

South Newcastle Federation Autumn Term 2013



Primary School Newsletter

Clayton Hall
Business and Language
College



**PRIMARY SCHOOL MASTERCLASSES
START WITH YEAR 6!**



**NCHS RECORDS BEST EVER GCSE
RESULTS GRADES A* - C**



**YEAR 7 AND 1ST IMPRESSIONS OF
HIGH SCHOOL!**



Dear Parent,

Although we have only been back at school for a few short weeks it is amazing how quickly the routine of our working school days returns. Hopefully your son or daughter has had a very successful start to the Autumn term and they feel confident and enthusiastic about their studies. As you look through our newsletter it strikes you that young people who enjoy their lessons and activities learn much better than those who don't. It is a delicate balance for most teachers between providing challenge and making it fun. The pictures enclosed would suggest that the work we do in languages, science and technology achieve that balance.

This term will also be the one where Year 6 and their parents select the best secondary school for them. Can I wish you every success in this difficult and important decision. All I would like to say about the two schools in our Federation is that there has never been a better time to join either school. Both schools have made rapid progress over the last few years and have academic performances above the national figures. NCHS has been transformed, recording 59% in 5+ A-C grades in English and Maths, an increase of 10% on last year. Whilst Clayton has a figure of 72% in this category. Both schools have very positive and ambitious plans to move from a grading of Good by Ofsted (NCHS was graded Good in March 2012, Clayton Hall in June 2013) to Outstanding. We would like you to join us and allow us to give your child the right balance of challenge and enjoyment.

May I wish you and your child every success in the coming term and we look forward to working with our partner primary schools during the year.

Yours

Mr Mark Heuston
Executive Headteacher
South Newcastle Federation



Boutique Châteauneuf



Year 6 pupils from St. Luke's, Silverdale, St. Giles' and St. George's, Westlands, Friarswood and Knutton St. Mary's were all invited to attend a French Masterclass at NCHS at the beginning of this term. The aim of our Masterclass was to allow the pupils to develop their skills in our imaginary boutique or clothing shop. I was extremely impressed by the pupils as they displayed their excellent knowledge of colours in French at the beginning of the session which they then used very effectively later on when recognising and choosing items of clothing.

We played games and had competitions to practise the new clothing vocabulary which the pupils then used to label the outfits worn by Justin Bieber and Jessie J! Our game of "Splat" was once again a favourite and I was extremely pleased to see such enthusiasm and team spirit from the pupils. Having practised the pronunciation of the clothing items we then moved on to actually imagining that we were in a clothes shop with a friend trying to choose something to wear using key phrases. The highlight of our session for most pupils seemed to be the opportunity to choose items of clothes from our boutique for a willing volunteer or 'model' to wear. Using beautiful French expressions and vocabulary, pupils managed to dress the unsuspecting volunteers in very interesting outfits as you can see from the photographs below!

Ultimately the objective of our session was for our pupils to work in pairs to create a conversation of their own that would take place in our boutique using the key vocabulary, expressions and opinions. With the help of our year 8 and 9 mentors everybody managed to create dialogues followed by the opportunity to actually act out the conversations in front of their classmates using the props at hand. It was a great week and I would like to thank all of the pupils and their teachers for showing such great enthusiasm and for contributing so well to the sessions. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it seemed that the pupils did too!

Madame Clowes



Science Masterclass September 2013

The new school year started with drama in the science department at NCHS.

The coffee money had disappeared and our Year 6 scientists were called in to solve the mystery.....



Using microscopes to study clothing fibres left at the scene, chromatography to decide which pen was used, fingerprint analysis, blood group type testing and even a grand finale of flame testing, pupils from St Giles' & St George's, Knutton St Mary's, Westlands, St Luke's, Silverdale and Friarswood Primary Schools showed forensic skills to rival the best CSI's as they analysed the available evidence to get to the truth of the disappearing money.



Teams from each school worked together to piece together the clues and decide which pieces of evidence they should use when coming to their conclusions. Everyone had a wonderful time, especially when the NCHS science staff were subjected to some very difficult questioning by the young detectives!



The Great Clayton Hall Bake Off.



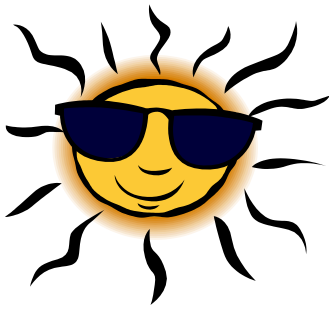
The 2013 Great Clayton Hall Bake Off took place in July with 32 students submitting entries from years 7 through to 10, many of them working in pairs.

The first round was Cupcakes which were judged on taste and appearance. The second round proved slightly more challenging and we had to lose a few students as their shortbread fell short of the judges' exacting standards. The final round was The Bakewell Tart. These were judged by none other than Mr Morgan himself who was very impressed with the taste and professional standard of the entries. The winners were Lydia Fitzmaurice-James and Nathasha Yelland who baked to a consistently high standard throughout the day.



Alongside the main competition we also ran a "Showstopper Spectacular" which the pupils could make at home and were judged separately. These cakes were also produced to an incredibly high standard. The winning entry was made by Ruth Griggs and Jemimah Fowler with their delicious chocolate cake. Second place went to Grace Shufflebotham and Meg Rust with their chocolate and strawberry creation, and third place was a giant lemon fondant fancy created by Lydia Fitzmaurice-James and Nathasha Yelland.





HERE COMES

South Newcastle Federation Summer

Over fifty children signed up for the South Newcastle Federation Summer School, which ran for two weeks during the Summer break.

Year 5 and 6 pupils from our surrounding primary schools enjoyed a range of activities and trips out during both weeks including a day out at Madame Tussauds, Blist's Hill Victorian Village, Vue cinema and Clayton Hall.



Week one started on the 22nd July and was aimed at exploring their English and ICT skills. The focus of the week was "What's so great about Hollywood?"

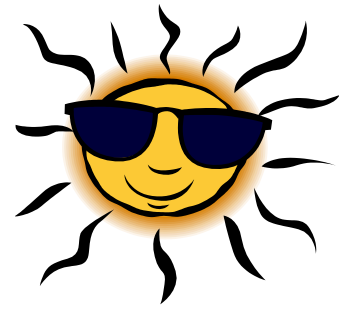
Using their new skills, the children looked at what makes the film industry so exciting. This week included a trip to Madame Tussauds in Blackpool (as close as we could get to the real celebrities) and the incredibly popular baking session with Mrs Davies, by far everyone's favourite lesson of the week!

Week 2 began on the 19th August with an emphasis on Maths and Science this time. The focus for this week was "Was life better 100 years ago?"

We examined what it was like to live in Victorian England and compared it to how we live now. A trip to Blist's Hill Victorian Village in Ironbridge helped the children to go back in time and experience what it was like to be a child in Victorian times.



THE SUMMER!



School a SIZZLING SUCCESS!



During the second week they also got a chance to see what Clayton Hall was like before it became a school with a history tour around the original house and grounds.

Both weeks ended with a presentation to their parents and a celebration of what they had learnt. Trophies and certificates were handed out to everyone who took part.



It wasn't all about learning though, after all it was the school holidays!

Everyone had the chance to take a daily swim in the pool at NCHS along with lots of games in the sports hall including football and badminton.

When asked what they thought was the best part of the whole Summer School it was an overwhelming vote for the baking!



"The best thing was the baking"

Becky Marks

"The learning was fun, not like normal school.

I loved the trips out and the swimming. It was good to get to know where everything was for when I started high school"

Xander McEvoy



HIGH SCHOOL!



IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE!

As the new school year begins we welcome a new Year 7 to high school.

The change from primary school to high school can be one of the biggest changes in a child's life; a rite of passage from child to teenager and the first step on the path from childhood to adulthood.

I caught up with three of our new pupils to chat about their first few weeks at NCHS. Joshua M came to us from Knutton St Mary's, Joshua B from St Giles' & St George's and Aaron from Friarswood. I asked how they had settled in to the new routine and how they were coping with their lessons.

"We've all settled in really well, although we come from different schools we have become good friends really quickly"

I asked if coming to us for their Masterclasses in Years 5 & Year 6 helped them to settle in more quickly.

"Yeah, definitely. We already knew where some of the rooms were and where to go at break and lunchtime."

All three boys agreed that PE was their favourite lesson and that they have made lots of new friends. If they had a worst lesson.....we'll never know, the bell went for the end of tutorial and all three headed off to their English lesson.....smiling!

What's On.....Science.

We have lots of exciting work going on in the Primary schools this term.

Pupils from Years 4 & 5 at Friarswood and St Luke's Primary Schools will be investigating toothpaste. They will have a go at making their own and putting it to the test against the leading household brands.

Some of our Year 4 scientists will be bridge building, making their own paper, analysing inks and building rockets along with many other science based investigations.

In the Spring term we are looking forward to our Science Week. We will be visiting our Primary schools to complete activities and experiments around this years theme of "Explore the Future". Pupils will be invited to NCHS to represent their schools in the Science Week Challenge.

Alongside this our annual Science Fair will take place on Tuesday 8th April 2014.

Pictured below are last years "Science Week" winners from Knutton St Mary's Primary School. Their performance in the challenge was exceptional despite them being the youngest entrants. Their prize was microscopes for their school and the prestige of holding the "Science Week" Shield for the year.



St George's Park, here we come!

During the Summer term a group of then Year 10 pupils were lucky enough to get a VIP trip to St George's Park, home of the England Squad and the National Football Training Facilities. Ben Usher, Brandon Timmis, Dale Mellem, Trent Pearce-Rodgers, Macauley Baker & Oliver Powner were awarded certificates as part of the Staffordshire Challenge—Aim Award for their excellent contribution to the community painting work at Cornerstone Community Centre in Silverdale. They had the opportunity to try out the training equipment used by the England Football team along with a tour of the facilities and a five-star meal in the Hilton Hotel to round the day off nicely.

The highlight of the whole trip was having their photographs taken with Didier Drogba!



"Class Band" New Musical Project at NCHS

NCHS are about to embark on a ground breaking "Class Band" project. Whilst many schools are able to offer weekly peripatetic lessons as an option for parents to pay for, NCHS is proud to launch its new "Class Band" scheme.

The Year 7 Gifted & Talented music class will be the first to participate as they play the new saxophones, clarinets, trombones and trumpets which the school have paid to hire from Staffordshire County Council. There will also be a wind instrument teacher visiting the class on a weekly basis to give the class specialist tuition.

Mr Eddie Kerr, Head of Creative Arts at NCHS has gone one step further and developed a unique partnership with Keele University which sees them working with the music and poetry of the Sneyd family who built Keele Hall. He is hoping the class will then perform the revived and updated pieces at the Hall in March 2014. Keele Hall has also provided funding for 4D art and a professional Master of Ceremonies at the celebration event.

"Nothing like this has been done before. We are very excited about this whole class opportunity to both develop a new skill and be involved in the history of our local area"
Mr Kerr

The class can't wait to get their hands on the shiny new instruments and to start their "Class Band". They are hoping to be ready to perform by Christmas as part of the South Newcastle Federation celebrations.

Eyes Down.....it's Two Little Ducks!

The main hall took on a different roll during the summer term as we invited some of the more mature members of the local community in for a cup of tea and a bit of bingo.

The whole session was planned, organised and run by our Health & Social Care students as part of their BTEC course and also included a sing-a-long during the interval led by our own Molly Sherratt, who put her considerable vocal talent to good use.

All the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the morning and look forward to working in the community again in the future. One of the local residents enjoyed it so much she can't wait for the next one and would love it to become a regular thing!



NCHS Football Season is Underway

The return to school heralds the start of the football season and our Year 9 team has got off to a great start!

Friday 13th lived up to its reputation as we travelled to Birmingham to face a tough University Academy team. However, we had the bigger hearts and covered twice as much ground and we ended the evening with a 0-2 win!

Monday 16th September saw us back in action against St Margaret Ward High School. Four times we went behind and four times we came back to equalise, then with just two minutes of extra time left we scored the winner to finish 4-5! This was the best team performance ever produced by our boys!

Congratulations ...Sam Heelis, Lucas Wright, Mark Turner, Joe Edmond, Jamie Wright, Lewis Beech, Zak Heeland, Jack Hampton, Reece White, Elliott Lockett, Lewis Dixon, Sam Plant & Alex Newsome.

Mr Dave Dolman, PE Dept.

South Newcastle Federation

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