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Mangotsfield Newsletter



Issue 9

Newsletter Date: 22 January 2010

Snow Disrupts the Country

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year for 2010. I am sorry that we have had a disrupted start due to the severe weather. I have talked with the Local Authority concerning their changed arrangements for informing you about closure; they are working on their own website. We will now place a notice on the school website and text parents in case of closure. I am sorry that the planned system was so ineffective, and for the disruption this may have caused. Please do have a look at the links that have been placed on the school website to inform you and students about accessing work from home.



Thank you to the many of you who supported Year 11 students at Parents' Evening. Their performance in mock examinations was very good, they out-performed any previous practice examination session. Students then had the opportunity to discuss and plan next steps when they received their mock results during the Year 11 conference last week. Many reported that they are now more clearly prepared to make further improvements. Please watch out for opportunities in Easter Revision Conferences, and for some, sessions during the February half-term.

Thank you for the response so many of you made to the proposed building on the field to the north of the school. I am sure you will hear more of this as the planning goes to appeal. Individual responses will always carry weight in any consideration a planning committee have to make. School Council have been active in meeting the builders and looking into the issues raised by the planned development.

Richard Badley
Headteacher

Tickets on sale now for OLIVER!

Performance Dates: Wednesday 3 February, 7.30 pm
 Thursday 4 February, 7.30 pm
 Friday 5th February, 7.30 pm

£2.50 (children, students and senior citizens), £5.00 (adults)

Tickets on sale at Reception every lunchtime or obtain form from your Tutor and return to Miss Wooltorton or Mrs Gibbs

Bike and the Mechanics

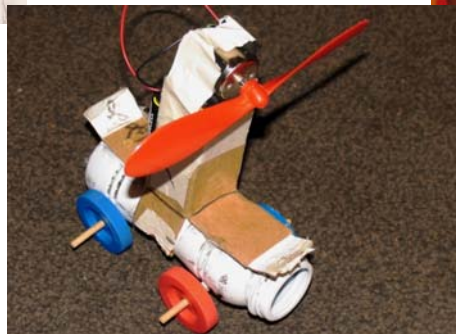
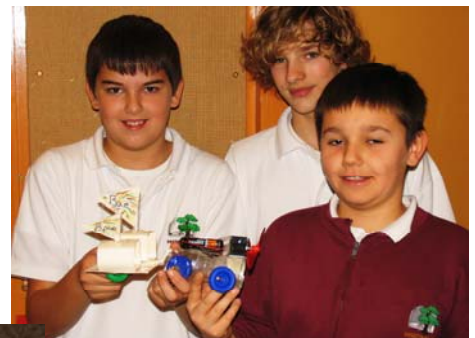


Year 11 engineering students worked hard at the end of last term learning how to service bicycles in the D&T workshops. The LifeCycle charity ran the course for the Level 1 Engineering Diploma unit on maintenance operations. Check out their website for information about training, maintenance, projects, events and maps: www.lifecycleuk.org



Fan-tastic Buggy Races!

Year 8s have been racing electric fan-powered cars they have designed and built themselves this term in D&T lessons. Timed against the clock they have been making their buggies better by reducing wind resistance, increasing power, reducing weight and improving steering accuracy. Some of the cars were very impressive, covering the ground quickly and keeping to a fairly straight line. There were some, however, that were just determined to veer off into the nearest wall for a spectacular crash!



Graphic Art Attack for Year 9

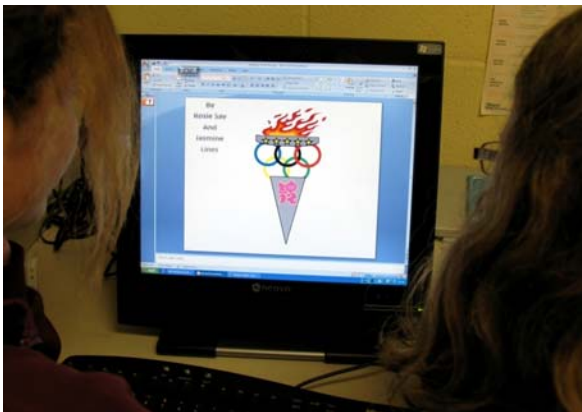
Last term Year 9 students in D&T created designs based on the work of Jon Burgerman, a British artist whose hand drawn characters are often created by drawing one line and then colouring in the spaces. Students were asked to use their first name as the basis of the designs and, using the letters as an outline, fill the interior with colourful characters from their own imaginations, inspired by Burgerman's work. Students came up with some fantastic and bizarre creatures as you can see, and many students put a lot of effort into the project.



Year 9 Options Taster Day

The whole of Year 9 spent a day trying out subjects they can choose to do for GCSEs next year.

In the Engineering department a lesson on design and building gave students experience of what to expect on the Diploma in Engineering course.



Rosie Say and Jasmine Lines work on their design for the 2012 Olympic Games

Year 9 Curriculum Options Evening

We look forward to meeting Parents, Carers and Students at the Year 9 Curriculum Options Evening on Wednesday 27 January 2010.

Programme as follows:

6.30 - 7.00 pm	Briefing in the hall for tutor groups 9.1 – 9. 4
7.00 - 7.45 pm	Tutor groups 9.1 – 9.4 visit subject displays and talk to subject staff
7.15 - 7.45 pm	Briefing in the hall for tutor groups 9.5 – 9. 8
7.45 – 8.30pm	Tutor groups 9.5 – 9.8 visit subject displays and talk to subject staff

The briefing will include information on:-

- 14–19 Progression
- KS4 Curriculum and the choices available
- Sixth Form/Qualifications
- The Options Process and how to complete the options form



**MANGOTSFIELD
SCHOOL
AN ENGINEERING AND
SCIENCE COLLEGE**

Please give any feedback or
articles for later editions to Ms
Terri Chard

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mangotsfieldschool.org.uk

We're on the Web

www.mangotsfieldschool.org.uk

Congratulations to the
following students who
passed music exams in
December:

Wendy Li 9.1
Grade 3 Flute
Pass with Merit.
Abbi Wheeler 9.3
Flute Pass.

YEAR 11 EXAM CONFERENCE

Having been postponed by the snow, we were finally able to run the Exams Success conference last Monday with all Year 11. This event was designed, not only to give students their mock results, but also, and more importantly, to give them the opportunity to spend some time considering those results and how this would impact upon their future choices if these were their actual GCSE results in the summer.

The morning was split into different sessions and students studied their results in relation to their targets, how their results could influence future plans, how they could improve results through school support and revision, and finally how attendance affects exam results and in turn future earnings.

During the event, Year 11 students impressed us with their focus and maturity and we would like to thank them for their feedback which has already convinced us of the value of the event (and the possibility of running a similar event for Year 10), but also meant that we are going to make the sessions more interactive and less power-point next year !

Parents of Year 11 will be receiving the conference booklets soon so please read through these to discuss mock results, future plans and targets for the remainder of the year.

Good luck with revision and coursework.

Reflecting on your Learning in PDC

Recording your learning experiences can provide fresh insights. Reflecting on one learning experience you have had in school this week allows all students at Mangotsfield to recognise how they learn. Within PDC all students, this term, are being encouraged to reflect on their learning by answering a series of questions...

1. Did you consciously recognise it as a learning experience when it happened... or afterwards... or just now?
2. Did you spend time thinking about the learning experience after it happened? Did you think about what you had learned from it or what implications it may have on your learning?
3. What did you do as a result of this experience? Did you research or read into the area concerned? Did you discuss it with friends? Did you apply your learning in another subject?



Learning such as this qualifies as experiential learning because it is 'education that occurs as a direct participation in the events of life' (Smith, 2001). Furthermore, it is learning that is achieved through reflection upon everyday experience and is the way that most of us do our learning.

A learning journal is a technique that will be used in PDC and comprises a collection of notes, observations and thoughts built-up over a period of time. Its purpose is to enhance your learning through the very process of writing and thinking about your learning experiences. Your learning journal is personal to you and will reflect your personality and experiences.

PARENT GOVERNORS

There are currently opportunities for parents to serve as Parent Governors. Please contact me on 01454-862703 if you are interested in knowing more.

Mr Badley