

Newsletter

May 2012



Whitecross
Hereford

Harry At The National

You saw him at Whitecross first!

Those of you who came to see Cinderella in December will remember H J in his scene stealing role as an Ugly Sister. He has also taken part 2 years running in the pantomime at the Courtyard.

Following an audition in Cardiff, he was one of 500 young people nationally to be selected for a course with The National Youth Theatre. In total there were over 4600 applicants.

The National Youth Theatre has nurtured many of this country's stars including Daniel Craig, Helen Mirren, Matt Lucas and David Walliams.

"I am incredibly proud of my achievement and thrilled at the prospect to benefit from this fantastic opportunity" said a delighted H. "I will be taking part in a two-week introductory course this summer—my first step into the world of professional acting."



The National Youth Theatre was established 56 years ago as an educational centre of excellence.

"Acting and being on stage is what I love doing. I am hoping that being in the NYT will help me in my future career and will give me a confidence boost whilst I am there."

H is looking for funding to help with course fees, accommodation and travel expenses. If you can offer any assistance please contact the school in the first instance.

Value Of The Month For May

Trust

GCSE Drama Exam



The Year 11 Drama class have worked tirelessly towards creating some excellent pieces of drama over the last few months. They performed to parents, staff and friends on Wednesday 9 May in a dress rehearsal showcase ... the audience was very impressed!

The students had their real exam on Friday 11 May. All students involved did a sterling job and the Creative Arts Department are very proud of them. We wish them all the luck in the world for the future and we hope that we will see some of them collecting Oscars in the years to come!

Miss G

Leavers' Ball Tickets

Whitecross Hereford

6.00 STUDENTS ARRIVE AT WHITECROSS
6.30 CELEBRATION & AWARDS
7.00 CARRIAGES DEPART FOR VENUE
7.30 PHOTOGRAPHS
8.00 BUFFET
9.00 DISCO
11.00 CARRIAGES DEPART FOR WHITECROSS
11.30 ARRIVE AT WHITECROSS

TICKET £35
ADMITS 1
NO:

LEAVERS
BALL
2012

FRIDAY 6 JULY

Tickets for the Leavers' Ball on the 6 July are now on sale priced at £35. They are available from reception and a Mission Revision discount is available.

Welsh Ascending

At the end of April a group of Year 10 girls had a night away at a multi-activity outdoor centre in Llangorse. The aim of the stay was to develop self-awareness and self-esteem as well as to develop technical skills in horse-riding and climbing. We wanted the girls to have a go at doing something outside their comfort zone – just to prove what they can achieve if they put their minds to it and work as a team!

Our accommodation was in a 12th Century farmhouse and was self-catering. This provided perhaps the biggest challenge of all: Mrs L had the girls cooking pizza from



scratch for the whole group in the evening (we finally finished eating and stacking the dishwasher at around 10pm!) and they had to prepare their own breakfast and picnic lunch the next day. We were lucky that, despite the rainy spell, we had beautiful weather and views for the horse-riding. The climbing was indoors anyway, so that was fine. In the evening, Mrs S organised games for the group, which involved lots of flour, chocolate and cucumber slices!

This was the third in a series of trips we have offered to this centre, and a fourth one for Year 9 has happened since. We would like to develop this kind of learning activity and plan to use the centre, which is very local and good value, more in the future.

Mrs L

Aiming High!



A group of Year 10 students recently spent the day at Oxford University as guests of Brasenose College. The staff and students at this ancient college, where David Cameron studied, offered us the chance to find out what life at one of the world's top universities is like.

We had an introductory talk on why going to university was a good thing and what Oxford had to offer before heading off for a tour of the college. We met current students and saw where they live and work. Each college at Oxford is like a family with about 400 students sharing living accommodation around a small courtyard or 'quad'. There is a dining hall, bar, common room, laundry facilities, chapel and individual study bedrooms for students. It's all very 'Harry Potter'!

After lunch, a senior student, studying for her doctorate in linguistics, gave us a taste of what learning at Oxford might be like. We all found it very hard but very fascinating! A scavenger hunt around Oxford completed a busy but amazing day.

Oxford currently ranks second in the list of UK universities. Applicants typically have three A or A* grades at A level and demonstrate through an interview and sometimes an entrance exam that they have a passion for learning and are willing to work extremely hard. Everyone we met was friendly and helpful and very keen for students at schools like Whitecross to consider applying when at sixth form.

Mr K

Wye Muse?

Over the past few weeks some of our most creative students have been travelling to London to share ideas with the Heatherwick Studio and the V&A Museum. They have explored their own definitions of design and creativity and have started to explore team briefs set by designers from the studio. This week they visited the V&A Museum where they went behind the scenes of different galleries to handle and play with some interesting items from the collection. They are now going to explore the wide range of creative possibilities in Herefordshire to respond to their design briefs before a London presentation during July.



Mr H, Miss G, Mr B

Parking At Whitecross

Car parking on the school site is limited and understandably there may be times when visitors park outside of a marked parking space. There are allocated visitor spaces and when these are full, may we ask that you are considerate to our disabled visitors by not using the disabled spaces as general overflow parking.

Whitecross Win Again

After some gruelling qualification rounds Whitecross were proud to take 6 teams consisting of 2 Year 7 teams and 4 Year 8's to the regional finals of the Indoor Athletics.

Both the Year 7 boys and girls team dominated the Herefordshire rounds, qualifying comfortably for the final with all Year 8 teams following suit later in the month.

After a nervy start to the competition the Year 8's soon got into their stride and began picking up points in both track and field events.

Although the Year 7's dominated their qualifying rounds, they soon faced some very tough competition and had to work extremely hard for points.



After a great competition the results came in, with the Year 8 girls dominating their group winning by more than 40 points. For the other year groups it was slightly different and much closer. Unfortunately, both Year 7 teams faced tough competition from Worcester schools and came runners up in their year group, but the surprise result of the day came from Year 8 boys who won their age group by the smallest of margins!

Well done to all that took part!

Year 7 Triple Crown

The Year 7 football team have had a fantastic year, which began with winning the Herefordshire 5 a side tournament by beating Earl Mortimer 1-0 with a goal from D M.

The team: GK E D, GK J B, T N, G A, D M (Captain), W G, B J, J A, and J M

The Year 7 team then won the Herefordshire Cup at the Hereford Leisure Centre winning the final game in extra time 2-1 against Bishops with a winning goal from player of the tournament, T P. Finally, the Year 7 team won the League Cup in a final held at Burghill by 1-0 again against Earl Mortimer, with a goal from G A and a superb performance by captain and man of the match D M. Team for the final is listed below:

GK J B, T N, G A, D M (Captain), W G, J A, J M, J M, J S, A T, T P, M J, K D, and J W

This completes a 'Triple Crown' and an extremely successful season. We will now enter the national cup next year. A great year, well done boys!



Students Meet Olympians



On Friday 4 May, five Year 8 students had the fantastic opportunity to meet two famous Olympic and Paralympic athletes. First to speak was Steve Backley, 4 time gold and silver medallist. With an insight into his career it was truly exciting to hear that he didn't even pick up a javelin until the age of 14! (still time yet for our budding youngsters!)

Next to speak was Sascha Kindred, 49 time Paralympic swimming medallist. Yet again it was another inspirational speech from an inspirational person. Our students listened to how Sascha battled with his condition from an early age to reach the pinnacle of Olympic gold.

Courageous Effort

The Year 11 football team did Whitecross proud in their semi-final against Kingstone High School but were narrowly defeated 2 – 1 after extra time. The boys overcame disappointment of only 11 players turning up and battled in appalling conditions against a Kingstone team who were clear favourites to win.

Kingstone took a lead against the run of play in the first half. C M and J M caused the home team all kinds of problems with their pace and creativity but some outstanding goalkeeping from the Kingstone number 1 and some bad luck meant that Whitecross remained 1 – 0 down at half time. A H (Captain)

missed a penalty early on in the second half but made amends with a wonder strike to equalise and send the match in to extra-time.

The rain and hail beat down on to a drenched pitch with surface lying water but the large crowd remained enthralled by an end-to-end encounter in which both teams showed grit and determination. Unfortunately, B W got injured early in to the added period which meant, with a full squad, Kingstone were able to apply enough pressure to gain the upper hand and eventually score the winning goal. M P (Centre Back) and J P (Goalkeeper) were outstanding but even they were not able to prevent the decisive goal.

The Year 11's have made superb progress this season and should be really proud of their achievements. Great stuff!

Inter Academy Results



Overall Totals for All Years		Overall Totals for year 7	
Bromley	437	Hagloe	157
Moyle	391	Bromley	145
Hagloe	370	Moyle	141
Styre	364	Styre	133

Overall Totals for year 8		Overall Totals for year 9	
Moyle	162	Bromley	142
Bromley	150	Hagloe	125
Styre	103	Styre	128
Hagloe	88	Moyle	88

Congratulations to Bromley for once again being the overall winners of the Inter Academy competition.

Futsal Winners

The U14 Futsal team beat the best in the West Midlands to win the Regional Futsal Finals. The competition coincided with a Herefordshire club football final in which seven of the Whitecross first team players were committed to, thus rendering them unavailable for Futsal. However, the Futsal squad was boosted by the return of C M, from Portugal, and by the selection of T W and K P from Year 8. Captain A W said; "We were confident going in to the tournament but the games were short and intense meaning that any mistake could lead to the team conceding and, ultimately, costing a game and the team's hopes of progressing. The younger lads slotted straight in to the team and we can't wait until the Finals".

Whitecross U14 Futsal Team: K P, T W, C M, T H, A W, L P, L E, C M.

The selected team will play the best in the Country in the National Finals on 1 July. Good luck lads!"

University Challenge

Intrepid Year 10's spread themselves over the country to get a taste of student life at a variety of Universities. On 4 May coaches travelled to Reading, Gloucester, Worcester, and Birmingham to inspire our students and show them what they could achieve.

Aston University in Birmingham is set in the heart of the city and is one of the smallest establishments in the country with only 4000 students. Following introductions the group was split ready for a team challenge. With the promise of chocolate for those that succeeded the students set about building a free standing tower that could



support the promised bar of chocolate. Using only newspaper and tape the construction had to hold the chocolate over a metre off the ground for at least 10 seconds. Creative thinking meant that most groups succeeded in the challenge.

A tour of the campus showed the students the facilities available to them including one of the oldest swimming pools in the country. Following lunch the students were quizzed on their knowledge of student life in the style of "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire". The final task of the day saw the Year 10's split into groups again to devise their own degree courses. Presentations were made to existing undergraduates and were judged on course content, entry criteria and job prospects amongst others. Inventiveness was in effect again as we were presented with courses ranging from gaming, to partying, to Harry Potter.

It was an excellent and informative day and the students behaviour was a credit to themselves and to Whitecross. Many thanks to all the staff who helped on the day.

No Change Here

Staff at reception and the kitchen are unable to change money for students. Students are only able to top-up their food accounts using coins so please make sure they have these available when needed.

A Journey In Time

On the 29 March a group of girls and 1 boy went on a history trip into Hereford City. The aim was to enable our Polish EAL students to integrate more into our school community as well as learn about the place they live in.

Tego dnia, okazaliśmy się nie lada szczęściarzami, gdyż pogoda nam dopisała. Tuż przed południem wycieczka wyruszyła wraz z trojka opiekunów: obecny był pan Tim Knapp, pani Katie Lee oraz pani Klaudia Giermaniuk. Pierwszym punktem był park w centrum miasta, gdzie poznaliśmy historie pewnego psa, który zainspirował ważną postać w historii naszego miasta, Sir Elgara do skomponowania utworu muzycznego. Spod pomnika psa, przeniesiliśmy się na pole zaciętej walki – siedząc na niegdysiejszych walach obronnych niemal słyszeliśmy odgłos wystrzałów. Pan Knapp opowiadał pełną detali historie ostrzału zamku, który kiedyś znajdował się na wzgórzu Castle Green.

Afterwards, we walked towards Castle Green to see where the castle used to stand.

We stopped in the park to play some communication games so we could find out more about each other, test our memories and revise simple grammar. This was followed by another short walk accompanied by more stories from the past about Hereford. We even managed to see the oldest part of Hereford, being a part of a wall which used to surround the town.

Kto by pomyślał, że najstarsza część Herefordu jest w prywatnym ogrodku obok budynków mieszkalnych przy St Owen's Gate?

Waskimi przesmykami udaliśmy się wprost do parku i katedry. Początkowo zatrzymaliśmy się przy pomniku Sir Elgara, który siedząc na rowerze, w całym swoim dostojenstwie wpatruje się w katerde i obserwować będzie życie miasta przez kolejne lata. Udaliśmy się również do

wnętrza katedry oglądając wszelkie interesujące obiekty, łącznie z podziemnym cmentarzem. Zmęczeni i pełni wrażeń, udaliśmy się w końcu na spoczynek w cieniu jednego z drzew tuż obok katedry. Jak przystało na wycieczkę integracyjną, postaraliśmy się aby i brytyjscy uczniowie poznali smak Europy. Zamówione w litewskiej restauracji Amber Coast dania, między innymi placki ziemniaczane i tradycyjna sałatka warzywna, spalażowaliśmy ze smakiem.

Finally, we were ready to reach our last point of interest: The Black and White House. By then, we were all tired but the atmosphere was still relaxed. We all had fun trying to guess the purpose of some of the items in the house.

Overall the trip was a success! It was a great experience for all of us, both students and teachers! We managed to bring many different aspects into our trip: not only educational but also making new friends, finding out about each other and becoming more culturally aware.

We would like to follow up on the trip by asking our Polish friends to present photographs and information about their home towns to us. We will invite parents along and combine it with an opportunity to cook and eat some genuine Polish food – chłopaki, teraz kolej na was! Watch this space! *Bedzie sie dzialo!*

Miss G



Spain 2012

On 14 April, 20 intrepid Year 10 Spanish GCSE students and three staff left Hereford for Santander in Northern Spain: our biggest trip ever! Little did we know that we would spend the next 27 hours in a force 10 gale in the Bay of Biscay! Having survived the experience, we all settled into our accommodation: described by some as glorified garden sheds, but actually much better equipped. We stayed in chalets at the Cabo Mayor campsite on the coast just outside Santander. The students loved their little houses and rose magnificently to the challenge of making their own breakfasts (and beds), borrowing sugar / soap / washing-up liquid (what IS that, anyway?) from their chalet neighbours, and feeding the neighbourhood gatito.

The weather wasn't glorious, but it didn't stop us doing anything. We visited The Guggenheim, the Estadio San Mames (home to Athletic Bilbao), Santander, the El Soplao cave system and the Picos de Europa, where we got out of the cable-car and found ourselves in five feet of snow. The same evening, the students were swimming in the sea at the beach by our campsite! A hardy bunch, to be sure.

Our students learnt lots of Spanish, they had a workbook with daily activities to do and diaries to fill in. The highlights were many: snow, games on the beach, chocolate y churros, the cable car, the Guggenheim. Our students were unfailingly thoughtful, funny, interested and considerate of each other and of us. We were all sad to leave Spain, but the weather had a joker up its sleeve ... more awful weather meant we couldn't sail until 24 hours later, so we spent two nights on board the ship and endured another momentous crossing of the dreaded Bay!

Was it worth it? Absolutely! The students were full of enthusiasm about their experiences, and we, as staff, were so impressed by their positive, thoughtful behaviour at all times. We were



complimented on several occasions by members of the public and by Brittany Ferries on their exemplary conduct, often under very trying conditions.

As on previous trips we would like to thank the Sylvia Short Foundation for helping us make this trip financially possible for some of our students.

We're already planning next year....

Mrs F and Mr F – with thanks to **Mrs P** who so bravely joined us!

Updated School Uniform

We have recently updated our school logo which will feature on our school uniform. We expect to phase this in gradually and the uniform with our old logo on is still acceptable for students to wear. The School Uniform Shop in Maylord Orchards is currently offering selected lines of uniform with the old logo on at half price.



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Half Term Holiday

We finish school on Friday 1 June.

We return, refreshed and ready for learning, on Monday 11 June.