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Stars & Praise

Our final Stars & Praise assembly for 2011 took place on the last day of term in December. Mr Dawson, Chair of Governors, gave a brief address before the awards were presented. Musical performances were enjoyed by all and the winner of the Castlebrook Factor, Jagdeep Bhaker, performed her winning song. Well done to Head Boy, Ricky Nacarlo and Head Girl, Martina Gregoriou who both gave a short speech.



Prizes were awarded to the following learners:

Effort & Achievement

Mason Hughes (Hemingway), Lauren Chapman (Furber), Zac Tracey (Simpson) Lydia Garside (Foster).

Attendance

Helena Lee (Furber), Daniel Aslam (Hemingway), Steven Stretton (Simpson), Rebecca Alder (Foster).

The names of all the learners who achieved awards were put into a grand draw and the winning name drawn out at the assembly was Ellie Holland from Simpson House who won an Ipod Shuffle. Well done to everyone who was presented with a certificate on the day.

The assembly came to a close with Mr Orrell showing a musical performance by staff of 'Do They Know It's Christmas' which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone! Many thanks to all staff who took part in this performance.

Slattery's visit

On Thursday 15th December a group of year 11 GCSE food technology learners were taken to [Slattery's Patisserie and Chocolatier](#) in Whitefield, as a reward for their continued hard work. In

order to attend each had to have shown excellent progress and be working towards their target grade. They were accompanied by Miss Ingman-White and Mrs Mundy who were happy to attend!



The learners all ordered a "Wicked chocolate sampler" (as shown in the photograph) but those who also ordered a hot chocolate did later regret it and cake boxes were needed to take the leftovers home!



After our "chocolate fest" learners then had the opportunity to view the impressive displays of seasonal goods and outstanding novelty cakes. Feedback from the learners was excellent and we hope to make the visit again with other teaching groups.

We will be inviting Mr Slattery into school later this term to once again judge our annual Year 10 novelty cake competition.

GCSE Photography

The GCSE Photography educational visits to Manchester were a great success with learners producing a series of photographs which will now be used in their GCSE coursework. Behaviour of learners was superb and the visit was most enjoyable. Work produced as a result can be seen in the annual Art & Photography Exhibition in May.





Castlebrook has the X Factor!!!!



At the end of last term, ten fantastic acts made the first ever Castlebrook Factor an overwhelming success. A packed lecture theatre audience saw a night of talent, outside of the classroom.

The ten competing acts were:

Year	Name
8	Destiny Isherwood
7	Melissa Pickford Sophie Connor Charlie Holland Olivia De'winter
7	Lydia Matulka
10	Jennifer Steadman
11	Hayley Bullock
10	Jagdeep Bhaker
10	Aimee Farlow
11	Leah Gilmore
11	Megan Tudor
9	Georgia Hall
11	Tom Harris Hannah White
11	Wesley Dobbs Tom Shepley

Our very own 'Dermot', Mr Gildea had the difficult task of handling our staff judges, Mr Peacock, Miss Ayris, Mrs Freedman and Mrs Armstrong, who in turn had the unenviable task of choosing a winner.



After lengthy deliberations, Jagdeep Bhaker was announced as the 'Castlebrook Factor Winner 2011'. Jagdeep received a trophy and a gift voucher for £10.



When entering, all contestants were asked to choose a charity for which the money raised by the ticket sales for the evening would be donated to, should they win. Jagdeep chose 'Cancer Research' and £85 has been donated to this charity.

Finally we would like to say a big "thank you" to everyone - contestants, staff and audience, for making this event a resounding success.

CEOP's Thinkuknow for Parents and Carers



On Tuesday 7th February CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) will be launching the 'Parents' Guide to the Internet'. This will be a TV-style programme available to view on www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents. The programme will take an entertaining and light-hearted look at what it's like to bring up children in the online world – featuring practical tips and amusing clips from some surprising sources! Tune in to learn more about what your child is up to online and how you can support them.

In conjunction with the CEOP awareness day we will be holding assemblies in school to encourage our learners to 'stay safe' on line.

The designated teacher for child protection is Miss Troy but should you wish to talk to anyone about any safeguarding issues, please contact Student Services.

Parking Outside School

Would parents/carers please remember not to park on the restricted areas on Parr Lane outside school. Penalties will be issued by the relevant authorities.

Parking on Castle Road

Complaints have been received from residents regarding the parking of parent/carers on Castle Road at the Options Evening on Thursday.

We do realise that finding somewhere to park has been difficult and for all future evening events held by the school, we will be asking staff to move their cars so that the road outside school, the staff car park and the side car park area are available for parent/carers to park. Thank you for your support.

Social Networking Sites & Messenger Services

Should you as parents/carers choose to allow your child access to Networking Sites and Messenger Services, please be advised to monitor these very closely. We, at school, endeavour to support cases of cyber bullying. However, you are ultimately

responsible for your child's access to these sites. A series of assemblies will be held by Mr Roberts reiterating the consequences of misuse of the internet.

Good news from Foster House!

Well done to Ashley Travers and Kadisha Dunn who completed the Peer Mentor Training last term. Certificates have been issued to all those who took part and I hope they remember to keep them safe with their form mentors for when they are applying for college courses.

Information is slowly filtering through from our talented Year 11s who are hopefully off to college come September. Good luck to Gemma Scott and her application to the NHS Cadet Scheme. With only 20 places for the whole of Manchester, we understand that competition is stiff but know she will do her best.

Congratulations also go to Rebecca Alder, Joshua Sumner and Robert Collins for completing their communications course. We are proud of all their efforts.

Of course the whole school is eager to see the school production. Thanks to Miss Taberham and the team for all their efforts in bringing the event about and 'break a leg' Shannon Downey and Charlie Holland who have starring roles as Nancy and Oliver, respectively. I can't wait to see the end result of all your hard work.

Mrs Lawrence

Furber news

Congratulations are due to all in Furber House as I am extremely pleased that we have the highest total number of Achievement points and the lowest number of behaviour points! Well done Furber House!

Individual congratulations go to Jack Egan(4Y) and Conor Thompson (6Y).

Jack jointly won the Geography Superlatives competition in school. His work was entered into the Bury Schools' competition at Bury Church CE High where he gained 3rd place – an excellent achievement.

Conor has won the January School Lunch prize draw and will receive his i-Tunes voucher in assembly. Well done to both boys.

Also thanks go to those members of the House who met and chatted with the HMI this week. The HMI was impressed with all our youngsters.

Mrs Bowker

Hemingway news

Congratulations go to Miss Culshaw and 5R as they are the first Hemingway form to achieve 'Form of the Week'. 'Form of the Week' is calculated on attendance, punctuality, achievement and behaviour points and presented in assembly each week. The best overall form gains a certificate and a tasty treat to enjoy the following day during form time. Good luck to the other forms next week.

Sam Rhodes in 8R spent Christmas in Florida and during his visit swam with dolphins.

Abbie Hutchinson also in 8R has been involved in designing the 'Oliver' posters for the upcoming production. *Mrs Majerski*

Simpson news

Welcome back to all learners in Simpson House - hope you had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. We said a sad goodbye to Mr Davies who retired at Christmas—all will miss him in Simpson House. Welcome to Mr Khan who will be replacing Mr Davies as Form Mentor for 5B.

Well done to all Year 11 learners in Simpson House—we achieved the best turnout of 71% attendance for Parents Evening. If there are any issues arising from Parents Evening, please do not hesitate to contact the Form Mentor or Mr Hewitt.

Lastly, a big call to Year 7 boys - we need a 5 a side football team to take on the other houses in an inter-house football competition. Any budding Toure's, Aguero's or Silva's see Mr Hewitt or Simpson House Sports Captain Jack Comrie. *Mr Hewitt*

Bury shines at EduCatering Excellence Awards!

At the 2011 Educatering Excellence Awards, Bury Catering Service was the proud winner of the Marketing Award. Over 300 entries were submitted across 11 categories with the service being shortlisted down to the last 3 in their category. This prestigious award was achieved thanks to the hard work of Sue Nichols and Kath Kay who, in consultation with school headteachers, students and suppliers have jointly transformed the secondary dining experience.

They did this by developing an ambitious marketing campaign aimed at increasing the take-up of secondary school meals. Sue and Kath introduced loyalty cards, meal deals and a range of new products as well as upgrading some of the dining rooms. As a result, the number of secondary school pupils taking school meals has increased by 7% and

13,000 meals a day are provided to primary and secondary school pupils throughout Bury.

Paralympic Wheelchair Basketball



On Monday 20th January, approximately 20 learners took part in a paralympic wheelchair basketball event organised by Mrs Freedman. Three times Paralympian, London Marathon winner and Great Britain Wheelchair Basketball Captain, Josie Cichockyj, came into school to train our learners who have volunteered to be part of our London 2012 group. Josie was a true inspiration to everyone involved.

After an hour's training, learners took part in a mini-tournament with only one successful basket scored by Jemma Howarth (Year 8). Some of the Year 7 boys showed a natural skill for the sport, as was commented on by Josie, the Paralympian.

Learners all enjoyed the opportunity to have such expert training and now realise it is a lot harder than it looks!

All the photographs and some video footage from the Wheelchair Basketball event are on the Learning Platform in the Olympic and Paralympic London 2012 Interest Space.

Austrian Ski Trip & Chill Factor

In preparation of the forthcoming ski trip, a coach full of learners prepared themselves for the Austrian ski trip by visiting the Chill Factor in Manchester. They are all excited about the trip which takes place over the February half-term. 38 learners and 5 members of staff are set to



travel to the Austrian Alps where they will learn and develop their ski-ing skills. It is set to be a fantastic time away. When they return from this trip, preparations for the ski trip in 2014 will be going ahead. Make sure you look out for future details.

On-line Payments for Dinners!

Over the next half-term leading up to Easter, the Local Authority are planning to introduce an on-line payment scheme for dinner money. This will enable parents to make payments online using a debit or credit card to their child's dinner money account.

Payments by cash or cheque will still continue to be accepted as they currently are. The intention is to phase in the scheme a class at a time over a number of weeks. Further details will be made available after the February half-term when more information is forthcoming.

School production of Oliver



There will be a school production of Oliver on Tuesday 7th, Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th February at 7pm. Tickets are currently on sale at a cost of £6 each, £5 for concessions. We hope you will support this event.

Options Evening

We recently held our Options evening for Years 8-10 where information was given to learners and parents/carers about their possible GCSE options and pathways for the future. Some of the parents said "I think the school is fabulous in supporting both learners and parents", "Excellent information and support provided" and "I like that, as a parent, I have the opportunity to contact staff for advice". The evening provides valuable information and support for future career aspirations and is an excellent opportunity to talk about learning.

Dates for your Diary

Day	Date	Time	Event
Mon & Tue	30/1 & 31/1	6.00-7.00pm	Personalised Learning Pathways (Options) drop-in sessions
Tue-Thu	7/2 — 9/2	6.30pm	School Production
Mon-Fri	13-17/2		Half Term Holidays
Fri	10/2—18/2		Austria Ski Trip
Fri	10/2—13/2		Normandy Trip
Tue	21/2		International Mother Tongue 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.