



# Newsletter



Murray Park School

November 2014

## Murray Park Students in the Spotlight!

Murray Park has always been a school promoting the equality of options for all students and recently two of our ex-students have hit the headlines. Firstly Kirsten Gorten, 20, who appeared at the Conservative Party Conference explained to delegates how her time at school prepared her for her career now as the only female apprentice welder in Derby.

Standing on the stage in front of hundreds of delegates in Birmingham, Kirsten spoke about how work experience at train-maker Bombardier had inspired her to take up a welding apprenticeship when she left school at 16.

The former pupil told the conference: "I was inspired to join the industry when I was at school. In years 10 and 11, I did work experience for both Bombardier and Rolls-Royce one day a week.

"That experience was so important because it made me realise what it was that I really enjoyed. Without that opportunity, I might not be stood here in front of you today."

[Click here for the full story](#)

Also in the news was Sophie Woodings who left Murray Park only in the summer. She explained why she chose a career at train maker Bombardier rather than the beauty salon: "Few people study engineering as well as beauty but they were both among the options I chose in year 10. As the year progressed, I decided that the engineering course was more interesting and rewarding than learning about beauty treatments. I did my school work experience at Rolls-Royce and then went back voluntarily in the six-week holidays to gain more experience to help back me up when applying for jobs. While on work experience, I was accepted as part of the Rolls-Royce team. This then made me make my mind up that this was certainly the career for me." (Derby Telegraph 17 October 2014)

[Click here for the full story](#)

Our current Year 10 students will have the opportunity to complete a work experience placement in the summer term. Please encourage them to participate as you can see that this often is the opportunity to develop new skills and a passion for a future career.



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## Did you know:

- Year 11 Parents' Evening is on Tuesday 11th November
- Parent Forum is taking place on Thursday 11th December
- Christmas Concert is on Wednesday 17th December
- Break up for Christmas on Friday 19th December
- Return to school on Monday 5th January



## Poems and Extended Learning Opportunities

### National Poetry Day

This year's National Poetry Day was Thursday 2nd October and Murray Park's Year 7 students enjoyed a visit from local poet Paul Wiggins. The theme of the day was "Remember" and Mr Wiggins gave readings of poems on that theme, including his own poem "Class Reunion". Students took part in a poetry competition, producing some excellent work.



Pictured with Paul Wiggins are Lucy Clinkard, Alex Jones, Jake Roome and Katie Greenaway

### Extended Learning Opportunities

During this term we have been changing the way that we set our homework in order to maximise the learning for all pupils. Homework at Murray Park School is now set as Extended Learning Opportunity tasks (ELO), that your child is expected to complete each half term for all subjects. Each ELO contains a set of tasks which students must complete over a minimum of three weeks each half term. Individual teachers set regular deadlines to ensure that all students successfully complete the tasks on time.

As some students many benefit from additional support in order to meet the deadlines of their ELO we will now run ELO after school clubs for each year group once a week. The sessions will run from 3-4pm and students will have access to computers if needed. In addition to this, department and individual year groups also may have time for students to meet their teachers and do their work on ELO's.

Day	Year	Room	Year	Room
Monday	Y9	ICT 2	Y10	ICT3
Wednesday	Y11	ICT2	Y8	ICT4
Thursday	Y7	ICT2		

As we also try to ensure parents have as much information as possible to support their children we are in the process of gradually adding the details of the ELO to the school website for every year group. These can be found on the school website at [www.murrayparkschool.derby.sch.uk](http://www.murrayparkschool.derby.sch.uk) clicking on Student Zone and then homework.

## Raising Aspirations and Macmillan Coffee Day



### Raising Aspirations and Achievement

#### Year 11 Careers and Post -16 Plans

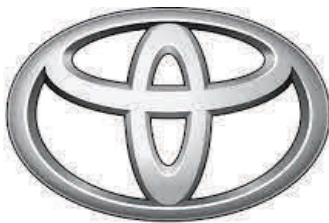
**Post-16 Options Evening** – education providers from all over Derby were represented so that our students could discuss potential further education ideas.



**Careers Interviews** – We have seen approximately 50 Yr11 students so far, this will be a major push for us in the run up to Christmas to ensure we see all students before they need to start applying for Post -16 opportunities.

**Derby Skills Festival** – In September we took 15 students to the Derbyshire Skills Festival held at Pride Park. This event was a chance for students to explore options for when they leave school by talking to education providers and employers.

**Aim Tuesdays** are up and running, approximately 25 Year 11 students are involved in various interventions to help them to raise their grades and prepare them to take their GCSE exams in June.



**TOYOTA**

On 8<sup>th</sup> October we were invited to visit the Toyota plant in Burnaston with a group of our Year 10 Engineering and Construction students. We participated in a tour of the factory and some team building exercises, as well as listening to a talk from some of Toyota's latest apprentices and graduates. Our students were commended by the Managing Director of Toyota for their team building skills and how they represented Murray Park School.

### Macmillan Coffee Day

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September we hosted a Macmillan Coffee Day, starting with a Coffee Morning which was set up and hosted by some of the Y11 Community Captains and Vice Captains. This was attended by lots of parents and several members of the Adult Education classes that took place during the morning. (Members of the over 50s Keep Fit class would like us to run a coffee morning every week for them!)



At breaktime, there was a cake sale for all students. This was very well attended and lots of cakes were consumed. After school, some of the same Y11s set up the 'Café' again so that parents attending the 'New Intake' evening could enjoy a drink and a piece of cake. The Y11s who helped were complimented throughout the day on their politeness and helpfulness.



As a result of the number of cakes provided, a further cake sale took place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Due to the students' hard work and the generosity of some staff and parents providing cakes, we have been able to send a cheque to Macmillan for £337.



## Enrichment Day – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014

### **Year 11**

The focus for Y11 was on CEG (Careers Education and Guidance). Students learned about completing application forms or writing a personal statement, depending on their plans after Y11. Two lessons were based around developing their understanding of what options are available to them and how to access them. A visiting speaker, Dom Anderson, gave a very motivational and inspiring talk about some of the mistakes he had made and how he had turned his life around. The final session was an entertaining demonstration by several members of staff of how (and how not to) conduct yourself when going for an interview.

### **Year 10**

All the Y10 students were involved in an Enterprise Day. They were set the challenge in small groups to create an innovative new design for a fashion item/range, an educational toy or activity or something for an office. The students had to make their 'pitch' to the other companies working in their classroom and judge each other. The 8 winning companies (2 from each community) then had to repeat their pitch to a 'guest judging panel' in front of all the rest of the students in Y10. The originality of some of the ideas was brilliant and the presentations were of a very high standard, especially that of the winning team who produced an idea called 'The Education type of Enterprise' activity. The winners were Qamar Adalat, Rhiannon Davies, Beth Smith, Henna Kanwal and Aaron Lasham. Their community, Merlin were also the overall winners.

### **Year 9**

Year 9 were in form groups for their Creativity Day: they had a day at the movies. This time they weren't watching them but making trailers, interviewing actors and planning their own films in order to impress our judges at the Murray Park Film Festival. Students designed sets, created costumes and make-up, devised and performed dialogue as well as using props so that they could win the prestigious 'Murray Award'. The students had a fantastic day with the talents of the film makers and actors being show-cased in the main hall in the afternoon. Congratulations to 9Co who were the eventual winners.

### **Year 8**

Y8 were split into Community Groups and challenged to plan a sporting event for all the secondary school children in Derby based on the recent Invictus Games. They had a list of 'must haves' including a list of events, an anthem, a torch and team kit and any other ideas they could come up with.

They then had to split their group in half – presenters and judges. The presenters had to tell each of the other groups in turn about their bid whilst the judges listened to all the other bids and scored them. Mrs Bentley's Kestrel group were judged to have produced the best overall bid and Kestrel were the overall winners.

### **Year 7**

Year 7 had the opportunity for the whole year group to go to Oaklands Manor, where they spent a very exciting day doing team building and confidence building exercises. The day was a huge success with many of the students and staff discovering skills that they never realised they had and overcoming obstacles of all sorts to succeed in completing climbing walls and assault courses. The trip looks even better when you take a look at the **amazing** photos that Mr Gardner has taken! The students were able to watch themselves in their form groups and hopefully the many parents who attended the Year 7 Tutor Evening on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October also enjoyed the video put together by Mr Gregory.





### Design and Technology

The Design and Technology Department has recently recruited this year's Student Technicians. Competition was fierce as 17 applications were handed in for only 10 positions. Application letters were written to a high standard and feedback given to all. The successful applicants have been assigned to a member of the D&T team to assist with tasks to further enhance and improve the department.

Our Student technicians will:

- Represent the department at Open Evenings
- Help keep the D&T section of the school website up to date with current news and events.
- Suggest ways to improve the department to make it more "student friendly"
- Update notice boards
- Assist with specialist Teaching and Learning days such as Year 6 Induction and Enrichment days.



Our new Student Technicians are:

Beth Cox, and Rhiannon Rees (Mr Cantrill); Abbie Fletcher and Kate Alderson (Mrs Logan); Kieran O'Neill and Tom Silkstone (Mr Blood); Emma Diep, Charlotte Allen and Amy Swinson (Mrs Scoffings); Aporva Varshney and Andreas Patko (Mr Cannell).

### PE Department

#### **Trampolining**

This re-started at Murray Park with 25 very keen and enthusiastic students in Years 7, 8 and 9. Students are of varying abilities but with all their enthusiasm Mrs Caton is sure they will all fly!

There is a competition in Derby City in November which Murray Park hope to attend.

#### **Cross Country**

Year 7 Girls' team finished third in the City with two pupils finishing first and second individually.

Year 7 Boys' team finished fifth.

#### **Badminton and Table Tennis clubs**

These are becoming very popular at lunchtimes. (Table Tennis after school on a Wednesday starts after half term).

After half-term the following clubs will be running:

- Basketball
- Table Tennis (Two city tournaments)
- Badminton
- Futsal (City Tournaments for all age groups)
- Dry floor Curling (Something new to Murray Park – City Comp in December)







# Calendar & Key Dates

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Don't forget to visit our website!



## CALENDAR

**Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov - Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Nov - Readathon**  
**Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Nov - Y11 Parents' Evening**  
**Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Nov - Y11 Leavers Certificate Evening (2014 Leavers)**  
**Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Nov - Y11 'Help your Child Revise' evening**  
**Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Nov - Y10 Work Experience Eve**  
**Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Nov - INSET day**  
**Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Dec - Parent Forum (6:30pm)**  
**Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Dec - Y7 Christmas Café (1pm)**  
**Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Jumper Day**  
**Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Dec - Rewards Trips**  
**Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Concert (6pm)**  
**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Dec - Break up for Christmas**  
**Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Jan - Students return to school**

## HOLIDAY DATES

	<u>Last Day at School For Students</u>	<u>First Day Back at School For Students</u>
<b>CHRISTMAS 2014</b>	<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015</b>
February 2015 Half Term	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>SPRING 2015</b>	<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>
May 2015 Half Term	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June
<b>SUMMER 2015</b>	<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	

## Inset Days

Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2014
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2015
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2015
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2015

## Forthcoming Events

The onset of winter may be a dismal time, but there is always Christmas to look forward to!



Our annual winter fund-raiser, the Murray Makeover and Shopping Evening, will take place on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December**. There will be an opportunity for adults and students to purchase gifts for Christmas and indulge themselves in a file and polish, new hair style or perhaps enjoy some reflexology as well as eat and drink delicious refreshments.

Look out for the publicity in the next few weeks and buy a ticket.

