

## School Council

It is with a tear in my eye that I have to say farewell to the outgoing School Council members who worked so hard last year to improve the school, act as role models for other pupils and raise an enormous amount of money for charity. The whole school joined in with 'Wear it Pink' day in October raising over £600 for Breast Cancer Care and it seemed that it was the boys who enjoyed the pink theme and nail painting more than the girls! Later charity events included non uniform days in aid of the NSPCC, an Easter bonnet parade for the Disaster Emergency Committee and of course Red Nose Day.

In February this year our pupils joined up with pupils from Heysham High School to perform a presentation on the issue of community cohesion in front of some very important people at County Hall in Preston. The two schools had been working together since November as part of the Lancashire School Voice's project which sought to find out the real views of young people growing up in Lancashire today. Our pupils incorporated music, drama, comedy and some very insightful observations about what it means to be British. It was without doubt the best presentation out of all of the twelve schools and Jonny Savage was even asked to be on Radio Lancashire! The pupils and staff forged lasting friendships and really showed the other schools how it should be done!

## Getting Ready For the World of Work

Our Year 10s had a hectic few weeks at the end of last term, preparing them for when they leave The Hollins.

All pupils attended a mock interview on June 7th. The interviewers were professional people from local businesses and colleges of further education who kindly gave their time to question and guide our pupils through the interview process.

Prior to attending the interview pupils had to complete an application form and a personal statement to send to their interviewer. The whole process was quite nerve racking but a great experience and essential practice for future college and job applications.



Following on from this, there was the work experience week in July where Year 10 had the opportunity to spend a week in the workplace. Pupils worked anywhere from nurseries and primary schools to shops and offices. This is a valuable experience and everyone got something out of the week – even if it meant that they changed their ideas of what they wanted to do in life!

### WELL DONE YEAR 10S AND AS OUR CURRENT YEAR 11, HERE'S TO ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

We were also lucky to welcome two Global X-Change volunteers from Sri Lanka and their British counterpart who came to assist in school with raising our cultural awareness. They did a fantastic job, attending meetings and organising (with the help of many people in school) the first Culturefest which saw a record number of people learning about faith, culture and generally having a fantastic time.

Later in the year, School Council were keen to raise awareness about issues of homelessness and help raise money for SafeSpace, a homeless charity for 16-25 year olds in Lancashire. We hosted a workshop with staff and residents from the project meeting all of our pupils to share their experiences and gain a better

understanding of why young people can end up without a place to call home. The session was sometimes emotional but always enjoyable and the pupils in school raised over £500 on a special end of year charity day.

As well as this, school council has continued to influence improvements in school which include a Buddy room for younger pupils, changes to the queuing systems at lunch and making our school a nicer place to be.

What will they do this year? The new council elections have just taken place and the pupils are shaping up to be the best yet...watch this space to find out!

Miss Furey



## Sports Day Success

School Sports Day ran smoothly (despite the weather forecast we avoided the rain!) and saw a large number of pupils taking part and representing their house. Congratulations to Bowland who came out as overall winners. Individual accolades go to Charlotte Bolton who broke two records on the track (100 and 200m) and Hasnain Ehsan breaking the long and triple jump school records.

## Farewell to The Aim Higher Initiative

For several years now the Aim Higher initiative has provided opportunities for many of our pupils to experience higher education.

They have funded trips to universities, provided revision workshops and funded whole year group performances to aid our pupils in considering what their future holds.

The scheme itself will be sorely missed but will continue providing opportunities for our pupils via funds received by the school.



## Hollins Sports Stars

It has been another successful year for The Hollins' Sports Teams. This year saw the introduction of a Girls' Football League. Our Year 7 girls' team finished 3rd overall in their league and in both their tournaments. The Year 8/9 team finished 5th overall in their league and in their tournament. The girls had a fantastic time playing and were a credit to the school; teachers from other schools commented on how well they behaved.

### GIRLS FOOTBALLERS OF THE YEAR

Nicole Alderson and Gemma Goodwin.

The netball teams this year made good progress and some teams ended the season as one of the best teams in Hyndburn.

### NETBALL PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Year 7 Ella Aldred-Aymen  
Year 8 Saffron Barnes-Fullalove  
Year 9 Hayley Brown  
Year 10 Sophia Borwick  
Year 11 Vikki Austin

The boys' football also made good progress. The year 7s won the Championship Division, whilst the year 9s held their own in the Premier League.

### BOYS' FOOTBALLERS OF THE YEAR

Year 7 Joseph Lloyd  
Year 8 Josh Greenall  
Year 9 Perry Jepson  
Year 10 Tom Cornthwaite

The introduction of a Hyndburn Ribble Valley Volleyball Competition has seen The Hollins have a successful time as runners up for both years in the girls and boys competitions.

The Hyndburn Ribble Valley Inter School Athletics competition was held in June. We had number of individual successes; Hasnain Ehsan winning the year 7 boys individual award, whilst Charlotte Bolton and Ellen Sagar- Hesketh collected their awards for the year 8 and 10 respectively. Once again we were Hyndburn Champions and 2nd overall so well done to those involved.



These include funding for Duke of Edinburgh award, leadership opportunities, astronomy GCSE and this newsletter itself! Aim Higher have also given us a trophy to award at Presentation Evening to further recognise our pupils' achievements.



# thevoice

Newsletter of The Hollins Technology College

SEPTEMBER 2011

## Mr Campbell – The Interview

Here at The Hollins Technology College we have an exciting year ahead with many changes to look forward to. Without doubt the main change is the arrival of our new headteacher Mr Campbell, along with a new deputy headteacher, Mrs Haydock, and a new assistant headteacher, Miss Finney. But with so many staff changes it is understandable that some people are a little unsure of what to expect this coming year. Therefore here at The Voice we took the opportunity to ask Mr Campbell the questions that you want the answers to and here is what we found out.

### Why did you apply to be the headteacher at The Hollins Technology College?

I've been a deputy headteacher for the last five years and when The Hollins job came up I felt it was the ideal opportunity to become a headteacher at what is already a very good school.

### Are you intending to make any changes to the school?

Not straight away. I don't believe in changing things that are working very well already. The school is already very good, I'd rather get feedback from pupils and staff, see how the systems work and then make decisions with the rest of the senior management team about any changes.

### Why did you want to leave your old school?

It's not a case of wanting to leave but more a case of wanting a new challenge as a headteacher rather than a deputy. I feel that over the last five years as a deputy headteacher I have learnt the skills needed to be a good headteacher.

### What makes you a good leader?

I listen to people and consider peoples point of view, but I will take tough decisions if needed. I am a people person and am happy to make decisions but will seek advice and other opinions if needed.

### What were your first impressions of The Hollins?

I had heard very good things about The Hollins before coming here and when I visited everything I had heard proved to be true. There is a very good atmosphere, it seems to be a very happy and cohesive school where everyone works together and gets along. All of this leads to the success of the school.

### If you had a super-power what would it be?

I would have the ability to de-materialise and reappear somewhere else instantly. It would help me keep an eye on pupils here and shorten travelling times when going on holiday!

### Which celebrity inspires you?

That's a difficult one. The two words of celebrity and inspire don't really go together as a lot of celebrities are only in it for the money which isn't particularly inspiring. I do admire any person who uses their celebrity for good causes like Lenny Henry for Comic Relief or Bob Geldof who organised Live Aid to help other people.



## STOP PRESS!

## Best Exam Results Ever!

Fantastic news! This summer saw the best ever exam results in the history of The Hollins Technology College.

- 65% of students got 5 A\*-C grades including English and maths.

- 80% of students got 5 A\*-C grades.
- 32% of students got 3 or more A\*/A grades.
- 18% of all grades awarded were A\* or A.

A massive well done to all students and staff on these amazing results. Year 11, your challenge is to beat these results...

Can you do it?

"Strive to Succeed"

The Hollins Technology College

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## Seeing Stars!

Last year students in years 8 and 9 were given the fantastic opportunity to gain a GCSE earlier than usual in Astronomy. There was so much interest in this that a number of teachers decided to join in too!



The course consisted of weekly lessons held every Thursday after school. As the work became more intense and the coursework deadline approached Mr Heys who ran the course also put on extra lessons at lunchtimes to help pupils.

The exam took place on the 9th of June. A last minute revision lesson was put on before the exam to ease peoples nerves, then pupils and teachers alike headed off to the hall to complete the exam. Results day was on the 25th August and the Year 8s achieved a fabulous 5 B grades at GCSE. This is a fantastic achievement that can hopefully be matched this year too!



## New Name, New Look, New Team!

You may have noticed that we have changed the look and the name of the School Newsletter. 'The Voice' is your newsletter and we encourage anyone who wants to come and join our team to see either Mrs Ainsworth in the LRC or Mrs Heys in maths. Equally if you have a good idea for an article let us know. The newsletter team work hard to produce the articles that are relevant to you and if you want to be part of it come and join in!

This edition of the 'The Voice' has been produced by:- Sanna Azam, Sameera Zahur, Chloe Edwards, Kimberley Fielding, Shay Fagan, Keeley Holliday, Nicola Grundy and Chloe Farrell. With thanks to all those who helped with editing.

## CERN

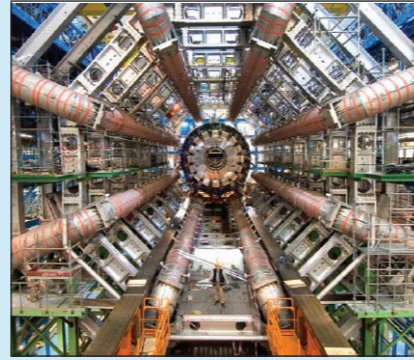
by Chloe Farrell (Year 7)

I had an interview with The Hollins Technology College Science Teacher Mrs. Shervey. I asked some questions about a place called CERN.

Mrs. Shervey visited CERN in February half term with other teachers from all over the UK. Located at CERN is the Large Hadron Collider which has been nicknamed "the big bang machine". It is 27km in circumference and is underground spanning the borders of Switzerland and France.

It accelerates particles to 99.99% of the speed of light and bashes them together in large detectors. The hope is that data collected will help us to understand what matter was like a billionth of a second after the big bang. After all as Mrs. Shervey pointed out we don't even know what the universe is made of! We can only see about 4% of it and the rest is mysterious dark matter and dark energy.

Mrs Shervey had an amazing experience at CERN and is now hoping to take a few GCSE pupils there next Easter so they can experience Science at its best.



## The Times National Spelling Bee Competition 2011

This is a national spelling competition organised by The Times newspaper involving hundreds of different schools. This year's participants for The Hollins Technology College were Shannon Smalley, George Polvani, Addison Wood and Erin Threlfall aka 'The Buzzers'. The regional round of the Spelling Bee took place on Wednesday 11th May and it was held at Cineworld in Bolton. The Hollins Technology College has been competing for the last three years and this year we achieved our best results.



The competition comprises of two challenges the first one is 'The Spelling Play-Off': this is where the contestants from each team take it in turns to spell a word. If they spelt their word right they gain two points, if they spelt it wrong they were eliminated.

The second round is called 'The Quick-Fire Challenge'. The aim here is for the team to spell as many words correctly in two minutes. Tactics played a part here, as each team had to decide if they spell easy (1 point), medium (2 points) or hard (3 points) words.

The Hollins Technology College came third out of eight schools with 53 points, and were a point away from second. Miss Forbes said "It was the most nail biting, nerve-wracking competition to watch. They were on their own up there and all I could do was watch and wait". She added, "we are raring to go next year". **Good luck to next year's Spelling Bee Team. Year 7 pupils – it could be YOU!**

Following the success of "The Buzzers" an inter-school Spelling Bee was held at Norden High School. Five local schools competed against each other with The Hollins achieving second place in a very close finish. Well done "The Buzzers"!

## Tower Wood 2011



The Tower Wood trip 2011 took place on Monday 16th May until Wednesday 18th May. As usual the trip was very popular and 50 children from years 7 and 8 set off for an action packed few days.

Team work was a big focus of the trip and the pupils were split into 5 groups of 10 to complete their activities. The days as promised, were full of action including canoeing, waterfall scrambling, sailing, tree climbing and pole scaling! The evenings were as enjoyable as the days with orienteering and a barbecue down by the lake.

Tower Wood is a fantastic opportunity to test yourself, learn new skills and build new friendships. Look out for information for this year's trip in the next edition of 'The Voice'.



## STOP PRESS! Wear it Pink Day

Thursday, 20 Oct 2011

Pupils and staff wear pink attire for the day. Pupils not in uniform - £1 contribution to cancer charity.

## Mrs. Whiteside

This year we will be saying farewell to Mrs. Whiteside our Head of English who has taught at The Hollins for nearly 40 years. During her time here she also directed many drama productions, the most recent being The Dracula Spectacular. She is a wonderful teacher but is now looking forward to some well deserved relaxation.

**Q: How has the Hollins changed in the time you have been here?**

A: "I've seen a great many changes, many to the building itself. Children used to leave school at 15 and the groups were a lot smaller. We used to have a whole school youth club every Thursday which I supported. I also used to direct a school production every year which anyone could audition for."

**Q: What are you looking forward to during your retirement?**

A: Having some time to myself! I'm also looking forward to joining a walking group and learning to scuba dive!

**Q: Who's your favourite author and why?"**

A: "I have many favourite authors. I love books. I like the classical authors: William Shakespeare, Charlotte Bronte and Jane Austin. I also like more modern works by Stephen Fry and J.K. Rowling, Terry Pratchett and Stieg Larsson."

**Q: Why did you choose to teach English?**

A: Because I can't do maths! Basically I like reading and writing more than anything.

**Q: If you could have a superpower what would it be?"**

A: Flying because of the freedom.

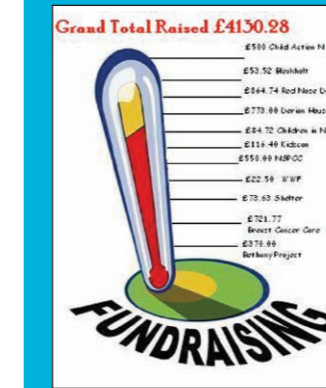
Mrs Whiteside will be finishing what she has started, as she returns to guide her final year 11 pupils to their GCSE exam next summer.

## Fundraising Fanatics

At The Hollins we pride ourselves on being aware of the people around us and that not everyone is as lucky as we are. It is important for us to not only recognise this but to do something about it. Working together as a school we have raised more than £4100 over the last year for numerous charities including Breast Cancer, RSPCA and Comic Relief to name but a few.



The School Council lead by Miss Furey has been instrumental in making this happen by organising and taking part in events such as 'Wear a Hat to School Day', organising boxes for soldiers to be sent to Iraq, Non Uniform Days, Sports Relief sponsored events and the year 9 Enterprise Day. If you are interested in becoming a school councillor look out for details which will be displayed around school early in the autumn term. Take part and make a difference!



## Summer School 2011

During the first week of the summer holidays, whilst many of you were enjoying long lie ins and lazy days in the sunshine, up to 60 of our new year 7s were hard at work at the Summer School.

Classes were organised on by our teachers to help the pupils become familiar with the school, make new friendship groups and of course get to know some of the staff.

Pupils enjoyed workshops on T-shirt making, alternative nursery rhymes, model making and a crime scene investigation. The hard work during the week was rewarded by a trip to Camelot Theme Park on the Friday where staff and pupils had a great time.

## Let's Hear it for the Girls!

This year also saw the introduction of a 'Girls' Week' (for the female pupils in the school), in partnership with the Food Technology Department to encourage pupils to adopt healthy, active lifestyles and to generally celebrate the greatness of being a girl!

There was a variety of activities after school and during lunch which ranged from Zumba, healthy eating to self defence. The girls had a great time and enjoyed taking part in different activities, with staff joining in on occasion too!

## Video Conference with India

As part of our work with Face to Faith our 8X2 pupils did a live video conference with D.A.V Public School in Delhi, India. The video conference gave pupils the opportunity to learn what life is like in India and how it compares to their life in the UK.

Both schools discussed what they see, hear and smell on their journeys to school, what they do in their spare time, what they like about school and what inspires them and their actions. The pupils will do a follow up video conference with the same school next year to discuss the similarities and differences between their lives in September. The video conference gave the pupils an opportunity to reflect on their lives, learn about the lives of others and develop their presentation skills and their confidence.

