

# Kirkburton Middle School

## NEWSLETTER

### September 2011 No. 1

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#### WELCOME TO THE FIRST NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR!

Welcome to the first newsletter of the school year and an especially warm welcome to the new parents and pupils who have joined us this term. Until recently the Summer Holidays seemed a long way away, but with the return of this magnificent weather and the children playing on the fields it does not quite feel such a distant memory.

The children have made a great start to school. Year 6 have settled in very well and the take up of extra-curricular activities and participation in the life of the school by all three year groups has been outstanding. I am very grateful to our superb staff for all the enrichment opportunities they are providing for the children this year, most of which are listed at the end of this newsletter for your information.

We hope you find our Newsletters informative but please, never hesitate in contacting us if you have any queries or need any clarification of anything to do with Kirkburton Middle School.

I would also remind parents that our web-site, which we are building and updating constantly, provides you with lots more information about school.

Kind regards

**Gary Johnson, Headteacher**

#### IMPORTANT DATES ....

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** – Open Morning  
**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October** – Open Afternoon  
**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October** - Staff Training Day (School closed to pupils) and Parent / Pupil / Teacher meetings  
**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October** – Last day of term  
**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October** – Staff training day (School closed to pupils)  
**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November** – Pupils return to school



#### STAFF NEWS

**This year we welcome four new members of staff:**

Mr James joins us from Birkenshaw Middle School as our new Head of History and Mr Jones, Mr Grist and Mrs Clarkson join our Additional Needs Team as Educational Teaching Assistants. I am sure all four will make a valuable contribution to our highly dedicated staff.

#### SCHOOL UNIFORM

Thank you to everyone for buying uniform which adheres to our dress code, it is very much appreciated. With many of us being parents ourselves we know it isn't always easy convincing our children to wear the correct uniform! However, it does avoid unnecessary negativity at school if pupils are wearing the correct uniform – tailored trousers and black shoes (not trainers) in particular. Just to let you know, previously worn school sweatshirts etc. are available from Kirkwood Hospice Shop in Kirkburton or from the School Office, representing excellent value for money. Please make sure all your child's belongings are named. That way it is much easier for us to get lost property back to its owner. Brightly-coloured belts should not be worn and we ask girls to remove nail varnish before they come to school.

### WE ARE PROUD OF...

Eoin Schofield – Who is currently having football trials with Bradford City.

### 2011 Open Championships!

One of our former pupils, James Breeze, recently appeared in the 'Greenkeeper International' Magazine following his part in the 2011 Open Golf Championship. James was one of the many 'green' staff who prepared and maintained the course, rubbing shoulders with Darren Clarke, Rory McIlroy and Graeme McDowell. The course was universally praised and statistics show that the team has now raked 17,958 bunkers since 1995 (1016 during the 2011 Championship itself!).

PLEASE LET US KNOW OF ANY ACHIEVEMENTS YOUR CHILD MAKES OUTSIDE SCHOOL WE MAY NOT BE AWARE OF, WE WOULD LOVE TO CELEBRATE THEM WITH YOU.



Congratulations and well done to the following pupils:

Oliver Radcliffe : Grade 1 Guitar exam.

Rebecca Swallow : Grade 3 Guitar exam with Merit

Josie Cordingly : Grade 1 Piano with distinction.

Scarlett Kaye competed in the Penistone Music Festival receiving a 'Commended' for her piece on the Piano (Highland Fling) – A convincing performance technically and artistically!



Due to the success of their new club

held here in The Pavilion at KMS and the number of children needing out of school care at both KMS and Highburton Village Hall, they now have a vacancy for a playworker two mornings and two evenings per week. If you would like to join their team, please contact Angela on 07979 087538 or 01484 606065, or [burtonoutofschoolclub@gmail.com](mailto:burtonoutofschoolclub@gmail.com) for more information and an application form. No experience is required as full training will be given.

### CALENDAR

**Holiday Dates for 2012-13 have yet to be agreed by Kirklees Council but once we have them we will send them to all parents and place them on our web-site.**

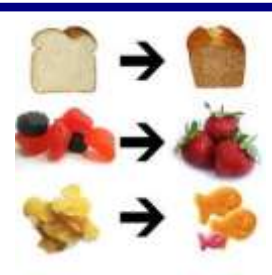
### ENGLISH SETS

We have had a small number of queries regarding how we are organising English teaching in school this year. In everything we do we aim to do the very best we can for each and every one of our pupils. As part of that aim we have reviewed our setting structures for all year groups.

We have increased our staffing in the English department this year to enable us to have one more set in each half of the year group for Years 6, 7 and 8.

In Years 7 and 8 sets 2 and 3 are the same ability meaning we have a top set, a lower set intervention group and two parallel sets in the middle. It is this that has caused most confusion. Please be assured that whenever a child is placed in a group/set, or if a child moves groups mid-year, it is after much deliberation and is in the child's very best interests. As parents, our aspirations are often for our children to be placed in the very highest sets. However, for some children this is not always best. They may be working at similar levels as others in a group but the pace of the lessons and the rate of learning can be very difficult for some children. These children often thrive best when they have more opportunities for discussion perhaps, or reinforcement and consolidation.

As part of this focus upon standards in English we have identified pupils who need more support or consolidation of work and have thereby increased our 'intervention programme'.



### HEALTHY SCHOOLS AWARD

A polite reminder that this year we will be re-assessed for our Healthy Schools Award and would therefore request that all packed lunches contain healthy food. Please do not include sweets and chocolate bars in your child's lunch box. Many thanks.

### VOUCHERS FOR SCHOOLS . . .

**MORRISONS VOUCHERS** - Do we collect these vouchers? Indeed we do. In fact, if there is a voucher for schools anywhere you can be assured we collect them!

## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

As part of the school initiative to focus on reading skills and literacy across the curriculum, we are going to put additional emphasis on Reading Skills in French this year. We will be sending in the order for Modern Language magazines in the coming week, and will be setting homework to be carried out independently at home using the Mary Glasgow website. Pupils will shortly be receiving a password to access the website. There will be times when we will ask parents to sign the planner to confirm that the work on the website has been carried out.

In line with preparing for studying languages at a higher level, we will also be setting regular learning homeworks. Again we will be asking for your support in making sure that this learning is carried out at home so that progress can be made in writing. Examinations at GCSE and A level in Modern Languages require students to be able to manipulate previously learned language, and the ability to learn by heart is a skill we need to cultivate from an early stage.

## SPORTS NEWS

### Year 8 football



The boys have made a very determined start to the year. They were very unlucky to lose 4-3 to Holmfirth High School (away) when they lost to a very late goal in a long second half. They then showed great character to dominate a game against Netherhall Learning Campus (away), go one-nil down with 5 minutes remaining, only to fight back and equalise in the last minute. We look forward to our remaining games against North Huddersfield Trust, Mooredend HS, Almondbury and Royds Hall.

## 'FRIENDS ASSOCIATION' NEWS

All parents, carers and relatives of our children are warmly invited to become part of our 'Friends Association'. Its purpose is to organise social events for parents and pupils, developing the very positive relationships we have between home and school, as well as organising fund-raising activities which then directly benefit all our pupils. Last year for instance, the 'Friends Association' decided to use some of its funds to subsidise the cost of this year's Christmas Theatre trips for all the pupils (which are currently being finalised – details to follow).

You are cordially invited to the first 'Friends' Meeting of the year next **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 7p.m. in the school staff-room.**



Please may we clarify for parents

new to Kirkburton Middle School and remind everyone of the P.E. Department's procedures on:

### Transport to / from Sporting events

We are always extremely grateful for your support in this area. When you send the return slip back to us giving the number of pupils you can transport, this is taken as an acceptance and pupils will be allocated to your vehicle when you arrive at school if you have not previously specified the pupils you are willing to transport. If your circumstances do change and you are unable to help, please contact school immediately. If you cannot provide transport for your child, school will make the necessary transport arrangements. We are always most appreciative of the generous support we receive from our parents in helping with school fixtures and events.

### Prior notice of sporting fixtures

We always try and inform parents of sporting fixtures well in advance of any event. However, we are notified so late ourselves sometimes of fixtures that this cannot always be the case. We understand the problems such situations can cause and thank you in anticipation of your understanding should short notice be necessary.

## FANTASY FOOTBALL

All pupils can register a team on [schoolsfl.com](http://schoolsfl.com) – School code 6553. Who knows more about football – pupils or teachers, girls or boys?



INVESTORS IN PUPILS

## INVESTORS IN PUPILS

In June 2009 Kirkburton Middle School gained the Investors in Pupils Award (IIP). This is an award that recognises the achievement of whole schools and groups of pupils in raising standards in learning, behaviour, attendance, classroom management and induction. As the award lasts for three years we will be applying for re-assessment in June 2012.

Having achieved Investors in Pupils status we have endeavoured to maintain and develop further the ideas and concepts of the award. This year approximately ten 'Community Lessons' have been included in the curriculum, the aim being to give pupils more of an opportunity to bond together as a class, developing their relationships, teamwork, communication and organisational skills.

The first of these lessons involved pupils participating in decision making exercises, formulating and agreeing to rules for their class, writing a class motto/tag and a web page for the school web-site. In our Community Lesson on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September pupils voted for class representatives for the School Council and House Captains.

These positions of responsibility have an important role to play in giving our pupils a voice in the decision making process of our school. Also as Pupil Parent Review day approaches (13<sup>th</sup> October) pupils will be reviewing targets and setting new personal and class targets for the coming term.

Newsletters will be used to keep you regularly informed of our progress towards IIP re-assessment, however more information about Investors In Pupils is available on our school web-site.

### EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES:

Monday:	Strings (Lunchtime) KS2 Language (Lunchtime) Girls Football (After School) Table Tennis (After School from 10 Oct)
Tuesday:	Y7 Football (Lunchtime) Gardening (Lunchtime) Windband (Lunchtime) Carnegie Reading (Lunchtime) Y7/8 Girls Hockey (After School) Boys Hockey (After School) Art Club (After School)
Wednesday:	Gym (Before School) Y8 Football (Lunchtime) Computer Aided Design (Lunchtime) KS3 Language (Lunchtime) African Drumming (Lunchtime) Games and Puzzles (Lunchtime) Multi-sports Y6 Girls (Lunchtime)
Thursday:	Quiet Room (Lunchtime) Choir (Lunchtime) Drama (After School) Y7/8 Netball (After School) Y6 Archery (After School)
Friday:	Y6 Football (Lunchtime) Scrabble (Lunchtime) Y7/8 Dance (After school from 4 Nov)

### HOUSE CAPTAIN ELECTIONS

Congratulations to the following pupils who were elected as House Captains in our recent House elections:

Jenny Sharman, Dan Turner (Red), Harriet Berry, Kaylem Billy (Yellow), Kim Smith, James Capewell (Green) and Katie Bond, Eoin Schofield (Blue).

The following pupils were voted as Vice Captains:

Emma Spivey, Lewis Peters (Red), Katie Howarth, Luke Seaton (Yellow), Alicia Workman, George O'Leary (Green) and Abigail Smith, Tom Clarke (Blue).

Thank you and well done to all the candidates who had the courage to put themselves forward and try and make a difference. What great ambassadors we have in our school!

We are currently electing School Council members and applications are being taken for Young Leaders. The results of these will be published in a future newsletter.