

26th March 2009

# Ryedale School

## Newsletter

### HEAD- LINES

- Comic Relief
- Specialist Status
- Sports News
- PTA Quiz

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### MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As the end of term approaches a great deal of excitement is evident in school as Year 11 students prepare for their imminent GCSE examinations, the cast of 'My Fair Lady' feel the fulfilment that comes from many months of hard work, and sporting competitions reach their final stages.

Comic Relief Day was a tremendous success. Ryedale School raised £2400 and had a lot of fun along the way. The success was in no small part down to the planning and efforts of Mrs Read, Miss Nicol, Miss Hunter and a team of Year 10 and 11 students. Fundraising events included Ryedale's Got Talent, Fancy Dress, Sweep Stakes, a Dodge Ball Tournament and a mixed 3 v 3 Basketball Tournament. Three brave Year 11 students, Alex McGill, Jonathan Drake and Rufus Brookes, also agreed to have their legs waxed by a very enthusiastic Miss Scott.

High Performing Specialist Status: As you know Ryedale School has Specialist Status in the Performing Arts and also has Leading Edge Status, both of which bring in additional funding to develop opportunities for our young people and those in our partner schools. The DCSF has now written to suggest, as a result of our sustained examination success, leading to "High Performing Specialist School" status, that we may wish to bid for a second subject specialism from a limited list of possibilities (the list does not allow bids for sport for example).

The subject area has to fit in with Local Authority plans and government priorities. Our Governors feel that Science is the area to bid for, as it must include Mathematics and therefore enriches two core subjects which act as a good balance to our performing arts. The second specialism does not offer anywhere near the funding that the first specialism brings, but it will enhance staffing and resources in those two areas and in some local primary schools. The bid will be submitted within the next few weeks, and approval should be given (all being well) next term. I shall keep you informed.

Thank you for your continued support.

**G R Jenkinson**  
Headteacher

## PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS SUMMER 2009

Because we have so many exams this summer - more than 30% up on last year - we have decided not to issue students with a composite exam timetable, nor will this be published on the school website as in previous years. We feel that by issuing students with just their own personal timetable, we will minimise the possibility of anyone misreading the very complex composite version. All students should now have been issued with their personal examination timetable for this summer's public exams.

Some exams, for example Drama, Art, and ICT practicals, and Modern Foreign Language oral exams will not appear on the student's personal timetable. Students will be advised of these dates by their subject teacher and these practical exams should be noted in their Planners.

With so many exams timetabled, it is hardly surprising that a clash has occurred for those Year 11 students who are taking **Additional Mathematics** and **German**. I have taken the decision to move the Additional Mathematics to the **morning of Friday 5 June** for all candidates sitting this subject. When the Additional Mathematics exam finishes, all students will need to remain under supervision over lunchtime until one hour after the German examination starts. I will talk this through with all the Additional Mathematics candidates nearer the time.

As well as all students in Years 11 & 10, we also have several Year 9 students who are taking public exams this summer. The exam season runs from **Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>** and ends on **Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June**, so it is therefore inappropriate to apply for the Head's permission to take a holiday during this period if you have a son or daughter in any of these three year groups.

For those who like to plan ahead, results will be issued to Year 11 students only, on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August**. Precise arrangements for Year 11 Results Day will be clarified at a later date. Year 10 and Year 9 students will receive their results on the first day of the autumn term and not on Year 11 Results Day.

If students or their parents/carers have any concerns at all about the summer examination season, please feel free to contact Mr Clay or myself for assistance.

Gill Humphreys  
Exams Officer

## ATTENDANCE

Thank you to parent/carers who have been telephoning school on the morning of the first day of their child's absence as requested.

Please don't call school before 8 a.m. Mr Martin, our data Network Manager, telephones parents/carers of lower school students who are absent and from whom we have not received a call. This system is very successful in ensuring the safety of our students and keeps our attendance figures up to date.

In preparation of rolling this system out to the whole school from September 2009 we now request parents/carers of upper school students also contact school on the morning of the first day of absence, as is good practice.

Mr McCandless  
Head of Lower School

# SPORTS NEWS

**Netball** Ryedale's Year 9 Netball Team beat Lady Lumley's 10-6 in the semi final of the District Knock-out Cup. Rowan Ward put in an excellent performance as Goal Attack. Hannah Kelsey, Verity Johnson and Millie Bell held the defence together magnificently throughout the game.

**Hockey** Ryedale's Year 10 Girls Hockey Team fell at the last hurdle losing in the semi-final of the District Knock-out Cup to Scarborough College. Ryedale can however be proud of their performance against a very strong side and their run to the semi-finals of the competition.

Ryedale's Year 10 and 11 mixed hockey team maintained their unbeaten run by beating Norton College 1-0. Jack Wilson scored the only goal of the game.

**Football** Ryedale's Year 9 Football Team is through to the semi-final of the District Cup after a thrilling come back in their quarter final game against Eskdale. Ryedale were trailing 4-1 at half time but came back magnificently in the second half to win 5-4. Jack Campbell scored 4 goals and Adam Durrant 1 in Ryedale's dramatic win.

Ryedale's Year 11 Football Team beat Filey 6-3 in the quarter final of the Scarborough and District Cup. Sam Taylor scored a hat trick capping an excellent performance. Ryedale now face Malton in the semi-final.

Ryedale's Year 7's beat Norton College 5-2. Jeremy Underwood scored the goal of the match with a thunderous shot from the edge of the box.

**Rowing** Ryedale have had a very successful start to 2009 in the Concept2 National Schools League for rowing. Ryedale's Year 10 girls' team won the National Competition for the month of January and Ryedale's boys' team won the National Competition for the month of February. The girls' success came in the 6000 metre event where each member of the team of 8 rowed 3 X 250 metres. Their winning time was 22 minutes and 57 seconds. The boys' success came in the 8000 metres event where each member of the team of 8 rowed 2 x 500 metres. Their winning time for the distance was 26 minutes and 42 seconds. The teams were:

**Girls:** Heather Leckenby, Bertie Hayton, Beth Collinson, India Bailey, Lauren Hudson, Becki Taylor, Megan Duncan and Kate Musgrave.

**Boys:** Kieran Leckenby, Jonny Pattenden, David Nicholls, Alex McGill, Phil Hughes, Sam Annan, Sam Taylor and Chris Shuttlewood.

**Basketball** Ryedale School's Year 7 Basketball Team were crowned District Champions, Ryedale qualified for the District Championship as winners of the Ryedale and Whitby Partnership. Congratulations to: Peter Pittaway, Matthew Clements, Ross Leckenby, Jeremy Underwood, Jake Woodward, Tyler Porter, Charlie Thorpe, Liam Cade, Tom Ayuob and David Stone.

Ryedale's Year 10 Girls Basketball Team just failed to reach the quarter finals of the English Schools Basketball Competition losing away to Thomas Telford School, 19-11. This defeat unfortunately brings their fantastic run in the English Schools Basketball Championships to an end but they can be proud of the national success they have enjoyed.

**Rugby** Ryedale School's Year 9 Rugby Team competed as the District Champions in the East Yorkshire Finals in Drifffield. There were 7 teams involved in the finals. Ryedale, having won 3 and lost 3, finished third overall in a very competitive tournament. Adam Durrant, who was outstanding for Ryedale, was rewarded with a call up for the East Yorkshire Team.

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 31st March	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Thursday 2nd April	<b>Students finish for Easter Holidays</b>
Friday 3rd April	Staff Training Day
Monday 20th April	<b>School re-opens</b>
	Years 7, 8 and 10 Examinations begin
Wednesday 22nd April	PTA Quiz at 7 p.m. (See below for details)
Tuesday 5th May	Year 9 Examinations begin
Monday 11th May	GCSEs begin

## JAZZ BAND FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

We have received a certificate from the Westnell Nursery Society thanking us for the £400 we donated to them following our fantastic Jazz Concert. The two Westnell nurseries help children from the poorest areas of Lima, Peru to access free education and give them a good start in life.

Examples of how the money is used are: £200 pays a teacher's salary for five weeks, £100 buys books for five classes for a whole year, £75 will pay for one child's education for five months and £10 will buy a term's supply of crayons for one classroom.

Our donation has clearly made a difference to a lot of children's lives.

Mr Moxon

## PTA QUIZ - Get your team together now!

At present I have not yet received the usual flood of entries that we get for this exciting event.

I thought it might be helpful if I described to you how the evening works:

- ◇ There are five separate rounds each of 20 questions. These include general knowledge, sport, identifying photos of 20 well known personalities, film and music
- ◇ The team of four players confer together to try to work out the correct answer, before writing it on the answer paper.
- ◇ No individual or team is ever placed 'on the spot' by being directly asked a question.
- ◇ The evening is light-hearted and some of the questions are based on life at Ryedale School, thus discouraging any 'professional quiz teams' from taking part.
- ◇ There are some prizes for the best teams, but that is not the main reason for entering. Each person's £2 entry fee will provide them with over two hours of entertainment. You may even learn a few new facts!
- ◇ Included in your entrance fee is a plate of sandwiches. There is also a bar available for alcoholic or soft drinks throughout the evening.
- ◇ This is the one event held each year by the PTA where parents, pupils, former pupils, friends, teachers, office staff and governors all come together to try to pool their wisdom and knowledge to good effect.

Come on, get involved and join us on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009.

**Mr Clay, Deputy Headteacher**

## SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

If parents/carers have any suggestions for school improvement that they would like the Governors' Home School Committee to discuss, please write to Mr Clay who services this committee. Please add your name and the name of your child, so we can respond to you.

**P Clay, Deputy Headteacher**