

This edition of the Phoenix prepared for the parent(s) of:

# The Phoenix



Issue 62

The Meadowhead School Newsletter

December 2011

## Prestigious Awards Ceremony Attended by Professor Lord Winston



*GCSE Organising Committee from Left to Right: Josh Brammer, James Cooper, Professor Robert Winston, Leanne Yates, Melissa Kirk and Jasmine Tolond*

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November we held our annual celebration of GCSE results at the Octagon. These were once again the best that the students had ever achieved at 64% % A\* - C including English and Mathematics (see article overleaf). Professor Lord Winston was our guest of honour and presented the prizes and certificates. He really enjoyed meeting the organising committee and was impressed by how they ran the evening. He also took time to talk to students on the stage and understand about each individual's achievements. In his speech he described his own journey which included many funny stories about failures which he learned from and examination catastrophes which did not stop him becoming a doctor and leading his field in gynaecology.

He left two messages for our students, that we never stop learning and that we are all human beings who need to work together to succeed.

### Mr Eastwood



# CLASS OF 2011 – MORE RECORD BREAKERS!

Congratulations to all the students from our last Y11 who yet again achieved record breaking results - 74.5% 5 A\*-C grades, our highest ever figure with 64% achieving at least 5 A\* to C grades including English and Mathematics. This was the seventh successive year that the results have increased.



Many subject areas had their best ever A\* to C results with English (78%) and Mathematics (71%) leading the way.

A quarter of students achieved three or more A\* and A grades whilst virtually all students (98%) achieved five or more A\* to G grades – yet more school records!

## **Which means even more Sixth Form students**

One immediate consequence of the excellent GCSE results is that more students met the requirements to commence A levels at Meadowhead. Over 100 of our students joined Y12, on A level courses taught by Meadowhead teachers. We are now teaching A levels to more than 200 students in Y12 and Y13.



This is further endorsement of the demand for school based Post-16 provision in our community. The sixth form is having a positive impact throughout the school. There is no doubt the the opportunity to “stay on” at Meadowhead proved a real incentive to many students to really improve their grades and achieve their full potential.

As expected, the Sixth Form students are adding a new dimension to the school, taking a lead in all aspects of school life and acting as excellent role models for the younger students.

The majority of the Y13 students achieved very good AS results and have now moved onto A2 courses. They are planning their next step beyond school – university or the world of work.



Thanks again to Sheffield College for their work and help in the Post-16 partnership that has enabled us to offer such a wide range of A level courses. Thanks also to so many parents and staff and members of the community for their support for the Post-16 development.

**Mr Fowler**



## HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The Home and School Association held their AGM in September and the following parents/staff were elected:



Chairperson—Mrs L Nevin  
Secretary—Mrs R Green  
Treasurer—Mrs E Smith

We welcomed several new members and have met regularly on either a Monday or a Thursday evening each month. Our fundraising this term has focussed on providing the Language College with refreshments every Thursday. We have also organised a Christmas Raffle, which I hope you have all supported by buying three books of raffle tickets. We have provided funding for the Y11 GCSE Certificate Presentation at the Octagon in November where Lord Professor Robert Winston was our chief guest. We also fund the Phoenix Awards, which reward all students' achievements in school. We plan to have another AUCTION in 2012 and will be letting you know more details early next year.

Parents can support the Home and School Association in several ways.

1. By joining and coming along to meetings. We are keen to have new members with fresh ideas.
2. By joining the Monthly Cash Draw for £12.
3. By using the [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) website when ordering goods online, as it gives the school a 15% donation from each purchase made. All you have to do is log onto the website and type in Meadowhead Home and School Association before shopping.

If you would like more information on the Home and School Association please fill in the slip below and return it to me at school.

**Mrs Bowker**

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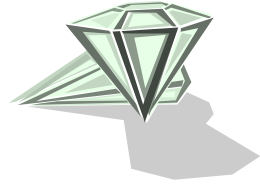
To MRS BOWKER: MEADOWHEAD SCHOOL

I would                    like to join the Home and School Association  
                                 like details on the Cash Monthly Draw  
                                 Like to donate a prize for the Auction next year

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Form \_\_\_\_\_

# DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER



Daniel Ledwood (Y11) and Lucy Alexander (Y10) received the first ever Diamond Awards at Meadowhead School this term. This is a tremendous achievement based on hard work and a very positive attitude. The students at Meadowhead have asked that all Diamond Award winners are recognised through a Hall of Fame (pictured above) which is in The Rosling (the main atrium area) below the Phoenix.

To achieve a Diamond, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 work on Phoenix Awards which are based on 10 silvers for a Gold, 10 Golds for a Platinum and 10 Platins for a Diamond. In Years 10 and 11, the awards are linked to competencies which have been developed with business partners to give students a better start with Post 16 opportunities. Each award winner also receives a special limited edition Phoenix badge which has been specially commissioned for the school.

We would like to thank the Home and School Association who are sponsoring these awards.



*Specially commissioned display Diamond Award Badge of The Phoenix produced by Mr Askew in Technology with Crystal Elements hand-applied by Mr B Ridley of Musicincrystal.com*  
**Mr Eastwood**

# Bethany Kate Adcock

The sad news of Bethany's death hit the school community on Wednesday 16th November. The assemblies held to inform every one of the tragic accident of the night before were, for many, their first experience of losing someone close to them.

The shock was palpable and staff and students alike found it difficult to believe that such a thing had happened. Although all pupils are taught about the dangers of solvent abuse, it was traumatic news to lose someone in this way and through such an accident. Let's not forget that solvent abuse can take many forms and it was a tragic example on this occasion of such use that was the cause of Bethany's death.



Bethany was a bright and friendly Year 10 student. She was popular and had many friends. When students started to bring flowers and messages to school, it was obvious that she was known to many and was well regarded by her fellow pupils and by the staff. Before too long, the Rosling was the focus for many tributes and the perfume of hundreds of flowers filled the air. There were many messages, cards and letters and the Book of Condolence was soon filled with many poignant comments.

Chinese lanterns were released in her memory on Friday 18th November and many people turned up to witness the sad but uplifting event.

Bethany will be long remembered. She was a keen footballer. She loved animals, particularly dogs, and she loved the colour purple. She also loved her family and her friends and she will be sadly missed by them all.

A group of her fellow students have met to discuss more lasting memorials to Bethany's memory.

Father Harry Steel conducted a short service in school on the day of her funeral, which was attended by staff and students.

We all wish to pass on our prayers and good wishes to Mr and Mrs Adcock and Bethany's brother Matthew.



# Meadowhead Community Learning Trust Choir Concert



Including pupil performances  
from the following schools:

- \* Abbey Lane Primary
- \* Bradway Primary
- \* Greenhill Primary
- \* Lower Meadow Primary
- \* Norton Free Primary
- \* Woodseats Primary
- \* Meadowhead School

**14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012**  
**7:00 – 8:30pm**  
**Adults £3.00**  
**Concession £1.00**  
**Family Ticket**  
**(2 Adults, 2 Children)**  
**£6.00**

Tickets available from all participating schools



## NVQ Competition Winners!

Congratulations to Lauren Gribben 11A and Amy Craddock 11D who both finished as runners-up in an NVQ competition in liaison with AESSEAL to create a flyer to promote a business presentation which was open to all NVQ candidates in Sheffield. They both won £25 Meadowhall vouchers. Well done to both of them, their French teacher and the rest of the languages team were very impressed!



# DON`T STOP BELIEVING!

“Don`t stop believing” was the final song performed by the first Meadowhead Community Learning Trust Choir on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of July at Meadowhead School. Nearly 120 pupils aged seven to sixteen from five schools took part and enjoyed an evening of singing to a packed audience.

The evening started with all students singing “Something Inside So Strong” then each school performed two of their own songs. This was the first event of its kind in our community and the children had put in hours of hard work at their own schools before coming together as a Trust Choir. Steve Roberts of “Sing Live” fame conducted and really brought the choir together for the performance.



By the end of the evening the audience were on their feet clapping along to the music. Steve commented “ I can really feel the sense of community from this evening and the children are a credit to all the schools and families in the area. It was a privilege for me to be able to contribute in a small way.

Next year’s performance in March by the Trust Choir is already being planned and is expected to be bigger and better. In the community, we are always aiming to raise the standards and aim high for the families and children we serve. We never stop believing in the ability of young people to achieve great things!



Pictured above are children from Bradway Primary School, Greenhill Primary School, Abbey Lane Primary School, Lower Meadow Primary School and Meadowhead Secondary School.

**Mr Eastwood**

# MEADOWHEAD FRENCH EXCHANGE 2011/12



On the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, Y9 students, welcomed into their homes 12 French students from Montaigu in the Vendée. This is the third time Meadowhead has organised the Exchange and the first leg has yet again been a huge success.

Meadowhead students enjoyed taking their French partners into their lessons. The French students were pleasantly surprised and particularly enjoyed the drama and PSHE lessons and our interactive way of teaching.

Over the weekend, our host families really made the French feel welcome by taking them to York, shopping at Meadowhall, to local football matches and even walking in our beautiful Peak District.

The group came into school on Monday morning with big smiles on their faces ready for a joint day out at Alton Towers. There was lots of laughter and exchange of languages between the students as they bonded.

On Tuesday, the French students were invited to have mid-morning tea with our very own Lord Mayor and completed a wet town trail with the help of our French Language Assistant, Medhi.

On the last day, the French students enjoyed a visit to Lower Meadow Primary School, where they met lots of very enthusiastic children. The French students took part in interviews with the Y6s and were then shown around the school. All students were impressed by the warm welcome and amazing facilities the school had to offer. Thank you to Mrs Dunning for making it happen!

That evening, all the students were invited to a celebration evening in the 'Café Ole', where all the host families produced a fantastic buffet with homemade Halloween cakes and a huge amount of appetising British food. The students made the most of their last moments together and many tears were shed in view of the separation to come.

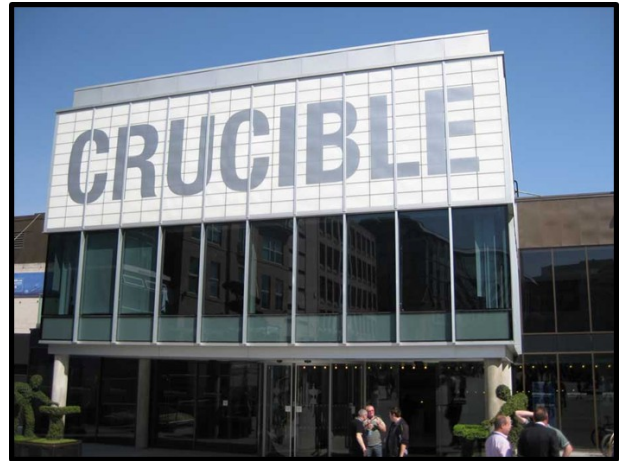
On Thursday morning, the students waved their goodbyes, taking last minute photos and sharing last minute hugs. Since then, the group has exchanged regular emails and Facebook contact, all eager to go and visit the French group in France next year.

Thank you to all the students who got involved and made it the success it was! I couldn't have wished for a better group!

**Miss Legrée**



# Y10 STUDENTS EXPLORE THE CRUCIBLE THEATRE



32 Y10 BTEC Acting students have had an insight into life backstage at the Crucible Theatre by attending a unique performance called *Fanfared*. *Fanfared* was just one of the many special events run by the Crucible in November 2011 to celebrate the theatre's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The performance was not a conventional piece of theatre and it broke down all boundaries between the actor and audience. Meadowhead students had to follow the performers on an adventure that took place in the dressing rooms, in the wardrobe department, under the stage and even on the main stage.

When we arrived at the theatre, we were quickly split into groups by the actors and each group experienced the events of the evening very differently. I was one of the cowboys and together with Isabel Pico, Georgia Elwood and Ms Pollard, I had to play chess with death, obtain some chess pieces from a group of Cabaret singers, participate in a dance marathon and find a hat to wear from the costume store room.

One of the highlights of the evening for me was passing Callum Ibbotson and Megan Orwin several times on the narrow corridors backstage. They were wearing huge sombreros and were lost on their quest to retrieve a collection of musical instruments which had been hidden around the theatre.

The whole evening was exciting, entertaining and slightly surreal. However, the most magical part of the performance was the end where the entire group reunited, marched through the theatre dressed in a varied selection of costumes and stood in Tudor Square looking up at the building. We caught the attention of many passers-by who all stopped in their tracks to watch the action. To our amazement the King, one of the characters from the play, appeared on the roof of the theatre, dressed in a grand red gown. Then, suddenly, the lighting changed to reveal two dancers in a window at the top of the theatre. As I was enjoying their routine I realised that the dancers were in fact Katie Hunt and Georgina Allen, both Y10 students from our group! They had been on a different journey around the theatre and met a ballerina who had taken them to Lyceum rehearsal rooms to teach them some moves.

None of our students had experienced a piece of theatre quite like this before and it was a great opportunity for them to see areas of the theatre that the public don't normally get to explore.

I'd like to thank the Y10 students involved in the trip for their excellent behaviour and the confident and creative manner in which they tackled the unusual challenges asked of them.

**Mrs Bayarri**

# 'HELLO' FROM OUR FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS!

Salut à tous!

Je m'appelle Medhi Khadri et je suis l'actuel assistant français à Meadowhead School. J'ai 24 ans et suis originaire du sud de la France dans cette magnifique ville qu'est Marseille. Je connais bien l'Angleterre et Sheffield car j'y ai étudié une année à *The University of Sheffield* il y a deux ans. J'y ai étudié la littérature et l'histoire de l'Angleterre à l'époque victorienne. C'était vraiment intéressant. C'est un honneur pour moi d'avoir été sélectionné comme assistant de langue car cette école est merveilleuse, le personnel est accueillant et les élèves sont gentils. De plus, j'aimerais devenir professeur d'anglais en France et être assistant ici est un formidable tremplin pour ma carrière. J'aime lire, voyager et faire du sport, notamment du football depuis très jeune. J'espère que ces quelques lignes vous permettent d'en savoir un peu plus sur moi.



A bientôt !

## Medhi

Hallo an Alle!

Mein Name ist Mathias Johann, ich bin 25 Jahre alt und ich komme aus Deutschland. Ich werde in diesem Schuljahr der Fremdsprachenassistent für das Fach Deutsch sein und die SchülerInnen beim Lernen unterstützen.



Zu Hause studiere ich in der Stadt Saarbrücken, im Süd-Westen Deutschlands. Meine Fächer sind Englisch und Musik. Meinen Abschluss werde ich dann voraussichtlich im Jahr 2013/14 machen um danach an einem Gymnasium zu unterrichten. Während der Semesterferien lebe ich mit meiner Familie in Berschweiler, einem kleinen Dorf im Saarland. Dort verbringe ich viel Zeit mit sportlichen Aktivitäten im Freien, wie zum Beispiel Wandern, Radfahren, Segeln und Klettern.

In meiner Freizeit mache ich außerdem viel Musik; ich spiele Bass in einer Rockband, ich singe in einem Chor, spiele Geige in einem Orchester und leite auch selber einen kleinen Kirchenchor. Außerdem sind mir meine Freunde sehr wichtig, ich treffe sie oft und wir unternehmen viel zusammen. Ich liebe Bücher und Filme und ich reise sehr gerne und so oft es geht.

Ich bin seit einem Monat in Sheffield, und es gefällt mir sehr gut. Die Menschen hier sind sehr freundlich und es gibt immer etwas zu unternehmen. Seit Anfang Oktober bin ich an der Meadowhead School und es gefällt mir hier ebenfalls sehr! Die Schüler und Kollegen sind sehr nett und hilfsbereit und daher freue ich mich sehr auf die kommenden 7 Monate!

Viele liebe Grüße,

**Mathias**



¡Hola a todos!

Me llamo Borja Gómez y soy el auxiliar de español de este año en Meadowhead. Tengo 22 años y soy de Zaragoza, una ciudad que está al norte de España. Zaragoza es muy bonita, y algunas personas de este colegio pueden confirmarlo, ya que en mi ciudad hay un colegio que hace intercambio con Meadowhead. He estudiado Magisterio de lengua extranjera con especialidad de inglés pero también sé algo de francés.

Es la segunda vez que vivo en Inglaterra, ya estuve el año pasado en Leeds como estudiante Erasmus. Pero Sheffield me gusta más. Me gustan muchos los parques de Sheffield, los Winter gardens, la gente y me encanta estar en Meadowhead.

Me gustan mucho los deportes sobretodo el fútbol y el baloncesto, aunque jugando el baloncesto se me da mejor. También me gusta estar con mis amigos, la música pop-rock y hacer montañismo. Espero que este año sea genial y que todos lo aprovechemos tanto vosotros como yo. ¡Adiós! Nos vemos por los pasillos



**Borja**

 Meadowhead Adult Evening Language Courses 

**FREE TASTER!**

¡Hola, Bonjour, Hallo, γειά σου, Swąśd, Hello, Hej, Olá, Cześć, Kon'nichiwa, Hello, привет, Ni, هتاف للترحيب

Come and learn one of 19 languages with us  
Contact Alison Huff on  
Telephone: 0114 237 2723 Ext: 300  
Email: [languagecollege@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:languagecollege@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk)

## NEW YEAR – NEW LANGUAGE?

It's a New Year ahead so why not learn a new language for pleasure or in time for your summer holidays in our specialist Language Lab for just **£35!**

With our interactive computer software EUROTALK you can learn the basics at your own pace with 19 languages to choose from over just 10 weeks, at a time to suit you!\*

Choose from: **Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Thai, Turkish and Urdu.**

Places for all courses are limited so don't delay and call to enrol today or attend our enrolment evening on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 6-7pm** to meet us and try before you buy with a **FREE TASTER SESSION!** Courses begin on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January.

Alternatively our **teacher lead courses** will continue for a second 10 week term at various levels in French, German, Spanish, Italian, Greek and Russian for just £50.

**Location:** Meadowhead School, Dyche Lane, Sheffield, S8 8BR

**When:** Thursday evening between 5.30pm until 8.45pm\*

**Contact:** Alison Huff – 0114 237 2723 ext 300

**Email:** [languagecollege@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:languagecollege@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk)

# BOOKS FOR SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone who bought books through the Scholastic C2C leaflets. These are given to all Y7 and Y8 pupils every half term, with spares in the Learning Centre for other pupils who want one. We earned £490.97 as commission (September 2010-July 2011) and every penny has gone to buying new fiction for the Learning Centre.



We are also collecting the **Box Tops** tokens from the packets of Nestlé cereals, which last year enabled us to raise £15-50, again for books. Please bring the tokens either to the Learning Centre or Finance Office.

Thank you,

**Mrs Webb**  
Learning Centre Assistant



# SAINSBURYS AND TESCO VOUCHERS

Thanks to all parents and staff who sent in their Sainsburys and Tesco Vouchers in the summer. They have been exchanged for computer equipment, punch bags for the fitness suite and equipment for Food Technology.



**Mrs Bowker**

# MONEY RAISED FOR CHARITIES

Children in Need — £436.53



Wear Pink Day — £427

Poppies — £285



# SRI LANKA



In July, Mia Fathers, James Neal and myself from Y9 as well as Daniel Smith from Y12 , Mr Wilde and Mrs Tomlinson went to the wonderful country of Sri Lanka. It was an amazing experience and a trip that I will never forget. We went as Global Ambassadors for our school, and we learnt lots and had great fun. On the days that we were not in school, we rode elephants, went on a boat trip, got to hold turtles and a monkey and visited a tea factory. All of those days were unforgettable.

The partnership school that we visited during the nine days was brilliant. We were treated like royalty. We were invited to their school assembly where the Headmaster and the Head of Education spoke a few words, (unfortunately for us in Sri Lankan).



The school in Sri Lanka was totally different to ours and it was a real eye opener to see how fortunate we are at Meadowhead because of all the facilities we have. This school only had 12 classrooms with about 16 students in each. They don't have the facilities we have or the access to resources such as books and science equipment. Whilst there, the students put on a show for us, which was amazing. It showed just how much effort had gone into it for us. The welcome from the staff and pupils was so warm and friendly. It was quite emotional for me when we went into the youngest class and all the five year old children were giving us handmade flowers and gifts. At that point I thought of just how lucky I was to visit such a privileged school.



I had an amazing experience in Sri Lanka. I felt proud to represent Meadowhead School. It was a trip that I will never forget for the rest of my life. I was so pleased to be given the chance to visit such a beautiful country and have an insight into such a different culture.



By Charlotte Ellender 10L

# Post 16 Student Profiles

Anthony Garbett 12E



**What subjects are you currently studying?**

*"German, ICT, Spanish and English Language"*

**Why did you choose these subjects?**

*"I chose these subjects because they were the ones I got my best grades in and because I enjoyed them the most"*

**Where do you see yourself in two years?**

*"Hopefully studying my languages at University but my future all depends on my performance in the sixth form"*

**How have you found Post 16 at Meadowhead School so far?**

*"It's more challenging and there's a lot more work but I'm enjoying it"*

**Why did you decide to stay here?**

*"Because I am familiar with the surroundings and I have a lot of friends here"*

**Did you look at any other 6th forms/Colleges & what were they like?**

*"No. I just wanted to stay here at Meadowhead because I was familiar with it and because of my friends (both in Post 16 and in lower years)"*

**Who did you turn to for help about where to go & what to do at Post 16?**

*"My family and teachers are the main people I turned to for help with my decision making"*

**What opportunities are available at Post 16?**

*"Post 16 students have the opportunity to help in other classes when they don't have a lesson. This period is called Enrichment"*

**In your opinion what is the difference between GCSE's & A level courses?**

*"The A Level courses are more challenging and more demanding"*

**Give your favourite memory from your time at Meadowhead.**

*"That's tricky because there's plenty! The Spanish Exchange in Y10, "Dark of the Moon" (also Y10, hanging out with friends at lunchtime and break"*

Beatrice Evans 12D



**What subjects are you currently studying?**

*"Art, ICT, Philosophy & Ethics and English Language."*

**Why did you choose these subjects?**

*"I chose Art and English because I love them and Philosophy & Ethics looked really interesting."*

**Where do you see yourself in two years?**

*"Hopefully studying at University."*

**How have you found Post 16 at Meadowhead School so far?**

*"It's really good. Everyone is really friendly and helpful."*

**Why did you decide to stay here?**

*"Because the subject options were good, it is nearby and I really like the people here."*

**Did you look at any other 6th forms/Colleges & what were they like?**

*"Yes. Sheffield High School and Birkdale but I prefer the atmosphere at Meadowhead."*

**Who did you turn to for help about where to go & what to do at Post 16?**

*"I feel like I can turn to anyone."*

**What opportunities are available at Post 16?**

*"Post 16 students have the opportunity to do Enrichment. This is when we can help in classes, mentor younger students, complete the ASDAN award, and do other awards and activities that will look good on my CV and application forms."*

**In your opinion what is the difference between GCSE's & A level courses?**

*"A Levels are a big step up from GCSEs but if you put the effort in, it's fine."*

Charlotte Clayton 13E



**What subjects have you been studying at Post 16?**

*"Biology, Physics, Maths and Chemistry."*

**Which course(s) have you applied to study at university?**

*"I have applied to two Veterinary Medicine and Science courses, and two Animal Sciences and Zoology courses."*

**How many UCAS points do you require to study these courses?**

*"For Veterinary I need either 3 As or 2 As and 1 B."*

**Did you choose your A Level subjects based on your possible university course?**

*"Definitely, I chose my GCSE subjects in relation to it, never mind A Levels!"*

**Which universities are you hopeful to go to? Why?**

*"Nottingham. I've applied to three courses there. The university seems very organised and has an excellent reputation. I attended open days and saw the amazing facilities, and how welcoming and enthusiastic the staff are."*

**How long has it taken to complete your application – from the first research you did about courses/ places to sending it off?**

*"It's taken roughly two months to fully complete it and even now I am still chasing up additional references."*

**And what about the time it has taken to complete your personal statement?**

*"I have been researching Veterinary since Year 11. The application needs to be perfect, especially for something so demanding. It took me a minimum of four drafts and ten weeks."*

**What advice would you give to students looking to go to university about preparing for and completing their applications?**

*"Start early and make sure you have a back-up plan. Get tonnes of advice and comments, and don't be ashamed to get people to read through your statement. Research the universities and all of the deadlines. Keep on top of things because it's not your teachers' job to tell you when everything needs to be done by, it's yours! Make sure you believe in yourself when writing your application, it makes you come across as a more ideal candidate."*

Alex Farrell 13C



**What subjects have you been studying at Post 16?**

*"Biology, Chemistry and Sociology."*

**Which course(s) have you applied to study at university?**

*"I have applied to three Medicine courses, a Medical Science, and a Biomedical course."*

**How many UCAS points do you require to study these courses?**

*"For Medicine I need 3 As, Medical Science ABB, and Biomedical AAB."*

**Did you choose your A Level subjects based on your possible university course?**

*"Yes, as the universities would only accept certain A Levels. However, there are all in my area of interest and I wouldn't have chosen them unless I knew they would suit me."*

**Which universities are you hopeful to go to? Why?**

*"Out of all my choices I think I would most like to go to Liverpool. When we visited on the open day I loved the atmosphere and feel of the university, with it being situated in the city. I also liked the campus style. I do think it's really important to take the opportunity to visit universities when they have open days."*

**How long has it taken to complete your application – from the first research you did about courses/ places to sending it off?**

*"I was planning open days last September and over the last year have visited them all. My UCAS application has taken 1-2 months from starting to think about my personal statement to sending it. However, since leaving Year 11, I have been looking at what my options are and finding the specific area of healthcare for me."*

**And what about the time it has taken to complete your personal statement?**

*"During the writing of my application / personal statement it was hard to find time to fit it in and have time to really concentrate on it as it is very time-consuming. However, I am very pleased with the result and am glad that, with my final draft, I know I've put as much as I can time-wise into it to ensure it is as good as I can make it."*

**What advice would you give to students looking to go to university about preparing for and completing their applications?**

*"My advice is to start early. The later you leave it, the less time you have to amend it or ask for feedback from others. It is important to know your options in terms of a back-up plan. Finally, know what you want to include in your personal statement as it's your decision. However, always be grateful for people's help and advice. Your aim is to write the best statement possible."*

# CINEMA TRIP TO THE SHOWROOM WITH YEAR 12 AND YEAR 13 SPANISH

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 17 Y12 and Y13 A Level Spanish students went to the Showroom cinema to see “Miss Baja” a Mexican film about gang and drug violence in Mexico. From 2006 – 2011 over 36,000 Mexican civilians have now lost their lives. The film was about a young woman who unexpectedly gets caught up with one of the gangs and she is crowned Miss Baja California at the end of the film as a result of the corruption endemic in Mexico.

The students enjoyed the film though it was quite a gritty film and also a little shocking at times! Myself and 3 other members of the Spanish Department accompanied the students. Thank you to Mrs Greaves, Mrs Cardall and Miss Brabin and also Borja, the Spanish assistant. The evening was interesting and enjoyable, and we plan to do similar cinema trips in the future.

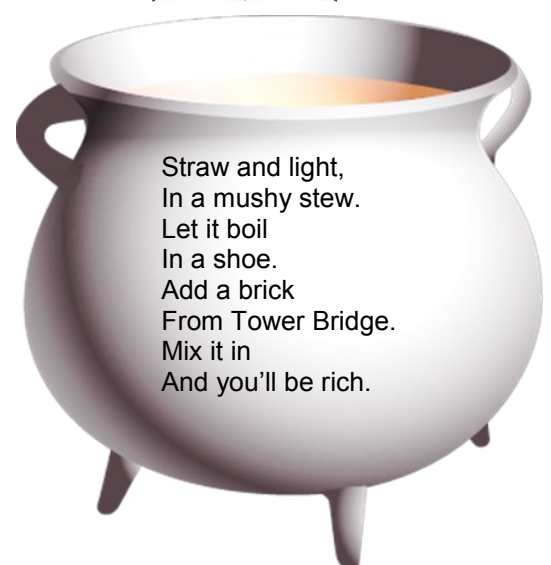


**Miss Renshaw**

## Book Week

The Learning Centre celebrated our school's book week in July with a theme of magic, inspired by the latest Harry Potter film. To encourage our Y7 pupils to thoroughly explore our bookshelves and enjoy the books on them, pupils were asked to follow clues which led them to key words in different books. Working in pairs, they had to create their very own spell using those key words. The best spells have been displayed in the Learning Centre. A small prize went to Conor McDermott and Kaden Nunn for their winning entry for a spell to make money.

**Mrs Webb**





# CASTLETON 2011



In July, Y7 students went out to Castleton for their annual fieldtrip in order to study aspects of History, Geography and Ethics. The weather on both days was glorious and the beautiful Derbyshire hills provided an excellent back drop for studying. The fieldtrip has proved to be an experience that many students remember with fond memories long after they have left school. Here is a photograph of Mr Affleck describing the amazing site of Peveril Castle.

## Y10 Geography Fieldtrip to Scarborough

What is the difference between a constructive wave and a destructive wave?

Why are footballs always washed along the beach by the waves?

Why did the Holbeck Hall Hotel disappear into the sea?

These are just some of the questions that our intrepid GCSE Geography students set out to find the answers to when they went to Scarborough in June to collect data for their fieldwork assignment. The weather was good and the fish and chips even better!

Stop Press: - Geography revision Weekend to London to look at the Olympic facilities in March. Watch this space!

**Mrs Vincent**



# MEADOWHEADS FIRST SPANISH SUMMER SCHOOL WAS AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS!

*Meadowhead Language College opened its doors to 15 Spanish students aged 11-16 from our partner school city of Zaragoza in July for a new 'Spanish Summer School'. The enthusiastic students, who were all hosted by Meadowhead Spanish students' families for 2 weeks, enrolled on our bespoke English Language course in order to improve their English language skills and intercultural understanding about modern British (and Sheffield) culture! Both Spanish students and English hosts enjoyed a full programme of enrichment activities and day trips at the weekends, and the whole programme was so successful we hope to run it again next summer – the feedback speaks for itself!*



I have really enjoyed this trip. I want to be back again next summer. *Carmen, 16*



The visit to Weston Park was very interesting. We learnt a lot with the quest, and we did have fun with the dresses... *Iñigo and Germán, 12*



The experience of sharing two weeks with an English family is unforgettable.

*Ainhoa, 12*



I love the new friends I met in my trip to Sheffield. *Carmen, 13*

# SPORTS/ACTIVITY DAY 2011

This year the Health, Fitness and Well Being faculty introduced a new Sports/Activity Day at school. The aim was to involve every student in some form of activity throughout the day.

Each student had a choice of being involved in 15 different activities from the following:

- Trampolining
- Rounders
- Cricket
- Athletics
- Dance
- Pedometer relays
- Tug of War
- Line Ball
- Orienteering
- Football
- Table-Tennis
- Basketball
- Boccia
- Dodge Ball
- Ultimate Frisbee
- New Zealand Tig
- Volleyball



The day was split into three sessions on an interform basis in their chosen activity and boys and girls competed against each other. Students chose activities they enjoyed and were successful in. Some chose to dance and trampoline, others chose to play football and basketball. Orienteering was very successful with students having to use a compass and find clues around the school perimeter.

There was an excellent atmosphere throughout the day and students thoroughly enjoyed themselves despite a downpour of rain in the morning. The whole school was involved on the day with every member of staff either supervising or officiating.



A big thank you to all involved.

**Mrs Bowker**



# NATIONAL SCHOOLS SPORT WEEK

From Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July we joined in with the National Schools Sport Week. This year the focus was for students to make a pledge that would improve their activity levels.

All students in KS3 were involved in the week in some way. In PE lessons, normal activities were suspended and students were given opportunities to experience new activities such as Dodge Ball, Tug-o-War, Ultimate Frisbee and Line Ball.

In Learning Management lessons, students made their pledges for the week by completing a 'Form Pledge' poster.

During breaks, activities were set up in the Rosling for students to take part in. They could have a go at Hoola Hooping, Boccia, Group Skipping and Beat The Goalie.



Students were also introduced to our 'adopted Olympian' Rachel Laybourne. Rachel is an ex-Meadowhead student who has excelled in Volleyball and plays for Great Britain. She is now training for London 2012. On the Friday of the National Schools Sport Week, students choose to wear sportswear to school for the day with the aim of raising money to support the GB women Volleyball squad's London 2012 campaign. We raised £405.

During the week, students were encouraged to take part in the Government's recommended 30 minutes of activity 5 times a week.

**Mrs Tym**

## What the Y8s thought.....

On Sports Week there were all different types of activity to take part in. We got involved with Hula Hooping, Skipping and Rowing. We liked Hula Hooping the best. There was water to drink and we needed it because we were very thirsty after all the activities.

We would like more things to go on in break times, as we like being active.

**Georgia Ramsden 8I**

**Charlie Asquith 8J**



# **FITNESS 4 ALL CLUB** **@ MEADOWHEAD**

The Health, Fitness & Well Being ethos is riding high at Meadowhead particularly with younger students as they have a Tuesday after school blow out in the fitness suite. Fitness 4 ALL Club is a new initiative aimed at those students who don't necessarily wish to compete in traditional team sports but who enjoy exercise. The club is open to both boys and girls in Y7-Y9 but students must see Mr Clark first if they want to attend.



Once inducted on the equipment, students are given their own programme card and independently monitor their own fitness levels through a range of activities and exercises. A member of staff and sometimes Post 16 students are on hand to offer advice and guidance about exercising safely and how to improve health and fitness.

There are no set guidelines what to do each week and students can do as much or as little as they wish. All that is required is PE kit (including trainers), enthusiasm and a positive attitude. Those currently attending can't wait to come back for more, especially when the prizes come out!!!

For more information about Fitness 4 All Club please see Mr Clark.

## **Y7 Cricket 2011**

In the summer term the Y7 cricket team made it to the semi-final of the Sheffield Schools Cricket competition. Everybody who played enjoyed it. Even when we lost and we kept our heads held high. We got off to a bad start to the season when we lost to Silverdale but we quickly put that match behind us and carried on. Our next match was against High Storrs which we won comfortably. King Ecgberts was the deciding match because whoever won was through to the semi-finals and we won. Our semi-final was at a school in the north of Sheffield called Yewlands. This was our toughest game by far even though we came so close to winning it was our batting that let us down this time . Well done to everybody who represented the school cricket team. We look forward to doing well again next year.



**Edward Lomas 8E**

# MADRID 16<sup>TH</sup> – 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011

After a short flight from Luton, 40 Y7 and Y8 2<sup>nd</sup> language Spanish students touched down at Barajas airport to begin the first ever Meadowhead trip to Madrid. After arriving at the hostel located in the heart of the city centre, the students started to tour the city, starting with a visit to the 'Palacio Real' (Royal Palace). Dinner was had in the hostel and after filling in their workbooks, and early night was had by all.



The next morning, after a traditional Spanish breakfast, we took the Metro to the Warner Bros Theme park where students spent the whole day enjoying the attractions. After arriving back at the hostel, we went for an evening walk around the City centre.

The next day was a firm favourite with the boys – the whole group took a tour of the 'Santiago Bernabeu' (Real Madrid Football Club's home ground) and even the girls enjoyed taking in the atmosphere of the 81,000 seater stadium. After spending most of their euros in the gift shop, the students were each given money to go and order their own lunch in Spanish which they all did very enthusiastically! The afternoon was then spent shopping for souvenirs and visiting the famous 'Parque Retiro'.



The staff were extremely proud of how impeccably the students behaved and several people commented to us about how impressed they were with the way they conducted themselves.

A massive thank you to Mrs. Greaves, Mr. Tibble and Mr. Furniss for giving up their time to accompany the trip.

## **Mrs. Cardall**

"The Spanish trip was amazing" **Lucia Gialluca**

"Madrid was fun and as much as I enjoyed it all, the theme park stood out for me as the highlight" **Maisie Bowler**

"I would love to go back with school again!" **Brogan Coldwell**

# ROYAL MARINES MUSIC WORKSHOP



In September this year, pupils of the school orchestra and some pupils from our feeder schools took part in a special musical workshop organised by the Royal Marines. Captain Ian Davies travelled all the way from Portsmouth to run the session so I was very grateful for

him doing this. The workshop involved pupils using state of the art Apple Ipads to learn about the life of a musician in the Marines, followed by an interactive performance. The performance was of a lively piece called 'Instant Concert'. Pupils initially rehearsed this using pre-recorded footage from an actual marines band rehearsal. This was followed by a final performance which sounded superb. I'd like to thank all the pupils involved and hope that it gave them a good insight into the life and career prospects of a musician in the armed forces.



*Laura Taylor, Emily Surujdeo & Bethany Jones using an Apple Ipad.*

## Y7 INSTRUMENT OF THE ORCHESTRA MODELS

As part of the Instruments of the Orchestra topic, all Y7 pupils produce a model of an orchestral instrument. This year, some amazing models were produced which we felt were the best we've ever had. The overall winner, chosen by Mr Robson, was the timpani drums produced by **Holly Dungworth-Tait**. She received a £15 HMV voucher. In second place was Grace Campbell Baker and in third place was Kate Bottomley. They both received £10 HMV vouchers.

Well done to all the pupils involved.

*The winning model, produced by Holly Dungworth-Tait.*



## THE BIG PERFORMANCE!

Earlier this year, we were contacted by the BBC to see if any pupils would be interested in auditioning for the CBBC programme, The Big Performance. We had 46 entries which was an incredible number. They informed me no other school they had been to had so many entries. The producers chose to see around 20 of these pupils who auditioned on camera in one of our practice rooms. **Chiara Tolley** must have really impressed the producers as she was chosen to go through to the next round where she performed in front of Gareth Malone. Well done to all the pupils involved.



**Mr Wolstenholme and Miss Massey**

# Spooky Acrostic Poems

In the Y7 project group we have been writing some spooky acrostic poems. These are some of our favourites:

Vanishing in the vampire's path.  
A dream becomes a nightmare and never  
sees the light of day.  
Monstrosity happens, trapped forever, ever,  
ever.  
Petrified by living and death is coming.  
I see the world coming to a stop.  
Raging with anger I slaughtered my family.  
End now.

By Connor Hazel 7F



Wolves howl at a glistening, crescent moon.  
Evil beings rule the dark, damp underworld.  
Rampaging zombies eat the brains of many.  
Earth crumbling to the mercy of the dead.  
Wicked witches flying in the jet, black sky.  
Overlords rule over the weak, defenceless  
humans.  
Lonesome humans shiver in the cold night  
of evil.  
Fear pounding in their hearts.

By Sophie Green 7D



Werewolf teeth as sharp as a samurai sword.  
Eerie sound like a dog in a storm.  
Rancid like a vampire sucking blood.  
Ears like a radar on a ship.  
Wary like a guard on patrol.  
Oval eyes like binoculars.  
Long fur protects them from the winters.  
Feared like a virus.

By Brendon Deighton 7A

Victim's fear dancing down his spine.  
Afterlife and terror.  
Menacing fangs sink in to your flesh.  
Pumpkins light up the dark, spooky night.  
Insidious like a dark shadow.  
Ragged lines of a vampire's collar.  
Evil monster ripped into its prey.

By William Elwood 7H





# Y11 BTEC Acting with The Blah Blah Blah Theatre Company

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October the Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah came to Meadowhead to perform their latest production, *Hide and Seek*, and work with Y11 BTEC Acting students.

The Y11 class are currently creating devised performances which will be performed in Y8 and Y9 assemblies so meeting the Blahs, who specialise in Theatre in Education, was an excellent opportunity for them to get some top tips and learn about how to create Drama for a younger audience.



The play was about the Gunpowder Plot and took students back to 5<sup>th</sup> November 1605 and explored the events leading up to the attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament. It was an interactive experience and students were asked to create images and sound effects to help tell the story.

What the students had to say:  
"It was really beneficial to watch. Sound effects were helpful in creating the theme." – *Beth Reed 11D*

"It was a great piece to draw ideas from." – *Billi Golland 11D*

"I enjoyed the fact that the characters interacted with us, it kept our attention."  
– *Abbie Hardwick 11F*

"I really liked the question and answer session it was helpful for our performance."  
– *Maisie Saywell 11F*



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# BIG CHALLENGE XTRA 1 COMPETITION WINNERS!



Meadowhead students scooped two prestigious awards in the first interim competition of the Big Challenge enterprise challenge in November for the best business ideas! Funky Photography (David Wait and Sophie Rowland in Y11) won 3rd prize of £25.00 cash for their business idea based around funny and themed photographs, and Key2unlock (who manufacture bespoke keyrings), were given a Highly Commended award from the Judging panel for their business idea.

Harvey Morton and Gabe Parr attended the official launch and prize giving ceremony at Red Tape studios on Friday 11th November to collect their award, and gave an impressive impromptu interview with one of the sponsors about their enterprising venture! Well done to all 4 students who should be very proud of their achievements so early on in this citywide competition, which runs until March 2012. We look forward to more success for Meadowhead Big Challenge teams over the next 3 months!



## KEYBOARD EXAM SUCCESS!

Congratulations to **Anya Beighton**, **Charmian Pounder** and **James Delaney** who all recently achieved a distinction in the Grade A Preliminary Exam. Preparing for a music exam is not easy but they all really impressed me with the amount of practice undertaken. They have also been regularly attending the keyboard club which means they'll now be a step closer to achieving a school colours award too. So well done and keep up the good work!

**Mr Wolstenholme**



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