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## Head Teacher's Comments

- **Ofsted** – we were delighted to be named in Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools' list of providers judged to be 'outstanding' following our inspection in 2006/07.



- **Post 16 Presumption** – We are in the process of preparing a bid to build on the school site a Post 16 Vocational Centre where students will have the opportunity to take the

new 14-19 Diploma courses at levels 1, 2 and 3. We hope to blend in the new centre with our major school buildings upgrade which is due to take place under the 'Building Schools for the Future' initiative. More news will follow soon, including details of how we intend to consult with all interested parties.

- **Record GCSE Results** - Once again, we gained our best ever GCSE results in 2007, with over 71% of our Year 11 students gaining 5 or more A\* - C grades - 55% including Maths and English; 96% achieved 5 or more A\* - G grades and we achieved 100% IA\* - G grades. We wish all those students continued success in the future.



- We held our traditional annual **Harvest Festival** services in October and **Remembrance Services** in November, the latter attended by The Rt. Hon. Mr David Miliband, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth affairs. These were extremely successful events, very well attended and appreciated immensely by students, parents and members of the community.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish all our readers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Prosperous New Year. I do hope that many of you are able to attend the Christmas Carol Concert on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00pm.**

## Christmas Carol Concert



**Harton Technology College's**  
**Christmas Carol Concert**  
is being held on  
**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December at**  
**7:00pm**



**Tickets £2 each from Mrs Nicol or the Music Department**

## Yr 11 Rugby Tour of Canada & USA

During the summer, our Year 11 Rugby Team undertook a highly successful tour to North America. During the three week trip they firstly visited Ontario in Canada playing four matches and winning them all, the win against the full Ontario team being the most impressive. As well as playing rugby, they also visited the many attractions in the area including Niagara Falls, the CN Tower, Ottawa and Canada Wonderland. The second half of the trip was a stay in Florida. Two matches were played there with our side again being victorious. We also took the opportunity to visit a few of the many theme parks in the area. The trip was organised by Mr Paul Byrne who commented "The success of this tour was not about winning all of our games. The way the players conducted themselves throughout was exceptional and it was a privilege to lead such a group".

## The New Secondary Curriculum

From September 2008 there will be major changes to the National Curriculum in secondary schools. As an outstandingly successful school, Harton Technology College was invited to take part in the programme to advise and support schools in the North East through the changes. As a result, we will be hosting six half-day events during the Spring Term, with delegates from up to 60 schools attending. As ever, this is another very welcome opportunity to showcase our students, our staff and our achievements.

## Employability Skills / Work Related

Employability Skills and Work Related ASDAN groups spent a week on an Army 'Look at life' course at Albemarle Barracks in Northumberland. They took part in a variety of activities including map reading, orienteering, military stands, observation and paint balling.



Both groups also spent a day at the Army Foundation College at Harrogate, a state of the art establishment.

**Careers** - We hosted three "Routes to Employment" evenings. The first event was aimed at those considering a university education, the second evening was for students interested in Further Education and the third event was for those students who plan to take the Apprenticeship, Modern Apprenticeship or Training route.

## Three Week Trip in July / August 2007



## Sporting Highlights



**Congratulations to Ryan Robinson  
3 Gold Medals for Sunderland ASC!**

## Year 7 - Lunchtime Arrangements

**Year 7 students should stay on school premises at lunch time** - unless they need to go home for a specific reason such as to take medication. A note from home should be handed in to form tutors for any student needing permission to leave the school at this time.

## Uniform

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their continuing support with regard to school uniform and to mention one or two issues when buying new uniform. Students should not be wearing multicoloured hoodies / tops in school; also black dress shoes should be worn, not black trainers or UGG boots.

## Lost Property

We have many **unclaimed** items in Lost Property – sweatshirts, PE kit, coats, shoes, bags, hats and gloves. Please contact Ms Mizzen or Mrs Carson if your child is missing any kit.

## Sports Hall—Now in it's 3rd Year!



Our Sports Centre has been a huge success with both students and the general public. We have a state of the art, 47 piece fitness suite with most of the cardiovascular machines having a flat screen TV. Membership prices start from just £20 per month, that's just 66p per day! For a no obligation 'show-round' or to join the gym -

please call 0191 4564226 (ext 258). We also have a large sports hall that is available for bookings between 5:00pm and 10:00pm (weekdays) and 10:00am to 6:00pm (weekends).

## Year 9 Enterprise - Gifts for Christmas

The 'Christmas Gems' enterprise group, organised by Year 9 students Jenny Elgar, Elisabeth Rowe and Rebecca Pringle, has been busy creating a range of designs sandblasted onto Glasses, Tankards, Vases and Tealight Holders. Prices range from £1 - £3 and all profits will be donated to charities supported by the school.



## Examination Dates Reminder

All students studying GNVQ will be taking **very important examinations** in January. Revision is of the utmost importance.

## Year 11 Parents Evening

The **Year 11 Parents' Evening** will take place from 3:30pm to 6:00pm on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008**.

## HTC Website - "ParentPay"

The school has now subscribed to this company to collect electronic payments. Every parent should now have received their individual username and password. Initially the Parent Pay website can be accessed via the school web page – just follow the instructions. If there are any difficulties please use the Parent section on the school website and follow the links to a helpful video. We are trialling this system with school catering initially and, if this is successful, we intend to extend the scope to allow all payments to school to be made through this method.

## First Ever USA Exchange

In April ten students shared their homes with students from Ithaca High School in upstate New York. The American students spent time in our school and were also taken to Durham, Newcastle, York, the Stadium of Light and the National Glass Centre. They were also able to sample local food such as fish and chips!



The return part of the exchange took place during October half term. Harton students and staff visited Niagara Falls, Howe Caverns, Cooperstown as well as spending time in Ithaca High School and Cornell University. The trip was finished off with two days in New York City where the group took in a Broadway show, a New York Knicks basketball game and many of the famous sights that New York City has to offer. Everyone involved agreed that it was a brilliant trip and an experience of a lifetime, so much so that the school is hoping that the exchange will continue for many years to come.

## End of Term Arrangements

We break up for the Christmas holidays on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December**. Please note – school buses will **not** be running at 3:15pm on the last day of term.

**All staff and students return to school on:  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

## School dates

- **Half Term** Holiday starts Monday 18 February, return to school Monday 25 February 2008.
- **Easter Weekend** (2 days holiday) Friday 21st March and Monday 24th March, return to school Tuesday 25th March.
- **Easter** Holiday starts Monday 7th April, return to school Monday 21st April 2008.
- **May Day** Holiday: Monday 5 May 2008.
- **Spring Half Term** Holiday starts Monday 26 May, return to school Monday 2 June 2008.

In-service training day for staff takes place on Friday 8 February 2008. Students do not attend school on this day.