

## Climbing the Walls

An exciting addition at the academy for 2010/2011 has been the installation of a climbing wall in the sports hall to compliment the outstanding sporting facilities already available. We now have a number of staff who are fully qualified to conduct climbing wall sessions, which are both exciting and safe. The PE department now run an after school session every Monday, but places are limited. If you are interested in having a go at something different and want the adrenaline rush of an extreme sport, then please put your name on the list in the PE office.

*"I've never done anything like this before...It's good to do something different"*



# Springs Time

Issue 1  
Spring 2011



## Hoosiers Reward Students with Surprise 'Gig!'

Chart toppers the Hoosiers paid a surprise visit to Sheffield Springs Academy, playing a live show and staging a series of workshops with sixth form students.

Taking advantage of the academy's state-of-the-art facilities, the band played an acoustic set for over 300 students from Year's 7, 8 and 9, who had been invited to a special reward assembly, held in recognition of those students who consistently comply with academy expectations.



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The group also found time to sign autographs and show some lucky sixth form students the tricks of the trade, linking in with the academy's performing arts specialism.

Said Assistant Principal Ed Joel, who has responsibility for the academy's specialism: "This was not only a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn about the music industry first hand from such a successful band, but was also the perfect tie-in with our performing arts specialism."

## The Big Kick Off

The academy's Year 7 boys have made their sporting mark this year, taking part in a number of competitions including 5-a-side and full 11-a-side football. The boys have progressed well within 11-a-side, thanks to their 'we're going all the way' mentality and have great potential. David Beckham watch out!



## Welcome from the Principal

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our new look newsletter. As you will see, the spring term has been a busy but rewarding one, particularly within our specialism areas of Performing Arts and Business & Enterprise. It all began in January with a full scale musical production of 'Fame' and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and students who worked tirelessly to make this such a success, as well as all those people who made the effort to come out in the cold weather to support the show. Also in January, I was honoured to attend the BIG Challenge Awards Ceremony to watch Rebecca Jackson receive the BIG Challenge Marketing and Promotion Award for her business venture 'Funky Sprout'. I am sure you will all want to join me in congratulating Rebecca on this fantastic achievement.



In March, all the Year 7, 8 and 9 students who consistently comply with academy expectations and continue to work hard in lessons were rewarded by an acoustic concert from chart-toppers, The Hoosiers.. This was the first in a series of reward events and I hope that increasing numbers of students will qualify for future opportunities.

The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) continues to be an exciting development as a tool for learning, playing a growing part in enhancing the learning for all of our students. The Curriculum Areas are already working hard to build up resources, extension activities and ensure homework is accessible for all students via this forum. All students have received instructions in the use of the VLE and I would also encourage all parents/carers to take a look at the what the academy's VLE has to offer.

Looking forward to the summer, our Year 11, 12 and 13 students face the challenge of their final GCSE exams. They are currently working hard to consolidate previous learning, finalise coursework and prepare for exams. Many of our Year 11 students have already secured GCSE or equivalent grades and are looking to stretch themselves further in order to achieve the best possible outcomes. I would like to thank all our parents and carers for their ongoing support; by continuing to work together I am confident that we can ensure all the young people in our care have the best possible opportunities available to them.

Best Wishes  
Jane Miles, Principal

## Newsletter Competition Winner

As our newsletter receives a new look and relaunch, we decided it also needed a new name and asked our students to help pick one via a special competition. Our congratulations go to the winner, Natalie Docherty, who received a £20 voucher for the Meadowhall shopping complex.

## Parental Questionnaire

Thank you to all those parents who completed and returned their parental questionnaires sent out with our letter of 18th January 2011 and to those parents who volunteered and took part in Focus Groups. Your feedback is invaluable, helping us to continually improve the learning experience for all students at the Academy. We are currently reviewing the results of the survey and will report back shortly.

The names of all those who returned questionnaires were entered into a prize draw and congratulations go to Miss Coldwell-Ford who was the lucky winner and has received a £20 Meadowhall Gift Voucher.

## Great Start for Humanities

This academic year has been an important one for our Humanities faculty, with geography, history and cultural studies (RE) and PSHE merged into one area, with staff working hard to provide an increasingly consistent approach to learning across all four subjects.



In Geography, our Year 7 students have been given an Ordnance Survey map of Barnsley and Sheffield. The map, Explorer 278, has helped bring the subject to life for many of them, helping build their confidence in understanding their local area (in terms of landscape and scale).

## Living by Numbers!

In February, 50 students from years 9 & 10 took part in a National Maths Challenge run by the UK Mathematics Trust.

The Challenge is designed to find the best mathematicians in the country, with those taking part sitting a test under exam conditions.

Although the first year Sheffield Springs has entered the competition, three students were awarded silver certificates, with a further three awarded bronze. The academy now hopes to make this a regular event.

## Clock's ticking for 3D Students

Students in BTEC 3D Design have been put to the test, exploring a range of materials to complete a series of assignments. Year 10 students used a laser cutter to help give a high quality 'shop like' finish to their Memphis clock design. Now students are developing their creative thinking skills in designing and making a board game.



## Students get 'Knotted!'

One of Sheffield's oldest establishments tied students up in knots with a challenge to design a new tie.

The wearing of a corporate tie has been a part of the Company of Cutlers' formal dress since they were established in 1625. However, the students at the academy were approached to revamp the design, with the only stipulation being that the original coat of arms was retained.

The students - Eve Alderton, Amy Daniels, Antony Carr, Kent Lau, Aslan Othman, Nicole Blakey, Johanna Blakey, Leah Eccles, Rebbecca Watson Slack, all from Year 9 and Jordan Bower from the sixth form - set about their challenge with enthusiasm, comparing the original design with tie designs on the internet and then sketching their ideas. The final drawings have been submitted to the Company of Cutlers for their consideration.



## Springing into Action at Army Camp

During February, a group of 'wannabe' soldiers from the academy were given the opportunity to attend a residential week at a Ripon Army Camp.

The residential is set up by the army recruitment office to give students an insight into what the army can offer them, including the structure and physical aspects of military life along with the discipline demanded.

The students had a hectic few days, learning how to work as a team to complete command tasks set by the Sergeant Major. This involved communication with radios and building electric buggies from scratch, as well as orienteering and bridge building, to name but a few of the real life tasks set.



## You're Hired!

A level business studies stepped into Alan Sugar's shoes when they staged mock interviews for a support staff job at the academy.

Students worked hard to plan the interviews, looking at everything from table layout to asking the right questions. They also had the opportunity to be both interviewer and interviewee.

Not only is the exercise an important part of the A-level coursework, it also helps prepare students for real-life interviews to help them to succeed in their chosen career paths.

Miss Marston and Mr Watson would like to thank the group for all their hard work.

## Dance Residency 2011

The academy's Year 9 dance students had the fantastic opportunity to work with a professional dancer as part of a week long residency. In this time, the students took part in daily technique classes, which helped in developing their dance skills.

They then participated in choreographic workshops, leading up to a complete dance piece at the end of the week, performed to family and friends.

The residency was a great success which the students thoroughly enjoyed. Well done to all that took part.



## Students Mesmerise Enchanted Audience

Work started early in the 2010 - 2011 academic year for the production of Fame. Nerve wracking auditions were followed by hours of gruelling practice, with dedicated staff and students staying behind after school to perfect the performance.

Miss Ellis, Drama teacher, took a small selection of the cast to display their skills to some local primary schools; Wybourn, Prince Edwards, Valley Park, Manor Lodge, Norfolk Community and Bankwood.

Cameron Barrows and Demi McDonald, together with other members of the cast, showed great stage presence and gave exceptional performances, displaying creativity and skill in both dance and drama despite having no previous experience.



## Funky Sprout Makes Rebecca a Winner

Budding businesswoman Rebecca Jackson saw her accessory business 'Funky Sprout' beat off the competition to win a local business award.

Rebecca, who makes and sells her own jewellery through her brochure and website, was entered into the Big Challenge Xtra 2 Awards by the academy's business and enterprise co-ordinator Mr Edwards.

The judges were impressed with Rebecca's marketing ideas and use of technology, as well as her dedication to developing her business skills and experiences.

All of this helped Rebecca take first prize in the competition, which saw 20 other schools in Sheffield take part.

## Meet the Governors



We asked Christine Goldsack, Chair of Sheffield Springs Academy's Local Governing Body (LGB), to give us an insight into the role of the LGB.

### What is the purpose of the LGB?

The LGB, together with the Principal, sets out specific academy policies in key areas. These are established within the framework policies and guidelines determined by the United Church Schools Trust (UCST), parent body of academy sponsor the United Learning Trust (ULT.) The LGB also acts as a 'critical friend' to the Principal and to the academy.

### How is the Chairperson elected?

The Chairperson of the LGB is elected or re-elected by the LGB and his/her appointment is approved by the ULT Board.

### What are the responsibilities of the Chairperson?

The Chairperson of the LGB is a key component in the successful governance of the academy. The Chairperson acts in support of the Principal and has direct access to the Chief Executive and to the Chairperson of the Board. They also report relevant matters and non-confidential decisions from the Board to other LGBs and vice versa. As Chair, I lead the LGB meetings, ensuring that the organisation and membership of that body meets the needs of the school.

### Who sits on the LGB?

The LGB for Sheffield Springs comprises 14 people, including representatives from the staff, parents, local community and business environment.

### How often does the LGB meet?

The LGB meets at least each term, with further meetings taking place throughout the year with individual Governors, each having links with each Curriculum Area.

For more information about our LGB, visit our website: [www.sheffieldsprings-academy.org](http://www.sheffieldsprings-academy.org)

## Ready, Pedal Go!

The academy's Nurture group is currently looking at healthy eating and lifestyles. As part of this, the group have taken part in a 'Pedal Ready' course which encourages them to use their bikes safely, whilst also helping to make them 'road safe.'

## Year 8's Get Revved Up

As part of the Global Manufacturing Convention, Year 8 students were given the opportunity to experiment with a Formula 1 Simulator. This was a fantastic opportunity for the students to see how the world of manufacturing and engineering has developed.



## Car Wash Cleans Up for Red Nose Day

Sheffield Springs Academy is proud to have raised £880 for Red Nose Day. Our sixth form volunteered to wash cars for our staff and were inundated with requests. Well done to all those who took part!



## Attendance

Good attendance is vital to success but if your child is absent for any reason, please let the school know as early as possible on the first day of absence.

The contact number is: 0114 2392631 and once connected press 2. This will allow you to leave a message or speak directly to our attendance team.

Try to make medical / dental appointments outside of school hours, if possible. If in school time, please make sure that your child attends prior to or after appointments if well enough to do so. This will allow them to maintain a good attendance record as they will be given their mark for the time they are in school.

Advance notice of this type of absence is helpful, whenever possible.

Please encourage your child to arrive promptly for school. They should aim to be in the building for 8.30am to allow time to use lockers and move to registration. This is all part of good attendance.

Regular attendance to school has a direct link to academic success.

## Term dates

Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2011  
Half-term Holiday

Thursday 21st July  
Last day of term

## Inset days

Wednesday 8th June 2011

## Events coming soon:

Y8 Options Evening  
Thursday 9th June 2011

Y11 Prom  
Friday 24th June 2011

Y7 Parents Evening  
Thursday 7th July 2011

## Your comments please...

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Please tell us what you would like to see in our newsletter. Simply fill in the box to the left and return to...

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