

The Phoenix



Issue 54

The Meadowhead School Newsletter

April 2009



The First School in Sheffield to Achieve Trust Status

“This is a momentous step for us,” said Mr Eastwood, Deputy Head, “the task ahead is to build on our strong foundations to ensure that we go from strength to strength.” Mr Eastwood has led on the move to become a Trust School and his hard work and commitment has been recognised by all.

A key feature of Trust Status will be an application to offer Post 16 courses at the school. This is something Meadowhead has been hoping for over a long period of time. It will also mean that the partnerships with the feeder schools become a template for excellent working practices across the city. “We can see so many opportunities to work together for the benefit of all the children in our community.”

“This is an exciting time for the school” said Mr Rosling, Chair of Governors, “we can see only good coming out of this.” The Governing Body of the school voted unanimously in support of adopting Trust Status, following a powerfully supportive mandate from parents, staff and students.

The school has already started to develop skills and training needed to provide top quality Post 16 courses for the future. “We are facing a lot of work ahead” said Mr Eastwood, Deputy Head “but everyone is up for the challenge.”

Current Year 10 students will hopefully be the first cohort offered an opportunity to follow Post 16 work as Meadowhead students.



GCSE Certificates and Awards Presentations

Well over 800 people attended the 16th Meadowhead School presentation of GCSE Certificates and Awards which was held at the Octagon Centre. This included ex Y11 students, parents, family members, friends, staff, governors and guests. Our chief principal guest and presenter was Dame Mary Richardson, former Chief Executive HSBC, Global Education Trust.

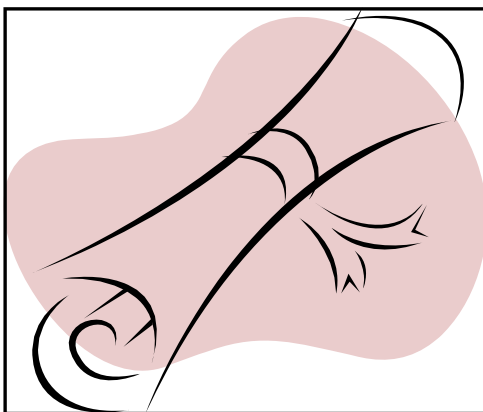


Ellis Newby, Amy Holland and Lucy Wain



Dame Mary Richardson

Dame Mary Richardson did a marvellous job in presenting the awards and certificates to all our students, making them feel special and at ease. She made a short closing speech, which focused on having the right attitude towards everything and how this plays an important part in people who are successful in all that they do.



Dame Mary Richardson also paid tribute to the hard work undertaken by all the students, staff, parents and governors connected with Meadowhead School in achieving the best results in the school's history to date. She wished all the students the very best for the future. Everyone enjoyed the interlude of photos and music.

Mr Rosling (Chair of Governors) and Ms James (Headteacher) also made speeches. Ms James' closing speech focused on the Meadowhead Spirit, which time and time again reflected the true nature and essence of everyone connected with the school.

She made reference to Armistice Day itself, where the whole school stood in silence with the whole country at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day in total harmony and awareness of their part in something really significant. This fell over break time and nearly 1900 staff and students involved behaved impeccably.

Comments received from people both during the evening and afterwards were very positive. Everyone really enjoyed the evening and said how tremendous the organising committee students were.

Octagon Centre 18th November 2008

A big thank you to everyone involved in putting this event together and also to everyone who contributed. The student committee worked so hard to ensure the evening ran smoothly and were outstanding on the night. It was another proud moment for everyone connected with Meadowhead School. Well done!



Mr Raju

Members of the Organising Committee were:

Ella Greyson, Amy Holland, Jack Laverick, Tom Mills, Georgina Norton, Amelia Pico, Poonam Saini.

Staff members: Mr Gilman, Mrs Vincent, Mrs Brown, Mr Mckeown, Mrs Buckley, Mrs Rodgers and Mr Raju.

Y11 student helpers: Theo Birks, Harrison Carter, Abby Morley.

Photographs were taken by Mr Ridley.

UK Youth Parliament

Harrison Carter has been elected to Youth Parliament as a Member representing Sheffield. He has already begun representing young people's views and has been appointed to various focus groups and task forces city and nationwide. Harrison's term of office lasts until February 2010.



This year is a very busy one for him, with regular meetings and sittings with fellow Members of Youth Parliament and MPs to help and continue raise awareness of youth issues. Also, there will be possible appearances in the Star, the Guardian and on television over the coming months.

The Yorkshire Four!



Drubo Tarafadar, Jake Gilmour, James Blackburn and Shaquille Joel have all been selected for Yorkshire Rugby Union squads. Drubo played his first game for the Under 13's against Central London in a 27-3 victory and he scored 3 tries! James and Shaquille are both in the Under 14 squad, and Jake plays for the Under 15's. This is a tremendous achievement for all these boys. Yorkshire traditionally is one of the strongest counties in England, with a high number of both Public and Grammar Schools with a long tradition of rugby excellence.

Other representative successes are 3 boys who have represented South Yorkshire at Under 15 level, Nick Hudson, Lewis Grocutt and Rob Sturman.

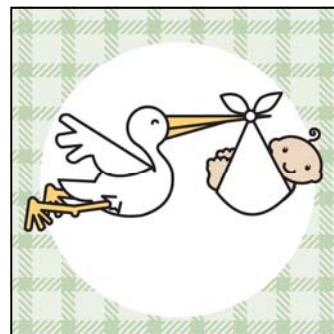
All the boys who play are adding to Meadowhead's growing reputation for rugby. In a City dominated by football it is refreshing to see boys having the opportunity to play and have success in another sport. We are the only state school in Sheffield that gives students this chance. Dragging ourselves in on Saturday mornings does have its rewards, who wants to watch Saturday Kitchen anyway!

Mr Morgan

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs Rundell on the birth of her baby.

Lucy Patricia Rundell was born on 26th January weighing 8lb 4oz.



The Pigeon Has Landed!



After many hard-working hours, a dedicated team of Gifted and Talented students produced and published the first edition of the new school newspaper “***The Pigeon.***”

Named in honour of our sister publication *The Phoenix*, the aim of “The Pigeon” is to print features, information and news that is relevant and interesting for students.

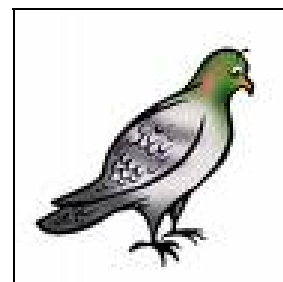
The first edition, a limited Valentine’s Day special, was met with a warm welcome in the school, most probably because of the ‘Love Tub’ feature in which students declared their love for that special someone. Other features included hints and advice on how to celebrate Valentine’s Day as well as film reviews, cartoons and competitions.

A special thank you also to everyone who is supporting *The Pigeon*, without whose help it would not have been able to take off!

The Pigeon meetings are held every Tuesday after school in E03 and any students who have ideas or expertise to offer are welcome to join our team.

Look out for the next edition of *The Pigeon* coming soon...

Miss Thompson



Y10 Graveyard Descriptions



At dusk, the graveyard was still and silent except for the icy wind that cut through the air. Thick black clouds rolled overhead in the sky, creating an immense shadow over the Church and its graveyard. The moon at its fullest was swollen in the sky, as if it was hung by a very fine wire.

The overgrown trees twisted in and out of each other like arms, arching over the pathway to form a darkened, obscured passage separating the gravestones on each side. Mist hung in tatters from the gnarled branches creating an eerie, bone chilling atmosphere as the night drew in. The fading light cast shadows, forming strange shapes that deceived the naked eye.

The ever aging gravestones seemed exhausted, even though at a standstill. Overgrown grass, still bearing the morning's dew, was growing up the sides of the crippled gravestones. Dried autumn leaves rustled, drifting around in the wind, the only sense of life in this forgotten place that otherwise felt as if everything was dead, if only deserted for the night.

Excessive bushes of dense brambles and nettles blocked the view of enfeebled, collapsed gravestones covered in cobwebs and thick moss. They seemed to have lain hunched against the perimeter of the churchyard for decades.

The fearsome looking gargoyles loomed over the entrance to the church, watching and protecting from all evil spirits. A magnificent oak door was encased by a huge stone archway that was weathered by time encompassed tombs from the bygone age. Rusting metal hinges secured the door that had welcomed many generations and witnessed much happiness and much sadness.

The vast space inside the church was overwhelming. Huge wooden beams held the enormous weight of the roof that looked as if it was ready to come crashing down. Mammoth concrete columns stood firm, supporting the colossal weight of the whole building. Stain glass windows stood proud against the old stone walls, their magnificent colours seemed to give the church a whole different dimension and it seemed to bring it to life somewhat.

Rows and rows of traditional wooden pews bowed before the altar. To the side, a gleaming silver lectern crowned a dark wooden pulpit, a sight that had captivated the attention of many a congregation. The gargantuan size of the old organ's pipes could have shaken the ancient wooden beams, but this night they lay silent and lifeless. The only sound that broke the deathly silence of this sleeping place was the rustling of birds in the bell tower and rats in the sewer pipes.

Jack Nixon 10D

Fire Fighters and Army in PSHE

Year 11 students were treated to a double escape from their regular PSHE teacher this half term. First the Fire Service and then the Army dropped in.

The Community Safety Fire Team have moved on from their usual but important focus on arson and hoax calls, and presented lessons on the theme of safe driving. Using haunting videos based on real life stories, and some hard hitting statistics (1 in 3 accidents involve boys / men under the age of 20), they gave the students a sobering (maybe literally) message, which may save lives.



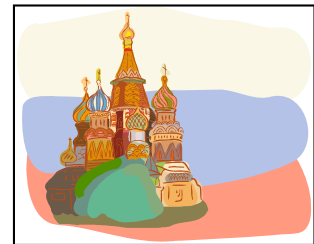
Equally impressive were the visits of Sergeant Gary Lenthall, who used his 20 years of army experience to teach on the theme of Human Rights abuses. Our students hopefully now have a clearer understanding of what our soldiers are doing in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other trouble spots around the world.

Mr Timms

Y10 Russian Visit to Leeds University

On 12th March I took my Y10 Russian group to Leeds University. We attended seminars by Russian lecturers and spent the day with graduates studying Russian.

The day was certainly worthwhile and very interesting. We found some of the lectures entertaining, especially the one given by a professor called Vlad (was he really Russian with such amazing English?!!) who showed us some clips from very strange Russian cartoons!



Leeds University is very impressive and we enjoyed looking around the buildings, and getting a feel for student life. We also had a chance to talk to the students about fees, the year in Russia, accommodation and other important information. Our pupils were also asked if they were interested in going to University in the future.

The day ended with a talk by one of my old University lecturers who is now in charge of a translation service. She told us that major companies and international organisations are desperate for linguists to do translation work and they can earn a fortune!

Ms Theyer



Meadowhead and Balapitiya



Mrs Henry makes a new friend

Throughout the school year, Meadowhead pupils have been contributing to the education of pupils in Sri Lanka. Money has been fund-raised to purchase computer equipment and broadband access for our link school, and some of our classes have put together power points and other presentations to show something of our culture and our lives to Sri Lankan pupils.



Pooja wins this spitting contest with Mr Timms

We have put together PSHE material about drugs, alcohol, smoking, politics, racism, multiculturalism and Fair Trade. We have sent RE material about our beliefs and lives, and History projects about the Empire and Ceylon. The pupils of Welithara Muslim School in Sri Lanka have put work together about similar themes in their own culture.

Over February half term, two Meadowhead teachers, Mrs Henry and myself, travelled to Sri Lanka to share resources and further our link. A part of our task was to teach lessons that the pupils would not normally receive. Mrs Henry taught about World Religions, using the team memory game that many pupils will recall from their RE lessons.



Sri Lankan students try the Memory Game

She also introduced them to a “Happy Families” style of card game on aspects of religion. Although the pupils were used to a much more traditional approach, they responded very well to both activities.

I taught about the different punishments that form part of our justice system, and to another group introduced German conversational phrases. Again the pupils overcame the 35 degree temperature to concentrate and participate well. Not that we’re saying that they’re better than Meadowhead pupils! It was just lovely to be greeted by an unprompted “Good Morning Teacher”, and to be thanked for the lesson by pupils at the end.



The link goes on



Welithara school prepare to greet us

Other memorable moments include being welcomed with garlands of flowers by the whole flag-waving school, meeting and chatting to pupils from year one upwards, and if I'm honest, watching their headmaster whack some naughty boys around the head and legs. So much quicker than a C3!!



Being interviewed by the local press

We were also given some time off, and enjoyed the hot weather as well as some fabulous visits. The turtle hatchery contained loads of baby ones, about to be re-released into the sea, and we had the chance to feed and ride elephants at their orphanage. Unfortunately the tsunami, as well as claiming 50,000 lives on the island, devastated their coral and therefore sea-life, but they are

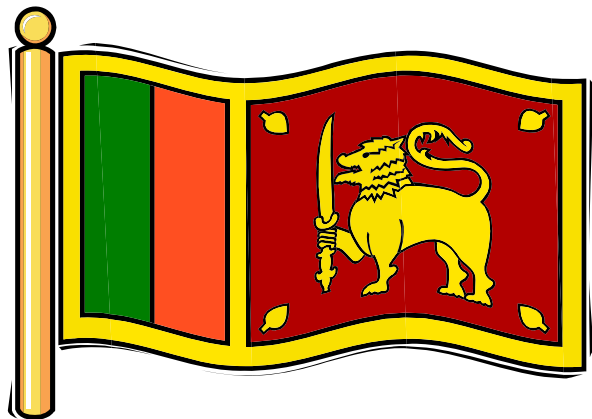
starting to recover, and we can thoroughly recommend Sri Lanka to anyone looking for a holiday destination.



Marking their books: A new spectator sport?

As for the future, plans have been made for further joint projects in Geography, RE, PSHE, History, Art, and maybe English Literature, as they study Macbeth. Technology allowing, we also hope for a video conference link-up, and who knows, maybe one day a trip with pupils.

Mr Timms



Creative Writing Competition

The English Department ran a Creative Writing competition last term to encourage pupils to compose stories and poems.

The theme was Vampires and prizes of Twilight film posters and film books were kindly donated by Little Brown publishers.

The standard of entries was high, and it was hard to choose a winner but after much deliberation between the English department and Count Dracula the following prizes were awarded...

STORIES

First Prize KS3

Billi Golland 8D

"If You Go Out To The Woods Today, Who Knows What You Might Find..."

This was a beautifully written story which created a genuine air of menace and horror.

First Prize KS4

Yun-Hang Cho 10G

"Plague of the Day Bats"

This was a unique and gripping mix of horror and science-fiction, an exciting futuristic twist of a classic story.

Other stories which deserve an honourable mention are:

The Unexpected Guest - Daniel Smith 10A

Violet - Lucy Barrott 9I

Cruor lamia - Isabelle Meyer 10C

Vampire of Night - Chelsea Holroyd 9I

POETRY

First Prize

Laura Aldred 10C

"Teenage Fangclub"

This poem climbed inside the mind of a young vampire to show us that they have the same worries as any normal teenager as well as a taste for blood. Witty and well executed, it showed that horror can be humorous too.

The following poems also require a mention:

Taste - Joe Mellors 10D

Slayer - Megan Topham 11H

Vampire Innocence - Ben Shaw 10A

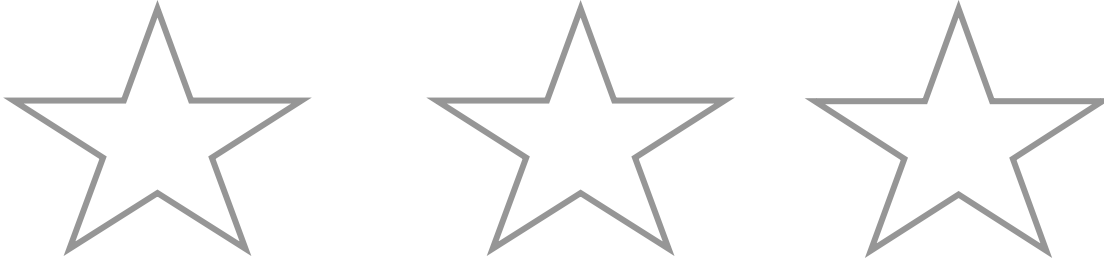
Vampire - Jessica Hawksworth 9H

It was a pleasure to read such a variety of stories and poems, Meadowhead pupils are imaginative, creative and sometimes terrifying writers.

Mrs Key



As Seen on T.V...Teacher's T.V!



| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Mr Affleck | Mrs Henry |
| Mr Lockley | Mr Timms |
| Mr Wilde | |

On the 4th December, 2008, Teachers T.V. were in Meadowhead School to film teachers at work on Global Issues in the classroom.

- ◆ Language skills were displayed in Mr Lockley's class when learning about the school life of students across the world.

The focus of the programme was 'How to develop Global Dimension in the curriculum.' What better place to investigate all this than in a well known International School, Meadowhead!

Later in the day teachers reported back on how they had planned and managed the lessons filmed in discussion with Mrs Henry and Mr Timms, whose RE and PSHE syllabuses also include a fair number of global links in the topics covered.

The following lessons were filmed by the Teacher's T.V. crew-

The programme was edited in December 2008 and goes on air sometime this year. Get your autographs now before the rush starts!

- ◆ Mr. Wilde's Maths students were seen trading for equipment in a maths challenge.
- ◆ Mr Affleck's year 7's learned how the history of William the Conqueror subduing the Anglo-Saxons after 1066 can be matched by the modern day dictator subjugating the Congo in the 21st Century.

Mrs Henry



Poetry Live

On the 19th of January, 32 students from Years 9 and 10 attended Poetry Live at the City Hall. Poetry Live is a poetry day aimed at GCSE students, giving them an insight into what inspired some of the most successful poets. The poets read some of their poetry, spoke about them and some answered any questions that the audience had.

Gillian Clarke was the first poet to read. She talked about how her everyday life helped her write her poems as she wrote about her experiences. The other poets who read after her were Simon Armitage, Carol Anne Duffy, Imtiaz Dharker and Daljit Nagra.

The poet who really engaged the audience read last. John Agard was the highlight of the day as he really got the audience involved in his poetry. John was born in Guyana and the way he looked at the British culture was included in many of his poems such as 'Alternative Anthem' written about Britain's obsession with tea.

The genres of poetry covered were vast. Simon Armitage brought an element of humour to the day, while Gillian Clarke's poetry was more serious. Overall, I would say the day was a success and gave almost everyone there a better understanding of poetry.

Lisa Requena (10F)



HSA '100 Club' Winners

The following parents have won in the recent '100 Club' Monthly Cash Draw, organised by the Home and School Association:

December

44 D Bull
7 J Bondsall
50 R Crookes

January

1 L Mellors
71 S Brammer
49 A Birks

February

46 L Hibbert
63 R Green
2 L Nevin

For anyone wanting to join the '100 Club' the cost is £12 per year. Details from Mrs Bowker.



Trampolining Successes

The Sheffield Schools Trampolining Championship took place at 'The Goals' Sports Centre on Saturday 21st March. 450 competitors from 22 schools competed in 3 levels of competition—Novice, Closed and Open.

The results are as follows:



Josh Whittaker
U12 Boys Novice
3rd Place



Sophie Wigfall
U14 Girls Novice
3rd Place



U13 Girls Closed A and B Teams
A Team - 3rd Place
Daisy Cutts, Emily Marsden
Mollie Leeson & Lisa Sanderson



Elysia Slack, Bethany Hancock, Alex Williams,
Ellie Thornley
U12 Girls Novice
3rd Place

Oliver!



On Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th February Meadowhead School put on three fantastic productions of Oliver!

Here, the cast members tell us about their experiences in their own words:

Walking out on to the stage for the curtain call with people clapping for what you, the whole production crew and cast have achieved is not something that can be forgotten easily. I made so many great friends from all years. This is why I cannot recommend enough being in a school production. It was an amazing experience.

Billi Golland (8D) Oliver Twist

I loved Oliver! because it gave me an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. I'm very grateful to everyone who made it possible! It was great to have the part because it demanded a lot from me and I got to sing my favourite song from the whole play 'Consider Yourself'!

Sam Beatson (10J) Artful Dodger



I really enjoyed every bit of Oliver! All the cast got on well and we had loads of fun. The buzz you got on stage was amazing and we were all really sad on the last night. It was definitely worth all the hard work.

Lilith Staton (11H) Mrs Bedwin



Please Sir, can we have some more? Wow, don't know what to do after school anymore, might have to revise! Big thanks to everybody involved. Miss it loads.

Oliver Beech (I I H) Fagin

Oliver! was such a fantastic experience. I couldn't believe the adrenaline rush after each performance. It was an absolutely amazing show and one that I am thoroughly proud to have taken part in.

Chloe Poyser (I I G) Nancy



Being in Oliver! was a great experience. I really enjoyed working with all the cast and I was pleased that all the hard work came off in the shows. I thought when I first got the part as Bill Sykes, living up to the part would be a hard task but the boo's I received at the end of each night made me feel like I had done a decent job of being a villain.

Stefan Rankin (I I C) Bill Sykes

Oliver! Was one of the most fun experiences I have had at Meadowhead. Not just because of the thrill of performing but because of the friends that have been made. I am really glad I took part.

Abby Morley (I I H) Widow Corney

Oliver! was my first and unfortunately my last production at Meadowhead. The cast all worked very hard to make this a super production. Everyone who came to see us said how professional the show was. It was hard work but a lot of fun with a great cast who were a pleasure to work with.

Richard Granger (I I D) Mr Bumble



Y10 Spanish Exchange to Zaragoza

WEDNESDAY 11TH FEB

Today all 9 of us set off. We were dropped off at the airport and said our goodbyes to Tom the driver. We checked our bags in at the automatic check-in desk and luckily they didn't notice that most of our bags were overweight. We then went through to departures where Mr Bayarri was stopped and had his bag searched because the presents for the Spanish school (made from Sheffield steel) couldn't be x-rayed properly!

When we arrived at Zaragoza we were nearly blown off our feet as it was so windy. Waiting for us were our exchange partners and their families. I spent the afternoon relaxing and went to bed early as I was very tired.

Joseph Joyce



Outside the school entrance

THURSDAY 12TH FEB

After settling in with our host family we went straight to lessons. The first lesson I had was in English. It was good as the class were watching a film with Spanish subtitles, but their accents were very hard to understand. After the first lesson we all met up and had a tour of the school. It was very different and they still had blackboards!

After our tour we all walked into town for a bus tour of the city. It was an open top bus and it was a good way to see Zaragoza town. Zaragoza had some very nice features and they were "muy moderno y muy bonito" – very modern and pretty.

We then spent the afternoon with our host families with whom we met up later to go bowling in 'Gran Casa' which was in an enormous shopping centre. It was a long day but a very good start to the exchange; from then on we knew it was going to be good.

Sophie May



Visiting "el parque grande"

FRIDAY 13TH FEB

Today we split into 2 groups and visited the primary schools. The children were all really excited to meet us and speak in English. They kept asking questions like "Do you like football"? That night most of us went for a Chinese meal, it was the nicest meal we'd eaten so far. **Mia Rhodes**

SATURDAY 14TH FEB

Finally we got a lie in! While the boys were watching their partners play football, the girls, of course went shopping! It was a huge place called the 'Plaza.' It was so massive, it had buildings connected by a mini train! There were so many shops, they even had a Primark. Shopping wore me out, so I had a siesta. All of a sudden it was time to get ready for the party.

We were given ribbons, if you wore green you were in a relationship, if you got red you were single and looking. We were all a bit confused, everything was so Spanish. **Evie Heath**



Shopping for souvenirs "en el centro"

SUNDAY 15th FEB

Today we all did different things, I went to the village with my host, Sheila. There are only 100 people who live there, including 20 of Sheila's family. It is very traditional and everyone knows everyone. When we had lunch we had to sit on a really, really long table. We had calamari, paella and churros. After our rather large meal, Sheila and I had a siesta. Later on we drove back to Zaragoza. **Lois Hunt-Brown.**



Taking over Zaragoza's town hall!



In primary schools where we were received like celebs!

WEDNESDAY 18th FEB

Today we went to the Town Hall but first we went to a shop and tried 'chocolate con churros' (typical Spanish thick hot chocolate with donut sticks for dunking!) Everyone loved them! We went to the Town Hall at 12.00 and had a tour around, it was very nice and modern inside. Later we had free time to buy presents and eat some food. In the evening we went to 'San Valero' to go to the expo and Laserzone. Our match was England v Spain but the Spanish won. We had a grand day out.

Tom Holloway

MONDAY 16th FEB

Today we visited La Aljaferia which is a Muslim Palace. The palace is being restored emphasising the style of architecture from years ago. We visited the jail where they put the criminals. We also saw the well or what they called the well, but Tin Tin guessed it was the death pit.

Connor Lightfoot



Farewell evening...sniff... looking good with the exchange t-shirts!



In "Candanchu", a ski resort in the Pyrenees.

TUESDAY 17th FEB

It was a 2 hour drive to the ski resort of 'Candanchu'. The sledging, snowfights and falling over made the journey worth while. First, Evie and I went down and I was at the front, the breaks didn't seem to be working but we stopped at the bottom. Afterwards we went to a witches' cave. We then went up to the top where all the bats are. **Daisy Fearn**

THURSDAY 19th FEB

Today was our last day. We filled in a questionnaire and wrote about the visit. We had a quiz, Joseph won 1st prize., Daisy won 2nd prize and Lois won 3rd prize which was the booby prize of a dusty sausage! The quiz was very hard I thought, maybe I wasn't listening on the tours or maybe it's because I have a bad memory! The trip has been so good that I don't want to go home tomorrow.

Laura Aldred

Happy 'Niu' Year



The Chinese Year of the Ox (Niu) started on 26th January. A group of Year 9 Art students worked as a graphic design team to promote a school themed food day for Scolarest, our catering service. They successfully produced a wide range of very professional and creative promotional material designed to encourage students to eat Chinese at the Café Ole on the 26th January.

Posters, flyers, menus, displays and even animations were created by the team in consultation with Lynne, the Catering Manager. She also arranged a Chinese food tasting session and a wok cooking demonstration to help focus the designers on the brief. The group secured £100 of funding towards printing costs from the school Enterprise Fund. The students also looked at Chinese cultural traditions associated with the New Year celebrations and Mrs Ford gave a very interesting and informative presentation on the whole Chinese New Year festival from a personal perspective.

Any promotion can only be judged on its success in raising the profile of the event. On the day double the normal amount of western styled Chinese food was prepared and it all sold out by the end of lunch. The students enjoyed the project and I was very impressed by the dedication and drive they showed in producing high quality graphic artwork to the best standard they were able.

Mr Robson



Tesco For Schools Vouchers

Please don't forget to collect the Tesco Vouchers for Schools when you do your shopping. You can collect 1 voucher for every £10 spent in Tesco. The vouchers can be banked to buy a variety of goods and equipment for PE, ICT, AD&T, Music, MFL etc.



Please bring any vouchers you collect to the main office.



E-twinning in ICT lessons with a new French partner school!

I was fortunate enough to apply and be accepted in an e-twinning project funded by the British council. This project gives Meadowhead School students the opportunity to twin with another school in France.

During a 3 day conference in Swansea, we worked together to create a project that both schools could work on and share our findings electronically.



After 2 full days of working with the French teachers, I finally managed to find a French school to twin with our school, Collège Cousteau.

I am sure this experience will provide our students with a lot of new ideas. Both schools will focus on the environment as a subject to research and share findings through various electronic ways e.g. e-mails, movie making, blogging etc. This will be a great opportunity for my year 7 to plan and prepare with me the way we will report to our French partners about recycling using new e-technologies available to us. Watch this space Year 7, for this exciting new project to take off!

Mrs Ali

Note to Parents: Medication

If your child has any medication which is kept at school, please remember that it is your responsibility to ensure that the medication is kept in date and replaced when necessary.

If you have any concerns regarding medication in school, please contact the School Office.



Families for Learning Progress Day February 2009

Progress Day this year was held in the middle of our arctic conditions but we still had over 80% of parents attending. (We are always looking for 100% attendance at all Families for Learning events and as always we appreciate the effort that families make to attend). Where parents were unable to attend, students came to discuss their progress with their Learning Managers which proved to be very successful.

Families were also able to discuss the Trust Proposals during the day and to learn about and register for the Meadowhead Learning Platform.

We are always trying to improve and develop these types of events and as always we asked families to complete a questionnaire to help us.

I have included a summary of the results of this questionnaire opposite.

These are some of the things we would like to do in the future:

- ◆ Continue to develop the Meadowhead Learning Platform (MLP) to provide greater access to learning materials for families and to learn about the current progress of students.
- ◆ Emphasise the importance of students being able to work independently and to take responsibility for their own learning and progress.
- ◆ Continue to develop the extended school programme
- ◆ Continue to ensure parents are contacted quickly when underperformance occurs, (this may be through the MLP as well as personal contact in the future).

Thank you to all the families who provided this feedback which will help us to improve our progress day.

Mr P Eastwood
Deputy Headteacher



Progress Day Questionnaire

| | Average responses 1 – 5 (1 strongly agree) | | | | | |
|---|--|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Year Groups | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | Overall |
| I received the two letters regarding progress day | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.4 |
| I found the day useful/effective. | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.7 |
| I feel that the Learning Manager is the main point of contact for my child at Meadowhead. | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.7 |
| Targets were agreed during the appointment for my son/daughter. | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.6 |
| My son/daughter kept a record of outcomes. | 2.2 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.2 |
| Our appointment started and ended on time. | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 2.2 | 1.8 |
| We as parents, kept a record of the outcomes | 2.1 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2 | 2.1 | 2.0 |
| The appointment was long enough. | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.5 |
| The information/data shared was useful | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| I understand how to support my son/daughter with their learning | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Sharing all data about your son/daughter, regarding progress, through an on line password protected site | 1.7 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.7 |
| More meetings such as progress days | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.4 |
| A direct link with the learning manager in the school | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.6 |
| A planner with more directed items for parents to monitor/check | 1.8 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.8 |
| Immediate contact with parents if your son/daughter is not making expected progress | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 1.2 | 1.5 |
| Classes for parents to explain how to support your son's/daughter's learning | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Access to Schemes of Work (through a web site) that explain the content of courses and the expected learning outcomes | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.7 |
| More on line learning materials that students can access at home | 1.6 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.6 |
| More activities in the extended school programme that support student's learning | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 |

U12 Football Team



The Y7 football team have made an outstanding start to life at Meadowhead. They have exceeded any expectations that I had of them. The boys reached the last 16 of the national cup, having entered the competition with over 1000 other school teams. They have put in some fantastic performances, playing teams from Sheffield, York and Leeds. In the first 5 rounds, the team only conceded 2 goals which is remarkable for under 12 level.

The lads were finally knocked out by a very strong side from Hull. The defeat was down to the opposition being physically stronger and I firmly believe that we matched their technical ability. Hopefully, the team will grow a bit before Y9 when we enter the competition again.

In the Sheffield League, the team have so far played 5 league games, winning 4, scoring 29 goals and only conceding 7. They are on course to win the league with one game remaining.

As well as being in a great position to win the league, the team has also reached the final of the Sheffield School's Cup which will be played after Easter. On the way to the final, the boys were given a bye in the first round, beat Firvale 10-0 in the second round, beat King Edwards 13-0 in the Quarter Final and beat Westfield 5-3 in the semi - 28 goals in 3 games with 3 conceded is a fantastic achievement at any level.

The lads' attitude and endeavour throughout the year has been fantastic. They are very hard-working and get stuck in when necessary but also possess lots of attacking flair.

I feel on this occasion, it would be unfair to single out any one player as everyone in the team has contributed to their great success. I would like to express how proud I am of the lads and look forward to seeing them develop further throughout their school life.

Mr Allen

U13 Netball Team



The Y8 netball team have not lost a match this season! This is a fantastic achievement for all girls involved. There have been some outstanding performances, both by the team and individual players. Not only have they won every match, they have won them in style. These girls have skill, discipline and sheer determination, all of which have enabled them to outwit their opposition.

Thank you to all the girls above for attending practises, playing in the matches and showing commitment to the team. All the girls have been an absolute pleasure to coach.

Mrs Tym

Barnardos Collection

During the three performances of Oliver! in February we collected a brilliant £291.44 for Barnardos!

Thank you to everyone who donated.



Italian Rugby Tour

On February 14th, one of the most celebrated days of our calendar year, boys from year 8 to 11, Mr Morgan, Mr Hensby, Mr Hill and Mr McKeown embarked on a trip that can only be described as memorable. The bi-yearly Meadowhead School Rugby Tour to Italy.



Day 1

On arrival, we went for a training session and after a well deserved dinner, the night was wrapped up with a long sleep in preparation for the Mr McKeown wake up. *Ulster accent* – ‘Wake up Gentlemen!!’. Who said anything about alarm clocks?

Day 2

Day 2 kicked off with breakfast and then off to San Pietro Rugby Club to train on their field in preparation for the matches that evening.



Day 3

Today, we made a visit to the north Italian city of Verona, the setting of Romeo and Juliet. That night, the U15's and U17's went to play Verona Rugby Club. All matches were once again played with style from the Meadowhead teams who had a resident powerhouse that goes by the name of Reuben. Many Italians found it hard to stop him!

Day 4

Day 4 started with a trip to Lake Garda, which is one of the most northern lakes in Italy and is wonderful. The views are spectacular looking onto the Italian Dolomites and Swiss Alps. The matches today were played against Rugby Ospitaletto. Both the U14's and U15's drew their matches.



Day 5

The last full day in Italy. The final matches were for the U15's and U17's who both through exhaustion of playing everyday, lost these matches. The team from Brescia had more physical power than us probably because that was their first match of the week, not their fourth!

Day 6

The journey back. I'll sum this up in a few words. Dribbling, sleeping, vomit, smells, sore throats, Channel Tunnel, exhaustion.

The Rugby trip is organised excellently by our staff at Meadowhead and experienced by pupils who all share a passion for the sport. I hope the tour continues to run in the future. It certainly should.

Harrison Carter IIL



You have to hand it to Mr Morgan. Not for him the traditional rugby escape to the Welsh Valleys or even, heaven forbid, a short ferry ride across the Irish Sea. No—it's Italy or nowhere for Morgan. And because he's hard, the tour has to be done on a coach, twenty six hours outward and twenty four hours return if you take the option of using the tunnel under Mt Blanc. We did, and if nothing else, the test of endurance posed by the travel itinerary was a rite of passage that even the toughest of our matches couldn't rival.

The whole thing was good for several reasons. The boys found out a lot about themselves in stiff competition against older players who gave no quarter; the staff found out a lot about themselves when they got off the coach at the first refreshment stop... Milton Keynes.

Italy itself never loses its attraction and when you combine the country with the opportunity to play rugby football, you have an irresistible allure. The boys I hope enjoyed the experience and saw the trip not only as a successful rugby tour with them as representatives of Meadowhead School and sporting ambassadors of their country, but also as a unique opportunity to appreciate another culture and play a little rugby football as a bonus.

Mr Morgan organised it, the boys played it, and at the end you've got to say no other school in Sheffield would undertake such an enterprise in this sport on such a grand scale and with such success.

I hope the tour will be repeated in two years time, that would be the fourth over eight years...but please, Mr Morgan, for the love of everything that is precious...lets charter a plane.

Mr McKeown



On the morning of the twenty-six hour road journey to Italy, I was filled with excitement. For the first few hours nothing really happened except from sleeping and chanting. We got to Dover, boarded the ferry and soon we were driving on the wrong side of the road in France. We crossed into Germany, then into a very snowy Switzerland and the sights were amazing, I think I used up one whole camera just on those mountains!

We went through the tunnel into Italy and eventually arrived at our hotel. It was only two star but I thought the hotel was great. We quickly settled in and went down to the restaurant where we had pasta.

The next morning we trained on a ground that was not very eye catching. It was a very rough ground, no grass, no sprinklers, just a soil pitch and a pair of rugby posts and stone concrete steps to watch play. I was feeling very tired and wanted very little noise but it was not to be my lucky day. Mr McKeown shouted as loud as he could "Stay in a line, stay in a line!" Once the training session was done, we all went back to the hotel to have lunch. Yet again it was pasta!

The next morning after breakfast there was more training before our Y8 and Y9 matches. Over the next three days we visited Verona and Lake Garda. I bought presents for my family and friends. On the last day the Y10 and Y11 teams played an exciting game but the opposition won by about 4 tries.

That night we packed our bags and headed down to the restaurant for our meal but I was astounded to see not pasta on our plates but pizza. What a surprise!

In the morning, Mr McKeown was shouting at us to get up and put our bags in the coach and go down to have breakfast. We had the same long journey home but when we reached France instead of using the ferry we travelled via the euro tunnel. This was a first for me. It was extremely quick. We got back to Meadowhead early and we were glad to see family members once again. It had been a fantastic trip, one I will always remember.

Daniel Turner 8G

We Welcome...



Miss Smith
Leadership Admin



Mr Lochner
Humanities Pastoral Assistant

...And We Bid Farewell To

Anna Poole started at Meadowhead in May 2002 as a Finance Assistant. Over the past 7 years, in the Finance Office, she has made such a contribution to school, supporting pupils, parents and teachers. She has been a highly valued member of staff. Most of you will have at sometime been appreciative of her positive can do attitude, willingness to help and commitment to the school.

On a more personal note she has been a great support to me over the last year and always been enthusiastic in her response to change. I know she will be a real asset to Emmaus Primary School where she will be Senior Admin Officer.

She is definitely ready to take on new challenges and experiences.

We shall miss her terribly but wish her luck and hope she keeps in touch.

Mrs Ledger
Bursar



Mrs Poole
Finance Assistant

Goodbye And Good Lock-ley!



Mr Lockley
Languages Teacher

With a passion for languages, a genuine desire for bridging the gap between global schools and a knack for being heard teaching over in the Science corridor, Mr Lockley made a huge impression when he started teaching at Meadowhead School in 2006.

From teaching in local primary schools to founding extra-curricular clubs, Mr Lockley has made a lasting impression on hundreds of students and all of the staff who have been charmed by the booming voice.

When asked to comment on Mr Lockley's time here at Meadowhead, we were inundated with funny stories and fond farewells.

Mrs Lewis will miss him on a professional and personal level. Mrs Ali will really miss his morning chats in the staffroom – and his loud voice echoing through to her classroom in L10.

Head of German, Ms Grotzki, will miss his passion for Japanese – she's sampled his authentic Japanese cuisine! – as well as his determination within the department. And his loud, echoing voice...

The members of staff who joined at the same time as Mr Lockley will particularly miss him as they have developed a close working relationship with him. Some of the staff (Mr Merritt, Mr Bayarri, Miss Thompson) even trained with him at Sheffield University and will notice the space he leaves behind more acutely.

Mrs Brown, Head of Languages at Meadowhead, will miss his drive and determination. She put our feelings eloquently and succinctly, saying, "Japan's gain is, sadly, our loss."

Whether you know him personally or not, chances are you will know someone whose education has been positively influenced by Mr Lockley's work at Meadowhead School.

Everyone wishes him a fond farewell, all the best for the future in Japan and to keep in touch.

Au revoir, auf Wiedersehen, sayonara and see ya' later...

Mr Merritt and Miss Thompson



Red Nose Day 2009



Total Raised by Meadowhead Pupils and Staff:

£1, 214

The theme was 'Do Something Funny for Money' and all Meadowhead pupils and staff contributed by either:

- Buying a red nose
- Wearing something red
- Doing something funny
- Donating money to Comic Relief

Here are some of the activities:

- Kerry Griffiths sold Flap Jack (£3.85)
- Aaron Gordon wore 18 pairs of socks (£13.70)
- Chicken Dance (£20.32)
- Sponsored Silence - Sophie Edwards (£15.30)
Jaden Johnson (£220.90)
- Sponsored Run by Laura and Lucy (£17.65)
- 8G (£33.63) 8A (£12.10)
- 8H girls sold red roses and buns (£45.21)
- Sophie O'Nion (£12.84)
- Miss Clegg and Mr Merritt sold Red Butterfly Buns and Red Nose Hob Nobs (£22.50)



Meadowhead Language College Holiday Tasters!

French Spanish Italian Greek

**Cost:
£25.00**

6 week course

To learn basic phrases
Ready for your holiday abroad

Thursday evenings: 7.00pm—8.30pm

Course begins: Thursday 4th June 2009

Last session: Thursday 9th July 2009

One free child's place
(aged 10 or over)
with every paying adult!



Enquiries regarding any of these courses to:

★ The Language College – Tina Clapham or Alison Huff
Tel. No. 0114 237 2723 Ext. 274

Email: LanguageCollege@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk