

## We've Done It!

### Specialist School's Science Status from September 2004

At the end of January we received a telephone call from a government office, telling us the news that we had been patiently waiting for since October – our application for specialist status has been approved. With effect from September 2004, Malton School will be designated a Science College, as part of the Specialist Schools programme.

A reminder of some of the key stages on the route towards our success:

**March 2002** Discussions on which specialist status would best suit Malton School. Agreement on Science.

**Sept 2002** Early planning discussions with architects on the new Science labs. Agreed that 4 labs, not 2, would be the target.

The Science Status appeal launched with help on publicity from the local press and Central Science Laboratories.

**March 2003** We reach our £50000 sponsorship target with a couple of weeks to spare before the application deadline.

Our first application is submitted.

**June 2003.** We receive the news that our bid has not been accepted. We immediately resolve to bid again for the October round.

**October 2003** Our second bid is submitted. More clear-cut and well-defined targets and objectives.

**December 2003** We receive a visit from a government inspector to discuss our application and look at our plans for site improvements.

**29 January 2004** We receive the news that our bid has been successful.

**16 February 2004** Building work on the new Science block started

**September 2004** Malton School is designated a Specialist Science College.

We owe, of course, a big thank you to everyone for their support for our bid, from anyone who sponsored a student on a sponsored walk to businesses and individuals who pledged four figure sums. Thank you everyone. Of course, we still need more money – Science laboratories do not come cheaply. If anyone reading this would like to make a donation towards what we now know is a successful project, please get in touch with Mr Roberts at the school, who will be pleased to talk through the most efficient ways of sponsoring the developments.

And a reminder of what all this means:

- We get a £100000 capital grant – this will enable us to complete phase two of our new science block – the two upstairs laboratories (more on the building work elsewhere)
- We get approximately £70000 a year additional funding over the next four years – after which we re-apply. This will allow us to work more closely with local schools, leading on Science and Mathematics initiatives. It will also allow us to improve our facilities in Science and Mathematics.
- We remain a comprehensive school, offering the full range of subjects that we currently offer. With the science department consolidating to one area of the school, some existing labs will be converted to enhance facilities in other curriculum areas. In particular, all Maths teaching will be able to take place in specialist rooms in one area of the school. We hope to create private study space for Sixth Form students, and we are considering the possibilities of creating a drama studio come larger meeting space in one of the existing laboratory spaces.

## Building work begins

On the Friday before half term four Year 7 house representatives – Katherine Richardson, Emma Bean, Spencer Ward and Tommy Leach cut the first turf to mark the beginning of our new Science laboratory. This £360000 development at the East Wing of the school will fulfil a long-held desire (held since 1971 when the County Modern and the Grammar schools merged) to have all science facilities in one area. The building work is being undertaken by Wrights of Hull, who were pleased to agree to Mr Roberts' request that students be involved in key moments in the building. The first brick laid, the final topping out and other events will all be shared with students. Over half term machinery has moved on site, and the foundations are underway. Of course this will mean disruption to normal school life in the East Wing for the coming months, but it will be well worth it when the new buildings are complete – the first significant building on the school site since 1959.

## Art Film

Twelve A level students were involved in making a number of short films with a variety of characters – Fish Head and Elvis for example. The overall theme of the project is to create a modern day western.

Pied Pipers Ian McMillan, Simon Thackray and Richard Barnes led the activities, and provided the equipment for the students to make, and later edit, the featurettes. They are to be shown at Malton Palace Cinema in April 2004, and next week the group will be adding music soundtracks to the films. Watch the billboards for the world premiere!

## Staff News

We welcome Mrs Christine Johnson as our new librarian. She will be starting on 8 March, and the library will re-open shortly after that time.

## Snow Closures

Almost a year to the day since the heavy snow forced us to close at the end of January 2003, the same happened at the end of January 2004. Along with most schools in the area, we closed for two days as a result of heavy snow and then severe ice conditions. The school did not close completely, as A-level students had module exams at the time. With severe weather warnings as this newsletter is written, hopefully we will manage to stay open, but a reminder that any closures will always be announced on Radio York: please do not phone the school.

## Congratulations

To Lauren Horsley of Year 13, who has been offered a place to read Medicine at Robinson's College, Cambridge. Lauren is currently studying Maths, Chemistry and Biology and just has to get three grade A's to get in! We know she can do it.

## 80's Nights

Tickets will go on sale at the end of next week for the latest of our Easter specials. This year we are celebrating music and events from the 1980's. We will have dance routines, music from orchestra, choirs and soloists, comedy, drama from two of the top musicals of the decade (Phantom of the Opera and Les Miserables) and – well, whatever else the students come up with in the next four weeks connected with the 1980's.

The show will run on the last two nights of term

## 80's Nights

**Wednesday 31 March 2004**

**Thursday 1 April 2004**

**7.30 pm West Wing Hall**

Tickets will be £4, or £2 for students and senior citizens, and need to be purchased in advance. The Easter Shows for the last two years have sold out – make sure you book your seats in good time!

## Tree Project

Following our success in winning a £10000 grant from the Barclays New Futures scheme, a number of initiatives are underway.

- A management group of six A level students has been formed to manage the project. Heather Ponton-Brown is chairing the group, Emily Wilsden is acting as secretary.
- Frances Houghton produced an excellent garden design for a Chelsea Flower Show competition, but sadly the judges did not place the beauty of moorland plants above other entries, though they were very complimentary about the quality of the design.
- A group of 25 students visited Castle Howard Arboretum in February to look at what the Arboretum Trust does, and what potential for educational visits the site offers. Our thanks go to Neil Batty for giving the students a guided tour.
- The students have written to all local schools offering to plant trees in their grounds. Seven schools have replied to date. Some have conservation work already in progress, so our students have visited and met with staff at the schools to see how they can and students have visited to see how they can help. An orienteering course at Amotherby, live willow sculptures at Malton CP, and hedging at Settrington all sound exciting.
- In March we will be planting around 1000 shrubs and trees in the school grounds, including hedges, hedgerows and a shrubbery. Our thanks to Mr Nick Cooke of Castle Howard Nurseries for his advice and assistance.
- Students are developing a website to record their work on the tree project over the next two years.
- We hope to welcome as our artist in residence this year a former student, Giles Edsall, who will be working on a theme related to trees in mythology and art as part of the project.

## Sports News

Congratulations to the Year 8 boys football team on reaching the semi-finals of the cup. In the league they have an impressive record – unbeaten to date.

At the end of January we welcomed back to school former Rugby League and Union international John Bentley, to do some coaching with our teams. John is now working with Leeds Tykes, and visited us last year on a similar event.

We eagerly await the Year 11 versus staff challenge match in March!

The Year 8 girls netball team, not to be outdone by the boys football team, are showing great promise this season, also so far unbeaten. They are due to play in the semi-final of the Scarborough and District knockout cup on 1 March 2004.

In Year 7 netball we look to have a strong team developing under captain Alice Brook, with a recent good win over Norton College, and a forthcoming tournament to test their potential.

Cross country successes in the Scarborough and District events include Katherine Richardson, Year 7 (14<sup>th</sup>), Fiona Marsden Year 7 (24<sup>th</sup>); Rachel Twamley Year 8 (17<sup>th</sup>); Claire Szuman Year 10 (9<sup>th</sup>); Aimee MacCallaugh (Year 10) (14<sup>th</sup>) and Harriet Bean Year 10 (16<sup>th</sup>).

The Sixth Form have had some very impressive wins in mixed hockey and sustain an unbeaten record. The captain Charlotte Barker has been supported by very good performances by James Gavigan, Maria Hackett, Sophie Gilderdale, Luke Dale and David Spencer.

## Calendar

### March

M	01	Y13 mock examinations (3 days)
W	03	Y10 GCSE Science Module
Th	04	Y9 Parents' Information Meeting
F	05	Y8 Assessments to Parents
M	08	Ski Trip (all week)
W	10	Y9 Reports issued
M	15	Y12 examinations (3 days)
W	17	Y9 Parents' Meeting with Subject Teachers
M	22	Y8 Parents' Meeting with Subject Teachers
T	23	Y12 visit Higher Education Fair, Harrogate
W	31	80's Night Show

### April

Th	01	Y12 Reports issued. End of term 80's Night Show
F	02	Staff only day: exam moderation
M	19	Summer Term begins (Week 2)
Th	22	Year 12 reports issued Post-18 Information evening

### May

M	03	Bank Holiday
T	04	Year 9 – SAT's exams begin
W	12	Year 7 and 8 exams begin
T	18	GCSE written exams begin
M	24	Year 10 exams begin
T	25	AS written exams begin
F	28	End of half term

### June

M	07	Summer term continues (Week 1)
T	15	Year 13 A2 exams begin
M	21	Year 10 Work experience begins (2 weeks)
Th	24	School closed (Malton Show Day)
T	29	Y10 GCSE Science Module
W	30	Y12 visit to Newcastle/Northumbria

### July

Th	08	Open Evening Y6 meeting for pupils and parents Y5 meeting for pupils and parents
F	09	Year 7 and 8 reports issued
T	13	Year 9 and 10 reports issued
W	14	Sports Day
M	19	Activities Day
W	21	End of term

## PTA EASTER PRIZE DRAW

An envelope containing prize draw tickets is attached to this Newsletter. Please support the PTA in raising much needed funds for the school. Although the School has secured extra funding through Science Status, other "normal" funding may not keep up with rising costs.

Please can money and/or any unsold tickets be returned to school in the envelope by 19 March.

Please could you also consider donating a prize and sending it into either school office, again by 19 March 2004.

Thank you  
Julie Mason  
Chairman Malton School PTA

*And finally, a reminder:*

### 80's Night

Duran Duran, Kate Bush, Blondie, OMD, Spandau Ballet, Live Aid, Belinda Carlilse, Mrs Thatcher, Mr Scargill, Yes Minister, One Foot in the Grave, Harry Enfield and LoadaMoney, Yuppies, Les Miserables, The Phantom of the Opera, Cats, Neighbours, Kylie and Jason, He-Man, Thriller, Ninja Turtles.....

*Re-live the art, music, fashions and dance  
of the decade with us*

**Wednesday 31 March 2004  
Thursday 1 April 2004  
7.30 – 9.30 pm**

**West Wing Hall  
Malton School**

**Tickets from the school office  
£4, (or £2 students and senior citizens)**

*Head: David J Roberts*

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