

**THE WOODLANDER**

Issue 9



*The success stories continue.....*

This is the 9th edition of *The Woodlander* and we hope it continues to give you an insight into life at The Woodlands.

# OLIVER!

Every year, for the past ten years, The Woodlands School and Tile Hill Wood School have held a joint school production. This year, *Oliver!*, was performed at The Woodlands. It was by far the most ambitious performance to date, with over 100 students taking part, either as part of the cast, the orchestra or the backstage crew.

Since the auditions were held in October 2009, the cast rehearsed after school for three evenings each week, as well as during weekends and school holidays.

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March we performed the show to a wonderful audience, made up of pupils and staff from seven local primary schools, as our dress rehearsal. The feedback has been so positive, with comments such as "this was a truly remarkable show with outstanding singing, acting and dancing. It was a joy to watch and also lovely to see lots of ex-pupils showing off their talents. All involved were a credit to their schools, including those Woodlands boys who were in charge of directing us to our seats, providing refreshments and offering assistance when needed" (Mrs Aston, Headteacher, Eastern Green Junior School), and "the show was great and all of our children thoroughly enjoyed it - the show has obviously taken much hard work" (Mrs Patchett, Year 5/6 teacher, Mount Nod Primary school). These comments gave the cast the confidence to perform to packed audiences on all four nights of the performance for the rest of that week.

Chris White, who played Fagin, said "I have really enjoyed being in the school production for the first time and have found the other members of the cast inspiring, especially Kelsey Checklin, who played Nancy. I look forward to next year's production, though it will be difficult to top this."

Story continues on Page 2.



# OLIVER!



On the evenings of 3rd-6th March, *Oliver!* was performed to sell-out audiences in The School Hall. Miss Sedgwick, assistant producer and teacher of drama at The Woodlands School, said "the cast and backstage crew have been amazing and it has been a pleasure to work with such a committed team from both schools. This year's production has required lots of dedication and hard work but the end result has certainly been worth it!"



Year 7 student Sam Coombes, who plays Oliver, said "I've really enjoyed being a part of the production. It was hard at first to learn all the lines but then it got easier as we practised". Sam also said "it was good to take part because we made new friends and got to know new teachers". Matthew Keay, who played Charlie Bates, said "there was a buzz backstage on the first night – it was a mixture of nerves and excitement". He also added "it was hard work to learn all the lines and I had to miss football practice to attend rehearsals – but it was worth it!" Harry Holles, Year 7, who plays one of the workhouse children and is in Fagin's gang said "being in *Oliver!* is fun. We had to learn to control our nerves and not look at the audience too much. It was good to make friends with older students and the girls from the other school!"

Thanks and congratulations must go to James McArthur (11St) who stepped in at the last minute to play the role of Bill Sikes after the original actor was unfortunately taken ill suddenly. James learnt all his lines in just 24 hours and gave superb performances throughout the show dates.

The school is incredibly proud of all of the students and staff who have taken part in this year's production and we look forward to many more performing arts events in the future.



## ROTARY YOUNG CHEF COMPETITION



Five of our Year 10 students recently entered a cookery competition, where they had to produce a two course meal, from scratch, in a set period of time, including presenting it for the judges. Harry Montgomery (left) and Sean Keaveney, (both 10Cr) made it through to the Coventry final which took place at Henley College. Harry said "I really enjoyed the whole experience of taking part in the competition. Unfortunately I didn't win, however, I did receive some really positive comments about my dish. I cooked a chicken curry served with ginger rice. I got to cook in a proper commercial kitchen at Henley College along with five other students – some from different schools." their Tutor, Miss Cummings, said "having sampled their cooking in the past, I knew they would do well!".



# HELPING HAITI

Following the devastating earthquake which hit Haiti in January this year, the students and staff at The Woodlands School decided to hold fundraising events to raise money to help those whose lives have been shattered. The earthquake caused the deaths of around 220,000 people in Haiti and left an estimated 300,000 injured, and around a million people homeless. Through different fundraising events, The Woodlands School was able to send a fundraising cheque for £914.79. This is how the money was raised :



In Cresswell House, students donated money and held a cake sale. Year 11 tutor, Mrs Palmer, said "we try to instil a sense of helping those less fortunate than ourselves into the boys in our House. The devastation caused by the earthquake in Haiti has affected millions of people and has been widely shown in the media. The boys generously donated over £100 during an assembly and held a cake sale to raise even more money. The money raised will go towards sanitation and shelter for the people suffering after this appalling tragedy." The final amount raised by Cresswell House was : £148.41.

Ellis House held a sponsored jump to raise money and they invited students from other Houses to join them. The students jumped (up and down the Ellis House stage) the number of meters which equalled the height of the highest mountain in Haiti, The Pic la Selle. Students and teachers worked tirelessly for over an hour to jump a total of 2880m. Mr Rayner said "it was a brilliant effort by all involved and a very enjoyable afternoon. A special mention should go to Joseph Gilbert (7E1, pictured left) who raised over £40 of the total on his own. Well done and thank you to everyone who took part or sponsored students". The total raised by Ellis House was £113.06.



Students in McLachlan House raised money by donations and the Year 7's held a cake sale. They either baked cakes at home or bought some on their way to school to sell to students in the rest of the House and in other Houses. Twins Matthew (left) and Jamie (below) baked some cakes at home and also used some of their birthday money to buy the ingredients. Matthew said "'I think it is great we can help Haiti. We cannot imagine the pain they are going through". Tumaini Mutani (right), who baked some cakes and donated money, said "I donated money and baked cakes to help children my age and younger in Haiti." Year 7 tutor, Miss Sedgwick, said "since they started at The Woodlands in September, my tutor group have always been immensely supportive of each other, but as soon as the earthquake struck in Haiti, they turned their attention to supporting the victims whose lives were shattered in the disaster. Without any prompting, they decided to hold a cake sale and they organised baking and buying cakes by themselves. I was so proud of the way they unselfishly gave their money and time to help to raise funds for the disaster appeal. They worked well as a team and as a House we raised £114.49".



Students held a cake sale in Sparkes House. Learning Leader, Mr Smith said "a special thank you must go to David Ollive who helped to organise the sale, and Mrs McCarthy for what are now her legendary baking skills. In total we raised £131.66. A superb effort." (8Sp students, left, enjoying their cakes!)



Stringer House students raised £63 through donations during House Assembly. Other students, including Jay Gerada (left) brought cakes at McLachlan's cake sale. Jay also donated lots of reward stamps to help raise money.

Lots of students also donated their hard-earned reward stamps and attendance stamps. which were worth the equivalent of 10p each. A total of 1150 stamps were donated which equalled £115. (Arran Pallen, far left) donated 84 reward stamps and I gave £1.50 for cakes because "people over there need our help." Raymond Karangwa (left) said "I brought a cake and donated stamps to Haiti because when I see it on the news I want to help." Year 7 student, Yusuf Broujerdi (right), donated all of his 27 stamps "because I would have felt really guilty if I didn't do anything to help". Pictured far right, is Jordan de Vos who donated 22 stamps "because charity means a lot to me and my family support the people of Haiti". Year 11 Thompson students collectively donated 245 attendance stamps towards the Haiti appeal.



The students in the West Coventry Sixth Form raised £122 by holding a cake sale and they also donated the £100 which they had raised earlier in the year for a charity of their choice.

## Modern Languages visit to Aston University



Just after half term a group of forty Year 8 students and four staff caught the train to Birmingham for the school's first languages trip with this age group. When they arrived in Birmingham, they enjoyed a ten minute walk to the university buildings, where they were met by the receiving staff. Half of the group had a lecture in which they had to undertake some research about languages and to produce some answers to a quiz. The other group had a guided tour of the university campus, and found out from the university's student ambassadors what it was like to study at university. After break the groups swapped. They were then treated to an excellent lunch at the university's canteen, after which they had an

entertaining hour with one of the university language teachers, who showed a film and asked the group to present a report – in French – about what they had seen. Although this was quite a difficult task, our students responded superbly and showed off their excellent levels of French. The return walk and journey progressed smoothly and we were soon back at Coventry station, with everybody going home from there. Mr Harrison, who teaches French at The Woodlands said "the boys responded well to the challenges they had, and they were excellent ambassadors for the school".

## THE RIGHT READS!



As part of the Year 11 ECM course "Working in the Community", Daniel Kane, Head Boy of Cresswell House, returned to his old primary school, Mount Nod, along with West House Sports Captain, Jonathan Stone. Their task was to create a "reading wall" display of 'Books to Read Before You Leave Year 6'. Both are pictured here with their recommendations. Mrs Patchett, Year



5/6 teacher from Mount Nod Primary School, said "The students took on a project for me; to survey favourite books in Year 6 and create a display to show this. They completed this project with no fuss or need for help and I am really pleased with the result. The boys are a credit to The Woodlands School".

# The Investors



Our first venture into The Investors (a national Business competition) has now ended. The winning student team was from St Paul's School in the South East of England who entered a staggering 79 teams.

Congratulations to The Woodlands students of 'Square 2' (Daniel Murley, Ryan Gyr, Jack Brown and Usman Hussain) for topping our school table. Mrs Hobbs, (Curriculum Leader, Business Studies) said "I hope they all found the experience fun and interesting and maybe we can enter more teams next year and move our way through the rankings".

| Team          | Final Portfolio Value | School Position | Overall Rank (out of 7535) |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Square 2      | £102,205.56           | 1               | 4601                       |
| The Investors | £99,746.10            | 2               | 5859                       |
| The Chancers  | £99,223.76            | 3               | 6054                       |
| Pythag        | £89,086.40            | 4               | 7381                       |

# Art Competitions

The winners of the latest art homework competitions are :



**Reece**

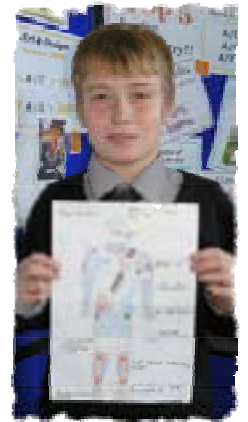
**Year 7**

**Design your own sports strip**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Jordan Anosczenko – Stringer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Reece Gask-Clarke – Cresswell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – William Holloway – Stringer



**William**



**Jordan**

**Year 8**

**Planet and Plant eating machine**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Calum Lake – McLachlan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Declan Miskimmon – Cresswell
- Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sam Richards – Stringer and Calvin Boporan – Thompson



**Declan**



**Calvin**



**Sam**



**Oliver**

**Year 7**

**Design and make a pair of glasses for a famous person/character**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Oliver Emery – McLachlan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Michael Hadley – Cresswell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> James East – Sparkes



**James**

**Year 8**

**Design a toothpaste tube**

- Year 8
- 1<sup>st</sup> Calum Lake – McLachlan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lewis Hines – Stringer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Connor Blundell – Sparkes



**Calum**



**Lewis**

# Ski trip to Austria



Bursting with excitement and with suitcases full of clothes, 58 boys and 9 staff headed off to Austria for our school skiing trip. Based in a traditional alpine lodge in a typically alpine Austrian village, the group travelled each day by coach to the surrounding ski areas, including some skiing in Switzerland. In the evenings they went bowling or swimming, enjoyed a pizza and an ice-cream evening, with a quiz at the hotel. Ski trip organiser, Mr Harrison, said "six days of lessons and skiing saw our skiers develop their skills and gain some excellent times in the ski race at the end. Now everybody can say that they can descend slopes under control – a great result after only six days' skiing". The traditional fancy dress night saw two of our senior lads dress as Olympic swimmers as they won the competition. Prizes were also given out for the Senior Tourist (Josh McNulty – Thompson House), Junior Tourist (Joe Hughes - McLachlan House) and Best Skier (Jack Waters - West House). Mr Harrison said "we had a great time with fantastic snow conditions. Planning has already begun for the trip in 2012 to France. Watch out for more information!"

# Table-Tennis



The school entered the Kitty Gray Table-Tennis League having been invited by the Coventry Table-Tennis association. The team, captained by Jordan Dowswell, with Sam Dixon, Josh Harrison and John Beasley (all of Cresswell House) clinched the title on the final league fixture. The Singles Championship was won by Sam Dixon.

# Men of Steel

The Men of Steel event, which the Year 7's (now Year 8) took part in last May, was filmed by a TV crew for a new BBC2 series called *My Life* which is shown on Saturday mornings. The first in the six-part series showed the students whilst they were at school as well as whilst they were competing in the assault course challenge. Last May the local and national press printed photos of the event and many news websites also featured the story. As the programme was shown on TV on Saturday 20 February, most TV guides featured the story, and showed photos of the students from The Woodlands taking part in the event as they were the first children in the country to have ever attempted the course, which is designed by a former soldier and is based in Wolverhampton. The course is used for the annual Tough Guy event held in January each year. Current Year 7 students need to listen to notices for details about his Year's Men of Steel event - coming soon!!

THE SUNDAY TIMES

TV mag

What's on TV

we love telly

BRITAIN'S TOUGHEST KIDS!

The tough get going

BBC TWO

My Life

BBC iPlayer



# Woodlands hits the airwaves!



## The Woodlands *Tinsel Takeover* on Radio One!

Shortly before Christmas, BBC Radio One ran a competition for individuals or groups to win a fifteen minute slot on Christmas Day on Radio One. A few Year 11's showed their interest in applying for the project, so Mr Phipps (Subject Leader of Media Studies) wrote the pitch with them.

The Radio One controller described the pitch as 'exactly what this day is all about' and The Woodlands beat off the competition to become the only school to take over Radio 1! Not only that, the producers were so impressed they gave the students a primetime slot: 11.00 a.m. on December 25<sup>th</sup> 2009.



The dozen or so students were assisted and guided by Mr Phipps and Miss Sedgwick, but wrote all the material themselves. They then spent a day in the studio putting it together before it was edited and sent off for broadcast.

Special mention goes to: a professional remix of *White Christmas* by Shane Doughty, Michael Ryan and Jack Donnelly; the unfunniest joke in the world by Jack Waters; a cringeworthy new version of *Last Christmas* by Ryan Salter; and a host of laughter from everyone involved.

Mr Phipps said "it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and everyone had lots of fun putting it together. The lads did the school, and the radio, proud...fame beckons!"

# The Woodlands School

## WOODLANDS

## STARS



Bradley Goldsmith, (Yr 7 McLachlan), above, has won his first boxing fight - the first he's ever taken part in. Bradley, who boxes for the Standard Triumph Amateur Boxing Club, has been training for four years and, in February, he won by a unanimous decision from the judges. Bradley is pictured here with his trophy. Well done!

Yr 11 Stringer student, Corey Venus, below, has been offered a contract at Leicester Tigers Rugby Club and has played for The Midlands. He recently had a trial for England and has been selected to play for England Counties. Corey also plays in the full-back position for The Woodlands School team. Corey is pictured here wearing his tie which was awarded to him when he represented The Midlands.



Kieran Smith (Yr 7 Ellis), above, is starring in this year's Coventry Gang Show at the Belgrade Theatre. Kieran is a member of The 47th Scout Group, based in Wyken. The Gang Show is an evening of entertainment by Coventry's Scout movement and is an annual event featuring acting, music, dance and singing.



Year 7 McLachlan student, Charlie Faulkner, left, has been signed for Coventry City Football Club under-12's. Charlie trains on Tuesdays after-school at the Alan Higgs Centre and plays in midfield. He will begin playing for Coventry City at the start of next season. In the meantime Charlie will continue playing for Chaplefield Colts and The Woodlands School.



Max Allen, above (Yr 7 McLachlan) is part of the Youth Theatre which is based at Jardine Crescent Youth Club. In March, Max took part in a performance called *From Banana Flats to Tin Town* where young people from Canley and Tile Hill came together to create a performance piece with a mixture of acting, dancing and MC's, to tell some of the stories from these two areas in Coventry.

Ross Thacker (Yr 11 Ellis), right, was recently nominated by his House for the *Involve Personal Development Award*. Around 170 students from Coventry and Warwickshire were nominated and, on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, Ross attended an awards ceremony at The Britannia Hotel, Coventry. Ross made it through to the final four, which is a marvellous achievement. Ross was nominated due to his progress and developments he has made since he first arrived at The Woodlands in 2005 in Year 7, to achieving 14 A\*-C GCSE grades by the time he reached the end of Year 10. Congratulations and well done to Ross from everyone at The Woodlands.



In June this year, Sam Richards, above (Yr 8 Stringer), is flying to Bahrain to compete in the International Children's Games. Sam will be representing England as part of the City of Coventry Swimming Club where he will race alongside eight other Coventry swimmers, four boys and four girls. The school would like to wish Sam the best of luck for the competition.

STUDENT VOICE



The school needed two bright, interesting, good-looking and dynamic students to write a column in the school newsletter. Unfortunately, there was no one available so they chose us; Matty and Jake.

The first thing we set about doing was thinking of something to write about. Some of the ideas we came up with were: after school activities (too many), Woodlands snowed under (too cold), Mr. Hunter's Leicester obsession (too pathetic), and so on.



Then our thoughts dried up, so we asked members of staff for interesting facts. You'd be amazed what they had to say. Here is a selection:

- ◆ It was the coldest winter for 50 years (thanks, Mr Smith).
- ◆ Miss Pearce's middle name is Elaine (fancy that!).
- ◆ There were no offsides in the 1987 FA cup final (Mr Young's fascinating fact).



- ◆ Not many people know what is behind the door to C13 (we do and we're not telling!).
- ◆ It is assumed that every citizen living in England and Wales knows every aspect of the Law (Mr Emanuel knew that one).
- ◆ There are 400 computers in the whole school (before you ask, no we didn't count them).

- ◆ Up to 100 people have somehow helped out or been a part of *Oliver!* (and it was really good apparently).



- ◆ It takes a total of 2 minutes 52 seconds to walk from Kent to Sparkes House (if you are us, that is).
- ◆ G13 is the hottest place on earth (seriously).
- ◆ Miss Sedgwick has a phobia of hamsters (so we hear...).

What we actually found out was that there is loads of stuff that we have learned in and out of the classroom. Okay, maybe some of it is more interesting than others, but in the words of Mr Murphy, "I don't believe it - every day's a school day!"- which, according to Mr Phipps, means something like "there is always more stuff to learn if you keep your eyes and ears open".

We reckon that may be the most important thing we've learned!

Matty and Jake

## Modern Languages visit to King's College London



Thirty boys and four staff boarded the 09:42 train from Coventry to London to begin a day's language adventure in the capital. After an uneventful journey, which included two hops on the tube, they arrived at King's. They were shown into the university's Open Learning Centre where each student was logged on to a computer and shown a series of language tasks, which they had to complete in their own time, with great success. After this the group spent lunch in Covent Garden, before returning to the college for another hour's lesson, where cultural aspects of France was the topic. After the lessons had finished, they walked over Waterloo Bridge and to the London Eye, where they saw a superb 4D film about the Eye, then enjoyed a 'flight' which gave them wonderful views of the London skyline. Mr Harrison, who organised the trip, said "we had a great day out, and one which has helped in the students' understanding of the language. The students were a credit to themselves and the school."



## BAD GUYS



Our Year 7's have been working on a joint production in their music and drama lessons. The Performing Arts Department produced a scheme of work where the students were to perform *Bad Guys* from *Bugsy Malone*. In their music lessons, the boys learnt all the words to the song and practised singing in an American accent. In their drama lessons, they practised dance moves to accompany their singing. Kiefer Foster enjoyed taking part and said "I liked working on the sequences in our groups, and even when we were in the background we still had to sing and dance." Mason McNally said "I enjoyed working with my group. We had to practise a lot in our lessons. It was hard at first but after a lot of practice we learnt all our lines and dance moves and it was fun".

## BIKES

### How they used to be!

On PSHCE Day 3, the Year 7's were visited by staff from the Coventry Transport museum who brought along with them some very old bikes. The students learnt about the origins of the bicycle, including some of those pictured here, which were made in Coventry. The students also discussed how to ride safely on a bike nowadays, and talked about the positive environmental impact of riding bikes, rather than travelling by cars.



# GOT TO DANCE!

As you may have seen on **Sky One's *Got to Dance*** programme, one of our students is part of a Bhangra dance group called the Bhangra Heads, and have appeared on the show, taking part in a dance competition. Ameet-Pal Panesar who is in Year 11 (Stringer House) and his older brother, Sumeet-Pal, who also used to be a student at The Woodlands, have recently formed a dance group with some friends and relatives.

Bhangra is a form of music and dance that originated in the Punjab region of India. Bhangra dance began as a folk dance conducted by Punjabi farmers to celebrate the coming of Vaisakhi, a Punjabi festival. It has been popularised by Punjabi artistes from the Sikh communities, with which it is now commonly associated. Today, Bhangra dance is seen in different forms and styles all over the globe – including pop music, film soundtracks, competitions and talent shows, such as *Got to Dance*.



The Bhangra Heads only get to train for a couple of hours in a local hall on Friday nights, having to fit practise around their studies. But they do not just dance - both Sumeet-Pal and his brother Ameet-Pal play rugby as well and have represented The Woodlands School at the sport. Leading up to the semi-finals Ameet-Pal said "we trained almost every night of the week".

The group did exceptionally well to make it through to the final 18, from thousands of entrants.

Ameet-Pal said "it was one of the best experiences I've ever had and I got a lot out of it. One of the most enjoyable parts was staying with everyone at the hotel and taking part in the rehearsals." Since appearing on the show, The Bhangra Heads have been asked to take part in a charity performance in aid of Sherbourne Fields Special School, Coventry, at the end of March.

Mrs Newman, Ameet-Pal's Learning Leader, said "I am incredibly proud to see one of our present boys and one of our leavers take part in such a nationally recognised programme *Got to Dance*. I am also proud how they have taken a less known genre of dance and showcased it to the nation.

The high-energy routines that the Bhangra Heads performed on the show reveal the dedication and commitment from all involved, especially Ameet. I am sure that they will be even more successful and all at The Woodlands are encouraged to witness a dedicated student in all senses of the word!"



The photos are courtesy of Sky One.



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**DIARY DATES**

**Thursday 1 April**  
**School breaks for Easter Holiday**

**Monday 19 April**  
**Summer Term begins**

**Monday 3 May**  
**School closed : May Bank Holiday**

**Friday 28 May**  
**School breaks up for half-term holiday**

**Monday 7 June**  
**Start of last half-term**

**Thursday 10 June**  
**Year 7 Parents' Evening**

**Wednesday 14 July**  
**Year 6 Induction Day**

**Thursday 15 July**  
**Year 6 Parents' Evening**

**Wednesday 21 July**  
**School breaks up for summer holiday**

**Advanced Notice**

Wednesday 1 September – Teacher Day

Thursday 2 September – Teacher Day

Friday 3 September – **Year 7 only**

Monday 6 September –  
start of Autumn term for **all** students

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*The Woodlander***

If you run a small business you may be interested in the opportunity for some additional low-cost advertising. For a small fee, your sponsorship will be seen by over 1000 Woodlands' parents, 500 parents from 12 local primary schools, every Coventry primary school Headteacher, our school Governors as well as all visitors to the school, and your company name, logo and contact details will be placed on our school website as a "Friend of the School".

If you would like to sponsor *The Woodlander*, then contact Julie Curtis on 02476 427674 or email [julie.curtis@woodlands.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:julie.curtis@woodlands.coventry.sch.uk) for more details.