



WADE DEACON AND FAIRFIELD
HIGH SCHOOLS FEDERATION



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2010



BUILDING NEW FRIENDSHIPS

PUPILS WORK TOGETHER ON CITIZENSHIP AND ENTERPRISE DAYS

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE
SHANGHAI WORLD EXPO

DIANA AWARD FOR HEAD BOY DALE

YR 10 PARIS TRIP





Foreword

Magnificent Year!

Wade Deacon High School and Fairfield High School have had a magnificent year. There has been exceptional collaboration between members of staff, our pupils and the community to ensure that all our pupils achieve and progress this year with excellent predictions for continued high standards of achievement next year and future years.

So, what have we achieved?

Considerable investment has enhanced the learning environment at Peelhouse Lane. If you have visited the site, you may have seen the brand new Food Technology room with state of the art equipment, or the new Design and Technology and ICT suites where your child will study our specialisms. Our Classroom of the Future, commonly known as the "Wow" Room will be completed in September; this includes a radio station and the latest Media technology for learning across all subjects.

Cultural Diversity has been one of our priorities this year and we have been delighted to receive several awards in this area, most recently the SSAT Gold Cultural Diversity Quality Mark, the Classroom of the Future Award and the Confucius Classroom Award, all of which involve pupils, parents and teachers working with the international community.

Pupil leadership has been one of our key focuses, with our School Council groups being instrumental in securing the awards in Cultural Diversity and all groups taking an active part in contributing to our School Development Plan and the future of our school. I'm delighted to inform you that several of our Y11 pupils achieved a Liverpool Hope University Leadership Award and that this scheme will be offered to Y10 pupils from October.



Whatever the Government decides about the BSF programme, we are confident that the school is in an excellent position to continue to raise standards for all pupils. We are looking forward to Fairfield High School pupils and the new Year 7 pupils being part of Wade Deacon High School in September. Parents and the local community can be assured that our 'Commitment to Excellence' in the education of our young people remains our first priority.

Mrs P A Wright
Executive Headteacher

Mrs J Gormley
Head of Schools

Our 'Commitment to Excellence' in the education of our young people remains our first priority.

School Opens - Thursday 2nd September 2010
Autumn Half Term Holiday;
School Closes - Thursday 21st October 2010
School Opens - Tuesday 2nd November 2010

Christmas Holiday;
School Closes - Friday 17th December 2010
School Opens - Tuesday 4th January 2011
The full calendar is available on the school website; www.wadedeacon.com/dates



When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Bianca and Laura with Nick Gillingham



Matthew Dixon, Laura Keating, Ian Larsson and Bianca Mulholland at the Conference Centre.

In June, I was lucky enough to attend a national Student Leadership Conference in the Rheged Centre, located the stunning surrounding of the Lake District, along with three other Year 9 students; Bianca Mulholland, Matthew Dixon and Laura Keating. The conference began with an introductory speech, led by and based around the inspirational British Olympic breaststroke swimmer Nick Gillingham. He is a silver and bronze medal holder and has smashed several records in his swimming career.

Nick used some anecdotes to inspire us, including one involving a fellow swimmer who had decided to give up Olympic training because it was too difficult to gain four seconds in four years - a huge task. The friend's coach then broke down the time that Nick's friend had to improve on. It turned out that all he had to do to improve was speed up by 1 1000th of a second every hour! Breaking enormous obstacles down into manageable portions is key to success we were told. This story is relevant all of the time, not just in sport.

We also took part in a number of workshops where we learned about the acronym 'Fred Ice' which stands for the Olympic values of: Friendship, Respect, Excellence, Determination, Inspiration, Courage and Equality.

We then considered how we can use these values in our school and everyday life.

Another workshop was "Going for Gold", which also involved using the Olympic values in school and was led by students from another school. They were as inspirational as some of the adults had been! We found that we show the Olympic values in our school community all the time even though we do not necessarily call them the Olympic values. Finally, we finished with an interesting presentation on the importance of 'Student Voice' given by a community leader.

Report by Ian Larsson, Year 9

TOP MARKS FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Wade Deacon High School has achieved the SSAT Cultural Diversity Quality Standard 'Gold' Award. Specialist Schools and Academies Trust assessor Ms Clare Foster called the school "inspirational" and "exceptional" and commented particularly on the superb relationships between students and staff. She went on to say she was impressed by the way in which pupils are not only exceptionally well behaved but also how pupils and their parents regard staff very highly. Ms Foster was particularly struck by the learning culture that is evident in the school and that our systems show joined up thinking. Her final comment was that we all have "a collaborative common purpose with our pupils at the centre."

The SSAT's Cultural Diversity Quality Standard recognises and celebrates excellent work done to promote cultural diversity and equality. The quality standard covers six key indicators; ethos, achievement, curriculum, parental and community involvement, staffing and governors, and specific projects and innovations.

Head of Schools Mrs Gormley is absolutely delighted; "We all work exceptionally hard for our pupils, so it is wonderful when an outsider, who visits so many other schools, gives us such glowing feedback and acknowledges the fantastic work that we do and comments so positively on our pupils and school."





REAPING THE REWARDS OF



Dale Johnson

The 'Commitment to Excellence' demonstrated by our pupils and staff has brought more outstanding achievements this year. Here are a few of the highlights.

Fairfield High School's Head Boy **Dale Johnson** has been publicly honoured with the Diana Award.

The Diana Award is a unique lifetime honour presented to individual young people for their compassion and outstanding and selfless contributions to their communities. These exceptional young people are positive role models for a generation by challenging negative stereotypes of young people. Award holders automatically become members of the Diana Alumni programme enabling them to continue their hard work and provide them with the skills to develop to their full potential.

Dale was chosen for the Award because of his commitment to work in the school community and overcoming personal challenges. Assistant Headteacher Mrs Rigby was delighted: "We are extremely proud of Dale. This award will encourage him to continue his work and will hopefully inspire others to get involved. Dale is honoured to receive such a fantastic award."



James Caton

Maggie Turner OBE and Chief Executive of the Diana Award, says: "This highly prestigious award gives young people, of all abilities, circumstances and cultures, recognition at a time when their life choices are still to be made, enabling them to make a real positive difference to their communities. As individuals Award holders change lives but as a group of community entrepreneurs they have the power and ambition to build the cohesive society in which we would all like to live."

James Caton is celebrating after signing a professional contract with Bolton Wanderers FC. He has been associated with the club since he was 9 years old, and has travelled to Slovakia and Poland with the squad, finishing second in both tournaments. Last August James was selected in a 30 man squad for the England Under 16s for the Victory Shield. He also scored in the North West Regional Final for the victorious Cheshire Schools Under 16 and reached the quarter final of the National Cup competition.



Alex Tague, Jade Lamey, Alice Winders & Ms Hunt

Our **Technology Faculty** once again collected the 'Gold Award' for 'Best in the North West' at the 3rd annual 'North West Design and Technology Festival' which was held this year at Daresbury Labs.

Ms Hunt and Mr Burns took Jade Lamey and Alex Tague to represent Wade Deacon at the event. They took a selection of practical and design work from both Key Stage 4 and Foundation learners and with it, produced a jaw-dropping display, including an expertly made A1 Photoshop poster made up of images of this work.

A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Director of Technology Specialism Mr Brownett is proud of his team; "This is an incredible achievement. I am delighted for all of our DT staff and all of our young designers who have all contributed enormously to achieve this brilliant recognition."

Our International Schools Coordinator **Mr Robinson** was presented with an award in recognition of his 'Exceptional Support in Teaching and Learning Chinese' at the Chinese Conference of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust in London. He has been the driving force in promoting international partnerships across the school, most notably, our links with Number 12 School in Tongling China. Through his fantastic and exceptional support, many of our pupils and teachers, both in our school and across the community have experienced other cultures and had "once in a life time" opportunities to visit and talk to pupils from other countries. The school's Mandarin section on the Learning Platform which Mr Robinson created has also been awarded a 'Highly Commended' Certificate in a recent competition held by Uniservity for the most innovative Virtual Learning Platform.



Mr Robinson & Mrs Wright

PUPILS ENJOY THEIR PARISIAN PARTY!

Year 10 pupils have enjoyed a short break in Paris. A group of 66 pupils took in the sights of the French capital sampling the cultural delights of The Eiffel Tower, a boat trip on the River Seine as well as trips to The Champs Elysees, Arc de Triomphe, Montmartre and Sacre Coeur. The highlight of the trip was a day at Disneyland Paris where pupils mingled with a host of characters, thoroughly enjoying the truly magical experience that only Disney can provide.

Ms Goulding who led the trip was thrilled with the way the pupils had conducted themselves. 'This trip has hopefully provided many happy memories for our pupils. They were a privilege to be with from first minute to last and were a credit to the school and to their parents.'

Year 10 pupil Phillip Rudkin said that it was his best trip ever. 'We had such a great time and never stopped laughing from first minute to last. We saw all the great sights of Paris and Disneyland really was something special.'



HM

Alex McIntyre, Natasha Davidson, Matthew Woodward, Ms Bray, Anastasia O'Hare, Emma Ball, Lucy Williams, Victoria Whitfield, Kirsty O'Grady.

AN EVENING OF MURDER AND MAYHEM

Louise Molyneux, Jasmin Green,
Kathryn Knight, Emily Carroll
& Jessica Hunter



The adverse effect of crime on the community was the key message delivered by Year 10 GCSE Drama pupils as they performed their devised thematic pieces to an appreciative audience in the Drama Studio. Their own improvisations were linked to extracts from 'Oliver Twist', 'The Terrible Tale Of Humpty Dumpty', 'Bombs in the Bag and 'Lizzie Borden' to create a production which delighted their friends and families. Throughout the drama the devastating impact crime has on everyone connected to both the victims and perpetrators was clearly demonstrated. While the evening was entertaining the serious message that the work contained was skilfully communicated by the young actors. 10

Fairfield High School

a specialist college in the performing arts

1967 - 2010



On 31st August, Fairfield High School will close after serving the community for forty-three years. The school was formed following the amalgamation of Fairfield Boys' and Girls' Schools in 1967. It can, however, trace its history back even further with a direct connection to Farnworth Grammar School which was founded by Archbishop Smyth in 1507. Fairfield's motto "Animo et Fide", which means "Courage and Faith", is also linked to Archbishop Smyth as it represented his attitude towards life in the turbulent religious times in which he lived.

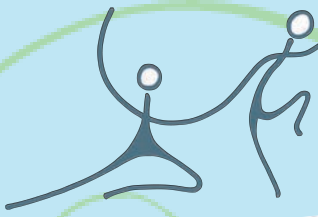
The new Health Centre on Peelhouse Lane is built on what was previously the site Farnworth Grammar School. The Victorian building was used as part of Fairfield High School until it was demolished in 1995. The bell, school crest and dedication stone have been incorporated into the fabric of the buildings and serve as a reminder of the links between the schools.

Over the years, Fairfield High School established a strong reputation for Performing Arts and sport. Many of the school's former pupils have gone on to achieve success in both fields. The school gained Specialist College status in the Performing Arts in 2004 which enabled the Lower School to be refurbished and redeveloped. At the same time, the school adopted the ethos of "Enjoy Learning" to focus on ensuring lessons were creative to engage and enthuse the pupils.

Owing to falling pupil numbers in Widnes, and the opportunity for the local authority to submit an application to be involved in the Building Schools for the Future initiative, the decision was taken to federate Fairfield High with Wade Deacon. The purpose of the Federation was to ensure good practice was shared between the two schools and to move towards the closure of Fairfield and expansion of Wade Deacon. Over the past two years, hard work has been undertaken to ensure there has been a smooth transition for the pupils of both schools.

In one way the schools have come full circle, from starting as one school in 1507 to returning as one school in 2010. Whilst there is always an element of sadness when a school closes, there is a sense of excitement and anticipation about the future.





Courage and Faith





CITIZENSHIP & ENTERPRISE DAYS BRING NEW FRIENDS TOGETHER

New bonds of friendship have been developed between Wade Deacon and Fairfield pupils with the support of students from Riverside College. The college's Public Service team of students led pupils from the two schools in a series of challenges designed to develop leadership and team work skills in one part of the action-packed Citizenship and Enterprise Days in May.

Competing in small groups, pupils solved puzzles, completed physical challenges and learned that cooperation and communication are essential to achieving objectives together. At each of the activities, Riverside students challenged and supported the school pupils.

Riverside student and ex-Wade Deacon pupil Daniel Orme, who hopes to pursue a career in the Police, says the Public Service work helps him develop his team work skills and discipline, and he was delighted to share this with pupils from his old school; "I have really enjoyed leading these activities. It's not something we've done before, so it's a challenge for us too."

The college students were assessed by their tutors, with marks contributing to the 'Command and Control' unit of their Diploma for which they have to lead activities for others.





Year Team Leader Mr Mealey, who helped organise the event, was very grateful for the support from the college; "We are absolutely indebted to Riverside College who came with 40 of their Public Service students in order to deliver teambuilding sessions to newly merged Year 8 & 9 Tutor Groups from Fairfield and Wade Deacon who worked together on both days. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the challenges."

The whole Citizenship & Enterprise programme involved a wide range of outside agencies such as the Fire Service coming in to school, as well as numerous trips out. The pictures here show a small snapshot of the activities. More pictures are available on the website.

International Links

CHINESE CLUB JETS OFF TO SHANGHAI

China was an amazing experience for the pupils in the Chinese Club. The flight took a mere fourteen restless hours, but getting up at three o'clock in the morning was a real challenge. When we arrived we noticed that there was definite difference in culture, buildings and obviously, language. The Shanghai buildings towered above us, but we also drove past some of smaller poorer areas. During our trip we were fortunate to see some astounding ancient Chinese monuments; the Temple of Heaven, Jade Buddha Temple, Da Tong Village, Yu Yuen Gardens and the Forbidden City. The best of all the ancient monuments was the Great Wall of China. It is one of the seven wonders of the world. The actual size of it when you get there is amazing. It really does tire you out just walking along one of the stretches between stations. It is nowhere near as flat as you think!



Pupils at No 12 Middle school performed a Traditional Chinese story in English.



The group outside the Shanghai Urban Planning Museum.

The main reason for our visit to China was to be exposed to a different culture and a completely different type of school. A typical Chinese pupil arrives at school at seven and stays at school till five. This is a major difference to our high school times in the UK! We were lucky enough to also visit a primary school on the Sunday of our visit and a few dedicated pupils came to welcome us. During one of the many nights we were taken to a pupil's house for dinner with their parents, siblings and other relatives.

Chinese food is completely different from the Chinese food you actually get from your local Fish and Chip shop. The Chinese cherish their meats and fish but also serve a selection of shark fins, chicken heads and claws. There is definitely a variety of flavours, taste and smells, but after staying in china for a week you have a craving for rice and noodles when you return home!

Overall the trip was a remarkable experience and life changing for us all, very tiring but the humour was great!

Report by Kyle Johnson



Wade Deacon's Kyle with No 12's James.

While in China, we didn't just visit ancient relics. China and Shanghai especially had a vast amount of modern architecture. We stopped at the Shanghai expo museum, learning about future events concerning Liverpool connections to China. In addition we went to Bird's Nest Stadium and Water Cube where the 2008 Olympics were held.

EXPLORING LIVERPOOL AT THE WORLD EXPO



Ms Murphy, Mrs Gormley, Consul General Ni, Mr Southward, Mrs Wright, Mr Robinson and Miss Jane.

After visiting the Liverpool Pavilion at the World Expo in Shanghai, the Chinese Club pupils invited Director of Operations Phil Southward to speak at one of their weekly meetings. Liverpool is the only UK city represented at the World Expo. Mr Southward has overall responsibility for design, build and operation of the Liverpool Pavilion. The event had an added air of excitement as the Chinese Consul-General in Manchester accepted an invitation to join the group for Mr Southward's presentation. The club learned how and why the pavilion showcases the cultural and economic vibrancy of the Liverpool City Region, as well as some fascinating facts about its relationship with China.

In June the club were invited by Consul-General Ni Jian to attend the opening by His Excellency Ambassador Liu Xiaoming at Manchester Metropolitan University, of the Photo Exhibition of the Shanghai World Expo. In attendance were Councillor Mark Hackett, Lord Mayor of Manchester, Sir Warren Smith, Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Professor John Brookes, Vice Chancellor of Manchester Metropolitan University, Consul General Ni Jian, and many more distinguished guests.

H.E Ambassador Liu Xiaoming made an interesting speech which was well received by the audience. Afterwards the pupils enjoyed looking around the exhibition and meeting the guests. Professor John Brookes was a delightful host and the pupils were particularly appreciative of his providing them with a huge lunch!

KR



The group at the Shanghai World Expo Photo Exhibition in Manchester.

FOSTERING LINKS WITH INDIA

In June 11 Headteachers from schools all over India spent the day at Wade Deacon and Fairfield. They were participating in an international education conference based on the Wirral. One of the conference sessions was to spend a day in a school finding out about similarities and differences between the education systems of both countries and also beginning to establish links between schools.

The Headteachers found out more about the ways in which pupils are assessed throughout the year and how the information is recorded, how Learning Mentors can support pupils in school and the process behind the Building Schools for the Future initiative.

The Headteachers thoroughly enjoyed the day and learned a great deal. It is hoped that their visit was the beginning of strong links between the two school communities.

MCG





THE SPORTS ROUNDUP

Rugby

Wade Deacon's Year 8 Rugby League Team became North West Champions at Wilderspool Stadium, Warrington.

They beat St John Fisher, Wigan, 44-0. Year 11 were North West Rugby League Finalists, losing 26-13 to Sts Peter & Paul in Final at Stobart Stadium. Year 8 & Year 11 also reached the National Cup Quarter Finals. All Five Year Groups Qualified from Halton Stages into North West Rugby League Cup.



Year 8 Rugby League Champions

Lewis Whitty and Dominic Speakman represented England at Under 16. Steven Ball, Alex Tague, Lewis Hulme, Liam Orme, Marcus Vernon, Lewis Whitty, Aaron Leong and Mark Eastup all played for a Widnes Vikings Scholarship (Under 16) with Lewis, Alex and Steven all signing two year contracts with Widnes Vikings. Scott Critchley, Daniel Stapleton, Jake Coulter, Alex Clare and Dean Ainsworth are all on Junior Scholarship (Under 15) at Widnes Vikings. Alex Clare & Dominic Speakman played for a St Helens Scholarship. Both have signed two year contracts with St Helens RLFC. Scott Critchley has represented Lancashire Rugby Union and North Wales. Ex-pupils (2002-2007) Daniel Hulme and Christopher Lunt made their professional Widnes Vikings debuts this season.

Year 7 & Year 10 Girls Rugby team reached the National Semi Finals with Year 10 also finishing as Runners-up in North West Cup. The Year 9 team reached the North West Tournament.

Football

Year 7 A and B teams both won the Halton League. The Year 7 team and Year 10 team also won the Halton Cup Final

which was staged at Wade Deacon. The Year 11 team were beaten on penalties in the semi-final.

Cricket

Year 8 team were still in the Quarter finals of the Cheshire Schools Cup at the time of publishing this newsletter. Daniel Richardson, Tom Keen, Daniel Wearden and Nathan Drane have all represented Halton Under 13s in the North West District Cricket Cup.

Under 13 and Under 16s teams won the Cheshire

Table Tennis

Table Tennis Tournaments. Daniel Wearden won the Individual Under 15's Burton Uxbridge Open Championship. Daniel has been receiving personal one to one coaching sessions with Desmond Douglas, England's best ever player. He also won the 1 Star Event at Blackpool at U13's and was Semi Finalist at U15's. Daniel was Semi Finalist at Scarborough 1 Star Event U13's and U15's and Semi Finalist at Blackpool 2 Star Event U13's and U15's.

Year 8 Boys and Girls won the Halton Sports Hall Athletics

Athletics

Competitions and went on to represent Halton at the Merseyside Competition. The Year 8 Girls qualified for the Northern Counties Competition as winners of Merseyside and finished 5th in the Northern Counties. Amy Wright (Yr10) came 2nd in the Discus competition with a distance of 23.68m. Rebecca Preston (Yr10) came 2nd in the 100m final with a time of 13.2secs. Shelby Jack (Yr8) came 4th in her 100m heat with a time of 13.9secs. Liam Clieve (Yr9) came 6th in the 800m final with a new personal best of 2.27mins. Rob Sherman (Yr9) came 5th in his 200m heat with a time of 27.6secs.

At the Cheshire County Athletics Championships Jess Wright (Yr7) won the 800 metres in 2min 26.5secs which beat the previous record of 2min 29.1secs that stood since 1984. She then completed the 1500 metres in 5min 2.4secs which beat the previous record of 5min 6.2secs set in 1990. She then broke the Shot Putt record with a throw of 8 metres 10cm which beat the previous record by 10cm which stood since 2008. She also finished second in the Discus (17metres 38cm) and High Jump (1metre 33cm).

Gaelic Football

The U14's Gaelic Football team won the first ever full size under age Gaelic Match in Liverpool and are now currently top of the inaugural Merseyside Gaelic Football League .

Year 7's raised over £500 for the British Heart Foundation through our excellent Ultimate Dodgeball Competition.

Dodgeball

Year 10 are the Halton Dance Extravaganza Winners and overall Champions of Key Stage Four. Year 10 Girls competed in Federated Dance as a showpiece at the Dance Extravaganza. Years 7, 8 and 9 are all Halton District Runners Up.

Dance

Year 7 and Year 8 both finished runners up in the Halton District Basketball competition.

Basketball