

STUDENT ACTIVITY REPORT **March 2011**

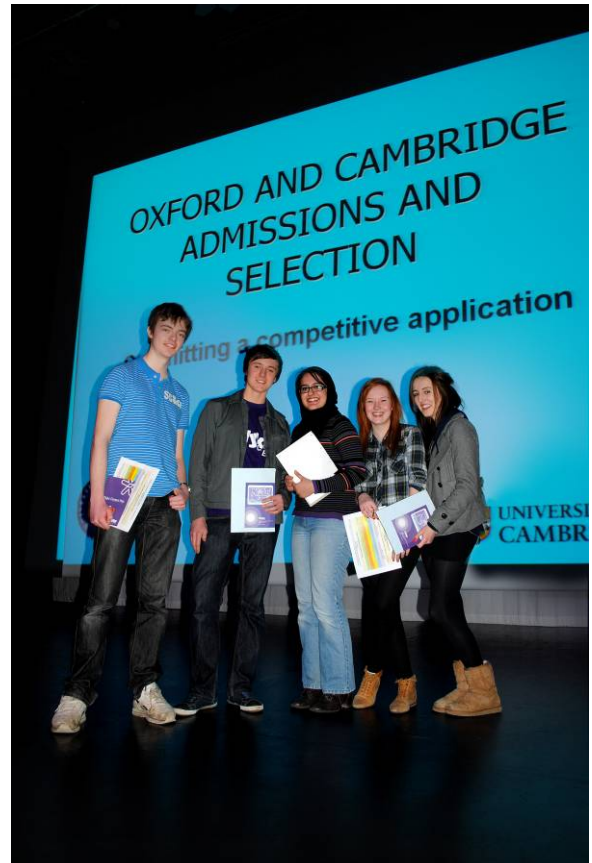
COLLEGE-WIDE NEWS

The Best Students in the Region meet Oxford and Cambridge Tutors

Wyke hosted a Learning Day on Friday 18th February, for the most academically gifted students in the Humber region. Academics and students from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge gave lectures and ran workshops on topics in the Arts, Sciences and Mathematics that were designed to extend and stimulate students' intellectual experience. Students from eight schools and colleges in the area accepted our invitation to participate with Wyke students in this unique event which it was hoped will encourage them to apply to the most competitive universities.

The event included advice on how to go about applying to top universities, and academic sessions in topics ranging from medieval history to exploring the atom.

Alexandra Bankoff, organiser of the event, and guide to Oxbridge applicants at Wyke, said "Student feedback was extremely positive from all students, a great deal of it positively glowing."



INDIVIDUAL STUDENT NEWS

Oxbridge Application Success

We are delighted to report on the successful Oxbridge application of two of our students. One of last year's second-years, Claudia Hogg-Blake, has been accepted to read Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Balliol College, Oxford. A current second-year, Robert Rouse, has received an offer to read Mathematics from Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

Spanish Student wins Study Prize – report from Joyce Cochrane, Teacher of Spanish

On Wednesday 16th February a group of AS and A2 Spanish students went after college to an event organised by the Castilla and León Autonomous Community at Hull University. First, we heard a clear and well-delivered lecture in Spanish on the history, geography and culture of Castilla and León, illustrated with slides and maps. This was followed by a good selection of "tapas", and by a presentation from the officially recognised language schools in Castilla y León. Alex Todd, who studies both Spanish and French at AS level, was particularly fortunate, as she

won a two-week all expenses paid study holiday in Salamanca. We were all delighted – and rather envious!



Alex is pictured on the right with other language students, Scarlett Pharoah and Ricardo Ribeiro.

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS...

Biology – report from Valerie Evans, Head of Biology

On 20th and 21st December, 12 Biology students and 2 staff visited the London Zoo and the Science Museum. The purpose of the visit was to extend work done for the Biol4 exam in January on use of zoos for conservation, looking at a variety of species in different habitats.



The work at the Science Museum included looking at evolution, DNA structure, medicine - all very useful and interesting in preparation for work in the next module Biol5. Everybody had an amazing time despite the freezing weather!

French – report from Nicola Johnstone, Teacher of French

AS French students taking part on the Belgian Exchange are making their return visit at the end of this month. In addition to spending time with their Belgian partner in their host family they will be doing work experience in places as diverse as a primary school, a florist's, a museum and a lingerie shop. We will be having a cultural tour of Brussels with the Belgian school so will have a chance to see the centre of the European Union and also an art gallery.

The Belgians' visit here in October was very successful – they went to York, visited Hull Fair, went to the Wilberforce Museum in Hull and went to London for the day and had a chilly tour of the sights on an open-top bus! We were able to present them all with a medal commemorating the abolition of the slave trade by Wilberforce. The students also all worked together in class on a advertising task and produced bilingual displays of their work.



German/Performing Arts – Janet Wynn, Head of Languages

Still to Come.....Wyke's German Exchange with Gymnasium Barntrup 2011 with 'Ein Medley von Musicals'

Thirteen language and performing arts students will take part in the exchange visit to Gymnasium Barntrup in Germany in April. Five of the students currently study German and hope to develop their linguistic skills whilst staying with host families and attending lessons in school.

The eight Performing Arts' students will offer drama, dance and song, in fact 'a medley of musicals', for German audiences.

Mathematics

On 12th November 2010 a team of maths students consisting of Jade Wilson, James Morton, Joe Foxon and Robert Rouse, took part in the regional round of the senior United Kingdom Mathematics Competition. This involved three hours of very arduous maths challenges against

other local colleges and sixth forms in the area. The Wyke team won by an astonishing clear margin of 20 points from the runner-up team, Selby College. The team's success meant that they travelled to London at the beginning of February to take part in the national final against winning regional teams from 65 other institutions from all over the country. Only two other sixth form colleges took part, the remainder being sixth forms from grammar schools, private schools and public schools.

Despite scoring around 80% the team came 51st out of 65, but Head of Maths, Ian Gould, was very impressed that they beat so many of the sixth forms which were there. (The winning team was Harrow School, who scored 99% of the available marks!).

Congratulations to the team on their fantastic achievement of reaching the final and earning the right to take part in a competition in such company.

Media Studies - Report on the Media and Film Departments visit to New York by Tim Anderson, Course Leader



In February this year 40 students and 3 staff visited New York. The visit was arranged through Study Link Tours and the arrangements were highly efficient and thorough, with no delays or problems on either side of the Atlantic.

The students began with a visit to Times Square and Hard Rock Café on the first evening.

The next day they went to the Grand Central Station: this was the visit's nearest subway station (within walking distance) and acted as a central location for the students to aim for if they became lost! It was also in order to purchase an all-week subway pass – this proved to be a very economic way of travelling.

The group visited the New York film Academy, the NBC studios located at the Rockefeller Centre (both guided tours) and the Empire State Building.





On Wednesday the group had a tour of HOT 97 radio station and the chance to record their own radio jingle. They then visited the Ground Zero memorial museum, and the students then had an afternoon shopping on Fifth Avenue.

The following day the students had a tour of The Fashion Institute of Technology – of particular interest to those students who hope to become fashion journalists – and then a visit to Liberty Island and the Statue of Liberty. China town was the location for the evening meal.

On the Friday the students visited Central Park (with Strawberry fields memorial site), The National History Museum and The Museum of Modern Art.

The students had a really wonderful experience and in some cases the students blossomed, with peer support offered, and showed a mature attitude. A visit of this nature was of a real benefit to the students' studies and experience of the college, and as a life experience; the students have already stated that they will never forget the visit.



The students all behaved well and represented Wyke very well indeed with polite behaviour, showing respect and consideration to everyone they came in to contact with. They were a credit to the college.

I must also offer my sincere thanks to Val Chappell and Kathie Heathcoat who gave exemplary support.

Music – report by Gareth Reaks, Director of Music

St Mary's Church in Beverley proved an enchanting and atmospheric venue for the Christmas Concert on 16th December. For the Director of Music at least, this performance was memorable. The concert began with a beautiful performance of Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*. The Girls' Vocal Ensemble was joined by Angelina Warburton, an outstanding harpist from the Royal Northern College of Music. A full performance of this magical music is no easy task and the students are to be congratulated for rising to the challenge. For many it was the highlight of the concert.

Another significant achievement was the choir's performance of Vaughan Williams *Five Mystical Songs* with Robert Poyser of Beverley Minster again joining us at the organ. Our students are so fortunate to perform alongside such accomplished musicians. The baritone solos were expertly shared between Craig Coultas and Julian Neaum and the choir sounded magnificent in the glorious acoustic.

By happy coincidence (or planning!) these performances supported the study of set works for A level. Other highlights included the Wind Quintet, the Big Band (in excellent form) and the final item, a moving performance by Poppy Shotts and the Baroque Ensemble of Handel's *Lascia chio Pianga*.



There are three more performances to look forward to before the year's end, each with major challenges. The two spring concerts (Harrogate on 4th April and Wyke Theatre on 6th April) will both feature full performances of Purcell's opera *Dido and Aeneas*. This includes major vocal and instrumental roles for our students as soloists, choristers and orchestral players, not to mention the college's harpsichord! The opera will feature as the second half of the Wyke concert and the entire Harrogate concert. We shall be joined again by Robert Poyser and a handful of ex-students for this performance. The first half will comprise of mainly instrumental music performed by the college's chamber ensembles and soloists including a brass quintet rendition of *Music Hall Suite* by Joseph Horowitz. The customary first year recital in the Theatre completes the year's recital programme in late June.

Travel and Tourism

The A2 Travel and Tourism students have been busy organising trips for other students as part of their Unit 8 work.

Tarik Lamghafri, Beth Higbee and Nicola Coates organised a visit for the BTEC Health and Social Care students to the Thackray Museum in Leeds.



Daniel Hall, Grissy Ormerod, Jade Robson, Chloe Davison, Sophie Li, Sophie Sharman, Corin Bowler and Abbie Sandall organised visits to York for AS Travel and Tourism students.



Rachel Wallis, Ameer Majidiasl, Rebecca Cordell and Leonie Naylor took 150 Media and Film Studies students to the Bradford Media Museum for a visit and film viewing.

All visits were very successful and excellent feedback was received. All the students got good marks for their work!

Sports and PE Report – Mike Ridley, Teacher of PE/FESCO

It has been a fantastic year so far for sport at Wyke, with a record number of students taking part in a varied number of sporting teams and extra-curricular clubs. Here is a brief summary of what has happened to date.

Football

The football 1st team has enjoyed its most successful year to date, reaching the regional final of the British Colleges' Cup, a brilliant achievement for the college, losing 4-3 to a last minute goal in extra time. They also managed to reach the last 16 of the English Schools' cup, losing to a football academy from Accrington. In the league, they currently sit top of the performance table, having been unbeaten in 12 games.

The second and third teams are enjoying successful seasons also, sitting 1st and 2nd respectively in the participation league. The second team boasts an impressive record of played 9, won 9.

The college has also been able to field a 4th team for the first time, and also a recreational 5th team, who also take part in competitive friendly fixtures.

The college also runs a 5-a-side league on Thursday lunchtimes, with 70 players taking part each week.

Basketball

The basketball team is enjoying a successful season, currently sitting top of their league. They also enjoyed a fantastic cup run, reaching the semi final of the British Colleges' cup.

Netball

The netball team has enjoyed similar success to the football first team, currently sitting top of their performance league, still unbeaten all season. In the cup, the first team performed well and reached the regional finals of the British Colleges' cup which again is a fantastic achievement. The second team also enjoy competitive matches.

Rugby

There is an excellent structure for rugby playing. We enjoy a partnership with Hull Rugby Club, with coaches from the club coming to train the students and allowing us to use their facilities.

COLLEGE MARKETING

Wyke thinks outside the (phone) box!

Kingston Communications is currently using its phone boxes in Hull and East Yorkshire to offer local businesses a new way to promote themselves through eye-catching posters on the outside of their payphone kiosks.

We decided to try the phone box advertising and have become one of the first local organisations to do so. The posters include a 'quick response' barcode, which people with a smart phone can scan and store. The barcode contains our website address, which can then be easily accessed by the person who has scanned the advert to enable them to find out more information.

Mike Rogerson, Vice Principal (Students and Staff), said, "We already advertise on KC's Karoo website from time to time, which makes it easy for potential students to click straight through to our website and find more information about Wyke's excellent results and facilities or download our prospectus.

We hope the posters will work in a similar way – they're highly visible so we hope they'll catch the attention of prospective students, who can then scan the quick response barcode and visit our website later.

We have received hundreds of applications for next September and are looking forward to our fifth consecutive increase in student numbers".



Students, Mike Prince, Christine Angell, Nikki Buttrick and Ameer Majidiasl, had their photographs taken next to a KC telephone box in King Edward Street in the city.

FUNDRAISING

Christmas boxes for out of area RAF personnel

The students of Emma Kelley, Tutor and Teacher of History, put together shoe boxes filled with gifts for RAF personnel who were serving away from home over the festive season. Emma received a letter from the Wing Commander at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire, asking her to pass on his sincere thanks to the students for their extremely kind gesture.

The Station Commander remarked, "It is very pleasing to know that our personnel are not forgotten especially at this time of year. Your students should be very proud of themselves - they are a real credit to Wyke Sixth Form College and I wish them well in their future careers".

Fundraising for Breast Cancer Care – 'Pink Fridays'

In October last year staff again took part in the annual fundraising for breast cancer care by dressing up in pink clothing and donning accessories!

Well done and thanks to the staff, and to students in Jamie Davies' and Ann Johnson's tutor groups, who supported the cause by giving their loose change. Together with staff donations, we raised our biggest amount to date, a fantastic £102.93.

Sponsored cycle ride

Well done to our BTEC Sports students who conducted a sponsored cycle ride for charity in January on an exercise bike outside the Library! The students cycled from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm, Monday to Friday, with each student being assigned an hour slot to cycle as far as they could in that time.

By the end of the week they had managed to cycle over a total of 1028 km, a huge achievement, and raised the magnificent amount of £850.



Jeanette Webster,
Principal's PA

March 2011