



The smiles say it all!

With an A-level pass rate above 99% this year's leavers set a new record! And with 69% of grades at A and B Greenhead College now tops the tables in three of the national dailies – the Guardian, Independent and Telegraph!

The actual pass rate for all A-levels, excluding General Studies, was 99.3%, which is around 4% higher than the national average. This, together with the outstanding proportion of high grades, confirms Greenhead's students as the best performers nationally in the tables for Sixth Form colleges, puts them above any Comprehensive School in most tables, and amongst the best state 'grammar' schools, regardless of entry criteria. Like for like, the results of Greenhead students match any in the country: congratulations go equally to those who came with GCSE results which would not have opened doors to many sixth forms – state or independent – but achieved, in great numbers, results that would please such places, and to those who came with excellent results and confirmed their potential here – including the record number of Oxbridge entrants this year (35).

The further detail is staggering: of 779 getting A-level results this summer, 771 achieved two passes or more, sufficient for university entry. 95% of those 736 obtained three or more passes: over 200 of these gained three or more grade As! Nationally, the proportion of A, B and C grades is around 68%: at Greenhead this year 85% of grades were at this level.

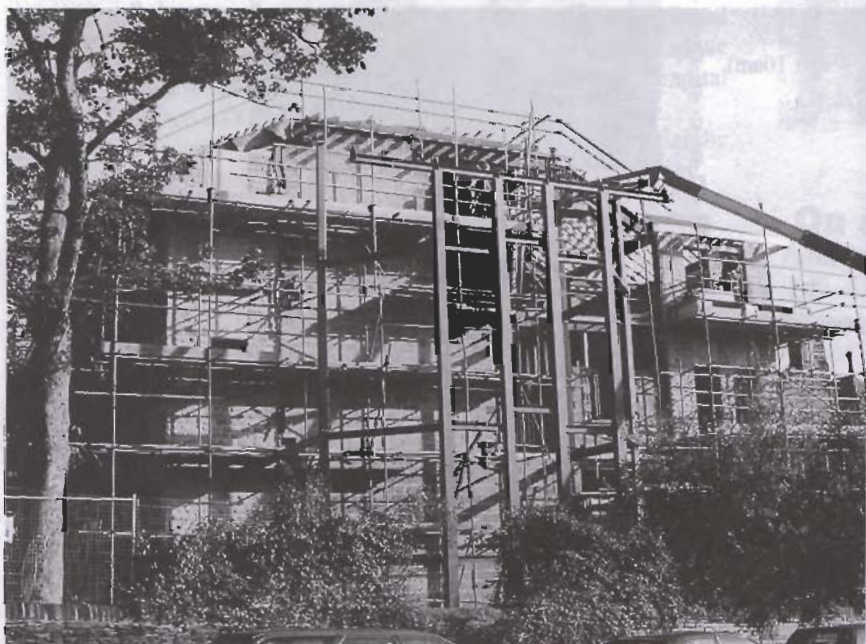
There is one person, at least, worried about the good news – the Principal. Every year the Governing Body ask the Principal to predict the A-level results for the current students, and, of course, improvement is expected. Last year, with the newness of 'curriculum 2000', there was an excuse to be cautious, but does this year's success mean we are now looking towards a 100% pass rate? Our students are certainly capable of it!



Happy Greenhead students on Results Day in August

Progress Report on New Building

Much of the exterior stonework has been completed and work is well advanced on the roof of the new Conway building at the back of the present campus. Some interior walls are in place. The building will house the Art, Business Studies, Law and Pastoral Departments. It is hoped that we will have access to at least the first floor before Christmas, which will give us improved accommodation and a less congested college.



Congratulations to Gregory Coles who left Greenhead College in July. He has just achieved the title of **Lord Lieutenant Cadet for West Yorkshire** (Air Training Corps).

Dear Parents and Students

As reported on the front page, this summer's 780 leavers have done themselves proud, with excellent results and, for the great majority, successful progression to the next stage in their careers. Thankfully, A-level results this year were not dogged by national controversies over marking, and we can confirm that very few students have had significant difficulty in terms of getting into employment, their first or second choice university, or other courses that they have applied for. Every year many staff – exams officers, careers teachers, IT and secretarial staff, in particular – are here to support and guide students after results come through, assisted around results day by large numbers of teachers and tutors (who are technically on holiday), but this year relatively few upsets were apparent: a combination of outstanding A-level results and well-informed university and job applications helped in this.

What about those still with us? Around 760 students are now in the final year, and we expect all of you to do at least as well as your predecessors. May 2004 is not far off so a regular routine of 12-15 hours solid study every week, in your own time, is a prerequisite for success. Parental support is essential through the winter months, not just with providing a suitable working environment at home, but also helping with big decisions about 'What next?' University applications need to be completed as early as possible this term: if parents do have concerns, please contact your daughter or son's personal tutor.

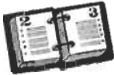
I believe our first year is the biggest ever – just over 900 starters. You have settled well, and your patience will be rewarded when new facilities start opening up later this term. After half term will come the first 'monitoring', and a report to take home which will show parents how students are progressing. There are Parents' Evenings starting in late November (for both first and second years.)

Some events to highlight: this Christmas our ambitious musical production will be 'Les Miserables', from Tuesday December 9th to Friday December 12th, and our annual Carol Festival, at Holy Trinity Church, will be on Tuesday 16th. Tickets for the former will be on sale nearer the date: the Carol Service is open to all on the night.

Best wishes to all.

Yours sincerely

Martin Foster



Dates for your diary



AUTUMN TERM

SEPTEMBER

- Sun 28 AS PE Mountain Walking Practice Walk
- Mon 29 Last day for submission of completed Oxbridge. Medical, Dental, Veterinary applications to tutors
Governor's meeting, 4.15 pm

OCTOBER

- Sat 4 D of E Expedition 3
- Sun 5 D of E Expedition 4
- Mon 6 Election of tutor set reps this week
A2 Geography trip to Preston Montford (until 8th)
- Wed 8 Mock Interviews
- Sun 12 A level PE Mountain Walking Assessment (until 14th Oct)
Medieval History trip to Normandy (until 18th Oct)
French Exchange students visiting 6pm (until 19th Oct 10am)
- Tue 14 A2 assemblies p4 and 5
- Thu 16 A2 assemblies p4 and 5. Mock Interviews
Student Council meeting 12.30
Holmfirth Music Festival (until 19th)
- Fri 17 A2 assemblies p4 and p5
- Sat 18 D of E Expedition 5
- Sun 19 D of E Expedition 6. History Trip to Berlin (until 25th)
- Mon 20 Subject tests this week
AS PE Mountain Walking Assessment
Subject Monitoring Interviews begin
- Tue 21 An Evening of Music- Main Hall 7.30 pm
A2 Theatre Studies Production
- Wed 22 A2 Theatre Studies Production
- Thu 23 Mock Interviews
A2 Theatre Studies Production
- Fri 24 Final deadline for completed EAS discs to tutors
A2 Geography/Geology Field Trip to Iceland (until 30th)
College closes.

HALF TERM

NOVEMBER

- Mon 3 **College opens.** Half Term 2 Enrichment courses begin.

The Insect Play

A new production of *The Insect Play* by the Brothers Capek is on the horizon with performances on October 21st, 22nd and 23rd. It is the result of two A2 Theatre groups merging to explore this unusual and surprising play where insects represent different groups of people, challenging the idea of human superiority.



Tickets are
£2.50/£3.50
from the
Drama Office

L-R
Justine Middleton,
Jess Gunning
and
Kathryn Pemberton
rehearsing

Les Miserables

Rehearsals are now well underway for this year's musical production "**Les Miserables**".

With a cast of 45 and a band of 30 alongside costume, set, stage management, lighting and sound teams, expect a lot of activity on and around the stage as the term progresses.

Tickets for this popular show, based on Victor Hugo's epic novel set in the turbulent early years of 19th century France, will be on sale after half term.

Performance dates are 9th-12th December.



The Ring

This was a knock-out production by the **A2 Theatre Studies** ensemble. Boldly presenting 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in the style of a boxing match, the cast created a fast moving and magical entertainment. Shakespeare's wonderful company of lovers, mechanicals and fairies ducked, dived and danced around the (fairy) ring of the enchanted wood, all falling prey to the delusion and illusion that is love and art. Orchestrating the confusion and fixing the match(es) was an impressive set of playfully malevolent fairies whom you wouldn't expect to fight fair! The gloves being off between **Kyle Beachill's** splendidly arrogant Oberon and **Heather Mitchell's** beautifully imperious Titania, the floral knock-out drops duly worked their mischief to deeply comic effect.

It must be quite daunting to take on such a loved and famous play. This ensemble managed it with true comic élan and intelligence. The four lovers were movingly as well as comically played; Puck/Goodfellow and the fairies were funny whilst effectively malign; the mechanicals (superbly officiated over by **Ed Poole's** wonderfully exasperated Peter Quince) were all played hilariously and yet with subtlety. Their performance of 'Pyramus and Thisbe' was sheer delight. The distancing device of the stage as a boxing ring worked brilliantly. Here was a fitting Brechtian arena in which to enact the passionate sport of lovers' quarrels and confused confrontations. Metaphorically roped off, the spectators were yet energetically roped in to this great action replay of a sweet and sportive 'Midsummer Night's Dream'. Many congratulations to **Liz Bowen** and her Dream team.

SC

Iceland

by **Daniel Hill** and **Charlotte Miller**

AS Geology and Geography students recently went on a much-anticipated trip to Iceland. Not knowing what to expect we landed at Keflavik airport after a two hour flight from Glasgow. The first surprise was that the temperature wasn't -50°C or lower but actually quite warm! We went for a swim in the Blue Lagoon, which was a fantastic experience. The next day we visited many geological sites, an explosion crater, rift valley and the amazing geysers at Geysir.

Thursday was an eastward trip along the southern coast of Iceland, stopping at the folk museum at Skógar, which was an interesting experience, and spending time at the cliffs at Dyrhólaey.

The full last day was a walk to the Skaftárfellsjökull glacial snout and a trip round the icebergs. Sadly, it all had to end and we had to fly back on Sunday, but not before visiting Iceland's capital Reykjavik.

We would like to thank all the staff as well as the Icelandic guide and coach driver, for making it a trip we will never forget.



Ken Cathan from Mauritius is interviewed by the Newsletter editor

PaWS Week Visit to Northumbria June 18th—20th 2003

by **Sam Tait**

Finding oneself on a minibus at some ridiculous hour of the morning with eight strangers is not universally regarded as an optimum scenario. However, College's PaWS week trip to Northumbria turned out to be a raging success! The project was a three day excursion involving overnight stops at youth hostels and various visits to cities and historical sites.

Our first stop was Durham, where we got a chance to explore the city and cathedral. The next stop was Hadrian's Wall. Here we embarked on a hike along the wall as Mr Rowley and Mr Barratt explained the history of the site.

As we made our way up towards Newcastle we made a short stop at the 'Angel of the North' in order to take some group photographs.

We arrived in Newcastle in the early evening—greeted by a three course meal at the youth hostel—before setting off for an evening walk around the city. Early the next morning we left the youth hostel for Dunstanburgh Castle - a beautiful ruin by the sea. After exploring the castle and paddling on the beach we were on our way to Lindisfarne (better known as Holy Island). Here we toured the priory and did some shopping around the village. In the evening we arrived at the Edmund Byers youth hostel.

The next morning, after the staff members had whipped up a massive breakfast, we made our way back to Huddersfield.

Everybody who took part in this project thoroughly enjoyed it. It was a fun and relaxing activity to end our AS examinations. I would recommend it to next year's AS students. Remember: the next time you find yourself on a minibus, at some ridiculous hour of the morning, with eight strangers, it is not necessarily a bad thing!



Relaxing in Northumberland

On a Mission from Mauritius

Last term the College had a three week visit from **Ken Cathan** who is Head of the Education Management department at the Institute of Education of the island of Mauritius. His brief was to study sixth form colleges as the island has just established 20 such institutions.

Ken studied the support system and the Enrichment programme in detail. He was very impressed by the students he met and declared that the visit had "sharpened his ideas."

While in England he also visited Huddersfield New College and Oldham Sixth Form College.

Greenhead College was chosen as the focus of his visit because of his long-standing friendship with his ex-university friend, Assistant Principal, Alasdair Brodie-Browne.



SPORTS REPORTS



Football

We had record numbers at the trials this year, but having lost the majority of last year's successful 1st XI, there are places up for grabs.

We faced New College in the 1st games and three teams made winning starts. The 1st team won 3-1, the 2nd 3-0 and the 4th 2-1. The 3rd lost 3-6, but another '3rd' XI, now in the West Yorkshire Merit League, went to Fulneck and came back victorious 5-4.

All in all, a promising start.

RF

Rugby

The Rugby League won the first silverware of the new season when they beat Pontefract New College in the final of the SRL Yorkshire 9-a-side tournament held at Wakefield on September 17th. In the final, tries were scored by **Chris Clarke**, **Jason Southwell**, and **Marcus George** who scored his second try when the scores were tied at 16-16 to win the game. In the semi-final Greenhead were down 10-6 to their old foes Wilberforce from Hull before a last minute try from **Simon George** was converted by **Daniel Garside** from the touch line to seal a win over the favourites. This promising result sets the team up for the season but with strong competition in the league and cup competitions success is not guaranteed.

CA

Netball

Lots of girls, yet again, trialled for netball and the standard was high. This made selection difficult but we now have two strong teams, clearly emphasised by our decisive victories in our first match against New College.

In addition two of the first team, **Philippa Clay** and **Suzie Marsh** were selected to play for West Yorkshire. Their experience of playing at this level will serve to further strengthen the team.

SY

Girls' Football

Thursday lunchtime sessions have started with 15 girls signing up and keenly participating in the late summer sunshine. October 8th sees the regional round of the Girls 5-a-side competition in Barnsley where a new kit sponsored by "Rocks Off" will be worn.

SB

Sport for all

As well as the College-wide "team" sports, there is much other sporting activity bubbling around both inside College and elsewhere. Trampolining, dance, yoga and judo are all popular. The climbing club is over-subscribed this year. There are also squash and 5-a-side football and away from College, students partake in swimming for recreation and fitness sessions at the McAlpine Stadium.

Golf is a popular option and the group are participating in a national competition in Scarborough this month.

Duke of Edinburgh

"We had a great time in the Lakes on our Expedition." said **Charlotte Whiteley**.

The Award is now so popular we have over 150 entering this term. With my team of staff, this is stretching us somewhat to get everyone out on practice expedition—we have had volunteer help from the Principal, Martin Rostron. It's great but somewhat scary to see and experience the enthusiasm.

BF

Reflections on the World Challenge Visit to South Africa

by *Phil Sherrard and Nicky Smith*

For us there were 3 defining moments in South Africa.

1. When we woke at 6.30 am in a rural village to 850 school children blaring beautiful gospel music at us.
2. Walking through the treacherous streets of Durban at 5.30 am to swim in the warm currents of the Indian Ocean with a sensational South African sunrise. With hindsight the 2 metre high surfer waves were a bit dangerous in pitch black.
3. Going to sleep on a rocky ground at 8.00 pm realising that in the last 3 days you've conquered 160 km/h winds, climbed one of the highest peaks in South Africa and spent one hour washing up 22 people's bowls and tringias in a snow blizzard.

We really did have an amazing time.



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