



### HEAD'S MESSAGE

As we come to the end of another successful year at the school, I hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter about some of the events that have taken place recently. The stories will give you a flavour of the many activities that take place for our young people.

Sadly, we are saying farewell to a number of staff at this time. They are Mr Campbell (Behaviour Manager), Mr Crick (Assistant Head Teacher), Mr Dunn (Caretaker), Mrs Goodliffe (SENCO), Mr Haswell (Maths Teacher), Mr Henderson (Head of PE), Mrs Lowther (Special Needs Teacher), Mr Pain (Data Manager) and Mr Pryke (Science Teacher and School Improvement Group Leader). We wish them all every success in the future.

Not all teaching staff are being replaced. This is something we do not need to do due to falling numbers in the school. The size of teaching groups will not change, which is good news. It does mean that their responsibilities are being taken on by other staff in the school and it is a chance to look again at some of our structures. We are doing this now and I will write to you again at the start of the next term to make you fully aware of all the changes that have taken place.

The outline planning permission for the new school has been put on hold by the Local Authority. They are exploring the possibilities of the site with One NorthEast and need to conclude the discussions before moving forward again. I will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

Finally, I would like to wish all pupils a happy and safe summer break.



Year 6 pupils involved in "Technical Textiles Challenge"

### Design Technology News

Each summer term, a group of 16 Y9 students enter the "Aim Higher Engineering Challenge". This is a competition to build remote control cars, the strongest/lightest bridge and wind turbines to charge the batteries, which are tested in a wind tunnel. An engineer comes to work with the pupils on Fridays after school to prepare the students for the challenge. The competition is on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July and we are hoping it is third time lucky this year because we have been 3<sup>rd</sup> for the last two years!

For the last time we have two classes of Y10 students taking their Electronics examination a year early. Nationally only 7% of entries are from girls but over half of our candidates have been girls for the last 3 years. The results have been over 98% A\* to C grades throughout, so congratulations to all concerned!

A Technical Textiles challenge was run with select classes from KS3 in partnership with Hetton School and the Industrial Trust. A "boot camp" style event was held at Hetton earlier in the year and involved candidates from local primaries.

Teams competed with each other throughout the day with the winners having a VIP day at the Barbour and Sons factory.

This year has seen the first of Product Design with Textiles, raising enthusiasm in Technology amongst girls. Year 6 pupils from all our feeder primaries took part in a Futuristic Dragons Textiles activity designing interactive cycling clothing.

Finally, congratulations to Ex-Pupil Samiera Shah and School staff member Gay Turner Wray who completed all 8 Modules for European Computer Drivers Licence. Gaining Level 1 & 2 NVQ qualifications.

### Rhineland, Germany Trip 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009

At 5:45am on Monday March 30<sup>th</sup>, myself (Mrs. Day) Mr. Foulds, Miss. Butler and 30 pupils assembled at school ready to board the coach for a 5-day trip to the Rhineland in Germany. We were all very excited for the trip after many months of planning and organising. The Journey lasted 18 hours and we arrived at our hotel in Kamp-Bornhofen very tired and ready to sleep.

The next day we went to Königswinter and went on the historical cog railway called the Drachenfels Bahn, which was put into operation in the summer of 1883. The railway takes you to the top of the "Drachenfels Hill" which is called the world's most popular hill. En route we saw some fantastic views and we disembarked to look around a fairytale castle. We were able to climb the spiral staircase right to the top of a turret. Mr. Foulds got some great photographs. We also took the pupils into a museum where they were able to find out about the history of the castle.

During our trip we also visited Koblenz situated where the river Rhine and the Moselle meet. We explored the beautiful towns of Boppard and Rudesheim. Had a ride on some cable cars that offered excellent views of the Rhine. We took a boat trip along the Rhine from Boppard to St. Goar and sampled the delights of some wonderful little villages.

On the last day, we visited Cologne, which is Germany's fourth largest city (After Berlin, Hamburg and Munich). We visited the fantastic Cologne cathedral; some pupils climbed the 590 steps. We learned that during World War II, despite 70 hits by aerial bombs, it still stood tall in an otherwise flattened city. The final trip was to the Schokoladen Museum in Cologne where we had a guided tour of the chocolate factory and were shown how chocolate is made. We were even given our own chocolate to sample during the tour! It was very interesting to learn about the history of chocolate and how it is produced and distributed worldwide

We left our hotel at 8am on the day of departure and continued to the Euro-Tunnel, which went from Calais to Folkstone. Several hours later, we arrived back in Seaham with 33 people who had experienced a wonderful trip.

We had learned so much about the German language, culture, history and people and we even managed to go few playgrounds on the way.

## **Maths News**

### **East Durham Maths Challenge**

Four pupils from Year 11 represented the school in the East Durham Maths Challenge held in May and clinched first prize. The team consisted of Sam Cummings, Scott Reid, Emily Parker and Richard Corner. They beat a number of teams from other schools in the East Durham Maths area working on investigations, puzzles and a teamwork challenge.

The enthusiasm and determination that they showed was a pleasure to see and they really were worthy winners and excellent representatives of the school. They received a trophy for the school and each pupil also received a personal prize.

### **Royal Bank of Scotland Financial Awareness awards**

Over the past year, Mrs O'Neill has led the Maths department in developing a series of lessons aimed at Year 9 and 10 pupils to focus on increasing their financial awareness. Pupils have worked in 'family groups' trying to plan their budget. They have looked at wages and tax and had to make decisions about buying a house and car, budget for a weekly food shop and choosing the best value mobile phone package.

The work has been so successful that she was nominated to receive an award. She was successful in being presented the runners up prize at the Royal Bank of Scotland national awards ceremony held in London in June. The prize was £500 for the Maths department which they plan to spend on activities to develop financial awareness into other year groups.

## **English News**

### **BBC School Report**

A group of Year 9 pupils recently took on the challenge to produce a television news bulletin for the BBC. With the help of students from Sunderland University pupils decided on their stories, researched the issues and conducted interviews

taking on the role of a cameraman, presenter or a journalist came naturally to these enthusiastic newshounds! Reports included an investigation into the impact of Building Schools for the Future.

### **Visit to see "My Grandfather Knew Alf Ramsey"**

Year 11 English and Drama students had a great evening at the theatre to see a performance of this brand new play. It shows how a local football team from West Auckland overcame difficulties to win the first football World Cup in 1909. Students commented on how realistic the characters were and enjoyed the jokes and humour from County Durham.

### **Primary Maths Quest 2009**

For the third year running our Drama students were chosen to perform in the Primary Maths Quest held at Spennymoor's Education Development Centre.

This year, the theme was History and the play told the story of a number of historical characters who were taken from their own time. The cast were excellent in the performance and also helped the primary school children with their Maths problems. During the week, the pupils worked with over 1000 children and received many positive comments not only for the quality of the performances but also for their perfect behaviour.

What was particularly special about this year's performance was the use of a talking Robot called Sparky. This was built by Mr Hardy from the Design Technology Department and the character was played brilliantly by Mr Self.

Well done to: Rachel Davison, Amber Burney, Jessica Jones, Jak Fletcher, Victoria Byrom, Victoria Oates, Annie Guy, Nickita Gaut, Steven Brown, Mel Parkin, Kulsum Alam, Robyn Hemmings, Rhiannon Henderson, Alex Weir and Jamie Kelly.

You were a real credit to the school.

## **A Capital Trip!**

In February 2009, a group of Year 9 and 10 pupils and staff took part in the first English, Media and Drama visit to London. Fortunately, the heavy snow from the previous week had melted, leaving the motorway clear for our bus journey to the capital.

Despite the early start, pupils were enthusiastic. However, their excitement soon turned to fear at our first stop – The London Dungeons where we came face to face with the darker side of London's history including such shadowy figures as Jack the Ripper and Sweeney Todd. Miss Butler fell foul of the law as she was tried for witchcraft and there were screams aplenty as we all got to experience the terror of capital punishment by facing the hangman's drop.

Having dropped off the bags at the hotel, we then had time for a delicious meal before our first theatre visit. We headed to the Apollo Victoria Theatre to see *Wicked*, a musical that re-examines the story of *The Wizard of Oz*.

The next morning, after a hearty breakfast we boarded the bus for our guided tour of the city, where we got the opportunity to see sights such as Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament, St Paul's Cathedral as well as



some of the exclusive shops and hotels. We ended our tour at Shakespeare's famous Globe Theatre, where we had the chance to sit in the auditorium and watch some of the set designers putting final touches to some of the balcony scenery for an up-coming production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

After lunch, we took a flight on the London Eye, from where we were able to glimpse most of the sights we had seen on our earlier tour. It took some of the girls a while to overcome their fear of heights but eventually we all made it on board. The flight was followed by a visit to Covent Garden and the chance to indulge in a spot of retail therapy. We then headed off for another delicious meal before our second theatre visit – to the Shaftesbury Theatre in the heart of the West End to see *Hairspray*. The show was amazing and really did have everyone on their feet before the

final curtain. After the show, Mrs Lowerson- Marshall grabbed the chance to meet her hero Michael Ball, who stars in the show. The beam on her face as she returned with her autographed programme said it all!

The final day of our visit was a lot more practical. We travelled across London to a studio to take part in a Stage Combat Workshop. The workshop was lead by experienced actors and our group had great fun learning how to create fight scenes. Mrs Lowerson-Marshall and Mrs Whitehead got really involved. Another highlight of the session was a visit from Caroline Keiff, the actress who played Nessa Rose in "*Wicked*" and the pupils made the most of the opportunity to quiz the actors about the shows and their jobs.



After lunch, it was on to the famous Pineapple Dance Studios in Covent Garden for a Step-by-Step Dance workshop led by members of the *Hairspray* cast. They put us through our paces as we learned one of the routines from the show. The workshop helped us understand just how fit you need to be to be able to perform eight shows a week. For us, we were glad to be able to climb back on our bus and head for home after a thoroughly enjoyable visit.



Sculpture made from recycled materials

## Art News

### Enquiry Project for Creativity

Students from KS3 and KS4 have taken part in two large-scale projects where they have worked with practicing artists using different materials and technology. Inspiration for the projects came from Seaham itself and funding to support the work came from Creative Partnerships and the school. The first project resulted in art and design students making a semi permanent installation in the form of a sculpture made from recycled materials. The manager of Byron Place shopping centre has been tremendously supportive by providing a venue for the students to celebrate the outcomes of their work. The sculpture was transported from school with the help of Gary at G. A. Motors and exhibited by the artists and the students outside the shopping centre. The second phase resulted in the work of another group of art students exhibiting their creations inside one of the shopping units at Byron Place. Students worked with 'new media' and projected their work in the space as an exciting installation involving images and sound.

## P.E Department News

Congratulations to all pupils who have worked hard in the Physical Education department in lessons and in extra-curricular activities over the last academic year. We have entered a wide range of sports and age groups in the Easington and Sunderland leagues.

During the September to March period, we entered the Sunderland Girls Hockey leagues and tournaments in all the age group categories. The U13s Year 7 and 8 girls, under the excellent captaincy of Beth Humphrey, went on to win their tournament and were placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the outdoor and indoor leagues. All other teams were placed in the top half of the results table with the U12 being runners up in the U12 tournament and the U14s runners up in the indoor league.

In the Sunderland Football league, the boys were very enthusiastic and entered teams in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. The Year 10 Cricket team got through to the second round of the County Cup and we entered the Easington area Lady Taverners National U13 club outdoor competition with year 7 and 8 girls and boys. The boys reached the final but were narrowly beaten by Dene House and the girls won and went on to represent the area at Burnmoor Cricket club winning two out of four games.

### Girls' Winning Team

Natalie Bowmaker, Tapanga Burney, Reanne Rooney, Laura Kirtley, Beth Humphrey, Sarah Hodgson, Joanna Donachie, Karrie Gippert and Laura Turner.

### Boys' Finalists

Dale Shaw, Alex Hutchinson, Alex Falconer, Michael Groom, Daniel Mottram, Kieron Dodds, Ryan Wood, Jak Patton and Lewis Aiken.

### Gymnastics

This year for the first time in about 10 years, we entered girls in the Durham county Gymnastic competition at Spennymoor. The girls worked really hard and looked very professional in their lovely green leotards shown in picture below.

(Many thanks to FOSS for their kind donation for the leotards)

We were delighted to win three trophies the Floor, Vault and Overall trophy. Beth Humphrey was the Winner of the Floor and Vault individual competition. Jessica Adams was Second in the Vault competition. Rebbecca Guy was Second in the floor competition. Congratulations also go to the rest of the Team of Joanna Donachie, Chloe Greenwood, Hannah Carling, Ashleigh Gowland, Eleanor Hudson, Courtney Kennedy, Abbie Gibbs and Robyn Hemmings.



## Inter-Family Competitions

Over the year we have organised a number of inter family sporting competitions. In November we ran the cross country and used the tarmac around the building instead of the muddy (Think Glastonbury) school fields.

## Winners

### Boys

Year 7 Lee Carr

Year 8 Reece Jordan

Year 9 Frank Hudson

### Girls

Year 7 Tapanga Burney

Year 8 Amy Collinson

Year 9 Nicole Kennedy

Runners up were Dougal Donachie, Ryan Madely, Dylan Bacon, Natalie Bowmaker, Beth Humphrey and Hannah Bird.

Following the Inter-Family competition, we entered teams in the Easington Area cross-country competition at Peterlee. Reece Jordan and Tapanga Burney were selected for the area team and Tapanga received her County sweatshirt after being selected for the Durham county team after a credible run at Meadowfield. The high standard continued into the Athletic season with a large number of boys and girls gaining certificates in our school 5 star award scheme with 33 boys and 27 girls gaining 4 star and the following pupils awarded with a 5 star:

Thomas Allen, Daniel Mottram Stuart Musgrove, Kieran Robinson, Ryan Madeley, Lee Robinson, Josh Williams, Connor Hobkirk, Reece Jordan, Josh Wilson and Tapanga Burney.

## Basketball

Boy's basketball has had a fantastic season. The Yr 8 boys missed out in the play offs by 1 point. The Yr 9 and 11 teams were beaten semi-finalists. Both teams played



Basketball Team

encouraging basketball and were a credit to themselves and the school throughout the basketball season. In Yr 11, Joey Jones was top scorer and Declan Raine was the most improved player. In Yr 9, Josh Martin-Ainsley top scored and Conner Hobkirk was most improved player. In Yr 8 Alex Hutchinson was top scorer and Jack Patton was the most improved player.

The future of Seaham basketball is very promising and we look forward to another very successful season

## Year 7 Inter Family Summer Sports

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> of July we held our Year 7 inter family sports day and it was really hot, pleasant though sweaty. The pupils worked very hard in all the activities. It was a pleasure to work with them and overall it was a very competitive afternoon.

## Softball Results

1<sup>st</sup> Fire and Air

3<sup>rd</sup> Earth and Water

Well done to winning team members

David Bainbridge, Jordan Bunts Connor Gilley, Alex Leng, Andrew Byrom, Carl Scott, David O, Conner, Cameron Smith, Peter Kinmond, Aaron Green, Thomas Laybourn, Stephen Noble, Jordan Coulson, Glen Hood, Nathan Cassidy, Ryan Dunn, Andrew McLaren and Hayden Mack.

Lee Carr won Softball Man of the Match.

## Rounders Results

1<sup>st</sup> Water

2<sup>nd</sup> Air

3<sup>rd</sup> Earth

4<sup>th</sup> Fire

Congratulations to the following winning team members: Jessica Adams, Laura Gleghorn, Beth Price, Megan Thirlwell, Lauren Ruddock, Alex Bland, Sophie Gray, Hannah Robson, Corrie Willis, Farhana Alam, Hannah Carling, Lauren McGhin, Shannon Roussell and Jay Weir. Hannah Cross won Rounders Woman of the Match.

## Tennis Results (Boys)

1<sup>st</sup> Earth

2<sup>nd</sup> Air

3<sup>rd</sup> Fire

4<sup>th</sup> Water

Well done to Ryan Walton and Lewis Wilkinson

## Tennis Results (Girls)

1<sup>st</sup> Earth

2<sup>nd</sup> Water

3<sup>rd</sup> Air

4<sup>th</sup> Fire

Well done to winners Karrie Gippert and Courtney Knight.

## Basketball Results (Boys)

1<sup>st</sup> Water

2<sup>nd</sup> Earth

3<sup>rd</sup> Air

4<sup>th</sup> Fire

Congratulations to winning team of: Brandon Miller, Bradley Charlton, Adam Dean, Bradley Dean and Dylan Vardy. Dugald Donachie won Basketball Man of the Match.

## Basketball Results (Girls)

1<sup>st</sup> Water

2<sup>nd</sup> Earth

3<sup>rd</sup> Air

4<sup>th</sup> Fire

Congratulations to: Katie Trotter, Laura Tomlin, Courtney Kennedy and Chloe Magee

Basketball Woman of the Match was won by Ashleigh Gowland

Overall points

**1<sup>st</sup> = with 18 points Water and Earth**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Air with 15 points**

**4<sup>th</sup> Fire with 9 points.**

In the week of 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> of July we held a Celebration of Sport Family Assembly led by Mr Doneghan. Mr Self put together sporting events over the year into a video and we were treated to a very high quality display followed by presentations of trophies, medals and certificates for Athletics, Cross Country, Dance/Cheer leading, Cricket, Swimming, Tennis and Gymnastics.

Athlete of the year awards were presented to: Reanne Rooney, Nicola Lowes, Beth Humphrey, Tapanga Burney, Shaun Robinson, Nicky Thompson, Daniel Tempest and Steven Brown.

Most improved athlete awards went to Abby Corkhill, Hannah Bird, Jessica Adams, Jessica Kennedy, Steven Belcher, Chris Seymour, Kieran Robinson and Thomas Alderson.

Well done to all pupils who won awards.

As mentioned earlier, the PE Department are sad that we are seeing the end of an era in the retirement of **Mr Henderson 1973-2009** our Head of Department. He has been a dedicated, hardworking P.E teacher over the last 36 years keeping Seaham sport going strong with high standards in lessons and in extra curricular activities.

I am sure you will join us in wishing him well for the future, as he will be sadly missed by staff, pupils, ex pupils and parents.

On a different note, the Physical Education Department would ask you to check in September that your children bring the correct equipment to school for their two lessons a week. A trend among girls is to wear very flat pumps and not bring trainers to lessons. These shoes can be dangerous if worn for sport and give no support to the foot and could lead to dropped arches. The new style sandshoes, which are slightly better, are still not built for robust activity. Therefore, we ask you to have the correct kit, training shoes (even if you have a note to be excused P.E.) and shin pads for hockey and football lessons. A long sleeved red top would also be an advantage in cold weather.

A reminder that boys should be wearing shorts of a plain colour.

## New Year 11 Uniform

From September, pupils in Year 11 will be able to wear their own special uniform. This year they have chosen to wear a black jumper, cardigan or tank top embroidered in gold with the school name. Knitwear without the school name will not be allowed. This can be worn with black trousers or skirt with a white shirt. A school tie is optional.

The uniform can be purchased from either Seaham Embroidery or JD Fashions. We look forward to seeing our smart Year 11 at the beginning of next term.

## SAY NO TO BULLYING!!!!

Seaham's Own Supporters

If you need an S.O.S., why not visit the school's peer supporter group. The group calls itself, S.O.S. and is available each lunchtime, in the One Stop Shop.

These Year 10 students are trained in offering pupils with bullying or other problems support and guidance. If anyone has a problem that they would like to discuss in a confidential environment, please go to see a Peer Supporter and talk to someone of your own age who can help.

## Anti-bullying Accreditation

With the success of our established Peer Supporter group, S.O.S. the school has been awarded Anti-bullying Accreditation. This award is a sought after award and shows our school's commitment to making life easier for pupils. The accreditation is reviewed in two years, to make sure we continue to provide as much support as we can for pupils who are faced with bullying and we also provide support and help for those pupils who may have bullied someone in the past.

This award shows the importance we place on tackling bullying and helps to give pupils the skills they need to "BEAT THE BULLIES"



## Friends of Seaham School

This year "Friends of Seaham School" have again given funding to a range of different projects in the school. The commitment and effort shown by this group of parents and staff is huge and we would like to thank them for their fund raising efforts this year.

The next meeting of FOSS will take place Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm in school. All parents are very welcome particularly the parents of our new Year 7s.

## New Term

Finally a reminder that our new term will start on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009