



Newsletter

Issue 16 Spring 2009

A Happy New Year
to all students, friends
and parents of the Blackpool
Sixth Form College.

We wish you success, enjoyment and
fulfilment in 2009.

2008 ended on a high note with one of the best carol
concerts I can recall. Likewise 2009 has begun very
well for the College with eight students being
offered places at Oxford or Cambridge to study
courses as diverse as Medicine, Maths,
Chemistry, English, Philosophy and Natural
Sciences. We are delighted with their success
and pleased to report that many others are
now receiving excellent offers of places at very competitive universities.



Phase 2 of the building programme is on target to open for students in September 2009 and comprises
an open plan visual arts studio, our new reception area, the Learning Lounge, classrooms for Media,
Film, Photography and Social Science and an extensive courtyard space.

With very best wishes to you all, **Felicity Greeves** *Felicity Greeves*



Eight students secure Oxbridge offers!

2009 is already proving a fantastic year for some of our highest achieving students. Eight Upper Sixth students have been offered coveted places at Oxford and Cambridge for this year. This is the highest number ever for the College. The College has been offering an enhanced programme of support for students aspiring to Oxbridge through its Gifted and Talented programme, including a programme of visits to both universities in the Lower Sixth.



(back, left to right) Luke Maxted, Tom Walsh, Alex Gallagher, Nathan Bookbinder-Ryan, Sean Moorhead, (front, left to right) Eleanor Richards, Natalie Lealand and Holly Atton.

More students heading for University

For the last 4 years there has
been a very significant increase
in the number of leavers taking
up places at university.

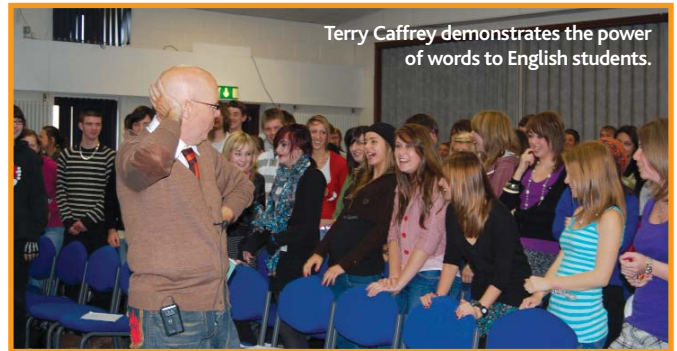
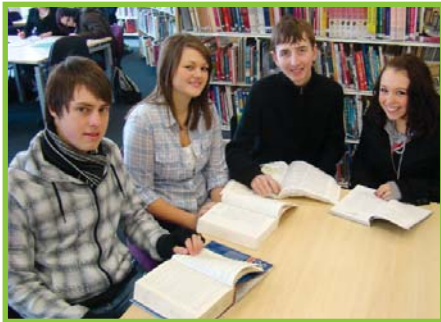
Over 100 extra students accepted places
on degree level courses in 2008 compared
to the previous year. The most popular
courses included Business Studies and
Economics, Sciences, Psychology, Sports
and Sports Science, Law and Computing
and IT.

This year over 580 Upper Sixth students
have already completed UCAS applications
for entry to university in 2009. The final
deadline for applications imposed by UCAS
is 15th January, but by getting as many
forms as possible sent off before Christmas,
students will have improved their chances
of being made an offer, especially for the
more competitive courses and universities.

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AQA Baccalaureate students – going beyond A levels

Blackpool Sixth Form College became an AQA Baccalaureate centre in 2007 and now has over 30 students involved. The AQA Baccalaureate provides enrichment and the chance to develop wider learning in readiness for higher education and employment. Students, in addition to their core programme of A levels, engage in extra curricular activities and undertake a project known as the Extended Project Qualification. This involves carrying out research on a topic of their choosing and forming a written report based on their findings. This gives students the chance to develop research and independence skills in readiness for University.



Terry Caffrey demonstrates the power of words to English students.

The Power of Words

The English department were very excited to be part of Blackpool's annual literature festival - Wordpool 2008. Three events were hosted by us to welcome acclaimed writers and performers: John Siddique, Blackpool's poet in residence, A.L. Kennedy internationally renowned author and comedienne, and finally, Terry Caffrey, writer and performance poet. Terry's entertaining, interactive session awakened students to the power of words and the value of books.

Sports Academies Taste Success

Our Netball Academy made a major breakthrough only a year after being established. They won the British College North West Plate competition held in Manchester. They were unbeaten throughout the tournament, defeating local rivals Preston College in the final.



The Netball Academy

The Rugby Academy is also experiencing a run of success currently topping their league having been defeated only once. Two players from this squad, Mike Mitchell and Ross Mellor-Clark have been selected to represent British Colleges North to play against the South at Northampton RUFC in the final selection process for the British Colleges' National squad.



Rugby players Mike Mitchell and Ross Mellor-Clark

The boys' Basketball Academy narrowly missed out in their British Colleges North West final losing a very close match to Cheadle and Marple College.



The Basketball Academy

The girls' squad were semi-finalists in the same prestigious tournament losing out to the eventual winners by one point scored in the last second of the match.



Students from Blackpool Sixth Form College performing at the Annual Conference of the Association of Colleges in Birmingham's Conference Centre in November 2008.



Year 9 students participating in our Junior University.



Major Jonny Cunningham and Joyce Birtwistle with senior students Kyle Squire and Linzi Hull.

Major gives Memorial Lecture

The 2008 Memorial Lecture took place on Tuesday 11th November. College students were joined by prefects from Collegiate High School as well as invited guests, including the Trustees of the College.

This year's guest speaker was Major Jonny Cunningham. He was commissioned in 1994 and has served in many areas of the world, most recently in Iraq where he was Military Assistant to the Commander 7th Armoured Brigade in Basrah.

In recognition of Major Cunningham's visit, the Trustees have made a donation to the British Ex-Servicemen's Association, a charity for which he has personally raised many thousands of pounds.



Former students return to College

The Blackpool Sixth Form College Alumni Society was launched with great success on Tuesday 21st October, with over 70 former students and staff in attendance. An exhibition of College photographs, yearbooks and newspaper articles was of particular interest to the guests, allowing them to reminisce about their time at the College.

To access the Alumni website visit [the college website](#) and click on the College Alumni link.

Junior University Leads the Way

During the Autumn term, in partnership with the Blackpool Council, the College participated in an exciting new project aimed at enhancing and enriching the educational experience for some of the most able Year 9 students in five of our partner schools.

The Junior University gave students from Bispham, Collegiate, Highfield, Millfield and Montgomery High Schools the opportunity to gain a real taste of Further Education. They followed a six week programme of study at the College in a variety of different subject areas.

One student commented, *"I've really enjoyed learning so many new things and getting to know people from other schools."* We look forward to welcoming the students back for a further two modules in 2009.



Staff Awards

Every Christmas the College celebrates the outstanding commitment of its staff through the presentation of annual awards. This year Teacher of 2008 was won by Terry Bold, Support Staff Member of 2008 by Pauline Taylor and Team of 2008 by the Reception and Registry Staff. Highly commended were Helen Dougall, Tommy Nolan and the Technical Support Team.



Pauline Taylor, Tommy Nolan, Terry Bold & Helen Dougall



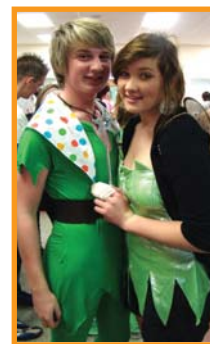
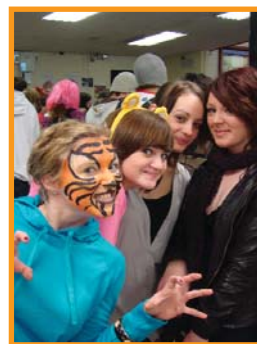
Reception and Registry



Technical Support Team

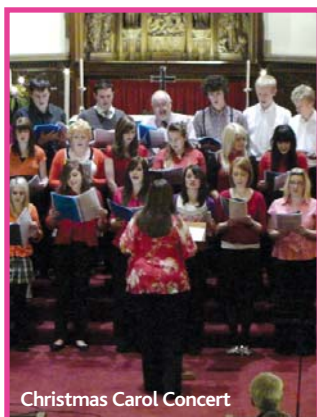
College wins Enterprise Award

The College has received national recognition for the excellence of its work in enterprise. We are the first college in the country to be given the prestigious Excellence in Enterprise Education award from the Centre for Education and Industry at Warwick University. The assessors were particularly impressed by the extremely wide scope of enterprise activities in the College and the achievements of students taking part in them. In the first term of 2008-9 over 500 students took part in enterprise-based activities. Some of the highlights include: tutor groups raising a staggering £825 for Children in Need and a group of students attending a national conference for young entrepreneurs.



Christmas events at The Blackpool Sixth Form

College musicians bring Christmas to life



Christmas Carol Concert

Music performed by the Choir, BTEC ensembles, a brass fanfare composed by two of our music students Holly Senior and Tom Moore. The Barbershop Quartet gave the audience a great introduction to Christmas 2008.



Teanlowe Centre Concert

Once again the Big Band and Choir members entertained local shoppers and stores at the Teanlowe Centre Poulton.



Baines Primary Concert

The college Big Band and Choir performed at Baines Endowed Primary School on Tues 16th December.



Christmas Quiz Night

On the 8th December the BTEC Sport/Sport and Exercise Science students organised the Christmas Quiz and Race Night in aid of Brian House. The night was a huge success with teams really enjoying the evening, which also featured musical entertainment provided by our students. The event was supported by the parents, students, staff, senior management team and governors and raised a total of £317 for the charity.

Dates for your Diary 2009

Spring Term 2009

Mon 5 January – Fri 3 April

North Fylde Music Circle Concert	Fri 6th February
Blackpool Symphony Orchestra Concert	Sun 8th February
Half Term	Mon 16th February - Fri 20th February
Open Evening for 2009 Entry	Wed 25th February
Preparing for University	Wed 18th & Thurs 19th March, 7.30 pm
Higher Education Conference for L6 students	Fri 27th March
Blackpool Symphony Orchestra Concert	Sun 29th March
HE Information Evening for Parents	Wed 1st & Thurs 2nd April, 7.30 pm
North Fylde Music Circle Concert	Fri 3rd April

Summer Term 2009

Mon 20th April – Fri 3rd July

North Fylde Music Circle Concert	Fri 24th April
May Day Holiday	Mon 4th May
Half Term	Mon 25th May - Fri 29th May
L6 Progression Evening	Thurs 18th June
Awards Ceremony	Wed 24th June
Pre-Sixth Form Conference	Fri 26th June
Celebration Evening	Mon 29th June from 6.30pm to 9.30pm

August 2009

A2 and AS Results Day	Thurs 20th August
GCSE Results Day	Thurs 27th August

A2 Enrolment for 2009/10

Thurs 20th August & Fri 21st August

Autumn Term 2009

Higher Education and Careers Day	Thurs 3rd September - when Term starts for all returning Upper Sixth
Half Term	Mon 26th October 2009 - Fri 30th October 2009
Christmas Holiday	Fri 18th December 2009 - Mon 4th January 2010



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