the worst part of it all was leaving!

### Elisha Simpson, 10J



The army trip was fantastic, it gave us a small taster of what life in the army was all about. From the not-so-brilliant food to the fitness and from the fun sports to the intense punishment.

It was brilliant for me because I've wanted to join the army for a while and the trip to Beckingham put down the final bricks.

### Steven Nisbett, 10K





# If The Face Fits...

The face has fascinated artists as a subject for centuries. This is a selection of Year 11 Art and Design students' work that explores the face in a variety of styles, concepts and media.

## Mr Robson.



Oliver Ledger



Anna Jennings



Stefan Rankine



Samantha Finch



**Rob Campbell**



**Oliver Ledger**



**Zoe Lipscomb**



**Sophie O'Nion**

# HEADS, VOLLEYS, WEES AND TOES

When Ken Stott, the lead in the West End production of 'A View from the Bridge', halted a performance last month to rage at some unruly Y11s in the audience, the wisdom of the decision to travel south with a classful of Meadowhead's finest began to drift into question. Worries intensified when Stott later complained in the press that 'children' should not be coming to the play anyway, as the material was too sophisticated for them. The fact that the play is on the GCSE English Literature syllabus seems to have eluded him. Not what you'd expect from TV's Rebus. His comments offended the militant wing of the class and Harrison Carter (Head Boy, Member of Youth Parliament) vowed to stand up for precocious youth nationwide with an unspecified protest at the show. Like all politicians, however, his promises meant nothing and he spent the duration of the performance making meek notes on stagecraft and symbolism. Harrison, the spirit of 1968 lives on in you.

As you would expect from a trip funded partly by the Gifted and Talented coffers, the coach was brain heavy and the intellectual tone of the trip was set during the on-board quiz, when Jessica Lamb, musing over a question about 'Kes', was overheard saying, 'Oh, it's that one about that boy and his pigeon.' After that comment, the quiz was abandoned and the rest of the journey was spent in ruminative silence.

Arriving in London, we set up camp in Green Park and gave the students the illusion of freedom by allowing them an hour to themselves. The bravest strode down Piccadilly for thirty minutes then turned back, others visited various coffee chains or searched, taut bladdered, for public conveniences. The weak and fearful stayed in the park for an exhibition game of heads and volleys, organised in a bid for possible inclusion in the London games of 2012. All was well until Mr Taylor leathered a volley into the small of Joe Foster's back causing tears and a break in play which soured the enthusiasm.

At five, we were marched into the West End with Mr McKeown at the head setting a legionnaire's

pace and pausing only to humiliate Miss Thompson at the statue of Eros with a public announcement of her recent engagement at the foot of said monument (I'm sure she's told you all herself by now). After feeding, we took our seats in the gods and prepared ourselves for the stoppered volcano of Stott's Eddie Carbone. The performance was fantastic, the students were impeccably behaved and should return armed with some new ideas for their literature exam.

Mr McKeown managed to sleep on the coach journey home but his unshod feet kept the rest of us awake with slowly corroding nasal membranes. A true soldier never sleeps, however, and every time Mr Taylor gently reminded a student to sit down, McKeown cranked bolt upright like Nosferatu rising from his coffin to bark semi-coherent orders down the aisle. He remained tetchy as we disembarked at Meadowhead at 1.30 in the morning, almost getting into an inadvisable scrap with Rachel Walsh and then refusing to abandon Joe Baker and Josephine Hobson by the roadside as he feared a drive-by shooting would mar the trip as an educational event.

Thanks to Mrs Christie for helping to make a top West End production affordable for us all.

## Mr Taylor



# International Day 2009

On Friday 5th June Y9 students enjoyed an array of multicultural activities and sports on our annual International Day. The aim of this exciting day is to immerse students in different cultures from around the world through a wide range of workshops led by teachers and visiting artists.

Prior to the event, each form had taken part in a Poster competition to display information about different countries beginning with the letter of their form. 9B won the first prize for their fantastic and flamboyant Brazilian poster, closely followed by worthy runners up - 9F who displayed a very detailed poster about France. Well done!

All day, normal lessons were abandoned as each form participated in different activities, ranging from International Fair trade Kenyan culture & food workshops, Martial Arts and Indian Yoga beats, to Middle Eastern, Italian, Spanish, and French cooking.

Outside our French teachers led a Boules tournament, PE staff ran American softball and a visiting dance specialist taught Spanish salsa.

Jayden Johnson, Connor Siddall and Heather Williams all did a fantastic job of collecting £74.20 in the 'shrapnel for Sri Lanka' bucket throughout the day.

The finale was the Siyaya African dance troupe all the way from Zimbabwe. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> time they have performed for us which rounded off the special day with a bang! The show was brilliant!

## Some comments from students / form groups:

"The Yoga man was amazing" – 9D

"You can actually be entertained for an hour just by people stamping their feet" – 9J (re. African Dance Performance)

"It's better than a normal Friday!" – Will Cattell 9G

"It's awesome! – Hope Ratcliffe 9F

"The day was interesting . It was fun to learn about other countries and cultures whilst having a good time" Alisha Mahmood 9K

"I think International Day is a good way to experience different cultures and how they live their lives. I enjoyed the day and think we should do it more often" Delia Hancock 9K

Danny Lea enjoyed the British Sign Language workshop because "we didn't have to do any writing!"

Jess Meadley enjoyed making Italian Pizza but when asked what she liked least about the workshop she replied "washing up!" No surprise there then!

The comments we received from participants of International Day were very positive and we look forward to next year!

**Ms Allen**





# Counting the “Costa Chocolate” on International Day

One of the fabulous range of events on International Day was a series of special lessons held in the Learning Resource Centre highlighting the allocation of cost when buying a bar of chocolate. Students were invited to take the role of a chocolate company or a cocoa farmer and present to the group what share of the cost they could justify. These were led by Mr Podbury, Head of Geography, and also included an interactive fair-trade quiz. Winning teams won a bar of fair-trade chocolate and everyone who completed the sessions were invited to sample some of the fair-trade product

## Mr Sockett

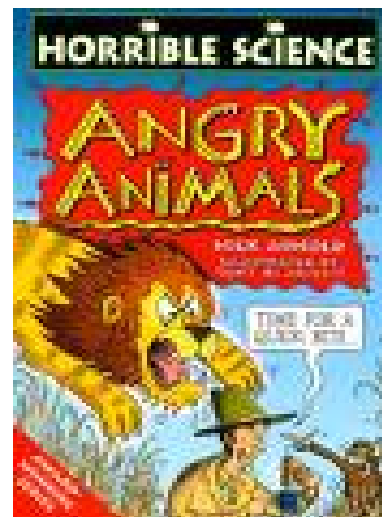


# Horrible Science!

Three bright Y7 scientists, James Allen, Lucy Fallon and Jessica Pickford won the ‘Horrible Science’ Annual last Christmas in Mr Brennan’s science class. Horrible Science books are full of funny cartoons and interesting facts about science.

Looking back over the year, James said, “the book was very useful - you could use it again and again”. Jessica said she used it over Christmas and “it explained things better than the internet.”

You can buy them from bookshops, or, borrow them from a library – spot on for that good read over the summer holiday, and of course helpful all year for science homework and revision. Go on, treat yourself to some horrible science!





# Meadowhead Scoops National Education Award



Early on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June, Amelia Norton 10D, Thomas Court 10E, Mr Timms and Mrs Webb caught the train to London to accept an award from The Royal Bank Of Scotland for the delivery of finance in schools. On the journey down, we discussed the merits of stocks and shares and investments versus ISAs and arrived in London with time to fit in a quick visit to the Bank of England Museum, the highlight of which was being able to touch and lift a solid bar of gold.

The ceremony itself was very pleasant, but there was a slight let-down as the special guest, Andy Murray, couldn't be there as Wimbledon was to start in 4 days, and he had to work on his serve. However, he did send us a very nice video of congratulations and personally signed photos for everyone, not to mention a natty little wristband!

There were 4 categories in all. We were delighted that Meadowhead won the "most innovative idea" award, for a dice and cards game, teaching about different types of bank accounts and investment portfolios. Year 10 pupils hopefully remember the game from earlier this year! At the ceremony, Meadowhead were presented with £1500 and a nice glass trophy.

From the ceremony we were taken by RBS to the London Eye. It was amazing how far we could see from the top.

We visited the Houses of Parliament as the queues weren't too long. The House of Commons was quite a let down as not many people were in and the subject was far ranging as it was on food and the environment. The House of Lords offered something more interesting they were discussing the Iraq inquiry and what the outcomes of the war were. It was truly an amazing experience and something I will always remember, forever.

Our last stop in the day was the Tate Modern gallery. Some of the art didn't actually look like art, and one piece was just a pile of rope on the floor, but others had an amazing amount of detail. After some very brisk walking and sore feet, we made it back to the train with our McDonalds' meals. Our two pupils were a real credit to us and impressed teachers from other schools too. Well done to them.



**Mr Timms**

# SKI TRIP 2009

## WAGRAIN, AUSTRIA



We had a bit of a scare this year when we were informed that our Ski Company, Sportability, was to go into administration and bankruptcy. The original trip was cancelled and it seemed that the best we could hope for was our money back but thanks to Mr Ford for rearranging the ski trip and to Halsbury Travel in Nottingham, we were going skiing again.

On Friday 3rd April, we set off to Dover and after a smooth crossing and an equally smooth coach-ride across Europe, it wasn't long before we could see snow and mountains and before we knew it we were in Austria.

We arrived at our hotel, which was just a 10 minutes walk into the town of Radstadt, which had a Spar shop where everyone got their "proper" food and there was also a cafe which sold ice cream at €1 a scoop. The heat varied from 24 to 27°C. You could ski in a t-shirt.

The skiing was fantastic and so was the snow. We were very lucky with the amount of snow we had especially for the time of year it was.

The ski instructors were great and everyone who went improved their level of skill. Mrs Ford mastered the snow plough, but not the treble back flip. Mr Wilde almost cracked 5 minutes without falling down. Sadly Ms Evans hurt her knee and couldn't ski (or did she just want to sun bathe?)

After 6 fantastic days and evenings we sadly had to pack up and come home.

**Tom Hastings 71**

The trip to Austria was fantastic! It was a great experience and I am glad I went. There was plenty of snow and everyone enjoyed many snowball fights. We met and made friends with lots of people, especially the locals.

It was a fabulous ski trip so I have to thank Mr and Mrs Ford, Mrs Evans, Mr Wilde and Rachel for taking us.

I definitely recommend it and I can only hope that there will be another one next year.

**Rebecca Horton 8J**

Skiing was great fun! We had loads of laughs and fell over a lot!! Throughout the week various strains and bruises were "expertly" dealt with by Ms Cooke and Mrs Evans who's advice invariably was "just keep breathing and it will get better". It was a fantastic experience and Mr & Mrs Ford, Mr Wilde, Rachel and Mrs Evans managed to put up with us all for a WHOLE WEEK! Thank you!

**Emily Marsden 8J**



### Awards

**Most Entertaining Skiing** - Mr Wilde  
**(Most expert at getting up off the floor!)**

**Most Persistent Beginner** - Mrs Ford

**Most Improved** - Jessica Pickford

**Least Successful Kamikaze** - Mrs Evans

**Cooliest Student** - James Cox

**Happiest** - Harriet Travis

**Best Skiing Technique** - Rebecca Horton

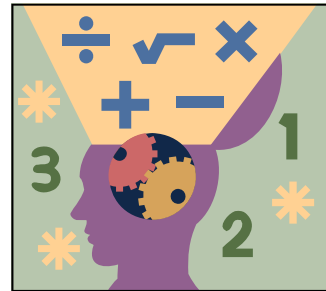
**Least life threatening injury**- Alice Armitage

**Most Blonde** - Thomas Hastings

## Y7 Maths Circus

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June we took a group of Year 7 students to Sheffield Hallam University to a 'Maths Circus' led by a group of trainee maths teachers.

The day was designed to test the pupils' logical reasoning skills and powers of deduction, as well as lots of different mental arithmetic activities.



Around the room were different stations. Pupils had to go to each one and try and solve the different puzzles and activities. Some of these included a times tables race game, a tower of Hanoi puzzle, and an activity to find the mathematic sequence from a rhythm of music that was played on a xylophone.

The pupils really enjoyed each of the activities and got a lot out of it. Some of the puzzles even had the teachers baffled. A good day was had by all.

**Mr Hodgson/Mrs Howe**

## Y9 Cricket



The Y9 cricket team has won every match this season in the Sheffield School U14 League and now qualify for the semi finals against Fir Vale on July 2nd

**Mr Allen**

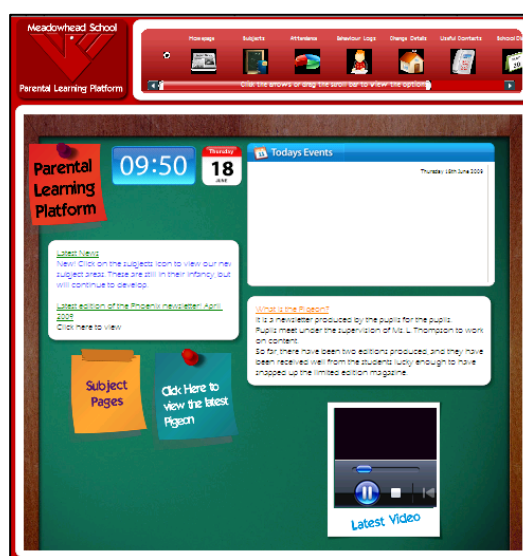
# The Meadowhead Learning Platform

Our Learning Platform is a series of web based pages that can be viewed by staff, pupils and parents associated with Meadowhead School. Unlike our website, which can be viewed by anyone with internet access, the learning platform can only be entered using a username & password. Some parents have already received their usernames and passwords at the Families For Learning Evenings. For those who have not received any information, there will be an opportunity in the future.

There are 3 different types of user [pupils, parents, and staff] for the learning platform, each with their own unique design. Below are screen shots of the parent and pupil learning platform homepages:



Pupil homepage



Parent homepage

The parental portal is a web based area that is accessible to parents only. It contains personalised information about your child in school, for example attendance, behaviour and courses, as well as more general information regarding the school community.

As a parent, you can also view the **'subject pages'** area of our learning platform. These provide specific subject information and support materials for pupils and parents, as long as they have access to the internet.

Your children already have access to their areas from home. Firstly, they have to go to the school website address [shown below] and then type in their school username and password.

[vle.meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk](http://vle.meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk)

As these are areas for parents and pupils, we would appreciate any feedback on what you see. If there is something missing, please let us know and we will do our best to incorporate your ideas.

**Mr Heggs**



# Key Skills and Enterprise Day

48 Y9 and Y10 students took part in this event on June 1st. We were given information about what employers expect from their workforce and what skills and qualities are required.

The activities were varied, useful and a little scary at times as we had to talk in front of a lot of people we didn't know! **and** we **all** had to take part. We were given good interview techniques.

In group activities we had to work with students we didn't know but the tasks given to us soon made us think and work like a team.

As the day went on we gained in confidence and realised that we all had skills and strengths to share and that every successful team needs a mixture of talents. I think we all went away with more confidence about ourselves and how to act in interviews.



**The Y9 Business Team**

# New York Competition



Students were invited to view the New York City display in the Learning Resource Centre and answer three questions to test their New York knowledge.

Congratulations go to Lucy Fallon from 7A (pictured) who won a prize and a New York T shirt.

**Mr Sockett**

# We Welcome



Miss L Ching  
Y10 Pastoral Assistant



Ms K Hobson  
Finance Assistant

## Goodbye and Good Luck!

**We say Goodbye and Good Luck to the following long-serving members of staff who are retiring with 101 years combined service between them:**

Ms Harper is well travelled, not many people have circum-navigated the world twice. Such experience cannot simply be gleaned from a textbook you have to live the subject if you are to truly engage your pupils as Ms Harper has successfully done for 29 years; firstly at Rowlinson School and then, following the amalgamation, at Meadowhead.

Parents who went to Rowlinson might not recognise the name but might be more familiar with the name 'Priest'. Ms Harper, with her reputation for strong discipline, was affectionately known as 'Priest the Beast' by her sixth form pupils!

Ms Harper has worn many different hats, during her long career, including Head of Subject and Head of Year, but most of all she should be remembered for her ceaseless commitment to delivering quality lessons in the classroom.

Ms Harper will be a great loss to the faculty, where she has long been a figurehead providing inspiration for young and older staff alike. Ms Harper is a great 'behind the scenes' worker who has been responsible for an enormous amount of curriculum development as well as contributing many ideas which have ensured the continuing success of the Humanities Faculty.

Ms Harper will be greatly missed by the faculty. We wish her a happy retirement. After all anyone who attends the Y7 Castleton trip for 20 consecutive years and does the long trek up to Peveril Castle( ahead of the pupils!) deserves a break!!!



Ms A Harper  
Geography

**Mrs Cousins**

When I first met Mr Laybourne 30 years ago, we both had mullets of black hair though he was already beginning to look like a young Osama Bin Laden.

In 1991 we became two of the 'famous five' Heads of Year after yet another reorganisation following the amalgamation of Jordanthorpe and Rowlinson Schools. He is the only one remaining of that quintet who is still in post so his impending retirement marks the end of an era in that sense.

Mr Laybourne has been a model of consistency and continuity. As a Head of Year he knows his Year Group and he knows their parents.

He has displayed a remarkable ability to transcend generations and adapt to the contemporary demands of teaching. He is the sort of guy who gives the teaching profession a good name.

My abiding memory of Mr Laybourne? It has to be his assemblies. If I had to give my ten favourite comments by staff in thirty years of listening to assemblies, he would account for seven of them. He was the master of the 'double entendre' or was he just having us on for all of these years?

Happy retirement. I am proud to have known you as a colleague and a friend.



Mr N Laybourne  
Head of Y11 / AD&T

### Mr Barrott



Mrs A Laybourne  
Food Technology

Mrs. Laybourne and I both started as newly qualified teachers at Jordanthorpe School, 34 years ago. She was Miss Exelby and had met Mr Laybourne whilst she was a trainee teacher at Rowlinson School.

They married in May 1976.

Mrs. Laybourne has been an outstanding classroom teacher. She has excellent discipline, is so organized and sets such high standards.

Over the years she has contributed to so many school events – Galas, Explosion Discos, Alton Towers and has provided food for many buffets and staff leavers dos. Nothing is ever too much trouble for Mrs. Laybourne. She copes whatever the circumstances. I'll never forget the Christmas Dinners she used to provide for all the staff in the old school. When all the pupils had been dismissed, we'd all go down to the kitchens in South Building, where our Christmas turkey, trimmings and veg. were ready on platters in each oven. It went like clockwork and we used to finish the evenings with a staff karaoke with each faculty taking a turn to sing. Those were the days!

Mrs Laybourne always has a smile on her face and has such a positive outlook on life. As an experienced Learning Manager, pupils respond well to her down to earth, no nonsense approach. She is caring, conscientious and can always be relied upon. If she can help out in any way, she will. We are all definitely going to miss her.

### Mrs Bowker

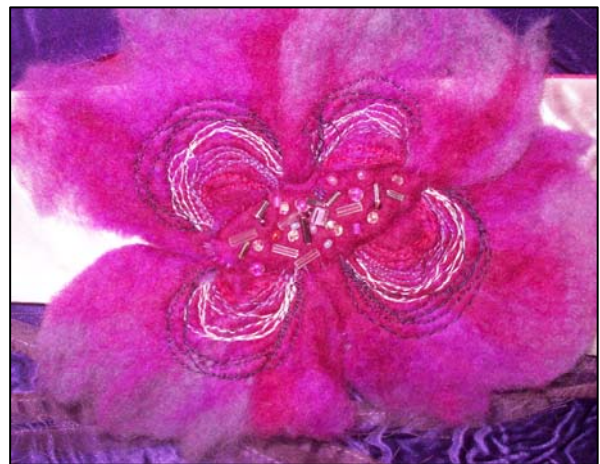
# ART TEXTILES EXHIBITION 2009



**Claire Bailey**



**Kathryn Hart**



**Chloe Craven**



**Beth Stewart**



**Theo Birks**