

Birkenhead Sixth Form College

Keeping you in the Picture—Autumn 2010

Welcome to our first newsletter for this year. We have had a busy first term. I hope you enjoy finding out what our students have been up to.

Kathryn Podmore, Principal



Visit from the Lords

Liberal Democrat Peer and Co-Chair of the Liberal Democrat Committee on Education, Families and Young People

Baroness Walmsley visited Birkenhead Sixth Form College to speak to Politics, History and Law students in November. Baroness Walmsley (of West Derby in the County of Merseyside) is a keen advocate of the House of Lords "Peers in Schools" programme, which encourages students to learn more about politics and Parliament.

Students were keen to learn more about the role of the House of Lords and have been researching the specially commissioned House of Lords clips on the YouTube parliamentary channel, a blogging site for direct access to peers to discuss issues of the day and the Lord Speaker's own webpage.

Massive Investment to Support Student Achievement Continues in 2011

Investment in exciting new initiatives is set to continue in 2011. We are extremely proud of the quality of the technology we provide.

There are loanable iTouches in the Learning Curve and free campus wide wifi.

Remote login to our network means learners can access their files and even the software they use on their courses at home. With around £200,000 having been invested in the last two years, we are at the forefront of using technology to support our learners.



BBC Question Time Success!



Birkenhead Sixth Form College is through to the second round of the BBC Schools Question Time

Competition 2011. The first phase involved members of the College Debating Club and History and Government and Politics students choosing a suitable Question Time panel and formulating questions they would ask the panel. Stephen Fry was our choice of Chairperson. Questions covered a range of topics including Britain's involvement in the war in Afghanistan, university tuition fees and EMA, Housing Benefit cuts and lowering the voting age to 16. The College is submitting a 5 minute video of a panel debate for the next stage of the competition. Watch this space...!



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Chris Joins England Cricket Team for Houses of Parliament Reception

Birkenhead Sixth Form College student Chris Edwards, who was named Disability Cricketer of the Year in May, joined his cricketing heroes at a Champagne Reception in Westminster. Batsman and seam bowler Chris was invited to join the England Cricket Team at the Houses of Parliament prior to their departure for Australia to defend the Ashes. Chris is studying Sport and Exercise Science at College. He is training for his next international challenge when the England Disability Cricket Team tour South Africa in 2011.



Careers Fair Provides Grass Roots Guidance

Nearly 100 representatives of local, national and international companies converged on Birkenhead Sixth Form College in November to attend its Careers Fair.



The event is arranged to give all students information about a huge range of career opportunities. Unilever Chemists, Sainsburys and Nat West Business Managers, Clinical Psychologists, Solicitors, Engineers, Fire and Police officers and many health professionals were among the experts who provided students with first class advice and invaluable help to enable them to plan their next step towards a successful future.

Hollywood & TV Star Gives Students an Insight into Life in Film & Media

Roles in Dr Who, Thorne and U Be Dead are just a few of the recent credits of starring actor David Morrissey, who visited the College in November to talk to students about his career and offer some valuable advice.

The actor, producer and director has been winning critical acclaim since the 1980s when he was cast in Willy Russell's major TV drama, 'One Summer', after learning his craft in the Everyman Youth Theatre. Now based in London, David grew up in the Kensington and Knotty Ash areas of Liverpool.

Creative Media Production, Film Studies and Performance Studies students at the College welcomed David and quizzed him about his rich and varied career. He had valuable insights into how he prepares for a role in front of the camera and how directing film has impacted upon his approach to acting. David can be seen soon in an adaptation of South Riding, and a Boxing Day special of Murder of the Orient Express.



Check out our new website www.bsfc.ac.uk
for everything you need to know about what is going on at
Birkenhead Sixth Form College



Birkenhead Sixth Form College

Curriculum Update:

New for September 2011: GCSE Resit Programme—more details to follow in the New Year.

Did you Know...?

We are the Wirral's top performing inclusive Sixth Form

Our A Level pass rate of 98.5% is higher than the national average (97.7%) and Wirral average (97.3%)

We outperform 75% of other providers nationally for AS provision

Over 300 students progress to University from the College each year - more than from any other school or College on the Wirral.

Students can choose from over 50 courses and choose a combination of courses that is right for them and not dictated by timetables.

Festive Cheer

Birkenhead Sixth Form College students acted as Santa's little helpers, when they packed over 40 boxes with goodies to go to children in Eastern Europe as part of Operation Christmas Child. The students and staff have been buying extra Christmas gifts of toys and other luxuries to bring a little Christmas cheer.



Golf Triumph for College Students at Royal Liverpool

Five Birkenhead Sixth Form College students have taken the prestigious Hoylake Schools' Tournament Trophy at Royal Liverpool Golf Club, a first for the College.

Top overall scorer in the competition Ben Holmes, who finished just four over par, teamed up with Jonathan Henery, Paul Farragher, Harry Rhodes and Jamie Law to trounce stiff

competition from across Merseyside. The students were thrilled to play on the same greens as golfing heroes Tiger Woods, Ernie Els and Sergio Garcia. 'I was really impressed with the excellent standard of the golf and the sporting attitude of our students. They were a credit to the College,' said Sport Studies teacher Frank Melia.

College Recognised for Excellence

We have been recognised for our contribution to driving forward technologies to help learners achieve. The only college in Merseyside to receive the accolade, we led a North West consortium as one of only 15 research projects in the country developing new initiatives to give students mobile access to computer networks and resources. All students can now remotely open their college PC desktop and potentially work from any Internet enabled device. Students on work placements have been provided with an ultra-mobile pc to help them stay in touch.

Continuous investment in technology across all courses in the college is helping to raise aspirations and achievement.



Admissions Update:

Monthly interview evenings are being held from December onwards. Students are encouraged to get applications in early as a large number of students have already applied and applications are up year-on-year.

Students can apply by the following ways:

- Paper application form
- Via the website
- Via i-choose Wirral

Did you Know...?

Last year approximately 1000 applications were received for places.

Call Karen Alcock, Admissions Manager on 0151 652 5575 for further information.

See www.bsfc.ac.uk for further information.

Class of 2010 Return to Celebrate Success

College will proudly welcome the 'Class of 2010' to a reunion and celebration of exam success in January, after summer exam results demonstrated another successful year. Many of them will have returned from top universities across the country for Christmas. 100% pass rate was achieved in 29 subjects and over a third of results attained by students were prestigious A*, A and B grades. A 98.5% overall pass rate reflects the hard work of over 450 students. Many of the College's A Team gained the new A* grade denoting exceptional achievement.



College Achieves Fairtrade Status

We have been awarded Fairtrade College Status, enabling students and staff to tuck in to tasty, guilt free food. The College was required to meet all the national standards laid down by the Fairtrade Foundation, ensuring Fairtrade products are available in

the College shop and refectory and raising the awareness it brings to producers in developing countries. Ted Behan, Assistant Principal, said "We are delighted by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by both staff and students in working together to achieve this prestigious award. The College will continue to promote the Fairtrade ethos and demonstrate its support to providing a fairer deal for small farmers and communities in the developing world. Plans for this academic year include running healthy cookery classes for students using Fairtrade ingredients and establishing pen pal links with a school in Nairobi, Kenya".



Wirral Sports Young Volunteer of the Year

Birkenhead Sixth Form College student Jemma Edwards has been presented with the Merseyside Partnership's Young Volunteer of the Year award. Jemma has already won the Wirral title. The event celebrates sporting achievements and raises money for the Merseyside Sports Council.

