



PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

Macclesfield High School
Arts and Technology College



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Motivated, Happy and Successful Learners

Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s)

We are now half way through the busiest term of the school year and I am very proud of how well our students are preparing for their GCSE, AS and A2 examinations. I have been particularly impressed by their approach and demeanour in the examinations so far, and at how determined they have been to do their very best. As I said in the last newsletter, success in these exams will come only if school work is the priority over the coming weeks, and I am pleased that our students are demonstrating their commitment to do well.

At the risk of "cracking the whip"(!), I should like to stress the importance of revision over the half-term break. Please share the following simple revision techniques with your child(ren). They will be helpful to students of all ages.

Tips for concentration

By now students should be well into the routine of revising most nights and their concentration should be developing as they follow this routine. If they are struggling then they could:

- Start with studying for shorter periods, followed by a quick break. Lengthen as these sessions become easier
- Break down difficult topics into short manageable sections to revise
- Switch to a different task if their concentration wanders
- They shouldn't take breaks as an excuse to give up when things become difficult

Using time

- Combine study with some of their daily activities. Put their revision notes onto an i-pod or walkman and listen to them on the way to and from school
- Use spare minutes to learn short word lists, dates, formulae that they have put

onto small revision cards. They should carry them around with them

Be organised

Their study materials are valuable so:

- they should keep their study materials in one place
- Use pocket folders, ring binders etc to organise them
- Label clearly and boldly

We held our Annual House Cup Assembly on Thursday in order to present the Willmott Dixon Cup to the House with the most House Points. This is an annual event and I was delighted to present the cup to Mulberry House which was extremely well-deserved. Well done Mulberry! The occasion was a celebration of the students' many successes and highlights of the year, and I will report these in detail in my end-of-year newsletter.

We are delighted to be running a Summer School for primary school students from 16th to 20th August. This is the first time we have organised a Summer School at Macclesfield High School, and our aim is to provide pupils joining us in September with extra literacy and numeracy lessons, together with a familiarity of the school. We feel this will greatly help them with their transition from primary to secondary school and we look forward to welcoming them as students at our very first Summer School.

Whilst our Year 11 students still have another week of school to prepare for their exams, we held their Leavers' Assembly today. As usual, this was a particularly enjoyable occasion, and we wish all our students every success for the future. We naturally hope to see many of them back in the Sixth Form in September, but for those students going on to other things, whether it be work, or a training

course at a different college, we wish them well for the future.

Next half-term also brings our Annual Art Exhibition and our school production of *West Side Story*. Further details of each can be found later on in this newsletter. There will, of course, be Sports Day and many other sports fixtures.

In short, we have a busy half-term ahead of us with plenty of opportunities for all our students. Please encourage your child(ren) to take advantage of all the many options available to enrich their educational experience at Macclesfield High School.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

KEVIN HARRISON
Headteacher

Y10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Year 10 students enjoyed a varied work experience week from 19th to 23rd April. We had lots of positive feedback from both local employers and students. Some of our students were even offered part-time jobs as a result of their excellent attitude and hard work during their placement. The placement at Canalside Radio was particularly successful, and the students involved are still doing a few days' work here and there in their own time. We also intend to set up our own internet radio station in school with help from the presenters.

IT DIPLOMA

MHS is the lead school for the IT Diploma in Macclesfield. We are looking for employers who work in the IT sector or who rely heavily on IT to get involved in the planning and/or delivery. There are a number of ways you can do this, including:

- taking part in a mock interview
- acting as a customer in role plays
- judging a competition
- providing work shadowing opportunities (for staff and/or learners)
- providing a tour of your organisation
- being a guest speaker
- offering personal professional development to staff
- acting as an enterprise adviser
- acting as a business mentor
- acting as a class adviser
- aiding curriculum development
- offering work experience
- allowing participation in in-company training programmes

If you would like to get involved in one or more of these, please contact Mr Coleclough.

EXAMINATION DATES

Y9 Maths GCSE

- 21st and 30th June 2010

Y10 GCSEs

- Maths – Re-sits are on Monday 21st and Wednesday 30th June
- Biology – Monday 28th June
- Chemistry – Monday 28th June
- Physics – Monday 28th June

Y11 GCSEs

- Written papers commence on 7th May until 23rd June inclusive (actual dates vary depending on subjects taken – see individual timetables)

Y12 AS and Y13 A2 levels

- Main exams start on 7th May to 30th June (actual dates will vary according to subjects taken – see individual timetables)

For full details of each student's exams, consult the personal student timetables recently issued to all students.

SCIENCE GCSE EXAMS

Science GCSE exams in Biology, Chemistry and Physics for Y10 will take place on 28th June. All students have been given a revision guide and workbook and need to work hard during the coming weeks to achieve their target grades. They will be doing practice papers in lessons and **revision sessions will take place (see below) from 12.20 pm to 1.00 pm. Students should sign up for all revision sessions in the library so that food can be provided for them.** Please encourage your child to use these resources to maximise their potential.

Wednesday 9th June : Biology

Mrs Ainsworth : Room 7

- Asexual reproduction and cloning

Thursday 10th June : Chemistry

Mr Fisher : Room 6

- Oils and Additives

Friday 11th June : Physics

Mr Coleclough : Room 3

- Energy Transfer

Tuesday 15th June : Biology

Mrs Jordan : Room 9

- Natural selection and evolution

Thursday 17th June : Physics

Mr Granville : Room 2

- Electromagnetic spectrum

Friday 18th June : Chemistry

Mr Fisher : Room 6

- Tectonics

Tuesday 22nd June : Biology

Mrs Jordan : Room 9

- Genetic Engineering and GM Food

Thursday 24th June : Chemistry

Mr Fisher : Room 6

- Air and Atmosphere

Friday 25th June : Physics

Mr Coleclough : Room 3

- Radioactivity

EXAMINATION PROCEDURES

The following information is designed to help students, and their parents, prepare for the forthcoming exams.

Examinations are normally scheduled to take place in the School Sports Hall, but details of the exam room and seating arrangements will be published on the exams noticeboard approximately 1 week before each exam. Students should check the noticeboard prior to each exam in case last minute changes have to be made.

- Year 9, 10 and 11 students must be in **full uniform** for all examinations.

• **MORNING EXAMS – START AT 09.00. AFTERNOON EXAMS – START AT 13.00**

- Large GCSE examinations – students should assemble in the Main Hall sitting in the seat number which corresponds to their exam room seat number. They will then be taken to the Sports Hall in groups.

- For smaller GCSE exams and A Levels, students should go directly to the Exam Room **arriving 10 minutes before the exam start time.**

- Students must enter the examination room on time and **IN SILENCE.**

- **STUDENTS MUST MAKE SURE THEY BRING BLACK PENS, PENCILS, DRAWING INSTRUMENTS AND A CALCULATOR WHERE APPLICABLE.**

- It is students' responsibility to be in school on time for their exams - latecomers can be denied entry to the examination.

- If students are delayed travelling to school then they should report to the Exam Room as soon as possible. Every effort will be made to allow them to sit the examination with the full allocation of time.

- If there is a genuine medical reason why a student is unable to attend, a Doctor's Note should be sent to Mr Spedding in the Exams Office as soon as possible. If a medical note is not produced, then parents/carers may be

charged for the full cost of the examination.

- Please remember that **mobile phones or other electronic devices ARE NOT ALLOWED in the exam hall (except calculators where applicable).**
- **TO AVOID ANY PROBLEMS – DO NOT BRING MOBILES / MP3 PLAYERS INTO SCHOOL ON EXAM DAYS.**
- Please note that where more than one exam is scheduled to start at the same time, students will sit those exams one after the other with a 10 minute break.

If there are any problems or queries, students should speak to their teacher or see Mr Spedding in the Exams Office as soon as possible. Don't leave problems until the day of the exam as it may then be too late to sort out.

YEAR 7 CHARITY CAR WASH

On 22nd April, Miss Jerome, with students from Year 7, arranged a car wash outside school and raised a fantastic £122.17 for *East Cheshire Hospice*. Well done everyone.

LITTER

Litter is one area where we set very high standards. I want the whole site to be litter-free, including the neighbourhood around school. Please remind your child of the basic advice: litter should go in a bin, or in their pocket until they find one. Thank you. If we can work together on this, we can create a litter-free environment for our students and for our neighbours.

ATHLETICS

Teams from Years 7, 8 and 9 have all competed in the athletics league and competitions this term. They have done extremely well in all events with some students reaching the finals and county trials. Well done boys and girls. You did the school proud!

YOUNG WRITERS' COMPETITION

I am delighted to report that 51 of our students are having their work published in a book following their success in the recent Young Writers' Association competition. The school will now go into the next stage of the competition with an opportunity to win cash prizes. The students had to write a mini saga in 50 words on a variety of topics including horror, nature and love. A letter will be sent to the parents of the students concerned inviting them to purchase their own copy of the book in due course.

YEAR 7 ASSEMBLY

7EUH presented a fantastic assembly about the Olympic Games, its history and traditions recently. They performed an opening ceremony which included a well-rehearsed dance routine and the lighting of the Olympic flame with their own carefully crafted torch. All the form took part, writing their own pieces highlighting many of the events – including relay, swimming, skiing, javelin and even a bobsleigh team. **Jack Naylor** provided an entertaining commentary of the various events, and gold, silver and bronze medals were presented at the official ceremony. Thank you to everyone for all their hard work including Ms Underhill, and Ms Hincliffe.

ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The following students have been selected to represent Macclesfield and District at the Cheshire County Athletics Championships on Saturday 12th June at the Macclesfield track.

| | | |
|----|--------------------------|---------|
| Y9 | Leon Heath | 400m |
| Y8 | Lucy Diggins | Javelin |
| | Jacqui Warrington | Discus |

The Year 7 championships will take place on Wednesday 30th June at Warrington and the following students have been selected to take part.

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Oliver Harris | 200m and relay |
| Dan Pemberton | 1500m |

NETBALL

The following students have successfully completed training sessions with the Macclesfield and District Netball Academy and have been put forward for the Cheshire Netball Trials in June.

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Lillie McGukian | (8SCH) |
| Nicole Clarke | (8KHM) |
| Robyn Lonyon | (8JLS) |
| Lucy Culkin | (7SFS) |

Holly Burton (9ADM) has attended the recent Cheshire Netball trials. Well done all of you.

FOOTBALL

Stockport County Football Club Community Foundation is introducing the *Macclesfield High School "Soccer PM"* for all students in Years 7, 8 and 9. The sessions will take place from 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm on Friday 18th and 25th June, and Friday 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd July. These challenging football sessions will be fun, offer a safe environment for students to learn and develop their skills, and are healthy too! Students should collect a form from the PE Department if they are interested in attending.

ANNUAL SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Rehearsals are well under way for this year's whole school production of *West Side Story*. Our next newsletter will provide you with details of how to purchase tickets. In the meantime, please make a note that the **public performances will take place at 7pm on Thursday 8th July and Friday 9th July.**

INCLUSION BOCCIA TOURNAMENT

David Sutherland (8KHM), **Cameron Gibbins** (8KHM) and **Ronan Pimblott** (8SCH) represented Macclesfield High School at the Macclesfield Schools Inclusion Boccia Tournament on 13th May at Macclesfield Leisure Centre. They all played really well and lost in the semi final. Well done all of you.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

- **A Level results** will be issued on Thursday 19th August from 10.00am.
- **GCSE and Year 11 AS level results** will be issued on Tuesday 24th August from 10.00am.

Results will be issued in the School Main Entrance Hall at the times shown above

Note: Official exam board GCSE results slips will not be in school until Thursday 26th August; they will be available from School Reception from 11.00 am that day.

PRESENTATION EVENINGS

Please note that our Exam Certificate Presentation Evenings will be held as follows.

- **Year 11 Certificate Presentation Evening** – Thursday 18th November at 7 pm
- **Year 13 Certificate Presentation Evening** – Thursday 16th December at 7 pm



SAM LEARNING GO!

All students at Macclesfield High School have access to SAM Learning GO, a top quality eLearning service that has been proven to improve GCSE grades through GCSE exam practice and related work.

SAM Learning is designed to help learners get better exam results by giving them the inside track on what examiners are looking for. It will show them how examiners assess their work and help them to

get more marks. As little as 10 hours use of SAM Learning can have a significant impact on exam results improving two grades – equivalent to two Cs rather than two Ds.

There are also revision and exam practice activities for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 as well as A Level.

To access the service at www.samlearning.com, learners need three details:

1. **Centre ID:** SK10HH2
2. **User ID:** Date of birth followed by two initials; first name then last name. Example: 010896DJ is the user for David Jones born 1st Aug 1996.
3. **Password:** Initially same as User ID, learners are encouraged to change this to something difficult to guess or work out.

MASTERCLASSES

We had our last Masterclass for this academic year on Saturday 22nd May. We had a fabulous Science Magic show presented by the very talented Mrs Bourne who teaches the Science Masterclasses. Tea and coffee were served as the students were presented with reports and certificates. It has been a fantastic year, and the students have enjoyed many activities from Bouncing Custard, Electronic Soccer Robots and a trip to the Science and Industry Museum. Some of the students are very keen to apply again next year. If you have a son or daughter who will be in Year 5 or 6 in September and they would like to come to Masterclasses, please contact Mrs Lucas.

VACCINATION PROGRAMME

As you will be aware, the HPV vaccine protects girls from the virus that causes most cases of cervical cancer. Around 4 million doses of HPV vaccine have now been given to girls in England. These are the results for Macclesfield High School:

2008/09
Y8 94.5% uptake

2009/10
Y8 93.0% uptake
Y10 85.7% uptake
Y11 78.7% uptake

This autumn, the Central and Eastern Cheshire NHS Primary Care Trust will be sending information packs and consent forms to the parents of all Year 8 girls ahead of the next set of vaccination sessions. This information will increase your knowledge and understanding of this extremely effective vaccine in advance of the autumn immunisation sessions, and aims to increase the uptake of the vaccine.

HOMEWORK CLUB

We hold a drop-in style Homework Club on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays after school. Students can call in to the LRC (library) to do their homework at any time between 3.00 pm and 4.30 pm. They do not have to stay for the full hour-and-a-half (unless they want to!)

THANK YOU

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Chris Shingles for his services as our School Sports Coordinator. Chris retired from his post today and Miss Jerome will be taking on this role after half-term.

DELIVERING DIPLOMAS AWARDS 2010

Macclesfield High School, as part of the East Cheshire Partnership Diploma Consortium, received a High Commendation Certificate in the Consortium of the Year Award in March. This award was organised by *Delivering Diplomas* in association with *SecEd* and sponsored by the *Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency*. We are very pleased indeed to have received such an award.

UKMT MATHS CHALLENGE

Well done to the 30 Y7 and Y8 students who took part in the recent UKMT Maths Challenge

along with over 200,000 other students from across the UK.

Many congratulations to **Thomas Bowers** who earns *Best in School Certificate*. The following students are awarded Silver and Bronze Certificates.

| Year 8 | Certificate |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dominic Moore | Silver |
| Alec Ryan | Bronze |
| Year 7 | |
| Thomas Bowers | Silver + Best in School |
| Oliver Harris | Silver |
| Elliot Potts | Silver |
| Lauren Connelly | Bronze |
| Daniel Pemberton | Bronze |
| David Hunt | Bronze |
| Joseph Symons | Bronze |

ART EXHIBITION

You are invited to join us on

Wednesday 30th June
between 5.30 pm and 8.00 pm

to view our

SUMMER ART EXHIBITION

of 2010 GCSE AND A-LEVEL WORK

This annual event is always popular, and everyone is welcome. It is, simply, a celebration of excellence! Do come along and see the fabulous array of artwork being shown by our very talented students.



PARIS TRIP



Students from Years 8 to 11 are visiting Paris from 29th May to 1st June.

Students will be cruising on the River Seine, visiting Notre Dame, the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, the Champs Elysees and the Arc du Triomphe. They will also be receiving French tuition at a language school. This trip will provide our students with the opportunity to practice their French speaking skills, as well as visiting the famous sites in Paris.

YEAR 7 BUXTON TRIP

A reminder to Year 7 parents that the balance for the Buxton trip must be paid by Monday 7th June. Thank you.

KEY DATES

*The week after half-term is
Week B*

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| 14 to 18 June | Week A |
| 21 to 25 June | Week B |
| 28 June-2 July | Week A |

- **Monday 7th June**
School re-opens
- **Thursday 24th June**
Y8 Parents' Evening
- **5th and 6th July**
Primary School Induction days
- **Tuesday 6th July**
Parents Evening for Y6 pupils
- **8th-9th July**
School Production
- **Friday 16th July**
School breaks up at 2 pm for the Summer holiday

TESCO VOUCHERS FOR SCHOOLS



We are collecting Tesco Vouchers for

Schools again this year. Please ask your son/daughter to take any vouchers to the school library or form tutors. Last year we collected over 25,000 vouchers which

enabled us to obtain equipment for school to enhance your child(ren)'s learning. Thank you.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have recently changed address, home telephone number, mobile telephone number, e-mail address, emergency contacts or other contact details, please inform the school office so that we can contact you in case of emergency.

ABSENCE

If your child is going to be absent from school, please phone school on 383100 on the **first day of absence**, giving the reason for absence and expected return date. If your child is absent for more than three days a further call should be made to school. **When your child returns, they should bring a note from yourselves explaining the reason for absence. This should be given to their form tutor.** Thank you for your co-operation.

YOUR FEEDBACK

Thank you for all the support you give to Macclesfield High School. Please let us know if there is anything that you want to comment on. We want you to help us to improve our school all the time.