

Witherslack Hall School

Newsletter

Spring 2011
Issue 43



Ofsted's evaluation of the school

You will all have received a copy of the final published report which confirms that "Witherslack Hall fully meets its aims, meets all of the requirements for registration and provides **outstanding** education and boarding for students." We achieved the 'outstanding' judgement in every area of the school and I am especially proud of the boys' achievements reflected by the 'outstanding' judgement about *how well pupils make progress in their learning and the behaviour of pupils*. Well done boys and staff. T McIntosh Head Teacher

Charity Fundraising Produces Fantastic Response The fantastic response to our most recent fundraising efforts means the school has now purchased a full 'Community First Responders' pack of emergency life support equipment. We set about raising funds in support of the Lyth Valley First Responders Group back in the spring of 2010. Staff and pupils have been involved in a variety of activities including raffles, coffee mornings and cake sales. We have made bird nest boxes to sell at school and in the Witherslack Community Shop, we recently spent an afternoon at our local Morrisons store packing bags, and we were well supported by parents and visitors to school, during our annual open day where we sold refreshments, bird nest boxes and bedding plants. All-in-all our efforts have raised over £600.



The pack of equipment will be officially presented to the local CFR group after the Easter holidays, however it is already available for use should a medical emergency occur. The equipment is to be kept at school during term times and at a local address during holiday times. J Kneale-Jones

WORLD BOOK DAY To celebrate this year's World Book Day, Witherslack Hall School took time out from the usual curriculum to do something a little different...



"Extreme Reading" competition" The day started with an extreme reading competition. After being exposed to some rather funny pictures of staff members indulging in extreme reading, pupils voted for the best photograph. There were photos of adults reading on a mountain, in a brewery, in the Trafford Centre, on top of Hoad Monument, in a tree, and on the school roof to name but a few!

"Dress in character!" From Captain Flint and a band of pirates to the evil Mrs Coulter (complete with golden monkey), from James Bond to Manga characters... many of the education team had great fun dressing as a character from a novel for the day.

"Go Digital" In the ICT suite, pupils had a chance to go online and investigate the WBD teenage Digi-Tale site and enter one of the fantastic competitions. They made their own stories or tried the quizzes after watching videos and extracts from this year's free books (read by famous authors and actors). There was even time to play games!



By recording all the birds they saw and heard in the school grounds, pupils did their bit to help the BTO make this year's Bird Atlas. Throughout the day each tutor group collected tokens for taking part in the activities. Each activity was rated differently and the group that collected the most tokens by the end of the day won the opportunity to select a set of new books for the School Library. Well done to 10S - we look forward to reading your selection. It was a memorable day and everyone seemed to enjoy it. (If you haven't seen the photographs yet, make sure you do!) Already, many pupils have been asking if we can do it all again next year. Let's hope so! S Bray

Senior Football - We have maintained our competitive streak again this season with the league going down to the wire with our final game against Crookhey Hall in the new term. We have built on the scrappy performances at the start of the season with true grit and character, carving out results for the team with Thanasi and Ricky controlling the new face of our centre midfield pairing.

We have introduced a number of new players to the team this season in Jake, Aiden, PJ, Lewis & Johnny, all keen to earn their place and represent the school. With the conclusion to the season approaching the top goal scorer trophy is up for grabs with a couple of players in contention for the honour which will be presented on Open Day. S Brown

Shane's New Belt

Whether you want to improve your fitness, build confidence, learn self defence or simply have fun and make new friends; Taekwondo has something to offer you. Shane has been doing TaeKwondo for 4 ½ years, training 1 or 2 times per week in Kendal, gaining self-control, discipline and friends.

Along the way he has gained belts and he now wears a converted Black belt. Following hard work and dedication Shane has achieved this accolade at the age of 17. He has also entered various competitions winning trophies and medals. A big well done! C Dart



Sights Set High on New Eco-schools Targets



Following last term's success on becoming a Green Flag Eco-school, our action team are now planning projects for the next two years. Our long term goal is to become an ambassador eco-school, which would be no small achievement were we to realise it; currently there are no schools anywhere in the country who have gained ambassador status, so we are really setting our sights high.

Over the coming months, alongside continuing to build up our eco friendly culture at Witherslack, we will also be developing new projects, including working with Natural England on one of their Environmentally Sensitive Area schemes in the Duddon Valley. We are developing a new partnership with the Freshwater Biological Association, based on the banks of Lake Windermere where we will be studying aquatic life in microscopic detail, and following the success of our previous partnership with the RSPB at Leighton Moss, we have also gone some way with the development of a new

project with them. It is hoped to be able to build an outdoor classroom area at the reserve as part of their redevelopment project. Lots to look forward to with some real challenges.. Many thanks, J Kneale-Jones

Pizza Express School Visit Yet again a very successful visit to Pizza Express. All Year 7,8, and 9 pupils were made welcome at the Kendal Restaurant. The boys were all looked after by Pizza Chef Aneta Malicka who showed them round the kitchens and storage areas, she talked about the strict hygiene standards they observe and demonstrated how to make a pizza for Pizza Express. After the pizzas were cooked boys and staff sat in the restaurant and enjoyed eating their pizza before returning to school. E Saunders



Street dancing is a new activity provided by school. A professional dance instructor attends school once a week to teach the boys the latest moves and styles in the world of street dance. Following T.V programmes such as "Got to Dance "and street dance group "Diversity" our boys have shown huge amounts of enthusiasm and commitment. The dance instructor has praised all the boys for energy, attentiveness and control and they are working towards a performance on Awards Day! K Debyshire



Independent Travel

Congratulations to Logan, Adam, Josh and Thanasi who are now travelling independently home and back to school.

Other pupils are participating in independent travel activities at weekends and during evenings through the week; this is done with the help and support of staff. Pupils have been sourcing train and bus timetables via the internet and planning journeys to various local areas. Pupils are currently gaining a lot of self-confidence in planning these activities and good team work is being achieved. C Potts

The Harvey Cup back at Witherslack

Despite the torrential rain the annual Harvey Cup race went ahead using a lower level course. Ten schools sent teams to compete at senior and junior level. 80 young people competed and Bradley, Alan, Matthew and Josh did really well in the junior race with Bradley being the first boy home from the Witherslack junior team. The senior Witherslack team did brilliantly with Ricky, Wesley, Lewis and Harry arriving home in the top 5 and Anthony and Jordan following closely. The Harvey Cup now sits proudly in the trophy cabinet - a special thank you to Wesley and Ricky who ran their last Harvey Cup race and congratulations to Ricky for being 1st over the line out of all the competitors. L Bland



WHS TABLE TENNIS CLUB

During the Spring term students and staff were competing in the WHS LADDER. Players would challenge those above and try to gain a higher place by beating their opponent. During March students took part in the knockout Trophy. Players competed in preliminary rounds to qualify for the two pool play-offs. The top two from each pool went onto play in the semi-finals. The final was between Adam and Ricky with Adam winning by 2-1. Third place play-off winner was Anthony winning 2-1 against Thanasi. R Johnson

Dates for your Diary

Tues 26th April
Mon 2nd May
9th -12th May
Thurs 26th May
Fri 27th May
Mon 6th June
Mon 6th June
Fri 10th June

Pupils return to school
Theme Day
Work Experience (year 10)
Open Day
School Closes for Half-term
Pupils return to school
GCSE Maths Y11
GCSE Maths Y11

Tue 7th June
Mon 13th June
Thur 16th June
Tue 21st June
Tue 28th June
Wed 20th July
Thurs 21st July
Fri 22nd July

GCSE History Y11
GCSE ICT Y10 & Y11
GCSE ICT Y10
GCSE Maths Y10
GCSE Science Y10 & Y11
Sports Day
Activity Day
School Closes for Summer

Many thanks to the boys and staff for all their hard work this term. On behalf of the boys and staff of Witherslack Hall School, I hope you have a good Spring Break

Ms T McIntosh Head Teacher