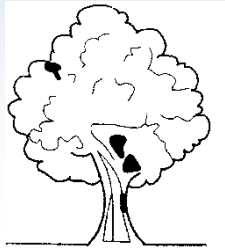


# OAK TREE NEWS

The official newsletter of

**Grangefield School**  
A Specialist Technology College



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## ***A message from the Headteacher***

Recent issues of The Oak Tree News have shown the great variety of activities available to our students and the success they have achieved. All of this is made possible by the commitment of our staff and their willingness to give up time to ensure so much is provided throughout the year. Many parents and friends of the school also contribute through their time and encouragement. I know that our students are very appreciative of this. Personally, I am very pleased to acknowledge the way the community of the school comes together for the benefit of its young people.

Many students also give up their time to work for the school in activities that do not receive headlines. I have been impressed by the year 8 volunteers who act as receptionists each day. They provide a valuable service and always present themselves well to visitors. During the year they have gained in confidence and represented the school in a very positive way.

Recently we have been holding interviews for new appointments at the school. As part of the process we have asked groups of students to play an active part and candidates have faced interviews with student panels. Each panel develops its own set of questions, working with a member of staff who then observes the discussions with the candidate. I have been very impressed by the seriousness with which they have taken on this work and the very considered feedback they have given. The school takes very seriously the views of its young people and their involvement in the choice of staff reflects our confidence in their commitment to improving Grangefield for the future.

***David Litchfield***



## Technology in Action

### Linking with Students in Dubai



As part of the development of the school's new Virtual Learning Environment Miss Cuthbert has been testing some of the exciting features the learning platform has to offer. Working with staff from Stockton City Learning Centre, Miss Cuthbert has set up an international link with Dubai Women's College in Abu Dhabi using an exciting programme called Elluminate.

Elluminate *Live!* is built specifically for live, multi-media, many-to many collaboration. Whether you have two students—or two hundred—Elluminate *Live!* enables world-class communication, collaboration and education, with everyone involved seeing and hearing the same thing at the same time. Miss Cuthbert was able to communicate with faculty staff from the college and was given the opportunity to discuss how we could be use this technology to enhance the teaching and learning of students from both schools.

This new and exciting link will allow students to discover what life is like on the other side of the world and how religion in particular impacts upon everyday life. Students in Years 10 and 11 will have the opportunity to explore in depth what life is like for Muslim women living in a Muslim country in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This exciting project will form part of their GCSE studies.

Miss Cuthbert commented “the new VLE is opening up some fantastic opportunities for teachers that may not have previously been available to them. It will make a huge difference to students and the quality of the teaching and learning experiences they receive. I would also like to thank in particular Val Brooks who without her professional help and support this link could not have been possible.” The project will begin at the end of May and will run for approximately 6 weeks; a full report from the students will be included in the next edition of the Oak Tree News.

We are currently exploring ways in which we can use Elluminate to enhance teaching and learning throughout our school community and link our young people with students and organisations across the globe. Further information about Elluminate can be found at [www.elluminate.com](http://www.elluminate.com)

### Year 9 Netball

Our congratulations go to Jessica Schneider, Stacy Dodd, Holly Stead, Chloe Thornton, Kelly Hubbuck and Shannon Tweddle for their achievements in being the runners-up team in the Stockton Schools Netball League.

**Well done girls !**

### Putting People First

We are delighted that our local community policing team are soon to have a base on the school site, putting them at the very heart of the local community. This is a unique venture in Stockton, offering students and local residents access to advice and support via an “open door” policy throughout the day, including evenings and weekends. More information will be included in the next edition of this newsletter.



**Parentline Plus** is a national charity working with and for parents to offer free and independent support and advice to parents by telephone, email and online community groups. In addition they work with government and child professionals to help build communities that are good for children by ensuring that parents' views are included in policies that affect families and young people. Support is offered to anyone caring for a child, and this 24 hour service is available for any issue that may be concerning you.

In addition, their sister site [www.gotateenager.org.uk](http://www.gotateenager.org.uk) is a social networking and advice site giving parents of teenagers space to support each other through the challenges and successes of bringing up teens. Advice is available on a wide range of issues such as bullying, drugs, relationships, health and well-being and communicating with teenagers.



### *Start the day the right way...*

Having a healthy breakfast with friends is a good way to prepare for the day ahead, improving energy and concentration levels and developing social skills.

Our Breakfast Club is now open daily to students from 8.00am. Operating in the dining hall, we are serving a range of items including toast, cereal and tea or coffee, in a safe and welcoming environment. All students are most welcome to come along.

We are currently working with students to extend our breakfast menu and develop a range of activities. If you have any suggestions on how we make our Breakfast Club even better please see your School Council representatives or come along one morning and share your ideas !

**STOP PRESS....** There will be a free samba drumming session at Breakfast Club each Wednesday for 5 weeks from 3 June. Why not come along and try something new !

## EASTER VISIT TO BERLIN



Students and staff enjoyed an excellent visit to Berlin which took place in the first week of the Easter holidays.

Accompanied by Mrs Wilkinson, Ms Notman, Mr Jobling, Mr Dowden and Mrs Beadnall, the 37 students had a fantastic time in glorious weather in Germany.

During the five day visit students visited Wansee Villa and Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, the Olympic Stadium, Checkpoint Charlie, the Reichstag building and saw remains of the Berlin Wall. Evening activities included a fantastic night bowling and seeing a German film at the Imax Cinema.

Our students were a credit to themselves, their parents and the school, and will be rewarded with an evening at Hollywood Bowl in May.



# GRANGEFIELD

**MISS MULCASTER AND MISS LODGE** brought together a cast of over 90 students from across school to work with staff to produce and perform in the Grange School Dance Show 2009. Celebrating the music and dance of every decade since the school opened on its present site, the show featured young people from every year group, from gifted and talented performers to those treading the boards for the first time. It also offered students the opportunity to develop their technical skills, from designing the show through to choreography, set design and construction, sound, lighting and media production.

The monies raised from the Dance Show 2009 will be used to support a Sports Day event at Clairville Stadium for students in Years 7 and 8, giving our young people the experience of competing at a nationally recognised athletics stadium. In the past many students have thrived in sporting success with this opportunity, breaking their personal best achievements and many of the school's long-standing athletics records.

Miss Mulcaster and Miss Lodge offered a huge "Congratulations" to all of the students involved, recognising that the success of the show was due to the enthusiasm and commitment of all those involved, with particular thanks to Jess Lyth, Beth Fisher and Abbi Henderson for their fantastic choreography and Paul Miller for his hard work with the technical aspects of the show.

All those who came along agreed that the show was a huge success and eagerly await next year's production !

## THANKS TO.....

Miss Mulcaster  
Miss Lodge  
Mr Turnbull  
Paul Miller  
Danny Redmond  
Luke Weatherley  
Amelia Arrowsmith  
Miss Maughan  
Miss Bailey  
Mr Carss  
Mrs Glover  
Mrs Mulcaster  
Mrs Tindale  
Ms Wilkinson  
Mr Morrell  
Naomi Ireland  
Janet Dickinson School of Dance  
And the unnamed teams and individuals who made this production possible.

**FOR TECHNICAL  
SUPPORT.**



50s



70s



00s

# SCHOOL DANCE SHOW

90s



60s



80s



## PERFORMANCES BY .....

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Davin De Buffalo   | Paula Hemmings     |
| Aimee Williams     | Bethany Vickers    |
| Harley Iredale     | Holly Carnell      |
| Hannah Smith       | Robyn Hall         |
| Lauren Collier     | Demi Nichol        |
| Ellie Puckering    | Stacey Mills       |
| Lauren Dixon       | Olivia Nozedar     |
| Rachel Carr        | Rosie Sturman      |
| Charlotte Hall     | Cee-Jay Bell       |
| Georgina Patterson | Lucy Baker         |
| Lauren Hobson      | Ellie Featherstone |
| Jess Lyth          | Rebecca Demoil     |
| Beth Fisher        | Heather Nesbitt    |
| Beth Gardiner      | Bethan Senior      |
| Chloe Wilson       | Lisa Grant         |
| Abbi Henderson     | Rachel Head        |
| Danny Magson       | Beth Lodge         |
| Jasmine Peers      | Danielle Bell      |
| Lilian Gray        | Sarah Tooke        |
| Grace Bakes        | Aimee Williams     |
| Nicola Mitchell    | Jasmine Pears      |
| Charlotte Screator | Rachel Rowe        |
| Amy Blakemore      | Sinead McAdam      |
| Danielle Jones     | Grace Hardy        |
| Emma Toulson       | Rosie Gilbert      |
| Chloe Britain      | Lyndsey Cable      |
| Amy Richardson     | Taylor Suter       |
| Stevie Stead       | Rebecca Southern   |
| Sasha Jackson      | Erin Highfield     |
| Amie Buckle        | Lois Tooke         |
| Rebecca Bell       | Rachel Rowe        |
| Hannah Harbron     | Sammy Reedle       |
| Rebecca Smith      | Claire Mileham     |
| Samantha Durham    | Nicole Allen       |
| Jess O'Neil        | Georgia Britain    |
| Kate Lawlor        | Ellis Eddy         |
| Shaunna Wallinger  | Lauren Barr        |
| Christie Patterson | Shannon Blakemore  |
| Sophie Hope        | Judith Da Silva    |
| Milly Smith        | Sasha Jackson      |
| Paige Saxby        | Hayley Rennison    |
| Georgina Goring    | Georgina O Dell    |
| Lauren Wigham      | Tom Ballagh        |
| Rose Wheetman      | Emily Roachford    |
| Sarah Thwaites     | Amelia Arrowsmith  |



## INTERESTED IN JOURNALISM ?

## WANT TO BE A GRANGEFIELD NEWSHOUND ?

There is a fantastic opportunity for students to become involved in the design, compilation and production of school media, particularly school press releases, the Oak Tree News, student newsletter and the school website.

If you would like to write the stories and take the pictures that hit the Grangefield press then this lunchtime activity is for you – every Friday with Mrs McHale in D3.

Everybody welcome !

### Job Vacancy!!

***Wanted: Creative year 7 students to work in God's creation factory to create a new animal to be placed on planet earth.***



Students in 7S3 and 7S4 answered this job advert and set to creating their new creatures as part of their religious education studies. Students were tasked to create a new creature as part of their work conducted on religious perspectives on creation of the universe. They also examined and reflected on accountability for the environment in today's society by exploring themes such as stewardship and global sustainability.

In a collaboration between RE and Art, Miss Cuthbert, Miss Gill and Miss Fox worked together on the project. Miss Cuthbert said, *"This project allowed students to explore complex moral dilemmas faced by humans living in today's society in a fun and creative way. They got immense enjoyment from the project; all students worked incredibly hard and their work was outstanding."*

The students' work will be on display in school until the end of the end of the term.



# What's on.....

## out and about during half term

### WYNYARD WOODLAND PARK PLANETARIUM and OBSERVATORY *Build a Space Shuttle*

Thursday 28th May 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Come along to this craft event in the half-term holidays to build and fly your own cardboard space shuttle kit, provided by NASA. This event takes place in the railway carriage.

£1.50 per child, suitable for ages 7 to 12.

Contact Wynyard Woodland Park Rangers on 01740 630011 to book your place.

### **Sporting Start** **Free Sporting Activities**

Tees Active deliver an extensive holiday activity programme of sport that will keep children active during holiday periods. With over 22 different free activities to choose from there is something to appeal to everyone, from Aqua Jets to Kayaking, Street dance to Olympic wrestling.

See [www.teesactive.co.uk](http://www.teesactive.co.uk) or contact Tees Active on 01642 528539 for further details.

### **HALF TERM ACTIVITIES @ Castlegate Quay Watersports Centre**

#### **Bellboat Excursion**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May - 9.00am - 5.00pm**

50 places available (Buy 1 get 1 free - £30.00)

*Join your crew mates and enjoy the excursion up to Preston Park for lunch and return by your own steam.*

#### **Sail Away Day**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May - 9.00am - 5.00pm**

**Sail Away Day**, 12 places available (£25.00)

*Upstream river sailing with a flotilla of vessels.*

#### **Canoeing/Kayaking Expedition**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May - 9.00am - 5.00pm**

16 places available ( £25.00)

*Fun and games all day long in our fantastic craft. A day of full on frantic fun. A wet day!!!*

#### **Powerboat trip to Seaton Carew for beach games**

**Friday 29th May - 9.00am - 5.00pm**

30 places available (Buy 1 get 1 free - £50.00)

*High octane, adrenaline filled high speed ride.*

**Contact the centre on 01642 528689 to book or for more info.**



## *Saltholme The Wildlife Reserve and Discovery Park*

### **Half Term Minibeast Safaris**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> of May**

**Join the Saltholme minibeast safari to discover what lurks in the undergrowth, visit our minibeast hotel to see who has checked in!**

**Safaris start at 1.00pm and 3.00pm**

*£1.00 per child per session.*

**Booking ahead recommended – please ring the education team for more information on 01642 542073.**

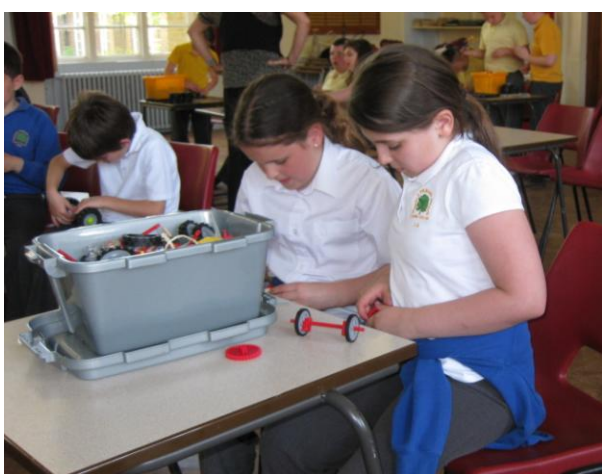
***Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.***

## YOUNG ENGINEERS REACH NATIONAL FINALS

Mr Wilkinson has worked all year with 16 teams, each of 4 children, from Oak Tree Primary School, St Mark's Primary School and Fairfield Primary School to develop entries in the BAA Racing Buggy Challenge. BAA and Young Engineers invited teams of students to design and make an environmentally friendly, eco powered model Racing Baggage Buggy. Children and staff from each school have attended an after school session from September 2008 to design and make their baggage buggy within the specification given by BAA. These have often been supported by parents too.

We are absolutely delighted that 5 of the 16 teams have been shortlisted for the national final on 17 July at Gatwick airport; in the past only 8 teams nationally have been successful in this. During the event the children will drag race their model and ensure it keeps its luggage load as it streaks down the track! They will also give a short presentation about their design. The children have been really enthused about design, with many of these Young Engineers also taking part in a lego challenge in school recently.

The children are now hard at work building working prototypes of the successful designs ready for racing at the final. Good luck to all of those involved !



### CONGRATULATIONS !

We would like to congratulate the following students who have all achieved 100% pass in the Basic Food Hygiene Certificate as part of their GCSE Food Technology or BTEC Hospitality and Catering course.

Tony Johnson  
Mark Catterick  
Beth Lodge  
Katie Roberts  
Kathryn Hardwick  
Leonie Simpson  
Matthew Lowe  
Nathan Dunn  
Steph Frater  
Abbi Collins  
Connor Jones  
Lauren Foxton

**Well done !**

## Cleveland Fire Brigade Learning & Development

### OPEN DAY Wed 27 May, 11am - 4pm



### Check out what's on offer

Win a DS-Lite - Drive a Fire Engine - Refreshments

Climbing wall - Learn to save a life - Art Competition - YIP Bus  
Middlesbrough Football Club Speed Cage - Bike Stamping  
"Rock-it Ball" - "TRY Rugby" - Football not with Fire! - Volley Ball  
Advice on Health & Well Being & available Learn Direct Courses  
Learn new sports skills with qualified sports coaches!

In partnership with Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

Learning & Development Centre, & Grangetown Fire Station, Trunk Road Grangetown, Middlesbrough, TS6 9AA. 01642 456511

www.clevelandfire.gov.uk



Protecting local communities

### In our next edition of the Oak Tree News....

..Year 7 visit the farm... Youth Politique Day at Sunderland University... engineering success... promoting language learning.... Y11 prom... welcome new students... ski trip... Lanehead visit... World Challenge... and much more.

If you would like any further information about the activities and events reported please contact Caroline McHale, Director of Community Services on 01642353637 or caroline.mchale@stockton.gov.uk