

presentation was filmed and signed shirts and had his picture taken with Adam and Callum. They both thoroughly enjoyed their day!

After School Christmas Cookery

Christmas arrived in the Food Technology department on Friday 2nd December when a small group of learners took part in a Christmas cupcake



practical after school with Miss Ingman-White and Mrs Mundy. Each learner produced a batch of snowmen or Christmas tree cupcakes which were decorated with butter cream and sweets. We dressed for the occasion in santa hats and aprons and sang along to the Christmas tunes. A great time was had by all and we hope to run a similar event close to Valentines Day! So if you missed out this time make sure you sign up to make personalised valentines biscuits!

Castlebrook offer career advice!

On Tuesday 29th November and Friday 9th December, all senior prefects visited Mersey Drive and All Saints Primary Schools to discuss careers advice with pupils from Years 5 and 6. Abigail Renwick, Deputy Head Girl, has written the following article about the visit.

We discussed what their career aspirations were and gave them advice on what subjects will help



them achieve where they want to be in the future. We advised that they organise their time well in order to succeed in their chosen subjects. They also had a lot of questions to ask us which varied from 'Do you enjoy your chosen subjects?' to 'What

move on to high school, understanding what choices they will need to make to fulfil their own personal goals.

Both events were extremely successful and all pupils, including ourselves, benefited from the visits. It was a pleasure to speak to younger pupils to encourage them to make the right choices when they come to Castlebrook. We were delighted to see how enthusiastic they are about starting High School and to see what good ambitions they have already+

Thank you to Abigail for writing the above and to all those learners who attended the primary schools.

Sporting success

One of our learners, Zohaib Muhammed in Year 7, took part in early December in a sports event at Hull University. The sport, Goalball, is a 3 aside game for the visually impaired and entails wearing blacked out goggles and using tactile markings and an audible ball. The tournament was between 7 teams from the North of England. The Bury team played 6 games, won 3, lost 2 and drew 1 and came in third place for which they received medals.



It was Zohaib's first competition as he only joined the club, which practices once a fortnight, in September. Zohaib was the youngest player in the competition and played extremely well and also scored 2 goals!!

News from Hemingway

Destiny Isherwood (2R) compiled a presentation which she presented to the house about the Ready 2 Learn programme. Destiny discussed how one of the activities enabled her to think about her future and where she would be in 10 years.

Keely Gilmore, Jenna Wilson, Emma Shatliff, Emma Lunney, Katie Demant, Sophie McMahon, Arlie Haslam, Kiera McCormick, Jade Casey all qualified as peer mentors- well done!

News from Foster House

Lots of good news this term from Foster- so many learners have really pulled the stops out with extra effort. Good luck to all our Year 11s who will be hearing from their prospective colleges with exciting news of their interviews. The Year 11s worked hard on their applications trying to sell themselves.

Congratulations also go to Nicola Barlow, Tiffany

training took place in their own free time over a three month period. They are now qualified to guide and support any of our younger learners at break and lunch time in the Intervention room. Thanks for all their hard work.

House council meetings have been taking place all term with Foster deciding to support Cancer Research and the RSPCA. Get your thinking caps on and let your Form Rep know your money raising ideas.

With the inter-form competitions in full flow, a big well done is sent to Rhiannon Mills. She won the Geography Quiz set up by Miss Scholes. Keep an eye out for further competitions- let's see what else we can win!

Finally, we have excelled at sporting events this term winning regional and national honours. Congratulations to Nathan Strong in Year 7 who has been accepted at the Accrington Stanley Centre of Excellence. Nathan has to train regularly with the club and school. Stephanie Cornell (7G) also deserves a mention having been selected to take part in England Baseball training at Edge Hill University. Well done Stephanie!

News from Furber House

House councils meet regularly and put forward suggestions to the executive council for charities for each house to support and suggest how we could raise money for these charities. At the meeting, discussions also took place on possible venues for the end of year trips in July. Mr Roberts then meets with the executive council to discuss these issues and the house councils reconvene in the new year for final decisions.

News from Simpson House

Well done to Simpson House- another fantastic year. As usual, we confirmed Simpson as the best house at Castlebrook, as demonstrated by winning Sports Day in July for the fourth year in a row!!!!

Well done to all years on working hard, looking smart and achieving your potential.

We hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year- we will see you next year.

GCSE Drama Performance Evenings

Our GCSE Drama classes took part in two performance evenings as part of their scripted assessments, including Blood Brothers and Hard to Swallow. There were some powerful entertaining performances and both evenings were enjoyed by learners and parents alike. Many thanks to Miss Taberham for organising the event.

Revision classes—History

Year 10 and 11 Revision Classes are running for learners currently doing GCSE coursework. These classes are held after school on a Tuesday. Learners should be revising for their first exam which is taking place on January 17th.

Castlebrook Factor

The Castlebrook Factor took place on Thursday 15th December and was organised by Mr Orrell. The evening consisted of ten acts varying from singing to comedy duos from all year groups. The talent uncovered was fantastic and the winner was Jagdeep Bhaker. There will be a full report in next month's newsletter!

Sunnybank Community Centre Christmas Fair

On 13th December, approximately 30 learners from across all years took part in a performance at the Community Centre, including the Year 7 and 8 Choir, Wind ensemble and Year 7 Drama group. Well done!



Maths problem of the Fortnight

Congratulations to our two winners, Charles Modi and Conor Thompson. They were selected at



random from all the correct entries and both received a gift voucher for their efforts, but regardless of who won, all correct entries received a merit for submitting an answer. The new problem will be in the Maths corridor in the New Year! Good luck!

Year 9 Careers Choices Event at Bury College

Bury College are hosting a Bury College Year 9 Choices Event which will be held on Wednesday 25th January 2012 from 5.30- 8.30pm at the Woodbury, Millennium and Beacon Centres, Market Street, Bury for parents and young people to discuss career choices with a wide range of employers and curriculum staff. This event is taking place as a result of a recommendation from the young people's Circle of Influence event suggesting that there should be an annual careers fair for pupils in Year 9.

Switch Off Fortnight



Having successfully run the Switch Off Fortnight campaign in school during November we have been awarded another Silver Medal by

The Pod. Our wonderful group of Switch Off Monitors encouraged learners and staff to turn off lights when leaving rooms. In doing so we managed to save 614.9 kWh of energy, which is the equivalent of leaving a PC on standby for 21 years!! We also reduced our carbon footprint by 330.4 tonnes which is the same amount released by boiling water to make 7,601,325.25 mugs of tea.



Zuaib Sarwar made a campaign poster which is now up all around school.

Christmas Celebrations

On 20th December, we celebrated another fantastically successful evening of musical entertainment, as well as seasonal readings and drama, providing a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the talent within our Performing Arts Department, including our Year 7 and 8 choir, wind ensemble, senior choir and various soloists.

A novel approach to the Olympics



Sophie Holden, Chloe Jones and Alex McMahon have just made their own version of the Olympic rings in fairy cakes! This novel approach will be entered into the Get Set Network competition for the most innovative approach to presenting the Olympic rings. We look forward to hearing the outcome.

Free School Meals

If you feel your child should be eligible for free school meals and would like further details, please contact Student and Pupil Finance at Children's Services, Athenaeum House, Market Street, Bury BL9 0BN, tel: 253 5630 or email: StudentPupilFinance@bury.gov.uk. They are open

Monday to Friday 9.00am - 4.45pm and no appointment is necessary.

Think you Know' - Safeguarding at Castlebrook

The Think You Know website provides information and advice to parents and children about internet safety. You will find this at www.thinkyouknow.co.uk

Should you have any safeguarding issues you would like to talk about, Miss Troy is the designated teacher for child protection. Please do not hesitate to contact her at school.

Start of the new term in January

The Spring Term will start on Monday 9th January 2012 at the normal time of 8.45am. All learners should ensure they are in their form rooms by this time. As detailed in previous newsletters, registers are taken at 8.45am and learners should already be in their form rooms by this time. School is open for learners to enter from 8.35am.

Those learners wishing to go to Breakfast Club may enter school via the front entrance between 8.10am - 8.30am and should go straight to the canteen after signing in at Reception and not wander round school. Breakfast Club runs from 8.10am - 8.40am (*last admittance is 8.30 am*).

Dates for your diary

Day	Date	Time	Event
Mon	9/1	8.45am	School opens for Spring Term
Th	12/1	6.30pm	Ski Trip Parents Meeting
Th	12/1		GCSE November 2011 Exam Results Day
Mon	16/1		BTEC/GCSE Performance Evening
Th	19/1	4.00-6.30pm	Year 11 Parents/Carers Evening
Tue	24/1	4.30-6.30pm	Personalised Learning Pathways Evening (Options)
Fri	27/1		Holocaust Memorial Day

Please sign your child's Learner Planner to acknowledge receipt of this Newsletter.

Past copies of Newsletters are available on the school website and also from the school reception.

All the staff would like to express their best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

