

This Week

Volume 16, Issue 9

8 November 2013

From the Principal:

Our Annual Achievement Evening took place last night and we were delighted to welcome Sharon Davies, Chief Operating Officer for Young Enterprise, as our guest speaker. Students who left the College in the Summer Term of 2013, having taken their GCSE examinations, returned to receive their certificates. It is an event that acknowledges the hard work that has been carried out by the students and staff and the support that has been provided by parents and carers.

Special prizes were awarded which include:

- outstanding achievement and effort
- the Sakinah Awards for Service to the Community and Leadership
- the Emma Phillips Award for a student who has achieved under difficult circumstances
- the Princess Diana Memorial Award for making a contribution to the community
- Chair of Governors' Award.

Three of our gifted and talented students, Hannah Whitcombe, Hannah Webbe and Danielle Hutchins, gave speeches about their time at Sir Jonathan North.

The event was very well attended by students and their parents or carers.

Details of award winners will be provided next week.

Alison Merrills

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Clair de Lune by Debussy: listen to the piece of music. Think about what emotions it creates.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CvFH_6DNRCY

COLLEGE CALENDAR

Term dates for 2013-2014 are available on the College website www.sjncc.leicester.sch.uk

14 November 2013	HPV Injections
15 November 2013	Children in Need non-uniform day
21 November 2013	Year 11 Parents' Evening
11 December 2013	Christmas Concert
12 December 2013	Parent Forum
20 December 2013	College closes for Christmas

REMINDER: Year 11 Parents' Evening

Parents of Year 11 students have the opportunity to meet their daughter's subject teachers on Thursday 21 November from 5.30pm – 7.30pm.

This is a very important time for Year 11 and we would urge all parents to attend.

STUDENT SAFETY

We once again remind students about the need to be aware of their safety on their journeys to and from College. They should avoid walking by themselves, particularly if taking a short cut through "the mud dumps." If anything happens on their journey which worries them, such as a member of the public speaking to them in a way which makes them feel uncomfortable, they should report it to their parents and to a member of staff.

BE SAFE!

Alison Merrills

BRIGHT SPARKS BATTLE IT OUT AT HIGH ENERGY WORKSHOP

Students from Year 9 enjoyed being engineers for a day thanks to a workshop run by the Small Piece Trust and the school's design and technology faculty. They worked in teams to build solar powered buggies and wind turbines, testing and developing their designs to make them more efficient. The girls also brainstormed ideas for a future sustainable city. The visiting engineers were very impressed with the students' creative solutions. The students' teams then competed to drive robots around a slalom course before battling it out in an engineering quiz which was won by Rosa Burstons, Rolancia Joseph and Sarah James. "Today I learnt so much more about engineering like how to build a wind turbine and a solar buggy! I really enjoyed all of it, especially the robot challenge! That was intense!"

Kajol Sahins, 9.5.

"I have learnt that engineers don't just make cars: they find solutions to problems. There are more jobs that include this that I did not know." Simran Poonia, 9.9.

Miss Stanton, Team Leader Design Technology

ATTENDANCE

Who did well last week?

	Year to date	%	w/e 18/10/2013	%
Year 7	7.8	98.9	7.9	99.3
	7.4 + 7.9	97.3	7.8	98.2
	7.3	97.2	7.4	98.4
Year 8	8.4	98.8	8.1	99.6
	8.5	98.3	8.4 + 8.5	99.2
	8.8	98.1	8.7	98.8
Year 9	9.5	97.4	9.6	100
	9.8	97.1	9.5	98.5
	9.3	96.9	9.8	97.3
Year 10	10.3	98.7	10.3	98.8
	10.4	96.9	10.1	97.8
	10.5	96.8	10.4	97.6
Year 11	11.6	98.2	11.6	98.9
	11.7	96.9	11.9	97.6
	11.2	96.6	11.5	96.9
Overall College attendance		96.2		96.0

EUROPEAN CHAMPION!

Caitlin Martin, 9.8, has recently returned from Portugal with TWO gold medals after taking part in the European Championships in karate. She was part of the team which successfully defended the title they won the previous year, and she also won her own individual category. What an amazing achievement!

Caitlin's two older sisters, Lauren and Shonagh, who used to be SJNCC students, were also successful and won gold, silver and bronze between them.

Well done to the entire Martin family!



Ms Allison, Team Leader Year 9

OFSTED: SECONDARY GIVEN TOP RATING

For parents and students who may have missed it, we have included the article about our recent Ofsted inspection (which appeared in The Leicester Mercury) in the newsletter this week. We would like to give special thanks to those parents and carers who have taken the time to send their good wishes and messages of congratulations and thanks. We very much appreciate it.

Alison Merrills

ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL IS 'OUTSTANDING'



An all-girl secondary school has been rated outstanding by Ofsted

Sir Jonathan North, in Knighton, Leicester, was given the watchdog's highest grade after an inspection over two days last month.

Head teacher Alison Merrills, who has led the school since 2007, said: "This report is fantastic. We're very pleased with the outcome. It shows the hard work over time by staff, students, parents and governors has been recognised."

The school was last inspected in 2008 when it was told that it was "good" by Ofsted. Inspectors said the quality of teaching at Sir Jonathan North was now outstanding across all subjects and staff have exceptionally high expectations for what students can achieve. They said since the last inspection the proportion of students achieving five good GCSE passes, including English and maths, had risen strongly.

This summer, 68 per cent of pupils reached the benchmark, making it Leicester's second best-performing school. In addition, inspectors said teachers provided activities that challenged students and their behaviour and attitudes to learning were exemplary.

There was praise for Mrs Merrills' "relentless pursuit of excellence" and that of senior leaders and governors. Inspectors praised teachers' rigorous collection and analysis of performance data, enabling them to focus their planning on individual needs. The school's rich programme of after-school activities was highlighted as providing an excellent base for students' spiritual, moral and social development.

Mrs Merrills said: "This isn't just about achievement, but about the development every student makes to become a fulfilled member of society. I strongly believe every child has the potential to achieve well and that the quality of the whole experience they receive at school makes a difference to this."

Year 11 student Ruby Kelman said: "There's so much support available in our school from peer mentors when you start in year 7, through to assertive mentors in year 11. I've always felt at home here and I'll always be proud to say I'm a student at Sir Jonathan North."

Mia Loyal said: "I love that our school listens to students and gives the student council lots of responsibility, which makes it our school."

To improve further, inspectors said the school's marking policy should be refined. Councillor Vi Dempster, assistant city mayor for schools, said: "This is excellent news and well-deserved. I would like to congratulate Alison Merrills and her team and thank them for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank the pupils, parents and governors for their contribution to the school's success, as it takes a whole school community to work together to achieve this, as well as outstanding leadership."

ADVICE FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

London Theatre Centre performed a dynamic emotional piece called 'Advice for the Young at Heart', a new play for young people aged 14+, which is touring between 12 September to 22 November 2013. Staff and approximately 50 year 9, 10 and 11 students were impressed by the powerful acting of a strong issue-based drama that cleverly moved the audience to feel many emotions throughout the piece.

The play focussed on peer pressure in gang culture, family relationships and responsibilities, racism and friendship.

It is 2011 and 1958: London is rioting. Candice is ordered by her gang-leading boyfriend to lure Clint into trouble. Haunted by her grandfather's mistakes, she stands at a crossroads. Will she do as she's told, or will she learn to be true to herself before history repeats itself?

'The piece of theatre we saw was really amazing. It was brilliantly acted, very moving and the staging and the sound effects were really cleverly done. It was a great way of handling these issues. I'd love to see it again'.

Phoebe Wilcox (10.3).

Mrs Thornber Curriculum Team Leader
Expressive Arts

YEAR 10 GCSE GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK TRIP

On Friday 18 to Tuesday 29 October, over 100 Year 10 Geography students went to Derby in order to complete their fieldwork focus (controlled assessment) which counts for 25% of their final GCSE grade.

The students were looking at the positive impact of shopping in Derby's Cathedral Quarter and Westfield Shopping Centre. The students completed retailer and shopper questionnaires as well as environmental surveys.

The students were great ambassadors for Sir Jonathan North and carried out their fieldwork in a very professional manner. They particularly enjoyed the visit to Westfield on the Tuesday as Connor Maynard was there signing his autobiography!

"I thought this trip was helpful for our coursework." Marie Wilson, 10.4.

"Breath-taking and a wonderful experience to begin our Geography GCSE." Marina Brissett, 10.2.

Ms Knowles, Humanities Team