



# Newsletter

## Autumn 2011

**Dear Friends**

**A warm welcome to this first newsletter for 2011/12.**

It has been a particularly busy summer finishing the Calder building before the start of the new term. We are delighted that even more students are now being taught in first rate classrooms and that the new theatre is ready for use in a variety of ways. If you have not yet seen the theatre in action, we hope you will be able to visit us soon to sample the work of our performing arts and music students. Dates of performances are enclosed.



**With warm wishes to you all**

**Felicity Greeves  
Principal**

## Teaching-School partnership



**Blackpool Sixth Form and Hodgson Academy have in partnership been designated one of the first teaching schools in the country.**

As one of only 100 teaching schools, the partnership will take a national and regional lead in both shaping and delivering the training and professional development of current and future generations of teachers. Hodgson and Blackpool Sixth Form will have responsibility for talent spotting programmes and leadership qualifications. The teaching schools programme is designed to bring more high quality graduates to the profession.

Blackpool Sixth Form is the only college to have been successful within this first wave of teaching school designations.

Hodgson and the Sixth Form's strategic partners are Edge Hill University, Garstang Community Academy, Hambleton Primary School, Highfurlong School, St Mary's Catholic High School and Westcliff Primary School.

## Star studded success for Blackpool Sixth students

Blackpool Sixth students enjoyed another set of excellent results with over a 98 % pass rate for A levels and BTEC. This is despite there being a larger cohort of students taking exams this year - 79 more students.

Particularly impressive was the improvement in A level high grades (A\*, A or B ) with the highest possible grade the A\*, rising by nearly 30%. BTEC performance in 2011 was again very strong, with an amazing 16 out of 18 BTEC courses having high grades over 80%. In terms of value added measures, this was equally as pleasing with the College A level programme placed in the top 25% of the country, and the BTEC programme in the top 10%.



Eight students achieved the demanding grades needed to progress to Oxford and Cambridge universities – this equals the record number for the Sixth Form.

Six students are on their way to Cambridge University: Stephanie Richards, Scott Wallace, Fergus Kent, David Walsh, Wesley Griffiths and Jonty Richardson. Amy Dutton and Amy Groves have secured their places at Oxford University. This group of students achieved a remarkable 20 A\* grades between them.



**Blackpool Sixth and Hodgson Academy have in partnership been awarded Teaching-School status.**



## Building your future...

On September 1st, the Sixth Form was proud to open the third phase of its Capital Development Strategy.

The new Calder building includes a state of the art theatre and on the ground floor there are two black-box drama studios, classrooms for our highly successful performing arts department. The Focus Centre provides learning support and guidance for all students but in particular those with physical or learning difficulties.

We are especially proud of the new building's environmental credentials with air-source heat pumps taking heat from outside and pumping this through the building to keep it warm in winter and cool in Summer. Intelligent lighting controls switch off lights automatically if not needed and sensors in every classroom help the building's Management System to automatically boost ventilation when CO<sub>2</sub> levels are high to aid student concentration.

More building has already started and is on track to be completed for Easter 2012. This small-scale project extends the new Calder building to include a further eight classrooms and additional common space for students during breaks, lunch and directed study periods.



## National Award for Magazine

Double success in the national Shine 2011: School Media Awards in June sees Blackpool Sixth awarded £1000 towards their student magazine and a license for all students to benefit from industry standard design software.

The media industry judges commented that the Sixth Sense magazine was "a fine example of a pupil-led project" and they applauded the balanced environmental strategy, a successful commercial strategy, imaginative design, well-balanced and stimulating editorial and some highly creative artwork.



Sixth Sense Magazine Editors Abby Waylett, Jack McCafferty and Karen McCann are presented with a Shine: Media Award.

## Students exhibit artwork

Following the success of our annual Young at Art Exhibition, students Daniel Davies, Bethan Jones, Hannah Sycamore and Katie Hampson were all offered exhibition space at The Gallery at the Wharf in Burscough over the Summer.

The Young at Art exhibition opened to the public in June 2011 with artwork from students studying Fine Art, Textiles, Fashion, Graphic Design and Photography on display to art and design lovers from the Fylde Coast and beyond.



One of the pieces on display at the Gallery at the Wharf by Katie Hampson



## Excellence in enterprise

A group of Blackpool Sixth students have been awarded the Social Enterprise of the Year Award at the Hero Awards 2011.

Team India won the award for their fundraising for a 12 day visit to India to develop Dharamkot School in Dharamsala which has very poor facilities and its students face issues of poverty, illness and a lack of educational opportunities.

Blackpool Sixth Travel and Tourism tutor, Helen Dougall, commented, "Our students worked tremendously hard to deliver exciting, energetic and stimulating lessons whilst overcoming the language barrier. It was without a doubt a once in a lifetime experience for the students."

We plan to revisit the school in 2013 to continue the good work which has been started.

## MP talks politics

**Ben Wallace MP visited Government and Politics students in September following an invitation by new Student Governor and Government and Politics student, George Canning.**

The Member of Parliament for Wyre and Preston North spoke about how and why he got involved in politics and gave advice to Blackpool Sixth students about how they can get involved if they wish to pursue a career in politics. Mr. Wallace shared his stance on the rise in tuition fees for university students, the Arab Spring, the death penalty and the current economic climate.



Ben Wallace MP with Government and Politics students.

## Dom sets sights on a career in Finance

**Dom Kelly is one of only 50 students nationwide to take part in the internship programme at the global finance and investment corporation J.P. Morgan.**



Dom, who aspires to be a Stockbroker after university, was able to learn about the various facets of a global investment banking, develop skills for university and the workplace and meet with inspirational people from across J.P. Morgan on his internship in London.



The Humanities Society visited Lancaster Castle in September following research on medieval justice and the changing use of the castle.

## Welcome new colleagues

**This year Blackpool Sixth extends a very warm welcome to 22 new colleagues, 16 tutors and 6 support colleagues.**

Together they bring a wealth of experience, skills, knowledge and ideas and we look forward to the contribution they will make to the Sixth Form over the coming year.



Michael Hodgkinson, Laura Dixon, Afifa Mangera, Alexandra Goddard, Jane Luty, Natalie Makinson & Jamie Hampson



Gavin Goulds, Jo Livesey, Heather Leadbetter, Melissa Payne, Rachael Taylor-Guest and James Spencer



Michael Graham, Alice Pemberton, Alice Reece and Laura Scott

### Our new staff for 2011/12:

#### Support Colleagues

**Additional Support:** Melissa Payne and Rachael Taylor-Guest

**Admissions, Liaison and Marketing:** Joanne Crompton and Gavin Goulds

**Learning Mentors:** Heather Leadbetter

**Estates:** James Spencer

#### Sport, Tourism & Health

Jamie Hampson (PE) and Afifa Mangera (Health and Social Care)

#### English & Modern Languages

Luz Torres Alegre (Spanish) and Alice Pemberton (English)

#### Humanities

Alexandra Goddard (Law), Natalie Makinson (History/Politics) and Michael Graham (Geography)

#### Business & IT

Lisa-Marie Griffiths (IT)

#### Mathematics

Jane Luty (Mathematics and Statistics)

#### Performing Arts & Music

Michael Hodgkinson (Music) and Laura Dixon (Performing Arts)

#### Science

Jordan Hutchinson (Chemistry), Rachel Bashforth (Chemistry/Physics) and Alice Reece (Biology)

#### Social Science

Laura Scott and Jill Smith (both Sociology)

## Students Make it Count



Palatine Community Sports College students Hannah Baggaley, Rachel Clarke and Chloe Ashe

Over 300 students from Bispham High School and Palatine Community Sports College took part in 'Make it Count' in July, where groups of students worked on the scenario of organising a rock concert to demonstrate the importance of mathematics.

The students worked on a charity event in aid of the Japan Earthquake Appeal deciding venue, promotions and merchandise. This required students to consider how important mathematics is in different situations.

Students received awards for creativity and ideas in addition to the success of their organised event. Feedback from the students was extremely positive.

## Fashion on trend and on budget

Blackpool Sixth Form's BTEC Fashion and Clothing students are proving that tightening our belts doesn't always have to mean economising on style.

The students, who have only recently started their studies at the Sixth Form, embarked on a very challenging and creative task this week by creating their own fashion wear for under £1.00.

They created a variety of garments made from plastic bags.

The final pieces have been judged by Principal Felicity Greeves with the winning piece pictured above right by students Jade Leyland, Lauren McDonald, Jasmine Isherwood, Emma Felstead and Kelsey Hariprashad.



## Up and Under for new pitch



This September saw the opening of the new rugby pitch to the north of the Sixth Form. This full sized pitch has already been well used by our highly successful Rugby Academy and is living up to expectations.

The Rugby Academy had a very successful end to the year, winning the British Colleges' North West 10's Championships and the RUFFS (Rugby Union Football in Fylde Schools) league. The ladies team also had a strong season with eight students having successful trials with the Ladies North West England Rugby Team.

In keeping with the grounds improvements, the courtyard to the rear of the building has been extended to include an attractive lawn. This and other improvements in the grounds around the Sixth Form complement superbly the high quality of our internal spaces.

## On your bike!

To help promote the Sixth Form's Green Transport Policy, we have purchased twenty high quality bicycles for students to use free of charge. The bicycles come with a full set of lights, high visibility reflectors and of course a helmet.



## Netball call ups

Three students from the Netball Academy have been called up to the Lancashire Under 19 Netball squad.

Rachael Riley, Jenny Ward and Rebecca Fausset will train with the Lancashire team every other week and compete against other counties. The Netball Academy made a successful start to the new season with a 31-20 win against Holy Cross College, Manchester.

## Students tour the globe

In 2010/11 over 300 students took part in overseas visits to Holland, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Greece, Switzerland and India as part of their courses.

Below are some visits that took place at the end of the Summer term.



**25 Business and Economics students travelled to experience the business, marketing and economics of Barcelona in July.**

The students explored and researched the business activities of key landmarks including the Nou Camp Stadium, Park Guell and the Segarda Familia. The visit to the Nou Camp included time in its interactive museum and a tour of the facilities including the press and media area.



**Staff and students from the English Department enjoyed their summer pilgrimage to Stratford and London.**

On the agenda in Stratford were a Royal Shakespeare Company performance of *Macbeth* and a workshop with former student Rebecca Rimmer. Rebecca is the Marketing Officer for the RSC. Then it was onward to London, where they saw *War Horse* in the West End and *Dr Faustus* in the Globe Theatre.



**In July 2011, eight students from the Christian Union took part in the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes.**

A life changing experience that saw the students take the sick, elderly and dying to the much loved grotto in France.

## Internationalism thrives at Blackpool Sixth



Our international students 2011/12

**It is always a great start to the year when we welcome all our International students to college!**

This year we have lots of smiling faces from all parts of the world: Belgium, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, India, Iran, Italy, Lithuania, Nigeria, Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland, Turkey and Vietnam. They all took part in a Welcome event at the end of September where they got to know each other better.

We wish them a very happy and successful year here with us and hope they will enrich our lives with their diverse cultures and experiences. We are encouraging them this year to teach their fellow English students some of their native languages and thus promote our core value of Global Citizenship.

## Gifted & Talented visit Cambridge

**Students from Blackpool Sixth and two local high schools enjoyed an excellent two days in Cambridge in September to find out first hand about life as a Cambridge student.**

The students stayed in the beautiful and historic Sidney Sussex College, one of the university's 29 colleges which take undergraduates. They took part in a busy programme of activities covering subjects such as Geography and Astrophysics with plenty of chances to speak to leading academics and current Cambridge students.

The visit is part of Blackpool Sixth's extensive Gifted and Talented programme which supports very able students to gain entry to the UK's top universities and most selective courses.



Students visiting the Astrophysics department at Cambridge University.

## Student Awards 2011



Hard-working students from Blackpool Sixth Form have been awarded for their top marks and enthusiasm as they enjoyed one of their final evenings together at the annual Student Awards Ceremony at the De Vere Hotel.

Pictured top left: Student Award winners (from left to right): Dan Moore, Stephanie Richards, Jonty Richardson, Amy Dutton, Student of the Year Catherine Ramsay, Scott Wallace and Highly Commended Student of the Year Jordan Atkinson.



Over 90 students were awarded for high achievements in their courses and success in extra-curricular activities such as sport, performing arts, enterprise and other contributions to the college community.

Pictured bottom: Danika Sheals, Rachel Lambert and award winners from the department of Business and ICT.

For a full list of our Award winners download our Annual Report 2011 from the website [www.blackpoolsixth.ac.uk](http://www.blackpoolsixth.ac.uk)

## Attendance and Holidays in Term Time

Full attendance is the best way of ensuring success at Blackpool Sixth.

Sixth Form policy is that leave for term-time holidays will not be permitted. Requests for leave on the grounds of exceptional circumstances must be in writing to the Principal at least one month in advance.

Parents and students need to be aware that College may not re-admit a student who takes an unauthorised holiday during term time.

## Good Schools Guide recognises excellent courses

Our courses in Travel & Tourism and Performing Arts have received national recognition for their excellent results by The Good Schools Guide 2011.

Success in BTEC Travel and Tourism is emphasised by the course receiving the Good Schools Guide award for the last three years.



Each year the Good Schools Guide gives awards to schools and colleges to celebrate teaching excellence in individual subjects. Awards are based on a combination of popularity and performance.

## Dates for your Diary

### Autumn Term 2011

Open Evening - Thursday 10th November  
5.30pm - 9.00pm

Autumn Music Concert - Tuesday 15th  
November

Upper Sixth and Level 2 Parents'  
Consultation Evening - Wednesday 23rd  
November 4.00pm - 7.30pm

Lower Sixth Parents' Consultation  
Evening - Thursday 1st December  
4.30pm - 8.30pm

Festival of Lessons & Carols - Thursday  
15th December at St Chad's Church,  
Poulton

End of Autumn Term - Mon 19th December

### Spring Term 2012

Tues 3rd January - Fri 30th March 2012

Spring Half Term: Mon 13th - Fri 17th  
February 2012

Course Advice Evening - Wednesday  
29th February 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Production of "Return to the Forbidden  
Planet" - 6th to 8th March

Preparing for University Evenings  
(Upper Sixth) - Thursday 15th March

Pop Wannabe Live Final - Wednesday  
21st March 7.00pm - 9.30pm

HE Information Evening (Lower Sixth) -  
Thursday 29th March

Our performances are outstanding. Here are students on stage in Cabaret last year. This year our performances and musical events will take place in our new professional theatre.

### Summer Term 2012

Mon 16th April - Thur 5th July 2012

Summer Half Term: Mon 4th June - Fri 8th  
June 2012

Battle of the Bands - Tuesday 29th May

BTEC Performing Arts Music Theatre  
Showcase - Thursday 31st May

Summer Music Concert - Wednesday 3rd  
July

Celebration Evening - Monday 25th June

Annual Awards Evening - Wednesday  
27th June

Pre-Sixth Form Conference Days -  
Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd July

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