



Newsletter

Murray Park
School

February 2015

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our February Newsletter. I wanted to let you know the results of our most recent parent surveys. Thanks to so many of you for completing them. This is the fourth year that we have surveyed parent views of the school, and we are very pleased with the strength of responses and the way in which this has improved over time. I have included a table with the results on the back page of this Newsletter, suffice to say, I am proud that the response to so many questions is overwhelmingly positive.

One of our mantras over the last few years for both staff and students "Everyone a Leader" I believe that school should be preparing young people to take leadership roles and be able to deal with the world outside school with confidence. As you will see from the Newsletter we provide a lot of opportunities for students to achieve in this way outside the classroom already. Over the next few months more of these opportunities will become available as we work with our students to represent others at school council meetings. I would be grateful if you would encourage your child to participate and also consider joining our new "Peer Listening" team.

Thank you for supporting the school at our recent Parents' Evenings and Tutor Day; attendance at which has been excellent. Parental support for our School Uniform Policy has also been fantastic. Visitors to the school often comment on how well turned out our students are. I would like to stress that hoodies, cardigans and sweatshirts are not permitted to be worn on the school site in place of winter coats.

Yours sincerely

Mr M. Owen
Head teacher

Mrs Bowler

ANNUAL YEAR 9 PARENTS EVENING / YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING

On Tuesday 3 March 2015 it will be the annual Year 9 Parents' Evening; alongside this on the same evening we will also be hosting our Year 9 Options Evening. These two opportunities are important for Year 9 students and their parents to attend. It will allow detailed progress discussions between class teachers and students, as well as the opportunity to view details of KS4 courses and allow for informal discussions regarding possible options for the next year. During the evening the complete options process will also be explained in full in the Cedar Park Hall at 5.15 pm and 7.00 pm, where there will also be an opportunity to ask questions. Look out for the letter this week inviting you to the Parents' Options Evening.

Mrs Bowler

GREAT NEWS FROM THE ICT DEPARTMENT

MURRAY PARK MICROSOFT OFFICE SPECIALIST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS—UK FINALISTS

The Microsoft Office Specialist World Championship is a global competition that tests students' skills on Microsoft Office Applications. Two Year nine students have been selected to attend the UK finals in Reading with a chance of winning the trip of a lifetime to represent the UK at the final round of the championship in Dallas, Texas from 9th to 12th August 2015 with a top prize of \$5,000 USD.

The UK Final will bring together the twenty finalists (highest score in quickest time—selected from the two qualifying rounds) at an event hosted by Microsoft UK in Reading on 17th June 2015. **JESSICA PELLING (9CO)** and **GUSTE BALCIUNAITE (9SE)** have been selected as two of the ten students from the Round 1 draw. They have both done fantastically well as approximately 5000 candidates sat MOS exams in the UK and Ireland during this period.

Mr Moore

'STUDENTS ALOUD' Students singing group rehearse Tuesday and Wednesday from 12.30pm to 12.55pm. Current members include Meghan Trainor, George Ezra, Sam Smith and David Bowie. More singers are welcome. We are preparing for the next performance on **TUESDAY 10 MARCH 15.**

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Did you know:

- Inset Day Monday 23 March 2015
- Break up for Spring Term Friday 27 March 2015

Follow us on Twitter:
@murrayparkderby



School News

STEM PROJECT WITH YEAR 9 PUPILS

All year nine pupils will participate in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) project during their Science lessons. This will be a 10 hour project working with Nuclear Graduates from Rolls-Royce. During their first session the year 9 students conducted an investigation into how to make an effective battery. In the second session they have been developing their design skills through building pylon structures. The project will last throughout the spring and summer term and help pupils to develop their STEM skills which will be invaluable for their future career prospects. The pupils involved in this project are **Taybah Bi, Arbab Saddiqa, Freya Barlow, Chloe Slater, Stanislav Cervenak, Lorenzo Lalik, Jesica Bundova and Jake Parkin.**

SUMMER 2015 GCSE EXAMS

MONDAY 11TH MAY TO WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE 2015

(iGCSE English will be on Tuesday 5th May, outside the Normal exam period)

RESULTS ISSUED THURSDAY 20TH AUGUST AM

Results will only be posted if a stamped addressed envelope is provided by a candidate



'SMASH UP' BADMINTON

Badminton sessions started on Monday 26 January 2015 after school for six weeks with a visiting coach. They will then be continued by Mrs Hollins. All year groups are welcome to join in.



LUNCH TIME TEXTILE CLUBS

MONDAY—CLOSED

TUESDAY - YEAR 7'S

WEDNESDAY—YEAR 10'S & 11'S ONLY

FRIDAY—CLOSED

(LIMITED NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE—YOU WILL NEED A PASS FROM MS SCOFFINGS TO ATTEND)

YOU WILL NEED A PASS FROM MS SCOFFING TO ATTEND



YEAR 7 CHRISTMAS CAFÉ

A big thank you to all parents and friends of the school who supported the Year 7 Christmas Café at the end of last half term. It was a very enjoyable afternoon. The students put a lot of energy into producing a variety of products for sale and performing for our visitors. Donations of cakes were also greatly appreciated. As a result of the event, we are hoping to invite a visitor from the 'Padley Centre' and a visitor from 'Umbrella', two local charities, to come into School to receive a cheque for £150.00 each from the profits made on the day.



LIBRARY BOOKS

Could all Year 10's please return their library books to the library as a matter of urgency.

Thankyou



School News

PEER LISTENING COUNSELLORS

After the Easter Holidays, we will be recruiting students to join the Peer Listening Team. It is an exciting opportunity, providing students with the skills in dealing with a range of issues that might arise during the school day and beyond. This will support pupils in feeling comfortable reporting issues in a non-threatening manner, helped by their peers. Students will receive comprehensive training and also be able to work towards receiving a professional qualification. If your son/daughter is interested in joining the scheme then please support them and encourage them to contact Mrs Challand for further details.

RAISING ASPIRATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENT

- ◆ Careers guidance interviews for year 11 have been going on; to help make sure students have a smooth transition into post 16. Many students have had their post 16 interviews for 6th Form or College.
- ◆ 'Aim Tuesday' which is an extended opportunity to learn session after school for Y11's has been well attended.
- ◆ Future events for February include—Raising the Grade Maths and English sessions at the University of Derby. Nestle Ltd Company based in Tutbury is running a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) session with Y10 students. Five students who are selected by the Nestle staff will have the chance to represent Murray Park School in the final 'STEM Challenge' day competing against other schools to try and win a paid work experience placement over the summer at the Nestle Company.
- ◆ 'Women into Engineering' event on 24th February at Derby University, Kedleston Road Site in the HEAP lecture theatre, this is open to all female students and parents/carers.
- ◆ As always please keep referring to the school website and the twitter feed for more information about forthcoming events.

MOCK INTERVIEWS

We had Mock Interviews for Year 10's that took place at the School on Thursday 5 February 2015 to prepare students for future interviews. We had 35 employers from 15 companies including Rolls-Royce, Bombardier, Dept for Work and Pensions, Derby City Council and many more supporting us. This event was highly successful with positive comments from the employers who were mightily impressed with our students. Some of the employers suggested that they would be prepared already to employ some of our students. Just to quote one employer who said; *"Best interview I've done. Confident, charismatic and eloquent, I would employ Callum now"*

Mr Taylor and Mrs Robinson





School News

PARENT SURVEYS 2015

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2015
Question	Total agree	Total agree	Total agree	Total agree	Don't know
My child is happy	86	90	93	96	0.5%
My child is safe	92	94	96	96	0.5%
My child makes good progress	73	93	95	97	0%
My child is well taught	79	92	97	98	0.5%
My child is looked after	N/A	92	97	98	0.5%
My child receives appropriate homework	N/A	92	92	94	1.3%
School ensures pupils behave	65	88	91	94	2.5%
School will address bullying	N/A	80	89	91	2%
The school is well led and managed	77	88	96	97	1%
I would recommend this school	81	89	95	96	1%

HANDLING TEENAGE BEHAVIOUR

DO ANY OF THESE SOUND FAMILIAR ?

HE NEVER ARRIVES HOME ON TIME—BEDROOM LOOKS LIKE A PIG STY—MY FRIEND HAS ONE, WHY CAN'T I ? —SHE'S ALWAYS ON HER PHONE—I'M FED UP OF HEARING "IT'S NOT FAIR" - HE ALWAYS SEEMS SO MOODY

Are you finding handling your teenagers behaviour a challenge? We are running a series of workshops at Murray Park School, that will help you to manage anything from typical to challenging teenage behaviour. The aim of the workshops is to help you as a parent feel more confident and provide you with helpful tips and skills you can use. If you would like more information or would like to book a place, please contact the school on 01332 515921 and ask to speak to Mrs Day.

BASKETBALL

Year 7 Basketball team have won both their league tournaments.

DERBYSHIRE CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPTONSHIPS

The following students **Jessica Curtis, Harry Silkstone, Ted Stevenson** and **Tim Field** were selected to run in the Derbyshire Cross Country championships held on Thursday 19 February 2015.



INDOOR ATHLETICS

Congratulations to all our indoor athletics team on a fantastic effort at the recent championships. The event was a great evening of competition and the pupils enjoyed putting themselves against some of the fastest feet in Derby. The Year 10 pupils were also involved in running and organizing the primary version of the event. Liam Drake the Derby City Sports Coordinator was extremely impressed with how our young leaders conducted themselves.

