

# July 2008

WKRS Newsletter

## Staff News

A number of staff will have left this term from various departments.

Teaching: we say goodbye to three of our teachers this year, all are moving on to further teaching posts, Mrs Hogan locally; Mr Malone and Mr Rimmington both moving away from the Wirral.

Also from the Education Department Miss Foster one of our Teaching Assistants has gained a place at Liverpool Hope University on a Primary Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) Course

From the Care Department Mr Farrell is now working in Cheshire and Paula Varley is 'emigrating' to Ireland.

Finally one of our Domestic Staff, Mrs Smith is retiring. Mrs Smith has worked at the school since 1993 and she officially retires in August, however she will be taking a well earned holiday and is looking forward to not having to get up so early in the mornings!

All of them have made a positive contribution to the lives of pupils and staff here at the school and we all send them off with our very best wishes for whatever the future holds for them.

Other staff news includes the birth of a daughter Eve for Mrs Mulla in admin, Mrs Abernethy has recently returned to school following the birth of her daughter Eva and Mr Davies from Care is getting married, congratulations to them all.

Also a number of staff are recovering from surgery and we send our love and best wishes to Sister Gillett, Sister Hubbard, Mrs Hogan and Mrs Taylor.

On the Board of Directors we said goodbye to Ms Williams due to family commitments and welcomed Mr Wilson. Mr Wilson has also become a Trustee of the School Pension Plan and both Mr Boumphrey and Mr Pimbley have stepped down. Mr Boumphrey remains as a Director but Mr Pimbley, who originally joined the WKRS as a Director and on the Finance Committee, has finished altogether. Our sincere thanks go them all and to all the other Directors and Governors for supporting the school through yet another successful year.



Principal - Mr G W Williams  
Vice Principal - Mr D Barden  
Head of Support Services – Mrs M Josey  
Head of Care – Mrs Y Blackledge  
Chair of Governors - Mr J Wylie

## Building Developments

Two exciting changes this term were; the opening of the new 'space-age' link corridor between the Science Block and main Classroom block, followed swiftly by the opening of the new Multi Use Games Area on the back field. This has enabled a wider range of sports to be held without having to wait for the pitch to dry out!

Pupils will be living in two local houses in Meols as from September. One has been in occupation since Easter and pupils and staff have enjoyed the new experience.



New Contractors move on site during the summer term to start on the first of five phases of work which will last over the next fourteen months or so. The first area includes a refurbished and upgraded medical suite, including a

new separate stairway entrance to Mr Mackenzie's Boys Unit. This work will continue well into the Autumn Term and the phase includes some new office changes.

*Mrs Josey*

## Disability Equality Duty

Following a survey of the whole community and a number of meetings of the working party the WKRS Disability Equality Scheme Action Plan has been prepared.

Copies can be obtained from Mrs Josey at the school and will shortly be available on the school website [www.wkrs.co.uk](http://www.wkrs.co.uk).

## Partnerships – SSAT work

Our school has now completed it's first year as a 'Specialist College' – a status we have been awarded through the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. We have worked hard at developing successful partnerships with a wide range of organisations, including Edge Hill, Liverpool and Hope Universities, Arrowe Hill, Portland Street and Holy

Trinity Primary Schools and South Wirral and Hilbre High Schools. A very successful course has recently been developed by Mr Hastie) to help Local Authority transport escorts to develop their skills. We look to develop such partnerships still further next academic year.

## Helping Staff to Develop further Professional Skills and Knowledge

As all people involved with WKRS will be aware, staff work very hard to support all young people. New ideas based on research and innovative resources are constantly being developed. Training plays an important part in ensuring that everyone is kept up to date. Many staff have attended courses to help them gain greater knowledge and understanding of the curriculum, special needs and changing statutory requirements. We have also had In Service Training Days (INSET) this term related to 'Changes in the Secondary Curriculum' – (all secondary schools had an extra day's training on this); 'Developing a Nurturing School Environment' a day organised by Jim Parker from Wirral AL – and have all had additional training on using our approved physical intervention (PRICE) and AfL (Assessment for Learning).



## Trips

9KH had a trip to Chester Zoo on 12<sup>th</sup> May as a reward for doing so well in their SATs.

Later, on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008, 9KH visited the Al Rahma mosque in Liverpool as part of their study of Islam.

We met the Imam – an Islamic priest who showed us around the mosque. He introduced us to the Islamic way of thinking and prayer. We viewed several versions of the Qur'an (the Islamic holy book) and watched Muslims pray. We learned about the Muslim way of life, what Muslims eat, and how they pray to Mecca. It was a brilliant experience and 9KH learned a lot about Islam.

The mosque was being extended at the time and I look forward to taking the new year 9s next year to see how the mosque has developed.

*Miss Hercules*

## RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

Most of our pupils took part in residential trips in July, a very valuable aspect of our curriculum;

### Llangollen Camp

Numerous children and staff were involved in a very successful camp at Wern Isaf Farm near Llangollen. Although the weather was not always kind the range of experiences available included; walking, mountain biking, swimming, ice-skating, visits to Corwen on the Llangollen Steam Railway and Electric Mountain – the enormous hydro electric power



generator deep under a mountain in Snowdonia. All the pupils and staff who

camped out enjoyed the experience. Sam Senior was 'Camper of the Week'.

**Mr Barden**

### Lakeside

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008, we set off for the Lake District for a fun filled, action packed week! During our stay at Lakeside, we took part in many activities, including the king swing, local fell walk, kayaking, blue tubes, archery, obstacle course, initiatives, raft building, canoeing, climbing, abseiling and the aerial runway. We crammed a lot into the week and the group thoroughly enjoyed taking part in all the activities. We went on a magical mystery tour on Wednesday, which a lot of pupils said was the best activity of the week! We enjoyed Lakeside immensely and everyone who took part received a prize and certificate back at school. Special prizes went to Harley Davies for 'best all-rounder', Dan Ebbs for 'most

merits of the week' and Leon Roach for 'Lakesider of the Week'.

Lakeside was again a very successful residential. The group gained many new experiences and skills

**Miss Hercules**

### Yorkshire Residential Trip

The residential trip to Yorkshire was based at the scout camp at Baildon, with 14 pupils sleeping in dormitories in the scout hut and although we took tents the bad weather did not make it practical to camp out.

Throughout the day pupils had the opportunity to choose from a range of activities arranged for them, these consisted of archery, hiking, go-carts, shooting, visit to Bolton Abbey, ten pin bowling, high wire walk, orienteering and rock climbing. During the evening pupils played board games, football, rounders and watched DVD's.

Pupils were able to assist with food preparation, make their own packed lunch and generally help in the kitchen.

An excellent time was had by all pupils and staff.

We look forward to next year, but with improved weather !!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Mr Wilson**

### C2C in September/October

A further long distance bike ride is planned for early in the Autumn Term – having cycled successfully across England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales in recent years – it is now time to revisit the 140 mile Whitehaven to Newcastle Coast to Coast route. It is planned that 10 pupils and 6 staff will complete the ride in the first week of October – returning to school on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Parents will be given further details as soon as we return to school.

**Mr Barden**

### School Council

Nominations for the new School Council representatives will take place in September.

### Post 16

Post 16 will be holding an **Open Evening** on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 6.00-7.30pm for parents/guardians of the new Post 16 students. Post 16 students will also be going to camp Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October until Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Mrs Williams**

### **Community Group**

WKRS have recently moved into the Community in the Meols area, it has been a great success. We have given the boys a chance to choose colours for the house and carpets, they have their own rooms and can decorate them as they wish. We access the local community by going to the youth club and we have had lots of trips out in the local transport, including the trains and ferry. We have also visited the Liverpool 08 Capital of Culture, which the boys have enjoyed very much and had lots of photos taken with the lamb bananas that are all over Liverpool to represent the important export trade. We have recently said goodbye to one member of the Community House, Tim Dunn. He has enjoyed his stay in the house and also in our school and we all wish him great success in the future.

*Miss Evans*

### **Permission Slips**

Unfortunately some pictures of pupils at residential camps were not able to be included in the school magazine as parents/guardians had not returned their permission slip to school. If you have not already done so, and you have no objection to us printing pictures of your child in the school magazine/newsletter, will you please return the enclosed slip to school? Thank you.

### **Duke of Edinburgh**

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award aim is to provide an enjoyable, challenging and rewarding programme of personal development for young people. There are a number of key principles that underpin the award and are non competitive, flexible, balanced, progressive and available to all. The benefits for young people are to promote self belief and self confidence, giving them a sense of identity. When they join the award there are 3 levels; bronze, silver and gold, and each level is divided into 4 sections; service, skill, physical recreation and expedition. The participant has to fulfil certain

criteria in each section to gain a level of the award.

If you would like any information regarding your child joining the award please contact Mr Yuen at school.

*M Yuen*

### **P.E. Activities – Summer 2008**

Much has been happening in the PE department during the summer term.

The school has joined the Wirral Schools' Sports partnership and this has resulted in a range of curriculum and extra curriculum developments. Our pupils in Key Stage 3 have benefited from coaching in Boccia, Cricket, Handball, New Age Curling and a Mutli-Skills Course that will identify pupils who are gifted and talented in PE. We have also been able to participate in 2 inter school events at Boccia.

On a wider scale we have taken part successfully in the Cheshire and Merseyside Championships in Athletics and Cricket.

Our pupils also participated in the Wirral Paddlefest at West Kirby Marina on 1<sup>st</sup> July; the pupils enjoyed kayaking and bell boat racing throughout the day, and benefited from a barbeque at lunchtime.

The big development in the curriculum has been the opening of the Multi Use Games Area. The



pupils are already enjoying the benefit of the facility and it has made a positive contribution to improving the delivery of curriculum lessons. It has allowed us to continue with lessons when the weather is inclement, or the playing surface would be too slippy, and it has also led to the pupils improving their skills at cricket, rounders and tennis, in particular.

The advent of the new games area has resulted in us using the playing fields of Wirral Grammar School for Girls in Graham Road for our sports day on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July – this ran very smoothly and we had a rain free day!!!

**Drama at WKRS**

This year we have enjoyed several visiting theatre groups and Arts workers at the school. Recently M & M Productions performed their adaptation of Pinocchio to the whole school. Earlier in the year Y9 went to the Gladstone Theatre to watch a performance of Much Ado About Nothing as part of their SATS preparation. Y8 & 9 pupils enjoyed cross-curricular activities within the Arts Department working with a street dancer for 6 weeks and a drama worker from Ullaloom Theatre Company in the last half of the summer term. We were planning a skills share afternoon, but unfortunately had to cancel due to the industrial action. The whole school also enjoyed working with local poet/storyteller John Hughes and lots of examples of pupil's work were recently published in the school magazine. We are looking forward to even more visits next term starting with acclaimed poet/storyteller Levi Tafari visiting school early in the term.

### **Mini Play Day will be held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

### **Summer Reads**

The summer reading game "Summer reads..." has made an excellent start. A high percentage of the pupils are involved in the challenge and for the first time this year many of the staff are also taking part. Over 310 books have been read and reviewed already. As an additional incentive this year to encourage pupils to read through the holidays, pupils and staff have been asked to send a review of the books they read on holiday into school on a postcard to earn extra points for themselves and their house team. All the postcards will be displayed in school in September.

### **Library**

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July, Mrs Baird, Mrs Abernethy and Mrs Bushell went to Askews in Preston to select new books for the Library and Reading Support. We were amazed at the variety and

number of books available. We were particularly interested in the substantial large print area. We were able to purchase a variety of fiction, non-fiction and large print books to accommodate the individual learning styles of our pupils. We were made very welcome and know the pupils will enjoy and benefit from the new books.

### **Summer Break**

At the end of another very positive year we thought you may like to read some comments sent in from parents after they received the pupils End of Year Reports.

"Since joining WKRS my son has a better attitude towards school, he has made friends and overall he is a happier child."

"I am very pleased and proud my son is trying so hard."

"Our daughter has done brilliantly on her progress this year. We really appreciate all the support she has had."

"I am so proud of my son and the progress he has made in his first year at WKRS. I could never have imagined him doing half the things he has done."

"A noticeable difference in effort and attainment. It goes to show how the quality of relationships and the right environment can make all the difference."

"We are extremely pleased with our child's progress this year and would like to thank all the staff for their hard work."

**The staff hope everyone has a pleasant summer break, pupils return to school on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.**

## **Connexions**

Connexions work with pupils from Year 9 until the age of 25, to help and advise them and their families on career development.

## **Success Stories**

The success of every young person into a positive placement by the end of November 2007 has to be celebrated and demonstrates the schools holistic approach to meeting individual need.

At the centre of the success is the school's reputation, both locally and nationally, alongside a range of partnerships that it has forged with the community at large to provide excellent quality provision.

To support the progress of any one individual from a Year 9 Annual Review Meeting to the point of transition requires a great deal of quality work and ongoing intensive support both academically and socially.

The CEG programme in school continues to develop. The school receives a CEG newsletter, attends CEG network meetings, invited to attend the event for the new Diplomas and IAG. The school has been supported with reviewing and developing IAG and CEG standards.

Congratulations to Mrs Williams who has achieved the Diploma in Careers Education Award. Some school pupils along with staff attended the Careers Convention held at Hilbre High School on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008.

## **Liaison with Staff and Key Partners**

In order to meet the complex range of needs at West Kirby Residential School it is essential to have in place effective networking. Within School the Connexions Personal Advisers continue to liaise with a wide range of key staff from:- Senco, Form Tutors, Teaching Assistants, Care/Support Workers, School Nurses, Physiotherapist, Speech Therapists, BEST Team and pivotal to all of this is the Careers Co-ordinator, Mrs Williams. This is done both formally and informally and can with some individuals be done on a regular basis.

Work with external agencies can be extensive throughout the guidance process to the point of transition and in some cases beyond.

The agencies include:- Leaving Care Team, Social Services, College Tutors, Residential Colleges and LSC/LEA's to mention but a few.