

## The Specialist @ Nunthorpe

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As spring approaches and the end of the school year peeps above the horizon our school is looking forward to the challenges with enthusiasm. We will be providing Easter holiday revision classes and the good news is we have been granted funding for an 'Outdoor Classroom' (more on page 2). As you will read in this issue of *The Specialist* the students have participated in many recent events and achieved a great deal they can be proud of.

### Carbon Nanotechnology Master class



Dr Gavin Burnell (second from the left) from Leeds University spent 2 hours talking with Yrs 10,11,12 and 13 students about Carbon Nanotechnology as well as mapping out to them some of the careers and pathways that science A levels and a degree can lead to. The students now realise the wide range of jobs associated



with science qualifications and how interdependent the employment market is.

Gavin was able to bring the topic of science as a career to life with personal anecdotes and stories about the skills involved and gave the students a wider horizon to aim for.

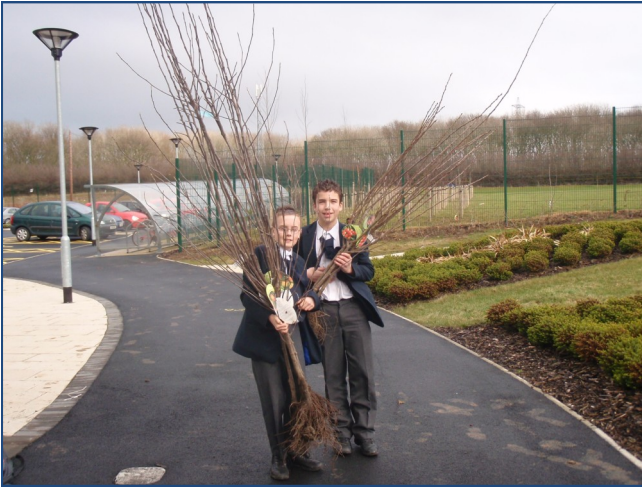
Student's quotes;

"I've decided to choose Maths next year and it has motivated me even more to do well"  
Thomas Singh, Yr 12

"I learned about Nanotechnology, the science behind it and it's possibilities for the future"  
Williams, Yr 12

Look out for.....Mark Leck a STEM ambassador will be working with our GCSE students on the subject of Neutral networks. Pictures and stories from Science Week events.

## The Planting of the Fruit Garden



With the help of students, staff and LEGI the Fruit Garden was planted on Wednesday 24th February. The forecast for the day had been for snow but we were lucky and it turned out ideal weather for planting. Apple, Pear and Plum trees were placed around the perimeter fencing of the Sixth Form building and the playing fields.

The students took an active part in the planting and they were shown how deep to dig the holes, how to add the special manure needed to give the trees a good start and then how to firm in the trees without damaging the roots. Finally they put a bark mulch around the area where each tree had been planted. The Fruit Garden, a not for profit business, will give students an insight into how food is grown and the inherent problems we face in food production. This is the start of a longer term project which will include students, parents and the wider community.



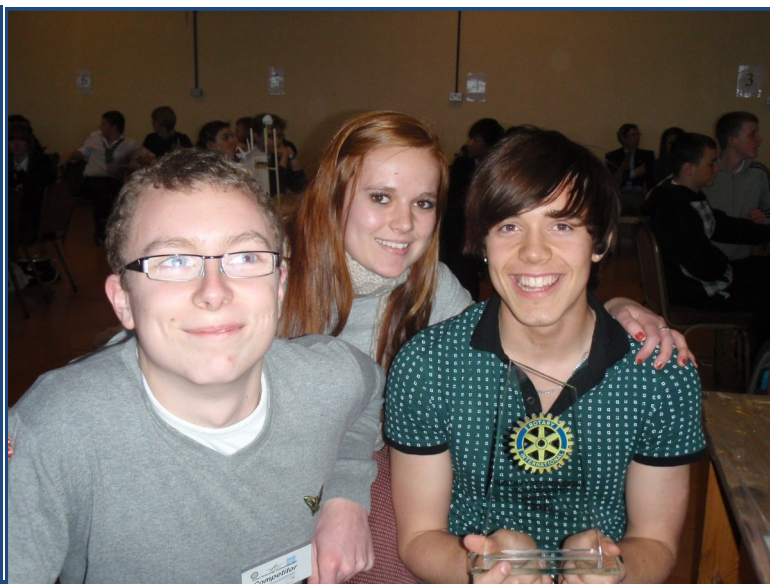
We have been granted funding to set up an "Allotment Style" garden which will consist of four raised beds, each 6ft by 3ft. The intention is to complement the fruit tree garden and the new beds will be planted with vegetables and herbs. There will be workshops for the students which will include soil preparation, planting schemes, crop rotation, composting and pest control. The students will then be responsible for maintaining the allotment and marketing the food produced. The aims of the project are to encourage the students to make more informed decisions regarding healthier eating, to provide them with the chance to taste home-grown fresh fruit and vegetables and to raise awareness of the sources of some of their food. Any parent or member of the community who would like to become involved in the project should contact Mrs Blacklock on (01642) 304 559.

**Future Leaders:** Our second project has ten of our Yr10 students working with Colin Howes from Upsall Hall. They have had a site visit and walked the grounds and developed ideas and discussed the practicalities of making a nature trail including where to site Bird Hides.

## Rotary Technology Tournament Whitby

Winners of the Advanced Category.  
James Amer, Amy Cosgrove and Lewis Duell Yr12

We were invited, along with eleven other schools and colleges, to send twenty Technology students to represent the school at a Technology Tournament in Whitby organised by the Whitby Rotarians. Each team of four students were provided with exactly the same materials and they had to find a way to make a 'Flashing Beacon' advertising a charity of their choice.



This required the students to be inventive and use their knowledge and skills of Technology, Science and Maths. The judges moved among the teams during the competition and the teams were given points according to a set criteria and at the end of the time frame all the marks were added up and an overall winner for each category announced. A team from Caedmon school won the Basic category, a team from Bydales school won the Intermediate category and as the picture above shows one of our teams from the sixth form won the Advanced section. Congratulations and well done to all who took part. The Year 9 team of Gabriella Skerry, Ellie Armstrong, James Sayer and Alistair Laughland were the first team to achieve a flashing beacon and although they did not win the Intermediate category they were highly commended.



All the staff who accompanied the students were put into teams of four and given the same challenge. The two staff accompanying the Nunthorpe students were in the winning team!

## Young People's Video Competition

The Nuclear Institute and the Institute of Mechanical Engineers issued a joint challenge to schools up and down country to produce an exciting and thought provoking video looking at the issues concerning future energy sources which also incorporated the views of young people on whether or not nuclear power had a role to play.

Two Yr 12 students, Thomas Averell and Josh Gladwin canvassed the sixth form students for their opinions and produced a video in the form of a "News Item". They had to get the message across effectively and had only two minutes to do so.

They were successful in having their video short listed and were one of four finalists to have their work screened in front of the conference delegates at the International Conference New Nuclear Build 2010.

They just missed out on first prize but received £250 for being runners up. The students successfully networked with the various industry chiefs and made a link with the Chair of the Nuclear Institute who has promised advice and support for any energy related projects the school may wish to develop in the future.



## On The Piste

During the February half term break, the SPORT faculty took 56 students to Saalbach-Hinterglemm for the annual ski trip. As you can see the snow and weather conditions were fantastic



which contributed to a very successful trip. The theme of the week was independence and challenge; As well as challenging themselves to learn or improve their skiing, the group who were divided into seven teams were engaged in a number of tasks including the legendary Quiz and the 'Kegelbahn' challenge - Team 7 were the overall winners.

Information regarding the Ski trip 2011 will be out very shortly!