

February 2009

Dear Parents,

I have pleasure in sharing some of the positive achievements occurring in Westbourne at the present time.

Firstly, my thanks to all staff, pupils and parents for persevering through snowy weather conditions and computer viruses that have disrupted normality during the last month. Hopefully we will be back to a full games and extra curricular programme after the half-term break.

News of Harvey Tims and Adam Brooks in S11, both gaining scholarships to join Birkdale Sixth Form next September to study A levels, comes high up on our list of achievements to celebrate.

The awards we have made to our own students in J6 who were successful in the recent scholarship exams for entry into our own S7 next September are also worthy of celebration. Sophie Kitchin won the top academic award. Zoe Stone also did brilliantly and has been awarded a music scholarship. An all round award has been won by Sam Cork and an exhibition by Iskander Eaton as they achieved excellent results in a range of tests. Finally, we recognise the depth of talent and skill in our girls' sports teams at the present time; well done to Isabelle Carter for winning the sports scholarship.

Many congratulations to them all; we are very proud of them.

More News:

Our J3 and J4 classes will bring their assessments home with them today. J5 and J6 do not get these until week 11 and S7 to S11 will bring these home in week 8.

Emergency contact during the snowy season seemed to work quite well but we are looking to improve this by utilising mobile phone text messaging on top of the existing email and Hallam FM/Radio Sheffield announcements. Please ensure you keep school informed of any change of mobile number/e-mail address.

Some sporting events for your diary:

- House Hockey at Abbeydale 6th March
- House football at Abbeydale 13th March

- Westbourne's 6 aside U11 & U13 football tournament at Abbeydale 20th March
- U13 netball v Mothers at Hillsborough 20th March
- Trip to Chill Factor at Manchester 20th March
- There are new house tournaments: house badminton and table tennis which our children participate in with great enthusiasm
- J5 to S8 have the opportunity to have golf lessons at Hallamshire Golf Club during April and May. Please see attached letter and return the reply slip on 23rd February as places are limited.
- S7 and S8 girls football club on a Monday night. A list of fixtures will be available after half-term

Well done Amy Martindale and Olivia Burnham for their gymnastic displays in a recent sports assembly.

The FOW ball is to be held on Friday, 9th May 2009, tickets are available from Mrs Turner/Mrs Fenton.

A large number of our students have taken and passed exams with the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music. A special congratulations to George Newbould who achieved a distinction (142/150 marks) for his grade 2 cornet exam.

We will be able to hear some of the exam performances along with the Senior School Advanced Players and the GCSE performances in concert shortly after Easter.

Our J6's entered work in a national literacy competition and 6 of them are to have their mini sagas published next month in a Young Writers of the Year book.

There are a few remaining places for the Junior School Easter Cookery course. This is running from Monday 30th March to Wednesday 1st April.

Hallam FM were with us during the week commencing 2nd February, when we were featured as 'School of the Week'. Teachers and children were on air all week. The Junior School children were given fruit as part of 'Free Fruit Day'. Everyone enjoyed taking part and it was great publicity for our school.

S9 Parents Option Evening is rearranged for Week 7, Thursday, 26th March at 7.00pm and S9 Parents Evening will take place in Week 9, Tuesday 3rd March at 5.00pm.

Staff

I am pleased to announce Miss Samantha Mitchie will be joining the Science Department in Senior School and will commence teaching next term. I would like to thank Mr John Dowd for his help with 'supply' work during this interim period.

Jan Hulley and Shirley Reaney have announced their plans for retiring at the end of this year. We wish them all the best and say a huge thank you for everything they have done for so many children. They have been instrumental over the last fourteen years in developing specific learning skills and enabling children to reach their full potential.

Two reminders:

- Please park considerately when dropping off or collecting your children. I have had at least two irate neighbours complaining this term and of course it does the school image no good whatsoever. More importantly it generally puts children at risk.
- Please do not take your children out of school for holidays during term time. Unless it is for a special family event or there is educational value it will be classed as an unauthorised absence.

Yours sincerely