



Newsletter

Spring 2012

Dear Friends

A very Happy New Year to all students, friends and parents of Blackpool Sixth. Our very best wishes to you all for 2012!

We have been delighted by the excellent response to our recent Parents' Survey. The findings show very high levels of satisfaction with the educational environment and experiences which we provide our students. Over 98% of respondents felt satisfied or highly satisfied with the values we promote and 99% recorded their satisfaction with the sense of safety which their son or daughter feels at college. A fuller analysis of the results will appear in our Parents' Portal.

We are very grateful to all parents and friends who provide enthusiastic audiences at all our events. Please see the listing at the end of the newsletter for some exciting music and drama events coming up this term in our new theatre and in Lytham St. Annes.

With warm wishes to you all

Felicity Greeves
Principal



Dan Moore, Jamie McCully, Lynette Parkinson and Chris Powers

Students secure Oxbridge offers

Four students have had confirmation of offers to study at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Jamie McCully and Dan Moore have been offered places at Oxford to read Italian and Spanish and Music respectively. Lynette Parkinson has an offer from Cambridge to read Archaeology and Anthropology. Chris Powers has been offered a place to read History at Cambridge.

Blackpool FC stars make learning their goal



The Blackpool FC First Team and Manager Ian Holloway visited Blackpool Sixth in the Autumn Term. Read the full story on page 4

New courses for 2012

Blackpool Sixth is further expanding its course range with two exciting new BTEC Level 3 programmes. From September 2012 we will be running the BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Engineering and the BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Public Services (Uniformed).

The Engineering course will provide an excellent pathway for students with an interest in a wide range of technological careers including mechanical and electronic engineering. Students taking the programme will benefit from our extensive links with employers and local universities. The Public Services course will provide a career-focused preparation for students who are looking to progress into employment and further training within one of the uniformed services such as the police or the armed forces. Please see our website for more information.



Maths Challenge

13 students from Blackpool Sixth have achieved success in the national Mathematics Senior Challenge with five students achieving a silver or gold award.

Jonathan Scragg received the Gold Award with Alistair Blair, Paige Ballard, Billy Weir, Calvin Ko and Steph Ashcroft gaining the Silver Award. Bronze Award winners include Chloe Hemsworth, Tommy Lam, Matthew Wade, Clarice Hemsworth, Nathan Bird, Zach Ward and Callum Butler.



Pictured above: Chloe Hemsworth, Clarice Hemsworth, Alistair Blair, Paige Ballard, Billy Weir, Matthew Wade, Jonathan Scragg and Calvin Ko.



Performing Arts students took part in the Blackpool Festival of Dance in December at the Winter Gardens. The students performed a traditional Cancan in keeping with the theme for this year's festival which was 'Variety Performance and Musicals'.

Design students get FYCreative



Art and design students organised a week-long Young Designers@Sixth exhibition at FYCreatives in Blackpool in the run-up to Christmas.

Pictured above: Sara Rothwell and Rachel Higgins display their graphic design and photography artwork at the exhibition.

Eco Action go wild about pond trail

Fifteen students from the Sixth Form's Eco Action team have been carrying out important biodiversity surveys as part of their extra-curricular programme. They have been contributing to the development of the North Blackpool Pond Trail (NBPT).

The project is a partnership between Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan, BEAT Naturewatch and Blackpool Council. The students have undertaken surveys into the invertebrate life in part of the trail. They have also been working on the search for water shrews, an elusive species which may be present on the trail.



Memorial Lecture

Helen Denton, Chief Executive for Children and Young People at Lancashire County Council, was this year's speaker at Blackpool Sixth Form's annual Memorial Lecture on Tuesday 8th November.

Helen is a former student of the college. She joined Lancashire County Council in 2008 and has a previous background in the development and support of young people where she was Director for Learning for Education, at Serco's Education and Children's Services Groups. In recognition of Helen's visit, the Trustees have made a donation to Trinity Hospice.



Hindu Academy visit

In November, Jay Lakhani, Head of the Hindu Academy, Education Director for the Hindu Council UK, and a theoretical physicist, gave a talk on the relevance of Hinduism in modern society.



Mr and Mrs Lakhani and Dr K S Vasudev of the Fylde Coast Hindu Society with Religion, Ethics & Philosophy students and tutor Charlie Barton.

Enterprising fundraising for Pink Friday in aid of cancer research and Children in Need resulted in £1360.28 being raised over the two events through student organised initiatives.



Concert marks theatre opening

The Sixth Form celebrated the opening of our brand new theatre in style with the sell-out Autumn Music Concert.

Over 60 students performed at the concert along with guest musicians from local high schools.



Staff Achievement Awards

The Celebration of Staff Achievement Awards has been held for the past five years and takes place at our staff Christmas lunch.

Staff Award Winners

Outstanding Support Staff

Winner - Victoria Jackson
Highly Commended - Nikki White

Outstanding Teacher

Winner - Lindsay Chapman
Highly Commended - Sam Brown

Outstanding Team

Winner - Learning Mentors
Highly Commended - MIS/Exams

Award for Innovation & Creativity

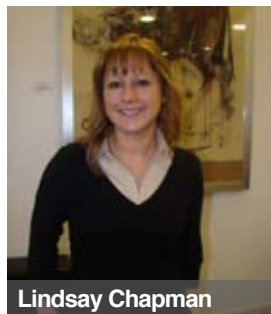
Winner - Catherine Vance
Highly Commended - Ben Wallace

Long Service Award

Andrew Boden



Catherine Vance and Victoria Jackson



Lindsay Chapman



Pictured above and right: The Learning Mentors



Blackpool FC stars are a class act

Blackpool's whole first team squad swapped the training ground for the classroom in December. The players, including Kevin Phillips, Matt Gilks and Lomana LuaLua, spent the day as guests of the Sixth Form with 20 players and coaches taking part in lessons across a range of subject areas.

This unique event came as a result of Ian Holloway's visit to the college in November. In his talk on motivation, inspiration and target setting to students from the department of Sport, Tourism and Health, he expressed a wish to find out more about what goes on in today's classrooms. He wanted to extend the idea and encourage all his first team to learn about how to become more effective learners and teachers.



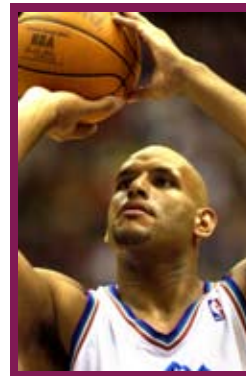
Trio of rugby call ups



Paul Moran, Dave Macauley and Richard Grocott

Rugby Academy students Dave Macauley and Richard Grocott had successful trials for the North West of England squad and attended training sessions and played in games against the North East of England and Yorkshire at Hartbury College in Gloucestershire.

Paul Moran, who in September was called up to coach the Great Britain 2012 Wheelchair Rugby Team, will coach the North West of England forwards and is a selector for the England Colleges' team. His role in the 2012 Paralympics will involve coaching, motivating players and organising training at the Olympic Village.



Former NBA star set for visit

Former NBA basketballer John Amaechi is set to visit the Sixth Form in February.

John is a psychologist, New York Times best-selling author and social entrepreneur working in both the US and Europe.

Netball champions



The Netball Academy were crowned champions of the Lancashire round of the England Netball Championships and have now qualified for the North West Finals which will be held on Merseyside in January.

Artwork selected by Royal Society of British Artists

A piece of work by former Sixth Form art student, Katie Hampson, has been chosen by the President of the Royal Society of British Artists to be exhibited at the Royal Society of British Artist's Exhibition 2012 in February.

The piece of artwork was put forward for selection by the Fylde Decorative and Fine Arts Society following an exhibition featuring Blackpool Sixth Form artwork at Booths Gallery in Lytham in April 2011. Katie's artwork was selected from 310 pieces from 83 schools nationally.

Katie gained A* grades in Graphic Design and Fine Art and a Distinction in BTEC Creative Media Production in August 2011 and currently studies Animation, Illustration and Fine Art at Bolton University.



Website helps us to Connect with former students

Our new Connect Alumni Network website has been launched and is helping the college keep in touch with former students.

The Alumni Network represents former students, staff and anybody else related to the Sixth Form. The site allows for users to register and keep in contact with former coursemates and events at Blackpool Sixth.

Here are just some former students that have registered with the site recently:

Actor Richard James-Neale (pictured right) left Sixth Form in 2003 to study Performance at Montview Academy of Theatre Arts. He has an impressive television and theatre portfolio including playing Lysander in *A Midsummer Nights Dream* and has had roles in advertisements for Strongbow and the DVLA.



Zoe Kennedy left in 2007 to study Media and Cultural Studies at Lancaster University. She now works for a global media technology organisation Pilat Media.

David Lomas is currently the Planning Officer at St Albans District Council. He studied Planning at University College London after leaving Sixth Form.

You can register with the Connect website by visiting www.blackpoolsixthconnect.co.uk

Booker Prize Winning author visits for Wordpool 2011



English students celebrated the wonderful world of words in November with Booker Prize winner Michael Stewart.

Michael Stewart has recently won the Guardian Booker prize for his highly successful novel *King Crow*. He talked to the students about making it as an author, as part of the resorts annual Wordpool Festival.

Wordpool is currently in its fifth year and includes a weeklong programme of events that aim to encourage reading and celebrate the world of literature. As part of the festival English Literature students have taken part in Creative Writing workshops at the newly refurbished Blackpool Central Library.

Rise in university applications

Once again a record number of students have submitted university applications. So far this year 780 have completed UCAS applications compared to 749 at the same point last year, a rise of 4.1%.

Our students clearly see higher education as a good option for career progression and future success.

Students receive iPads to help with their learning

Three students have been given the opportunity to get ahead with the latest technology by winning Apple iPads. One of the winners is a Year 11 pupil from Montgomery High School.

Jordan Taylor-Millington from Montgomery High School was the recipient of one of the Apple iPads, which are used extensively to help with learning at the Sixth Form, in a competition at the college's Open Day.

The other two winners were Lower Sixth students Vicky Brown and Jamie Greenall.





AllStars Sports Awards recognises local sporting talent

In December, Blackpool Sixth Form hosted the AllStars Sports Awards in association with Blackpool Gazette which recognised local sporting talent.

The event awarded the winners and runners-up across ten categories for primary and secondary school age groups in our new theatre.

The highlight of the evening arrived when wheelchair racer and former Blackpool Sixth Form student, Shelly Woods,

announced the AllStar of the Year - an accolade which had an outstanding winner in St George's School swimmer, Lucy Bowes.



Judges Steven Croft, Jamie Milligan and Shelly Woods with Lucy Bowes

Christmas events at Blackpool Sixth



In the build-up to the Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols at St Chad's Church (pictured above) students performed at Baines Endowed Primary, the Teanlowe Centre in Poulton and Blackpool's Hounds Hill Shopping Centre.



The winners of the Christmas Quiz Night were David Davies, Gill Hellewell, Rachel Wager and Sam Forsyth. The Quiz Night raised money for a visit to India in 2013.



Carol Concert musicians Dan Moore, Dan Jones, Tom Moore and Amy Ronson from St Aidan's C of E Technology College. Tom is a former student currently studying at Durham University.

Dates for your Diary

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

Musicians of the Fylde - Wednesday 28th March 7.30pm

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

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 - Tuesday 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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