



PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

Macclesfield High School
Arts and Technology College



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30.4.10

Motivated, Happy and Successful Learners

Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s)

The final (and busiest!) term of this academic year is now well underway. The, GCSE, AS and A2 examinations, together with the internal examinations, are fast approaching. **All students, no matter what year, need to remain positive and focused. Their aim must be to outperform their previous best, to contribute in a wholly positive manner to all aspects of school life, and to seize the opportunities that Macclesfield High School has to offer.**

All parents want their child to do well. Talk to your child about how you can best support them. Ask them to tell you what you can best do to help them. All young people are fantastic learners, if they allow themselves to be.

Talk to your child about what worked and what didn't work in their preparation for their mocks. Ask them what they need to do differently in order to improve, since if they continue to make the same mistakes again, they cannot expect things to change.

Please remind them too of the importance of eating healthy food, taking fresh air and exercise, drinking plenty of water (since this improves well-being and mental alertness) and getting lots of sleep!

You will find lots of useful information about the forthcoming exams in this issue of the newsletter. **Success in these exams will come only if school work is the priority over the coming weeks.**

This term is also one of celebration for our students with events such as our annual school production, sports day, the Year 11 and Sixth Form Proms, the leavers' assembly, the summer art exhibition, rewards trips, and numerous sports fixtures. These

extra-curricular events enhance the rich and varied education which your children receive at Macclesfield High School.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

KEVIN HARRISON
Headteacher

Y11 SCIENCE

The exam season is upon us! Year 11 students have all been supplied with revision guides to help them to work towards achieving their target grade in the summer exams. Revision lessons are also taking place every Friday lunchtime for Y11, and students are making use of this excellent chance to enhance their understanding. The VLE provides students with access to past GCSE papers and the mark schemes. The use of this facility will boost grades and increase confidence prior to the exams. Y11 exams are 21st, 25th and 28th May which is before half-term so real focus is needed now. Y10 exam modules will take place on 28th June. Revision guides and workbooks are to be given out next week and will develop a better understanding of the topics. Please encourage your child to make the best use of these opportunities to achieve the goals.

EXAMINATION DATES

Y9 Maths GCSE

- 21st and 30th June 2010

Y10 GCSEs

- ICT Functional Skills - Monday 10th May

- Business Studies – Friday 28th May
- 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

- Spanish Orals Wednesday - 5th May
- Media Studies Controlled Test - Thursday 6th May
- Design & Technology Innovation Challenge - Friday 7th May
- Chinese (Mandarin) Orals - Wednesday 12th May
- French Orals - Tuesday and Wednesday 11th and 12th May
- 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

- A2 French Oral – will be at Alderley Edge School on Monday 10th May (re-arranged date)
- AS and A2 Spanish Oral exams – Thursday 20th May
- 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

WEST SIDE STORY

Rehearsals are going extremely well for the summer production of West Side Story. The dance troupe is working very hard under the direction of Year 10 student Tori Harrison, Maddy de Viq (Year 13) and Mrs Perry. All dancers are making excellent progress. Acting rehearsals are going very well indeed with all concerned working diligently on their Puerto Rican and American accents! Under the supervision and guidance of Mr

Rodgers, the orchestra is already sounding very professional.

Can you help? We require:

- 3 or 4 tailor's dummies
- Top hat
- Old-fashioned sewing machine
- 50s style dresses (mostly sizes 8, 10, 12)
- Boy's leather /denim jackets
- Glass coca-cola bottles in a crate

If you are able to loan any of the above items, we would be extremely grateful. Please contact Mrs Perry or Mrs Morgan at school.

ICT COURSEWORK DEADLINES & AFTER SCHOOL SUPPORT

ICT Coursework deadlines and after-school support is available to students as follows.

CIDA coursework deadline - Tuesday 11th May 2010

OCR Nationals coursework deadline - Friday 21st May 2010

Extra after school support sessions will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in room 92 from 3-4pm.

Y10 ART TRIP

Over a weekend in March, 12 girls from Year 10 were taken to the Conway Centre on Anglesey to take part in the Cheshire-run Art trip, which celebrates the talent of the county's young artists. The pupils worked with students from different schools in groups lead by brilliant Art teachers from across Cheshire. They looked at new artists, learnt different techniques and worked outside in the beautiful setting of the Centre. The workshops ran all day until 9.30 pm and every student worked really hard, which was a testament both to the students and to the commitment of the staff supervising the course.

The standard of work was beyond expectations and each student now has a set of work to add to their GCSE coursework for next year. Since returning to school

some of the girls have worked hard to put together a display of the work, which is to be exhibited in the Key Stage 4 area.

I would like to thank them all for their exemplary behaviour, outstanding work and excellent attitude. I am extremely proud to have taken them and wish them all successful careers in Art!

The students are: **Annie Barker, Sophie Braddock, Kerry Brownjohn, Kerry Cleaver, Karla Dickson, Laura Green, Amy Hancock, Amy Rowson, Severine Tonge, Megan Unwin, Nicole Utley and Emily White.**
Mrs Underhill

MATHS REVISION RESOURCES

Order forms will soon be handed out to Year 9 and 10 students for maths revision resources at much reduced rates. These will include revision guides, workbooks, calculators and maths sets. Please look out for your child's order form.

MHS MINI ELECTION

Students in Years 7 and 8 at Macclesfield High School will be taking part in a mock election on Wednesday 5th May. Students representing candidates from the three main parties are standing and each will give a 3 minute speech at a hustings on 5th May.

Campaigning has begun in earnest and students were privileged to meet with the 3 Macclesfield candidates - David Rutley (Conservative) Adrian Heald (Labour) and Roger Barlow (Liberal Democrats) - this week.

The students learnt a great deal from the candidates about the election process, and were able to obtain "top tips" to help them with their campaigning in school.

CHESHIRE SCOUTS HIKE

Congratulations to Theo and Dominic Noble who took part in the recent Scouts' Cheshire Hike. They won the Senior Plus section both in the Macclesfield and

Congleton District and in the county and were awarded trophies for their success. They are both members of Viking Explorers.

The hike is always done in pairs, over a weekend, and scouts carry everything they need for camping overnight, and preparing and eating a meal on Saturday night. Well done lads!

HEAD OF SILK HOUSE

We are pleased to welcome Kath Shaw back to school after her maternity leave. Kath returns to her post as Head of Silk House on a job share basis with Emma Wilson who has covered this post during Kath's maternity leave. Kath will be working Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Emma will work Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday. Please contact either Kath or Emma as appropriate should you have any issues you wish to discuss about your child(ren) in Silk House.

ARMY TRAINING

The following students won awards on the Army Insight Course last week.

- **Robert Hanaghan** - Best Male Student
- **Samantha Oakes** - Best Female Student tied with **Kerry Brownjohn**
- **Graham Boswell** - Most Improved Student
- **Zac Nelson** - Best Overall Student

These students were a credit both to themselves and the school. Well done all of you.

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.

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!)

LAPTOPS FOR STUDENTS

REMINDER - HOME ACCESS: FREE COMPUTERS AND CONNECTIVITY

Over **200,000** applications from families have been made for the Home Access laptop deal across the country. That means there are **70,000+** systems still available.

Cheshire East's uptake has been good with over **330** applications received of which nearly all have been approved. If you think you may be eligible, please call 0333 200 1004 for an application pack.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

OPEN TO ALL! Do you have a favourite view of Macclesfield? It could be to do with the town, its people or its surroundings. Four winners will have their entries

printed as postcards and will each receive a framed copy of their winning photograph. For further details, see Miss Forster or visit: www.barnabyfestival.org.uk/photography.php. Closing date: 7th May 2010.

SURVIVING TEENAGERS/PRE-TEENS PARENTING COURSES



Would you like to know more about what to expect in the teenage years or how to cope with your teenager?

Surviving Teenagers is a 6 week course to guide you through the challenges of having a teenager or pre-teen in your household. Our next course will run on Wednesday afternoons from 12.30pm to 2.30pm at **Ash Grove Children's Centre**, Ash Grove, Macclesfield, SK11 7TF. Course dates will be 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th June and 7th and 14th July.

Courses have limited places, will be allocated on a 'first come first served' basis and will be open to parents of other schools in the EIP.

For more information or to book a place, please contact Pauline Holt, Family Coordinator, e-mail pauline.holt@macchigh.cheshire.sch.uk or telephone 01625 383143.

ATTENDANCE

As I am sure you are aware, regular attendance at school is a major factor in maintaining students' progress. We always have this as a priority within school.

90% in most things is absolutely fantastic, but in attendance it should be seen as the absolute bare minimum requirement. If a student spends the five compulsory years in secondary education (15 terms altogether), then 90% attendance means that he/she misses 1½ terms of education. A staggering fact! Also, if you only went to work 90% of the time, would your boss be satisfied?

We would like you all to think really hard about the reasons that your child misses school. Please see the chart below. It gives an interesting and concise breakdown of how student absence has a knock-on effect on progress and achievement.

There is a clear link between lower attendance and lower performance in crucial examinations.



LITTER

Litter is one area where we set very high standards. I want the whole site to be litter-free. And that should go for the neighbourhood around the 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.

KEY DATES

Next Week is Week B

10 to 14 May	Week A
17 to 21 May	Week B
24 to 28 May	Week A

- **Monday 3rd May**
May Day Bank Holiday - School closed
- **Thursday 6th May**
LZ6 Interview Evening
- **24-26 May**
Y7 Residential
- **Wednesday 26th May**
LZ6 Interview Evening
- **Friday 28th May**
School closes for half-term
- **Monday 7th June**
School re-opens

YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR THEIR SUCCESS AT SCHOOL AND IN LIFE.

A YEAR OF 365 DAYS IS MADE UP OF...

<p>175 non-school days a year There are 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments, which leaves...</p>					
190 School days in each year	10 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence	38 days absence	47 days absence
	180 days of Education	171 days of Education	161 days of Education	152 days of Education	143 days of Education
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
<p>Good Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start</p>		<p>Worrying Less chance of success. Makes it harder for your child to make progress</p>		<p>Serious Concern Not fair on your child. May result in court action against you!</p>	