



Whitburn World



The Principal's Post — February 2014

After months of careful preparation, we submitted our Sixth Form funding bid ahead of the 31st January deadline. While as ever there are no guarantees of success, we are confident that we have submitted a very strong case for us to be given the capital for our expansion plans. With our previous bid we met the educational case required for expansion but narrowly missed out on the funding. This time round we have spent a great deal of time refining the details of the building project to reduce the time required and to reduce the costs involved; this should greatly enhance our chances of success. It was an exciting moment to see the plans and visualisations which we shared with pupils, staff, parents and carers on January 22nd. If you have not yet seen the plans, the presentation is available on the academy web site. We now have to wait until April to find out whether we have secured the capital funding. Thanks again to everyone who has written to Michael Gove to support our case.

In January we also held our first Parents and Carers Forum. Although the numbers attending were relatively small, I found it a very useful opportunity to get to speak to parents and carers about issues such as home-school communication, the report system and school uniform. It was great to get some positive feedback about some of the changes we have made in response to parental requests as well as some great ideas for future developments. As a result we now intend to make this an event held each half-term and all parents and carers are welcome to attend any of these forum meetings. The next meeting will take place in the Academy Library at 6.00pm on Wednesday 26th February.

I hope that everyone has an enjoyable half-term break and that we continue to avoid the extreme weather endured by the southern half of the country!



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Diary Dates		Diary Dates	
Week Beginning 24th February	Year 9 GCSE Options Forms to be returned	27th March—3rd April	French Exchange French students visit Whitburn
Thursday 27th February	Tutor Review Day	Monday 31st March	Year 8 Church Service
Tuesday 4th March	PTA Meeting	2nd—3rd April	Music and Movement
Friday 21st March	Sport Relief Day	Friday 4th April	Whole School Easter Assembly
Thursday 27th March	Year 10 Parents' Evening		

**Arrangements for Tutor Review Day
Thursday 27th February 2014**

Arrangements for Tutor Review Day have changed for this year. Pupils will attend school and take part in a range of activities as detailed below:

Years 7 - 9 In the morning, pupils will take part in activities around celebrating our 10th year as a Church of England School and developing the House System. Pupils will be dismissed at noon but provision will be made for them to stay on site until 1:00pm if required. Pupils should then attend their Tutor Review Day appointment with parents/carers in the afternoon. **This will be a non-uniform day.**

Year 10 Pupils will attend school in sportswear to take part in well-being activities and will be dismissed at approximately 2:30pm.

Year 11 Pupils will attend school in smart 'business' wear ready to take part in activities to assist them in preparing for their exams and further education. They will also be dismissed at approximately 2:30pm.



Please note that the Scholars' Bus Service will run as normal on the morning but will **not** be available when pupils are dismissed. Please make sure arrangements are in place for your child to get home safely.

Sporting Roll of Honour



Year 9 Girls' Basketball Team

Our Year 9 girls took part in the Tyne and Wear Finals on Tuesday 28th January at Sunderland City Space and won! Well done to our team, Hannah Buchannan, Neve Coleman, Lauren Cook, Faye Gibson, Anna Horrabin, Lucy Wilson, Robyn Wilson and Georgina Youlden.



Pupils get their Kicks in Kosovo

Several pupils from the Academy will be included in a 17-strong squad from Boldon's Dokan Gudo Nishijima Karate Club to represent England at the World Shotokan Karate Union Championships which will be held in Kosovo in April.

Eleisha Mitchinson, Holly Stoner, Sadie Stoner, Hannah Nicholson, Simone Stewart, Alex Steadman and Aidan Young are part of the squad who won their places following a knockout 2013 which saw the club finish the year with eleven national and international championships, 106 first place awards and a total of 342 medals and trophies.

Milly Pomfret, Simone Stewart and Alex Steadman are now national champions for 2014 after competing in the recent national championships in Sheffield.

We look forward to reporting how the squad progresses in the summer edition of Whitburn World.



Pictured above: the squad representing England in April.

Half Term Holiday Revision Sessions for Year 11

Date	Subject	Time	Venue
Monday 17th February	Systems and Control	10:00 - 3:00	9
	Graphics	10:00 - 3:00	3
	Food/Textiles	10:00 - 3:00	13
	Food	10:00 - 3:00	22
	ICT	12:30 - 2:30	20
	Computing	12:30 - 2:30	21
Tuesday 18th February	Physics Unit 1 (Core)	10:00 - 12:00	Library
	Physics Unit 2 (Additional)	12:30 - 2:30	Library
Wednesday 19 th February	Chemistry Unit 1 (Core)	10:00 - 12:00	Library
	Chemistry Unit 2 (Additional)	12:30 - 2:30	Library
Thursday 20th February	Geography Unit 1 The Restless Earth	9:30 - 10:30	Library
	Geography Unit 1 Water on the Land	10:30 - 11:30	Library
	Geography Unit 1 The Coastal Zone	11:30 - 12:30	Library
	Textiles	9:30 – 12:30	6
Friday 21st February	Geography Unit 2 - Tourism	9:30 - 10:30	Library
	Geography Unit 2 - Population	10:30 - 12:00	Library

Introducing 'GCSE Pod'

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GCSEPod has over 3,000 teacher-written, audio-visual podcasts produced specifically for mobile devices and containing all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams that learners need for GCSE success.



The GCSEPod website can be viewed on mobiles, tablets and PCs and the podcasts can be downloaded for offline viewing. The podcasts are also mapped to the curriculum and are designed to support students in the classroom, with their homework and during exam time.

Pupils have been given details of how to access this resource which we believe will be of great benefit to them in supporting their learning.

F1 Regional Finals

Year 7 pupils and 8 were involved in the F1 / Engineering UK Regional Finals on the 14th January 2014. The teams were the 'Crakin Krackens' (Year 7) which involved Team Manager: William Turner, Deputy Manager: Matthew Williams, Design Manager: Scott Middleton and Manufacturing manager: Jack Young and Identity Manager: Ben Dobbing. The Turbo Titans (Year 8) which involved Team Manager: Sam Barton, Deputy Manager: Liam Smith, Design and Manufacturing manager: Logan Whitfield. The teams created fantastic and creative Bloodhound cars, they also created exciting racing team portfolio, including budgeting, marketing, and racing car design. Pupils were able to gain sponsorship from several local businesses, which included Port of Tyne, NISSAN, Sunderland FC, SWI uniforms and Native print.

The pupils enjoyed the experience of being part of a team, creating video clips, preparing times for their race and being involved in the experience as a whole. The teams showed determination and outstanding team work in the competition. The Turbo Titans won the trophy for Best Team Sponsorship and Marketing which was against 16 other teams and is a fantastic achievement.



The F1 Club will also be competing in another F1 Challenge called Scientist in Sports in April 2014, which looks at the improving of pit performance of F1 teams, through testing a range of theories.