

High Performance at Downing Street: Celebrating Success

Greenhead's Principal Martin Rostron represented the College at a Downing Street Reception on Monday 15th March, 2010. This event credited Greenhead College's achievement as one of the highest performing institutions within the sector. Martin Rostron commented that it was a "significant honour for the college to be invited."

The reception celebrated national success as Principals from a range of colleges joined Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Business Secretary Lord Mandelson and Further Education Minister Kevin Brennan.

Lord Mandelson stated "It is right that we celebrate excellence and these colleges are beacons of success that we can all be proud of." Kevin Brennan supported this view adding "The colleges here today are among the very best in the country, and I am proud of their efforts to serve their students with high quality education and training."

Prime Minister Gordon Brown commented that the college representatives present at the event are "among the very best in the country and I am hugely impressed by their commitment to helping people get the skills, the training, and inspiration to achieve their full potential. The Principals, staff and students should be very proud of their achievements, and I am delighted to celebrate their success here in Downing Street."



Greenhead's Principal Martin Rostron in dialogue with Prime Minister Gordon Brown

OFFERS ROLL IN!

Hundreds of University offers have been achieved by Greenhead College students over the last few weeks, from all over the country and for a wide range of courses.

They include 20 offers to read for degrees at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. These Oxbridge offers add to the many Greenhead students have achieved over the last 15 years with 131 offers being made in the last five years. At a time when the number of applicants is increasing to these Universities our 'hit-rate' during recent years is better than the national average. The offers achieved by our students reflect achievement by all departments at the College, and their former High Schools.



This year's successful Oxbridge applicants

On the afternoon of Wednesday 31st March some of our former students who are already at Oxbridge, and four admission tutors, came in to College to talk to our students and have some of the many myths dispelled. Further open meetings will be held in College, at lunchtimes, with the last being held on 30th April, for those who missed this meeting and would like to find out more.

This success confirms the excellence and high standards of Greenhead College and you would have to go a long way to find its equal. Congratulations to all the students as they embark upon their futures. **TF**

Maths Report + 2009-10:

Students in the Maths Department have been busy this year complementing their A-level study with a range of mathematical activities.

In October 2009, Daniel Edmondson, Sam Porritt, Isaac Rose and Matthew Wedge-Roberts represented Greenhead at the Senior Team Maths Challenge at Leeds University

and came an impressive 8th out of 23 teams from the North of England.

In November 2009, 80 A1's and A2's entered the UK Maths Challenge competition and were rewarded with 5 Gold, 15 Silver and 23 Bronze awards. Sam Porritt's exceptional score entitled him to take part in Rounds 1 and 2 of the British Maths Olympiad and he came up with a very creditable performance in each.

March 2010 proved a busy time with trips out to Leeds and Manchester Universities for 30 students to attend popular lectures on "Wii Technology", "User-Centred Design" and "How Round is a Circle?"

The Maths Department also hosted a Pop Maths Quiz for 70 youngsters from partner schools. The team from All Saints went away with the winners' trophy, with King James in second place.



INTRODUCING THE CORPORATION!



Left to right, top row: Peter Skuse, Eva Lambert, Martin Rostron, Charles Kaye, Debra Todd, Roger Bryant, Christine Milsom, Liz Ryan

Left to right, bottom row: Sian Harris, Hannah Galloway, Anton McGrath, Bob Cryan, Mehboob Khan, Clinton Burhouse and Calvert Prentis

Greenhead College has a Governing Body which consists of 19 members; membership is made up of external members, staff, students and, of course, the Principal! The Governors represent the interests of the local community, and, in particular, the public interest in general. Their role is to ensure that the College is a successful place for students to learn and a great place in which to work for the staff.

A key priority for them is to ensure that there is prudent control of all assets and funds and this is achieved through regular meetings and monitoring. They oversee the way that the College carries out its work and provide strategic direction but do not manage the College or get involved in day-to-day operations.

Not caught on camera this time are: Ranjit Uppal, William Redman, Mark Partington, Mark Hanson, Melanie Williams and Ros Moors.

I hope that this article and photograph will help you understand more about the role of the Corporation and also be a way of introducing the members to you which will help you recognise them. **DT**

Debating Society News:

Spring Enrichment enrolment saw a much higher intake than usual at the Debating Society, meaning the society's headquarters were fit to burst. We had a wider choice of exciting topics to choose from.

The first debate, "This house believes that private schools should be abolished" saw a huge turnaround in voters' opinions due to the skill of new and old debaters. The historical and sociological debate "Is America a bastion of freedom?" saw a landslide victory for the opposing team. The more political debate of whether rail

transport should be nationalised was surprisingly energetic, leading to an unusually high number of abstaining voters.

Our congratulations go to the Greenhead students who entered and performed well in the NorVlc competition, and students Emma Bates and Anumm Javed who succeeded in getting through the first round of the British Mace competitions. With exciting and controversial debates in the pipeline such as "Does God exist?" and the hilarity of Radio 4 style "Just a Minute" tournaments; this term has seen many opportunities for pro and novice debaters alike to get involved and voice their opinions.

Farrah Kelly

NEW FACES



Greenhead's own Mankowitz
by Elizabeth Gregory

Once the master of the flash bulbs, Grant Peden, Greenhead's new Learning Support Teacher, now helps to switch on the light over our head.

After taking a degree in photography, Grant became a photojournalist in London working for titles including 'Melody Maker.'

His career change, which involved gaining a PGCE and a further Post Graduate qualification in Specific Learning Difficulties, has given Greenhead a wonderful new staff member. Students are enthusiastic about Grant's methods claiming, "Grant is always happy and relaxed. No matter how long it takes, he is patient and approachable."

Grant travelled across America and Australia as a student, and although the trekking days are over, he still enjoys a holiday, the last of which he spent in Northern Spain. A drummer and aspiring-guitarist, it is no surprise when Grant's favourite bands are The Specials, Hawkwind and New Order.

Grant's combination of cool and clever should stand him in good stead for a life at Greenhead. After all, isn't that the profile of all Greenhead's staff?

AS Geography Field Trip: "Preston Montford in March"

The Geography trip to Preston Montford in March was great. It allowed us to get to know the other Geography students better. The constant blue skies and sun made the field work much easier, although sketching a river valley proved difficult enough for some of us, even in the best of weather. The trip and work was varied; we looked at the flood defences in Shrewsbury, measured different characteristics of rivers and climbed half way up a mountain to see glacier formations. This experience brought the Geography course to life for many people. It was hard work but enjoyable.

Sue Clark



Geography students are pictured enjoying wider field work

10K knockout!

Congratulations to Liz Bowen, Miranda Stavrakantonaki, Ben Josey, Joe Cooper, Conor Martin, Sarah Peacock, Matthew Todd and Julie Davies for completing the Huddersfield 10k on 28th February.



A CHANGE IN VENUE



The AS Geology fieldwork changed venue to Pembroke Coast, South Wales this year. Although cold, we were lucky to have five days of sun which made the coastal locations all the more enjoyable. As last year, we were accompanied by Vice Principal, Anton McGrath, and field assistants Vince Williams and Charlotte Miller (ex Greenhead geology student). Greenhead geologists were again the recipients of a new equipment grant of compass clinometers, courtesy of Vince Williams. Thank you, Vince! **VH**

Important Diary Dates

MARCH

31 Oxbridge Day (12.35pm start)

APRIL

1 College closes
 14-16 Library open for revision
 9.30am to 4.00pm
 16-18 British Colleges' Sports Finals in
 Loughborough
SUMMER TERM
 19 College opens
 26-30 AS Art Examinations
 29 Higher Education Information
 Evening for Parents

MAY

3 Bank Holiday
 4-14 A2 Art Examinations
 6 Students meet PaWS Project
 Leaders/Supervisors
 (6 period day)
 17 AS/A-level Examinations
 commence
 21 Last day of AS teaching
 28 Last day of A2 teaching
 College closes

JUNE

2-4 Library open for revision
 9.30am to 4.00pm
 4 A2 Leavers' Ball
HALF TERM
 7 College opens (AS/A-level
 examinations continue)
 14 A2 General Studies exams (am)
 15 Art Show Private View, 6.30pm

18 8.45am start: What's Ahead Conf/
 PaWS meeting/New A2
 Timetables
 21-25 Project and Work Placement
 Week
 23 A2 General Studies
 Examination (pm)
 28 New A2 lessons commence
 Governors Meeting
 30 PAWS Debriefing
 (4 period morning)
 Trip to Oxford University Open
 Day (until 1 July)
 Last day of examinations

JULY

1 Trip to Cambridge University
 Open Day (until 2 July)
 6 Summer Concert
 16 College closes

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Sporting Qualification Credits Galore:

Loughborough:

Over 50 students from Greenhead have qualified to go to Loughborough this year for the National Finals of the British Colleges Sport. Students will compete on the 17th and 18th April, 2010. Qualification is in both male and female Hockey, Swimming, female Rugby Union, Tennis, Badminton, Golf and Trampolining. Students will be representing the North East region and compete against students from other national regions.



Top Tennis:

The girls' and mixed Tennis teams both qualified to reach the National Finals of the Senior Schools Tennis Finals on 20th and 21st March, after having beaten many schools and colleges in the northern region. This resulted in them playing the other qualifying teams from all over the country at the Bolton Arena. All players put 100% into the event and some top class tennis was displayed. The girls made it through to the final by beating Boston Grammar, George Watson School and Leweston School and just missed out to Culford School in the final. The Greenhead mixed team beat both Boston Grammar and Coopers Company and Coborn School but just missed out on getting to the final by losing to Ellesmere in a tight fought tie break. Congratulations to all concerned. **KLU**



Hockey:

An excellent year so far with both team and individual honours. Both the girls' and boys' squads have qualified to represent the NE regions at the BCS finals weekend to be held at Loughborough University in April. The girls' team has also reached the semi-finals of the BCS girls' hockey cup. The fixture against Moulton College will be played on Weds 28th April.



Congratulations to Rosie Tootell and Greg Moorhouse who have been selected for the BCS representative squads for women's and men's hockey respectively. Both Greg and Rosie are attending training camps at the moment before the national and international fixtures being held. A tour abroad is planned for the summer.

Rugby Union:

Congratulations to Ross Thornton who has gained a place on the BCS Rugby Union squad. He has started weekend training camps and will tour abroad in the summer. This is the first time Greenhead has had a student achieve this level.



Golf:

Congratulations to Jamie Bower and Imogen Covell who have been selected to represent the NE colleges in both the team and individual golf tournaments at the BCS finals in Loughborough.

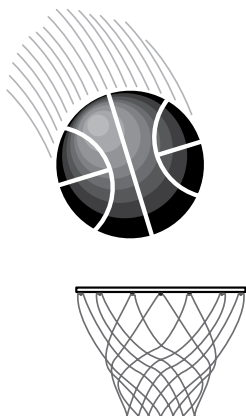


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Basketball:

Since Christmas the boys' basketball team has been fortunate to maintain a regular set of fixtures despite the wintry weather (the benefit of playing an indoor sport!) I say 'boys', however, I must mention our regular 'starting five' player Rhyanna Bunniss

who is the first ever female student to play for the college team. In the British Colleges Cup, the team, captained by Alex Kiy, beat Barnsley College in round 2 but lost in round 3. Since February half term, we have had a run of wins against Bradford, Pontefract, Kirklees, Doncaster and York colleges putting us in the top three colleges in the league. We hope this successful streak continues at the Pennine Colleges' Tournament in March. Well done on a fantastic season every one! **MSH**



Netball:

Despite the snow, we still managed to play some netball this term! Again both the first and second teams remain unbeaten and are at the top of their leagues. This bodes well for the play-offs against the winners of other leagues within the North East Region! Well done girls! **SY**

1st team football:

The term has been disrupted by a number of cancellations due to the weather and opponents withdrawing but we are still top of the table in the British Colleges. Our only defeat was an early season one at York but we gained revenge recently with a 4-3 victory despite being 0-2 down at half time, with Danny Cooke scoring a fine hat trick. We look forward to the play off with confidence as a number of our players have represented the County this season: Paul Day, Ben Burns, Jack Garrety, Elliot Chambers, Richard Lally, Tom Gledhill, Danny Cooke, Jake Massey and Alex Kemp who was also selected for the North of England Team. **RF**

Careers Update

The Employers and Gap Year Fair held on February 25th targeted those looking at options other than university and attracted even more visitors than last year. Time in exotic places and traineeships have already been organised as a consequence.

As 90% of our intake chooses Higher Education, many joined us at the Higher Education Fair in Manchester and can look forward to more university visits in the summer term. Parents are cordially invited to our HE evening on 29th April and students will be attending our "What's Ahead?" conference in June immediately prior to a week of projects and work placements.

If all of the above fails to crystallise ideas for life beyond Greenhead, individual careers interviews are available every day of the week. **RB**

Driven By Success



A recent enterprise set up by two Greenhead students proved to be a roaring success. Matthew Dawson and Josh Rushton-Crawshaw tapped into a gap in the market by arranging an event where students could speak to and sign up for lessons with local driving firms. Many students also took the opportunity to have their first taste of driving in the College overflow car park. Overall, a super experience for all involved and watch out Jenson Button! PD

Charitable Success:



Students were united in wearing red. This was a visual expression of support to accompany active fundraising on behalf of the citizens of Haiti affected by the Earthquake.

Fundraising pursuits have been a trademark of this year's Senior Student committee. In addition to the £3500 raised for Charity Day other events have also featured. Sian Green, Senior Student, comments that the team "wanted the students and teachers to know that their efforts are being recognised." These efforts included a "Wear Red for Haiti" event which raised £2239. Sian notes that "when I walked into college on the day of the event, there was a sea of red in the main hall. Fantastic!"

Recently a "Bring a Bra" day was organised for the women of Senegal. Sian notes that "we wanted to do more for charity. The aim was to search at home for any old bras and bring them in. We have 320 bras as a result." Oxfam representatives are due to come into college and pick the bras up as this edition goes to press. Oxfam has also confirmed "that the bras will get to Senegal."

Thank you to all of the college community who have given money, time and resources so generously. Sian remarks that "every little thing done makes a difference in the long run." Well done also to Sian, the Senior Student team and all colleagues who have continued to coordinate such worthwhile and important endeavours.

Thank you to Fred Lodge for his excellent range of photographs which have featured in this edition of Greenhead News.