

The Specialist @ Nunthorpe

Issue No. 7 January 2010

After a wintry start to the New Year we have much to celebrate and look forward to. The Module exams took place in spite of the weather and we received good news at the end of last term in that funding had been granted for the Fruit Garden Project.

(see page 4 for details).

Year 10 team



Year 12 Team



Enterprise Week (November 16th-20th) is a national annual event in the school calendar and is designed to encourage students to show their Enterprise skills by creating a business. The Make Your Mark Challenge is a core element of the week whose aim is to give students the opportunity to compete against each other in carrying out the Challenge brief.

All schools are encouraged to actively support the students entering the Make Your Mark Challenge which starts the week and this year's Challenge saw more schools, more teams and more students enter than ever before.

Our school entered two teams (see above) with five students from Year 10 (on the left) and six students from Year 12 (on the right). The brief this year was "Let local inspiration lead you to a 'cool' creation". This had to be a profitable business project that had minimal impact on the environment and the inspiration for the business idea had to come from the local area.

This year 73,000 students from all over Britain entered the Challenge and both our teams won through to the Regional Finals in their respective categories. They both had to compete against 9 other teams with the winner taking part in the National Finals in London. Unfortunately neither team won through to London but they both achieved a great deal in reaching the Regional Finals. Congratulations to all the students involved!

Plastic from Potatoes!

Year 8 students experimenting by making plastic from potatoes. The practical activity is complex and the students did very well to obtain good results. They also discussed the environmental impact of plastic when it is disposed of incorrectly.



Comments from students;

“It was good fun and interesting what you can do with potatoes!”

“It made me think more about the effect of plastic on the environment”

'Spreading disease'

Fifteen Year 10 students attended this G&T Master Class and took part in testing the effectiveness of different soaps in removing bacteria from their hands.

They practiced Aseptic technique and were introduced to A level work as well as being shown:

- How to prepare and pour agar plates
- How to make a spread plate of bacteria
- How to dispose of the plates

They looked at how bacteria can be spread and various ways to reduce the spread of infection. Everyone enjoyed the Class and were especially interested in seeing how Biology practicals are prepared in the school by Mr Colin Wood (Biology technician).



“...made me think I might like to do AS level Biology after doing this Master class”

Dean Sharkey

Save the Pond!



Every Wednesday afternoon staff and students have used Enrichment time to clear out the pond and restore the surrounding area in order to encourage plants and wildlife. They have made and hung out bird feeders and insect houses close to the pond and have taken part in fundraising activities to raise money for the 'Save the Pond' project.

Mrs York along with Mr Wood and their students have been running 'Save the Pond' since September 2009 with the aim of rejuvenating an overgrown pond at the rear of the Science block.



"hard work but great fun being outside"

Future Leaders Community Projects

Some of our Year 9 students have been involved in a Future Leaders Project in conjunction with Coast and Country and LEGI (Local Enterprise Growth Initiative) along with other schools in the region. Coast and Country asked schools to find projects that students could complete that would benefit the wider community. One of our projects is well on the way to being completed. The students liaised with Mrs Deen (Nunthorpe Leisure and Learning) to find out if there was anything that could be done to enhance the Youth Centre. The students had to cost the materials that were required and work within the budget they have been given. Evie Strong, Matthew Jeal, Phillip Hutchinson and Joe Lillie gave up their own time to work with the Coast & Country volunteers and gave the Centre a new coat of paint.



Engineering Education Scheme

The following Sixth Form students are embarking on the EES: Joshua Gladwin, Michael Blakey, Jenny MacDonald and Ben Shaw will be separating non-ferrous metals from woodchips for SEMBCROP; Tom Averell, Luke Richardson and George Newman will be investigating filtration techniques for silt with SABIC. We look forward to their report in the next issue.

Fruit Garden

As a school we wanted a business project that would involve students, parents and the community and creating a Fruit Garden fitted the criteria. After seeking professional advice from Simon Hill Nurseries we will be planting espalier apple trees against the fencing around the Sixth Form building. When a date is confirmed students and parents will be invited along to assist with the planting of the fruit trees.

Any parents interested in this project please contact

Mrs Alison Blacklock, Director of Special Initiatives 01642 304 559

email; ablacklock@nunthorpe.co.uk

Sixth Form Enterprise



A group of sixth form students took part in an Enterprise Master Class in December 2009. Kelly Britton from Redcar & Cleveland Council's Enterprise Team organised the session and set the students a Christmas themed challenge. The students had to demonstrate and use a range of skills in order to successfully complete the task. They had to identify their own strengths and weaknesses and form groups on the basis of an effective mix of these skills. They were then given a bag of resources and had to create a product, identify their target market and give a convincing sales pitch in order to be the winning team. The students not only devised some interesting products but succeeded in pulling together the product and sales pitch in the short time allocated.

LOOK OUT FOR:

On the 8th February 2010 Dr Gavin Burnell, a Lecturer and Advanced Research Fellow at University of Leeds, will be delivering a Master Class to KS4 & KS5 students. He carried out his PhD and Postdoctoral Research in the Devise Materials Group before moving to Leeds and his research interests centre on understanding the physics of electron transport in materials.

Our second Future Leaders project group are hoping to be working with Upsall Hall and this is presently in the planning stage.



Many thanks to all the contributors to this edition of The Specialist