



Devizes School

A Sports College

DECEMBER 2009



Arts Week - 9th - 12th November

Arts week is an opportunity for all the creative arts: Drama, Dance, Music and Art and Design to celebrate the talent that there is within the school and build up an awareness of what goes on to other students not yet involved in the arts.

This year proved to be a great success with each evening activity offering a mix of the arts. Monday night had the 'Musician of the Year' finalist competition which was won by Helen Pettersson, Year 11, on her violin and giving us an exciting performance of 'Cossacks Dance'. The runner up was Molly Downey, Year 10, who sang a haunting version of 'Wonderful World'. The senior vocal group also performed for the first time and we then moved into the hall for some dances devised by Year 10 GCSE groups and AS work.



Helen Pettersson - 11SWW

Continued on Page 3.....

TERM 2 WILL FINISH AT 12.30PM ON THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2009

Governors decide to proceed with Vertical Tutoring

The governors have decided by a large majority to proceed with the principle of introducing vertical tutoring. After a long debate at their scheduled board meeting on November 25th which included feedback from staff meetings, a student forum and a parents' forum, the governors decided to approve the idea of introducing vertical tutoring in September 2010. Four representatives from the student forum were invited to take part in the long and detailed governors debate on the subject which lasted until after 9p.m.

The governors were insistent, however, that the school should continue to seek the views of staff and students in the detailed planning and implementation of this important development.

The students were informed of this decision in a series of co-ordinated House assemblies the next morning. Senior staff were keen to explain how the school wanted to continue to engage in healthy discussions about how to introduce vertical tutoring to maximise the benefits and minimise the concerns that had been expressed by people in the pre-decision stage.

Over the next few months I will be working closely with senior colleagues to ensure that we work with staff and students to ensure that the system that we design at Devizes School is as good as it can be and to help the school become a more cohesive and happier place to live and learn in.

Mr M Irons - Headteacher

Diary Dates

- **Year 11 Mock Exams**
7th - 15th December
- **6th Form Inter-House**
Wednesday 9th December
- **Year 9 Parents' Evening**
Thursday 10th December
4.00pm
- **Carol Concert**
St James' Church -
Monday 14th December -
7.00pm
- **6th Form Presentation Evening**
Tuesday 15th December -
7.00pm
- **Last Day of Term 2**
Thursday 17th December
12.30pm
- **Year 7 & Year 8 French Christmas Market Trip**
Friday 18th December
- **First Day of Term 3**
Monday 4th January
- **Year 10 Plas Pencelli Trip**
3rd - 8th January 2010
- **Diploma Roadshow**
14th January 2010 6pm
- **KS4 Options Evening**
21st January 2010 7pm

Carol Concert

The Carol Concert will now be held on

**Monday
14th December at
7.00pm at
St James' Church**

All welcome
We look forward to



Year 9 Options

Between now and the 10th February, all Year 9 students will be making their choices for what they will study in Year 10 and 11. To ensure that all students make an informed and guided choice there are a number of events and activities. This is an important time when parents, tutors and teachers need to work together to ensure that each student is supported to make the right choices. There are a number of key dates to be aware of over the next few months:



Date	Event
24th Nov 09	Careers and Enterprise Day - Yr 9 considered options for their future
10th Dec 09	Year 9 Parents Evening – Parents and students meeting subject teachers
8th & 10th Dec 09	Year 9 Assemblies focused on Options and *Diploma
	Christmas Holiday
5th Jan 10	Options booklet sent home
Week commencing 4th Jan 10	Options Assembly to all Year 9 and single lesson to support guidance of students
14th Jan 10	*Diploma Evening to interested students and parents
19th Jan 10	*Diploma Roadshow for Yr 9 students interested in CM Diploma
Week commencing 21st Jan 10	Options Evening: Parents and students have chance to talk to teachers about Year 10 options
3th Feb 10	Learning Review Day Parents and students meet with tutors
10th Feb 10	Option form deadline Deadline for option choices form

*The Diploma Evening and Roadshow will support students and parents to understand the new Diploma on offer (see below).

The school is committed to ensuring that all students are informed and guided to pick the correct options and pathways for them so that every student feels and achieves success by the end of Year 11 and are able to progress to sixth form, college, further training or employment.

Brand new Creative and Media Diploma to be delivered at Devizes School



The school will be delivering the new Creative and Media Diploma from September 2010 for a group of Year 9 students who will be in Year 10.

This is an exciting new qualification for students who will be able devote around one and half days per week in Year 10 and 11 to gain a creative and media diploma that is worth 7 GCSEs. The Diploma will take up the time of three option blocks and allow blocks of time for students to focus on subjects like Drama, English, Dance and Music. The key difference is that these students will work on a project basis that prepares them for work within the creative and media industry. The diploma is a level 2 qualification that balances rigorous academic elements with more work related approaches to learning and is suitable for students who are going to achieve A* to C at GCSE. The Creative and Media students would complete the normal core in Year 10 and 11 that includes English, Maths, Science, etc. and also a further option subject. These students will be able to progress to the Level 3 diploma or to take up normal AS subjects in Year 12.

The successful delivery of the Creative and Media diploma will pave the way for other Diplomas to be offered to Year 10 and 12 over the next few years. These could include: Sport and Active Leisure, Business Administration and Finance and IT.

Dr D Nicholls - Deputy Head

NEW! Devizes School Magazine

News 

The Ink Pot 

The Beez Kneez 

Thanks to the hard work of the Creative and Media Writing Club and Mr Mullings, we are proud to present the launch of the new Devizes School Magazine. The students have worked together to design the look of the website and the three different areas, as well as writing all of the content themselves. This is an online magazine, written by pupils for pupils! If you want to join the writing team or have a good idea for a new section, please contact Miss Barnes in M2 or ICT Support. View it now at: <http://magazine.devizeschool.co.uk>

Miss L Barnes - English Department

Arts Week - 9th - 12th November - Continued from page 1

Tuesday was Gifted & Talented evening, bringing together all of the most promising actors, dancers and musicians. This was an enjoyable and varied evening with G&T drama students devising their own performances with the guidance of Vicky Scipio and Fraser Normington, based on the 9/11 terrorist attack.

The Year 9 G&T dancers performed work choreographed by the A2 students after only practicing together for a few weeks. On Wednesday evening, 40 people packed into the Drama Studio for the 'ACT OFF' competition, in which a student had the opportunity to win a place in the next school production. Drama students performed some outstanding Monologues and Duologues, including the winner of last years ACT OFF, Anna North, performing a monologue from 'Road'. The evening was won by Grace Farrell, Year 9, who completely won the audience over with her improvised performance.

As well as the evening activities there were open workshops for students to try their hand at street dancing, Drama or 'Sing Star'.



By Libby Keen - 13SJL

Throughout the week the Art department organised a display of student work and here are some examples...

A big thank you to all students and staff involved in making this a really successful week.

Mrs A Hodder
Subject Leader of Music



By Charlotte Linney 10ELD

Key Stage 3 Awards Evening - Thursday 8th October 2009



The annual Key Stage 3 Awards Evening celebrates students' success from all aspects of school life. Students who had achieved the highest attainment or made the largest improvement last year in each subject were recognised through a series of awards in front of a packed audience of proud parents, teachers and school governors. The evening began with some beautiful singing by some of the school's outstanding musical stars and students also presented an informative account of the school's newly introduced 'Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme'.

Quotes from two of the prize winners are:

"It was a fun evening and it has built my confidence Greatly." (**Ben Cottrell**)

"A successful evening all round."
(**Emily Hutchinson**)

The achievements of over 90 students were celebrated during the evening, including community awards to recognise the achievements of students outside of the classroom.

Pictured are some of the overall winners who are:
Alana Coltart, Emily Hutchinson, Ben Cottrell,
Maddie Pearce, Jamie Thomas, Rebecca Hanney
and Yazmin Russ.



Miss S Marshall - Assistant Head



INSPIRATION

IN SPORT
We want to be
inspired to
do well.

IN SCHOOL
We want to set a
good example
to younger pupils
and classmates.



Imagine you are in a PE
lesson and you lack the
confidence to participate.
Your friends need to be
able to inspire you to take
the first step.



By Hannah Robertson

Respect Posters - Inspiration

This term's Poster is 'Inspiration'. This poster was designed by Hannah Robertson, 10SXB and is the focus in classrooms and assemblies and is displayed this term all around the school.



EXTENDED SCHOOLS SUBSIDY FUND



*Have you been impacted by the recent economic downturn?
Would you appreciate some financial support to help pay for your children's clubs
and activities?
Your children may be entitled to some money to help pay for fun stuff*

Families are entitled to this subsidy if they are in receipt of one of the following benefits: Free School Meals, Job Seekers Allowance, Income Support, Working Tax Credits, Disability element of the Working Tax Credits, Incapacity Allowance, Housing Benefit, Local Housing Allowance or Council Tax Benefit.

We also have discretion to give grants to families who are struggling to pay for activities due to recent redundancy or a severe reduction in earnings.

The money can be used to pay for transport home or the cost of clubs at school. It can also be used to pay for activities outside of school – such as courses at the leisure centre, membership of sports clubs – netball, rugby or football, army cadets, scouts, and music, dance or drama lessons. It can even be used to pay for activities that run during the holidays.

Letters informing you of this scheme went out a while ago, please check with your child. If this has not surfaced in your home please do not hesitate to contact me at the school for more information.

This is a fantastic opportunity don't miss out on what you are entitled too!

Mrs S Davis - Extended Services Coordinator

English Department News - Single Sex Classes



The Department have been trialling some single sex groups in Year 8, 10 & 11. Recent research has suggested that students achieve better in English if they are taught in this way. The school standards minister has said that single-sex classes could mean pupils were less likely to be distracted and would be more confident in lessons. He cited a four-year Cambridge University study that found sharp improvements in a mixed school that swapped to single-sex lessons. Both boys and girls did better and the gender gap usually evident at GCSE was not observed.

Class 11En7, Mrs Carpenter's group, have been all boys since the start of Year 10. Student voice from the group seems to support the findings – students say they feel more confident asking for help and giving presentations. All the students in the group have achieved very pleasing results with their coursework folders and have even got their teeth into the Literature poetry successfully. Some have written their own poetry and song lyrics.

Jake Grover and Dayle Stewart, students from 11En7, analysed two challenging lines of GCSE poetry and wrote this paragraph together before sharing it with the class:



Carol Ann Duffy and Simon Armitage both use metaphors in their poems to describe their relationships with their parents. This is shown in the lines: “Your ghost clatters toward me over George Square” and “Anchor Kite.” The first metaphor suggests that how her mother used to be before Duffy was born is just a memory. It shows that her mother was a glamorous person by saying your ghost clatters, as in high heels clattering along the road. It can also suggest that her mum has now changed and is no longer the person she used to be.

On the other hand, in ‘Mother any Distance’, Simon Armitage describes his relationship with his mother as a bond that can’t be broken. He has now got to the point in his life that he would like to move on and no longer live off his mother. Although it suggests in the metaphor that he doesn’t know whether he’s ready or not. The metaphor can suggest that his mother is trying to keep him pinned down and doesn’t want him to fail, she’s also giving him the opportunity to “fly”. The metaphor can also link to the last line, “to fall or fly” as the anchor can be pulling him down but the kite resembles him making it on his own.

This is a superbly detailed analysis of two lines of poetry and reflects the standard of discussion 11En7 boys have lead around the challenges of poetry. It will be interesting to see if students achieve beyond their potential when the results are out next summer.

Trips:

In Term 1, Year 13 English students joined with Drama to see a production of ‘Othello’ in Portsmouth on a trip organised by Mr MacFarlane. It was a great opportunity to see the exam text in performance.

In Term 2, Mr Leigh organised an exciting trip to see Willy Russell’s ‘Blood Brothers’, a GCSE Literature coursework text on 3rd December at Swindon’s Wyvern Theatre.

Coming up in Term 3 - ‘Poetry Live’ for all Gifted and Talented and able GCSE students at the Forum in Bath. See the GCSE poets perform and discuss ideas with them.

Mrs H Carpenter - Subject Leader of English

Introducing your Parent Support Adviser (PSA)

Your Parent Support Adviser (PSA) – Michele Riley – is based at Devizes School to support parents of pupils at Devizes School.

The role of PSA involves:

- Providing information, support and advice
- Signposting and referrals to other agencies
- Providing transition information to parents
- Providing access to parenting groups
- Promoting family learning

You can contact Michele by leaving a message with the school reception or at the 'drop-in' sessions (to be advertised shortly). Michele will also be available at Parents' Evenings and other events at the school.

Biography:

Michele is a mother of four – two have been through secondary education, one is currently in secondary education and one is currently in primary education. Michele has youth and community work training and experience with a bias towards health, particularly sexual health, substance use and smoking cessation, and has some experience of facilitating parenting groups. She is looking forward to supporting parents at Devizes School as they, alongside the school, support their young people in reaching their full potential.

Mrs M Riley - Parent Support Advisor



Careers and Enterprise Day

Careers and Enterprise Day on the 24th November 2009 saw the whole school engage in enterprise learning, planning for the future and preparing to be successful in exams. Led by Year Teams the day provided an excellent range of activities for all students.

Year 7	Enterprise Learning: The Egg Challenge.
Year 8	Enterprise Learning: The Apprentice
Year 9	Options and Careers
Year 10	Preparation for Work Experience
Year 11	Revision Techniques and future Pathways
6 th Form	How to be a successful sixth form student



Particular highlights included the two enterprise challenges in Year 7 and 8 where students and tutors were using an enterprise learning approach to plan and deliver a product.

The Year 7 students were particularly successful in designing protection for "intrepid" eggs and Year 8 delivered "Apprentice-style" pitches to impress the judges in their attempt to design new signs for subject areas.

Year 9 considered options and careers, whilst Year 10 prepared for their work experience. Year 11 were supported by 'Maximize' to prepare for and be successful in exams and received information about possible pathways they could take after Year 11. In addition the Sixth Form had learning review sessions that supported their reflection on their progress and to plan for the January exams.

There were some very good outcomes for students who continue to be supported and encouraged to be more enterprising, creative and effective self managers.

Dr D Nicholls - Deputy Head

Senior Mathematical Challenge - November 2009

In November, some of our Year 11, 12 and 13 students took the UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge. Certificates were awarded to the following:-

Silver

Danny Vallis
Matthew Wiltshire
Amy Pearce
Chris Mowatt
Harriet Kinderman
Samantha Hiscock
William Hector
Rory Wiltshire

Bronze

Patrick Russell
Michael Wraw
Andrew Bills
Jack Wicks
Joseph Hutchinson
Joseph Downey
Thomas Taylor
Milo Edwards



Best in school was awarded to Danny Vallis. Well done and thank you to all those who took part.

Mrs C Fisher - Teacher of Maths

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge 2009

A team of four 6th Form Further Mathematicians travelled to Hardenhuish School to compete in the Bath and Wiltshire Heat of this national Competition. There were 20 schools competing to qualify for the National Finals, over three extremely challenging rounds. After the team round, the Devizes team were in the leading group, and despite a great effort in rounds 2 and 3, they were unable to keep up with the eventual winners from Dauntsey's School.

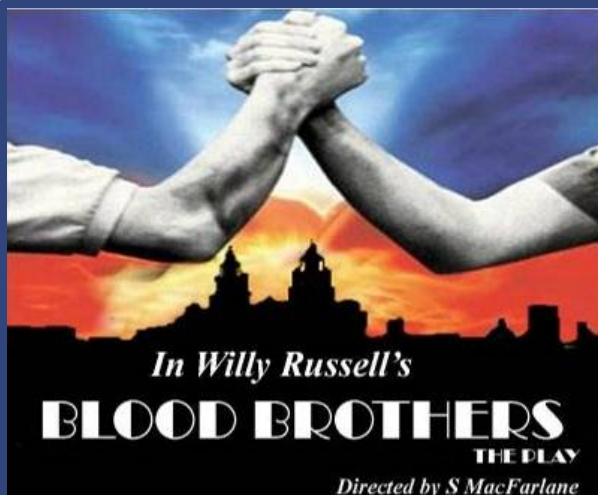
Overall, the boys finished a very creditable 9th and were the third highest place state school; a real achievement. The team was made up of Matthew Wiltshire, Joe Downey, Michael Wraw and Jack Wicks. This event is run by the UK Mathematics Trust, and the Further Maths Support Programme. Below are a couple of typical problems they had to solve.

A small prize for any student who can explain their solution to Mr Farr in the Maths Department:

A van travels from Leeds to Trowbridge with an average speed of 50 kilometres per hour. What average speed does it need to achieve on the return journey to make the average speed for the whole journey 60 kilometres per hour?

The product of five consecutive integers is 360 360. What is the mean of the integers ?

Mr G Farr - Subject Leader of Mathematics



**Devizes School's production of
BLOOD BROTHERS is being staged
on 17th & 18th December 2009**

Tickets are on sale in ST1, break and lunch times

Tickets £4:00
Concessions £3:00

Alternatively please contact the school on
01380 724886

Devizes Sixth Form Football Vs Ladymead School

Devizes School Sixth Form showed promise following their 5-1 demolition of Ladymead School in the National Cup. Glynn Rowles opened the scoring with a silky left footed strike from the edge of the area after catching the keeper off balance. The second goal quickly followed after a saved shot from Scott Stroud gave Jordan Dixon the opportunity to lob the keeper. However Tom "the poacher" Mason saw uncertainty in the strike and slid the ball in on the line to seal Devizes' second. After some solid defending from Matt Pearce and Matt Russell and some vital sliding tackles from Ashton Schorah, Devizes were gifted their third goal; a long throw from Glynn Rowles gave Jordan Dixon the opportunity to beat the defender and slide the ball home. The rest of the half was very much one way. The visitors pushed hard and tested the keeper, Joe Waterman with some easy strikes. However Devizes continued to punish the weaker links with quick one two play between Chris Webb, Josh Cooper and Jordan Dixon. Several close opportunities for Stroud and a free kick from Chris Webb continued to put the visitors on the back foot. Glynn Rowles doubled his tally in the second half after another fine shot outside the area was driven to the top right corner and Scott finally got his goal he wanted after he met the ball with his head. Devizes fell asleep in the final minutes and the visitors were awarded a consolation goal.



Final score - Devizes 'All-star Elite' Sixth Form Squad 5 - Ladymead 1

Jordan Dixon - 13NAC



DODGEBALL

This year the PE Department have introduced Dodgeball into the OSHL programme and some PE lessons. It has been an instant success!! We have already played one fixture against Rowdeford School and are planning a Dodgeball day during National School Sports Week. Watch this space for more information....

Andrew Ramsier, 10SYB had this to say about it....

"Dodgeball means any game in which players try to hit other players with balls and avoid being hit. We like to play Dodgeball as it is fun and it gives you an adrenalin rush. It also keeps us out of trouble on the field. It is a good way of staying active and gives us a break from all of our studies. We find it a good way of burning off our energy and it reduces stress levels. We first started playing Dodgeball a while ago (even in primary school) and we would not like to give it up now! Some of us also do it in PE lessons, which is also very enjoyable".



If you would like to try Dodgeball, please see Mr Cocks or look out for posters advertising Term 3 OSHL clubs.

Mr P Cocks - Deputy Subject Leader of PE

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