

The Specialist @ Nunthorpe

Issue No. 1 November 2008

Editorial

Welcome to the very first edition of 'The Specialist', a half-termly newsletter designed to both inform our community of the fantastic opportunities on offer for our staff and students that lie within our specialist areas of Science, Business and Enterprise and to celebrate the work that is being done and the phenomenal achievements of many of our learners.

We hope that you find it an interesting and enjoyable read.

Danny Yates



Maths Challenges

This year's **Lego League** competitors have been given the task of looking at the climate. How we are affecting the climate and how the climate is in turn affecting us.

Ten students from Key Stage 3 were successful in their application to get on to the team for entry in to this year's Lego League competition.

The team are joining a number of local schools taking part in the qualifying round on November 16th at Eston C.L.C. The winners will go forward to the regional final, then the national final and maybe even in to the International competition held in Atlanta, U.S.A!

The presentation element of the challenge is progressing very well, the team have decided to look at the floods that occurred in Morpeth and those that occurred in India. One of the more ambitious targets they have set themselves is to see if they can get an advert on the side of an Arriva bus to publicise their ideas about tackling climate change. They then intend to use the bus as a common thread throughout their presentation taking the listener on a tour around the world to look at the various issues of climate change.

Triple Science Learning Visits

After successfully negotiating an application process, Nunthorpe School has been selected to host visits from science teachers from the region to come and look at the excellent work currently being done in Separate Sciences at Key Stage 4. Miss Sarah Griffiths is to co-ordinate the event, which will take place on March 4th as part of our Specialist School week. After recently attending training in Watford Miss Griffiths is to put together a programme which will showcase our KS3-4 learning pathways and some of the teaching methods employed in science. This is a real coup for the school, which is one of only 12 Science schools nationally who have been selected to participate in the programme.

An Enterprising Appointment



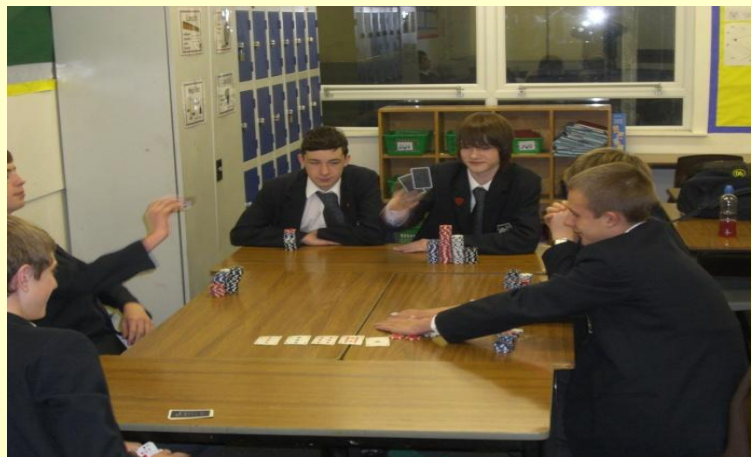
Mrs Alison

Blacklock (our HLTA in Science) was recently appointed as 'Director of Enterprise', a key role in the development of the specialism here at Nunthorpe. We are delighted to have her on board and are already impressed by the energy and enthusiasm she has brought to the post! Mrs B has recently registered the Enterprise Group with a number of challenges and activities which you will see evidence of during Enterprise week (17th - 21st November). Any staff or students who feel they would like to join the Enterprise Group please contact Mrs Blacklock on ablacklock@nunthorpe.co.uk

Poker Group

The group meet every Tuesday with the aim of not only learning to play this subtle yet skilful game but improving their understanding of the key Mathematical concepts that lie at the games heart. The game is promoted to the students as an opportunity to manage both risk and reward using Mathematical probability as their guide. Many heated discussions have taken place between students which tests and develops their understanding of expected probability and managing positive returns. The group will run throughout the school year and take place in room 66. Any G&T mathematicians in yrs 10 & 11 wanting to join can approach Mr Ing or email ming@nunthorpe.co.uk with any questions.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



Primary Science

25 Year 5 pupils from Nunthorpe Primary took part in a 6 week "Pirates of the Caribbean" themed series of lessons assisted by 25 Nunthorpe Key Stage 3 pupils. During the 6 weeks pupils had to solve problems such as producing safe drinking water, designing parachutes and communication. The final week saw the pupils design and test rockets – the highlight of the session for many of the pupils involved!!!



Enterprise Week 17 November – Make Your Mark!

Our Enterprise Group (E@N) are participating in this week long national set of events. It kicks off on Monday with the Enterprise Group themselves taking part in the national challenge. This will run over 2 days. In a practice event earlier this week, which took place at Middlesbrough FC, our team of dedicated entrepreneurs were 'highly commended' for their efforts by the judges. Unfortunately they didn't receive first prize, but there was an individual on the team who was voted the best team spokesperson and received a beautiful trophy – our congratulations go to Ben Shaw!

Other enterprise events taking place next week include a 'Women in Enterprise' stall in the 'Covered Way' on Wednesday, at lunchtime. Go along and speak to some of our budding female entrepreneurs, and find out more.

Year 7's are also getting the chance to join in the fun when E@N will take over their time on Thursday or Friday afternoon, and they will be given the chance to show off their enterprising skills in a challenge to produce and sell a product. This challenge was devised by the E@N group specifically for the Year 7's.

Some Year 10 students will also find themselves having to use their business skills, when they take part in the 'Make Your Mint' Challenge (where they will get the opportunity to run a virtual business) which will be running in some Business and ICT lessons. They will be up against a team of experts though as 4 members of the BIE teaching team are also participating in the challenge.



A hair raising time!

The last week of October saw the arrival of the first of our House Charity days. As it was Invincible first up and knowing that Mr Saddler always goes the extra mile, the charity day turned into a charity week! Each tutor group came up with an enterprising way of raising money for the Leonard Cheshire Homes; funds were raised at Cake and Smoothie stalls as well as through the non-uniform collection and the week culminated in a leg and back waxing spectacle in the Sports hall. Special thanks must go to Fern Cook who raised a whopping £300 through the sponsored waxing event and Mrs Learwood who came in to relieve the men of some of their body hair as well as to all of the volunteers who were waxed! Well done and thank you.



Paper based database challenge – bringing business into the ICT classroom!

In a recent ICT session, students were arranged into teams. In these teams they had to create a paper based database, based on the people in their designated teams. All the components of the database had to be explained and identified in a 2 minute presentation. The presentations were assessed and a winning team was nominated by the class.

Students then had to use their business skills to think about how databases are used in the real world and had to identify the advantages and disadvantages of using a similar paper based database.



Year 9's watch out!

Coming soon to an ICT class near you will be the chance for you to show off your business and enterprise skills. We are looking for a logo which can be used to tell the world that we at Nunthorpe are specialists – in Science, Maths Business and Enterprise! So get your thinking caps on and show off your talent. The winning logo will be used throughout the school and you will also receive a prize. For more details see your ICT teacher, or Mrs Jeffery!

Look out for.....

- Nov 13th** – ‘Twilight’ Schools Business Network event @ Bydales School
- Nov 14th** – Maths Puzzle Club, at lunchtimes for any Maths G&T students
- Nov 16th** – Lego league challenge, qualifying round
- Dec 4/5th** – ‘Plastics from Potatoes’ – for Year 8 Science G&T students
- Dec '08** - Video Conferencing for Year 9 G&T students
- Dec '08** – Web design master class for Years 9/10 ICT G&T students
- Jan '09** – a Science Club for Year 7 students
- Jan '09** – Staff/Student Ryder Cup for Years 9-11
- Jan '09** – An Animation Club for Years 8 & 9 ICT G&T students

Fancy winning a trip to New York? Think you're a prospective Dragon for the Den?

If so, then sign up for the national Ifs Share Portfolio Challenge before the 24th November and you could be in with a chance of winning this prize.

See Mrs Jeffery for more details – djeffery@nunthorpe.co.uk.

And finally...

A huge thanks to all of our contributors Mr Ing, Miss Griffiths, Mr Harper, Mrs Blacklock and Mrs Jeffery for ensuring the first edition of our newsletter got off the ground and to all readers please feel free to get involved in the next one.

Let's make sure Science, Business and Enterprise are Special in our school!