

Parkviews

October 2013

A NEWSPAPER FROM PARK VIEW SCHOOL

Issue 45

Park View Storms The Sage!

The Christmas Term ended on a high with outstanding events provided by the Performing Arts faculty. A superb concert at North Lodge, featuring the school orchestra, choir and a pantomime with a cast of over 40 students, opened the week and was closely followed by the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary and St Cuthbert's. All proved fitting preparation for the climax of the week, an evening performance at The Sage, Gateshead.

Excited parents, staff and governors gathered in Hall Two for our very first concert in the North East's most prestigious music venue. This was a festive celebration of our Learning Alliance partnership with Ponteland Community High, with performers from both schools playing a mix of traditional and contemporary musical pieces. In the first half, the Swing Band from Ponteland and our Chamber Choir graced the stage; in the second, it was our orchestra and their choir. The evening was completed by all musicians and singers coming together to lead the audience in a rousing rendition of 'O Come All Ye Faithful'.

Main Veitch, Headteacher, commented, 'I had to keep pinching myself as I could barely believe that our students were in such a magnificent setting. I struggled to speak at the end because I was so proud of them all, particularly Andrew Hedley and Emily Wilson (CHECK NAMES) who somehow found the courage to perform solos. It was an incredible night, one which showed clearly the advantages which can be gained by great schools working together.'

Dr Dennison, MBE, our Chair of Governors, added, 'The evening was a real credit to the staff and students of both schools, reminding us all of how talented the young people of this region truly are. A triumph which will live in the memory for years to come!'

As well as the 'Sage Concert', there were two major events in the lead up to the holiday. On Monday 16th December pupils from every year group came together to perform at what has become known as the 'North Lodge Concert'. The Church Chare Orchestra and Choir, the North Lodge Choir, and some excellent soloists, performed a selection of seasonal music to the delight of a packed hall. The North Lodge Drama Club provided variety and humour with their superb performance of 'Brian the Christmas Tree'. There were many highlights, but the spell-binding performance of 'O Holy Night' by Andrew Hedley (euphonium) will long be remembered. Thanks too to



the World Challenge team who assisted with refreshments. They would like to express their gratitude to the audience, who gave generously in support of the appeal.

On Wednesday 18th December the school choirs presented the annual Carol Service at The Parish Church of St Mary and St Cuthbert. Both choirs excelled themselves in performances of new and traditional carols, maintaining the tradition and standards set over many years.

The Performing Arts team would like to thank all staff and students who assisted in any way with our Christmas celebrations. Thanks to this superb team effort drama and music continue to go from strength to strength at Park View.



Stunning Sixth Form Drama Performance



In addition to the high profile extra-curricular performances, our curricular Performing Arts students continue to impress. Our A Level Drama students performed an original piece of drama, *To Please His Fantasy*, to an invited audience of students and staff. The piece was inspired by Shakespeare's presentation of women in *Othello* and explored women's roles in a patriarchal society both then and now. Students researched, devised and structured the piece, drawing upon ideas they had seen and explored during their A Level course. Mr Jarvis, who was present in the audience, described the piece as 'thoroughly enjoyable', whilst sixth formers commented on its 'thought-provoking' subject matter and imaginative response to Shakespeare's original play. All three performers, Dani Harvey, Chelsea Jobe and Frances Wood, communicated their intentions with purpose and confidence.

Ms S Moore- Head of Performing Arts

The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Park View

Park View's talented performers are active throughout the school and this is exemplified by performances by Lucy Crozier and Mackenzie Williamson, both Year 8, as they performed as Von Trapp children in the *Sound of Music* at Durham's Gala Theatre last term, presented by Endellion Theatre in association with Spennymoor & Song. The production received rave reviews in the press.

Both students are budding stars; Mackenzie is off to Los Angeles for the pilot casting season, while Lucy is soon to be in the music studio recording an album of songs she has written herself. Mr Zabrocki is trying his best to get a contract signed for a percentage of their future earnings.



Drama Students Do The Lambton Worm



NHS

North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group

Allypeter
Durham

Chester-le-Street & Shildon
Area Action Partnership

Cestria

Community Housing

The hugely popular North Lodge Drama Group was delighted to receive a grant from the Area Action Partnership to fund a dramatic production of the story of the Lambton Worm. The students will now visit care homes in the local area to perform their work. Our talented students are aiming to improve links between different generations in our community through their visits which will help them to discover more about the area and its fascinating history. The photo shows Marta Novak and Mrs Wilson receiving the cheque from representatives of the AAP as well as Cestria Housing and North Durham CCG.

Congratulations

The school was delighted by the inclusion of Dr Dennison in the New Year's Honours List. Bill was cited for his incredible commitment to education, evidenced by his career at Newcastle University and his 25 years as Chair of Governors at Park View.



He is also a governor at an academy in Sunderland and a Department for Education appointed National Leader of Governance. A well-known figure in Chester-le-Street, Bill was a popular choice for his much deserved award of an MBE.

Children in Need



Our annual Children in Need extravaganza, organised and led by the Sixth Form, proved to be a huge success once again as students raised in excess of £7000 for the cause at the end of November. The attitude shown by the Sixth Form in raising money in all forms was a show of real teamwork and commitment and their efforts every year never cease to amaze. This year, in addition to the street collections, we had a non-uniform day, various in school challenges and games as well as Bushtucker Trials and a Sponsored Run. Well done everyone involved.

Park View take on Shakespeare

On November 15th 2013, the drama group at Park View took part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival at Northern Stage, Newcastle which consisted of four schools performing a different Shakespeare play. Before we had even performed the play, the initial idea about participating in the Shakespeare schools festival began four months ago.

Back in Year 8, on first hearing about the festival everyone, myself included, was excited. We were told that we would be doing Macbeth and since we had performed it in year 8, we all knew the concept of the play. But I didn't really understand how we were going to put a play together in such short time and perform it to a professional standard. We all had to wait until September to audition for roles. It wasn't like a normal audition though, because aside from the main roles, we didn't know what the other roles would be. Everyone had to try their best to perform different scenes from the play so that Miss Clark and Ms Moore would cast us a good role. They thought wisely and casted us in roles that I think we all felt comfortable with.

Once we knew our roles, we started rehearsing the first part of the play, which was scene 1 (witches scene). It took a lot of tiring hours to improve and perfect, but it was worth it. To help us with improving our movement and facial expressions in this particular scene and throughout the whole play, we all attended a workshop at the Northern Stage, Newcastle. The people there showed us how we can get our role across effectively and make ourselves look believable when acting. There was also a range of acting games, which helped boost our confidence. After the workshop, there was only a couple of weeks left in which we had to practice and rehearse Macbeth at school, so we had to be fully committed and focussed.

It was the big day and everyone was excited, nervous and anx-



ious about performing. We went back to Northern Stage to do a lighting rehearsal and then we did a dress rehearsal in front of another school. Everyone was satisfied with the final dress rehearsal and I was too, but we all felt that we could have benefited from more time to perfect the performance. We had tried our very best and out of time, we were only about an hour away from our performance. Settled in the dressing rooms, we ran over all of the lines for the play and just hoped that we would remember them. When we all went on stage I think everyone was really nervous, but we delivered it successfully and in my opinion, it was excellent. I had an amazing experience and I would like to think everyone else did too.

Hannah Barksby (Year 9)

Sixth Form Students Stand Out

Our impressive Sixth Form students in Year 13 are getting noticed as they embark on their applications to university and other Post 18 ventures. Whilst some have planned Gap Years and are hoping to secure apprenticeships and employment when they finish their A Levels, the majority are being recruited at universities.

As with previous years, we have many very strong candidates who are looking to continue their studies at some of the best universities in the world and on incredibly competitive degree courses. At the time of writing, we are optimistic about applications to Oxford and Cambridge with Callan Meynell already being accepted after interview to read Ancient History at Trinity College, Oxford and others waiting to hear. We have some of our strongest Medicine applicants this year as well as students hoping to study for courses as diverse as Law, Physiotherapy, Teaching, Engineering and nursing at universities locally and further afield with Tom Maddison being accepted at various US Universities for a Football scholarship after achieving a very strong set of SAT results.

We hope that all our studies continue to study hard in order to realise their high ambitions. Good luck to you all.



Citizens Make Their Mark on the Community

As a Champion School for the National Citizen Service, all of our Year 12 students had the opportunity to spend a week in October, contributing to their local community as well as having a lot of fun at the same time. Our students started the week with a fabulous activity packed weekend in the Lake District, developing their teamwork, communication and leadership skills whilst participating in outward bound activities organised by a fantastic team from Carnegie. All of these newly found skills were put to the test when the students came back to school and worked with team leaders from businesses and organisations in the local community. The objective was to conjure up ideas to have an impact in the local community and fully implemented by themselves. Ideas were wide and varied and truly captured the spirit of the NCS programme. Groups hosted a fashion show, hosted community events, refurbished the local girl guides building and raised funds for local worthwhile charities via co-ordinated activities. Students loved the experience and their opportunity to shine with one student saying "Outdoor weekends in the countryside aren't normally my idea of fun but this experience was brilliant. It really opened my eyes and I can't wait to do it again. It was amazing." Mr Finley, Head of Sixth Form, commented that "The venture was some-



thing new to Sixth Form and it is something that we would love to see repeated next year. The skills the students picked up are a real complement to their academic curriculum and it was lovely to see them so enthused at the end of an action packed week. The levels of energy they showed are frightening. Our thanks go out to NCS, The Cabinet Office for granting us Champion School status as well as all the leaders from the community for their support."

Citizenship at Park View

Winter term, Park View School, and it was time for Go Ahead P.S.H.E. For Year 11, this meant Citizenship education. The students were welcomed into the specific topic via a variety of media reports relating to Baby George; from 600 word articles contemplating the baby's birth sign and related life chances, to Private Eye's rather different take of, 'WOMAN HAD BABY. Inside: some other stuff'.

The big question was: how do the media communicate politics to the public?

By the end of the project day, it was aimed that the students would better understand the links between politics and media. They would consider what we, the public, are exposed to, and be introduced to the concept of satire.

The specific topic chosen to demonstrate this understanding was 'benefits'. Confidently, students shared their views on the subject whilst researching a lot more information, many articles and case studies; all this research and collaboration served to raise levels of understanding via planning and drafting their products – a page from 'Private Eye', and a parliamentary style debate.

Lunch break arrived, and with it numerous nervous students. They would be presenting their products to a panel of judges in the afternoon! Despite the promise of tea and cake in the conference room, pupils were still anxious.

Kevan Jones MP, Alun Davies from ACT, Dr. William Dennison Chairman of Governors and Mr. Iain Veitch Headmaster – a.k.a 'the judges' - were surely no reason to be nervous...?

Despite their nerves, the students did Park View proud. They spiritedly debated the topic, proudly presented their Private



Eye pages and calmly responded to questions and queries from the judges. The panel commented that the afternoon had been 'thoroughly enjoyable' and that the students were 'an absolute credit' to Park View School. Students explained, with relief, that despite being nervous they had found the experience to be positive and memorable, and that they were 'very proud' of what they'd achieved.

And so they should be; it was refreshing to hear the views of these young people who will, after all, be taking their places in the world very soon. It's comforting and exciting to know that such talent will soon be part of our future.

Mrs J McMurchie

Nigeria Visitors Help Connect Classrooms

During the final week before half term North Lodge welcomed two visitors from Nigeria. The visit was all about 'connecting classrooms' and gave some of our talented year 7 & 8 students a chance to engage in cross cultural learning.

Day one was all about discovering the big concept of culture and meeting Gideon and Eunice. Students explored Chester-Le-Street to show off the best of our local cultural assets, first on the list - Bon Bons sweet shop, followed by the Roman fort and St. Cuthbert's Church. We devoted the rest of the day to developing our projects which centred on the idea of 'trading culture' and students swapped English stories for Nigerian tales, British recipes for Nigerian treats and British trends for Nigerian fashion.

Day two was the creation day where we made story books, food and fashion items. The students beavered away all day on many exciting creations. The food group excelled with their delicious Nigeria cake (which took a total of 9 eggs to make!), the fashion group customised t-shirts with exceptionally technical designs and the story group skilfully developed their books and drama productions.

The final day was a showcase event where members of the



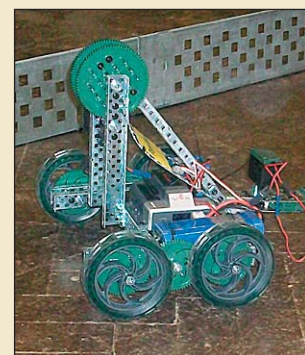
local community where invited for a morning of Nigerian folk tales and some excellent cake. The morning went very well and students showed just how proud they were of their fantastic projects. It was a great morning!

The students represented Park View exceptionally well and our visitors left feeling inspired by our fantastic students. Our pupils put so much effort into the week that the final products were top quality!

Mr C Wright

Robot Wars

Mr Bell and Mr Gill took six students to a Robot Challenge afternoon at Woodham Academy in Newton Aycliffe, on the 19th December. This event was sponsored by the Royal Academy of Engineering and involved racing and completing challenges using a robot the students had successfully built in school in their own time. As well as being a fun afternoon, there were many challenges requiring lots of team work and communication as teams had to quickly adapt and revise aspects of the robot design. This was our first event and we came in fourth place- a great effort. It was a wonderful learning experience and a warm up to a bigger event in February. Mr Bell reports that the students were a great credit to the school and he was very proud of their efforts and questioning skills. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and something really positive to have on Record of Achievement and C.V. Well done guys! Thanks to Megan Cotcher [Yr10] Abigail Jackson [Yr10] Gavin Trevena [Yr10] Matthew Rowell [Yr10] Dominic Morris [Yr10] and Will Miller [Yr7].



French Exchange Makes Sweet Music... Literally



During November, 32 French students arrived to work with Park View students to learn about the physics of music with the aim to make a new, revolutionary instrument that can be tuned. The week was a lot of fun for all concerned and involved trips out to York, the cinema and bowling as well as The Sage for an amazing tour of the facilities.

Two workshops in school gave the students opportunity to develop their knowledge of music physics and provided a chance for international collaboration.

Park View students will go to France in March to Finish the Unfinished Symphony and I'm sure the friendships made will last a lifetime.

Mr J Turner

Green Fingered Students Get a Boost

The Gardening Club at North Lodge is delighted to have been awarded a grant from "Awards For All" for a community garden. The students have a plan in place for which fruit and vegetables will be grown throughout the year. The budding horticulturalists are especially excited about the greenhouse which will enable them to grow a much wider variety of fruit and vegetables. If you live in the local community and would like to help our students in the community garden please contact Mrs Wilson at the North lodge site. We will keep our readers updated throughout the year with photos of our developing garden.

Amazing Animation

A group of Yr 7 students have been taking part in making their very own animated film. They have created everything from scratch from making the props and recording themselves recreating a Russian Folktale.

At the first session our students met a fascinating Russian University student who took time to teach our students some Russian words and then she told the story in Russian. After that she explained it in English.

At the second session our students recreated the story via the medium of film. All our students thoroughly enjoyed the day - although we realised that making animated film is a very slow process, as making the puppets move even slightly takes lots of time.

The film has been produced by a local film company and to be shared with a school in Russia who in turn will send us their interpretation of how the folk tale should end. This will hopefully open up some excellent links with students in Russia.

Sport at Park View

Sport at Park View this term has been all about raising participation levels. Students at secondary school age should be encouraged to take part in sport for all the added benefits of a healthy body, a healthy mind as well as sports unique ability to boost self esteem and attitudes towards learning. We are delighted to have more students than ever taking part in sports during and after school. These sports could be mainstream such as football or netball or different such as Dodgeball or the newly introduced Rocket Ball. As well as thriving clubs, we continue to perform well in sports of all descriptions at local, regional, national and international level. All these keen students are supported by the PE dept and some budding Sixth Form coaches. Jak Mitchell and Danny Thompson are helping the Year 7 footballers hone their skills to complement Aidan Langford and Adam Laverick continuing to work with the Year 9 and 10 Basketballers. Tom Pallister and Josh Pratt (Y11) are doing a great job in helping to coach the Church Chare Rugby teams whilst David Armstrong and Harry Marshall running a Sixth Form intra-school 5 side league through their enrichment programme in the Sixth Form. Jak Mitchell, Aidan Langford and Adam Laverick all been accepted into Leadership Academy for which they had to undergo a rigorous selection process.



Starke, Haydn Williamson and Ross Kirkpatrick. Well done to all these individuals and teams- some stunning performances.

The Year 7 & 8 Indoor Athletics teams had a large amount of success at DCBC, with both year groups winning by comfortable margins in a range of events including the long jumps, a six lap range and the paarlauf. Eve Percival, Neve Jackson, Jodie Hand and Lily and Eva Hardie were all selected for the County as well.



Prior to Christmas, we were delighted that Lydia Turner, a Year 12 student, was selected to represent Great Britain in the European Athletics Cross Country Championships in Croatia, producing a stunning individual performance to help Team GB win the Gold Medal. That performance has been built on with Lydia securing Junior Bronze at an International Event in Edinburgh where she was competing with women 3 yrs her senior.

As well as Lydia's individual successes, we are very proud of our very own Judo Jane, in Year 8 who celebrated bringing home a bronze medal from the British Judo Championships. She only took up the sport 18 months ago but managed to come 3rd in the Under-42kg section of the national championships held in Hereford. An amazing achievement from a star of the future!



Backing up these impressive individual performances are our Cross Country athletes who easily won the District Championships whilst winning the team competitions for the Year 7 Boys, Year 7 Girls, Year 10/11 Boys and the Year 10/11 Girls. Individual winners were Eva Hardy (Y7 Champion) with Lilly Hardy, Eve Southern, Ellie Brown and Lauren Husband also qualifying for the County Competition. Dillon Openshaw was the Y7 Boys Champion with Matthew Mulvey, Alfie Simpson, Olly Barrett and Ethan Rimington also qualifying for the County Competition. In Year 8/9, Alex Whellans, Kieran Pearson, Nathan Fawcett, Jack Young Grace Oliver, Kyrath Watson and Xsara Burgess all qualified for the County Competition along with Katie Gunn (Y10/11 Champion), Grace Turner, Beth Brown and Charlotte Entwright. They will also be joined by the Year 10/11 boys, Sol



Other sports are continuing to produce great team performances with the Sixth Form Netball Team finishing a very creditable 2nd in the County Competition as well as Girls Footballers reaching the 3rd round of the English Schools competition.

To keep on top of the football results involving students in the school please visit www.washingtonschoolsfa.co.uk for further information.

Contributions from James Hailstone- Year 10



A MaD Day at Newcastle University



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Building Your Future

Nine Year 11 students are working with Cestria Housing on the Building Your Future Project. The project is designed to develop students' employment skills by their working on a number of collaborative tasks over several months. Like the BBC 'The Apprentice', candidates are observed in working in different contexts and giving feedback on their performance. And, like 'The Apprentice', the 'winner' has the opportunity to discuss employment opportunities with Cestria Housing as part of their apprenticeship programme. Good luck to all candidates.

Mr C Jackson

Civil Rights on the Big Screen

On Wednesday 11th December, a group of A Level history students visited Odeon cinema in the Metrocentre to view a private screening of The Butler, a strong contender for next year's Academy Awards. The newly released hit, starring Oprah Winfrey and Forest Whitaker, allowed students to expand their knowledge on the Civil Rights movement which took place during 1950 and 1960s America. This topic is prevalent within the A Level history course and therefore witnessing the infamous events unfold on the big screen proved popular with students and teachers alike. A big thank you to Mrs Anderson for organising such an enjoyable and helpful school trip!

Rachel Potter- Year 12

Being Enterprising with recycling

Year 7 students took part in a 'Being Enterprising with Recycling' day at North Lodge in November 2013. The challenge was for students to use recyclable materials to create a piece of art that represented each month of the year. Images of the art were used to create a calendar for 2014 which was made available for parents, all funds are going to the Tsunami. The calendars raised £122.50

Miss S Knight