



MOOR HOUSE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER November 2010

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the January 2011 Newsletter.

Moor House School News and Events

MOOR HOUSE SCHOOL ON RADIO AND TV!

Students from Moor House School appeared on BBC South East News talking about SLI and some of the difficulties and issues they face. A parent and staff were also interviewed.

Luke Williams, Miss Campbell and Mr Bathe also featured on BBC Radio Surrey's breakfast programme. Both of these media appearances follow on from the high profile given to the film, 'The King's Speech' which has generated considerable public interest.

Please see our website to access the TV clip.

The Government have made 2011 the National Year of Communication. Here is a link to the website

<http://www.hello.org.uk/>

GUIDE DOG VISIT

The Year 9 life skills group with Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Nicoll had a very special visitor this term. Truffle a guide dog and her owner Maggie Hunt came to visit the school. This was part of their life skills work and looking at disabled groups and learning how they cope. The class were very polite and asked some very sensitive and polite questions, but most of the attention went on Truffle a black Labrador. Truffle is Maggie's fifth dog who says she can't be without one now. She said that having a guide dog makes her feel confident and she can get out and about. Maggie really enjoyed coming along and I am sure we will be seeing more of her again (and of course Truffle!).

POLKA THEATRE TRIP

On a 'not so snowy' Sunday in January 3L visited the Polka Theatre in Wimbledon to see the Snow Queen. The children were brought along by their families who stayed with them to see the performance. It was a great show played by just four actors. 3L are reading the book for English this term and we hope the performance brought the book to life for them. With just four actors, they all had to play more than one part. So we really had to keep our wits about us. Many thanks go to all the parents for bringing their children along.

TREE PLANTING AT DAVID GRESHAM HOUSE

Planting a Tree at David Gresham House

3Ha have been involved in a community project that was started just before Christmas. The challenge was taken from the Key Steps awards programme which we use as the basis of our Life Skills scheme of work. The challenge was to make a small change in the local community and then make a presentation using photographs of the experience.

The class decided to plant a small tree in the local retirement home, David Gresham House. We started by visiting the centre to identify a good spot to plant the tree. Next we researched small ornamental trees using the internet. When we had decided on the type of tree that we wanted to plant a trip to the local garden Centre was planned.

The whole class went to Knights Garden Centre to purchase the tree and to use the café facilities for a drink and a snack.

The final part of the project, planting the tree, was delayed by several weeks due to bad weather and frozen ground. Finally on the 12th January we went to David Gresham House to plant the tree. Thankfully the maintenance department from school were on hand to assist! After some heavy digging we were treated to a welcome drink and biscuits. During this time the students spoke to the residents and were shown how to assemble poppies for the British Royal Legion.

The final stage of the challenge was to present the challenge using photographs. The students worked in pairs to depict different stages of the challenge. They used the photographs that we had taken and an IT programme called Comic Life. Currently, the display can be seen along the main corridor.

Everyone enjoyed taking part in this extended project and we were particularly excited to have made front page news of the local newspaper!

Report by S Hardman



TANRIDGE YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

Report by Chelsea Palmer

On Wednesday 19th January 2011, Angus Smith, Luke Warren and I went to De Stafford School in Caterham to a school council meeting with other schools both main stream and special.

At first I was really nervous but as soon as we started to play some team building games and got to know each other better, I soon became more relaxed.

We all had to line up in a line in order of our birthdays, and if someone had the same birthday as you but were older they went in front of you, this got a bit difficult when Charlie had the same birthday as me but was neither younger nor older than me.

The next game we played was where we were put into groups and in our groups we all had to hold hands, but not with people next to us so we basically had to get ourselves into a human knot and un-knot ourselves although my group failed, badly. After that we had to sit down in our groups and say our names and something about ourselves. E.g. my name is Chelsea, I'm 13 and I like dancing.

We also played a game where we had to blow a bubble on the table and then within that bubble you blow loads more bubbles. It sounds easy but it's really not.

After all the games we had to draw a logo for The Tandridge Youth Council and then our designs to EVERYONE, oh joy, but lucky for me I was sitting next to William who's a good drawer so I just let him do the drawing.

It was a very interesting morning and I made a new friends. We spoke about our ideas to improve our schools and Tandridge having their own radio station, where students from schools in Tandridge can on live and perform there music talents on air, e.g. singing and playing musical instruments. They were also thinking about spending the £ 8,000 they got from 'Tandridge's Got Talent' on a day out for all students from schools in Tandridge!

NEW ENGLISH CURRICULUM!

WJEC GCSE English Language and English Literature Inset –

H. Middleton & L. Campbell

The specifications for GCSE English for first examination 2012 are significantly different to those currently delivered. There are now three course options: English, English Language and English Literature.

The INSET day at the Hilton hotel in Kensington Olympia was dedicated to outlining the requirements for each course and introducing the new elements of Controlled Assessment and Spoken Language (CA).

The new courses should in some ways be much more accessible to our students as they are modular and the guidelines for Controlled Assessment allow for teaching time and time for task preparation before the students undertake the assessment. The modular nature of the course allows for one examination re-sit per unit which will be of advantage to some students who may wish to improve their grades.

This is an exciting time and we look forward to restructuring the KS4 English curriculum to allow those students for whom it is appropriate, to extend their knowledge and achieve more qualifications.

CANBURY SPORTS WEEKEND

Mr Crowhurst organised a day of sport on Saturday 22nd January, for Moor House students to challenge Canbury pupils in football, badminton and swimming. The event was open to all students in Years 9, 10 and 11. Eleven students from Moor House participated, composed of ten boys and one girl. The football was a narrow win, 2 games won, one drawn and one lost. The badminton was level pegging with a narrow victory of 11 games to 9. Canbury took the swimming. The end result was that Moor House reigned victorious, acquiring a new trophy, kindly donated by Canbury. A big thank you to all the staff and parents who supported this event.

Trip to the Central London Synagogue

On 11th January, six members of year 11 went to visit the Central London Synagogue in Great Portland Street. The purpose of the visit was to fulfil the requirements for an ASDAN silver challenge regarding interviewing a leader of the Jewish faith; and to give students the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the London Underground.

After a journey that was fraught with problems (cancelled and delayed trains) we eventually arrived in Victoria. From here we made, what was for some, the first ever tube journey! After a brisk walk we arrived at the synagogue.

We were met by the chief rabbi who made us feel very welcome. He was hoping to give us a talk, but we quickly explained that he had to be interviewed by a year 11 panel! The rabbi coped admirably, and with interview over, he gave us a tour and potted history of the building. We were lucky enough to have the Ark unlocked and, to view at close quarters, the scrolls or Torah that are kept at the synagogue.

Following the synagogue we hopped back onto the tube and the students had to plan the route to 'Embankment'. From here we took the short walk (in the horizontal rain) to 'Trafalgar Square'. We admired the sights and returned for another trip on the tube planned by the students.

After purchasing their own lunch at Victoria, the students and staff returned to school to produce an illustrated report!

Thank you to the students for making the trip so enjoyable and thank you to the staff for making it possible.

