



* W I N T E R *



NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2010



Headteacher
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MBA BA Hons NPQH

THE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LEFTWICH A MEDIA ARTS COLLEGE-PROMOTES AND RECOGNISES **CHOICE**

- Care, courtesy and consideration
- High standards
- Only behave towards others as we wish others to behave towards us
- Increased punctuality and attendance
- Can-do attitude
- Excellent examination results/employability

When we make the right **CHOICE**, we **enjoy** learning and **achieve success!**



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Happy New Year! Or is it? Well, in spite of the adverse weather conditions, necessitating the disappointing decision to have to close The County High School for two days so soon after the festive holidays, I always look for the positives and find them. A decision to close is never taken lightly. Nevertheless, working mums and dads sometimes must wonder why a school closes when their employer's business might not. However, our 'business' is children and their safety and wellbeing are of paramount importance to me. When television depicts employees struggling into work, most teachers will make the same efforts. However, when they arrive at their place of employment, they are not in a wholly adult environment where the employer can reasonably expect each colleague to exercise independently and collectively total commonsense, self-responsibility and self-reliance. These attributes are still developing in children, which is one reason Health and Safety legislation is so stringent.

So, what were the positives? On Tuesday, January 5th school remained open all day and functioned effectively. This was partly because colleagues, who were able to attend, worked extra hard covering for absent colleagues, doing extra duties to supervise children inside the building at break and lunch, so we had no reported injuries and partly because student behaviour was excellent in spite of some disappointment that they could not venture outside. The work of the Maintenance Team was superb on Thursday, January 7th. Chipping away as much impacted ice as possible to try to create safer access to the building was physically demanding, but extremely significant in enabling school to open the next day. I was also appreciative when my contact with the local council was greeted helpfully and Dunham and Granville Roads were gritted. The number of students who attended on January 8th was encouraging and I thank parents and carers who made a real effort to bring their children to school and for your understanding and support of my decision making.

Please use our website whenever there is adverse weather. If you do not have access, try to locate a friend or neighbour who does, whom you can telephone. Be assured, teachers will ensure the closure has minimal impact upon your child's learning.

So, may I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year, after all!





FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



ELECTIVES

**Thursday 21 JANUARY 2010
at 6:30pm**

This is an opportunity for parents of **Year 9** students to find out about the courses available to study in Years 10 & 11. It will be an opportunity to consider the pathways on offer, meet specialist staff to gain an insight into subjects offered and also have any questions answered regarding our Key Stage 4 Curriculum.

Making **CHOICES**
& decisions for the future



CONSULTATION DAY

Friday 5 February 2010

Pupils are to attend appointments with parents in full school uniform. Please bring your child's progress report and draft targets. Please arrive five minutes before your appointment and come to the entrance by the Hall from where you will be guided to your child's tutor. Remember on this day your child need only attend for the appointment unless he/she is being kind enough to act as a prefect and guide.

**FEBRUARY
2010**



YEAR 9 PARENTS PLEASE NOTE THAT **ELECTIVES EVENING** IS ON **THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2010** AND NOT THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2010 AS REPORTED IN THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER. APOLOGIES FOR THE ERROR.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

HOLIDAYS, 2010 – 2011

As part of the Northwich Education Improvement Partnership, Secondary School Headteachers discussed the proposed term dates suggested by the Local Authority for the academic year 2010-11 and each Headteacher took the discussion to their partner Primary School Headteachers. The main concern was the timing of the Easter holidays (2011) in relation to student preparation for both GCSEs and Key Stage 2 SATs. In effect, students would return to school for the Summer Term and enter straight into important public examinations.

Accordingly, it was decided to amend the schedule as we published in our November Newsletter and on our website. School will close for the Good Friday and Easter Monday Bank Holidays with the traditional two weeks being taken earlier in the Spring Term. This will have the added benefit of more evenly balanced term times, the number of weeks students study each term, thus better managing their learning.

SAFEGUARDING & MEDICATION

Parents/carers tend to be aware that if they wish School to hold any prescribed medication for their child, they need to provide a letter with clear instructions **and** a doctor's note. Please note that this process (a letter and a doctor's note) also applies to the holding of **non-prescribed medication**



SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY



ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

These courses are held at The County High School, Leftwich. To enrol on a course or for more information call The Community Education Team at Mid Cheshire College on: 01606 74444 or visit www.midchesh.ac.uk

COURSE	START DATE	END DATE	DAY	TIME	FEE
Computing for Improvers	26/01/2010	02/03/2010	Tues	7pm - 9pm	FREE
Jewellery Making	26/01/2010	02/03/2010	Tues	7pm - 9pm	£10
Tai Chi Taster	26/01/2010	02/03/2010	Tues	7pm - 8:30pm	£10

TERM DATES 2010

SCHOOL CLOSURES

SCHOOL OPENS

SPRING TERM 2010

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Friday 12 February

Friday 26 March

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Tuesday 23 February

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Monday 12 April

Tuesday 4 May

Monday 7 June

SUMMER TERM 2010

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Friday 30 April

Friday 28 May

Friday 16 July

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*1) Tuesday 31 August

*2) Wednesday 1 September

*3) Thursday 2 September

Monday 1 November

AUTUMN TERM 2010

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Friday 22 October

Friday 17 December

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May Day Bank Holiday - Monday 3 May 2010

*1) Staff Inset Day

*2) All Yr 7 & Form Prefects

*3) All Students Return

COMPUTER & INTERNET - HOME ACCESS

Home Access is a Government drive which will help low-income families gain access to a computer and the internet to get online at home.



If you are a low income family in receipt of certain benefits you could qualify for a grant to buy a computer and/or a minimum of one year's internet access. The programme is aimed at those who need it most and targets families that do not have access to a computer or the internet at home. A letter from school giving details will be with all parents/carers shortly.



WINNINGTON PARK MEN'S HOCKEY CLUB BOYS UNDER 16 TRAINING



Every Sunday morning 10:00am - 11:30am at Weaverham High School (Astro-Turf Pitch). All year 6 - 11 boys welcome, regardless of ability and experience. Equipment provided. Shin pads and gum shields recommended.

For further information contact Dennis Topping **01606 781612**

