

The Specialist @ Nunthorpe

Issue No. 6 November 2009

EDITORIAL

Welcome to our sixth edition of The Specialist @ Nunthorpe. As you will read below there has been a lot going on since the start of the new term in September. In this issue we have contributions from some of our sixth form students whose choice of a science, Physics Chemistry or Biology at AS and A2 Level, has given them many opportunities to widen their experiences inside and outside the classroom.

We hope their articles give you the sense of how much they are enjoying being part of a Specialist Science, Business and Enterprise School.

The Nunthorpe Apprentice



In the Summer Term, Year 9 students fought to be crowned 'The Nunthorpe Apprentice'. The countless applications were finally whittled down to a shortlist of 10 contenders representing all of the houses. Each week they were put into two teams and given a task to complete. Nunthorpe's answer to Sir Alan Sugar, Matt Stirland, monitored their progress and chose a winning team. The losing team's contenders then had to battle it out in the boardroom to prove why they should not be fired. Two potential apprentices were eliminated each week.

In the final week the two finalists, Nigel Singleton and Aimie Cole, were given a budget of £5 to buy food to cook 'Sir Alan's meal. Aimie won the task by cooking the whole meal well under budget.

In the end, however, after looking back at their successes over the previous weeks 'Sir Alan' crowned Nigel as 'The Nunthorpe Apprentice 2009' and he received a brand new iPod Shuffle.

Congratulations!

Have YOU got what it takes to be 'The Nunthorpe Apprentice 2010'?

To find out more come along to the Enterprise Club. Every Wednesday, 3.30-4.30pm in Room 45

Nuffield Bursary Scheme

I gained a place on the Nuffield Bursary Scheme last summer and was taken on by Clemance and was tasked with research into the consolidation of soil with relation to the stabilisation of poor ground; an essential process prior to the laying down of building foundations. I studied various topics directly related to the subject and the research helped improve my understanding of geotechnical engineering. My research methodology included the use of the library and studying technical videos which gave me a better understanding of the maths involved in the process.



I then put my studies into practice and produced a report on the relationship of variables, settlement, consolidation and time; vital elements in calculating ground consolidation parameters. As an added bonus to this work, I was paid £80 a week with a 40p/mile travelling allowance.

Jack Cairns Year 13

The Dyson Experience!

During our product design course we disassembled and reassembled a vacuum cleaner kindly supplied by the Dyson company. The experience was fun and challenging with the hardest part being rebuilding the vacuum cleaner but at the end of the project everyone felt they had accomplished a great deal.

The event gave everybody an insight into what materials manufacturers use in making their products, e.g. polypropylene and polyurethane and we gained hands-on experience of exploring the insides of a vacuum cleaner and discovering exactly how it works.

This was an opportunity we wouldn't normally get due to the high purchase cost of the product so thanks again Dyson!



By Ashleigh Manners and Philippa Herbst. Year 12

Specialist Science Links

With the school being a specialist in science, this gave sixth form students the opportunity to participate in the Engineering Education Scheme (EES) as part of Enrichment activities. It was a very enjoyable experience and gave us all a great insight to what the world of engineering is actually like. We worked as a team and were given a 'real life' project to solve: how to improve the reliability, operability and safety of the two sets of raising security barriers at Lucite International, Billingham. The project was interesting, really made us think and the experience gained should greatly assist us when it comes to applying for our chosen university courses.



Back row left to right;

Michael Hughes-Narborough, Tim Mabbot, Jack Cairns

Front row left to right;

Tom Langrick, Christopher Hayton, Lewis Eaton

Year 13 students

Science Masterclasses to watch out for in November are; Plastic Potatoes and Chemistry in YOUR Bathwater! BIE; Dreamweaver, making an advanced web-page.

KS3 Students take to the Moon!



Year 8 students participated in the Rocket Masterclass to extend their knowledge about the forces acting on forces and how they can overcome these to get into orbit! In the initial activity, the students made balloon rockets using a straw, a balloon and some sellotape. They then 'fired' their rockets firstly along a stringline and then along a copper wire to compare the differences. Much fun was had to see who could make their rocket travel the furthest distance!

In the second activity, the students made 'Smartie tube' rockets and used a plastic bottle as a launcher. They added a front cone and some fins to see if these would help with the aerodynamics and shoot their rocket higher into the air.

Everybody had great fun launching the rockets in the Science quad and all with massive success!



Six of our current Year 12 students (formerly Year 11) preparing for the National Enterprise Week Make Your Mark Challenge.



The Year 10 & 11 students who are competing against each other to be the team that enters the Make Your Mark Challenge.

The week starting 16th November is National Enterprise Week and up and down the country schools will be entering the Make Your Mark Competition. This year the theme is:

Don't be a Carbon Copy!

The brief will be available to all from midnight on 15th November and we wish our students all the best and will report on their progress in the next edition.

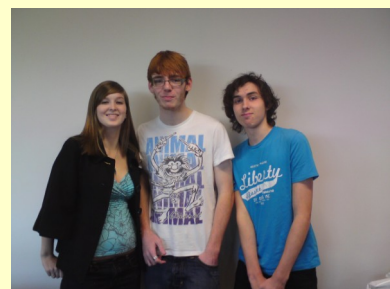
Coast & Country — working with Enterprise students

As a prize for a competition undertaken by some of our Enterprise students in May this year, Coast & Country Housing are giving their services for a whole year to help and support our Enterprise department. They are able to offer us guest speakers covering topics such as marketing, finance, customer service and IT. There is also the potential for students to visit their offices/sites to see how a 'real' business is run.

Over the coming months some of our Year 9 students will be involved in a Future Leaders Challenge in conjunction with Coast & Country and the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative. The challenge is to complete a project that will help the community and improve the neighbourhood. We will keep you informed of their progress.

AS Law

We went up to Northumbria University Law School on Saturday 17th October to observe a mock trial, known as 'You the Jury'. It was an interactive event in which we acted as the jury and had to return a verdict on the defendant of guilty or not guilty (we found him not guilty). In the second half of the event we discussed sentences passed in real life cases and gave our opinions on the verdicts. The event was hosted by barristers and judges and we had the opportunity to question them on everything we had seen and heard. I thought this was a very useful and interesting event as it ties in directly with our law studies.



Fern Cook Yr 12