
MALTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 September 2008

Headteacher's Address

A warm welcome back to the new academic year and thank you for your continuing (or initial) support and trust in choosing Malton School for the education of your child.

Tuesday 2nd September was an historic day for Malton School as students attended in blazers for the first time in 37 years. The Year 7 students looked very smart indeed. Our students last year had told us that they wanted to look smart and really this should be no surprise because we all know that if you look and feel good it can give you greater confidence in work or in a social setting. I am pleased to report that the new students have settled in very well so far and have received good support and encouragement from the "old hands".

New students have also joined us in several of the other main school year groups and quite a number have joined us again in Year 12. The school has grown to 725 with over 150 in the Sixth Form – the largest it has ever been.

I have addressed all year groups and laid down three challenges to each student – to do something new; to do something better; and to do a kindness. As a staff team we challenge ourselves each year to seek further improvement in our practice. Likewise, we have high expectations of each and every one of our students. We believe that every single student can be successful. We will work with them to help them achieve success. What we expect from them in return is a high level of commitment, self-discipline and behaviour along with high standards of punctuality, politeness and dress. I know that you want your child's experience to be a safe, happy and successful one. That is what we are committed to delivering and with your help and support I know that we will continue to make Malton School an even more positive learning environment for your child.

The exam results have again been excellent at all levels. The GCSE results matched last year's best ever with 67% of the year group gaining 5 or more grades at A* to C. At A level the Year 13 students

averaged more than the equivalent of 3 A grades each! For the second year in a row! In fact the average total points score went up from 364 to 367. This placed us 20th in the country in the Independent and 27th in the country in the Guardian. Both papers placed us 1st in North Yorkshire.

We have also improved our facilities, renewing all the computers in Rooms 13 and 40, and kitting out Room 21 with computers just for the Maths department. We have enjoyed an extensive programme of external and internal painting. This, along with work to the front of the West Wing and new external signage has given, what I hope you will agree is, a much improved feel to the school. The double glazing of the school continues and liquid soap dispensers have replaced bars of soap in the toilets. 15 additional car parking spaces have been created on site at the back of the East Wing. These are available for sixth form students to use (the only place on site where sixth form students can park). This will hopefully reduce some of the traffic congestion caused by extensive parking on Middlecave Road. The progress towards the delivery of the sports centre has been good and we shall shortly be in a position to go to tender. The expected opening date being December 2009. We were also successful in bidding for capital funds to improve our DT and FT facilities. It is hoped that this work will be carried out in the summer of 2009. All in all, the school starts term this September in a stronger position than was the case 12 months ago.

Looking forward to the year ahead, we are excited about launching some new courses in Year 10 and Year 12 (through the newly established Ryedale Sixth Form Partnership). These curriculum innovations have offered wider choice to students and in so doing should lead to even stronger outcomes. We have made some changes to our Positive Discipline system to further improve the climate for learning in the school. The school is not complacent in wanting to serve you, your children and the local community to the best of its ability but I do believe we are well-placed for greater success.

*R Williams
Headteacher*

Headteacher: Mr R Williams

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Exam Success

Another excellent year at all levels. Just a few headlines from the lists of results we have this year;

GCSE RESULTS

- We were seeing stars this year: there are **more A* grades and more A grades than ever before** - 95 A* grades represents an increase of 22 on our previous best (in 2006), and 242 A or A* represents an increase of 41 on our previous best (again 2006). This represents more than a quarter of all entries achieving this level – the first time we have passed this quota.
- The percentage of 16 year old students achieving the level 2 threshold (formally the 5 A*-C aggregate) is **67%**, the same as last year.
- The **pass rate is 99%**, with only 5 fails from a record 1011 entries.
- **69%** of entries resulted in a pass at grades A*-C, just 1% below our previous best (last year).
- **89% of students achieved a grade C pass in at least one subject, 99% achieved at least 1 GCSE pass, with 94% achieving 5 or more passes.**
- Unusually boys performed better than girls, with 15% more boys than girls achieving the level 2 threshold. Fairly even at the top, though, with 6 of each in the top 12.
- 6 students gained all grade A or A* results. The best individual performance came from **Tommy Leach** with 10 A* and 2 A's; **Jasmin Asquith** achieved 8 A* and 3 A's; **Fiona Marsden** and **Matthew Wilson** both achieved 8 A* and 2 A's, **Amos Abrahams** achieved 6 A* and 4 A's, and **Lucy Shaw** achieved 4 A* and 7 A's. **Rebecca Hill** achieved 7 A*, 3 A's and a B. **Sam Davies** achieved 7 A*, 1 A and 2 B's, and **Sam Harrison** 6 A*, 4 A's and a B

AS RESULTS

For the vast majority of students the AS exams at the end of Year 12 represent the half-way point on a full A level course. The results provide good foundations for progress towards another exceptional year at A level in 2008.

- Two students achieved all grade A's – **Laura Scott** and **Rebecca Houghton** with 4 grade A's. With higher points scores, having taken 5 subjects, were **Simon Gaskell** and **Will Smith** (AAAAB), **James Baker** (AAAAC), and **Daniel Pratt** (AABBB).
- Of those taking the standard 4 AS levels, **Charlotte Bean** made the most progress against her position on entry (more than 42 places), with **Alex Brown** moving up 36 places.

A LEVEL RESULTS

The number of grade A's achieved is once again our highest ever, with 42, exceeding last year's previous best by 4 grades, and this from a smaller year group. This represents 30% of the entries – almost one in 3 entries resulted in the top grade.

• For the second year in a row the majority of results were at grades A or B 58% of entries resulted in one or other of these top grades, 5% up on last year's previous best.

• At the top of the A grade performances was **James Dalglish**, with five Grade A's. **Richard Calvert** and **Sarah Smith** both achieved 4 A's and a B; **Rebecca Davidson**, **Rebecca Simpson** and **Emma Marsden** all achieved 4 grade A's, with **Joshua Clarke** and **Lewis McIntyre** both achieving grade A's in each of their three main subjects, plus passes at C and D in General Studies.

• In terms of improvement since entry to Sixth Form, **Ashley Clark** (AAAB) and **Matthew Pape's** (ABBB) performances were the best, both moving up 19 places in the year group over two years.

• The average points score per student is similar to last year at 364 points, and we must remember that 364 last year put us in the top twenty comprehensive schools in the country in the national newspapers.

• 22 students achieved an A in at least one subject

The pass rate is 98% - maintaining our strong record over many years of hardly any fails in any subject by any student.

KEY STAGE 3 RESULTS (“SATs”)

Readers will know from the national news headlines in July that marking and return of results to school was severely delayed this year. The company responsible for the chaos has been sacked. Results arrived on the very last day of term, though a couple were still missing. We think they represent an excellent year – with 82% of students achieving Level 5 or better (4% up on last year) and 53% achieving Level 6 or better. In Maths there were 24 Level 8 awards (the highest possible) , which at 21% of the year group is easily the highest we have ever had (8% up on last year’s previous best). - A record nine students achieved the highest possible levels (which are Level 7 in English and Science, and Level 8 in Maths): **Aya Abrahams, Robin Adderley, James Douthwaite, Joshua Garcia Hall, Jamie Green, Adam Hill, Jennifer Hyde, Ian Mason and Jessica Whittal-Williams.**

Attendance

We are keen to have all students in school learning every day unless they really are too poorly to come to school.

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.

“Teechers”

More than 50 students from Years 7 to 13 took part in our 2nd annual full school production – this time of the John Godber play “Teechers” about life in a typical comprehensive school. A matinee performance took place on Friday 5 July and two evening performances on Friday 5 July and Saturday 6 July. The audiences enjoyed an excellent production but the most amazing aspect of it was that the students had learnt and rehearsed the play in only one week! The “play in a week” idea is our intermediate response to the question of adding drama to the school curriculum. All involved had a lot of fun, developed new skills and greater self-confidence as a result of the experience. Thank you again to drama teachers Joan Gibb and Jane Allanach as well as to our own Music Department. Watch this space if you want to be in next summer’s play!

Annual Art Exhibition

On Tuesday, 25 June we held our Annual Art Exhibition which was extremely well attended by a most enthusiastic and appreciative audience. Three special guests were John and Vicky Howard and their daughter Amy, who presented the Emma Howard Memorial Prize to **Eleanor Brown.**

Talent Show – final day of term

On the last day of term the school’s annual talent show took place. A variety of high quality musicians and singers provided excellent entertainment and a brilliant way to end the school year. **Michael Mason** triumphed with a melodeon solo. **Lewis Delaney, Elliot Johnson and Alistair Quinn** took 2nd place with their rock band and **Joanna Booker** took 3rd place singing Imagine accompanied by **Ben Stubbings,**

AUTUMN TERM 2008

September

T	02	09.00	Autumn Term commences (Wk 1) Y7 + Y13 start school Y12 mid-morning registration
W	03	09.00	Y8, Y9, Y10 and Y11 start school Y12 Residential to East Barnby
M	08		Y12 start timetable
F	19		PD Reward Trip - Lightwater Valley
Th	25	19.00	Y6 Open Evening
F	26		School closed – staff training day

October

W	03		PTA AGM
F	03		Y11 PE residential to East Barnby
M	06		Special Day
T	16		Y12 Geography Trip
W	17		Y12 Geography Trip
Th	23		Y11 assessments → home
F	24		Last day of half-term

November

M	03	09.00	Autumn Term continues (Wk 2)
Th	06		Y8, 9 & 13 assessments → home
Th	13	19.30	Celebration Evening Y7 & 10 assessments → home
M	17		Y12HSC Work placement week Y11Swedish exchange in schools
Th	20		6 th Form Information Evening
M	24		Yr13 Parents Evening
Th	28		Y12 assessments → home

December

M	01		Y11 exams commence
W	03		Y8 Theatre Trip pm
Th	11		Y12 Parents Evening
M	15		Touring Theatre visit Concert Rehearsal
T	18		Christmas lunch
W	17		Concert
Th	18		Senior citizens
F	19		Last day of term

SPRING TERM 2009

January

M	05		School closed Staff training day
T	08	09.00	Spring Term commences (Wk 1)

DATES OF TERMS 2008-09

<u>First Day</u>	<u>Last Day</u>	<u>Day Closures</u>
M 1 September	F 24 October	M 1 September
M 3 November	F 19 December	F 26 September
M 5 January	F 13 February	M 5 January
M 23 February	F 3 April	
M 20 April	F 22 May	Bank holiday: M 4 May
M 1 June	T 20 July	F 26 June M 20 July

Y6 Open Evening

Parents and Students Welcome

Thursday, 25 September 2008

7.00 pm – 8.00 pm

At the West Wing Hall, Malton School

Refreshments afterwards

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 8 October at 7.30pm

in the Sixth Form Common Room

We are looking for new committee members. Nominations will close on the night. Please come along and help us raise money to improve your child's education. It is also a good way of finding out more about the running of the school and of being able to give feedback to the school. If you want to be kept informed of PTA events please email pta@malton.org

