

Written & Produced by the students of The Hollins Technology College

Outstanding Achievement

The GCSE results at The Hollins continue to be exceptional and go from strength to strength making us not only one of the highest achieving schools in Lancashire but also in the U.K.

In 2006 on the government's Gold Standard (achieving 5 or more A*-C grades including English and Maths) we were recognised as the second most improved school, nationally.

In 2007, the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust published a list of the top 56 specialist schools NATIONALLY which achieved a much better result in 2007 than would have been predicted from their intake at age eleven. This was on the basis of 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.

The results in 2008 were the best ever and saw the school officially recognised as a High Performing Specialist School and from April 2009 we have become a Leading Edge School, leading a partnership with four schools in the east of Lancashire to provide better outcomes for all our students.

Certainly our Leavers in 2009 had a tough act to follow – national recognition for our KS4 achievements in the previous three years!

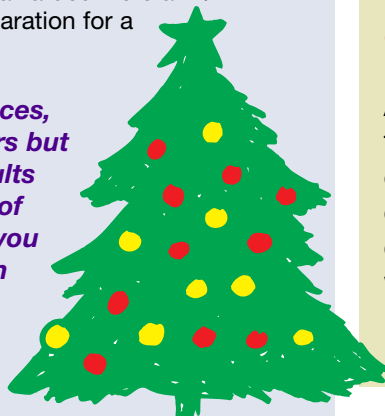
But follow it they did! This year's GCSE results have been our best ever on every key measure! A truly remarkable achievement.

76% of students achieved the Government bench mark of 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C, well above the national average for all schools in England and Wales.

What is particularly pleasing is that 62% of our young people achieved this 5 A*-C yardstick including a Grade C or above in English and Maths, compared to 47% nationally. When progress between the ages of 11 and 16 are taken into account it puts us in the top 1% of schools (ie within the top 30 in the UK).

69% of students achieved a grade C or better in Maths and 75% a grade C or better in English Language. 37% of students achieved at least 3 A/A* and more than 1 in 5 of all grades awarded were at A/A* - a remarkable achievement and excellent preparation for a successful career.

There were some exceptional performances, including a number of very high achievers but also from a number of pupils whose results did not feature in the league tables, but of whom we are equally proud. As long as you do the best you possibly can, no-one can ask any more.



Year 10 Enterprise Day



On Thursday, 22nd October, Year 10 pupils took part in the annual Enterprise Day, hosted by Lancashire Education Business Partnership. The teams had to design an eco-friendly challenge and assign roles to complete their tasks. They then had to create a presentation of their ideas, including their thoughts about the environment and present this to the judges.



Prizes were awarded to the following students:



Best Managing Director
- Laura Walker

Most Creative Pupil
- Alex Pearson

Most Enterprising Pupil
- Alan Holliday

Most Hard-Working Pupil
- Liam Richmond.

An excellent day was enjoyed by all the students. The EBP and the employer ambassadors commented on the exceptional motivation and commitment of the pupils together with the high standard of presentations.



Supporting our Soldiers

Congratulations to all pupils who helped to put together 128 shoes boxes filled with festive goodies for our brave troops fighting out in Afghanistan. The boxes were delivered by Mr McClinton to a warehouse in Bingley, Yorkshire and are being shipped out as we go to press.

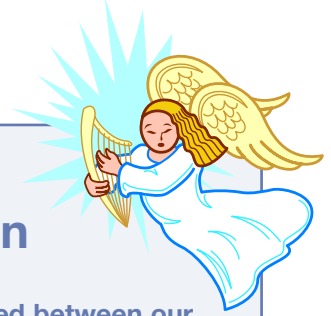


All year groups took part with special mention going to year 8 who contributed 94 of the boxes, with 49 of these being

donated by two students Hayley and Olivia Brown. The girls got both of their parents involved and staff at their places of work donated items which the girls then organised into boxes—well done girls!



Gifted and Talented Inter-Schools Competition



In January 2010 a competition will be launched between our students and four other High Schools who are part of our Leading Edge Partnership. The other competing schools are:- Sir John Thursby, Rhyddings, Mount Carmel and Norden.

This is an on-going competition that will last throughout the year involving Years 7 to 9. The first round of the competition will take place at Rhyddings at the end of January and is a University Challenge style quiz. There will be a selection process to decide on our best team during early January then the hard work really begins for our chosen team as they prepare for the challenge! As always we want every pupil in The Hollins to get on board. So keep your ear to the ground for further information on how to get involved. With all your support hopefully The Hollins will come out champions!!

Wear It Pink Day

Friday 23rd October was 'Wear it Pink Day' when pupils and staff paid 50p to wear anything pink to school.

'Wear it Pink' raises funds for Breast Cancer Care and Breast Cancer Research which are two of the charities chosen by our School Council. The majority of pupils got into the spirit of the event and some superb outfits were spotted throughout the day!

In addition we held a number of break and lunch activities to increase donations including selling Breast Cancer pin badges, selling pink lemonade & pink cakes to pink nail painting.

The day was great fun and raised over £600 for the charities.

Picture shows Mrs Penny Berisford (Breast Cancer Care) receiving a cheque from Year 7 pupils.



School Council

This year's School Council has been elected with one representative from each form in every year group. The full Council has 32 members which meets 2-3 times a term. There is also an executive committee which meets every Friday morning in the LRC and leads the School Council.

Minutes and dates of meetings are posted on the 'School Council Noticeboard' outside the LRC and also on the school website www.thehollins.com (under pupils).

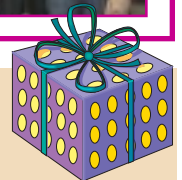
Committee members are:

Abby Cunningham (7KMU)
Luis Stevenson (8LKE)
Paige Yates (9HST)
Vicky Austin (10NTA)
Paige McIlroy (11NJO)

Events organized this term were:

Soldiers' boxes
Wear it pink
Buddy room for younger pupils

During the last week of term a Christmas Disco will be held with any profits going to the NSPCC.





Going Green Growing Greens!



The Hollins pupils will soon have the opportunity to grow their own vegetables down on our own school allotment thanks to the efforts of the Eco-School Council and the Citizenship department.

As you may be aware, we have had to put the plans for the school garden on hold until we know more about plans to redevelop our school buildings through the Building Schools for the Future programme.



We have managed to secure an allotment on Ley Street and hope to be able to transfer all the offers of help we received for our garden, to this site.

Plans are being finalised and it is hoped that pupils will soon be able to start work with the help of local environmental group PROSPECTS (which is a community owned charity, working for lasting environmental change in Hyndburn) and other members of the community.

One of the first jobs will be to build some raised beds for growing produce. In time it is hoped that the produce grown may supply the school kitchens or surplus may be sold. There are also plans to involve the families in getting green fingered, by means of our extended schools programme



If parents, carers or friends have any relevant tools, equipment or waterproof clothing that they would be willing to donate to school for this project, they would be gratefully received. Also the experience and volunteer time of any parents or carers would be great. Please contact Mrs Murry (Head of RE and Citizenship) in school.

Our Headteacher went to China!

Mr Jackson and Mrs Holden got a unique opportunity to visit China over the half term break. In total there were 31 people from 18 Lancashire and 3 Isle of Man schools on the visit.



What was it like in China?

It was a very, very, very interesting place. We were able to visit a number of schools, colleges and universities, as well as tourist sites with the chance to soak up some of the magnificent culture.

Why did you go?

We went to compare and contrast the two education systems, looking at significant similarities and differences, and also to witness their rapidly expanding economy, which in 10 years time is predicted to be the largest in the world. This will have a huge impact across the world and will undoubtedly affect the work prospects of UK pupils.



How did you cope with the language?

It was very difficult. Just the change of tone in their speech implies different meanings. The people that we met were very good at understanding written English, but they did struggle with the spoken word. Fortunately, we had an interpreter to help us.



What would be your memorable moment?

Two things:

- 1. We were treated as VIPs when we were travelling, especially when we visited a college in Shunde, it was like being David Beckham! Everyone wanted to speak to us, bands played and everyone made a huge fuss of us all.*
- 2. The Great Wall of China, it was an awesome sight, even though we had an idea of what to expect, the scale and steepness of the section we visited was amazing.*

Where did you travel to in China?

We spent 5 days in Beijing (capital), it is a very exciting, modern city. We then travelled over night to Xian where we saw the Terracotta Warriors. Finally we went to Shunde near Hong Kong and spent 3 days there before flying home.

Did you have a good time and would you go there again?

We had a fantastic time. They were extremely long days because we were travelling early each day and going to bed late at night. The Chinese students have incredibly long days, starting at 7.30am till 12.00pm, 2.00pm till 5.00pm then 7.00pm till 9.30pm!

I would love to go back and have more free time.

This trip will influence some changes here at The Hollins. The following ideas are being considered:

- Raising our students awareness of the impact China will have on all our lives and the possibility of studying Chinese at university either on its own or in conjunction with another subjects eg. Business Studies with Chinese. The University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) has a very strong Chinese language department.*
- A Confucius classroom – this may be a facility shared with partner schools where pupils are given access to all things Chinese, including language skills, culture, customs and links with Chinese communities.*
- Setting up pen friends with Chinese pupils.*
- The possibility of some pupils having the chance to see China for themselves, with an ambitious project being planned by UCLAN to take 150 students in the summer of 2010 or 2011.*



Leading Edge Status



The Hollins has been a Technology College since 2001, when we became the first Specialist School in Hyndburn. There is no doubt that Technology College status has helped us improve considerably over the last 9 years and continues to play a major part in our school's development.

As a consequence of our outstanding examination results over the past few years, we were officially recognised by the DCSF as a High Performing Specialist School and were eligible to apply for a second specialism. We were successfully designated a Leading Edge school from 1 April 2009. Leading Edge status gives us many opportunities to make the school an even better place to learn, bringing extra funding for developing equipment and facilities, and giving us the opportunity to work with other schools and share ideas, benefiting all involved.



Sporting Success!



The Hollins athletics team celebrated, yet again, winning the Hyndburn & Ribble Valley Athletics Championship, for the 17th year in succession thanks to the dedication of all participating pupils and staff.

The behaviour and effort from the pupils was exceptional they all worked extremely hard and reaped their rewards.

The next competition will be the Hyndburn & Ribble Valley Cross-Country event which will be held at St. Christopher's but due to the horrible wet weather recently it has been postponed.

It has been very hard for the staff to pick the team this year, with a very strong field from Year 8 & 9 girls, but the PE staff have every confidence in the students' capabilities. Our Year 7 pupils have great potential – so watch this space!

Good luck to everyone representing school in the various sports competitions, leagues and tournaments!

The main school sports awards for Key Stage 4 pupils last year were as follows:

INTER SCHOOLS' COMPETITIONS

(Hyndburn & Ribble Valley Schools)

Athletics:

- HRVS Girls' Field Event Champion (TSB Trophy)
- HRVS Boys' Field Event Champion (TSB Trophy)
- HRVS Girls' Track Event Champion (HRVS Shield)
- HRVS Overall Girls' Champion (William Brownbill Shield)
- HRVS Overall Boys' Champion (Granville Slack Shield)

- Hyndburn Schools Girls' Champion (Hyndburn Shield)
- Hyndburn Schools Boys' Champion (Hyndburn Shield)
- HRVS Overall Girls' Champion (National & Provincial Trophy)
- HRVS Overall Boys' Champion (National & Provincial Trophy)

HYNDBURN / RIBBLE VALLEY

Andrew Eaton played football for Hyndburn & Ribble Valley

COUNTY: LANCASHIRE

Ben Swindells played cricket for Lancashire.

SPORTS TROPHIES

Audrey Cooper Trophy for Commitment to Sport
Melanie Evans

Cherie Hughes Award for Best Sporting Attitude
Ben Swindells



Extended Services

We are in the process of developing our extended services provision, which will include a wide range of activities and services aimed at supporting and motivating young people, their families and the wider community.

Waqar Ahmed, Extended Schools Coordinator, has been in post since September working with our students and our primary feeder schools to improve the variety of activities and services available to local families.



Activities this term have included:

**Wheels within Wheels
Cohesion through
Creativity
Nail Art**

Coming Soon:

**Kickboxing
Radio Production Training**

For more details see Waqar Ahmed in school.



Hi-Tech Team Reporters:

- Jessica Smalley
- Sean McCumskay
- Lorna Abbott
- Paige Yates