

# The Phoenix



Issue 61

The Meadowhead School Newsletter

July 2011

## STATE OF THE ARTS AT MEADOWHEAD



**'Art is an adventure into an unknown world that is best explored by taking risks'**  
**Mark Rothko**

This year the annual Y11 GCSE Art, Design and Technology exhibition showed that there are many students who have the capabilities to be creative adventurers and explorers.

The range of work was astonishing. It covered drawing, painting, fashion, ceramics, sculpture, animation, graphic design and works that defy a simple category.

It was wonderful to see the pride and satisfaction in the students' faces as they showed their results of many hours of work.

The show was up for a week in May and it allowed the whole school to see the amazing results of such dedicated students. It also nudges students into thinking seriously about an art course as a choice in the future. The department is always ready to discuss our courses at any time with parents or students whatever the year. So if you are interested in being an art student have a chat with the Art and Design team.

All the arts are an essential aspect not only of learning and education, but also of our lives. When you support and encourage the arts you support and encourage creativity and imagination – two of our most essential human abilities.

It has been a privilege to teach students who are so inspired and hard working.

**Mr Robson**



# MEADOWHEAD SUCCESS IN

## THE BIG CHALLENGE 2011

The BIG CHALLENGE is a city-wide enterprise competition where schools can enter teams of up to 8 students from any year group and support them with a £25 start up loan to run their own small business in and out of school between September – March annually.

Out of 280 entries and almost 100 competing teams from 18 Sheffield schools/colleges, a total of 25 teams were shortlisted for this years enterprise awards at the Holiday Inn on 5<sup>th</sup> April!

Meadowhead entered 10 teams, and were proud to get the 2 teams pictured here shortlisted to the semi-finals .

TASTEBUDS presented their business plan and took samples of their food to the Dragons' Den panel at the Town Hall on 21st March, but were pipped to the post by another catering team for one of the KS3 prizes. Despite this, they made us all proud with their professionalism and good business ideas, and hope to continue with their successful business in next years challenge, so watch this space for more from the fantastic TASTEBUDS!



BUBBLES WASH AND WAX was shortlisted to the final and attended the exciting celebration awards evening at the Holiday Inn with myself and Ms Swift, and scooped the prize for the BEST FINAL REPORT in the whole city! What a fantastic achievement to beat almost 100 teams to this award! All girls won £100 in Meadowhall vouchers to spend on goodies for themselves and a certificate of merit for their achievements. WELL DONE to Lucy Follon (MD) and her team!

We now look forward to the BIG CHALLENGE 2012 and will be letting Meadowhead teams start in June to get a head start on all the other schools, so keep your eyes open and support our BIG CHALLENGE businesses in the Meadowhead community over summer!



**Miss Allen**

# How do you spell fun? S-P-E-L-L-I-N-G B-E-E!



On 5th April a team of top Y7 spellers from Meadowhead headed down to Centertainment to compete in the local heats of The Times Spelling Bee.

Daniel Green, Conor McDermott, James Cocker and Molly Ayres were selected to represent the school after coming top in a Y7 school wide Spelling Bee.

Plenty of practice at home ensured that they were ready for the high pressure event where they had to tackle some really difficult words such as contagious, nylon, animosity and gregarious. Our pupils did a great job; special mention must be made to Daniel Green who just missed out on being declared the best individual speller of the heat. Meadowhead came a very respectable 3rd. Next year we aim to win, so get practising Y6!

**Mrs Key**



(L to R: Daniel Green, James Cocker, Conor McDermott, and Molly Ayres)

## Year 7 Spelling Bee

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> of April me and my team mates Molly Ayres, James Cocker and Conor McDermott made our way to Cineworld to take part in the Spelling Bee.

We got the bus into town and caught a tram the rest of the way. I was a bit nervous but also excited. There were five other schools there. Our team name was the Phoenix Wizards. The atmosphere was very quiet as we stepped into the cinema.

After the first round we were in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and had a short break to have a drink and a quick snack. The next round was a bit harder but not much. At the end of the whole competition we had finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.

Even though we didn't get through I still had a great time and I really enjoyed the day.

**Daniel Green 7C**



# Meadowhead French Exchange to Montaigu 2010/2011



On the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, 17 Y9 students from Meadowhead School set off to Montaigu in the North of France for the second leg of the French Exchange.

Here, the students were reunited with their exchange partners, who they first met last year. On the first day our students went into two French Primary schools to lead and help with English lessons. In the afternoon, they first experienced a typical day in a French Secondary school.

After a very exciting first day, the students left to spend the weekend with their host families and were totally immersed in the French culture. Some wonderful activities were organised by the French families. These ranged from days out to the seaside, shopping and a very memorable laser quest game.

On Monday, both the French and English students took part in an action packed day at the Futuroscope in Poitiers, followed by a sunny visit to the famous city of Nantes. The visit to the bakery also proved to be a big success.

On the last evening, our students all attended a goodbye party, cherishing the last moments together with their exchange partners. During the evening, I felt extremely proud to hear all the positive feedback from the French host families. They had all 'adopted' our students who had all fitted in well with their French families.

The last day was very tearful but many partners will be seeing each other again, having already organised visits to France in the summer. The friendships which have been created between the students from both countries will live on. The maturity and the open-mindedness of the group was exemplary and certainly impressed the French partner school!

Well done to Meadowhead School and a big thank you to Mr Rafferty for his support!

**Miss Legrée**

**What did students enjoyed the most:**

“The experience of not just speaking French but living the life and culture of a normal French citizen”

***Dominic Parry***

“What I enjoyed the most was spending the weekend with the family”

***Adam Fell***

“Revisiting my exchange partner, meeting her friends and family, and generally touring the surrounding places.”

***Laura Cowley***

“I enjoyed meeting new people, living with a French family for a week, and visiting different places.”

***Thomas Owen***

“I have loved making new friends who hopefully I will stay in touch with and really enjoyed spending time and getting to know the families.”

***Brontë Swan***

**What new ideas or information did the students learn?**

“I have improved my accent and have learnt to embrace different things more readily.”

***Laura Cowley***

“That their fashion and food is fairly different from ours and also how well behaved at school they are.”

***Rebecca Hallam***

“Being tolerant toward others and to speak clearly.”

***Theo Jones***

“To be more confident with my French and that I would really like to be fluent in French when I’m older.”

***Bethany John***

**“What would the students change if they did this exchange again?”**

They all said: “We would have loved to have stayed longer than one week!”



# Learn to Earn!



School and work? There should be no hesitation in students' minds that school is the first step on the pathway to an exciting and well paid career. In order to help students gain the skills they need for employment Meadowhead is really pleased to tell you about our new exciting 'Learn to Earn' developments.

On May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Meadowhead saw its first ever mock interviews take place with all Y10 students! All students completed an application form and went through the arduous task of combatting their nerves and selling themselves to a potential employer. Over 300 interviews took place with over 30 businesses giving up their time to interview each student for thirty minutes! The venue was the Learning Centre and the interviewers were ready with a range of taxing questions which would make the 'Fairy Job Mother' quake in her sparkly shoes! However, Y10 were ready, armed with full application forms and masses of encouragement from their Head of Year and Learning Managers!

The feedback was brilliant with businesses commenting on how mature, articulate and well-presented the students were. All students will receive a certificate and extensive feedback to put in their new progress files. Students can then use this technique to land the Post 16 place or apprenticeship they are after. Businesses also found it a great experience and many used it as a training event to help hone their interview skills. Meadowhead was also very lucky to have lots of support from Trust partners who also made a fantastic contribution to the business line up.

On the topic of the world of work, the Trust has also been very active in helping shape another huge development in our Key Stage 4 curriculum. We have just launched an entirely new rewards system in Y10 designed to give our students the advantage when they reach the end of Y11! Next year will see our students leaving with an entirely new Progress File full of information that employers value. The school's Rewards team has worked with the Trust Business partners to identify key areas employers value.

Our new competency system aims to bring the world of work inside school and make our students highly employable through recognition of the skills today's employers require. In Y10 students will now be awarded competencies in ten different areas:

- Leadership
- Reliability
- Interpersonal
- Planning and Organisation
- Computer literacy
- Respect
- Independent Learning
- Initiative
- Positive Thinking
- Integrity





The new system is gaining momentum and you can even check on Meadowhead's Learning Platform to see how your child is progressing and which areas they are excelling in. **Could I please ask you to talk to your child about how important these skills are for the world of work?** Ask them how many competencies they have received and what for. Ask them to give their teachers a shout when they think they've done work worthy of a competency reward!

If Y10 students weren't already exhausted enough from business interviews and working hard to get competency rewards they are also about to enjoy another fantastic experience which we simply cannot match! That is their first week in the big wide world of work. I am sure we all remember how nerve racking your first day in a new place can be. You are not sure what to do, what the people are like, sometimes it can even be stressful getting there with traffic and buses to contend with!

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank the community and you as parents for making this happen. With the current economic climate securing a job is perhaps as hard as it has ever been. However, with local businesses and your contacts, over 95 percent of all the Y10 have found meaningful work placements in a whole range of sectors from animal care, engineering, office work to the glamorous workings of cruise ships. Year 10 have done a brilliant job and their Learning Managers have also been instrumental in making sure they all found suitable places.

Don't forget as your children move onto their chosen career they will have far more money to shower you in lovely meals out, fantastic Christmas and birthday presents and perhaps most importantly they will be happy in the career they have decided to pursue!

If you can help with Work Experience placements next year or can spare some time to be part of our interview programme please give me a call on extension 301 or email me on [healeyd@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:healeyd@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk)

I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks

**Mr Healey**





# UK Maths Challenge



Once again we entered some of our top students in for the UK Maths Challenges this year and they did fantastically!

In the Senior Challenge (Y11 and Y12) we entered 10 pupils. They did really well but unfortunately their scores were not high enough to continue on in the competition.

The Intermediate Challenge (Y9, Y10 and Y11) took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February. We entered a massive 80 pupils. Out of these, 7 got a gold award, 15 received silver awards and 13 gained a bronze. 5 pupils did so well that they were given another challenge to complete.

Imogen Murrison (Y9) competed in the Cayley Qualifier and also achieved top score in school.

James Neal (Y9) competed in the Grey Kangaroo Qualifier.

Fraser Kelly, Thomas Williams and Matthew Stevenson (Y11) all competed in the Pink Kangaroo Qualifier.

All five of these pupils should be really proud of themselves for getting this far and I hope that next year more pupils will compete and achieve fantastic results as well.

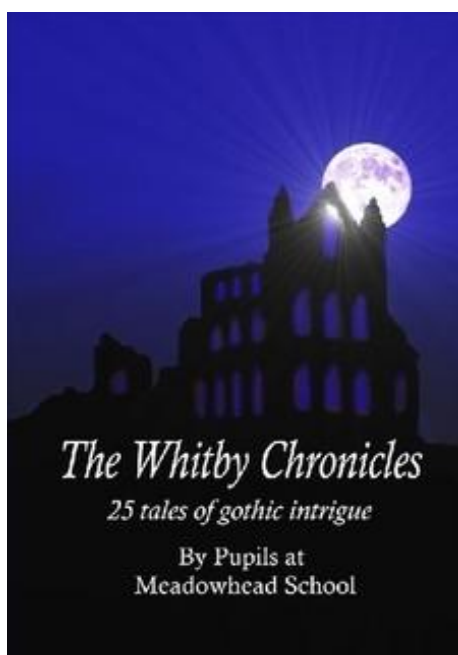
The Junior Challenge (Y7 and Y8) took place on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 60 pupils took part. There were 4 gold awards given out, 14 silvers and 18 bronze.

Out of the 60 pupils who took part, best in school went to Matthew Smart (Y8) closely followed by Mark Samuels (Y8), Sam Cordingley (Y7) and Beth Gatus (Y8)

Well done to everyone who took part in the UK Maths Challenges and I look forward to more pupils taking part next year.

**Miss Roberts**

---



## The Whitby Chronicles

### Meadowhead School Pupils get published!

A long-term project has finally come together in this fantastic collection of Gothic short stories. It began with a school trip to Whitby, inspiring the writing which was developed in Ms Aitkin's English lessons. Pupils on the editorial team got busy and Mrs Webb organised the publishing of the book. There is a copy available to borrow in the school library, or you can buy your own from the website address below!

<http://www.lulu.com/product/paperback/the-whitby-chronicles/15366490>

**Mrs Webb**



# To Kill a Mockingbird



On 15<sup>th</sup> March this year 70 pupils and 7 members of staff ventured to Nottingham to watch the critically acclaimed stage version of Harper Lee's classic 'To Kill a Mockingbird' starring **Duncan Preston** as Atticus Finch.

This most widely read Pulitzer Prize winner - now in its 50th year of publication - tells the unforgettable story of life in the American Deep South as seen through the inquiring eyes of a child.

Brother and sister Jem and Scout Finch are growing up during the 1930s depression, but their idyllic childhood innocence is shattered with the realisation that bigotry and prejudice rule in their small town of Maycomb, Alabama. When their father Atticus defends a young black man falsely accused of raping a white woman, the whole family become the target of gossip and abuse.

The trip was an outstanding success as the pupils behaved impeccably, expressing afterwards their enjoyment at attending the performance.

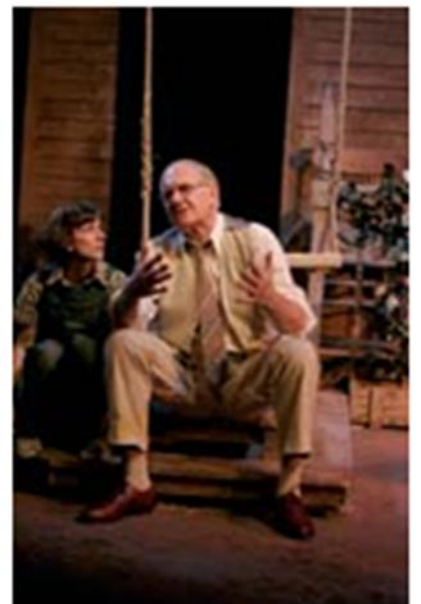
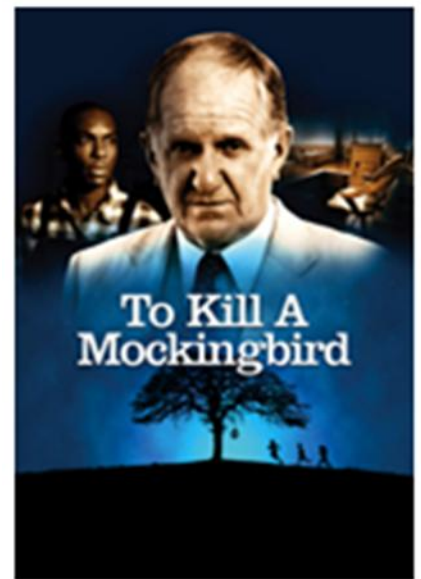
Importantly no mockingbirds were killed during the performance and everyone made it back relatively unscathed, though the tension, excitement and build up before definitely 'bubbled over' in some cases before we left!

Thanks again to parents/guardians in supporting this trip as without your kind permission we would not have been able to make this opportunity a realisation.

Fingers crossed that when the literature results are published in August they reflect a greater understanding of the text!

Many thanks,

**Mr Cocken**



# Spanish Exchange Trip

On the 6th April ten Y10 students went to Zaragoza in Spain as part of the return leg of the Spanish exchange. All the English pupils were excited to see their partners again, if a little apprehensive! They soon settled into the Spanish way of life and I was really impressed with their excellent attitude.

We arrived late on Wednesday evening and the pupils were whisked off from the airport by their exchange partners. The next 10 days were full of activities, including lessons in the school (where the English pupils were treated like minor celebrities!), a day trip to Barcelona, a visit to a local palace and a visit to the bullring. We got to know the beautiful city of Zaragoza early on as we were taken on a sightseeing trip around the city. The basilica was impressive, and the pupils enjoyed finding out about the significance of the ribbons from the Virgen del Pilar.



We had excellent weather (remember the Barcelona heat?!?) and everyone really enjoyed the visit. When we came to the farewell party and our departure at the airport, neither the English nor Spanish pupils wanted to say goodbye! After plenty of tears we arrived at Sheffield at 4am, tired but happy!

I'd like to say a big THANK YOU to all the pupils who took part in the exchange, they were fantastic throughout the trip. Thanks also to Mr Hoyland who assisted on the trip and Miss Allen who helped us throughout the year with planning. If you are considering going on a language exchange in the future, it is well worth it!

## Miss Brabin



Pupils said of the exchange:

"I found the whole experience amazing and all of the activities added to my enjoyment of the whole trip"

"I enjoyed visiting the primary schools most"

"I enjoyed meeting new people and making friends for life"

# Diamonds are a Student's Best Friends



Throughout a student's career at Meadowhead there is a myriad of ways in which achievement is recognized and acknowledged by an individual's peers and teachers; but the ultimate accolade of the Phoenix Awards and in particular, the person's efforts to have demonstrated the consistency, participation, achievement and attainment to claim the accolade and honour of being the holder of a Meadowhead Phoenix Diamond Award cannot be underestimated even by the most cynical of observers, who inwardly or outwardly perceive all awards as being selective and discriminatory.

You see, in order to be a Diamond Award recipient, a student undertakes a journey that maps a history of all accomplishments that are reflected in the milestones of the initial Silver Awards, through the Gold Standard into the Platinum Region, before the final stage of a student's endeavour is recorded through the Award of the Diamond Phoenix.

It doesn't happen overnight, in fact at this time of writing not one student has completed the journey but several are tantalisingly close to receive an award that I consider to be one of genuine prestige and real meaning because quite simply, it is very difficult to earn. Why? Well, you can't be given one at the end of your first year, or even your second and perhaps even your third as that journey between silver and the final goal of Diamond requires a student to complete all stages by accumulating the designated number of all aforementioned awards before the Diamond becomes a reality. That demands a lot of perseverance. A lot of determination. A lot of consistency. A lot of self discipline. A lot of hard work. As students progress through the school, year by year a degree of cynicism may develop that makes some youngsters think that a Phoenix Award is not really any big deal. I beg to differ, and I also think that most students have not had their sense of pride in their accomplishments eroded so much that they would not experience an immense amount of justifiable pride when their sweat and effort is eventually recognized through the presentation of this prestigious Award. Again, you have to appreciate that to be a Phoenix Diamond recipient a student has to impress so many different people, teachers and support staff alike, and leave their personal print across the spectrum of academic, sporting artistic and community life at Meadowhead (forgive me if I have omitted other relevant categories) in order to receive the Award. Hard to achieve I think you will agree, but very close for some of our students.

How to recognize such an accomplishment? Because of the importance the school considers the award of the Phoenix Diamond to be, something different and unique had to be devised to match the achievement of those students who have attained such high standards. Yes, there will be some material tokens of the school's recognition. But something more permanent, more indelible is required, something that will make all of our students aware of the efforts expended by the Phoenix Diamond recipients. The school has decided that all recipients of The Meadowhead Diamond Award will have their names engraved into a plaque and mounted upon the Rosling wall, a Roll of Honour if you like, for perpetuity or as long as Meadowhead exists as permanent evidence of their endeavours. Something for their grandchildren to look out for when they come up to the 'big school'. Something for our present students to tell their children what they had to do to have their names engraved for all to see.

The school looks forward with increasing anticipation as to who will be the first recipient and for those students who follow.

Marilyn Monroe got most of the words right, but I'll bet my last dime she didn't have to work half as hard to get her diamonds!

**Mr McKeown**



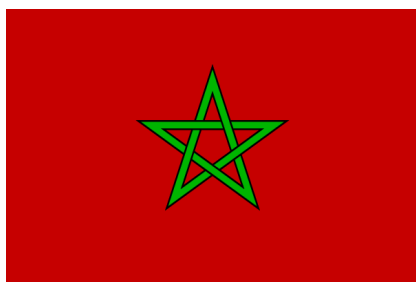
# Post 16

## Morocco 2012

"In summer 2012, ten post 16 students from both years 12 and 13 will going on a trip of a lifetime – an expedition to Morocco! Over the next 12 months we will aim to raise the money needed to go by partaking in various fundraising events which include bake sales, tuck shops, car washes and bag packs just to name a few, which will hopefully raise enough to pay for the expedition. By raising it ourselves we hope to develop a range of transferable skills such as event management, planning, budgets, communications and team work as well as creating great personal satisfaction.

The aim of the expedition is to gain independence and experience life in another culture which isn't as financially developed as our own. The expedition will last for a week, when we will be camping outside and getting involved in community projects to increase the living standards of those that live in the Moroccan villages. The expedition will be tough and hard work but we believe it will increase our confidence and working as a team will help us in future careers after two years of constant study. We also believe it will be good for the community and the school and we hope to make both proud of our achievements.

We are travelling through an experienced company called "Outlook Expeditions" who wanted to give every young person in the UK the chance to see something of the world, to have the satisfaction of



reaching a mountain summit, to make a difference big or small to people of a community. We have been given the opportunity to do something a bit different with our lives and would like to thank everyone at Meadowhead who has made it possible.

An expedition is not just a holiday, it is a once in a lifetime opportunity to do something totally out of the ordinary"

**Abbie Spooner 12C**

## Racing for England

On 25th June, I boarded a plane to Ireland. For the third time in a row I have raced against Ireland whilst representing England. My sport is race walking and I am currently ranked 4th in the country for Under 15s!

People from all over the world go to race in Ireland. In this race, the overall result depends on how many points you get. The number of points you get depends on your position. Last year England won by 1 point! The year before we won by 2!

The race took place on Sunday 26th June and I came in 8th place.

**Becky Chambers 8F**





# Spanish Revision Weekend

On the weekend of 4th<sup>th</sup> and 5th of March 2011, Miss Renshaw, Mr Church, Mrs Greaves and Mrs Cardall, and 19 Yr11 pupils went on a Spanish Intensive Residential Weekend to Eyam. We all stayed at Eyam Youth Hostel. The programme comprised of lots of Spanish lessons – lots on Friday evening, and all day Saturday after breakfast too! There was some free time on Saturday after lunch to look around Eyam village, but the focus was on improving pupils Listening, Reading and Speaking skills and a lot of exam practice. The pupils worked hard throughout the visit and all the teachers were impressed with the standard of the work and the attitude of the students; they were a credit to the school. Well done Year 11.

**Miss Renshaw**

---

## MY CHARACTER

What values help a student achieve better grades? Hard work? Perseverance? What values do employers want? Reliability? Honesty? What values make for a better world? Empathy? Compassion?



These are the kinds of questions we will be thinking about in a new project starting this term. We have teamed up with the University of Birmingham to launch the 'My Character' project. This will, in particular, help students think about developing realistic goals for their futures, be diligent, mindful of money, be able to delay gratification and be willing to undertake roles that benefit not only themselves, but also others. Altogether 140 students over the next three years will develop a social networking website and a journal that will be used by schools across the country and will enable them to examine their own characters.

---

## New Suppliers for School Uniform

We have two new suppliers for our school uniform and PE kit.

They are

- Logo Leisurewear
- Sports Wear International



If you would like to order new items of clothing, please collect an order form from the finance office or order direct online at [www.logoleisurewear.com/meadowheadschool](http://www.logoleisurewear.com/meadowheadschool) and the order will be delivered to school.

Sports International are supplying the optional fleece and tracksuit bottoms for PE lessons. These can only be ordered through school.

# Among Sculptures and Sheep

**Meeting superstar Yorkshire poets? Exploring art through poetry? Public readings of original work? Meadowhead's budding poets take it all in their stride.**

Y9 students have been showcasing their skill with words at a series of events organised by the University of Sheffield's Creative Writing in the Community initiative, featuring (amongst others) the University's Professor of Poetry, highly respected Huddersfield-born poet Simon Armitage.

Following a poetry competition open to the entire year, which attracted over 150 entries, 3 students were chosen to attend a poetry writing day on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, along with 20 other students from across the city. Laura Cowley, Isaac Crookes and Ben Levitt were encouraged to explore the artworks and respond to what they found through a series of workshops run by several published poets, including Simon Armitage, Peter and Ann Sansom, and Agnes Lehoczky.

The poems written that day were collected and published in a special anthology, and our students, along with Mr Beigel and Mr McKeown, attended an exclusive launch event at the University on 14<sup>th</sup> June. As well as enjoying hearing the professionals read their own work, we also heard our students' work: Laura read her poem 'Eternal Existing', and Peter Sansom actually chose Isaac's poem 'Art?' as one of his readings!

Everyone involved with the project was extremely positive about the students' efforts, and a few of the poets were worried that there might be some competition in the not-too-distant future! Well done to Laura, Isaac, Ben, and every Y9 student who entered a poem in the competition.

**Mr Beigel**



*'Great testament to the creativity, resourcefulness and thoughtfulness of the students, and all archived on one day among sculptures and sheep.'*

Simon Armitage

Isaac Crookes and Ben Levitt (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from right respectively) receive some words of wisdom from the poet.

# Meadowhead's Y9 Poets

*'Each poet had something different to teach you. It was a thought-provoking experience'*

**Isaac Crookes**

*'The poets showed us techniques to use that have already helped me in my English lessons. Meeting Simon Armitage was a great experience.'*

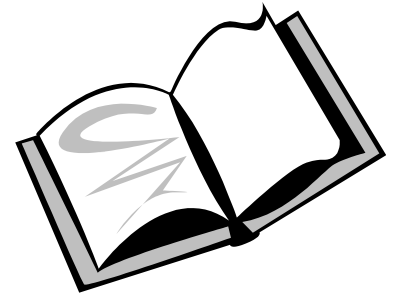
**Ben Levitt**

*'The trip to the Sculpture Park was inspiring. The ways the poets worked were very interesting, and very diverse.'*

**Laura Cowley**

*'The students were impeccably behaved, enthusiastic and engaged. They were a delight to spend the day with and they produced some truly impressive work.'*

**Dr Joanna Gavins, University of Sheffield CWIC**



## Meditation

The light above blinds when I look,  
The light that infiltrates every  
crook.

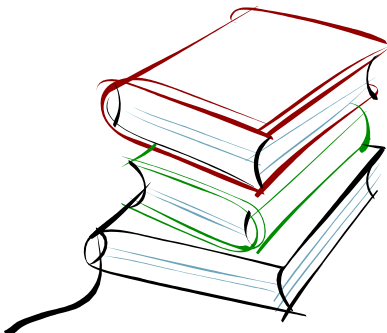
Every day I pray;  
To feel the summer breeze  
To see the swaying trees.

The walls around me seem  
Closer and closer every day.  
The doors in front of me seem  
Further and further away.

Every day I wish;  
To walk, to speak –  
Wish I didn't feel so weak.

Never have I seen such beauty.

**Ben Levitt**



## Eternal Existing

Nowhere to hide.  
Nowhere to be found.  
We stay here discretely  
With no one around.  
Nobody sees us.  
Nobody cares.  
We have no feelings,  
Yet somehow we're scared.  
There is no beginning.  
We've discovered no end.  
An everlasting trauma.  
A life after death.

**Laura Cowley**

## Art?

Art is a gloomy forest  
Art is a dark jungle  
Art is a deserted plain  
Art is a dense ocean  
Art is a meandering river  
Art is a sloping hill  
Art is a blazing desert  
Art is nature

**Isaac Crookes**

# Ski Trip 2011

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April Miss Evans, Miss Wale, Mr Holland and 17 students headed off to Bardonecchia in Northern Italy by COACH, a journey of epic proportions – it took 26 hours give or take! The journey got off to a slow start with the coach arriving 3 hours late and with two more schools to pick up on the way down, the coach filled up fast and left Miss Evans, Miss Wale and Mr Holland fighting hard to keep hold of seats for their long legs!

The ferry was at 1am and we were all feeling a little tired by this point. We stretched our legs, got some food and when we got back on the coach it was time for sleep. We aren't sure how much sleep the students got but at least the teachers got a few hours!

The next day we were in southern France and the films started - Hair Spray (much to Mr Holland's delight!) accompanied by Hannah on lead vocals. We finally arrived at our hotel in Bardonecchia early on Saturday evening, checked into our rooms and went down to collect our skis and boots. Then it was time for the students to go and make friends with some of the other schools that were also staying at the resort.

We were up very early on Sunday as this was when the ski lessons started. We broke into our groups of advanced, intermediate and beginner and wished one another luck. We were all happy to have started skiing, especially the beginners when they got to see Mr Holland on his bottom more than his skis and Miss Wale made sure that we all laughed at him as much as possible! By the end of the week we were all advancing, even us beginners! On Sunday evening we all had a trip into town, some shopping was done by the students and it gave the teachers the chance to grab a coffee and an ice cream!

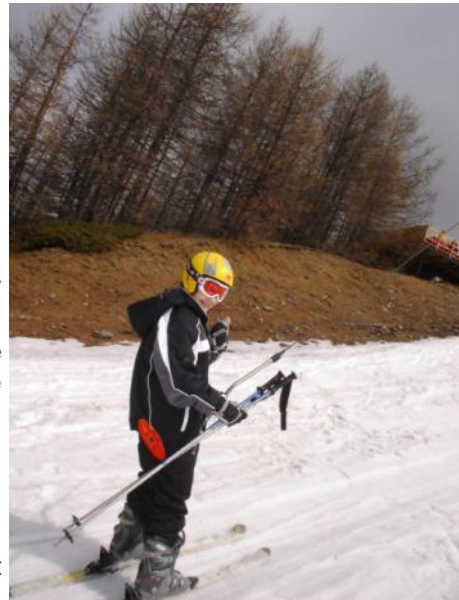
On Monday the skiing was great with the beginners hitting the proper slopes and the more advanced of the beginners group moving up to the intermediate group. Miss Wale however, chose to stay with the beginners just because Mr Holland and his wipe-outs were worth staying for!

Skiing continued and routines set in with skiing in the morning and shopping and socialising during the afternoons and evenings. (As well as a game of Uno for the staff at night, which went on to become a very popular game amongst the students too!)

Thursday was party night with a disco at the hotel where socialising went into full swing and the dance moves came out. Tom Cropper on the stage throwing some shapes was the highlight of the night and it's a shame we can't put the photo in here to prove it! Presentations and prizes were also given by the teachers for cleanest boys and girls room as well as some others that just stood out to us teachers as being highlights of the week. One particular one that comes to mind is Megan Gunn for gaining the "boy watcher of the week" prize!

Friday was the last day of skiing before the big trip home and we were all given certificates to say how well we had done. The beginners especially were happy as they had managed to get all the way from the top of the slope to the bottom without falling (apart from Mr Holland of course)! In the evening we set off back home. We were all tired from the weeks skiing but were sad to leave. We had great memories that will stay with us and all of us hope to be back next year.

**Mr Holland, Miss Wale and Ms. Evans**





# Star Party

Inspired by BBC Stargazing Live I decided to put on our own Meadowhead star party this spring. With poor weather always a possibility (that didn't materialise thank goodness) and much organisation to be done, I couldn't have been happier with the overwhelmingly positive response from everyone concerned. On the evening 96 triple physics and AS physics students, 15 staff members and two professional astronomers were in attendance to enjoy:



- Performing observations of the night sky to include naked-eye astronomy as well as aided astronomy with binoculars and telescopes.
- Getting inside an inflatable planetarium to watch an IMAX-style audio-visual presentation.
- Observing actual Moon rocks loaned to us from NASA and handle meteorites
- Becoming involved in astronomy through the internet. Yes, actually doing real astronomy alongside professionals using computers!



"This is probably the best thing I've done in my entire life. I love physics!"

**Oliver Scott**

"I can't believe I actually touched a bit of the Moon!" **Jess Kay**

"Thanks sir, I'd never have had the chance to look through a telescope without this opportunity" **Callum Jackson**

"That was amazing!" **Vicky Seville**

A big thank you to the science staff who rallied in numbers and the Y12s who helped out that evening to allow me to put on such a large evening event like this.

Special thanks go to Mr. Ridley who took his life in his hands and co-signed the FBI forms with me to allow us to take receipt of the Moon rocks.

The library is now stocked with books, star charts, observing guides, planispheres and Dr. Cox DVDs with which you can let your passion for astronomy grow. The summer provides an interesting range of things to observe so stay up late and get viewing!

**Mr. Mason**



# Green Meadows (Eco Club) Trip to Heeley City Farm

At 3.00pm we gathered in H13 to take the register then made our way out to the school mini bus. Mr Timms tried to make us call the driver "Sir", but he insisted on "Tom".

On the way to Heeley, the highlight was when we went past my great grandma's house, although nobody else seemed too bothered. Then Tom put on the radio, and we all joined in to the song that was playing.

When we arrived at Heeley City Farm, we were supposed to be met by a man called Gareth, but there was no sign of him, so we waited patiently whilst they tracked him down. I discovered that they kept loads of animals that you don't usually see in a busy city like Sheffield, let alone on your front door step! When Gareth finally arrived, we all followed him on a quick yet detailed tour of the grounds, before we came to what we were here for.... the eco-house! It was filled with all manner of things, for example a bike power station (a bike hooked up to a kettle). It would take 10 hours of pedalling to make it boil, so there was no hot chocolate on that particular evening!

We also saw eco insulation made of old jeans, an eco heating system and eco garden ornaments. Then he told us how to save energy and fix leaky taps, and showed us the two different types of solar panels, tube-like ones and the common flat ones. Gareth shocked us with the fact that all the petrol, oil and diesel in the world will run out by 2050, which will be in our lifetime (though most of you teachers will be OK)!

Gareth then took us to our final destination, the iron-age round-house, which would be cool for a Summer camping trip, but horrible in winter, which may be why you don't see so many around. Those iron-age folk were much more eco-friendly than us, and didn't even know it at the time!

Sadly this was the end of our very eco field-trip, so we left in a very un-eco-friendly way, by mini bus again! We should have walked, and could all have popped into my great grandma's for a nice cup of tea.

All too soon we were back at school, and the trip that I and most of the group had thoroughly enjoyed was over!

**Niall Wragg 7D**



# Meadowhead Footballers Win 5 Trophies

The Y7 and Y8 footballers have had a fantastic season winning five major competitions.

The Y7s had only 1 defeat winning 24 out of 25 games. They finished the season with the following achievements:

- Sheffield League Group Stage Winners
- Sheffield Cup Winners
- Sheffield League Playoff Winners and City Champions
- South Yorkshire Schools Cup Winners
- North of England 5-a-side Champions
- 3rd Nationally 5-a-side

The Y8 won the Sheffield Cup, which dates back to 1890. Jake Hatton (Captain) proudly received the trophy.

A big thank you must go to Mr Allen who has managed both teams. It has been such a big job organising the matches of 2 successful teams at once., as there wasn't enough nights in the week to arrange all the matches!

Mr Allen is so proud of his teams. They have had an unbelievable season. He cannot fault their efforts or attitude whilst representing the school. Well done to all concerned.





# German Exchange 2010/11



Now in its fourth year, the exchange gave another group of pupils from Y9-12 the chance to experience German culture first hand. On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011, we embarked on our journey and were greeted by scorching temperatures (30°C).

All pupils settled very well into their “German families” and took in all the activities, sights and culinary delights with enthusiasm and an open mind. Our programme in Koblenz was varied and full. We attended lessons at the school, went on a day trip to the Roman city of Trier, discovered the forests on a walk to the

impressive Burg Eltz castle, worked on teambuilding and confidence in the Kletterwald Sayn and had fun on the rides at the Phantasialand theme park.

Over the weekend pupils experienced a variety of activities with their families; which was then rounded up with a collective barbeque session in a nearby forest.

For most pupils (and Mr. Millar), this was their first visit to Germany and everybody had an extremely positive experience, meeting new people and making new friends. Unfortunately, the week was over too quickly and soon it was time to say good bye. Through the tears promises were made to meet up again soon, before we set off on our return journey.



I would like to say a big thank you to Mr. Millar for accompanying us to Germany and for taking in all the new impressions with such enthusiasm. Also a big thank you to all the pupils, who were so open-minded and simply a joy! Thank you to Lawrence Kaye, Eleanor Jakubiak, James Butler, Daniel Duxbury-Bancroft, Conor D’Souza Kelly, Mia Fathers, Rachel Green, Elin Turton, Imogen Murrison, Emma Knikker-Troke and Clara Percival.

**Mrs Kelly**

“I really enjoyed the German exchange and had a really great experience. I met some amazing people and all the activities were really fun. My favourite parts were Phantasialand and the barbeque. Everyone had a great time together and the weather was gorgeous. I made lots of really great friends for life!”

**Emma Knikker-Troke, Y9**



# Sheffield Athletics CHAMPIONS



Meadowhead won the Sheffield Track and League Athletics Final in June being the only school in Sheffield to get all six Athletics teams through to the finals. On the evenings there was stiff competition from Silverdale School—last years winners—but when all the points were added up Meadowhead were announced as champions and won the prestigious Firth Vickers Shield.

Well done to all our athletes who worked as a team, competing in a wide range of events to win this competition.

**Mrs Bowker**

## Tesco and Sainsburys Vouchers



Thank you to all parents who sent in their vouchers which we will use to buy equipment for the school.



# Y11 Progress File Presentation

We have held a Year 11 graduation ceremony at Meadowhead School since 1991 and through the years the format has changed, however the centre of attention has always been the students. With the blessing of Ms James and a few tweaks to keep things running smoothly it was the students who ran the show.



Joshua Banner, Philipa Bailey, James Cooper and Alice Butler hosted the presentation and introduced the Chair of Governors Ms Nield to say a few words and the Head Boy and Girl went on to introduce all 12 Learning Managers, their forms, and all our speakers and performers. Josh, Philipa, James and Alice topped their role in proceedings with a heart felt thank you to staff, guests, parents and especially Mrs Dixon; the Year group's Pastoral Manager for her dedication to them over the last 5 years.

Our guest of honour was an ex teacher from the days when Meadowhead was split into two sites and Paulette Edwards worked at Jordanthorpe School. Paulette has had a varied career since leaving teaching and is the host of the early morning show and Saturday evenings for BBC Radio Sheffield. She is affectionately known as the Queen of the Heels.

The highlight for many of the students and staff will have been the quality and variety of the performances by students in Y11. The curtain raiser came from Megan Beresford, Lily Coates and Vicky Seville performing a Tap dance choreographed in their BTEC Dance qualification. Jacob Smith performed a solo and also performed in the band Devoted Logic. Joy Walker arrived fresh from a performance on the east coast the night before while Megan Beresford performed two solo numbers and was joined by more students from BTEC Dance to perform a piece from Swann Lake. Carly Wellington performed the first and last acts with solo songs and rounded off a fantastic array of talent from the year group.

As always Ms James had the final word and encouraged students to prepare for the final exams.

We hope to see all students collect their exam grades on the 25<sup>th</sup> August and enjoy another celebration leading onto our final presentation to our students and parents at the Octagon Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Our guest speaker will be Sheffield University Vice Chancellor Professor Robert Winston (tickets are available from the main office £5 for the Y11, students' guests go free)





# Chase 4 Life

Meadowhead staff took part in their first Chase 4 Life event on Fathers Day to lend their support to Cancer research UK. The event was initiated by ex student Joe Carter who left Meadowhead 6 years ago; he has shown fantastic energy to co-ordinate this event after having extensive treatment to treat the disease himself.

The staff really enjoyed taking part and supporting the event and we hope we will be able to encourage more dads and lads to support the fund raiser in future years. We hope to have raised £500 and if you would like to contribute to this fund please send money to school payable to Cancer research UK or on-line through their web site.



---

## South Yorkshire Rugby

The Y7, Y8 and Y9 Rugby Teams all qualified for the South Yorkshire Schools Finals at the end of last term, which was a superb achievement. The Y9s lost to Wickersley 5-2 in their final. Emile Akram (Y9 Captain) says 'It was a really close game and we could have won but Wickersley scored 2 towards the latter part of the game'.



The Y8s also lost their final to Trinity School. Jake Hatton (Captain) says "It was a good game overall but we failed to take the opportunities to score and they did".

In the Y7 Rugby team final Meadowhead beat Taptan and Hungerhill School to become South Yorkshire Champions.

Lucas Hunt-Brown (Captain) says "It was a tough game. All the squad worked hard and it paid off in the end."

A big thank you to Mr Hensby who stepped in to take the Rugby Boys to their tournaments. The PE department very much appreciate the time he has given this term to ensure the rugby matches have gone ahead.

# Step Through Time



On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May Meadowhead hosted its first Dance Show. The show named 'Step Through Time' took the audience on a journey from the 1920s to present. The performers entertained the audience with dancing, singing and music from every decade.

The 35 dancers involved had been rehearsing for over a year. Every dancer that had committed to dance club, no matter what ability, performed on the evening. The girls were fantastic and definitely made the night a huge success. Their enthusiasm and dedication throughout the rehearsal period certainly paid off.

We had so many positive comments about the evening. The audience was amazed by the standard of the performances. It was a wonderful show and we are very proud of all the performers – looking forward to starting next year's show!

A big thank you to everyone involved.

**Mrs Tym and Mrs Stubbs**

## Dance Extravaganza

The Dance Extravaganza—Meadowhead's first dance show, was successful and enjoyable for both participants and the audience. Although many hours were given up for practice, it paid off in the end, as we had lots of fun performing. At first the costumes seemed unappealing but they really brought out the theme of the progression in styles of dance over the years. However, we grew attached to our luminous skirts and lipstick! We hope to take part again next year!

**Sarah Darrall, Bronte Swan and Phoebe Cox**



# Trust Partners Sponsor Design, Technology and English Project

In March, 20 Y10 Design Technology students from Meadowhead entered a national essay writing competition sponsored by the international company Bosch. The Bosch Technology Horizons Award 2011 competitors were asked to write an essay of 500 words entitled - "How will engineering and technology change the way we live in the next 125 years? "

Ms Evans (Design and Technology) along with the help of Miss Woodward (English) set the task as a piece of coursework for students taking either Product Design or Resistant Materials for GCSE. All of the students took part and the best ones were sent to Bosch. Unfortunately none of our students were successful in the competition, but one of our Trust partner companies, Gripple, a very innovative local international engineering business were very interested in this project and offered to create their own competition. All of the essays written were given to the Engineering Team Leader David Wroe who read them thoroughly and chose three essays that he thought were well written. The winners chosen were:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – James Downs

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Bethany Shaw

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – George Middleton

Each of the winners was awarded a cash prize from Gripple and all of the students involved have been given the opportunity to visit Gripple in July. We are extremely thankful to Emma Hibbert at Gripple who very kindly agreed to sponsor this Trust project.

In my opinion this has been a very successful cross curricular project and will now be embedded into the Product Design course in future years. All the students in Technology are encouraged to be innovative in their thinking, creative in their designing and skilled in their making. Visiting Gripple will hopefully show them how these skills are used in real business situations.

**Ms Evans**



# Upcoming Post 16 Events

## Academic Crash Course

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June

&

Open Day

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

## Uni4U Activity Day

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July

&

Open Day

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June



Sheffield  
Hallam University

SHARPENS YOUR THINKING



Sheffield  
Hallam University

SHARPENS YOUR THINKING

**Available to ALL Post 16 students**

**The aim of these days are to:**

- enable students to obtain lots of information about their different University options after Year 13
- attend talks in the subject area they are interested in studying before making that final choice
- help students develop organisation, research, teamwork, presentation and independent study skills
- give students a taste of what student life is like

# **Yes, Prime Minister Review — 23/5/11, Lyceum, Sheffield**

*All Arts Award students need to see as much live theatre as possible and share their opinions about it with others. Ben Jackson (Y9) who is well on the way to achieving his Silver Award chose to see 'Yes, Prime Minister' and this is what he thought about it.*

As part of my Silver Arts Award, I went to see the new adaptation of the TV series "Yes, Prime Minister" at the Lyceum. It was the matinee performance at 3pm. In the play Simon Williams played Sir Humphrey, Michael Chadwick played Bernard Woolley and Richard McCabe played the Prime Minister.

My first impression of the show was about the set, which was well made and authentic. The performance used just the one set throughout the entire production. It was an office room at Chequers and it was very good.

Once the play had started, it was quite confusing but I soon got into it. Close to the beginning, Simon Williams played a very good role at "controlling" the Prime Minister and had a monologue of "interruptions" to stop the PM from having his own ideas. He had a very good presence about him. Michael Chadwick put a lot of character into his performance, if slightly cheesy. Richard McCabe was my favourite actor in the play. He was a really good all round actor, portrayed things very well and was very funny.

The overall story was about the fact that the UK was about to make a huge deal with a country called Kumranistan. That night, he made an inappropriate request that the Prime Minister would never deem appropriate and never accept, and so the whole question of morality came into the performance, and, the Prime Minister had to make a decision. The Kumranistani ambassador spoke to the Prime Minister and told him not to have so many double standards, and the theme of the play went on as such, until they all finally decided not to go ahead with anything, but there was the small problem that the BBC was waiting to hear the good news, and so in the end, the Prime Minister did some clever interviews to get himself out of the scrape. It was really funny and witty and brought back some ideas from the original television series.

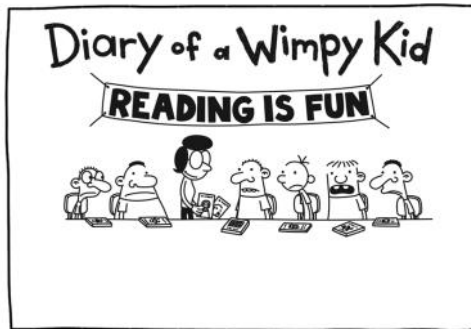
The costume was as you would expect, formal and posh. There were sound effects of thunder and strobe lighting. They were very loud and made everyone jump. Also, another clever use of media was when the PM was being interviewed by the BBC and the cameramen had real cameras which showed footage on TV screens around the theatre, in other words, a live camera feed.

I was very impressed and enjoyed it. I would give it 8/10 and I would recommend it .

It was an overall really good experience and my compliments to the actors and crew who worked really hard.

**Benjamin Jackson 9B**

# Reading Connects



Congratulations also go to Leoni Knox 7D who managed to crack the difficult Codeword Competition.



The Learning Centre continues to promote reading as an activity to be enjoyed in leisure time, and our competitions are popular—the last ones were part of our World Book Day celebrations.

Congratulations go to Sean Fenly-Townsend 7L who won our Diary of a Wimpy Kid Competition with his brilliant advice in the style of the Wimpy Kid, that “if you’re a giant, go in a tumble dryer and shrink!”

Mrs Webb

## MEADOWHEAD LANGUAGE COLLEGE

Invites you to join one of our Adult Community Language Classes in:

**French, German, Greek, Italian, Russian, Spanish**

**Only £50 per term**

**ENROLMENT EVENING**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September - From 6.00pm till 7.00pm**

**Come along and see what's on offer with no obligation!**

**Term Starts: Thurs 22nd September for 10 weeks**

**Enquiries regarding any of these courses to:**

**The Language College  
Jo Allen / Alison Huff  
Meadowhead School**

**Dyche Lane  
Sheffield  
S8 8BR**

**Tel. No. 0114 237 2723 Ext. 300**

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





# Talent Show, May 2011

During May 2011, Meadowhead was delighted to play host to a week-long celebration of achievement within The Arts in school, of which the Talent Show was just one part. On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May, a myriad of artistic talent was presented to an enthusiastic and appreciative audience, who, over the years, have come to expect this high standard of performance in Dance, Music and Drama.

The mix of performances was suitably eclectic and ranged from lone piper Sam Johnson in Y10, who opened the show, to budding film-makers in Y9, who directed, edited and performed their own version of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. Continuing the theme of producing original work, we were enthralled by a hard-hitting GCSE Drama performance about the effects of mental illness, presented by Y 11 students and a series of monologues written and performed by Ben Jackson and Natasha Martin in Y9.



Musical performances were equally diverse and included work that embraced both classical and contemporary traditions. Beethoven's 'Für Elise', beautifully played by Daisy Cutts, and Oliver Rasch's rendition of Einaudi's 'Primavera' were wonderful moments on piano and provided a stark contrast to the strong vocal performances of Megan Beresford and Alice Goldsborough, who presented work by artists including Florence and the Machine and Evanescence. Other highlights included performances on guitar from Daniel Turner and Tom Robinson.

The variety and standard of the Dance on show was stunning and involved upwards of forty students from Y8 to Y11. The audience was delighted by colourful performances of pieces as diverse as Michael Jackson's 'Thriller', Louis Prima's 'Sing, Sing, Sing', 'The time of my life' from Dirty Dancing and the spectacular 'Jai Ho', which brought the show to a close.

All students involved in this show worked incredibly hard to make the evening such a success and gave up their free time generously. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way and congratulations to all the students who performed. You should feel very, very proud of yourselves!

**Ms Pollard**



# Rhineland 2011

In May 2011, Mr Merritt, Mr Jones, Mrs Clapham and Miss Möhlenhaskamp took 38 Y9 students to the beautiful Rhineland area of Germany.

It was an action-packed week in which students travelled through four different countries, visited four different German towns and cities, visited a cathedral, a castle, a chocolate museum, a theme park, a school and a leisure centre, cruised down the river Rhine, travelled on a chairlift and ate an inordinate amount of ice-cream!

The students were, as ever, a credit to the school. They enjoyed themselves immensely and learned lots about the German language and culture. Here are some feedback from the students.



*It was a fantastic experience, an experience I will never forget. The scene was perfect down by the Rhine and the accommodation was well placed for all the activities we did.*

*I enjoyed all of the activities, but I enjoyed going to the school the most. I made friends with 6 people and keep in contact with them on Facebook. I also really enjoyed going around the town with them as I got to know them better and learn what things they liked to do and compare their way of life to mine. The theme park, Phantasialand, was exceptional and a lot better than most of the parks in Britain. It was the best school trip I have ever been on. Thank you!*

**Matthew Shannon-Little, 9H**



*The German trip was really fun. I found it to be an extremely interesting experience. I particularly enjoyed visiting the German school. The lessons were very different to those in England. We also visited Phantasialand, which was very fun and exciting. I also bought lots of German chocolate from the chocolate museum, which is better than English chocolate in my opinion. I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and I would love to do it again if I had the chance.*

**Chris Aylward, 9J**

*We went on the Rhineland trip to Germany with school at the end of May and both of us really enjoyed it! We went to loads of different places and learned about different cultures. We went to, Cologne cathedral, The Lindt chocolate factory and museum, a cruise down the river Rhine, swimming and lots more. We also went to visit a German school called Gymnasium auf der Karthause and we were shown around the room and spent the rest of the day with the German students. Our favourite part though has to be the theme park Phantasialand! The weather was nice and we made lots of new friends.*

**Olivia Bramhall, 9L and Katie Turton, 9K**



---

## Maths Travelling Circus

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 29 year 7 pupils journeyed across town to Sheffield Hallam University to attend the Maths travelling circus.

The circus demonstrates and explores a multisensory approach to the learning of mathematics.



All pupils got involved with many of them cracking some of the puzzles which I struggled with.

One group even managed to build a **great rhombicosidodecahedron**! I bet you can't guess how many sides that has.....

They all behaved perfectly and I look forward to taking another group next year.

**Miss Roberts**





# Art, Design and Technology GCSE Exhibition

Here are some of the amazing ceramics, textiles and artwork from the exhibition highlighting the tremendous creative talent of our Y11 students.

