

BIDDICK NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011



Matthew Wylie (year 10) competed as part of the England North team at the 2011 UK School Games - held in Sheffield (1st-4th Sep). Approximately 1600 talented under 16s from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales took part in the competition.

Matthew produced a fine performance in the 100m Breaststroke with a 2 second PB - taking the Bronze medal and scoring valuable points for the England North Team. In the 100m Freestyle Matthew just missed out on a medal coming in a respectable 4th place in a strong field. Having lead for most of the swimming competition the England North team were finally overtaken in the last few events by England Central (who took First Place) and England South (Second Place). Matthew said ... "UK School Games was a great experience for me, living in the Athletes Village and meeting so many other people from different sports was fantastic. We got the chance to see other sports and I really enjoyed watching the Volleyball competition - the speed of play and teamwork was amazing. I was happy with both my swims - it was just a pity, as a team, we couldn't hold on to our lead and take the victory. The atmosphere on poolside in Ponds Forge was unbelievable."

CELEBRATION EVENING



**John Pearson
Guest Speaker**

HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS

Biddick School Sports College - completion of a brand new state of the art educational facility. It has to be seen to be appreciated!

At Biddick School Sports College we aim to provide for all students across the ability range; we offer 'A SAFE PLACE WHERE WE ALL PROMOTE AND ENJOY THE HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT'. We place the development of the whole student at the heart of our educational philosophy; examination success running alongside enrichment and wider opportunities.

GCSE RESULTS IN 2011 'THE BEST EVER' 3 YEARS CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT!

Recent results in August 2011 again bring a great deal for the school to celebrate:

- 84% of students gained 5+ A*-C Grades at GCSE
- 57% of students gained 5+ A* - C Grades at GCSE including English & Mathematics
- 61% of students gained A*-C Grades in English Language
- 74% of students gained A*-C Grades in Mathematics
- 74% of students gained A*- C Grades in ICT
- 69% of students gained at least one A*-C Grades in GCSE Science
- 58% of students gained two or more A*-C Grades in GCSE Science
- 97% of students gained 5+ A* -G Grades at GCSE including English & Mathematics
- 98% of students gained GCSE certification A* -G
- 69% of students obtained 5+A*-C Grades with a Level 2 qualification in English & Mathematics

The organisational challenge of developing a 21st century learning environment is behind us. OFSTED 2010 acknowledged this; 'The drive to upgrade teaching facilities has resulted in the creation of a stimulating learning environment'. Our new '3G' all weather pitch opens soon! This new environment and the recognition by OFSTED of existing strengths in 'the breadth of the curriculum, the opportunities offered through the sports specialism and the effectiveness of its care, guidance and support' provides the basis of the school's vision of achieving outstanding. A very good time to be joining the school!

Biddick is a heavily oversubscribed 11-16 mixed comprehensive school. In 1997, it became one of the first 11 schools in the country to be designated a Specialist Sports College. It now has an impressive local, national and international reputation. The school is a national award winning specialist college; Young Learner Award at the Learning and Skills awards June 2008; Skills Active National award for innovative delivery of the 14-19 Curriculum in Sport and Leisure March 2008; the Sir John Beckwith International Schools Award March 2009. The school also holds the Sports Mark and Healthy Schools awards.

Where learning needs supporting, the school has invested in an excellent team of committed staff who have moved into a new purpose built Student Support facility. Our aim is to provide the very best support for all. The most able are offered a stimulating and challenging programme and students who require Learning Advice are also well catered for. We are proud of the work we do in this area. The school has some of the most impressive sports and performing arts facilities in the country; however investment across the curriculum has resulted in this standard extending to all, with extensive and impressive access to ICT. Art exhibitions, drama, dance and musical performances are at the heart of our philosophy. Biddick's commitment to the arts was reflected in the school being awarded Arts Mark Gold for the third consecutive time in June 2009. This enables the school to be a member of a very exclusive national club!

The school has held the British Council's International School award since 2004. Residential events abroad are a regular feature of our work. Impressive links exist between Poland, China, Russia, USA, Italy and the Czech Republic with opportunities to partake in exchanges widely available to all. Language experiences are available annually, with visits to Poland, France and skiing in Switzerland well established. Students have also recently visited Iceland and canoeed in France; we consider the outdoors to be a classroom! Our philosophy puts extracurricular opportunities alongside examination success in importance. We have a very impressive range of opportunities for your son/daughter; a recent major success is our Duke of Edinburgh programme, at Bronze, Silver and Gold.

We look forward to meeting you on Wednesday 5th October 2011 at 6pm and welcoming you to our very special 'family'.

My email address is Wilkinson.R@sunderlandlearning.net if you want to make personal contact, do so and I will respond!

**Richard Wilkinson
Head Teacher**

CELEBRATION EVENING



Biddick School Sports College held its prestigious Celebration evening on Thursday 22nd September in the Watson Hall. The Celebration Evening demonstrated the high standards that are students are achieving through both academic success and wider aspects of life. Comments from parents included 'it really was inspiring to watch young individuals shine and are allowed and supported to do so in a fabulous environment'.

We were joined by former international referee John Pearson who provided an uplifting speech on the journey to success. The evening

was supported by families and staff who were extremely proud of all the achievements of the students at Biddick School Sports College.



ART CLUBS WEDNESDAY
2.20PM-3.20PM



Miss Young Year 7 Club LO19

Mrs MacLaughlin Year 8 Club LO18

Mrs Garton Upper school Club Years 9, 10 and 11 (Fine Art) LO10

Mrs Thompson Upper School Club Years 9, 10 and 11 (Digital Art) LO11

There are many items of lost property in PE. If you are missing any item, please check if it is there because everything will be disposed of before the October holiday.

MR STONE

STUDENT SUPPORT

The Unity Centre within Student Support is a specialist provision for students with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition or Aspergers Syndrome. The students attend mainstream lessons with specialised support as much as possible but also have the opportunity for small group teaching within the centre. There are currently 9 students within the Unity Centre, one year 8 student and eight Year 7 students. Mr Jackson is the lead teacher of the Unity Centre and there are five specialist support assistants. Three full weeks into the new school year and the students are settling into school life and beginning to get used to Biddick School Sports College and our expectations and routines.



GIRLS' TENNIS



The Girls' tennis at Biddick have had a particularly successful year with both y8s and y9 girls winning the City of Sunderland Tennis leagues. The final match was very close with Biddick coming out winners against a very good Southmoor team. In addition, the Singles Finals this year was an all Biddick final with Ashleigh Donnelly winning overall and Demi-Leigh Charlesworth a well fought runner-up. Well done to all the girls involved in the tennis leagues this year.

Ashleigh & Demi-Leigh

TENNIS – BOYS' SINGLES FINALS - SUMMER 2011

Congratulations to the following boys who all qualified through the knock-out stages to play in the City of Sunderland tennis singles finals this summer. The results were as follows:-

City of Sunderland U16 Boys
Winner – Adam Herron Runner-up – Matthew Gardner

City of Sunderland U15 Boys
Winner - Sean Simpson Runner-up - Jordan Eley

City of Sunderland U14 Boys
Winner - Steven Hall Runner-up - Darren Geeringh

City of Sunderland U13 Boys
Winner - Reece Dodds Runner-up - John Calder

City of Sunderland U12 Boys
Runner-up - Daniel Shaw

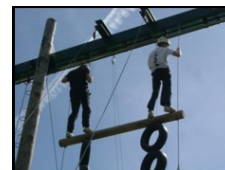


Steven & Reece

YOUNG APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME



Congratulations to the new Cohort of Year 10 Young Apprentices who have successfully completed a leadership weekend at Derwent Hill. The year 10s will be starting their work placements, where they will be assisting sport coaches in the community across a variety of sports. Congratulations to the year 11 young apprentices who each have completed 250 plus hours of volunteering last year. This is an outstanding achievement and has taken great commitment alongside their school work.



Sky Sports Living for Sport Athlete programme

All Young Apprentices have taken part in the Sky Sports Living for Sport Athlete programme. We had a visit from Katy Storey (England Rugby Player). During the visit Katie talked about her experiences as a world class athlete, the challenges she had to overcome in her youth and the skills needed to be successful in life.



Volunteering at the Great North Run

A huge thank you to the year 10 young apprentices who volunteered at the Great North Run. This involved them supporting the organisation of one of the finishing lines. In between working they were celebrity spotting and met Mo Farah (Great Britain World Championship Gold medal Winner) and Steve Harper (Newcastle United Goal Keeper)

Year 11 Young Apprentices: Amy Lyall, Jordan Dent, Joe Rutter, James Jackson, Sean Simpson, Nathan Doyle, Jordan Matthews, Rachel Turnbull, Lorna Shaw, Ryan Moran, Jade Towers, Simon Rowland, Tyler Dodds, Craig Foster, Jordan Eley

Year 10 Young Apprentices: Ethan Howard, Josh Pollard, Lizzy Patterson, Emma Young, Alex Boylen, Steven O'Neil, James Sykes, James Corner, Darren Geeringh, Liam Butler, Alicia Nash, Aaron Duke, Nathan Winder, Daniel Craig, Steven Hall, Jasmine Hackett, Lauren Ord, Jack Oty, Emma Wylie.

CHARITY DAY



Biddick School Sports College held its first Charity Day on April 1st 2011. Yr 8 and 9 students, along with tutors, were set the challenge of organising a range of different fund raising activities and encouraging the rest of the school to support the day by entering into the spirit of the event. On the day we raised £2,183.35p. Activities ranged from Name the bear, how many sweets in the jar, rock band sumo wrestling, mix ups, cake/biscuit sale, fancy dress competition, wet sponge decks, hot chilli challenge, egg roulette and a very big thanks to Mr Bell who had his hair shaved and raised over £350 alone. Students choose 4 charities to donate the proceeds: Help for Heroes Knife Crime, Teenage Cancer and Bryson's. The remainder of the money was donated to Jordan Cooper's memorial fund.

A very big thank you to everyone who helped make this day a success. We look forward to your help in organising another in 2012.



Lessons in Library Skills

Our year 7 students have completed their first lesson in the library. All students are library members and allowed to borrow books, use the facilities for homework, research, board games and reading for pleasure. We are open from 8.a.m. until 4.30 p.m. (4 p.m. Friday).



Booked Up the national programme, run by Booktrust and supported by the

Department for Children, Schools and Families, gives all Year 7s the chance to choose a **free** book for themselves from a selection of titles. Booked Up is about reading for fun and encouraging children's choice, ownership and involvement. Our order is being processed and should be delivered after half term.

Pupil Librarian Scheme

We will be recruiting new librarians over the coming weeks. The scheme develops knowledge, confidence and self-esteem and gives pupils the opportunity to apply intellectual and creative effort - the outcome of which is publicly displayed. It is a chance for all pupils, regardless of ability, to achieve.



Author Visit

We were quite excited when we received the news that we were successful in our bid for a visit by the award winning author Alan Gibbons. Alan has been writing children's books for 20 years, has publications in several languages, is a regular contributor to the TES and other journals, and a popular speaker in many festivals and conferences. Alan will be working with some of our students in a writing workshop early November. There will be the opportunity to buy books and have personalised book signings.

BIDDICK SPORTS COLLEGE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

All Year 9 students and Year 10 Triple Science students

Your first Science GCSE examinations take place on the following dates:

Biology B1 - 12th January 2012
Chemistry C1 - 18th January 2012
Physics P1 - 20th January 2012

Year 10 and Year 11 Science objective test re-sits take place on the 15th November 2011.

Year 10, Year 11 Additional and Year 11 Triple Science GCSE examinations take place on the following dates:

Biology B2 - 24th January 2012
Chemistry C2 - 26th January 2012
Physics P2 - 30th January 2012



Boost your Science GCSE grades by using the new interactive web based resource Kerboodle. Kerboodle contains lots of revision materials as well as quick answer tests to check your understanding of every section of your science topic. It also gives you access to interactive text books that will be very useful for the projects you will be doing in science throughout the year. To get on Kerboodle simply go to www.kerboodle.co.uk and log in using your school user name and the password you have been given by your Science teacher. Then enter the school code which is 1517.

If you have any problems see Mr Lane or Mrs Gardner.

Best attendance so far (from 6th September until 23rd September)
7H 99.11%
8C 97.29%
9M 98.61%
10J 97.65%
11M 98.72%
Whole School Attendance 95.21%

GRACE HOUSE APPEAL

When a family is told that their child may not live to become an adult, it is the start of an agonising journey. Grace House Children's Hospice will provide practical and emotional support to families facing the pain of losing their precious child. This support known as palliative care includes: tailored nursing care for each child, respite care, family support, therapies, specialist end-of-life care and bereavement support.

The care services will be based around the needs of the whole family in a happy, safe and loving environment, making the most of precious lives by sharing the good days and being there every step of the way through the more difficult days.

The hospice, at last, is now being built in Southwick and should be finished in 2012. The wait has been a long one. At long last, families of Sunderland and Washington will no longer have to travel to Berwick and to Teesside. A hospice for our area will be on the doorstep.

The present Year 11 has raised nearly £25,000 over the last four years. Our aim is to raise another £5,000, taking the total to £30,000 by the time the year group leaves Biddick School next May. This is a tall order, especially considering that bag packs, because of the economic climate, do not seem to be forthcoming this year. This is making the challenge harder.

LEGENDS IN CONCORD



I have to admit that I thought, before we returned to school during the Summer Holiday, that to raise over £5,000 in nine months was going to prove impossible. Then, Lauren Doyle, in 11M, emailed me at the end of the holiday to tell me that she had applied to O2 Think Big for a £200 grant so that equipment could be hired for a band night she intended to organise. Lauren received the money, and went on to arrange a fantastic night last Saturday at Legends in Concord. Many bands took part: Just Us Left, Exit Wound, Memona, Cohesion and the Biddick Year 11 Btec Music group. Ex Biddick students supported the night - David Stark, for example, as well as other past Biddick musicians. A raffle was held and with money taken at the door, an amazing £526 was raised – and money is still rolling in. Over 140 people attended. The atmosphere was a special one and the unity and camaraderie of the year group was evident. All of this and no involvement from me at all – a far cry from Santa suits and collecting rusty coins from the yard... I looked on at the Year 11s and had that feeling you may know if you're an old enough parent - the satisfaction, joy and, yes, a tinge of sadness that your child has reached independence and can do a good job and can function without you (well, with the occasional hand, of course!). We look forward to more band nights...

RACE FOR GRACE



Then there was the annual Race for Grace. The year group last year must have thought they had outgrown such an event, probably because it was not the thing to do – one's hair, being red faced and sweaty, etc. So, it was a surprise when about twenty students signed up, decided to get dressed up and off we went to Herrington Park for the last time on Sunday morning. It was great fun: Jack Tindle made a wonderful emu and Joe Taylor just about made it round, having breathing problems wearing a very tight fitting super hero mask! Look out for the total raised from sponsorship. I think that £1,000 was probably raised over the weekend.

This term, a Grace House Enterprise group has been formed where ideas for future fundraising are discussed and planned. On the cards are a tombola, a Halloween disco for Year 8s, a collection of old clothes (a team will collect your bags in the car park), raffles, a silent auction, the Lyke Wake walk in May, a Christmas fair for younger pupils and much, much more.

If you can support our cause in any way – perhaps by fundraising in your work place or donating items for a raffle - please contact the Grace House Enterprise group.

Mrs Lowe

A TUTORIAL VISITOR



In our Tutorial lesson last week, Katie Turnbull (8G) brought her pet snake into school. During the lesson we learnt many facts about Percy (the snake). Percy eats frozen mice! Katie puts the mouse in the cage and the snake wraps its tail around the mouse and squeezes it thinking it's still alive. Whilst the snake is eating the mouse, you can see some bits of the snake digesting down its body. When Percy eats a mouse, he could last up to 5 weeks without eating another. Katie mentioned how once the snake had slept in its water, but if it gets too wet it could die because the skin is moist already. Everyone in 8G was amazed by the snake; everyone was brave enough to have a stroke of Percy. Katie let Percy slide about the floor and she told us that when you tap on the floor snakes hear the vibration and they slide towards whoever is tapping. Whilst Percy was in the room, Katie showed us how his skin was shedding because his eyes had turned grey. The snake had the most beautiful pattern ever; it was a sort of red and orange pattern on the top and a light yellow on the bottom. Next week, we are meeting Ryan's lizard!

WRITTEN BY HANNAH LEACH (8G)

Year 11 student, Francesca Cotton, after attending trials over four days in Manchester and in competition with 60 others, was successful in gaining a place in the cheerleading team UK. Francesca will be training one a month in Manchester until April when she will take part in an international competition in Disneyland, Florida.

We wish Francesca every success.



FRANCESCA COTTON 11W

Any articles, features or items for the next issue should be given to Mrs Petrie, Student Office Manager