



# SPRING TERM 2012



NCHS – The Science College

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<http://www.nchs.org.uk>

**NCHS ATTENDANCE**

**Jan to Apr 11 – 93.5%**

**Jan to Apr 12 - 94.1%**

Dear Parent/Carer

By now you should all have received a copy of the Ofsted report for NCHS and, like me, I am sure you will be delighted and proud that the school has officially been given the stamp of approval as a **“GOOD”** school. This is fantastic news and well deserved by both staff and pupils. It is recognition of all the hard work staff here put into supporting pupil progress both in the classroom and outside in their pastoral work. It is also a reward for all the students who turn up every day with correct equipment and who are keen and willing to gain new knowledge and improve skills in all areas.

Over the past few years we have seen standards rise rapidly at NCHS, the school environment has had an internal makeover and new equipment has been purchased to support your child's education. As Mark Heuston said “It has been an amazing journey, is a ringing endorsement of the work the staff, students, parents and governors have done, and we are rightly proud of our excellent achievements”.

Ofsted said that **“the school has replaced historic patterns of misbehaviour with an environment in which purposeful learning is the norm and behaviour is good, both in lessons and around the school”**. They recognised the school as a **“calm and orderly place in which to learn”**. Of the relationship with Clayton and the forming of the South Newcastle Federation they said that NCHS **“is a good school. Improved and rigorous leadership since becoming part of the South Newcastle Federation has brought about rapid improvements in teaching, behaviour and standards”**. Students themselves told the inspectors that they **“value the support they receive from their teachers”** and that they **“have good attitudes to learning and generally enjoy their lessons”**. If you have not yet received your full report you can view it on the school website: [www.nchs.org.uk](http://www.nchs.org.uk).

In addition to the Ofsted visit we have, as usual had a very busy term. One of our past pupils Shannon Russell has been invited to St James Palace in London along with Julie Clarke (her teacher) to be recognised for the work she did when studying for the Princes Trust Award as part of her Key Stage 4 curriculum. They will be going on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and we will hopefully have pictures and more to report on this celebration in the next newsletter. I'm not sure who's the more excited at the prospect of meeting the Prince of Wales – Shannon or Mrs Clarke!

The pupils have been really busy raising funds for 2 charities: The first is very close to our hearts remembering Gemma Ray who suffered from epilepsy and died suddenly last November. On Epilepsy Awareness Day on March 26<sup>th</sup> the pupils arrived in school wearing something purple, paying a donation to do so. This, along with the sale of purple wristbands for the 'Gemma's Ray of Hope' charity raised £606 which has been presented to the family to support research into sudden deaths due to epilepsy.

The second, you will read in the newsletter was in support of Sport Relief. As I speak we are still totalling up the final total but I am sure it will once again be substantial. I am really proud of the charity work our youngsters get involved in and the awareness they have of other people's needs.

I would normally now wish you all a happy Easter, however, it has come and gone and so I hope you all had a lovely Easter and like me are looking forward to the warm summer months ahead (hopefully!). As we approach the final GCSE exam season for our Year 11 pupils we once again knuckle down to hard work here at NCHS, making sure we balance this with a broader education for all our students.

Jill Adamson

## Y10 French Meal at Clough Hall

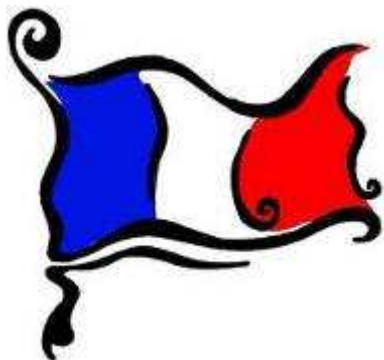


Recently a group of 10 Year 10 linguists went to Clough Hall for a special meal. The school runs a restaurant which is open to the public as part of their Hospitality and Catering course. The students from NCHS were invited as part of the Staffordshire Languages Group. The three course menu was specially selected and students could choose from a range of dishes including “*Soupe à l’Oignon*”, “*Crudités*”, “*Coq au Vin*” and “*Canard à l’Orange*”. They finished with “*Tarte aux Fraises*”. The students had to order their meal in French and were encouraged to speak to each other in French throughout the meal. They were served by French waiters and waitresses (our French assistants). The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and found it a very useful way of practising their spoken French and improving their confidence.

“Knowing that you wouldn’t get served unless you ordered in French really made you want to get the words and the pronunciation right”, Adam Jones.

“The food was *délicieuse* and the service was *formidable*”, Alex Tunstall.

“It really boosted my confidence to speak French and not worry about making little mistakes”, Jasmine Brown



Mrs Haley

## Careers Afternoon Y10 and Y11



On March 15<sup>th</sup> for PSHE day training providers, colleges, universities and volunteer organisations were invited to the school to set up stands in the hall.

The event was organised to give students the opportunity to gain more information about the options available to them when they leave school. It was important that students were able to choose who they were interested in speaking with and ask questions relevant to their future plans.

Both Y10 and Y11 students were given time in the hall to walk around and collect prospectuses, leaflets and freebies from the different stalls as well as speaking to the different representatives.

The visitors all commented on how pleasant and friendly the students had been. We hope to hold a similar event next year to help the students to prepare for their decisions when leaving school.

### Visitors to the Careers Afternoon

Keele University	De Vere
RAF	St John Ambulance
Newcastle College	Stoke on Trent College
PM Training	Equality
Reaseheath	Martec
Stoke City	Construction Skills
Staffordshire University	Army
Fire Service	Babington Business College
Stoke Sixth Form College	
Staffordshire Young Peoples Service	
NCP - Summer of a lifetime	

Miss Beeston

# Hitler on Trial



Year 11 History students attended an exam-busting workshop and courtroom drama held in Manchester on February 28<sup>th</sup>.



There was a workshop led by a principal examiner in which he explained the thinking behind the examination syllabuses. He also showed pupils how to improve their performance in their GCSE course and final examination.

Pupils looked at seven questions, covering each strand of the assessment objectives, and they marked actual answers taken from past examination scripts.

The workshop was followed by a courtroom drama, written by Josh Brooman, in which students are asked to imagine a parallel historical world in which Adolf Hitler was captured alive by British Special Forces in 1942 and put on trial for war crimes, starting with the charge of causing the

Prosecuting Counsel opens the case against him by questioning a series of Germans who witnessed many of the key events in Weimar and Nazi Germany: a sailor who took part in the Revolution of 1918-19; a founder member of the Sturmabteilung; Gustav Stresemann; a security guard who witnessed the Reichstag Fire; and a member of a jazz band that toured Germany during the 1930s. Counsel for the Defence casts a wider net by calling a series of world leaders to give evidence to justify Hitler's actions: Neville Chamberlain, Benito Mussolini, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Josef Stalin. Finally, he calls Hitler himself to take the witness stand. The play ends with the student audience voting to decide whether or not Hitler is guilty.



Mrs Robinson

## BTEC Foundation Construction Award

Year 10 Construction Award pupils have been decorating a classroom as part of their coursework. This included: Ordering material, undercoating, cutting in, emulsion and glossing.



Mr Gregory

## Prom 2012

The prom has been booked for 28<sup>th</sup> June at the North Stafford Hotel. This is a new venue for the school so both staff and pupils are excited to experience the prom at this new venue.

The prom Fayre that took place in February helped to raise £100 towards decorations. Y11 pupils are busy fundraising to make this years prom extra special. Prom tickets are available from reception and cost £20. Mrs Askew



## Staffordshire Pledge

NCHS The Science College is working towards an accreditation for anti bullying. The scheme involves governors, staff, pupils and parents alike. The accreditation states that the school is working to help prevent bullying in school, by promoting positive relationships between staff and pupils, and working year on year to minimise and deal with bullying.

Staffordshire County Council have defined bullying as:

Repetitive, wilful and persistent.

Intentionally harmful carried out by a group or individual.

An imbalance of power leaving the victim feeling defenceless.

Parents can get involved by completing a questionnaire, which can be found on the school website in the documents and downloads parental forms section. [www.nchs.org.uk](http://www.nchs.org.uk)



Mrs Askew



## The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh award is now in full swing again this year with over 25 year 10's participating from NCHS. The pupils are learning skills including: map reading, camp craft and first aid. This will prepare them for their first expedition in May.

This year see's NCHS joining forces with Clayton Hall Business and Language College bronze award group. This will enable the groups to take full advantage of the expertise on offer from staff from both schools.

Mr Gregory

## AFRICAN DRUMMING

A swirling merry go round of songs about 'A cool alligator who wears shades and dances' a 'Superman who has sexy underpants,' football songs and call and responses about 'eating chips' African welcome songs and chants mingled with the hypnotising rhythms of the djembes or African hand drums. Welcome to the world of the Primary drumming workshop.

Fifteen years ago the Djembe drum was a rare animal. No catalogue stocked them and our first set were obtained through a wonderfully symbiotic relationship with Tomas from Gambia. Quickly realised that elements of African drumming fulfilled most, if not all those personal, learning and thinking skills now held so dear and collaborated with friends Joe, Will and Si from Planet Sound as well as experts Seckou Keita, Winston Lewis, Mory Sako and Nicky Reid, to change this situation. Having travelled the county and beyond to this end and also been a subject for a documentary for teachers TV, we've focused our attention on local primary schools where the response has been terrific.

School halls have rocked to the sound, dinner ladies have altered their schedules to accommodate, Staff have moved cars so that the drum van can fill the nearest space to the workshop venue and caretakers have commandeered an army of helpers to unload. Teachers have sung, drummed, shouted and danced with their students – a thanks to you all.

Recent visits have included two sessions at Seabridge, two with Westlands, a visit from The Coppice, two sessions with Hassall St and a couple at Silverdale Primary. Always welcomed and always helped. Hundreds of pupils making sense of our mantra 'Joined by a Drum' through the powerful medium of music.

African proverb: 'If you can talk you can sing, if you can walk you can dance.'

'Ay ay I ay, din din nu nata to loon lay la' Welcome to the drumming circle.

Mr Dawson





## National Waste Week 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Congratulations to all members of the Eco Committee who successfully took part in National Waste Week. As part of the week long programme of activities, a whole school assembly was delivered by Ceri Hassell from Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council where we learnt about recycling and environmental issues.

The group carried out a litter pick in the park area – we were joined by staff from the local council.



Other activities through out the week included a 'Turn it off' audit, where members of the group carried out a detailed audit of school classrooms and offices where energy was being wasted.

Our Group shot to fame having two articles published in The Sentinel. The first was to celebrate National Waste Week. The second was our entry in The Sentinel awards to become 'The Class Act'. Our bid was to create an Eco Garden in school. A prize of £ 5,000 will be awarded to the winners – The closing date is 31<sup>st</sup> March, fingers crossed for a NCHS Win.



To join this ever increasing team of amazing students you will need to complete an application form and tell me what qualities you could bring to our group. Forms can be downloaded from our school web site or collected from the main reception.

Mrs Keeling

# LIBRARY @ NCHS

My name is Mrs Lovatt and I have just become the new Library Assistant at the school. I am now into week six and felt it time to make a short report of how things are progressing!

Three main activities take place on various days for members only leaving the library open and accessible to all on the other days whether it is for homework, computer access, quiet reading or just for a little peace and quiet.



Monday Lunch time sees a good turn out for chess club with between twenty and forty accessing this activity.



Wednesday offers craft activities for displays or agreed projects and as some of you may be aware the school has recently participated in National Waste Week with the members of Display club producing book tokens, place mats, posters and a wall display covering this topic. The making of Mother's Day cards was also a success.



Thursday offers students the opportunity to be members of the Reading Club.

The library continues to add to its collection of books, and I can say after just a short time of becoming part of the NCHS community, that I have been made to feel welcome by the students and staff and hope that the service the library provides will continue to grow.

Mrs Lovatt



ParentMail was formed in 2001 and was the first company in the UK to offer schools a new, modern way of communicating with their parents.

With internet and mobile communications technologies now a very much a part of social and business life, we have grown and flourished. We continue to invest to develop and improve our service and now help many different organisations to engage parents.

For busy parents, ParentMail helps make life just that little bit easier. From when their children first start nursery school all the way through to when they leave secondary school, we make it easy for parents to keep on top of many of the things they need to do to bring up their children.

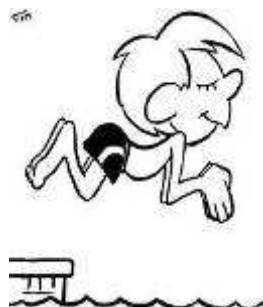
Your child will have been given a log on code, please register online with this code. If you have any questions or queries do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Gregory

## Community News

NCHS – Community Leisure is pleased to announce that from the beginning of next term, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012, we will be running swimming lessons for children of all ages and standards.

Place are limited and interest has been high however will still have space so if you have children or work with groups outside of school please contact myself for more information.



Huw James 01782 667658





## BBC News Report Group

A group of Year 7 & 8s have been learning skills including script writing, videoing, sound recording, interviewing, producing and reading news stories. The group have been involved in creating a webpage for the BBC schools news report day which was run as a real time project and tested all of the pupils newly learnt skills. They did an excellent job.

Check out our website for this years report.



Mr Gregory



We're collecting Sainsbury's and Tesco vouchers. If you shop at any of these stores please donate your vouchers to help us purchase sports equipment.

Our collection boxes are located in the main reception.

Thanks Mrs Keeling

## Talented Artists Create Urban Graffiti



Primary school pupils with exceptional artistic talents were selected from Knutton St Mary's Primary School, Silverdale Primary School and St Luke's Primary School in Newcastle-under-Lyme to spend the day with a professional artist at NCHS the Science College.

The professional artist showed the pupils a wide variety of modern and underground arts to inspire them into making their own canvas artwork. Mixing traditional skills with urban graffiti techniques the pupils created visually exciting artwork. Meeting the professional artist gave them a greater understanding of career opportunities within the arts.

The group of pupils included 10 NCHS pupils which were selected by their teachers for demonstrating artists flare, they worked in mixed teams with pupils from primary and high school, which also helped them to develop confidence in their own skills. The project also formed an important part of transition from Primary to High school all pupils went home feeling confident they would fit in at NCHS in Year 7.



Mrs Marks



The school took part in the traditional Sport Relief fundraising event on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Pupils were invited to attend school in either non-school uniform or fancy dress. In the afternoon the whole school took part to complete the traditional Sport Relief Challenge of 1, 3, or 6 miles on the school field with the overall aim being to raise as much money for a worthy cause as possible.



## Primary Sports News

The Year 5 & 6 Basketball competition took place on 25<sup>th</sup> January in which two teams from the following schools entered:

Langdale, Seabridge and Friarswood primary schools.

Sports leaders from NCHS and CHB&LC supported the very successful competition and did an amazing job. From NCHS, Adam Jones (Y10), Joel Harvey (Y9), Daniel Gater (Y10), Dion Jones (Y8), Ben Hill (Y8) and from CHB&LC, Jacob Cortese (Y8) helped to umpire and run the competitions.

The final results were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> place Langdale 1

2<sup>nd</sup> place Langdale 2

3<sup>rd</sup> place Seabridge 1

4<sup>th</sup> place Friarswood 1 and Friarswood 2

6<sup>th</sup> place Seabridge 2

Here is what some of the pupils had to say after the competition:

"I like how my team won and it was really fun". "I learned that I must not rush my shots at the basket". (Langdale Primary School pupil)

Staff said "It was a well organised and refereed event". "The pupils learned a lot about good team work, communication, passing, marking and movement skills". (teacher from Langdale Primary School)

Mrs Clarke



## Netball

The year 7 Netball team have continued to train since September, using the Year 8 league as extra match practice (beating Clough Hall and Chesterton!) They are currently competing in the Year 7 league and have so far beaten Sir Thomas Boughey and displayed great courage and determination against Newcastle Under Lyme school. The Captain Jordina Hancock has shown great commitment when she played on with a broken thumb, only to return weeks later with her thumb heavily strapped. The rest of the team have shown great flexibility playing in a range of different positions. The team are looking forward to finishing their league matches and competing in the tournament in May.

The year 7 Netball team are:

Jordina Hancock (captain)

Megan McDonald

Morgan Denson

Meesha Cru-Hall

Alexis Everill

Georgina Sale

Beth Fischer

Izzy Bowers

Mrs Askew



## Student Council

Student Council are the voice of the pupils. It is led by the house captains and made up of a representative from each form. It gives pupils a chance to come together and discuss the ideas and opinions of pupils with regards to school and the environment. House captains meet with Mrs Adamson every term to discuss these opinions.

So far ideas from student council have led to lockers being provided for pupils to use, areas of the school to be renovated and general improvements around school and school life.

This term the school have focused on Eco status and recycling.

Mrs Askew



## Images of Change Photo Competition

**From happy snappers to serious amateurs...  
what does change mean to you?**

We are looking for inspiring images that capture what change means to you.

Your photo could win a **£1000**, or a camera or a training session with a professional photographer

Plus the best 12 entries will be exhibited and made into a calendar for 2013.

Entry fee:

Children (0-16) & Students (17-25) - £2  
Adults (16+) - £5

For rules & conditions and how to enter, visit [www.thedoveservice.org.uk](http://www.thedoveservice.org.uk).  
Entries must be received by 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2012

The Dove Service aims to work alongside people facing bereavement, loss and change, to facilitate a positive outcome in grief.

The Dove Service, The Dudson Centre, Hope Street, Hanley, Stoke on Trent, ST1 5DD  
Tel: 01782 683155 e-mail: [enquiries@thedoveservice.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thedoveservice.org.uk) Registered charity no. 1086025

## Kickboxing

My name is Karla Parry, I am currently in year 9. I have been doing kickboxing for 6 or 7 months now and on Sunday 4th March I did my first competition. I came 2nd. When I go to kickboxing I have to work really hard so I can slowly work my way up to the place where I want to be, which is 1st place and in a higher category that I am in at the moment. I train 4 times a week for 6 hours.



## Extra Curricular Activities at NCHS

	Lunch time clubs	After school clubs		Lunch time clubs	After school clubs
Mon	Badminton Board Games Club Chess Club  Art Catch Up Discussion Group	Netball Football D of E Award Spanish  Textiles Food Tech Product Design Child Development Art GCSE History Catch Up ICT Catch Up Maths RE GCSE	Thur	Girls Football Fitness Zumba Film Club Volleyball Reading Club Board Games Rock Solid  Homework Club	Basketball Dodgeball Drama Club      H&S Care Textiles Food Tech Product Design Child Development Art GCSE Maths Geography ICT Catch Up Btec Sport Btec Music Instrumental Group
Tue	Basketball Display Club Ultimate Frisbee Swimming  MFL GCSE Discussion Group	Football Sign Language   Music Btec Mentoring (all subjects)	Fri	Fitness Football Art Club Board Games Cheerleading  Discussion Group	
Wed	Football Netball Table Tennis Board Games  Homework Catch Up Art Catch Up	Netball Fixtures BBC News Club   H&S Care Textiles Food Tech Product Design Child Development MFL GCSE Art GCSE Maths (Higher) ICT Catch Up Maths RE GCSE	<h3>Bus Service</h3> <p>A <b>FREE</b> bus service will operate at 4.30pm to Knutton and Silverdale on Wednesday's and Thursday's for students who attend any After School Activity on those nights.</p> <p><b>Please note that seats are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Students wishing to use this service must register their name with Mrs Gregory by lunchtime on the day.</b></p>		



## **Pupils who have received a praise letter this term - Congratulations**

Lewis Powner  
Rebecca Alcock  
Chloe Morris  
Kay Jones  
Kirsty Bell  
Louis Everill  
Tom Whitehead  
Brandon Timmis  
Fran Gregory  
Jodie Leighton  
Nicole Langson  
Allie Ankers  
Elliott Lockett  
Fabien Johns  
Jacques Dunn  
Jack Holmes  
Alex Broad  
Emily Clewes  
Charlotte Hill  
Louise Thompson  
Cain Davies  
Isaac Lovatt  
Alex Broad  
Macaulay Beech  
Nathan Jones  
Reece Dring  
Liam Cartlidge  
Shannon Crittenden  
Julia McCredie  
Astarra Toplass  
Leon Perry  
Natalie Coomer  
Sophie Turnbull  
Tobias Skipiol  
Ryan Chell  
Charlie Butler  
Courtney Naylor  
Bethany Fisher  
Dan Richards  
James Green  
Levi Broad  
Mitchell Pearce  
Georgia Smith



## **100% ATTENDANCE**

Well done to the following students who have achieved 100% attendance.

Harry Abercrombie  
Aaron Austin  
Jordan Austin  
David Bailey  
Lewis Beech  
Jessica Blundred  
Alexander Broad  
Melissa Brown  
Matthew Brundrett  
Joseph Burke  
Imam Camara  
Joseph Clarke  
Travis Collier  
Joshua Conroy  
Meesha Cru-Hall  
Luke Dann  
Ben Dawson  
Taylor Dunkley  
Georgia Dunn  
Jacques Dunn  
Elliot Gordon  
Jonathan Hall  
Raad Hassan  
Ben Hill  
Jack Holmes  
Leyah Hope  
Levi Huxley  
Jack Hyde  
Sam Hyde  
Fabien Johns  
Stuart Leat  
Britney Leighton  
Jodie Leighton  
Ben Machin  
Jake Matthews  
Megan McDonald  
Danielle Morgan  
James Proctor  
Laura Roberts  
Peter Roberts  
Callum Salt-Hedge  
Philip Sanders  
Peter Shaw  
Tobias Skipiol  
Alex Smith  
Rhys Wilshaw  
George Wood



**Community Fayre  
Saturday 14th July 2012  
@ NCHS**

- Fayre Ground Rides
- Tombola
- Cultural Dancing
- Carnival Parade
- Raffles
- Bouncy Castle
- Bucking Bronco
- Candy Floss
- More details to follow.....



**Add the date to  
your diary now!**

**A free course for the over 50's**

Get to know your computer

Could do with some help using your computer?  
Why not join our free course for the over 50's.

At NCHS The Science College  
Starts Monday 30th April, 3:15 - 4:15pm



No assessments or tests  
Just the help you need

Topic covered will include:

- Email, setting up, opening, attaching and sending
- Using the internet, research, shopping & banking
- Desk top publishing, creating cards & posters
- Letter writing & word processing

For more information or to book a place contact:  
Mandi Marks 01782 297560 or pop into school.

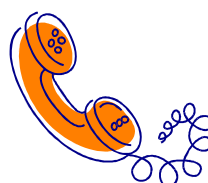
**NCHS  
THE SCIENCE COLLEGE  
Gallowstree Lane Newcastle ST5 2QS  
Tel 01782 667658**

**Community Centre Information**

Mondays:	6.30-8.00	Family swim.
	6.45	Adult Zumba.
	8.00-9.00	Lane swimming.
Wednesdays:	9.30-11.30	Over 50's.
	5.00-6.00	Kids Street Dance.
	7.15	Adult Zumba
	8.00-9.00	Lane swimming.
Thursdays:		
Fridays:	6.30	Adult Zumba.
	8.00-9.00	Lane Swimming.
Saturdays:	10.30	Adult Zumba.
	pm.	Pool hire for parties.
Sundays:	9.30-12.00	Family swim.



**ZUMBA®  
FITNESS**



**School Absence Line:  
01782 667660**

Just a reminder to all parents that the above number is the one you should be ringing if your child is ill or going to be late in, due to an appointment. It is a dedicated line and is available for you to ring 24 hours a day. You will hear a short message asking you to leave details of your child's absence.

## School Terms and Holiday Dates 2012

### Spring Term 2012:

Staff & Pupils:	Monday 20 February - Friday 30 March	30 working days
<b>Holiday:</b>	<b>Monday 2 April - Friday 13 April</b>	<b>10 days</b>
Easter Sunday:	Sunday 8 April	

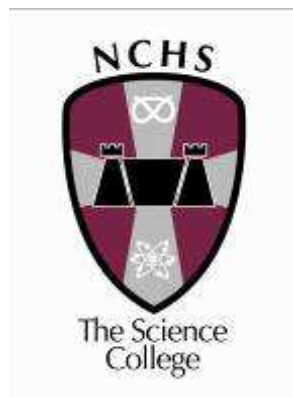
### Summer Term 2012:

Staff & Pupils:	Monday 16 April - Thursday 31 May	33 working days
<b>May Day:</b>	<b>Monday 7 May</b>	<b>1 day</b>
<b>Holiday:</b>	<b>Friday 1 June - Friday 8 June</b>	<b>6 days</b>
Staff & Pupils:	Monday 11 June - Friday 20 July	30 working days
<b>Holiday:</b>	<b>Monday 23 July - Friday 31 August</b>	<b>30 days</b>

### Autumn Term 2012:

Staff:	Monday 3 September- Friday 26 October	40 working days
Pupils:	Wednesday 5 September - Friday 26 October	38 working days
<b>Holiday:</b>	<b>Monday 29 October - Friday 2 November</b>	<b>5 days</b>
<b>Staff Only:</b>	<b>In service Training Day - Monday 5 November</b>	<b>1 day</b>
Pupils:	Tuesday 6 November - Friday 21 December	34 working days
<b>Holiday:</b>	<b>Monday 24 December – Friday 4 January</b>	<b>10 days</b>

**School re-opens to students on Monday 16th April 2012**  
**Week 1**



**PUBLISHED BY  
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College**