



Northfield Academy News

Issue 8 : March 2009

Dear parent / carer,

We are now well into what you can see has been a very busy term for all at Northfield Academy. It is also a very important term for our **senior pupils** who are working towards **national examinations** which now are only a matter of weeks away. If your son or daughter is at this stage in school please remember that teachers are very willing to provide extra help through study clubs, revision guides and sample questions. Don't hesitate to contact your child's Guidance teacher to discuss what the school can do to help our students prepare for these important examinations.

Whilst this term has included lots of hard work and many successes, some of which are mentioned in this newsletter, a particular concern has developed regarding the number of ex – pupils hanging around the school, particularly at lunchtime and the end of the day; sometimes with the intention of trying to get into the building. As a result, **school security** arrangements have been reviewed and pupils have been alerted to the dangers of letting people who are not members of the school community into school. One way in which staff and pupils can identify intruders is by the fact that they are not wearing school uniform and this highlights one of the main reasons that we ask for your support in ensuring that pupils are dressed according to our school dress code.

We also ask you to reinforce at home the importance of mobile phones being switched off in school as they have been used to ask pupils to let intruders into the building or to take photographs of incidents in the playground.

Please be assured that the school is monitoring security very carefully with the active support of our school based Police Office PC George Craig. We ask for your help in reinforcing school expectations about dress and behaviour.

Please contact me in school if you wish to discuss this in more detail.

Mrs S Muncer, Headteacher

PUPILS RAISE OVER £1300 FOR COMIC RELIEF

Prefects at Northfield Academy organised events in school and raised over £1300 for comic relief on Friday 13 March. Fundraising events included a "Come as you please" day, face painting, darts competition and other "do something funny for money" events. Prefects also completed a sponsored walk from Aberdeen to Balmedie and back to raise even more funds for this event.

Depute Head girl Ashleigh Allan was delighted with the total – "We are so pleased to have raised so much money – and there is still more money coming in! The prefects at Northfield Academy decided this was their year to make a difference to others. Already this year we have raised money for Children in Need, Cash for Kids and Orang'utans"

NEW SCHOOL BADGE

The new school badge was officially launched on Monday 2 March 2009. The new badge integrates aspects of the previous three badges that have existed in the 53 year history of the school.

The new badge came about via a pupil competition, discussions at the Parent Council, consultation with the school Ethos Committee and review by the Senior Management team.

The new badge was designed by the Ethos Committee under the Chair of Mr Will with input from Mr Watt, PT Art, Ms McCracken, PT Guidance and 4th year pupil and prize winner Rebecca Finnie.

A NIGHT IN THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

Thirty pupils and five staff went on a trip with a difference in March. The group travelled by train to London for an evening of science based workshops in the Science Museum.

Then, in a once in a lifetime opportunity, they spent the night in the science museum sleeping next to the weird and wonderful exhibits on display.

The trip was a great success with the pupils returning highly enthused about their weekend. The trip was funded through the Science Museum's outreach programme.

POP IDOL

Pupils and staff at Northfield Academy will again be transformed into budding pop stars in a three night musical extravaganza. Over 50 performers will showcase their best talent in Pop Idol : Live and Lethal to be showcased in the school hall on 31 March - 2 April 2009.

Live and Loud is being organised by PT Guidance Teacher Mr Benton ; "I'm incredibly proud of everyone involved in this years show. I'm sure it is going to be the best one yet".

Previous Pop Idol concerts have all been sell out events. You are advised to get your tickets from school as soon as you can to avoid disappointment.

Tickets are on sale from the school priced £5 for adults and £4 for children;

CHESS SUCCESS

Gemma King 4S2 has qualified for the prestigious British Gas Scottish Open Chess Championships later this year.

Meanwhile in February Bobbie Hall in 1M2 won the Aberdeen Girls Chess Championships.

COLUMBA 1400

Thirteen pupils and three members of staff travelled to Staffin in Skye to take part in an intensive week long leadership training programme in February this year.

Columba 1400 is an independent organisation that aims to release the full potential of young people. The Ambassador Leadership Academy brings together pupils and staff to look at positive changes that can be made both within school and in the local community.

Funding for this project was gifted by the Wood Family Trust.

The trip was deemed a real success by staff and pupils.

FOOTBALL - U15 SUCCESS

Congratulations to the school's Under-15 Football Team who won the league title for the season only weeks after winning the Gerrard Trophy.

Northfield Academy beat Kincorth Academy 2 - 1 to claim the Under 15 Gerrard Trophy at Spain Park. Then, in March, the team, captained by Russell Masson, played Robert Gordon's College for their final league game, requiring only a draw to win the league. Determined to finish the league title-race in style however, the Northfield team went on to win 12-1 by the final whistle.

FASHION SHOW

Northfield Academy and Kittybrewster Primary School in partnership with John Lewis presented the 2009 fashion show in March.

Pupils from both schools "strutted their stuff" down the catwalk showing off fabulous fashions from John Lewis. Dancers from Northfield Academy also performed on the stage.

Proceeds from the show will be donated to Guide dogs for the Blind.

MENTORING SUCCESS

Teachers at Northfield Academy have become the first in Scotland to be recognised under a new mentoring scheme.

Seventeen staff took a year long course on mentoring new and student teachers. This role enables new teachers to discuss any problems they may be facing in the classroom and receive support and advice from more experienced colleagues.

Sue Bruce the new Chief Executive for Aberdeen City Council presented certificates from the General Teaching Council for Scotland to staff members in a ceremony in February.

FOOD HYGIENE

Twenty pupils in S4 have successfully completed the nationally recognised RHESIS Basic Food Hygiene course. Pupils completed the course as part of their work experience unit.

HOLOCAUST THROUGH ART

American artist Akiva Kenny Segan visited the school in January to show pupils examples of his work highlighting atrocities illustrating the horrors of hatred and genocide. Pupils were given drawing workshops by Mr Segan during his all day visit.

PINK DAY

Pupils at Northfield Academy raised £460 for breast cancer charities by staging a “come as you please” pink day at school in February.

The event was organised by girls from the S4 PE class and their teacher Mrs Fulton. The group will be bag packing in local supermarkets in May to raise further money for cancer charities.

The group are also in training for a half marathon walk in June when staff and pupils will travel to Edinburgh to take part in the Walk the Walk Moonwalk walking 13.1 miles overnight to raise further cash for their pink appeal.

COMPETITION WINNER

Rachael Buchan in 1W2 won £100 in book tokens in a competition run by PC Craig to name the new police diving boat. She will see her winning entry “Solas” launched in an official ceremony next term. “Solas” means light in Gaelic.

ROCK CHALLENGE

Pupils gave a stunning performance at this year's Global Rock Challenge event held at the AECC in February.

Forty pupils were involved on stage and behind the scenes preparing for the national music, dance and drama competition.

The aim of the event is to demonstrate that young people can achieve their potential without the use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco.

Northfield pupils came second overall in the competition with individual awards for best originality, best choreography, best hair and make up and best lighting.

CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS CEREMONY 2009

Northfield Academy's fourth annual 'Celebration of Success' ceremony will take place on Tuesday 16th June 2009 at 7.00pm. The location for this glittering ceremony is the Music Hall on Union Street. The evening ceremony is a major highlight in the life of the school and is an opportunity for pupils, their family and school staff to take pride in the achievements of our school community.

This year's ceremony promises to be different from previous events with the addition of new awards, die-struck medals for award winners and entertainment provided by our 'Rock Challenge' arts performing group. For the first time, S4 students will also be presented with 'Diplomas of Excellence' along with our S1 – S3 students and pupils will be photographed on stage receiving their awards. There will also be opportunities to observe displays of pupil work and purchase items of pupil work for various school-based causes.

The ceremony promises to be a great and exciting evening and will be made all the more enjoyable by having your presence there on the night. We are grateful to all those businesses and individuals who sponsor awards at our annual prize-giving ceremony and are now looking to secure key sponsors to headline the overall event. If this is something that you may be able to consider further through any business links that you have, then please contact Mike Will, Depute Head Teacher, at the school. In any case, please make sure you write this date into your diary and we look forward to meeting you on the 16th June 2009.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues	31	Mar - 2 Apr 2009	Pop Idol 6 : Live and Lethal
Fri	3	Apr 2009	Last day of term. School breaks up at 3pm
Mon	20	Apr 2009	Aberdeen Spring Holiday
Tues	21	Apr 2009	Inservice day for teachers
Wed	22	Apr 2009	School restarts for pupils
Mon	4	May 2009	May Day Holiday
Tues	5	May 2009	S4 exam leave begins
Fri	15	May 2009	S5/6 exam leave begins
Mon	8	June 2009	Change of Timetable
Tues	16	June 2009	Celebration of Success, Music Hall
Fri	3	July 2009	Last day of term