



Thomas Telford School

Newsletter

Issue 12

Spring 1995

Student Achievements

Congratulations go to Year 10 student, Claude Keogh, who was presented with both the 'Chief Scout's Challenge' and the Scouts highest accolade, the 'Chief Scout's Award' at a ceremony in Wolverhampton in March. Well done.

Starring as Widow Twanky in Wolverhampton's Punch Theatre Company's recent production of Aladdin was Year 10 student, Andrew Brinded. Andrew took a starring role amongst the 90 strong cast at the town's Wulfrun Hall in the panto which ran from 16 December to 15 January. The Theatre Company, which includes children and adults from all over the West Midlands, performs four or five shows a year and rehearse every Sunday.

Dance Production

Thomas Telford School's first 'Evening of Dance' in February was a sell-out success with over 60 students of all ages taking part before an enthusiastic audience who witnessed many dance styles from 'tap' to dancing in 'tubes of material'.

The dances represented student work and also Dance Club pieces choreographed by Sixth Form students, Erica Deakin and Patricia Rogers.

The students 'Youth Dance Company' staged most of the dances and have been invited to perform some of their routines at Moseley Park School in Wolverhampton.

Congratulations to all who participated in the event.

West Side Tale

This year Thomas Telford School was proud to present the classic Bernstein musical, 'West Side Story'. Set in 1950's New York, this reworking of Shakespeare's tragedy 'Romeo and Juliet', is by far the most ambitious project the students have attempted to date.

Containing many memorable songs such as 'Maria', 'Tonight' and 'America' and supported by a large orchestra the 75 students involved pulled out all the stops to ensure that the show was a

tremendous success.

The part of Maria was played by Rebecca Nixon, the part of Tony was played by Matthew Robinson, the part of Anita was played by Erica Deakin, while Philip Evans was Bernardo and Paul Crompton played Riff.

Direction was by Mr Griffiths, choreography by Mrs Crawford, musical arrangements by Mr Carroll. Thanks to all concerned for making the event so memorable.



Members of the cast of West Side Story

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If you have any details you wish to contribute to the School Newsletter please contact:

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A message from the Head

We are now well into our fourth year with a significant number of successes behind us. I particularly look forward to Achievement Presentation Evening this year which will reflect upon some of the achievements of this academic year.

I am confident that our Examination results this year will reward all the hard work and commitment of students and staff. We are all working hard to maintain our excellent record of entry to degree courses in Higher Education or full time employment for all Sixth Form leavers.

Building begins Monday 15 May on our Distance Learning Centre. The new Centre will house the equipment required to enable Sixth Form students to study 'at distance'.

Thank you for your continued support.

For Weddings

As part of their Celebration module at the start of this term Year 7 Business Studies students arranged a wedding for 'Penny Pretty' and 'Roger Right'. They worked closely with a local speciality car hire firm, the Mayfair Carriage Company, and its proprietor, Dave Hollingshead and received VIP tickets to a Wedding Fair at the Telford Exhibition Centre.

The module was a great success and was featured in a BBC Radio Shropshire feature entitled, 'Child bride is alive and kicking in Shropshire'.

Dates For Your Diary

Listed below are details of forthcoming events at the School. We hope that you are able to attend some of these events.

Summer Term 1 May to 28 July
Half Term 29 May to 2 June
Open Day 8 June
Sports Day 15 June
Summer Fayre 3.00pm 1 July
Governors' Report to Parents 18 July
Achievement Presentation Evening 19 July

Charter Mark Update

The School prides itself on the high standards and expectations we have of the staff and students who work hard to achieve the high goals that we have set at Thomas Telford. It seemed only natural that as the Government set out its stall for quality from the institutions that provide a service to the communities they serve, we should respond to the challenge. So, last year we wrote a submission to the Government's Charter Unit in the hope of achieving the gold medal, a 'Charter Mark' Award and the recognition that this might bring with it.

The assessors felt that whilst the submission was of a good standard and showed many examples of good practice, we still had some way to go to achieve the full award, but in recognition of what had been achieved from the opening of the School in so short a time we were awarded a 'Commendation of the Duchy of Lancaster'.

We justifiably feel that we have been recognised for our aim to give a quality service to the students and parents of the School and will definitely consider re-submitting this year in the hope of gaining the full award.

The 1995 Charter Unit has for the first time tried to encourage members of the public to make nominations for bodies it feels might be worthy of the Charter Mark and your support is sought for our application. So don't delay, the School receptionists have the details and can provide the documents that would be needed to make a public recommendation for those who might wish to do so.

We seek your support for what we feel is a School of quality providing a service of quality for your sons and daughters.

D of E News

If any Year 9, 10 or Sixth form students are interested in becoming involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, please see Ms Bradley for further details. Future expeditions will visit places as far apart as Talybont in Mid-Wales and Princetown on Dartmoor near the prison, so beware!

Teacher Training

As the lead School, Thomas Telford is helping to provide the next generation of Secondary Physical Education and Technology Teachers through its involvement with the Initial Teacher Training Initiative.

The programme was set up as part of a consortium between Wolverhampton University, Roehampton Institute and nine participant schools throughout the West Midlands who are acting as training institutions.

From last September, 40 post-graduates have been undergoing a range of training courses in a variety of different activities. They will also experience at least two different consortium schools during their year on the course.

School Uniform Exchange Shop

Dates for the rest of this academic year are;
6 June and 4 July both at 3.45 pm in the Atrium.

The stock is increasing but we still require more clothes to sell. Any parent wishing to donate clothes can do so in LB3 on Monday mornings between 8.00 and 8.25 am. Enquiries should be made to Mrs Shaw on Telford 596629.

Advisory Council News

We are able to report on another highly successful Quiz Evening held in early March, Thank you for your support.

We would like to draw everyone's attention to the Summer Fayre, to be held this year on Saturday 1 July. This event will allow us to raise more funds to pass on to the School. Recent spending has included a number of tents for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme also tennis nets and posts for the summer operation of the astro turf. Please contact the School or the Advisory Council directly if you can offer help or wish to discuss ideas.



21st Century Library

Thomas Telford School are about to challenge the image of the dusty library ruled over by the grumpy old librarian by developing a 'state of the art' Information Centre offering a range of facilities such as multimedia machines, audio cassettes, video players and, of course, books.

The Library now houses three multimedia machines and an ever increasing array of CD ROMs and can access the Library's Database from anywhere in the School. Effectively, we are moving to a position where information is available at the touch of a button.

We also have INTERNET in School at present and it is hoped that this will be part of the Library in time. The introduction of Distance Learning will also have implications for the Library. Imagine a fully integrated Information Centre accessible from home. The future is very exciting indeed!

Young Entrepreneurs Spell Success

The Sixth Form Business students are currently running two successful companies as part of the Small Business Enterprise initiative. 'Merlin Printers' got off to a quick start by catching the Christmas market and are currently going from strength to strength selling business stationery. On 1 April 1995 Merlin Printers achieved "The Best Presented Stall" at this year's Wolverhampton Trade Fair.

The opposition is provided by the advertising company 'Feedback' who produced their first magazine in January and are now working on the next issue.

Gueridon Skills



Gueridon Skills as demonstrated by Year 10 Hospitality & Catering students

This term Year 10 GNVQ Hospitality & Catering students have been further developing the practical Food & Drinks Service skills they began to learn in September.

The group of 35 students have been learning how to cook Flambé dishes

using a Gueridon Lamp. Gueridon dishes are prepared at the table in front of customers, so this type of service involves a high level of skill, professionalism and confidence, all skills which the students have exhibited whilst gaining practical experience across the year.

Crest Test

In February two groups of Year 8 students were involved in projects on the motor car industry. They were working towards their Bronze Crest Award, a national award scheme which encourages students to look at Science, Technology and Engineering through task orientated project work and has the support of many UK Businesses.

Projects included investigations on stopping distances, passenger comfort and safety and design of car alarms. Some students also visited the Halfords MOT Test Centre on the retail park and PC Skevington visited the School to give a talk on road safety. The students produced some excellent work and the scheme will be repeated for the remaining Year 8 students in Module 8.

Healthy Advice

Sixth Form Health and Social Care students recently organised a series of health and fitness workshops for our Year 7 students. Among the activities arranged were raising drugs awareness, bicycle safety and looking at the harmful effects of smoking.

PC Young joined the bicycle safety workshop, providing an amusing and informative account of the importance of wearing a cycle helmet while other students used a smoking machine to look at exactly what happens inside our bodies when a cigarette is smoked.

The information gathered was contained in a booklet for prospective Year 6 students and was judged by children of Hadley Manor Junior School.

Where Are They Now?

Suzy Brumhill, 1994's Student of the Year, is currently 'Down Under' spending her gap year teaching physical education at a girls High School in New South Wales, Australia and relaxes by surfing and snorkelling off the Great Barrier Reef. Suzy will return to England in late summer to take up her place at Cardiff University.

Mok Lais has just finished his second year at Loughborough University where he is studying Electrical Engineering and has recently been selected for the England U21 Handball team.



Gymnastic Stars

Our Gymnastic Team continue to go from vault to vault and have chalked up recent successes at the Shropshire Schools' Gymnastics Competition held at Wrekin College in March.

The boys' and girls' teams both won silver medals with the girls missing the gold position by only 0.425 of a mark. Claire Lomas was Senior Girls' Champion with 19.25 marks and Alasdair Fawcett collected the Senior Boys' Bronze medal with 16.9 marks.

Cross-Country Winners

A special mention goes to Year 7 student, Alex Johnson, who gave the School its first schools' cross-country title when he had an superb run to win the Year 7 boys event by an impressive margin. Excellent.

Michelle Woodrow also did very well to come third in her age category when she represented Shropshire in Inter Counties Cross-Country Meeting in February.

Sports Update

So far this term, no fewer than 23 students have gained County Representative honours in no less than 7 different sports! A remarkable achievement.

They include Steven Pryce who plays for the U19 County Basketball Team and Year 10 students, Michelle Woodrow and Ben Graham, who competed in an Indoor County meeting at the National Indoor Arena in February where Ben produced a personal best of 5.94m in the long jump.

James Dowdall became our first student to represent Shropshire at Rugby Union and at 6'2" at age 15 must have a future in this sport!

County Hockey Cup Winners



County Cup Hockey Champions

The Year 9 Boys Hockey side has just won the County Cup by defeating The Groves School, Market Drayton, 2 -1 in a tough and exciting game. Both Telford's goals were scored by team captain and leading scorer, Jared Owen.

Jump To It!

Victoria Jones 70, Sarah Comerford 7D and Sixth Form student Claire Lomas represented the School at the County Trampolining Championship at Harlescott School, Shropshire in December. Victoria gained a Bronze medal and Sarah was placed fourth. All three were invited to participate in county squad training. As well as competing in meetings, Claire also coaches groups and has judged in previous events alongside Humanities teacher Mrs Comerford.

House News

This year we have launched a House System which has been a great success and has opened the door for the majority of students to become involved in a number of different events.

We have already organised a number of competitions with the following results:

Event	Winners	The current overall league table is;			
Football	Watt				
Netball	Wedgwood	1.	Brindley	182	
Girls Football	Wedgwood	2.	Wedgwood	180	
Mini Athletics	Stephenson	3.	Arkwright	162	
Drama	Watt	4.	Stephenson	152	
Chess	Brindley	5.	Watt	127	
Trampolining	Watt	6.	Brunel	124	
Gymnastics	Stephenson				
Basketball	Brindley				
Hockey	Brindley/ Wedgwood				

Parents are welcome to come along and give support at any of the events. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank a number of our sponsors including DPN Systems, W.H.Smiths, Debenhams and Merlin Gerin. If anybody would like to offer support for sponsorship please contact Mr Griffiths on Telford 200000.

