



Thomas Telford School

Newsletter

Issue 5

Summer 1992

Pioneering Package

STUDENTS at Thomas Telford School will shortly be helping to develop a revolutionary interactive computer program which will enable them to learn a language through the use of moving pictures, sound, graphics and text together on screen. The project, codenamed 'Eloquent', is already being seen as the 21st Century replacement for the language cassette and is being subsidised by the European Community's 'Lingua' programme.

Based on a range of Acorn computers, the European consortium of colleges and companies who will be promoting the package aim to be at the leading edge of technology - driven learning methods. As only 18% of the European Community speak English as their mother tongue, Thomas Telford School is committed to developing new ideas and using the latest technology to ensure that our students can take their place in the European workforce of today.

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Students Dressed for The 'Ugly Bug Ball'

Europe 1992

SIXTH Form students from Thomas Telford School, France and Italy will take part in a three week exchange this September as part of a European Community plan to develop greater cultural understanding between the participating countries.

The group were selected after a series of interviews and will leave for Briançon in France on 31 August for the first leg of their visit. Their immediate task will be to look at the relationship between the similar history of this French town and Ironbridge. The event looks set to become a major media event in France and Italy with extensive radio and television coverage.

The trip will also include visits to the

Geneva Parliament buildings and the chance to do some white water rafting and glacial skiing.

Group leader, Mr Jonathan Boyle, said, "the exchange affords all the students taking part an excellent opportunity to improve their understanding of what it means to be a European today. I am sure they will all benefit greatly from this experience."

Thomas Telford students will host the home leg of this exchange from 14 September when apart from visiting the School, the students will visit the Black Country Museum, Granville Country Park and the International Heritage Sites around Ironbridge.



A Message From The Head

This has been an excellent first year for Thomas Telford School. It is with great pleasure that I am able to inform parents of the tremendous success of our students.

Overall attendance for the School year is likely to be 96%.

Year 7 students have demonstrated a maturity beyond our expectation. They consistently create the impression that they are capable of coping with employment opportunities now.

The Sixth Formers have played their part too in establishing a successful first year. They have made impressive links with industry and it is with great confidence that some of them will be undertaking mainland European work placements from September 1993.

In our next academic year there will be 530 students on roll with 61 full time staff. I can promise you that everyone at Thomas Telford School will be working relentlessly to build upon the excellent start that has been made this year.

Much of what we have achieved with the students has only been possible through the outstanding support offered by parents. Please continue with your efforts from which our students benefit so much.

Assuring you of my cooperation.

Albanian Appeal

DURING the month of April Business and Finance student, Lance Tonks, responded to the Albanian Appeal for food and supplies by persuading a local food distribution company to donate 500 cases of soup to help feed these hungry people. A team of local firemen coordinated the loading of provisions into the ten ton trailer and by the end of the month the life-saving cargo had arrived in Albania. It was later reported to have been consumed in under two weeks. Well done to all those who took part.



Staffordshire Sinfonia playing at the Family Weekend

A Family Weekend

DESPITE the unsettled weather some five hundred people attended the Family Weekend which was organised by the Advisory Council.

The event was a huge success. On Saturday families enjoyed a wide range of activities including a barbecue, side shows and a disco for the youngsters and "young at

heart". The highlight on Sunday was a concert featuring the celebrated Staffordshire Polytechnic Sinfonia under the directorship of Darrell Wade with Ron Banks on Tuba.

The concert gave families the opportunity to see the School's new Theatre where the orchestra played popular favourites such as "Phantom of the Opera", "Tubby the Tuba" and the James Bond Themes. The concert provided a resounding finale to an excellent weekend of entertainment. Our thanks go to the Advisory Council for their hard work and organisation, and to the students for all their help.

School's First Production

REHEARSALS are going well for what will be Thomas Telford School's first production in its new 300 seat Theatre due to be performed on the 27 and 28 July.

The play is entitled Yanomamo and seeks to explore the relationship between man and his environment through music, song and dance. Accompanied by the School orchestra, virtually everybody has been involved in the production and it is sure to be a night not to be missed.

The performance will begin at 7.30 pm and tickets will cost £2 each for adults and £1 each for children and Senior Citizens.

Commendation System

THOMAS Telford School has just introduced a commendation system which is designed to reward the high level of industry and achievement of the School's students. In recognition of some of the truly splendid work that is produced on a daily basis within the School, the staff can recommend to the Headmaster that the students be given a special Headmaster's Commendation.

Each successful student will receive a signed award and their parent or guardian will be informed by post of the decision. Such is the standard of the students' work that the office staff are working doubly hard to keep pace with the demand.



Achievements

CONGRATULATIONS to the eleven Thomas Telford students who took part in the Black Mountain expedition in April as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. They completed the official course of over forty-seven miles, with a few extra due to minor detours, during their four day trek along a stretch of Offa's Dyke in the Brecon Beacons. Damp but undefeated everybody finished their objective and Youth Leader, Stephen Matthews, commented, "everybody who took part achieved something very worthwhile."

ALSO in connection with the Duke of Edinburgh Award, further congratulations go to Design Technology student, Jonathan Williams, who, in conjunction with Telford Police Crime Prevention Unit, arranged a new initiative to combat the town's spiralling incidence of car crime. A recent public display in the School's Technology Area helped highlight the problem and enabled the students to give away a large number of free window etching vouchers.

WELL done to all the Hotel and Catering students for gaining their Basic Food Hygiene Certificate at the end of June.

Hot Off The Presses

A GROUP of over twenty students, parents and staff are busy preparing the first edition of a regular termly newspaper which will feature examples of work, a swap shop, interviews, current affairs, competitions and much more.

Year 7 student, Ruth Lister, came up with the initial idea, but this quickly grew to an editorial team of twenty six who meet every Monday night from 4pm to 6pm and will have an initial circulation of around three hundred copies. However, the newspaper will be environmentally friendly being printed on recycled paper.

Green Initiatives

A JOINT project between Thomas Telford School and Hinkshay Special School has resulted in the creation of a 'Wildlife Garden' aimed at attracting rare butterflies and birds whose natural habitats are in decline. Forty Year 7 students were specially recruited to provide the manpower to landscape the site in the grounds of Hinkshay School as part of the School's environment module which took place during the first three weeks of June.

In addition to creating a suitable wildlife environment, the students also constructed a hide to enable the children to observe, draw and photograph the site as it develops. Deputy Head, Mike Douch, coordinated the event and was keen to praise all those who took part for the excellent effort and all the hard work they put in. "This initiative has provided an excellent opportunity to pursue cross-curricular links in many subject areas including environment, geography, technology and science," he said.



Julie Howell on Work Placement at the Holiday Inn

Work Placement

ARRANGEMENTS of work placements for Thomas Telford's Sixth Form students are, "bombing along" according to Malcolm Scotto, the School's Senior Industrial Consultant. "A place has now been finalised for every student to spend time in a commercial or industrial location either locally in Telford and Wolverhampton or as far off as Birmingham, Oxford and even London."

Students will be involved with a large number of organisations and will be involved in a wide range of activities such as manufacturing garments from recycled material, writing computer programs, designing a luggage rack for a Hong Kong bus, testing aircraft components, teaching and photography to name but a few.

Mr Scotto also noted, "all this would not have been possible without the assistance of the students, staff, parents and the enthusiasm of the many companies who agreed to have the students on work placement."

Editor-in-chief, English Teacher, Deborah Mundy, said, "the project was the idea of a few Year 7 students who wanted to experience at first hand the running of their own newspaper. They will be totally responsible for the whole publication from

start to finish and will gain a detailed knowledge of a range of media production techniques from desk-top publishing to photography."

The first edition will be available in September.



County Champions

SPECIAL congratulations to Helen Jones, David Godfrey and Dawanna Campbell for their successes in the Shropshire Schools' Championships. Helen won the senior girls 3000m, Dawanna was the Year 7 100m champion and David was the winner of the senior boys shot put. Along with Lee Tanner, all were chosen and have already represented Shropshire at the recent athletics meeting at Worley.



The Year 7 Football Team

Bacon's College Tournament Report

A SIXTEEN strong squad of Year 7 students acquitted themselves well at the recent six-a-side football tournament at Bacon's CTC, London. Both sides won some of their five pool games but unfortunately neither side progressed into the play-offs. The A team were particularly unfortunate being undefeated in the first three games and were only beaten by the eventual winners of the competition. The players gave their all and were a credit to the School and received praise for their smart appearance and good behaviour.



Sixth Form students putting the new multi-gym through its paces

First Cap for Daniel

CONGRATULATIONS to Year 7 student, Daniel Mackriel, who was chosen to play ice-hockey for England against Wales at Humberside ice-rink on Sunday 5 July.

CTC Athletics Championship

THOMAS Telford students did extremely well in July's CTC Championships with the junior boys finishing sixth out of ten whilst the girls finished a very creditable second.

Although this was due to a spirited all round team performance special mentions go to Michelle Woodrow and Dawanna Campbell for winning their events.

CCPR Awards

THE BTEC Leisure Studies students are currently undertaking their Central Council of Physical Recreation Community Sports Leaders awards. This will involve completing seven units of practical assessed work and a minimum of ten hours sports

leadership with a number of organised groups outside of School. They aim to widen their career prospects with an additional qualification which will be of interest to future employers within the leisure field of work.

Stop Press

YEAR 7 enjoyed a prelude to the Olympics when the Sixth Form Leisure Studies group organised a Sports Day at RAF Cosford on 16 July.

