



Addendum

The news round-up for Tring School
March 29 2018, Issue 1

Head's Introduction

Newsletters are a common form of communication for schools and from feedback received, we know many of you like our fortnightly updates. In addition, we want to trial a termly round-up of events that have happened so that you get a better overview of the news from our school. I would very much welcome your feedback on this newsletter, so if you could share your thoughts, please send them to head@tringschool.org

Frequently I see many students for their great achievements both inside and outside of school. This term I have seen 40+ students receive praise for their sporting, musical, dramatic, charitable and good citizenship activities. We do have some absolutely amazing youngsters who go above and beyond in so many ways and I am always deeply proud of them. In this photo with me are a group of Year 7 students enjoying some birthday cake and a chat. This is held each week for students who are celebrating their birthdays at that time.

It seems ages since we were at the Court Theatre watching Dr Faustus back in January, yet this goes to show how much goes into each term. Meanwhile, I have had the privilege to help lead The Hemel Hempstead School with Mrs Ambrose this term. This has been an excellent learning experience to properly get under the bonnet of another school and compare and contrast our vision, ambitions, systems, and processes. I know I'm biased, but our students do get so many excellent opportunities, as well as our staff enriching their lives with wider character forming experiences. Our recent Extended Learning Day focused the minds of all students into unfamiliar experiences and this made them discover more about their own skills and talents.

This term we have been thwarted by snowy weather again and so it is hoped that we have seen the end of winter and can now enjoy some spring sunshine. As we all enjoy the Easter break, I hope you will have pleasure reading this newsletter and please do share your feedback. Happy Easter to you all.

Mrs Sue Collings, Headteacher



International Attraction

On Thursday 25 January Tring School welcomed over 50 teachers and educational professionals for an IT conference. The visitors were predominantly from Scandinavia wishing to find out how Tring School is using IT and in particular the Chromebook scheme we have adopted. Tring had a similar visit in October when 25 Chinese visitors came to discover more about how we integrate IT into the classroom. Both sets of visitors were thoroughly impressed by the work we have been doing and in particular how confidently our students spoke about their experiences and the positive impact IT had on their education.

The visits have provided the opportunity to forge links with schools in Scandinavia and develop the use of IT across the curriculum. China, Scandinavia, who will be next!!

Mr C Lickfold, Senior Leader



Speaking Out

The Head Boy and Girl Team were delighted to welcome Musharaf Asghar in to deliver his motivational speeches to the students. He came to fame when he appeared in the television show "Educating Yorkshire" when he won the hearts of the nation as he struggled to overcome his chronic stammer which began after a severe asthma attack when he was five.

He began by addressing the Sixth Form students followed by the whole of Year 10 and 11. Each time the students were riveted to him as he described how he had wanted to be a TV presenter when he was at school and started to ring call centers to practice his speech and tried to overcome his stammer by talking to himself in the mirror and writing down words he couldn't pronounce. He has now applied to study Journalism at University and wants to continue with public speaking.

At the end the sessions there were numerous thoughtful questions from the students who asked if he thought there should be more role models like him, did he speak any other languages and what music was he listening to when his teacher first got him to try talking with headphones on.

The event was organised by Head Boy Toby Molloy, supported by the Head Boy/Girl team.

Icelandic Adventures



In February 2018, Year 13 Geography and Biology students were lucky enough to have the opportunity to go on a 5 day trip to Iceland. Resting on the edge of the Arctic circle and sitting atop one of the world's most active hotspots, the distinct topography was eye opening for all of us. Our trip was in the peak of winter where the temperatures were generally below 0 degrees celsius and reached lows of -10C. We experienced the worst snow blizzards our tour guide ever had, so for two days our itinerary was completely changed. Luckily, we reached Reykjavik before all roads closed for 19 hours! We still got the chance to do the magnificent famous Golden Circle tour. The contrasting weather differentiated Iceland from any other trip I've been on as it became the most informative, humorous, thrilling and all round breathtaking trip I've experienced since being a student at Tring School.

We visited Geothermal Power Plants, experienced Kerio crater in full on blizzard conditions, did a tour of Reykjavik and visited numerous waterfalls and geysers. However, an undoubtable key moment was our visit to the Secret Lagoon, a giant natural 40 degree hot spring surrounded by mountains, snow touched trees and recurring geysers blasting into the air. These were the surroundings for what was the most relaxing and refreshing bathing experience. Another unforgettable moment was the golden water known as Gulfoss. Photo's don't do it justice and every now and again when the sun shone a golden tint could be seen in the water, hence its name the Golden Waterfall.

We knew the itinerary for the trip, we knew what we were doing and where we were going, we had the trip planned out but what we didn't know is that Iceland had something different planned for us. It was the unexpected surprises of what we weren't expecting and the above expectations of what we knew we were doing that made Iceland a trip truly of awe and wonder.

By Jonathan Forster, Molly Brown Year 13 and Miss Caunt, Assistant Subject Leader, Geography.

There and Back Again. A Sanday Tale

Mr Jon Sanday, Ascott Head of House



On the 9th February 5 staff, 42 students, 2 coach drivers and 1 ski rep, boarded a coach with one purpose in mind; To have an amazing week of skiing in Zell am See, Austria.

The long coach journey did begin to take its toll as we approached hour 25, spirits were helped by a strong collection of DVDs (although sadly enough Raiders of the Lost Arc wasn't particularly well thought of). Eventually we made it to our hostel Club Kitzsteinhorn. A beautiful, purpose built, school specific hostel a short walk from the bottom of the slopes.

We were welcomed to the Hostel by Stefan and his family and after the first of many fantastic meals we were all about ready for bed. The next day we clunked our way to the slopes and were met by our four instructors for the week; Jesse, Alex, Matt and Harry. The fantastic tuition that these instructors gave was second to none and obviously a real highlight of the trip. After a week of beautiful weather and snow we were very spoilt with our skiing, the evenings consisted of great food followed by activities such as swimming, beach volleyball, bowling, pizza nights and BBQ's.

An amazing trip which was only helped by our excellent Ski Rep Andy. All of the students behaved impeccably and the Hostel staff, the ski instructors and Andy all commented to me on how polite and enthusiastic our students were.

A long journey back concluded the trip, but spirits were still high as we arrived back at school.

Thank you to all of the students for their excellent behaviour and to the accompanying staff for making the trip possible.



Design and Technology Young Engineers and the Big Bang Effect

Each year teams of students from local secondary schools join together for the annual Rotary Club Schools Technology Tournament held at Ashlyns School. This year we entered three teams, one from the Sixth Form and one from Years 10 and 9. The design brief was to build and launch a space capsule containing meteorological instruments into the stratosphere. The objectives became progressively more difficult for the senior age groups, but all three teams did extremely well and saw the Sixth Form Team be crowned the overall winners in their age group.

Meanwhile a group of Year 9 students have also been attending the Royal Institution Engineering Masterclass sessions at Apsley Paper Mill.

"We were presented with our task for the day; we had to build a car of paper and crafts items to withstand the mighty force of a children's toy bus. We were shown a few videos about a car's crumple zone and roll cage design which proved very useful when having to design how the car would withstand the bus.

After drawing out a few ideas, we decided to design a battering ram out of lolly pop sticks, a roll cage out of straws and a crumple zone was made by stuffing the hood and the boot with paper. After quite a while and a lot of glue, our machine was complete. We called it "The Brick" and named ourselves "Team Brick ft. the Brick".

Finally we were all told that the cars would soon be tested. One by one, cars were placed at the bottom of a ramp and the bus was sent hurtling towards them. When it was time for the Brick to be tested, all of Team Brick ft. The Brick were expecting to see mad destruction but the mighty battering ram that protruded out of the front of the car sent the bus flying off of the ramp. The Brick was left almost completely unharmed. This mighty success, however, did not translate into points because the goal was to design good crumple zones and roll cages".

Danny Tarrant, Year 9

The annual Big Bang UK fair is the largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths for young people in the UK. The fair is an award-winning combination of exciting theatre shows, interactive workshops and exhibits and careers information from the STEM professionals. This year a group of Science and Design and Technology students attended the event and have written about the day.

On Wednesday 14 March we headed off to the Big Bang Fair in Birmingham N.E.C. The Big Bang Fair was held in a big warehouse with several stages showing famous and cool scientists. We had the opportunity to see and touch a pig's insides in the biology section, which was smelly but interesting! Then we ate our lunch. We went off to see the Blowfish (the world's only heavy metal marine biologist). As we were sat in the front row he came and talked to us which was amazing. We tried a puzzle where you had to roll a ball down a tube and you could choose the height of the tube. Other exhibition stalls included having a 3D body scan, controlling drones and using virtual reality headsets. It was a busy and fun-packed day and we had a great time.

By Fiona Connor, Ffion Winfield and Nathan Scharsach, Year 9





Doctor Faustus - a behind the scenes perspective

It is true to say that behind every great theatre production is not only a fantastic cast but a dedicated, talented and hardworking backstage crew. The technical crew, often known as "techies", "techs", or "technicians", are the people working behind the scenes to control all the technical aspects before and during each performance. Great organisation, timing and teamwork by the backstage crew helped to make Faustus a success.

The Stage Manager for Faustus, Mara-Jade Radisic, (quietly and competently assisted by Lewis Flanders and Ella Treggiden), had many responsibilities and tasks to perform throughout the production, including coordinating the work of the stage crew, calling cues and actors' entrances during each performance and being responsible for communication between the Director, Miss Cushnie, Assistant Director, Mr Wallington, actors and backstage crew, which she performed with great organisation and ability. Working alongside Mara was the Props Team, overseen by Rebekah McLaren, who ensured that the Props Table was set out in readiness for use in Act and Scene order, as the cast often needed to get on stage quickly and didn't have the time to go looking for their props. Some costumes were also stored at the back of the stage because quick costume changes were needed and had to be in place before each performance.

The Sound and Lighting Crews were on duty in the Sound and Lighting Box throughout each performance, working closely with Miss Cushnie and Mr Wallington. These duties were skilfully carried out by Ben Woods, Joe Queralt, Macy Brooks and former Tring School students, Peter Child and Luke Sherring-Lucas. Their responsibilities included rigging up the lighting equipment, positioning lights and carrying out light and sound checks at the beginning of all technical rehearsals and performances and operating the sound board during all performances, including all equipment required to provide sound for the play, and ensuring all lighting and sound equipment was operating properly throughout.

Finally, the hub of the backstage crew was the "Green Room", the home of Costume, Hair and Makeup and the actors' waiting area between scenes. Overseeing this area were Sharron Newland and Alison Travers, awarded 'Best Double Act'. They were assisted by Ellie Matthey, who maintained the order of actors' costumes, Georgia Redmond, Caitlin Bunce and Angie Solaraska.

As soon as the curtain fell on the last performance, work had already begun on clearing the Green Room, followed by scenery, props, costumes etc. which were then loaded into the school minibus to be unloaded and stored away on the Monday morning. All traces of Doctor Faustus at Pendley Court Theatre had disappeared by 11pm.

If there were moments when things did not go according to plan on stage or behind the scenes, then credit where credit is due because the show did go on, thanks to the dedication and quick thinking of cast and crew, but whatever may have happened backstage or in the Green Room, will remain backstage and in the Green Room!! All in all, it was an amazing experience for everyone and the sheer elation at the end of each performance was one to savour. The Green Room was charged with emotion, laughter and relief - everyone had performed their job successfully and with pride.

Mrs A Travers, Drama Technician

Student Celebrations

Huge congratulations to the following students who have secured places at Drama Schools for next year:
Sam Bettridge and Charlotte Clark who have places at Central School of Speech and Drama to study - Applied Theatre
Rowan McIntosh who has a place at Birmingham School Of Acting to study - Acting
Matt Wake who left last year and has been offered a place at Guildford School of Acting to study Acting.

Miss L Cushnie, Head of Drama



Mia Elliott, Year 9, Lemon Meringue Pie. Acrylic on paper.

