



Written & Produced by the students of The Hollins Technology College

Tower Wood

In March 2009, 35 Year 7 & 8 pupils took part in a team building trip to the Tower Wood outdoor education centre. It is situated at the foot of Lake Windermere in the Lake District. Pupils took part in a number of land and water based activities including tree climbing, abseiling, raft building, problem solving and caving. Everybody who went was absolutely exhausted but had a great time. Tower Wood is perfect for people who love adrenaline-pumping, outdoor action – if you get the chance - give it a try!



Let's get cooking

A new and exciting activity for pupils and their families in Food Technology. The opportunity to cook new and tasty meals together. Look out for the invitation coming home soon.



Hollins recognised as a High Performing Specialist School.



In 2008 we achieved our best ever GCSE results with 60% of students achieving 5 or more A*-C grades, including English and maths, against a national average of 46% and from an intake whose Key Stage 2 results were significantly below national averages. This led to the school being designated a **High Performing Specialist School** and we have become a **Leading Edge School** from April this year.

In 2007 the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust published a **list of the top 56 specialist schools NATIONALLY** which achieved a much better result than would have been predicted from their intake at age eleven, on the value added measure based on their students gaining at least five good GCSEs or equivalent, including English and maths GCSEs. **We were joint 29th on that list**, the only school in Lancashire, with only two schools featuring from the entire North West of England.

In 2006 we were recognised as the **"2nd most improved nationally"** in terms of the % of students achieving 5 or more A*-C grades, including English and maths.

The **Leading Edge Partnership Programme** is a distinctive programme designed to enable groups of schools to work together to develop innovation and improve pupil outcomes in KS3 and KS4. Schools in the Partnership will engage in organising activities for staff and pupils and will be sharing good practice and effective learning and teaching methodologies in order to raise achievement further across all our four partner schools.

We are very excited at the opportunities this presents and feel it will make a real difference to our already outstanding achievements.

Due to the pressures of GCSEs and other activities in school, most of our Hi-Tech reporters are relinquishing their roles to younger members of the school. For this edition the 'old' reporters have mentored the 'new', staff would like to thank them for all their past work and congratulate the new team on their contribution to this newsletter.

Old Team:	New Team:
Iram Akhtar	Leah Corris
Shahana Ali	Sean McCumskey
Matthew Gregson	Nicole Brand
Jake Holdroyd	Lorna Abbott
Rachel Butterworth	Jessica Smalley
Lee Caldecott	Paige Yates
Ashley McLoughlin	Jack Sledden
Haleema Rehman	Robert Houghton
Robert Evans	Hana Yousaf
	Rukeya Mahmood

Greg Pope with Hollins Technology College

On Friday 5th June 2009 a class of students spent a lesson with Greg Pope MP discussing politics and law.



92 students were given a chance to talk to Greg Pope in person after writing debate letters for our English lesson on lowering the voting age to

16. This was only a practise coursework piece therefore it wasn't a real situation, however my English teacher had arranged for Greg Pope to come into school and talk to us about his point of view on the matter and also to discuss what is happening in parliament.

The class were very excited about meeting Greg Pope and had a lot of interesting questions to ask him, surprisingly the first thing he talked about was football. This gave a bond between our class and boosted the children's confidence in asking him more questions because we realised Mr Pope was in fact easy to get on with and not at all posh and strict like we expected him to be. He said himself, "just call me Greg." He made friends with the class and treated them like responsible adults, additionally the class asked mature and responsible questions. The main topics we talked about were the Prime Minister and his response to the issues we're facing and also what people think of his responses. Furthermore we conversed about which party he thinks will get into power next. Our class also asked some questions that would never be in the newspaper like "Which football team do you support?" and things like "If you could change 3 things in your life, what would they be?" Greg Pope was very relaxed and gave his personal opinions in detail on the questions we asked. Of course we also wanted to know the important answer to "What was his personal view on the matter of lowering the voting age to 16?" He told us that in his opinion it was a good idea to lower the voting age because 16 year olds are able to get married and pay taxes so it would give them responsibility. As well as that, Mr Pope argued that some people aged 18 and above know little about politics and most children of the younger generation know much more about what's going on around UK and in the government. He believes that the younger people have really good ideas about improvements being made and he feels that it's their right to put those ideas into action.

Overall, everyone in the class enjoyed the visit and they all thought he was very funny, friendly and on the whole a nice person. His ideas as a MP are also good and will help to improve our local area.
QingQing Guo

Science Students Storm to Victory!



Congratulations to a team of five Year 7 pupils who recently won the Accrington Science Challenge Trophy hosted by St Christopher's School. Samantha Pollard & Darcy Powell

gave a biology presentation about the heart and the problems that are caused by the condition 'hole in the heart'. Ben Evans tackled the chemistry element with a presentation on 'Rates of Reaction' and Tommy Hardman & Ciaran Berry used their physics knowledge to demonstrate lightning with the help of a Van de Graaff generator.

The team was competing against a strong field of pupils from Years 8 & 9, so did extremely well to come away with the winners' trophy!

Pupils Shine in Modular Exam

Year 9 science students James Jarvis, Aaron Dowling and Ceejay Kok all received A* grades in the first module of their GCSE triple science exam.



This year, for the first time, Year 9 Set 1 pupils are taking early entry, GCSE triple science over Years 9, 10 and 11.

Spelling Bee



On Thursday 26th March, Miss Forbes took four, very brave pupils to a national spelling bee. Organised by the Times newspaper, the local heats took place in Warrington.

Although Aneesa Ahmed, George Gibson, Billy Hasler-Cregg and Pierce Kearns didn't make it past this stage, they all did very well.

Miss Forbes said, "The pupils worked so hard towards this competition, I was so proud of the effort they put in to the lead up and the actual heats. I will definitely enter another group next year."

The heats consisted of two challenges; quick fire and knock out. In the quick fire round, the contestants had to spell as many words as they could in three minutes and in the knock out round the contestants had to spell words one after another. As the words got progressively more difficult, more and more people got knocked out until Billy Hasler-Cregg was the last person still standing, therefore winning that challenge.

The contestants practised for the competition on www.timespellingbee.co.uk. Anybody can go to this website, play games and collect points to improve their own spelling.

Design for George at Asda Competition

Textile students Qing Qing Guo, Molly Hudson & Gabi O'Neill walked away with three of the main prizes in the 'Design for George' final competition at Burnley Football Ground on Wednesday 10th June. The competition which was run by Burnley College and Asda, wanted students to produce their garments to be worn by professional models on the day.



Key Stage 3 students were asked to design a T-shirt. The entrants were
 Qing Qing Guo
 Molly Hudson
 Alex Pearson
 Samera Shahid
 Grace Ward



1st prize was awarded to **Qing Qing Guo** and 2nd Prize went to **Molly Hudson**.

The other Key Stage 4 students were challenged to design an outfit, source the fabrics and make up the final product.

The entrants in this category were:

Maryam Talib
 Tamzin Riches
 Gabrielle O'Neill



Gabi O'Neill won 3rd place overall in this category. The winning design will be manufactured and sold in Asda stores. All the winners received a trophy and vouchers, congratulations to everyone who took part, there were lots of stunning entries.

Schools out for the Summer... Or is it?

For most of us the 17th of July marks the end of the busy school year, but for some pupils 'Summer School' is where they will be.

From the 20th - 24th July, 9am - 1pm those children (Year 5 & 6) will come to The Hollins Technology College for a taster of what life will be like in Year 7.

The theme for this year is Eco Schools and how we can minimise our impact on the environment.

Activities include:-

- Trip to Preston Eco Centre
- A cycle ride
- Mosaic artwork for the schools garden
- And workshops based on science and English

We hope that this will be a fun introduction to The Hollins and make the move to high school easier for our new pupils.

National Eco-Competition

On the 15th of March 2009, our school competed in the national nPower Green SOS competition to win funding in order to build a new eco-garden. Pupils in Year 8 became Climate Cops and worked with Mrs Johnstone and Miss Furey to look at our eco needs at The Hollins. The Climate Cops created a video, with the aid of Mr Stockburn, to send to the eco-schools competition judges illustrating our need for an outdoor classroom.



Our school got through to the final which was held in London, after being given the opportunity to travel up to the Lake District and spend a week at Ullswater Outward Bound Centre.

Overall, during the competition we raised £3,500 going towards our outdoor classroom. The money will go towards building an outside area for pupils at The Hollins. We spoke to Mrs Johnstone, one of the teachers who led the competition. She told us, "It was hard work as a teacher, but I know the pupils really enjoyed the competition."



In order to fulfil all the plans that we made, we would be grateful for any fundraising ideas, offers of help or donations. Please contact Mrs Johnstone in school.



Activity Days

Yes it's that time of year again, where pupils and staff have the opportunity to take part in lots of fun activities both in and out of school. The Activity Days, that are taking place on the 15th and 16th of July, are fast approaching.

You should all by now have signed up for an activity for each day and if you haven't already done so you need to as soon as possible!

Some of the activities this year include ice skating, mosaic art, hiking and laser quest.

Remember to bring everything you will need each day including wearing appropriate clothing for the activities that you are doing - no uniforms needed!



KS4 rewards scheme!

The Hollins Technology College is proud and excited to reveal its new KS4 rewards scheme!

The idea is that pupils can collect signatures from their teachers for any good work



that they do whether it is in school or out of school. The big incentive is that there is a prize draw every half term with two £100 prizes and two £25 prizes to be won!!

You can be awarded a signature for a variety of things a few examples of which are listed below:

- Successfully completing work experience
- Being a carer
- Completing a sponsored activity
- Producing an excellent piece of coursework

So get collecting now!

Year 10 Work Experience

On the 27th of April, all Year 10 pupils were out of school completing their two weeks of work experience. This is a valuable experience that all employers look for, but the experience is also meant to be enjoyable as well as important. To get an idea how it went, and how the Year 10s were feeling, we asked some of them about it. These were the responses:

1. Where did you go?

J: *To Baxenden Dental Practise.*

R: *I worked at Peel Park Primary School, in the reception class.*

2. What tasks/jobs did you do?

J: *Because you need to be qualified, I mostly just watched the processes, but I did help with the x-rays, recording people on the computer records, or calling for them when it was their turn.*

R: *I had to listen to children read, I help them write sentences, got activities ready, with art and painting etc.*

3. What 'skills' were you required to use?

J: *For me, it was mainly communication, whether I was calling patients or receiving instructions from my supervisors. It was really important to have good communication skills.*

R: *Same here, really. Communication was a big thing, as well as the ability to problem solve and improvise, and the ability to use your initiative when you have been asked to do something.*

4. Did you enjoy it?

J: *Yes, but because my hours were fantastically short, everyone was nice to me, and I think I learned a lot. [laughs] It did get a bit boring though sometimes when there was nothing I could help with...*

R: *Yes, I found it really interesting to see how much work the teachers do 'behind the scenes' to make lessons a success. To me, it felt a little bit like being at home, looking after and ordering about my two little brothers, only it was a class of thirty of them!*

5. Finally, were you glad to return to school, or in the end did you prefer work?

J: *I liked work better, as it felt less demanding (no deadlines and such!), and also I enjoyed having a longer dinner break!*

R: *At the moment, I'd say work as well- no exams there!*

So as you can begin to see from these two accounts, work experience is a mixed bag: sometimes it can be boring, other times it can be exciting. But one thing's for sure- it's nothing like you've ever experienced before.

Hyndburn & Ribble Valley Schools' District Cup Winners!

On Friday 8th May 2009 at the Fraser Eagle Stadium, home of Accrington Stanley, the Hyndburn & Ribble Valley Schools League Cup Final was played. It was a tense game between the Hollins Technology College and Ribblesdale School.

In the opening fifteen minutes the teams were pretty evenly matched, both having a couple of good chances. As the game progressed Hollins began to dominate with an outstanding performance towards the end of the first half.

Hollins continued their good form into the second half with a fantastic build up by Joe Leeming which set up Rohail Iqbal for the only goal of the match.

As the game drew to a close Ribblesdale pushed on which brought Nat Dickenson into play to pull off some amazing saves, giving him Man of the Match and a great winning performance for The Hollins.

Final Score 1 - 0

Report by Andrew Eaton Y10

