



Teesdale School

Science College and Sixth Form Centre
Spring Newsletter 2008



This term has seen another major improvement in the facilities we have available. At the end of February our new Construction Workshop was handed over to us. This is a unique facility in this part of the county and enables us to offer a high quality vocational GCSE course and ultimately the new Diploma in Construction.



This work will also involve improvement to the Food and Textiles rooms. We hope it will be completed by September.

We will be saying goodbye to two members of staff at Easter. Tim Robertson, in the Science department is moving to Cumbria where he has gained a promoted post as a 14-19 consultant with the Local Authority. Sara Nevin, our financial clerk has also gained a promotion at St. John's school in Bishop Auckland. I'd like to thank them both for their work over the years and wish them well in their new posts.



We are also about to take over the new Virtual Learning Centre. This will provide wireless ICT facilities for independent learning initially for 6th Form but in due course, for all students. This 'state of the art' facility also has an Interactive Whiteboard and Video-conferencing facilities.



Both of these areas were paid for by European funds which the school successfully bid for. In total, they came to over £400,000. Coming on top of the recently built Technology and Drama suites, it means that there has been a huge improvement to the learning environment for many students over the last couple of years.

All of these new facilities will be available for community use, and anyone interested in booking them should contact the school's Business Manager, Colin Cartwright.

Our Learning Support areas have also been very poor to date and I'm delighted to inform you that we have gained funding to re-model part of our three storey block to create a new 'Inclusion' area.

We have two new members of staff joining us at half-term. Wayne Harrison and Robert Aspden will be joining the Science department. They are both experienced and successful teachers and we welcome them to the school.

Our International links are continuing to thrive. We hosted a group of Danish and Belgian students in March and some of our 6th Form will be attending a conference in Belgium in April. We have also received funding from the British Council to enable us to develop a Drama project with our partner school in Annecy in France and the 6th Form are actively looking to support a school in Lesotho.



This has been an unusual Easter in that our holidays fall two weeks after Easter. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the break but also should remind you that for Years 9, 11, 12 and 13, the exams are looming and hope that students in those year groups will put time aside to revise. The exam season starts immediately after the break.

I wish you a pleasant holiday.

Paul Harrison

Year 9 Preparing for SATs night

Wednesday 23rd April
Glaxo Sports and Social Club
7.30pm—10pm

Tickets are available from the school and talks will be given by staff from the Maths, English and Science Departments about SATs, and how best to prepare for them. There will also be an external speaker and students from the school will be performing between the talks.

*School opens for Students
Tuesday 22 April 2008*

National Success for Teesdale Pupil

Jay Smith, currently in his final year in our 6th form, set the languages world alight recently when he won a national competition with an essay linked to his A' level Spanish course.



Jay was invited to London by the Canning House group, where his first prize was announced and presented by Zac Goldsmith, the millionaire environmental campaigner.

Jay has won a return ticket to South America, which he intends to use next year on his year out, and £250 cash. After rubbing shoulders with various South American ambassadors, Jay has high hopes of being offered a job as part of his year in South America

Mr. Harrison is delighted but not surprised by Jay's national success. "In the international jobs market, where language skills are highly prized, Jay will without doubt be a roaring success".

Viva ... well anywhere, really!

Sainsbury's Active Kids is here again

Teesdale School is taking part in the Sainsbury's Active Kids campaign again. This is a great way for us to gain invaluable equipment and experiences for our students at no extra cost to the school. This year the Active Kids campaign (AK08) runs from 14th February to 4th June. If you are shopping in Sainsbury's, please don't forget to pick up your vouchers for every £10 spent, send them into our school Library, and we'll put them to good use! Many thanks.



PTA Events

Ceilidh

The PTA held a Ceilidh dance recently in the school hall and we are delighted to report that the event was a brilliant success raising a total of £424 for PTA funds.



Members of the PTA and the Ceilidh band worked very hard to ensure that everyone who attended had a great time. The event was organised with families in mind and the children who came along with parents all participated in the dances—without any encouragement!. Great fun! It looks as though this may become an annual event so if you missed out this time then there's always next year. Many thanks to all those who made it happen.

Quiz Night

The next scheduled event for the PTA is the annual Quiz Night. This year we are holding the quiz in the school dining room and the ticket price will include a one course supper. The menu has not yet been decided but a pie and pea supper looks promising.



Our quizmaster again is Andrew Nicholson who does a wonderful job and keeps us entertained with his other games as well. Prize money is £50 for 1st Prize and £25 for 2nd prize.

The quiz will be held on Friday 9th May and tickets will be priced at £5 per adult and £3 for children (under 16). Look out for the letters which will be sent home during April to book your team in.

All funds raised for the PTA are at present supporting the school rewards system, outside seating for students and the start of refurbishment to the social areas.

All of your support is extremely valuable to our students and very much appreciated.

If you would like to join our PTA, we are a very friendly bunch and the next meeting is on Monday 28th April in the school meeting room (through the Library) at 6.30pm.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS FOR THE 2008 / 2009 ACADEMIC YEAR

Holiday	Closing Date	Date Re-opens for Teaching Purposes
Summer 2008 (6 weeks)	Wednesday 23 July 2008	Thursday 4 September 2008
Autumn Half-Term 2008 (1 week)	Thursday 23 October 2008	Monday 3 November 2008
Christmas 2008 (2 weeks)	Thursday 18 December 2008	Tuesday 6 January 2009
Spring Half-Term 2009 (1 week)	Friday 13 February 2009	Monday 23 February 2009
Easter 2009 (2 weeks)	Friday 3 April 2009	Tuesday 21 April 2009
May Day 2009 (1 day)	Friday 1 May 2009	Tuesday 5 May 2009
Summer Half-Term 2009 (1 week)	Friday 22 May 2009	Monday 1 June 2009
Summer 2009	Wednesday 22 July 2009	To be determined



Important note:

Teacher training days for 2008 / 2009 will be :

Wednesday 3 September 2008
 Friday 24 October 2008
 Friday 19 December 2008
 Monday 5 January 2009
 Monday 20 April 2009

Therefore the school will be closed to students

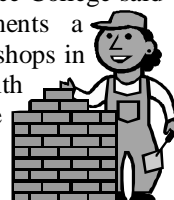
Construction Workshop Opens at Teesdale School

The state of the art construction workshop has been opened in School. Our school Business Manager, Colin Cartwright used European Social Funding to work in partnership with Wolsingham School to develop the new 20 bay brickwork workshop

The workshop will be used to deliver the GCSE Construction and the Built Environment course which the school is trialling for Edexcel. Year 10 and 11 students have now vacated the Green Lane site, where construction was delivered in a technology workshop. According to Charlotte Bowron, a Year 11 student, the workshop has had an immediate impact "

Mr Harrison was keen to make the workshop available to the community. He sited it with community access in mind. This has already been capitalised upon. 16 adults are attending a 'Basics of Bricklaying' course on Monday evenings which is being led by a tutor from Darlington College. In future it will be used to train individuals and by businesses to develop the skills of their staff.

Alan Nolan the Director of Science College said ' This new workshop compliments a whole suite of new technology workshops in the school. It allows us to work with our partners in new ways within the specialist college programme.



Weather Station at School

Year 12 geography pupils are carrying out a project for Northumbria Water. They are installing a Davis Vantage Weather Station and will be sending data to Northumbria water on rain, wind and temperature. James Bishop and Adam Mullery were the only pupils in England to receive training in the use of the equipment.

The Globe project is an international environmental project, initiated by Al Gore which aims to bring pupils together through the study of the environment. As well as working with Northumbria Water, the pupils will be using the project as a case study with their teacher, Mr Griffiths.



LOST LIBRARY BOOKS

Can all students please hunt out your outstanding library books. Please look under beds in cupboards and lockers etc and return them as soon as possible.



CURRENT VACANCIES

ICT TECHNICIAN

37 hrs per week Term Time (plus 2 weeks)
Scale 2 / 3 (Point 11-17) £14,495-£16,558 pro rata

Required as soon as possible. We are looking to recruit an ICT Technician with strong web development and maintenance skills. The ideal candidate will possess a solid working knowledge of HTML, ASP, CSS, plus experience of Microsoft SharePoint.

This varied and interesting post will also require routine ICT maintenance and troubleshooting skills. A full job description will be included with the application pack, or can be viewed on the school website.

Closing date: Monday 21st April 2008

FINANCE ASSISTANT

30 hrs per week Term Time (plus 1 week)
Scale 3 (Point 14-17) £15,153 - £16,217 pro rata

Required as soon as possible, a Finance Assistant to support the School's Business Manager. Duties will include administration for purchase orders / invoices, school fund, bank reconciliations, petty cash, cheque runs and arranging transport. A comprehensive Job Description will be included in the application pack.

Application forms and further details are available from the school.

Closing date: Monday 21st April 2008

EXAMINATION INVIGILATORS

Rate of Pay : £6.50 per hour.

Teesdale School is seeking people with a mature outlook to join a panel of Examination Invigilators who would be available intermittently throughout the year, although it is expected that the main examination times would occur during the months of January, May and June.

For further information, please contact Mrs Karen Anderson on 01833 638166 or email k.anderson105@durhamlearning.net.

CLEANERS

(Part-time) £6 per hour

Required as soon as possible to join the site team. Hours from 3.30pm to 6pm Monday to Friday. Application forms and further details are available from the school.



Teesdale School's Science College News

Spring 2008

This term has seen many developments within the themes of Sustainability and Most Able and Talented pupils.

Year 10 Geography Case Study Day

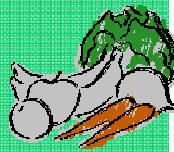
Mr. Childe's class in Year 10 were given a real life problem to solve. Are wood pellets a viable fuel for Teesdale? They worked with Martin Bacon of Teesdale Conservation Volunteers. The challenge included chemical calculations comparing energies released from different wood pellets. Using enterprise, numeracy and geography skills, pupils then analysed costs, distribution and transport of material to ensure a sustainable supply of pellets.



Rural Project

The Science College is developing the award winning work of the school chef, Nick Copson.

Pupils are setting up a mini enterprise. They are purchasing local food and selling it at the farmer's market in Barnard Castle. Look out for our stand beside Kingfisher eggs. We are setting up a farm shop in school selling local produce. This is an amazing opportunity for pupils to take part in a real life enterprise. It will be used to enrich Applied Science, Maths, Business, Geography and Travel and Tourism.



The construction pupils are currently planning the building of a glasshouse, raised beds and a compost bay. These will be completed in the summer term.

THE SCIENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IS CHILD'S PLAY AT TEESDALE SCHOOL

Students got a chance to learn how they can make a difference to their environment with a special visit from the UK's premier climate change project, ClimateDome.

On Tuesday January 22 staff and students explored the six meter wide inflatable Dome filled with interactive games and colourful displays.

Designed in association with the Centre for Life in Newcastle, ClimateDome is on a 15-month tour of the region as it aims to bring the climate change message to as many people as possible.

The Dome is staffed by friendly environmental communicators who can explain why climate change is a here and now issue for people in the North East.

Visitors to ClimateDome are encouraged to make a pledge, such as turning down a thermostat by 1°C, unplugging phone chargers when not in use and not leaving TVs on standby. Following these simple pledges can save an average household up to £300 a year off their fuel bills.

Alan Nolan, assistant headteacher, said: "We were very excited by this project which brought alive the real issues of climate change to our pupils. This project is an impor-

tant part of our curriculum in that it will enable all our learners to fully appreciate the challenges of global warming and become actively involved in securing shared global responsibility for our future climate."

ClimateDome project manager Mike Thomas said: "ClimateDome has been designed for people of all ages. For those who know little or nothing about climate change, it offers a clear, fun explanation of what is causing it and what we can all do to help.

Alison McKean, head of environment at Scottish Power said: "This is an issue that is of global importance and at Scottish Power we are totally committed to supporting projects like this and doing everything we can to support many other initiatives that reduce carbon emissions and promote energy efficiency."

The project is being run by charity Carbon Neutral North East, using a £400,000 grant from DEFRA and further support from Scottish Power.

More information about ClimateDome can be found on the website - www.climatedome.org - where visitors can play an interactive game and make an online pledge.

Media enquiries for the Carbon Neutral Dome should be directed to Anna at

Year 10 Sustainability Day

Year 10 students took part in a Sustainability Day. This involved several cross curricular activities based around the theme of sustainability. They audited energy use and waste throughout the school, took part in Carbon Neutral Northeast's ClimateDome event (see below) and viewed Al Gore's film 'An Inconvenient Truth'.

The recommendations of the day were :

- Target recycling boxes at definite areas in the school
- Ban the use of green tissue paper
- Compost all the food



The day will be used to :

- Consult the student council on recycling priorities
- Inform the Year 12 Ecoschool group's recycling trial

The winners of the poetry prize on the day were Rachel Harris and Chantelle Weatherill with :

Save our Planet

*All we seem to hear these days
Is talk of global warming,
But we don't seem to care that much!
We find it really boring.....
Parents seem to nag too much
"You've had that computer on for two nights!
It's like Blackpool illuminations in here -
Turn off all the lights!"
But when you come to think of it,
(Why they're making such a fuss)
If we don't take care, the world will die
And it'll all be down to us.
So share a bath,
Turn off your T.V.,
And bike instead of drive.
And if we get our acts together
More generations will stay alive.*



MHW PR on 0191 233 1300 or via anna@mhwpr.co.uk

The ClimateDome has been developed as a flagship project of DEFRA's Tomorrow's Climate, Today's Challenge programme, and is generously supported by Scottish Power. Exhibits and displays have been developed with the expertise of the Centre for Life. Invaluable support is also being provided by Newcastle City Council, the Environment Agency and the Energy Saving Trust.

