



Christmas Fayre

Christmas came early to The Hollins on Saturday 29th November when we held our first Christmas Fayre.

We were delighted to see so many pupils, staff, family & friends lend their support to make the day enjoyable and successful. There was something for everyone with lots of festive stalls selling crafts, cards, cakes, gifts, books & games. Many people tested their skill on the games and activities and tried their luck on the tombolas and raffle, whilst the younger children visited Santa in his grotto.

There was a wide range of refreshments, including mulled wine, mince pies & hotdogs to be enjoyed whilst enjoying the live musical entertainment from 'About Time', a local band, three of whom are members of staff.

A huge thank you needs to be passed on to Mrs White and Mrs Anderson who both dedicated an enormous amount of their own time into making the day a great success. The total raised on the day was approximately £1500!



SATS update

Year 9 pupils are no longer required by the DCSF to take SATs in English, maths and science at the end of Key stage 3. All subjects will continue to provide an 'End of Key stage 3 Level' at the end of year 9, which is reported formally to the government.

At The Hollins we already regularly assess the achievement and progress of all pupils and report this termly to parents. In the core subjects in 2009, Year 9 pupils will be levelled through internal, blanket tests and assessments in English and maths, whilst in science the pupils will sit the SATs test papers which will be marked internally to give a final level.

We welcome the flexibility this will bring to the school to concentrate on wider skills in preparation for GCSE without the need to 'just drill' pupils for a test.

Snow Queen...

Presented to you by The Hollins Music Theatre Club (MTC), is the spectacular musical 'Snow Queen', a Hans Christian Anderson fairytale. This play is about a young girl whose brother was taken away by the evil Snow Queen, and is now her quest to find and save him before it is too late!!! Don't miss your chance to witness this fantastic performance on Monday 15th December 2008 in the hall at 6.30pm. Tickets are now on sale; £1 per child and OAP's and £2 per adult and a family ticket at £5 which will admit 2 adults & 2 children.

Mrs Sarwar Design Technology Graphics

Q. How do you feel about working at the Hollins?

The Hollins Technology College is a very welcoming school where both pupils and teachers are willing to help one another.

Q. Any advice that you would give to new comers at the Hollins?

Don't hesitate to ask for help and guidance from anyone. There are always people willing to help.

Q. What is the biggest challenge you've faced since being with us?

Remembering both pupils' and staff members' names!

Q. Any ambitions to bring forward for your area in school?

I would like to bring the subject of graphics more up to date through further developing the use of technology.

Miss Pilkington PE Department

Q. How do you feel about working at the Hollins?

Great staff, great kids, good school. I feel I've fitted in quite well.

Q. Any advice that you would give to new comers at the Hollins?

To relax and enjoy yourself.

Q. What is the biggest challenge you've faced since being with us?

The sports facilities are a big challenge because I'm used to teaching in a sports hall, but it's been great because I've had to adapt my planning to suit. The weather has also been challenging.

Q. Any ambitions to bring forward for your area in school?

A variety of clubs to suit all needs and interests and maintain sporting success.

Mrs Mason Assistant Head of PE

Q. How are you finding your new job?

I am really enjoying my new job at the Hollins, all the staff and pupils are great and I have got a lovely year 7 form.

Q. First impressions of the Hollins?

I came to the Hollins as a pupil. It's not changed that much and so it was not totally new to me.

Q. Previous jobs?

This is my second teaching job, my first was at a school in Manchester.

Q. Perks of your career?

I love teaching PE because it was something I really enjoyed at school and wanted to carry it on as a career.

Q. What do you think is our best feature as a school?

This year at the HRVS athletics I was amazed at the team spirit all pupils showed. All pupils involved, encouraged and supported each other. It was really nice to see the older pupils helping the younger ones

Q. Extra involvement with school?

I am involved in netball and football clubs and after Christmas I will be setting up a trampolining club.

Hi-Tech

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Written and produced by the students of The Hollins Technology College.

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PRESENTATION EVENING

On 11th November the 'Class of 2008' students returned to The Hollins to receive their GCSE certificates and collect awards for their outstanding achievement and effort.

The school's best ever GCSE results of 69% 5 A*-C grades and 60% including English and maths were celebrated with all pupils commended by Mr Jackson for their outstanding hard work and dedication.

Our guest speaker, Mr Cyril Williams, was equally impressed and as an ex advisor to the school was delighted at the exceptional achievement of pupils, the rapid progress made by the school and the dedication of the staff.



Young Writers

At the end of last term Miss Forbes's English class (7x1) entered the Young Writers' Poetry Competition. The topic was 'Talkin' 'Bout My Generation.' The pupils had to write about things that happen in their life and what they think about it. The winning entries were published in a book and sixteen pupils from The Hollins had their work published. The resulting book may be borrowed from the school library. We are very proud of these pupils. Well Done!

Here is one of the sample poems...

My Generation

*Time is my generation,
It's all so lovely.
Like all generations,
Or am I just lucky?*

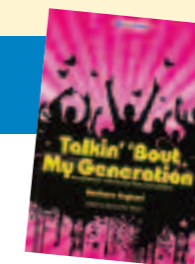
*My family's so great,
My friends are so nice.
I love my whole life,
I could live it twice.*

*My life is so free,
My school's lots of fun.
I love my whole life,
I love it a ton.*

*My generation's so great, I'm really proud.
To have lived in these years,
I could shout it out loud.*

*Time in my generation,
It's all so lovely.
Like all generations,
I am really lucky.*

Brooke Dionne Murray (12)



pupil of the month..

September 2008

Pupil of the Month for September was a shared award between two pupils from Year 7, Macauley Brown and Xavier Leamey. These two young men were awarded certificates in their Year Assembly for showing great honesty and integrity when they found a substantial amount of cash in school and handed it in to reception, much to the relief of the other young man who had lost it!



October 2008

Congratulations to Kenny Riley (Year 11) who won 'Pupil of the Month' for his commitment and caring attitude as an SEN prefect and buddy. He received a number of nominations for "going the extra mile" and has carried out duties "way beyond the call of duty". Kenny was awarded his certificate by Mrs Ferguson in Year 11 assembly.



November 2008

Pupil of the Month for November goes to Raqeeb Arif (Year 8) for outstanding improvement in English. In the fifteen months since he started at The Hollins his hard work has shown a five year improvement in his reading age, he has moved into a higher ability teaching group and is a helpful and pleasant member of the pupil librarian team.



Hi Tech Reporters on this issue:

- Rachel Butterworth
- Lee Caldecott
- David Cormack
- Robert Evans
- Matthew Gregson
- Jake Holdroyd
- Alan Holliday
- Ashley McLoughlin
- Beth Pilling
- Haleema Rehman

If you love writing, could conduct interviews or take pictures about life at The Hollins, you may have what it takes to be a Hi Tech reporter. Interested? Speak to Mrs Heys or Mrs Ainsworth about joining our newsletter team.

Authors Meet at Bodwelyan Castle

Congratulations to June-Marie Jolly & Shannon Jackson in Year 8 who won 1st & 3rd prizes respectively in a writing competition run by Random House Children's Books. The task, to write a short, ghost story was set by local author Joseph Delaney when pupils met him last term.



Joseph's award winning series 'The Wardstone Chronicles' tell the adventures of Tom Ward, a young spook's apprentice, who travels The County protecting its inhabitants from ghosts, ghouls, witches and bogbarts. The books have proved immensely popular with pupils and staff and have an extra interest as The County is based on Lancashire, see how many places you can identify!

Shannon's prize was a signed copy of Joseph's latest book, 'The Spook's Mistake' whilst June-Marie travelled with her mum in November, to meet Joseph for a day out at Bodelwyddan Castle in Wales. The castle, which dates back to the 15th century, has been featured on television's 'Most Haunted' series and there are many ghosts said to walk its rooms. Lots of inspiration for both writers! Joseph's books are available to borrow from the LRC or any public library. The winning stories from June & Shannon can be read on Joseph's blog by following the link: <http://www.spooksbooks.com/authorblog>

Go Green SOS Competition

In the Summer a group of our current Year 8 pupils entered an nPower competition 'Climate Cops Green SOS'. The aim was to encourage children throughout the country to 'Go Green'. The task was to identify an environmental problem in their school or community that they thought needed fixing and produce a video detailing the issues. Our pupils' aim was to build an outdoor classroom where pupils will learn about sustainability and recycling. It will also be a space that may be utilised by most departments within school.



Our school managed to create a very successful video which ensured that The Hollins were one of the ten finalists in this national competition.

As finalists The Hollins has received:

- an energy audit
- £1000 to help the team solve their Green SOS
- A video camera to document their progress
- A one day workshop with Metal Dog Media to improve their media skills
- A 'Buzz' training day in London where the pupils met Piers Morgan and received coaching from several green experts
- A five day Green Outward Bound course at Ullswater in the Lake District, where they participated in adventurous experiences and learnt about sustainability and climate change.

On Tuesday 14th November our pupils travelled to The Globe Theatre, London to participate in the Green SOS Buzz Day. They met Piers Morgan and Konnie Huq and received expert help with media interview skills and community engagement.

They now have until next spring to record their ideas and the progress on the project before a panel of judges, including Piers Morgan will pick a winning school and two runners-up who will all receive grants to carry out the changes they identified in their SOS videos. Good luck to all those finalists in Year 8!

booked up



If you are in Year 7 then you will have received a free book through the national 'Booked Up' scheme run by 'Booktrust' and supported by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Each Year 7 pupil chooses from a selection of 13 books. The book is yours to keep, but when you've finished it you may wish to swap with someone else in your year and read another from the list. There is a swap board in the LRC (Learning Resource Centre).

However, if you read your book, and you enjoyed it, and you really want to tell other people about it then this is your chance. The editorial team are looking for a new member to join us in creating this great newsletter. It couldn't be easier!



All you have to do is review your book and give your review to Mrs. Ainsworth in the LRC. The review which the newsletter team deems the best will earn the reviewer a place on our team!

So good luck and get reviewing!

School and Year Councils

This year things have changed regarding the School Council. In recent years it used to just be a School Council but this year we have a School Council which deals with matters in school, and a Year Council which deals with all the fundraising.



However, the Year Council doesn't just organise the entire fundraising as a whole, they organise the fundraising for their year group. For instance, there is a different charity for each year group to raise money for, and each year group gets to choose their charity (except for year 9 who always fundraise for "The Bethany Project").

The Year Council is made up of two people from each form group and from there two people are elected to go forward to the School Council.

As well as this there is also a Youth Council run by the local community which deals with everything in the Hyndburn area. To be on the Youth Council you have to go to New Era on a Tuesday 4-6pm or see Miss Furey.

This year our charities are:

- Year 7 Animal charities (RSPCA and Hyndburn stray dogs)
- Year 8 Children's charities (NSPCC and Children in Need)
- Year 9 The Bethany Project
- Year 10 The New Children's Hospital Manchester & a cancer charity
- Year 11 Comic Relief

CHARITY RAISING IN 2008
This year we have raised just over £3700

75 mile sponsored walk	£556
Children in Need	£460
Eid Disco	£135
charity walk	£200- £300
Citizenship Enterprise Day	£500
Summer Fair	£1000
Accrington Pals Chapel	£170
CLIC Sargent	£400
Valentine Disco	£216
Cancer Research	£100



Snooker and Functional Skills Trip

The recent snooker trip was a great success as our Aim Higher students had a fantastic time meeting and playing snooker with Steve Davis, six times World Snooker Champion, also known as 'Steve Interesting Davis'. The snooker star signed pictures and cues which were given to all pupils. Three pupils, Jodie Dreslin, Mariam Talib and Tariqul Islam were winners in the literacy tasks and won an ipod shuffle, £40 vouchers and a sound system. There were various snooker knockout competitions and the subsequent winners played against Steve. Everyone who went said it was a fantastic trip and great fun. The festival is run by The Paul Hunter Foundation and The North West Training Group in memory of Paul Hunter, a professional snooker player, who sadly died of cancer at the age of 27.

Lille Christmas Markets

At midnight on Tuesday 16th December pupils from Years 8-10 will be leaving school and travelling to Lille, France. They will arrive on Wednesday morning and will be able to experience a new culture, along with Miss Larkin, Mrs Hemissi, Mr Jackson and Mrs Dougan.



The pupils on the trip will then experience a guided tour of Lille, shop at the Christmas market, and dine and sleep at the hotel/restaurant Hotel le Colibri. The next day they will visit the local hypermarket and practise their French skills.



Everyone is keenly anticipating the trip, especially Miss Larkin and Mrs Dougan who say "It looks set to be, yet another tiring but fantastic trip, to the beautiful city of Lille, at a magical time of the year!"

R.E Wedding

On Thursday 13th November 2008 the class of 10X1 celebrated the wedding of Natalie Oldham and Akbar Hussain in Miss Furey's class.



The classroom was set up like a real church; this included the vicar, bridesmaids, best man and guests. The wedding then began, with readings from the bible. Eventually, the couple exchanged vows (but didn't kiss!) Miss Furey nearly shed a tear.

We wish them a long and happy married life. Only joking, this wasn't a real wedding but an example of a Christian wedding.



10X1 had a great time and according to Miss Furey, they're all going to get excellent GCSE grades.