



Maryhill High School

A Media Arts College



End of Spring Term Newsletter March 2010

Dear Parents,

This edition focuses on good attendance and punctuality as key features of student achievement. Why? Because without good attendance students will not reach their potential, nor will they be successful in the workplace. You will find facts and figures in the year group achievement page of the newsletter.

Recycling phones and cartridges

We are participating in a scheme that raises money for the school. You can support our Money to Schools fundraising programme by donating your own empty printer cartridges and mobile phones. We have a collection box for these items by the school office. So if you normally put empty cartridges in the bin or have an old mobile gathering dust in a drawer please drop them into the box. The funds we raise can be used for vital resources and equipment.

School anniversary

Maryhill High School opened its doors to students for the first time in September 1960, which means that **this summer it celebrates its 50th anniversary**. The one-time Kildsgrove Grammar School (as it then was) has changed dramatically over the years. Thousands of students have been educated here. If you are one of our ex-students and you would like to celebrate this anniversary please contact the school. We will help organise any events you might like to put on but we need your ideas. If you possess any old photographs or other artefacts please let us know also.

Sports Report from Mr Bunn and Miss Hambleton Staffordshire Cross Country

Yet again, we had a number of boys who represented the City of Stoke-on-Trent in the Staffordshire Cross Country Championships. These took place at the very demanding course at Staffordshire University in Stoke and once again our runners were superb.

In the Under 16 race we had five runners (Callum Hulme, Tom Gould, Jon Keeling, Robert Elsby and Fred Coates). The under 14 team had three runners (Korey Blanch, Dan Vickers and Matthew Caton) and we had one runner (William Walklate) in the Year 7 team.

All students acquitted themselves fantastically well and we were fortunate enough to have the winners of both the Under 16 and Under 14 races in our midst – so take a bow Callum Hulme and Korey Blanch who are now Staffordshire champions.

Once again, MHS has had a fantastic year in Boys Cross Country, with all three boys' teams crowned Stoke North Cross Country Champions. Well done to everyone who has taken part.

Football: Under-16

At present Mr Bunn's Under-16 team sits on top of their league, although other teams do have some more matches to play. MHS has once again been the only school to fulfil all its fixtures at the time this goes to press.

As you can see by the league table below we have finished our league matches and are now waiting for other schools to finish theirs to see where we have finished!

U16 LEAGUE TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
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Maryhill	4	2	2	0	6
Thistley Hough	3	1	0	2	3
Biddulph	2	1	0	1	3
Haywood	3	1	2	0	3
Holden Lane	1	1	0	0	3

Football: Under-14

Mr Davies' Under-14 team have also completed their matches and finished third in their league. Their most recent game saw a 13-1 destruction of Thistley Hough with Matthew Sanders scoring an incredible eight goals during the game.

U14 LEAGUE TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Biddulph	4	4	0	0	12
Holden Lane	4	3	1	0	9
Maryhill	4	2	0	0	6
Haywood	4	1	3	0	3
Thistley Hough	4	0	4	0	0

Inter-form Year 9 Basketball

This will be on at lunchtimes after Easter. Look on the PE notice board for more details.

Dodge, Dip, Duck, Dive and ... Dodge!

On March 1 two year 10 teams competed in a Stoke and Newcastle Schools Dodgeball Tournament at Fenton Manor. The boys' team were up against some difficult opponents, but managed to win two games and draw one game. However, they unfortunately lost two games. The girls' team was a little more successful; winning two of their games, drawing 2 and only losing one.

Both teams played very well and showed a fantastic team effort. Dodgeball club starts again after Easter on Thursday afternoons from 3.05 to 4pm.

Cheerleaders Jump for Joy!

Congratulations to the Cheerleading team who won the first ever local Cheerleading competition on 24 March! The cheerleading squad had the task of learning new stunts and gymnastics, put together with creating their own routine for the competition. The routine was expertly choreographed by Carley Mack, and was performed fantastically in front of 8 other teams. The girls were a credit to the school and showed amazing sportsmanship towards the other teams. The Cheerleading team have worked so hard for over 5 weeks and truly deserve the recognition they achieved! Well done girls, we are all so proud of you! The team are now working towards their next competition in May! Bring it on!

Cheerleading squad: **Year 7** Holly Mayer. **Year 8** Theresa Dawson, Josie Zicari, Emma Kirkham, Leanne Crayton, Chelsea Screen. **Year 9** Rachel Mullock, Kim Thorley, Demi Dawson, Vanessa Maxfield, Deanne Wain, Summer Morgan. **Year 10** Emma Leese, Lucy Simms, Carley Mack, Kathryn Cooper, Megan Williamson, Laura Shenton, Shannon Braxton, Paige Gillie, Leanne Burgess, Charlotte Johnson, Caitlin Compton

GCSE PE Easter Revision for Year 11 students

Mr Bunn will be in school on **Tuesday 6 April (9am – 1pm)** if you need some time to look through past papers or use the computers for any Analysis of Performance work etc. Simply get a consent form from the PE department if you wish to attend.

Traffic and grass verges

Unfortunately a small minority of parents continue to use the main school entrance on Gloucester Road as a dropping off point for their children. This is unnecessary and potentially dangerous and I would urge these drivers to look for an alternative, even if it means the student has to walk a little way further. Now that the weather is better please

consider whether using the car is actually necessary at all. For those who live further away and are off convenient bus routes there are alternative places to drop children off at the back of the school. Likewise picking children up after school can be done here, but please do not wait on the grass verges at the side of the roads. This winter saw inconsiderate drivers causing great damage to these verges as this photograph shows.



How do you revise evening?

An evening of support, advice and practical tips, for students who are about to take external examinations, was well attended by both students and parents on Monday 22 March. It gave helpful advice on how best to support young people at this stressful time. It also helped parents to recognise what revision activities are actually going to make a difference and what they look like in practice. Students were given advice on what to eat and drink and how best to calm nerves on the actual day. The feedback was very positive and suggestions that were made will be used to inform next year's event. If parents have any queries concerning revision please feel free to contact the school.

In addition there will be a room available in school, after the May half term for Year 11 students to work and revise in during the school day. They may choose to revise in there some of the time while waiting for exams or use it as a contact point and for additional support. For some students who find it difficult to motivate themselves and get started this will be an ideal opportunity and it will be strongly recommended to them.

BBC School Report

On Thursday 11 March 34 students from year 9 found themselves gathered in the media studio about to take part in BBC School Report. For the rest of the day students worked together in teams to find, write and produce the news – working to meet a 2pm deadline. As the day continued students found themselves rushing to film interviews, record radio interviews and editing the pieces as they came in ready to go live at 2pm. Presenters were practicing their lines, camera operators checking their equipment, sound operators checking the mikes, year 11 students transforming room 28 into a TV news studio.

The students involved in the day experienced what it was like to be a journalist and developed the technical skills of working with cameras, editing software, radio broadcasting software and website layout. They developed their journalistic skills in writing the news as well as scripting and conducting interviews.

The day was a brilliant success and to see the work produced on the day follow this link <https://intranet.maryhill-high.staffs.sch.uk/groups/schoolreport/>.

Thank you to all involved with making the day a success – from the Media department.

The show – Alice in Wonderland

This year the performing arts department will be presenting 'Alice in Wonderland' on the 30 and 31 March, that is Tuesday and Wednesday this week. The production has provided over 50 students with the opportunity to take on a variety of roles both on and off stage. The performing arts team would like to thank both the students and staff for their effort and enthusiasm. There are still a few tickets left so if you have not bought yours yet do hurry!

Finally in this newsletter we have an article from the **history department about the educational visits** that have been a feature of their work for many years.

For many years it has been the policy of the history department to arrange one visit per year for each year group to a Historical site relevant to their course of study. The aim of each visit is to make a specific aspect of their work 'real', enabling students to have a deeper understanding of what they have learnt in the classroom.

Currently the visits arranged are:

- Year 7 - Warwick Castle (medieval castles)
- Year 8 - Black Country Museum Dudley (life during the Industrial Revolution)
- Year 9 - Imperial War Museum, London (The Holocaust)
- Year 10 - Galleries of Justice, Nottingham (Coursework – GCSE)
- Year 10 - Museum of Iron, Coalbrookdale (Coursework – GCSE)
- Year 11 - Galleries of Justice, Nottingham

The Say 2 Theatre company have also been invited into school to supplement the study of medieval England (Year 7), The French Revolution (Year 9) and First World War (Year 9). Year 8 students gained an insight into the Reign of Elizabeth I when "she" visited the school (actually a member of the Tutbury Castle staff).

In the past the department have also arranged cultural/social visits, extended over 3-4 days to London and Paris.

All the visits have been extremely successful and after each one, students have been commended for their behaviour either by the staff accompanying them or by the staff at the site visited. We believe that the Educational and Social values are extremely important to the students.

Best wishes for a peaceful and relaxing Easter break.

Dr A Jones
Headteacher