



# MARYHILL HIGH SCHOOL

## A Media Arts College

### NEWSLETTER

Issue 2: November 2010

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

### HEADTEACHERS LETTER

Dear Parent/Carer

As I write this I have now been Headteacher at Maryhill for over half a term. The job is everything I thought it would be and more. It is never boring and the days are so varied. I have found myself doing everything from pouring custard at lunchtime to being the guest speaker at our Awards Evening. It has been a very busy half term and one which I have thoroughly enjoyed.



If you were at Awards Evening we played the song 'Proud' by Heather Small, from M People, which many of you will know of (unlike the students .... clearly that is not trendy music!) The words from that song typify a recurrent theme in my assemblies so far this term. 'What have you done today, to make yourself feel proud?' It is a question I ask of individual students and of form groups. Their answers tell me that students are beginning to recognise the events whose 'feel good' factor lasts and they are generally things that have required some effort on their part.

I look forward to meeting parents of the older students soon, at the forthcoming Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 Parent Evenings.

Yours sincerely

*F. Hewardine*

Mrs F Hewardine  
Headteacher

P.S. When you do visit, notice the repainting of the entrance porch .....

# Update on Previous Events

## **Awards Evening – 15/16 September 2010**

Despite a few technical hitches the students receiving awards at our two annual Awards Evenings created a lovely atmosphere and really enjoyed themselves. Thank you to parents who attended, I trust that you felt as proud as I did of your offspring!

We have decided to move our awards ceremonies to the Summer Term. It makes more sense to reward students as they are approaching the end of a year's work. The dates we have chosen are 13 July 2011 (Keystage 3) & 14 July 2011 (Keystage 4 and 5) so put them in your diary now – fingers crossed.

## **Sixth Form Induction Evenings – 29 September 2010**

We joined forces with the Headteacher of Clough Hall, Mr Ian Tait, to host our first evening for students new to the Sixth Form. Fellow students urged our Sixth Formers to use their time wisely and not fall into any bad habits.

## **Open Evening – 7 October 2010**

The school was packed as usual for this big night on the School's calendar. Our media officer James Marchington and our excellent A level student Karl Wilkinson filmed a new DVD Prospectus for 2010. Even though your child may not be new to the school, I would urge you to view it. The students give some interesting insights into what we do well at Maryhill (and no we did not bribe them!) and I outline what is important to me in education. It is available via the school's website.

# Forth Coming Events

The Autumn term is packed with a lot of hard work and you have already received a tracking report outlining your son or daughters progress.

## **Year 11 Parents and Students Evening**

A valuable opportunity to have a one to one conversation with the expert subject teachers; to ask about effort grades or expected grades in the Summer 2011. There is still time for every student to raise their game and to improve their grades – by as much as a whole grade.

**Date: Wednesday 24 November**

**Time: 5.30 – 7.30 pm**

## Sixth Form Parents Evening

The gap between Keystage 4 and Keystage 5 is huge. **Year 12 Parents and Students** please come along and see how your son or daughter is adjusting and discuss the reasons for their achievement or underachievement. For **Year 13 parents** – this year will go so quickly – ensure that your son or daughter is on track and discuss what they need to do to enable them to move the next stage of their career.

**Date: Wednesday 8 December**

**Time: 6.00 – 8.00 pm**

## News

Please check the website for individual Year Group achievements and items of news.

We also have on the school website our school prospectus and radio interviews that have recently taken place (including an interview with Mrs Hewardine, Headteacher). Please go



to [www.maryhill-high.co.uk](http://www.maryhill-high.co.uk), click on the icon on the top right of the screen and again in the centre of the screen. Select the area you wish to visit eg radio show and this will take you to the area to view all our latest recordings. These can be downloaded by clicking on the down arrow link (preferred method) or previewed by clicking on the eye symbol which is not always reliable.

## Snow Line

We are now approaching the season when the weather may affect schools. Certainly Gloucester Road last year without adequate gritting is something that many of us will recall. If the school is closed, listen to Radio Stoke or Signal Radio for news or check the school website [www.maryhill-high.co.uk](http://www.maryhill-high.co.uk). If we are closed, please listen to either of these radio stations or check the website for confirmation. The stations do not list which schools are open, so if Maryhill High's name is not read out we are open (please ensure you do not confuse us with the primary school or Berryhill High)

## Free School Meals

### Free School Meal Administration and Documentation

#### **Eligibility for Free School Meals**

You can claim free school meals for your children if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Only Employment and Support Allowance.
- Child Tax Credit with an annual income of less than £16,190.
- The 'Guarantee' element of State Pension Credit Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. (In this case, you will need to call 01785 278928,

01785 278999, 01785 278966 or 01785 278963, where you will be asked for more information).

Please note, however, that your children will not qualify if you are receiving Working Tax Credit, regardless of your income.

The Central Welfare Team will be able to verify claims via the DCSF Free School Meals Eligibility Checking Service, this has been designed to streamline the Free School Meals checking process for local authorities. In order to undertake an eligibility check we need three pieces of information to be included on the application form:

- The claimants National Insurance Number or the National Asylum Seeker Service (NASS) reference number
- The claimants date of birth
- The claimants full name

We would urge you to claim your entitlement and we will do all we can to assist you in completing the necessary forms which can be obtained from the **school office** or can be downloaded from

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/educationalawardsbenefits/FreeSchoolMeals/>.

## Christmas Lunch – 15 December

WOW – On the menu this year we have sourced Staffordshire Turkey – providing great food at great value boosting the local economy by supporting local farmers and businesses PLUS reducing our carbon footprint – that's got to be good news!

Christmas Fayre Menu Price of £2.20 - students **do not** need to purchase tickets this year.

Staffordshire Turkey Breast, Stuffing, Sausage & Bacon, Roast Potatoes, Cream Potatoes, Carrots, Sprouts, Garden Peas and Gravy

Christmas Pudding or Snowman Ice-cream log or Chocolate Sponge and Custard

We also have a vegetarian option of Quorn Meatloaf with Wholemeal Bread Sauce

## Attachments

### Attendance

Please find attached a letter from the attendance office in relation to our overall attendance of 95% and the Pyramid of High and Primary Schools.

### Disability Equality Scheme

Please find attached a questionnaire for completion and return to the school office by Friday 26 November (if appropriate).

## Questionnaire for the Maryhill High School Disability Equality Scheme

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of child/children: \_\_\_\_\_ Year group/s \_\_\_\_\_

Tick the box or boxes that will show your disability, your child's disability or the disability of any other person visiting school for any other reason (this could include a grandparent, friend, helper or other).

	Parent	Child/children	Other visitor/visitors to school. (please tick for each person)
Physical Disability (Example: wheelchair user, uses crutches, cerebral palsy)			
Learning Difficulty (Example: dyslexia)			
Medical condition (Example: diabetes, asthma, eczema, mental illness)			
Sensory (Example: blindness, if you wear a hearing aid) Please do not include if you wear glasses or contact lenses (for short sightedness etc.)			
Speech Difficulties			
Behavioural and Emotional Difficulties (Example: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)			

Completed questionnaires should be returned in an envelope to the school office.  
Please return by Friday 26 November so we can assess the extent of any need. The  
information you give to us will be treated in the strictest confidence.