



# MARYHILL HIGH SCHOOL

## A Media Arts College

### NEWSLETTER

Issue 5: April 2011

[www.maryhill-high.co.uk](http://www.maryhill-high.co.uk)

#### HEADTEACHERS LETTER

Dear Parent/Carer

As I write this, Spring seems to have arrived and we are enjoying some welcome sunshine and warmth. Fingers crossed that it holds for the Easter break. I have heard so many people say how much better they feel when the sky is bright and the sun is out.



It has been an intense Spring Term with many students receiving module and assessment results and with the reality of the GCSEs dawning for the Year 11s. Most subjects are running revision sessions at the moment and although it is not the first thing that students want to do at the end of a busy day, I know from experience that they can indeed make all the difference, so please encourage your son or daughter to make this final effort.

We have held another successful **Review Day** and I would like to extend my thanks to all the parents and carers who took the time and trouble to have those important conversations with staff on that day. It is so important that we listen to what you have to say and that we have a dialogue about that person at the centre of our attentions. Thank you as well to you all for completing the Feedback Questionnaire; again we learn so much from this and genuinely value your responses. The day itself was buzzing and afterwards it gave me great pleasure to reward students who had given up their day to volunteer and help us out with the smooth running of the day.

I wish you all a very happy Easter and fingers crossed for some decent weather!

Best Wishes

*F. Hewardine*

F. Hewardine  
Headteacher

«Forename» «Surname» «Reg»

# Dining Room Make Over

The dining room's make over is now complete and I hope that in the near future you will have the opportunity to see it for yourself. I am very pleased with it and to have accomplished it as it was one of the promises that I made to the Student Council when I was interviewed for the role of Headteacher. The area has been painted and Year 13 A level Art students have completed some very attractive canvasses. There is now a variety of seating and tables and some personalised partitions to divide the space into key areas.



# Comic Relief Day



Comic Relief Day saw some individual students raising money in a variety of ways. Year 13 students for example raised money by dressing as super heroes. All of the students who raised money were students who thought of others and had some fun at the same time. A winning combination!

# The Imperial War Museum

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March I accompanied Mrs Gregory and 50 Year 9 students to London to visit The Imperial War Museum. It was a long day but incredibly moving and interesting. The students had a bonus tour of London sight seeing before hand and after lunch focused on the Holocaust Exhibition which was an emotional but memorable experience.



# Youth Club

Maryhill High School Youth Club has a new inters club that will be starting on 5 May from 7.00 pm to 9.30 pm. This will be for Year 7 and Year 8 students only. Activities will include Pool, Table Tennis, Dancing, Art and Crafts, Sports, Gaming, Laptops and Tuckshop. Additional activities are regularly organised. If you require any further information then please contact the school in the first instance.

# Work Experience Awards Evening

Every year our Year 10 students use one week to complete their work experience. This year Newcastle and Kidsgrove District Employer Engagement Partnership held an Awards Evening at Newcastle under Lyme College. This event was to acknowledge some of the businesses that are committed to working with our students and providing structured placements every year.

We nominated Taste & See and Birchwood Day Nursery who are always willing to offer placements for our students and even offer extended placements. There were also awards for students who stood out during their work experience week.



We nominated Ben Jones (pictured) for the award for Aspirational Student and Ben won which was a massive achievement. Ben completed his placement at Heathfield Special School in Chell. He worked so well with the staff and students at the school, he was invited back to attend a trip to Drayton Manor Park. Ben continues to help out at the school on a voluntary basis and hopes to complete his college placement there too.

## Litter Picking Volunteers



If you live in the Rookery area of Kidsgrove, you may have seen already or may spot in the future Maryhill students picking up litter in the Community. May I stress to you that these students are most definitely not doing this as a punishment and are not guilty of dropping any litter. They are volunteers who are keen to show that the vast majority of students are very concerned that occasionally the reputation of our school is being affected by a tiny minority. We intend that this becomes a regular event, weather permitting and that volunteers will do this on a rota system so that their education is not affected. Well done to our Year 8 volunteers:- Michaela Littleton, Kate Ridge, Charlotte-Louise Carpenter, Imogen Hunt, Kaitlin Cooper, Celine Williams, Alexander Gratty, Edie Meakin, Jordan Parker and Ryan Hill.

## Attachments

### **Pedestrian and Cycle Safety**

Please find attached information we have received from Staffordshire County Council in regards to Pedestrian and Cycle Safety.

### **Revision Evening**

If your child is taking exams and you were not able to make the "How Do You Revise?" evening, please find attached for some Top Tips. Revision needs to be planned and revisited and for Year 11s and the Sixth Form needs to start at Easter at the latest.

## YEAR 7 PEDESTRIAN and CYCLE SAFETY

### ROAD SAFETY PRESENTATION

Year 7 pupils have recently seen a presentation, given by a County Council Road Safety Education Officer, entitled Dangerous Actions and Distractions.

Dangerous actions observed outside school and in the local community were highlighted with suggestions as to how pupils can minimise risk and stay safe. The ultimate risk taking practice of playing 'Chicken' was also discussed. Pupils were firmly told that under no circumstances should they ever think of taking part in such a dangerous game. The Road Safety Officer gave examples of youngsters who have died taking part in this type of activity.

Accidents can also happen to youngsters when they are distracted by friends, iPods and mobile phones. The pupils were told of real life examples of school aged pupils being killed while using mobiles and iPods and videos were used to reinforce all the dangers of being distracted. Other reasons why they may have accidents include not being visible enough (especially in winter) and rushing because they are late for something.

We urge you to reinforce these points in order to keep your children safe. We also ask that you be good, road safety, role models yourselves at all times. Crossing roads at safe designated crossing points is one way you can reinforce these important life skills. *Remember your child will copy you!*

Youngsters of this age need, and want, their independence but they need reminding every so often about being responsible and staying safe.

We have also included a useful link to some road safety sites which you may wish to view if you require further road safety information;

[www.dft.gov.uk/think/education/secondary/parents](http://www.dft.gov.uk/think/education/secondary/parents)

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/parents](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/parents)

[www.staffssaferroads.co.uk](http://www.staffssaferroads.co.uk)





For you to Keep and Display

# Top Tips for Revision

## Getting the Basics Right

1. Make sure you are not hungry, thirsty, too cold or too hot and are comfortable in order to maximise concentration.
2. Sip water to keep **water levels** topped up.
3. Do not listen to music containing **lyrics**, as the brain will focus on the lyrics not the words on the page!
4. You can concentrate for between 20 – 30 minutes at a time. After this have short **break**, where you stand up and move around.
5. Research says that Classical music played quietly in the background aids memory and concentration.
6. Get everything **ready** the night before an exam.
7. On the day of an exam eat **breakfast** and if you have an exam in the afternoon have **lunch**.

## How to Revise

1. Make a Revision **Time Table** and stick to it
2. Give yourself time off
3. **Little and often** is the best method
4. Use **Mind Maps** – they are a technique which works!
5. Use **colour** on them and display them around the house.
6. Use **highlighters** on text for key learning
7. Transfer information to **small cards** and test yourself
8. Get others to test you by putting the answers on the back
9. Use **GCSE BBC Bitesize**
10. Download good **Apps** to your phone
11. Use **Mymaths** Web site
12. Use **post it notes** and display them around the house with key information
13. Go back to what you have learned after a few days and reinforce

## What Doesn't Work!!!

1. Revising with boy friends or girlfriends
  2. Having ear phones in playing your favourite tunes while revising
  3. Having the television on while revising
  4. Having the computer on MSN / Face book / Texting at the same time as revising
  5. Going on sites on the internet that are more like games
- (If it doesn't feel like revision and work it probably isn't)