

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

May 2011

PE DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISING

On the 15th of April 2011 The Ockendon Academy Physical Education Department began the epic task of completing a 24hour treadmill run. Before the day loomed some of the staff embraced the task itself and took part in a number of training sessions to ensure that they would be able to complete the run without flounder or delay,

After many discussions about the running schedule, who would run first and last and how much time would we have to sleep, or in some cases eat, time was up, the run was upon us.

As day broke, all of the staff entered the, what would be a torture room, fitness suite to begin the massive task at hand.

Imagine going into a sweet shop and being able to

choose whatever you like and have as much as you want, all smiles and happy faces to begin with. However as time goes on and you eat more and more, you begin to feel sick, dizzy, tired, and just wish you hadn't started eating all of those sweets in the first place, and you feel that you never want to eat any more chocolate ever again!! That's exactly how we all felt about spending any more time, locked up in the school, with a treadmill, whinging as it turns on and on.

At the end of the run we were all so proud of each other, not only completing over 130 miles between us but also managing to spend over 24 hours together without sleep, food, or a decent bed without annoying each other too much. The teamwork that

was demonstrated between the PE staff was overwhelming; nobody ran alone, even in the early hours of the morning, there was always someone encouraging and supporting. Without the support of all of the students and staff we wouldn't have been able to do it. Throughout students, parents, ex-pupils and teachers were offering their words of wisdom and support to keep us going, even in the early hours of the morning when we needed it most. One of our favourite quotes by a student was "what an inspiration you all are, you have done yourselves and the school proud". We hope that over the next year, with the students, teachers and parents support we will continue to raise money for the schools first sports residential trip.

All members of the PE Department

Special Events

- 24 hour PE Fundraiser
- Year 11 picnic
- Speak Out Challenge
- Year 9 Fundraiser
- Year 9 French Trip
- Elephant Toothpaste



NSPCC

Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

YEAR 9 NEWS

Year 9 - is a very important year. Students have to make option choices that could determine their future career paths and there are the important end of year exams that decide what set pupils go in to for their G.C.S.Es.

The year 9 students have adapted well to the challenges and Many have excelled in the end of year exams. As the year has progressed the year group has become a stronger and a more cohesive unit. This will only benefit all when student start their option subjects.

With increased maturity and determination I can see no reason why



all the Year 9 can not achieve their target grades or even eclipse their target grades.

Overall a good year with steady improvements,

On Thursday 28th April the Year 9 school council members organised a basketball and tug of war tournament.

The tournaments were a great success, the winners of the day were the year 11 basketball team led by

Ayo who only just beat a very impressive year 8 team led by Rapheal. The surprise group of the day was

another year 8 team led by Addison who perform very successfully in the tug of war tournament and were second at the changeover.

More money was also being raised around the school. 2 pupils from each of the sets in year 9 were participating in a sponsored silence. They were not allowed to speak throughout the whole day. The only way they could communicate was through using a small white board.

Well done to all who helped raise money for the NSPCC.



THE JACK PETCHEY SPEAK OUT CHALLENGE

Everyone knows teenagers love to speak but on Tuesday 3rd May and Thursday 5th May, a group of year 10 students were given the opportunity to learn how to speak convincingly and confidently. Speak Out Challenge coach AC Gaskell visited us to work with a number of students, focusing on how to create, plan and deliver an entertaining and effective speech. After a series of workshops in the morning, students were given a small amount of time to prepare a speech on a topic of their choice, before delivering it in the afternoon, with no no or aids.

All the students who took part gained valuable skills for their GCSE English grades as well as the world of work. Three winners from each session were chosen to go through to the school's final; a delivery of their speech in an assembly.

The winners, Danny O'Shea, Ayomide Ekunola, Ollie Kazzim, Michael Rawe, Ricky Smith and Michael Jones, all took to the stage during their assembly. Each delivered an amazing speech that captivated their peers and showed huge amounts of confidence.

After some very difficult discussions, a winner and runner up were chosen to take part in the regional final, to be held

at Ormiston Park Academy on Thursday 26th May. The winner was Ayomide Ekunola, with Ollie Kazzim announced as the runner up. All six finalists displayed huge talent and capability and should be very proud of what they achieved. Well done year 10!

At the start we learned everything you need to know about being a good speaker (including the mnemonic Y-E-S-S-P-E-A-K-E-R). Towards the second break, leading up to our final presentations, I was starting to panic because I didn't know what I wanted to talk about but AC really helped me through it all. This was great as it allowed me to deliver my speech confidently and also meant I came runner up in the Assembly final.

People know me to be a confident person but doing this has meant I am even more confident, especially at speaking in front of everybody. It was a really good day.

Ollie Kazzim

I found the Speak Out Challenge workshops with AC Gaskell really helpful as I have become a lot more confident speaking in front of a crowd

of people. I think it's a great idea for students to have this opportunity. When I did my speech in front of everyone I was nervous but I remembered AC's advice and did well.

AC's advice was so helpful because when I got nervous during my speech, I stopped, took a breath and just carried on. I think I have improved as a speaker and would definitely do this again if I got the chance.

Nicola Cox

On Thursday 5th May I worked with AC Gaskell on the Speaking and Listening Challenge for the day, which I enjoyed. We did lots of different things like standing up in front of the class and telling, on the spot, what a certain word meant. My word was poodlefator. The main thing I enjoyed was that I became more confident throughout the day as everyone had to get involved and we were all doing it together.

Everyone really tried and we all gained a lot from it. The techniques he showed me will definitely help me when I have to stand up and speak in front of a crowd.

Alex Beynon

YEAR 11 LEAVERS' PICNIC

The first Leavers' Picnic was held on Friday 6th May 2011. The weather could not have been better! At 12.50 p.m. the whole school went out onto the two sports fields and sat with their tutors and tutor group to say good bye to the Year 11 students.



Images of the afternoon



The Leavers' Picnic on Friday 6th May was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. This was the first time such an event had been organised and all students took part. It was a wonderful opportunity for each tutor group to say goodbye and in a relaxed atmosphere. Some groups played team games while others just talked and made the most of the fantastic weather. It was a terrific afternoon and I was delighted to see how sociable all the students were.

The current Year 11s sat their English and Mathematics GCSE in November and their results were exceptional.

The year group have already achieved the highest results for English and Mathematics so far and are also on track to achieve the highest results in the history of the Academy. I wish all the students the best of luck in their forthcoming examinations and look forward to seeing them celebrate in August.

They have been a wonderful year group and I wish them all the best of luck for their futures.

Mr Mutch

Excellents on progress reports—APRIL

Year 7

Leigh Campbell
Tawakalitu Shittu

17

Year 8

Mergim Halitaj
Charlton Harris
Georgia Morales
Bryony Poole
Umme Waseem

13

Year 9

Frankie Adams

16

Year 10

Ayomide Ekunola
Hayley white

15

Year 11

Rachael Fontenelle

10

WELL DONE!

YEAR 9 FRENCH TRIP

Boulogne Friday 17 June 2011-Itinerary



I am pleased to be able to provide a more detailed outline of the above trip for Year 9 pupils who are participating

- Arrive at school 05.00 (register of groups & checking of passports)
- Departure 05.15
- Arrive Eurotunnel 07.00 (toilet stop if required)
- Eurotunnel Departure 07.50
- Arrive Calais 09.30 (Local Time)
- Arrive Boulogne 10.00 (town trail of Boulogne old town)
- Lunch 12.30 (on the beach – weather permitting)
- Depart to Cité Europe 13.30 (regional shopping centre visit)
- Arrive Eurotunnel 17.30 (toilet stop if required in Calais)
- Eurotunnel crossing 18.20
- Return at school 20.00

Items included: Insurance

Town trail booklet

Group Passport – only for those pupils that completed the application

Items not included: Passport - Pupils travelling on an individual passport **need to bring their current & valid passport on the day**

Student spending money (we recommend approximately €15.00.

it will be pupils responsibility to look after their own money.)

Mr Berry



ELEPHANT TOOTHPASTE!

How do elephants brush their teeth? I have no idea but 9B1 Science had a chance to at least see what Elephant's tooth paste might look like emerging for the giant tube. Due to the huge scale of the reaction we asked Mr McFarlane, Science technician to set it up for us in the back of our Lab. The

experiment was part of one to investigate the effect of catalysts (chemicals that speed up chemical reactions). The masses of oxygen produced by the reaction were trapped in soap to hold onto them and the effect was quite spectacular! Niall McFarlane, who set up the demonstration said, "I enjoyed

researching and working on this as much as the students enjoyed watching it. I love being able to get involved with work in lessons." 9B1? Well they mostly said, "Wow!!!

Miss Richards