



NEWSLETTER



December 2007

CLAYTON HALL BUSINESS AND LANGUAGE COLLEGE

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Dear Parent

Thank you for all your support this term, it has been greatly appreciated. Over the last few weeks, as I have been leaving school in the early evening, I have seen large numbers of you picking up your son or daughter. As they rush out from a rehearsal or at the end of a match it is often forgotten that they need your support to do this. Equally, sometimes schools can forget how much we rely on you and your help throughout the year. In the week when a survey concluded that it could cost £186,000 per child for parents bringing up their children up to the age of 21, I thought it only appropriate to say "thank you".

The autumn term is a busy one and it always begins with the exam results. This year 66% of students left Clayton Hall with 5+ A*-C, 97% with 5+ A*-G and 99.4% left with at least 1 A*-G. This reflects a great deal of hard work on everybody's part and in particular on the part of the students. These results reflect some of our best in recent years and it was very pleasing to see so many familiar faces at the Presentation Evening on 6th December. Meanwhile, at Key Stage 3 the students enjoyed equal success. In English 80% of students achieved Level 5+ while in Maths this figure reached 84% and Science came in at 82%. Again, these are some of our best results with a greater consistency being achieved by each student.

As a Specialist School, it is nice to report a great deal of activity in this area. This term has seen a very successful Enterprise Fair by Year 7 on Saturday 1st December and the levels of enthusiasm and participation were very high. The Fair was very well attended and many of the excellent products were sold out. I'd like to offer a great big thank you to all the staff and students involved. We had the Year 11 Careers Convention on 12th December. Now an annual event, it involved many, many local businesses and was a great success. On the Languages front there was a German café set up on 11th December at school. Hassell Primary & St Giles' & St George's attended with Year 10 students, gaining valuable

experience and it proved to be an outstanding success. Once again, many thanks.

I hope most of you received the letter from the school regarding holidays taken in term time. If not, I have asked for it to be reproduced in this Newsletter. Clearly, Clayton as a school is being affected by the number of students being withdrawn to take a holiday during term time. Now the number of students and the number of days lost is impinging on the progress of students and I would therefore ask for your co-operation and support. The new system outlined comes into effect on 1st January 2008.

Finally, can I wish you a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Best wishes

Mark Heuston
Headteacher

PLEASE NOTE: The new Term begins on Monday 7th January 2008 at the normal time

Important Change New School Staff Training Day

In order to deliver the new National Curriculum requirements at both KS3 and KS4 the government has added an extra INSET day for staff to prepare for the introduction of new guidelines in 2008. This will take place on Monday April 7th 2008 so students will not be in school on this day and school starts for students on Tuesday April 8th.

New Parent Governors:

Please note that we have 4 new Parent Governors; Mr R Gorton, Mr S Sweeney, Mr N Walshaw and Mr Yavuz Yurtmen. If you wish to contact any of these to put your views regarding your child's education at Clayton Hall, please contact them through the school.

Winners!

The winner of the ipod (for returning her order form to us for school photographs before the deadline date) is: Natalie Heath, year 7. Well done Natalie!

The winner of the £25 for returning their school fund subscription slip is yet to be decided. The closing date is Friday, 14th December, and we will notify you of the winner next term. Thank you.

MH/JO

November 2007

Dear Parent

Over the last few years the number of parents who are requesting permission to take their son/daughter on holiday during term time has escalated. In 2006-07 345 (nearly a third) students took time off for a holiday in term time. Over 2000 school days were lost as a result.

Obviously there are advantages for a family when taking a holiday during term time:

- The holidays tend to be cheaper
- Holiday destinations are less crowded

There are, however, some severe disadvantages:

- Your child's education suffers
- Lessons are missed
- Continuity of project work is lost
- There is no opportunity for teachers to set additional work or to assist a child in catching up on their return from holiday
- The class is generally disrupted
- You are in breach of your legal obligation to send your child to school

There is a common misconception that any child is allowed to take 10 days' holiday per year in term time. This is not true. Any absence of up to 10 days (in addition to absence through sickness) may be authorised by the Headteacher, but only in exceptional circumstances. The DCSF expects us to discourage such practice (School Attendance – Policy and Practice on Categorisation of Absence, DFEE1995).

The School Governors wish to stress that all requests for holiday absence will be considered very carefully. If you are unable to avoid making such a request during School Term, an application must be made to the Head teacher on the relevant form available from school reception not later than 6 weeks before the absence is due to start.

A response will be sent to you within 14 days of receipt of your request.

If your request is refused but your child is still absent from school, then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

We also have a role to play in ensuring your child's education is not interrupted and as such monitor visits and activities taking place within the school calendar for every pupil. Our goal is to ensure each student has access to these events whilst analysing carefully they don't hinder their progress.

All unauthorised absences are damaging to your child's education as well as reflecting badly on the School. Please consider this matter very carefully before making a request for absence during term time.

Yours sincerely

Mark Heuston
Headteacher

A DAY AT SHUGBOROUGH OUTDOOR CENTRE

Our form 8N went to Shugborough on the 2nd October along with 8A who were our rivals for the day. Our form was split into 4 groups called the onions, mushrooms, leeks, and courgettes. I was an onion and we did our activities with the mushrooms.

The first activity was climbing which I thought was fun. The traversing wall was tricky and I could not get past a certain point. Overall I really enjoyed it.

Next up was archery. I enjoyed this but not at first as I forgot my glasses!! (so most of my shots missed). Once I had my glasses and could see the target I did much better! After lunch we did some orienteering. Our team started well but then we got a bit lost and could not find what we were looking for! We tried though.

I personally did not take part in the biking as I was not used to riding a bike especially over and around obstacles. However I was really proud of myself because I managed to ride a bit even though it was in a bit of a wobbly line!

Lastly we had to make a car from vegetables. We used half a courgette with onions for wheels. We had a piece of broccoli for a driver. One of the onion wheels fell off as soon as the race started so we didn't win!

I sometimes think I work better on my own than in a team. Maybe it was just this particular team. I will have to wait until I try something similar again to find out.

Overall I enjoyed Shugborough.

SAM RUSSELL 8N

MY TRIP TO STANDON BOWERS

My day at Standon Bowers was very thoughtful and gave me a good opportunity to reflect on some of the following;

- Teamwork
- Helping and Supporting
- Communication

- Trust
- Being Reliable
- My Strengths and Weaknesses
- Coming up with good ideas

During the day everyone joined in and it was enjoyable to work together even if someone made a mistake. If something went wrong we would still be confident and keep trying. We would also laugh about it and just keep on going.

We had to communicate in order to understand how to complete the challenges. It was a very long day!

At times we took risks and could get wet or slip down a hill but it was good fun and we felt we had been successful. We realised that it was not about any one individual but about being part of a team. It was good to work together knowing someone was there to help you and catch you if you fell.

We all went home with big grins on our faces. Hopefully we will be able to do something like this again.

TANIA ABEDIN 7T

YEAR 8 SHUGBOROUGH 2007

On Tuesday 2nd October I went to Shugborough Outdoor Activity centre for the day. I was in a team of six with Charlotte.Y, Charlotte H, Emily, Dan and Ollie. We were called Team Mushroom. During the days activities we had to earn potatoes.

The potatoes then paid for vegetables for the vegetable car race at the end of the day.

Our first activity of the day was CLIMBING. I really enjoyed climbing as it was outside in the fresh air. With traversing as well, along a rock face at the other end of the climbing area, I got really dirty but our team did really well and earned 11 potatoes. It was a really good team effort.

Next up was the ARCHERY which was really EMBARRISING!!! We all had 3 goes each and I was in the third group to shoot. Well on the first go I got 14 which wasn't bad but would not have impressed Robin



Hood! The instructor said I had to get twice that score the next time. So what did I get – 7!! That must have been the worst score there but it was still fun. The less said about the third go the better!

After lunch we went ORIENTEERING where our group was split into two. I was with Emily and Dan. First of all we got very confused because the weathervane was pointing the wrong way and we were relying on it to show us where north was. After this slight setback we did really well though. We completed 4 courses because we ran all the way.

After orienteering the hardest challenge awaited us – BIKING!! At first I wasn't that worried about it. In fact I was quite excited as I can ride bikes. However when I saw the course and the size of the bike my knees started to knock against each other. The bike was tiny and afterwards I had tremendous backache. For each lap we did we got part of a wheel which we had to make up into a working wheel with the tyres inflated. For every complete wheel we got a potato. I went around 5 times because I enjoyed it. On my last go I only fell over twice!! I was really proud of what I achieved.

Our VEGETABLE CAR was ridiculous and how it came second in the final I don't know. It lost two of its courgette wheels in the first race!! Everything on our car was attached with cocktail sticks and our veg car driver we named Geoff!

Team Mushroom should be really proud because we earned 39 potatoes. We all worked well as a team and nobody fell out with anyone.

Lucinda Rushton 8N

LIBRARY NEWS

At the start of the new term in September, all year 7's were able to choose a free book from a selection of 12 specially selected titles supplied by 'Booked Up'. Booked Up is a new national programme which encourages all year 7 pupils to read for

pleasure and is supported by the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

Early in November I took delivery of over 220 books, bookmarks, bags and stickers and distributed them to all the year 7 pupils. Booked Up aims to encourage and support the enjoyment of reading among young people and I hope all the year 7's have taken great pleasure from the books that they have chosen. Don't forget the school library has all the 12 titles available to loan just in case you couldn't make up your mind which to choose!

Another exciting piece of news is the availability of the library database to all pupils from anywhere in the school. The programme is called 'Searchstar' and allows pupils to search the school library and also public libraries for information on books, websites and cd-roms. In the future, classes will hopefully be taught how to use Searchstar in their ICT lessons and also during the library inductions.

Schools Library Service delivered some great titles this term. These are eligible for the Young Teen Fiction book award. Titles included:

- ✓ Blood Beast by Darren Shan
- ✓ Jigsaw by Garry Kilworth
- ✓ Jimmy Coates: Revenge by Joe Craig
- ✓ The Night Walker by Patricia Elliot
- ✓ Ringmaster by Julia Golding

These books return to SLS at the end of this term but watch out for 20 brand new titles arrive at the beginning of January!

Please keep on collecting the Nestle box tops from your cereal packets. This is going to be a record year as I have already received more than the whole of last year.

Also a big thank you to everyone who has supported the scholastic book club this term. The library has benefited from over £200 in new books from the commission.

Mrs K Corbett. Librarian.



**School Absence Line:
01782 297566**



Just a reminder to all parents that the above number is the one you should be ringing if your child is ill or going to be late in, due to an appointment. It is a dedicated line and is available for you to ring 24 hours a day. You will hear a short message asking you to leave details of your child's absence. The message is then passed on to your child's form tutor.

Thank you. Mrs Osborn

Bikeability Level 2 Training

Over 50 pupils from year 7, 8, and 9 have taken their level 2 cycle training



recently. The course is designed to build a youngster's confidence when dealing with turning into and out of major and minor roads. Correct positioning on the road and being highly visible were key to ensuring car users slow down

and respect the cycle user. All the pupils coped extremely well and have since been seen riding confidently to school using the correct road positioning.

Riding on the pavement was discouraged and is illegal. Mr Williams has spoken to the Community Police Officer who is now aware of the training our pupils have undertaken and they will look out for youngsters who are illegally riding on pavements. If pupils are not comfortable with any stretch of road, or road junction, they have been instructed to get off and walk

for a way until they feel they can confidently ride their bike again.

All pupils received free front and back lights and were instructed in how to check their bikes to ensure they are safe to ride.



HELMETS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED BUT ARE NOT A LEGAL REQUIREMENT FOR CYCLISTS.

As an important follow-up to the training Mr Williams has generously agreed to ride any pupil's route to school with them and look at alternatives which may be safer. It is, however, up to the pupils themselves to ask for this but we strongly recommend that they do. **REMEMBER: BE SEEN and BE SAFE.**

Mr Williams.

Coming to Clayton:
Les Miserables April 2008.

Would you like to help us? We are all so excited about our ground-breaking production (due to showcase on the 9th – 11th April 2008) but we would like to make it a real community venture (plus we need as much help as possible...particularly in some areas!) As such, we are asking any parents/ other relatives for any help that they may be able to offer (no matter how small your contribution!) We particularly need help with the following:

- ❖ Making of costumes;
- ❖ Costume Management;
- ❖ Stage Crew/ Management;
- ❖ Chaperoning for the nights of the production and
- ❖ Help with photography and/ or printing of marketing materials.

If you could help with any of these things, please could you contact Mrs. McHugh/ Head of Creative Arts. Any help will be gratefully received! Thanking you in anticipation, the *Cast and Crew of Les Miserables*.



Mrs McHugh

Performing Arts

During the 5 weeks between the start of this school year and October 30th, year 10 performing arts BTEC, worked on a devised performance of the musical 'Cats' to perform in Spooktacular. This seemed to create a positive reaction

throughout the group, with most people having seen the show.

We started off by learning the script and blocking to the 'Naming of Cats' with Mrs Mc Hugh and the song 'Jellicle Cats' with Mr Gallacher, and eventually one by one the scenes came together, progressed and started to look good.

Part way through the five weeks, came a set of auditions, one for the boys, to see who would play Rum Tum Tugger and therefore sing 'Mr Mistoffelees' and one for the girls, to see who would play Grizabella and sing 'Memory'. These auditions were quite nerve racking, as only 3 girls and 4 boys were to be picked, and sitting outside hearing how well everyone else was doing, increased everyone's nervousness. A few days later, we were given the results, the girls; Jenny Banks, Nadine Nelson and Eloise Bowen, and the boys; Jake Beevor, Mark Beardmore, Richard Bailey and Alex Bates.

A second set and mini auditions were also held, to decide which characters were to perform which moves during the opening of 'Jellicle Cats', these auditions weren't particularly nerve racking, but they were hard work, as they involved doing some tricky dance moves over and over.

And so the parts had all been given out, with Chelsey Thorley-Williams also being awarded Mr Mistoffelees, and the show drawing nearer, our hardest challenge was yet to come. The 'Jellicle Cats' dance. We'd conquered the majority of the singing and acting, with minor adjustments being made here and there, but this dance had been left to last.

Each of Mrs Mc Hugh's lessons and twilights were then spent learning this dance, with its jazz and contemporary style dance moves, I don't believe anyone can say it was easy.

With all the script, blocking and dancing learnt, it was time to address other problems. Volume, articulation, characterisation and effort, were probably the main ones. Feedback from audience members, and tutors, along with constant practice, came the group that little push they needed to perform an amazing show.

All in all this experience was a challenge, but one that in the end produced a show that the group and their tutors were proud of. It brought the group closer together and team work, was needed throughout and gave people the

confidence that they will need to go on and do further shows.

Gemma Bridgwood 10M

'Spooktacular 07'

'CATS the Musical'- The rehearsal process.

'Performing is seeing and hearing something for the very first time'- a famous performing arts quote, however, in my experience, I have found that performing is much more than this; it is having the ability to fully exert all your effort into rehearsing a piece until perfection is achieved beyond the initial intention.

The year ten Performing Arts BTEC students (myself including) started working and rehearsing on the devised version of 'CATS' on Wednesday 12th September. We rehearsed for eight school periods per week, as well as up to three twilight sessions after the school day, sometimes running on until 6.30pm.

These rehearsals were highly strenuous, and required one hundred percent effort from every member of the company. As this was part of our first mock examination unit, we needed to ensure that we were all familiarised with choreography, lyrics and what was going on around us, in order for the rehearsal and final performances to run smoothly.

In the short period of time from September to October, we rehearsed 47 hours and 30 minutes, which had various influences on our other subject work and free time. At times throughout the production process, members of the cast did feel less energetic and drained from the amount of time and effort put into each rehearsal, which led to other performers feeling stressed and unmotivated. One of the main reasons why this occurred was because of the perfection and high standard needed to impress and hook the audience, so certain scenes or parts required specific focus or extra practice. As this was a very crucial time for the pupils on the course, the stress and pressure really was felt by all performers and artistic



members/directors. The year 10 students were assessed on many different areas, from rehearsal equipment and type of clothing worn, to ensuring lower school cast members were behaving appropriately.

Although we found our first production experience as a team a demanding responsibility and a big challenge, it was immensely rewarding as we gained many new skills and positive aspects. We gained a more intense relationship as a team, and morale levels were boosted, with the amount of time spent together.

Personally, I feel the whole production experience has been worth while, and I have thoroughly enjoyed the process. I have learnt from the feedback myself and the group received, and will aspire to put those points into practice. I would strongly recommend taking part in a school production or Performing Arts course, as the whole experience is emotional, but very inspiring. I would like to thank everybody who help with the production of 'Spooktacular '07,' and look forward to being a performer in the future.

Jie Bailey 10P

THRILLER!!

After many intense rehearsals, street dance pulled off yet another thrilling performance, choreographed by the inspirational dance teacher Craig Kemp, loved by many students from Clayton Hall Business and Language College.

Street dance performed the platinum selling song 'Thriller', sung by the one and only Michael Jackson, a perfect song to set a spooky atmosphere. After Thriller an adrenalin-pumping dance break kicked in, suddenly the atmosphere filled with suspense as the introductory dancers stood still in their positions whilst the audience sat waiting on the edge of their seats. All of a sudden the immense movement from the dancers began, quickly followed by the cheering from the audience, the whole hall overflowing with excitement.



To be part of this performance, to be on stage dancing with such a passion that I never wanted it to end gave me such an amazing and rewarding feeling. To be able to share this emotion with fellow street dance members was also a new and out of this world experience. I felt nothing but fulfilled happiness, contentment and joy, no one could wipe the smile off my face! I'm sure anyone involved in Spooktacular would agree, there is nothing quite like the rush you get after taking part in a show, be it backstage to performing.

Everyone in Advanced Street Dance put an exceptional amount of effort into every performance, making it one of the best dances' Street Dance has ever done!

Nadine Nelson 10W

Sports Update Autumn Term

Boys update

Cross Country

A real good turn out this year for the cross country teams has resulted in some very good team performances.

The year 7 team finished 2nd team overall out of their 4 races.

The year 8/9 team also finished 2nd team overall.

The year 10/11 team finished 3rd overall out of their 4 races.

The P.E. dept would like to thank the following boys who turned out for the school and ran this season.

Y7 Louis Downs, Marcus Williamson, Harvey Collins, Joel Brierwood, Tom Steele, Nathan Holland, Nathan Butcher, Ciran Corley, Jordan Tomkins, Alex Martin

Y8/9 James Lindop, Peter Day, Jack Rollings, Jack Hassell, Sam Foden, Alex Babb, Josh Sutton, Tom Kendrick, Mitch Durose, Ryan Maughan, Matt Barrow, Dan



Buxton, James Buckley, Alex Garrett, Tom Bradbury, Rob Stubbs, Ciron Conyon and Lloyd Brayford

Y10/11 Ben Dutton Chris Hammer, Liam Williams, Ben Allingham, Lee Cambell, Jack Brown, Sam Davies, Ryan Downs, Oliver Walker, Greg Bailey

Football Y11

The Year 11 team qualified from their group stage with wins over Newcastle Community and Wolstanton. They played St John Fisher in the Semi finals and a tight game resulted in a penalty shoot out after a 1-1 draw.

Unfortunately the team was unable to progress on penalties and lost out 5-4 in the end.

Clough Hall beat St John Fisher in the final.

Thanks from Mr Marray to all the boys who have represented the Y11 squad this season.

Year 9

The year 9 boys also qualified from their group stage for the first time losing out firstly to Madeley High, then beating Newcastle Community and Chesterton.

In the semi finals they played Wolstanton and on the same night as the Y11 also had to endure a penalty shoot out after a 2-2 draw and trailing 2-0.

They were to face St John Fisher in the final who ran out 5-0 winners on the night.

Mr Rhodes would like to congratulate all boys who have played this season and thank them for their hard work and improvement shown this season.

Clayton have entered the North Staffs Schools Table Tennis League which is supported by Penkhull Table Tennis Club. In their opening match against the defending 5 times champions the A team lost to St Peter's High School 8-2. The B team however fared better as they beat St Peter's B 6-4 inflicting their first ever loss in 5 years.

In their second match against Madeley (who are also newcomers to the league) the A team drew 5-5 in a very tense match. The B team also drew 5-5 in another tense match.

Clayton followed their good form up by beating Wolstanton 10-0 with both A and B teams now in strong positions in their pool to qualify for the semi finals in February with one fixture left in their pool against Blythe Bridge

Follow the progress of Clayton's table tennis teams by visiting the North Staffs Schools table tennis League web site and also find links to other good table tennis web sites.

<http://nssttl.topcities.com/nssttl.htm>

Thanks to the following players

A team -A.Liebeck, R.Corbett, M.Gallatley, A.Garrett

B team - P.Henson, O.Ford, R.Maughan, J.Clarke, M Whittaker.

Clayton have entered 4 teams in the Staffordshire Schools Table Tennis Team Championships. 3 U16's team and 1 U13 team. Any winning team in those categories go forward to represent their school and county in January in the Zone Finals.

This year will see the start of a lower school table tennis championships open to pupils in Y7-9. Results shall appear in the next newsletter

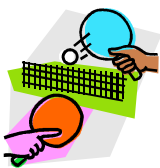
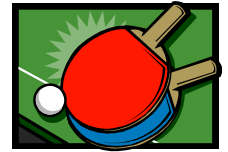
Basketball Y10/11 and Y9

The senior team (Y10/11) lost out in their first match 59-9 to Wolstanton but that has not dampened their spirits and they have been hard practising ever since waiting for the next match.

The Y9 team played St John Fisher recently and lost 44-22 in their first fixture.

Tesco Sports Vouchers

The P.E. dept would like to thank pupils and parents for their hard work in collecting the



Tesco Sports For Schools Vouchers this year. The tills at Tesco's will stop giving vouchers soon so keep collecting and bringing them in to your P.E. dept. We are hoping to get hold of some indoor athletics equipment with the vouchers we have collected.

Newcastle Schools Sports Coordinator update (SSCo)

Clayton Hall is involved in the Newcastle SSSCo programme. This is a government funded initiative to raise the profile and awareness of P.E. and sport in schools. Clayton has 6 schools with which it works closely.

Schools will benefit from Professional Development sessions, going on courses, learning new skills, and pupils are targeted for leadership skills in both Primary and Secondary schools. Improving links with local community clubs and coaches is another top priority and generally trying to raise the profile of P.E. and sport and the standards of P.E. and sport are also high priorities.



Do you have some coaching qualifications? Would you like to get involved in schools delivering Sport/Activities?

You may be of great use to schools in this area.

Should you wish to find out more please contact Clayton's School Sports Coordinator (SSCo) Mr Rhodes at Clayton to see how you can help out. Please ring through to the main reception. (Tel: 01782 297570).

Notice from the P. E Department.
From January all pupils playing:-

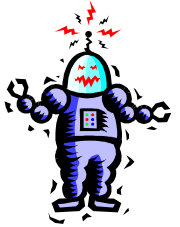
- Football must wear shin guards
- Rugby must wear a gum shield
- Hockey must wear gum shields and shin guards.

This includes playing in P.E lessons and school matches.

Mr Rhodes. PE Department.

Science and Engineering Club

This is an exciting new club which started in October 2007. Students are now entering the first leg of the 'Lego League', which is a competition to design and programme robots to carry out a series of tasks. It also involves carrying out research and project work. The focus of this year's competition is Sustainable Power! We will be entering the local regional heat towards the end of the term and if we get through this heat then we will go through to the national final. It is an international competition with teams taking part from all over the world. There will be an exciting new project in the New Year!



Mrs S Rhodes

What is Connexions?

Connexions is a free service providing information, advice, guidance and support for all 13-19 year olds and any young person with a statement of special educational need up to the age of 25. Connexions Personal Advisers help pupils plan their futures and give advice on employment, careers, apprenticeships and college courses. They can also give information on other issues such as finance, interests, leisure and personal issues and they can refer on to other professionals where more specialist guidance and support is required.

During term time, Connexions Personal Advisers are available in school three days a week (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday). A drop-in facility is available at lunchtimes on these days or pupils can arrange an interview in person or through their Head of Year.

During school holidays, Connexions Personal Advisers are based in the Connexions Centre in Hassell Street Newcastle (Tel: 01782 297383). The school's Personal Adviser can also be contacted by e-mail at denise.sillito@cxstaffs.co.uk

If a pupil would like to speak to someone from Connexions outside normal office hours, they can contact Connexions Direct.

This is a confidential helpline which is open 7 days a week between 8.00am and 2.00am. There are a number of ways to contact them:-

Freephone 08080013219

Text 07766413219

Webchat/Email

www.connexionsdirect.com/advice

Connexions News

The Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent 14-19 online Prospectus.

The new Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent 14-19 online Prospectus is now up and running and can be accessed at www.way2go.me.uk This website has been designed in order to provide information on all 14-19 courses in Staffordshire, Stoke on Trent and surrounding areas. Users can search by course or learning provider and can produce a personal progression map which shows the user how they can progress through a potential career. The site also has links to other relevant websites which provide information relating to self development/volunteering opportunities, careers advice and support with personal issues. Although the website is basically fully functional, users can influence its future development by emailing the site's project manager or by completing an online questionnaire.

Denise Sillitto
Connexions Personal Adviser

ICT Homework

You can now access you school user area, via the internet, from computers outside school. Go the school website:

www.clayton.staffs.sch.uk click on the – **Links** menu, then on **My Files** and then **Logon**. You will then be prompted to enter your username and password.

ICT Department.

More Able Group

On November 22nd MAG pupils, from years 8, 9, 10 and 11, visited the Merseyside Maritime Museum as part of their study of bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade.

Whilst there, they visited a recently opened exhibition about Liverpool's role in the slave trade, looking at the culture of the African countries most affected by the trade, the plight of the indentured slaves in the colonies and the lasting impact slavery has had on the modern world.

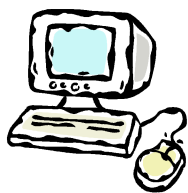
Whilst researching their projects, several groups contacted our local MP, Paul Farrelly, who has kindly invited MAG to visit the Houses of Parliament during the spring term. Consequently, I am currently planning the trip which will accompany the group's exploration of young people's role in today's politics, i.e. the possibility of their involvement with The Youth Parliament, local government and national government.

Mr Pilsel. MAG Co-Ordinator.

POLITE REMINDER

Would parents please remember to drop off and pick up pupils outside the school gates, preferably meeting your child(ren) at the Gatehouse Pub. This applies also to pupils being collected by taxis. In these instances we would be grateful if no cars or taxis came on to the premises between 8.35 and 8.50am and 3.15 and 3.25pm as for parents.

Parents who park their cars on Clayton Lane are endangering the lives of their own children as well as other pupils at the school. Please meet your child at the Gatehouse where there is plenty of parking and we have an agreement.



Children In Need. Charity Row



On Friday November 16th, a number of staff and 110 pupils from all years took part in a charity row event for Children In Need. The aim was for each person to row 500m and record their fastest time whilst making a donation to this worthy cause. Organiser Mr Alcock said, "All in all a total of £165.70 was raised and the day was enjoyed by everyone who took part." In sharing our success The Sentinel newspaper will be in school to take photographs of those who took part along with a large cheque showing the amount raised. Well done and thank you to all who took part for Children in Need.

Mr. W. Alcock

Logs for sale ASDAN Enterprise Project



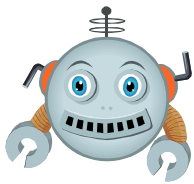
The ASDAN group have been collecting & cutting logs from the school grounds & we are selling them for £3.00 per bag. Half of the money raised will be used to fund future ASDAN projects & half will be given to charities supported by the school. To place an order please contact Mr Moss at school on 297570. Thank you.

Mr. P. Moss

Science and Engineering Club

After a long wait of several weeks, the Science and Engineering Club started for the first time in October. The club members were chosen by Mrs. Rhodes and Mr Lovatt, the Managing Director of Faraday Technology, at an interview.

At this club we build items and enter them in competitions. The club runs every Monday night. Our first challenge was a tough one and it still is, as it continues. Our target is to build a Lego robot for an annual competition called the First Lego League. Every year the theme of the competition changes; this year it is titled Power Puzzle and it's all about energy sources. After building the robots we must compete with other teams from different schools in the UK at regional and National levels. This may sound easy but it is not. We must program the robot to do certain tasks in front of a lot



of people. These tasks range from placing a solar panel on a house to positioning a dam. Unfortunately there is more - we must then produce a presentation about energy.

Shaluka Jayawardena 9W

Yr 7 Hockey Festival

TEAM:

Jenny Evans(captain)	Laura Thompson
Lola Afolabi	Hannah Quinn
Emily Williams	Beckie Jones
Louise Clarke	Lydia Brown

We were all really happy when we found out we had been picked for the year 7 hockey team and that we were going to play in a hockey festival. For most of us this was our first competitive hockey match.

We left school at 3:30 in the school minibus driven by Mrs Dale. When we arrived at Clough Hall we all followed Amy (a girl from year 10) down to the astro turf. There were quite a few teams of boys and girls.

Our first game was against N-U-L school who beat us 2-1. It was a close game we tried our best but they were the best team there and they had better stick skills and harder hits!

We then played Clough Hall girls and held them to a 0-0 draw. By that time we were getting more used to playing other teams with different skills and working better as a team. They did score an own goal but as the rules state you cannot have own goals!

Our final game against the All Stars, which was a mixture of people from the different teams, took us to a 2-0 victory! We tried our best even though we lost our main striker due to her being ill. We could maybe have used the wings more rather than passing straight down the middle but as we get more experienced these are skills we will learn.

The tournament was all about having fun and enjoying playing hockey against

other teams, we certainly enjoyed playing and I think the experience will help us to play even better when we get other fixtures. We arrived back in the pouring rain at 5:45 very wet but pleased with our first match for Clayton Hall Business and Language College.

Laura Thompson 7T

YEAR 7 ENTERPRISE FAIR SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER

After months of preparation year 7 pupils were to finally find out whether or not their enterprising ideas would turn into hard cash and a profit.

The Continental day on the Friday was very busy and hectic as everyone made their final preparations for the Saturday. This included setting out stalls and finishing off any last minute tasks. Some of the activities included

selling jewellery, making chocolate boxes, decorating plant pots, deal or no deal, and a chocolate fountain.

The Saturday was well attended and a huge success with every stall making a profit. Once the accounts are finalised the money will be used in 3 ways:

1. To pay back loans.
2. To help self-finance next year's event.
3. To help a local charity.

All forms decided on a charity then each individual pupil used a ballot paper to vote for their favoured charity. The winner was the Douglas McMillan Hospice. A cheque will be presented to them in the near future.

Thank you to all who took part including parents who supported or helped on the day.

Mr R. Williams

Bullying

On December 4th 2007, Clayton Hall year 7 pupils had a PSHE day. The day began with form time as usual. At 9.15am we had an assembly. That kicked off with a group performing a show called "Break The Silence". We all thoroughly enjoyed it. Personally I feel that bullying is not acceptable and is wrong. I think that one of the worst forms of bullying is

cyber bullying, because you don't really know too much about the person who is sending it.

Back to the day and it was break time immediately after break a group called the Peer Counsellors showed us a slideshow and how we can help stop bullying. Shortly afterwards three pupils from the blue zone showed us a different presentation but about how they can help and what you can do if you are lonely. They also talked about different types of bullying. We went to form to continue talking about types of bullying, we looked at a person's story who had a case of cyber-bullying. We went into a group discussion and talked about preventing bullying. STOP IT NOW! I thought it was a great morning.

By Harvey Collins 7G

Record of Achievement

Lucy Hayes Year 8 has been selected for the County Athletics Performance Squad for her 800m performances. Lucy won all four of the Newcastle District year 8 and 9 Cross Country Inter-schools races. Won the Amphill Cross Country Trophy U13's race in Bedfordshire, Lucy came 8th in the Birmingham Cross Country Challenge at Senneley Park Birmingham and has qualified for Staffordshire County Schools team to represent them in the UK Inter County Schools Cross Country race in Warwickshire. WELL DONE LUCY!!

Miss Rutherford



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Janet Ridgeon
Newcastle-under-Lyme
01782 712323
www.lighterlife.com/janetridgeon

Mr Heuston would like to mention the following students who have received a praise letter this term.

Daniel	Arme	7A
Macaulay	Beech	7A
Christopher	Blackshaw	7A
William	Dooley	7A
Lahana	Dytor	7A
Kirsty	Hollins	7A
Bethanie	Spiers	7A
Ashley	Thompson	7A
Lauren	Titley	7A
Melisa	Yurtmen	7A
Elliott	Barrow	7D
Ashleigh	Bradbury	7D
Lewis	Cartwright	7D
Louise	Clarke	7D
Ben	Hemmings	7D
Phoebe	Terry	7D
Jasmine	Yearsley	7D
Sophie	Thursfield	7G
Ellie	Bailey	7H
Radian	Jawadin	7H
Gina	Powell	7K
Domenico	Presti	7K
Joshua	Scibetta	7K
Jessie	Sims	7K
Jamie	Stichbury	7K
Sarah	Brown	7L
Charlie	Downes	7L
Kieran	Carley	7T
Chelsea	Eaton	7T
Daniel	Ellam	7T
David	Fox	7T
Benjamin	Garner	7T
Natalie	Heath	7T
Demi-Elle	Khetia	7T
Laura	Thompson	7T
Anya	Welsh	7T
Camilla	Woodward	7T
Attila	Zirekoglu	7T
Leanne	Burrows	8A
Samantha	Heath	8A
Laura	Holdcroft	8A
Lucy	Holdcroft	8A
Emily	Massey	8A
Ben	Masters	8A

Pippa	Monks	8A
Megan	Pile	8A
Dominic	Vyse	8A
Tyler	Eaton	8N
Matthew	Lawton	8N
Lauren	Leese	8N
Victoria	Turner	8N
William	Brambley	8P
Ashleigh	Cross	8P
Chandler	Deakin	8P
Joseph	Dobson	8P
Joshua	Handley	8P
Annabel	Le Lohe	8P
Giorgia	Presti	8P
Megan	Taylor	8P
Leanne	Wroe	8P
Lucy	Ashley	8R
Hayley	Bates	8R
Alex	Bester	8R
Danielle	Madeley	8R
Ryan	Maughan	8R
Harriet	Watts	8R
Joseph	White	8R
Lucy	Whittingham	8R
Jessica	Hunt	8S
Matt	O'Brien	8S
Georgia	Bradley-Bourne	8T
Bethany	Carr	8T
Niall	Forrest	8T
Cameron	Rhodes	8T
Stephanie	Whieldon	8T
Sophia	Lowe-Ellis	8W
Emily	Bailey	9A
Hannah	Bailey	9A
Jack	Poynter	9A
Jamie	Stones	9A
John	Braithwaite	9D
Pippa	Clarke	9D
Logan	Gater	9D
Joshua	Jenkins	9D
Eren	Kuzubasoglu	9D
Cameron	Love	9D
Joshua	Probert	9D
Michael	Hamer	9J
Andrew	Moon	9J
Matthew	Hemmings	9M
Daniel	Mountford	9M
Joseph	Pearson	9M

Jessica	Clarke	9P
Lucy	Corcoran	9P
Arayba	Iqbal	9P
Carla	Jackson	9P
Emma	Brown	9T
Evie	Carroll	9T
Atchuthan	Gopalan	9T
Ryan	Hopwood	9T
Amy	Lister	9T
Emma	Murtagh	9T
Clara	Taylor	9T
Jack	Burton	9W
Emily	Harvey	9W
Shannon	Howells	9W
Jaynika	Patel	9W
Neethu	Varghese	9W
Miriam	Wardle	9W
Jamie	Hill	10A
Thomas	Robinson	10A
Sam	Ellison	10D
Louise	Guest	10D
Jonathan	Jones	10D
Shaun	Pellington	10D
Aidan	Rhodes	10D
Samantha	Rowlinson	10D
Charlotte	Critchlow	10K
Nikita	Goel	10K
Ahmed	Kandeel	10K
Max	Powell	10K
Andrea	Walton	10K
Jessica	Stanway	10M
Jie	Bailey	10P
Jennifer	Banks	10P
Alex	Bates	10P
Thomas	Jones	10P
Christopher	Lewis	10P
Jessica	Quinn	10P
Jordan	Whitfield	10P
Anna	Burton	10S
Robert	Norman	10S
Sarah	Chapman	10W
Thomas	Clarke	10W
Katie	Day	10W
Sandy	Evans	10W
Erkan	Icli	11B
Samantha	Laney	11B
Jessica	Beetenson	11D
Emily	Bloor	11D

Louise	Marketos	11D
Elise	Riley	11L
Sarah	Harper	11M
Kimberly	Jones	11M
Kelly	Martini	11M
Emma	Taylor	11M
Kerry	Jervis	11R
Amy	Mountford	11R
Daisy	Wood	11R
Michaela	Brereton	11V
Sophie	Gray	11V
Jessica	Wood	11V

