

No 08 - 19th December 2007

Dear Parents, Staff, Governors and friends,



TAPTON ACHIEVES SECOND SPECIALISM FOR THE ARTS

On Friday, we were delighted to receive notification from the DCSF that, following a successful bid, we have been awarded dual specialism, with the Arts now joining our Science designation. This will delight many of our friends who have long admired the work of our students in the visual arts, in drama and in music, and couldn't come at a more appropriate time, following the Christmas Concerts and Carol Service. The new status brings with it an annual funding (less for the second specialism than the first) to enable us to develop our teaching and resources and to reach out beyond Tapton into the community and local schools, building on the excellent liaison work that already exists in Maths and Science and PE. The whole school should feel proud of this as it only became possible because of the outstanding exam results, across the board, achieved by our students. Second Specialisms are only available to designated 'high-performing schools'; so congratulations again to everyone who contributed to this. We hope many more will now feel the benefit.



HOLLINGER IN THE ANTARCTIC

Still there, hemmed in by the weather which has meant a real possibility of having a very unusual white Christmas, Ms Hollinger has continued to send back the most interesting daily reports of life in the freezer, which we've been able to put up on the computer screen in the foyer so the whole school community has been sharing in her experiences. It has been quite remarkable and speaks volumes for the person herself. If you haven't been able to read all the daily 'blogs' I really do urge you to do so, by logging onto <http://hollinger.edublogs.org/>

This from Alice Y13 "Miss Hollinger is now nearing the end of her expedition in Antarctica and the past week has been one of the hardest and most hectic yet. On Tuesday, she was lucky enough to talk to a class of Year 7s at Tapton before the final push back to Patriot Hills, where the group is based. This last part of the expedition started with a 48 hour haul, pulling 7 sledges, including the poo sledge. These had a combined weight of 4,500kg, which they had to pull to a height of 1,562m (that's higher than Ben Nevis). They reached the top of the canyon at 11pm on Wednesday night, but didn't get any sleep until 2.30am, partly due to the fact that the freezing temperatures of -20°C restricted the use of their hands, and froze their hair. On Thursday, the group had a break from the normal routine when they got to toboggan some of the distance downhill. The monotony and isolation of the blank landscapes in Antarctica seem to be having an effect on Miss H – on Friday she calculated

how many steps she had taken that day in order to pass the time (she took 61,600 steps/slides to be precise!)

At midnight, Saturday, the group got up after two hours of shuteye for the final leg of the expedition, arriving at Patriot Hills at 5am on Sunday morning. They had covered 32km in 17 hours, including a short rest for sleep .” But a week later, they were still there, with the planes scheduled to fly them to Chile and back home, unable to land because of the severity of the snow storms. Our thoughts are with them.



CONGRATULATIONS!

On Tuesday 4th December, two Y12's, pitched their business idea - www.YourPartyStarter.co.uk - in the Royal Bank Of Scotland's BiG idea competition. Two business angels decided collectively to invest £10,000, and a third has promised his expertise and office space for the fledging business which, over the course of 2008, will look to implement the business model across the region. What an opportunity!



ART WORK

i. Exam work can now be collected from Miss Hart in the Art Office (3.30 – 4.30 Thurs). If you can't make this, please see Miss Hart to make alternative arrangements. We haven't got the storage space to keep work beyond the end of term.

ii. Any empty yoghurt pots, plastic washing up bottles, newspapers, magazines and old net curtains, gratefully received in the Art Office. Many thanks.



OTHER COMING EVENTS

Thurs 20 th Dec	A Level Certificate Presentation Evening for last year's Y13
Fri 21 st Dec	Last Day ... Staff Production 'Joseph' a.m. ... Early closure 2.00 p.m.
Mon 7 th Jan 2008	First day of Spring Term
Jan 7 - 11	Y10 Monitoring
Jan 7 - 30	AS/A Level Modular Exams
Fri 11 th Jan	Y10 Art Trip to London
Tues 15 th Jan	PTA Committee 7.30 Conference Room
Jan 14 - 18	Y8 Church Visits in RE
Mon 21 st Jan	Staff Training Day – no students should be in school
Weds 23 rd Jan	Y8 Parents Evening 4.30 –7.00 (Transport from Netherthorpe available)
Sat 26 th Jan	PTA Big Band Night 7.30 – 11.00 p.m. School Hall

Tues 29 th Jan	Y9 Evening for Parents about GCSE Option Choice 7.30 p.m. School Hall
Fri 1 st Feb	Y11 Reports to Parents
Tues 5 th Feb	Y13 Parents Evening 4.30 – 7.00 Governors' Meeting 7.00 Conference Room
Fri 8 th Feb	Early Closure 2.30 ... Y11 Presentation of Progress Files
Feb 11 - 15	Half Term Holiday



LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS OR EARLY NEW YEAR PRESENT

Buy the excellent Visually Impaired students' Tapton Calendar 2008. If you would like to order now, please enclose a cheque for £5 payable to Tapton Business Enterprise. Payments should be made to the Finance Office. Delivery will be before or shortly after the Christmas holidays.



PTA BIG BAND NIGHT IS SAT 26TH JANUARY, 7.30 IN THE SCHOOL HALL

Tremendous dance music from the Langsett Dance Orchestra plus the Tapton Big Band. There's a licensed bar and excellent food (all included in the £10 ticket price). Tickets on sale after Christmas, but book the date in your diary now.

Here are the December PTA lottery winners:

Hilary Dixon - £10
David Bell £10



NEXT STOP THE WORLD

Ben Cahill , who left Tapton in Y11 last year, has gone into the 6 th Form at Ormiston College , Queensland , Australia and already achieved a first for his new school. He came top in 5 subjects! English, Maths, Chemistry, Physics and Legal Studies. Mind you he was no slouch with us, gaining 9 A*s and 2 As at GCSE. Congratulations Ben. Watch out Kevin Rudd!



SPORTS REPORT

Badminton: Tapton School has now been granted **Academy status** . As a school we have worked very hard to achieve this, with huge numbers of children playing badminton at breakfast time, lunchtime and after school. We also welcome our primary school children at Saturday morning club. In addition we have had phenomenal team achievements from Y7 through to Y13, with many of our teams becoming not only Sheffield and Yorkshire Champions, but National Champions too. Some of our pupils have had

amazing individual success too. Since the last publication, our U16 and U14 squads have both won the first regional round of the National Schools Competition. In the U16 competition we easily beat the opposition.. They now have to wait till April to play the Regional Finals at The EIS in Sheffield . In the U16 Sheffield Tournament, Tapton had a clean sweep in the finals:

U16 Boys Singles Champion

U16 Girls Doubles Champions

U16 Mixed Doubles Champions

Tapton is not only the first Sheffield school to receive Academy status but only the second school in the whole of Yorkshire to gain the award.

As a school we are recognised by Badminton England , and we will receive high profile support and assistance with coaching. Also we were awarded a generous amount of money for the school to spend on Badminton England Forza shirts. Any badminton players who have an artistic streak and would like to design a Tapton School Badminton Academy logo, please see Mrs Riley/Mrs Goodhead. This Friday is the closing date.

Football : Our Y11 team were unfortunate to lose in the first round of the National Cup. As Sheffield Champions we went to play Danum School , the Doncaster champions. In a very close game we were unable to score any of the good chances we created, but all the boys played magnificently. Better news for our Y8 team, still unbeaten in the National cup. They beat Kingstone School from Barnsley 5-0 with a hat trick. They now play Penistone G. S. in January.

TableTennis : Our Y7 Table tennis squad went top in the Sheffield Schools Table Tennis competition last Thursday at Myers Grove. All played well in their first taste of Table Tennis competition. Well done Lads!

Cheerleading: It's back! after Christmas, with Stephanie from Hallam University . Anyone interested come along. Y7's Tues lunch, Y8 and Y9 Mon lunch, or see Mrs Riley for further details.

Hotshots Basketball Competition: Congratulations to Lydgate Hotshots basketball players, who had two teams go through to the Partnership Finals. In our family competition, they beat opposition from Hallam and Netherthorpe. Their reward was a visit to the EIS against the other schools in our Forge Partnership. Lydgate didn't win, but played their hearts out. Congratulations to all the players. Many thanks to our Tapton pupils who accompanied the Lydgate team at the EIS.

Boxercise: A great activity for fitness and fun. If you've not tried it yet, come and join us every Thursday – 3:30 p.m. onwards. Open to any Y7 or Y8 pupils. Give it a try and it's free!

Skiing: Letters are now available for the school ski trip in February half-term 2009. Please see Mrs Hilton if you are interested. Places are restricted so don't delay.

Netball: In the absence of Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Candy (“super coaches”), Mrs. Hilton is ‘caretaker manager’ of the netball teams. So far, the Y8 and Y9 teams have played the High School and lost. Here's hoping for an improvement, otherwise Mrs. H will be following in the footsteps of Steve McLaren!!!

Tesco Vouchers : Many thanks to everyone who brought in Tesco Sports Vouchers. The school has collected over 7000 which is fantastic and will help the PE Department purchase some additional items for lessons and school clubs. If you have any more stuck in your back pocket or in the car please send them to school before the end of term.

Many Thanks and Merry Christmas to all