
MALTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 November 2003

Letter from the Chief Education Officer

19 September 2003

I didn't want to let this moment pass without congratulating you and your staff on the very good GCSE results you have achieved this year. Your results stand out as one of the best five schools in North Yorkshire in terms of improvement this year, and overall trend in improvement.

*Cynthia Welbourn
Chief Education Officer*

This letter was received prior to result amendments which actually improve our performance even further, with the key figure of the percentage gaining 5 GCSE's at grade A*-C or better rising to 68% - 17% above the national average. Malton School always looks carefully at results, and requests re-marking of scripts when it seems appropriate. As a result four students have had GCSE results upgraded by one grade, and 19 students have had their Key Stage 3 English results upgraded by one level. We still await the outcomes of other enquiries.

Uniform

Our thanks to parents who have supported our bid to keep uniform standards high, initially in respect of students not wearing trainers, and wearing their ties.

In October we moved on to tackle how shirts and ties are worn – shirts tucked in, ties fastened properly – and to our rules on jewellery – one pair of ear-studs if any.

We feel that we should clarify the position on body piercing – we do not condone facial studs. Students wearing eye-brow studs, nose studs and similar items will be asked to remove them whilst at school. One pair of studs in ears is the current guideline.

During one week staff reported all deviations from acceptable uniform. Two thirds of the students needed no reminders, most of the others only needed one reminder. Twenty persistent offenders were put on report, and letters were sent home. We continue to look for all our students to look smart and take a pride in their appearance.

Senior Students

When we re-introduced the offices of Head Boy and Girl three years ago, we took the decision to make this a position to be held by Year 11 students, allowing those who may not progress into our sixth form the opportunity to serve in this role. We have not been disappointed with the quality of service given by students.

We are also aware that our Sixth Form play an important role in the life of our school, and last year in recognition of this, Sixth Formers and staff elected four “senior students”. Amongst other responsibilities, they presented the Christmas and Easter shows.

An election has been held for the current year, and we welcome four new students to the role: **Carla Barratt-Gibson, Phillipa Chapman, David Spencer** and **Mark Wylie**. It is good to see students from both Malton and Norton schools represented in this group.

Head: David J Roberts

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Camping Expedition Way to Work - July 2003

At the end of the summer term, the Way to Work students went on a camping expedition to Dalby Forest, ably lead by **Trevor Schofield**.

Just a few extracts from **Lawrence Borthwick**'s report on the trip:

Walking:

We walked for hours – up a big hill to Cross Cliff, ... then to the Adderstone, ... we bashed our way through Christmas trees, ... we went down a steep hill, which Mrs Stockdale decided to roll down we walked along a narrow path through bogs which were smelly and soft. I had to dig out people's shoes that had sunk into them – Mr Steel thought it was amusing to stand and laugh. Later when we were walking up to the road in the dark he got winded by a branch – our turn to laugh.

Cooking:

...Mr Steel tried to cook sausage and burgers – he burnt them but they were still nice. Joel and me cooked pasta, which was gross.

We lit a fire at night and told ghost stories until it was dark.

The sights:

We saw a red kite flying ... we peered down into the valley and saw the steam train chugging along ... we had our picnic at Nab Scar – a killing point for animals in the old days, when they chased them over the cliff to their deaths in the valley below.

In summary:

I enjoyed the expedition so much I would like to do it again.

Geography Field Trip – Blencathra Field Studies Centre

We departed from school at 9.30 a.m. and set out for Carlisle, stopping here as example of an out of town shopping centre. Then on to Blencathra, a couple of hours working in a classroom, and a couple of hours free time.

The next day, we went to study the Glendaterra Beck and took detailed measurements of the river's depth, velocity, width, gradient etc. This took all day. There were a few accidents as people fell in the river!! That night we also worked in the classroom to round off the day.

On Friday we studied glacial landforms in Easedale, drawing detailed fieldsketches and climbing to the top to view Easedale Tarn.

It was a great trip and it was very useful to see real examples of the geographical features that we study in class. We would like to thank Mr Cook and Miss Hewitt for taking us.

James Gavigan (12D)

French Trip

En octobre un groupe scolaire de trente-cinq étudiants est allé en Bretagne. Malgré le froid, la pluie et le virus tout le monde s'est bien amusé. On a fait beaucoup d'excursions très intéressantes, à Mont St. Michel, St Malo, Dinan, Arromances et Bayeux.

C'était vraiment super.

Road Safety Prize Winners meet the Education Secretary.

Following on from their success in July in a local Road Safety competition, three students went to London for the national finals.

Daniel Cohen reports:

On Wednesday 22 October me, **Daniel Pratt** and **Jasmine Walker** were at Malton station at the start of our trip to London. After a long journey we settled into our hotel, and we went to a posh restaurant for dinner, then up to bed for an early night.

The next morning we were all up bright and early, and set off for Portcullis House in the Houses of Parliament. We were the first team to speak, and we talked about road safety on Middlecave Road. We were then asked questions by the judges and Mr Clark, the minister for education. We then had some food to eat – the food was much better than the questions! Later we went on the London Eye. We didn't win the final competition, but had a great time trying.

Tree Project

Our first payment of £4000 has arrived, as part of the £10000 grant we won in the Barclays New Futures Scheme. We have selected a management team of seven Year 12 and 13 students, who in turn have selected **Heather Ponton-Brown** as their chairwoman. They are discussing plans for the purchase of trees and shrubs for planting around the school grounds, including landscaping the former caretaker's garden recently opened up to provide pedestrian access to the school. They are also hoping to plant native hedgerow around the conservation area, and are writing to all local primary schools to offer tree planting in their grounds over the coming three months.

Parent Teacher Association

Thank you to all who sent prizes or attended the Bingo on Monday 6th October at the Railway Club. You helped us to raise an excellent £306.60 for our funds, which will be spent in the future on our children. Unfortunately our Beauty Evening was poorly attended. Thanks to the mums that did come and watched the girls from No 1 Health & Beauty demonstrate the St Tropez tanning system and got some Christmas present ideas from Virgin-vie make up.

If you would like to come along to our next meeting, it is on Wednesday 21st January at 7.30pm in the West Wing. Our next event is our annual Family Quiz on Thursday 5th February in the West Wing Hall at 7.15pm - £1.00 per person, teams of up to four.

Julie Mason, Chairman

Parking

North Yorkshire Highways are planning to introduce parking controls on Middlecave Road in order to ensure that larger vehicles can access properties, including the Vets and the School. At a meeting of local residents concern was expressed that if Middlecave Road is

double parked some emergency vehicles would find difficulty in reaching the end of the road. As a step towards easing this problem, could we please ask parents and visitors to the school to park only on the school side of Middlecave Road. Please also remember the voluntary 20 MPH limit – to protect our students and all users of Middlecave Road.

Charity Collections

Inspired by 7 Water's excellent effort last year, each form groups has been asked to collect loose change through the year for their nominated house charity. If each form can raise £100, then we can send £2000 to good causes. The charities for this year are:

Air House – North Yorkshire Air Ambulance (provides emergency helicopter medical service)

Earth – Salt of the Earth (provides help to villages in India)

Fire – Fire Aid (re-furbishes fire tenders and equipment, sending them to poorer countries)

Water - Water Aid – (provides drinking water to impoverished areas)

Please send contributions at any time.

Epidemic

Where have all the children gone? This was the call on the last two days of half term – when almost half the school came down with a virus. Classes had to be doubled up as there were seven staff also ill, and together with parties on the French trip and sixth form geography fieldwork, the school had an air of vacancy about it. Hopefully everyone is returned to full health and the holiday was not affected too much by the illness.

May we remind all Parents/Carers of the dedicated 24-hour answerphone line on **01653 605303**. Please use this number to inform us about student absence.

Lions Club Success

Congratulations to Year 13 student, **Heather Ponton-Brown**, on being selected as the Lions Club Youth Award Representative for the North East of England and Scotland. As a result of her success, she has been awarded a bursary of £500 to spend on her selected project, which is a Drama Group at St Peter's Church, Norton. In addition, Heather will go forward to the next round to select the representative for the whole of the British Isles. This will take place at the Lions Club National Conference at Dudley in the West Midlands in February 2004. We wish her well for the next stage.

*Eddie Lucas
Malton, Norton & District Lions Club*

Vacancies

Attendance Secretary

[Points 11-13, £12720-£13335 pro rata]

20 hours per week (4 hours per day) term-time only available from 1 December or as soon as possible thereafter. Applicants interested in working two-three days each week will also be welcomed. To be responsible for recording attendance, entering absence data onto the computer system and phoning parents. Training will be given. Experience in using computer databases and in contacting people by phone an advantage but not essential.

Two Supervisory Assistants

[£5.45 per hour + retainer]

We seek as soon as possible two **mid-day supervisory assistants** to make up a team of six supervisors. Working hours are currently 12.30 to 13.40. The post is term-time only.

Please phone 01653 692828, fax 696871 or e-mail admin@maltonschool.org for further details and application form.

Closing date: 26 November 2003.

Sponsored Walk

A pleasant day at the end of September saw students walkers tackle the annual fund-raising walk in good spirits. We hope their efforts will now be well supported by sponsors, and that we can raise funds to help with equipment to furnish our new science laboratories. Donations received currently stand at £5082, with more to come! Well done to everyone, and our thanks to all those who have contributed.

Calendar

AUTUMN TERM 2003

November

- M 03 School re-opens (Week 1)
- Th 13 Celebration Evening
- F 14 Y13 Assessments to Parents
Y11 visit to Poetry Day in Hull
- F 21 School closed to pupils (Staff Training)
- T 26 Post-16 Information Evening
- W 27 Y12 Assessments to Parents
- Th 27 Y10 GCSE Science Module
Y13 Parents' Meeting with Subject Teachers
- F 28 Y11 Careers performance/workshop

December

- M 01 Governors' Annual Meeting with Parents
- Th 04 Y11 (02-03) Certificates Evening/Reunion
- M 08 Y12 Parents' Meeting with Subject Teachers
- W 17 Y7 Assessments to parent
Christmas Concert
- Th 18 Senior Citizens' party
- F 19 Term ends

SPRING TERM 2004

January

- T 06 Spring Term begins (Week 1)
Y13 external examinations (to end of month)
- M 12 Y11 examinations begin (no leave of absence)
- W 14 Y7 Parents' Meeting with Subject Teachers
- W 21 Y10 Assessments to Parents
- T 27 Y10 Parents' Meeting with Subject Teachers

February

- Th 12 Introduction to Sixth Form Evening
- F 13 Y11 Reports issued
End of Half-Term
- M 23 Spring Term continues (Week 1)