

Dear Parents and Students

A New Year, and the first letter of a new Principal! I am delighted to have been promoted within the college, and to have the opportunity to lead such a marvellous staff and fantastic students. There will be interesting new developments, but at the same time I will strive to retain the best qualities of the college - the warm and positive atmosphere, the broad range of extra activities on offer, and the outstanding record of 'opening doors' for students, to jobs and degree courses, through excellent academic results and personal support.

January has been a busy month all round: I hope it has been a good one for you. There have been AS and Key Skills exams a-plenty - best of luck to all candidates. We have had Open Evenings for prospective students, and started the annual round of interviews. Congratulations to those successful in their Oxbridge applications - a record 34 - and commiserations to those who missed out. Again, the offers span the whole range of subjects, testimony to the all-round excellence of the teaching (and learning) here. I hope all the other applicants are rewarded with successful offers - if not already achieved - in the coming months.

You will have seen on the front page an article about our retiring Principal, Dr Kevin Conway, to whom I owe a great deal. He appointed me as one of his Vice Principals back in 1991, and working on his team has been a delight. Kevin is an imaginative and inspiring leader, who was always motivated by the desire to do the best by the young adults in his care. He fought fierce battles for them and his success was earned through effort rather than sheer luck. The very unusual circumstances of his retirement through ill-health rob us of a man of vision, the one regret, for me, in taking over 'prematurely', but he has blazed a trail we can follow.

I must also pay tribute to Dr Peter Griffin, who will also retire quite soon: he has managed the college most skilfully during the last year of uncertainty, as Acting Principal, and has earned the admiration of the staff and students for doing it so calmly, efficiently and with such good humour. My own debt to Peter is also a great one: he hands on a very stable and financially successful college, and he has been and will be, I am sure - a very steady support for me in the next few months. Once again, best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely

Martin Rostron



Dates for your diary



FEBRUARY HALF TERM

- Thu 21 Greenhead French Exchange students in France (until Sat Mar 2nd)
Mon 25 College opens.
Application forms for A2 courses issued this week.

MARCH

- Tue 5 (to 7th) Theatre Studies Practical preparation.
Fri 8 **Progress Report Day**
Application forms for A2 courses handed in.
Mon 11 *Governors' meeting 4.15 pm*
Thu 14 AS Theatre Studies Practical examination.
German Exchange - Greenhead German Exchange students in Germany (to 21st)
Economics Field Trip (and 15th)
Sun 17 (to 21) AS Geography trip to Preston Montford
Higher Education Information Evening for AS Parents
Tue 26 **Spring Concert 7.30 pm**
Thu 28 Personal tutors complete reports and issue to students
College closes

SUMMER TERM 2002

APRIL

- Sun 14 French Exchange: French students in England (until Mon 22th)
Mon 15 College opens
Thu 18 **A1 PARENTS' EVENING (A to M) from 6.00 pm**
Tues 23 **A1 PARENTS' EVENING (N TO Z) from 6.00 pm**
Fri 26 Higher Education Information Tutorials for AS

Greenhead Students in Bar National Mock Trial Competition

Alana Nabulsi

Every year a dozen or so Greenhead College students participate in the Bar National Mock Trial competition as part of the enrichment programme. It aims to help better young people's understanding of criminal law, the criminal justice system and how the courts work. Crown court judges and senior barristers act as judges.

During each round, two teams alternate between prosecution and defence.

After three months of preparation, the Greenhead team attended Leeds Crown Court with quiet confidence. We had four barristers, **Matt Farrar**, **Johnny Broadberry**, **Dom Lush** and **Mariam Bhamjee**; two witnesses, **Ashley Loader** and myself; a legal reporter, **Alana Wilkinson** and a legion of Greenhead supporters with whom we would flood the jury box.

The prowess of our barristers throughout all three of our rounds was, we felt, unmatched. We weren't alone in this thinking either: a barrister commented on our very own Mariam, whom he felt was a future barrister in the making!

We lost to St Aidens, the winners of the heat, by one or two points but comfortably beat the other two teams. A little consolation was gained when Alana won second prize in the legal reporter competition.

If you want to join our crusade to destroy St Aidens next year, be sure to come to the auditions for next year's competition.





News of People and Events

- * Congratulations to Maths teacher **Richard Aitken** on the recent birth of his daughter Lydia.
- * The college will hold a Higher Education Information Evening for the parents of AS students, on Tuesday 19th March.
- * AS French student **Hannah Morton** (with help from **Cheryl Myers**) heard that she had won the "Crack the Code" competition at the Festival of Languages at the University of Leeds in November.
- * The College will welcome French exchange students to Huddersfield from Sunday 14th April to Monday 22nd April. NB. These dates have changed from the dates in the original College calendar.
- * Music students will perform a **SPRING CONCERT** in the main hall on **Tuesday, 26th March**.
- * The College recently hosted three Open Evenings which gave prospective students for next year an opportunity to look round the College and speak to staff and students about the variety of courses on offer.
- * We are sorry to report the recent death of Mr Peter Walley who was an ex-Chairman of the Governors of the College.
- * Congratulations to **Dr Peter Griffin** for the excellent job he has done as Acting Principal during Dr Conway's absence. The Governors also expressly added their thanks.

* Pop Maths Quiz

The Maths Department is inviting Kirklees schools to enter teams in a Pop Maths Quiz to be held at Greenhead College on Saturday March 16th. Each team is to have a maximum of 6 pupils taken from Year 9 or under.

The event was initiated a few years ago by Sheffield Hallam University who will kindly supply the questions. It is one of numerous activities nationwide to celebrate National Science Week which, for this year, will be 8th to 17th March.

For the past three years Huddersfield University has run a Pop Maths Quiz for the 16-19 age group and Greenhead students have emerged victorious on each occasion. We hope our venture will be equally successful, encouraging a younger age group to enjoy the mysteries of mathematics.

Prize Evening



In December ex-students returned for a re-union and prize-presentation. Dr Andy Williams, the headteacher of Holmfirth High School, presented the prizes and the evening was chaired by Mr Terry Galvin, Vice-Chair of the governors.

Oklahoma!

This year's college production was unusual in having several cameo roles as well as the main ones.

Danny Kirrane was outstanding as the sinister and aggressive Jud, while **Sam Lindsay** as Ali Hakim showed a great sense of timing and comic gesture.

Ella Midgley had real stage presence as Aunt Eller, and **Jess Buchanan** as Ado Annie had the necessary mix of coquettishness and naivety.

Curly (**Simon Allatt**) and Laury (**Laura Crowther**) were feisty and musically entrancing in the main roles.

Congratulations to all the cast for maintaining Oklahoma accents at all times - especially difficult when you are singing!

The simple but startlingly effective set was a perfect foil for the colourful and authentic costumes.

The musical performance by the band supported the singers admirably and where appropriate ("The Farmer and the Cowman should be friends" and "Territory Folk should stick together") the musicians played with verve and gusto.

A true team effort, **Paul Wood's** direction and **Kim and Brian Askew's** musical direction were assured and professional.



Postscript: It is always a pleasure to have the backdrop with us for a while after the production and **John Standeven's** team produced a sultry atmosphere with their "corn-is-as-high-as-an-elephant's-eye" panorama and evocative map of the territory.

ER

Students raise £1,200

A charity day organised by senior students raised £1,200 for three charities. Among the activities was a sumo wrestling match and a rugby club version of the Full Monty.

The money was shared between 'The Laura Crane Trust' (which raises money for young people's cancer research and named after an ex-student), 'The Christian African Relief Trust' and 'Music for the Deaf'.



Andrew Dobbie and fellow senior students present cheques to representatives of the three charities.



SPORTS REPORTS



Football

The 1st XI reached the final of the West Yorkshire Cup, beating Hemsworth 7-0 in the quarter final, and Hanson School (Bradford) 2-0 in the semi final. In the final we are due to meet our old rivals Notre Dame at a date and venue to be announced. This qualified us for the National Cup in which we visited a Manchester Sports College, Wright Robinson, but after missing three good early chances we conceded two late goals to lose 0-3.

The 2nd teams results continue to be mixed with a good 4-1 victory over Holy Cross, draws against Barnsley (3-3), New College (2-2) and Carmel (2-2) but defeats against Winstanley (1-3) and Loreto (1-2).

The 3rds lost their 100% record with a 0-3 reverse against Holy Cross but beat Bansley 3-0 and drew 3-3 against New College. **RF**

Hockey

The Greenhead hockey teams have gelled well during the first part of the season and although there have been mixed results, the teams are to be congratulated for their tremendous efforts.

We entered a male hockey team into the National Sixth Form Cup competition. Our team displayed great determination and learnt a great deal through playing matches against Holy Cross (Bury) L 0-1, Cardinal Newman (Preston) L 3-6 and King George V (Southport) L 0-1.

The girls progressed to the semi-final stage of the National Sixth Form Cup in Bedford. Unfortunately, our semi-final opponents were Havant SFC who defeated us in the final last year. The girls played superb hockey, scoring first midway through the second half. However, Havant launched a ferocious attack scoring two goals in two minutes and a further two goals minutes from the end.

In the National Schoolgirls Competition the Greenhead Girls Team defeated Bradford Girls' Grammar School, Wakefield Girls' High School and Rishworth School to become the West Yorkshire Champions. In the North East tournament we won our pool against Stockton and King Edward IV (Newcastle).

This term sees our teams concentrating on the mixed hockey league and mixed national cup and we look forward to an enjoyable conclusion to the season. **CW**

Trampolining

Nicola Burgin, Amy Lowles, Joanne Hames and Lucy Wakenshaw represented the College in the Northern England and Ireland round of the National Schools competition. They managed to combat their nerves and gave a superb team performance by finishing third overall. Excellent achievement girls, for our first appearance in this competition. **SY**

Ski-ing Trip to Kitzbuhel

New Year 26 Dec - 3rd January

This year we filled a coach taking 40 students to Kitzbuhel in Austria for our annual ski sojourn. And what a year for snow! In abundance. In fact the best in the whole of Europe. The only downside was the cold -25 at times, but well worth it. Our party was made up of complete beginners to advanced skiers, and the ski area had runs for everyone. Besides ski-ing all day, we ventured onto the ice-skating rink and held a bowling competition. New Year was celebrated twice, on the streets for Austrian New Year and back at the hotel for English New Year. Next year we are taking over 50 students back to Kitzbuhel. It's a great place. **BF**

Netball

The first team travelled to Hull for the Regional Round of the National Schools Competition as County champions on Saturday 26th January. Everyone was nervous, the adrenaline was flowing and the heavy rain made the conditions atrocious. However, Greenhead were undeterred and played magnificently, beating the elements and their opponents convincingly to become Regional Champions for the fourth year running, a feat no other team has yet achieved. They will now go on to compete in the National Finals in Manchester in March. The successful team are as follows:

Snezana Jovanovic (capt)	Hannah Swainson (vice capt)
Laura Kennedy	Laura Mash
Kelly Bostock	Kim Henderson
Michaela Primus	Natalie Alcock
Lauren Simpson	Katie Platts

A special mention must also go to the second team who have played against other first team sides so that Greenhead's first team could concentrate on their preparation for National schools. They have yet to concede defeat and have stepped into the breach admirably! Well done girls. **SY**

Duke of Edinburgh

With our ever growing numbers, we are planning two trips for our qualifying venture, one to Arran, and the other to the Lake District. The Award has become so popular and many students are gaining the benefits of involvement in a variety of activities besides expeditions.

Alongside the Award this year we have developed participation in the Millennium Volunteers. Up to press we have well over 100 students registered, which provides a nationally recognised accreditation for volunteering. Already students have received their Awards at a presentation held at the LBT in December. Students at college do not have to be involved in the Award to take part, so everyone is welcome to get involved. **BF**



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