

December 2011

## A message from Miss Futers



*As we come to the end of a very busy term it gives me great pleasure to reflect upon some of our successes since September. Our pupils and staff have again been involved in a wide variety of activities visiting Theatres, Vindolanda and Art Galleries to name but a few! Of course we have been involved in our annual Service of Remembrance and the Christmas Show. Jefferson continues to 'reach for the skies' in terms of attendance and we are currently averaging around 93%. This is due to the partnership between school and home and a big thanks goes to parents for supporting us in this.*

*We had a great Review Day with over 60% of parents attending. Remember we have a Review Day every half term so if you missed the first one please come along to the second day on 30th March. We get lots of visitors and the feedback from them is always positive, many of our visitors telling us how much they enjoy visiting and how impressed they are with the pupils. Next term will be just as busy as we continue to strive for excellence and to provide the best possible education for our children. Have a Happy and Safe Christmas and New Year.*

*Judith Futers*

## Awards Evening

On 21st November 2011 Excelsior Academy held the Annual Awards Presentation Evening at the Civic Centre in Newcastle. Over 450 people came to see pupils from all four schools and the College receive awards for different subjects and achievements. I received the Jefferson Award for Art in KS3 and I was really nervous before I went on stage to collect it. When I received the award I felt really good and it was even more special because I was presented with the award by Katy Storey who is an England Women's Rugby World Cup Winner. Getting the award in front of friends and my family made me feel really proud and makes me want to achieve even more next year!

*Grace Ekeke, Year 8*

## Final word from Madam President....

This is now my last year in Jefferson School and my final term as School Council President. I can hardly believe it that since I first came here three years ago, my experience turned out to be so much better than I ever thought it could be. Jefferson has provided so many opportunities for me and I'm sure that every pupil who walks through these doors will get to experience what I have experienced.

Not only have I been taught by such kind and generous teachers who try their very best to help me succeed, I've been given the chance to go on many trips both for educational and



recreational purposes. With Excelsior being split into the 4 schools, it gives pupils in each school a chance to get to know each other even if they aren't the same age.

As much as the picture of me on the rocking horse (Light Water Valley - July 2011) is very embarrassing, it does describe pleasure and happiness and that's the best way I can describe my experience in Jefferson School.

*Virginia Johnson  
Year 11 School Council President*



The Spring Term begins on Tuesday 3rd January 2012.

We look forward to seeing you in full school uniform and ready to learn. Have a nice holiday!

# My Trip to the Black Bull in Corbridge



We all went on this trip because we all go to the Cooking Club which is run by Mrs Thornton and Mr Murphy on a Monday night from 3.45pm to 5.30pm. In the club we cook all sorts from simple things to fancy dishes. The teachers thought it would be a great idea to treat the club members to a meal at the Black Bull in the village of Corbridge, Northumberland. First we were transported by minibus to the restaurant where we all enjoyed a main course followed by dessert. Then we all went to see the market to look at all the festive stalls which sold gifts we could buy for our families. In the village there was a shop which had traditional Christmas sweets which the children from 1800's would have eaten which we all found really interesting.

Thanks to all the teachers involved.  
By Josh Smith Y7

# Jefferson's National Champions

Me, (Katie Shaw, left) Sophie Chapman (right) and the rest of Westgate Judo Club travelled to Hereford to take part in the National Judo competition. We competed against competitors from the whole of the UK who were the same weight as us. Sophie and I managed to take home two Gold Medals which make us National Judo Champions. Others from our club were winners too!

Katie Shaw age 13



# Pupil comes up with fab idea!



Sometimes in Jefferson School, one person can have an idea and with the help of other pupils, that idea becomes a reality. Each of the previous Year 11's at Jefferson left with just their memories. This year's leavers have decided that sometimes you just need that little something to remember all the good times that we have shared together. I decided to make this year's leavers dreams come true by organising and designing the leaver hoodies. The design of having pupils

initials makes these hoodies more personal and special to each student. Also, the names of every Year 11 pupil appears in the big number 12 on the back of the hood. I hope that this can be carried on in Jefferson School or become an Academy wide enterprise for future Year 11 pupils. Jefferson Year 11 pupils would like to thank Mr Krishnan and Mrs Barber for helping and persuading us to carry on with this idea.

Georgia Hendry

# CHICKS

## Country Holidays for Inner City Kids

*Pupils have a memorable experience @ CHICKS*

When I went to Devon with CHICKS it was really really good! I had a fantastic time because we did lots of exciting activities like horse riding and climbing a huge wall. The meals were very good too! We did lots of fun things and when we had free time we went and played on the trampoline and played lots of games. We also had the chance to go swimming and went on a huge water slide in the pool. On the last

day we went to a theme park and it was really funny because I went on a ride and got a big fright because the ride went upside down!! It was so funny because I was clinging on to my friend Jodie and my shoe nearly fell off. I was very sad to leave and the staff there thought we were a good group and really want us to come back next year! Thank you all the staff who made it possible for us to go.

Chanice Beaty Y9



## RGS Students

*a hit with our staff and pupils!*



I have had the pleasure of working with four 6th Form Students from Royal Grammar School every Thursday this term and their commitment to helping a group of EAL pupils is to be applauded. They have shown high levels of maturity and enthusiasm throughout the Autumn term. They have completed tasks of an Academic nature with our pupils as well as some practical activities that they have requested to do.

The students were particularly keen to try some art work and food technology as these are areas of the curriculum that they have had little chance to experience at the Royal Grammar School.

Jefferson EAL pupils have made a lot of progress, particularly in their speaking and listening skills as a result of the high level of input they have received from the RGS students.

I look forward to continuing working with them next term.

Mrs Fairbairn



# Jefferson Pupils put on a Festive Show

Jefferson pupils have been treading the festive boards in our end of term Christmas Spectacular. The variety show called 'Excelsior Expresses' was an Academy-wide effort that included strong representation from Jefferson school. Pupils sang, acted, danced, played music and even performed magic tricks to a packed auditorium of fellow pupils, governors, parents, carers, grandparents and members of the community.

Mr Krishnan also arranged a special matinee performance for 140 pupils from Atkinson Road and Westgate Hill primary schools. Kirsty Anderson, Assistant Head Teacher at Westgate Hill Primary School said: 'inviting the feeder primary schools to the show is a great way for prospective pupils to experience Excelsior Academy and see what a welcoming, friendly and positive place it is. Everyone has enjoyed the performances and it's really given our youngsters something to aspire to.'

Guests were treated to renditions of traditional Christmas songs including All I Want for Christmas Is You, Santa Baby and I Wish It Could be Christmas Everyday, as well as dramatic interpretations of Golden Goose and Snow White.



# Budding Architects

The event was called 'An Introduction to Built Environment' at Northumbria University which was part of a Design competition aimed at gifted and talented pupils from each of the schools who took part. It had Architects from the Royal Institute of British Architects giving a talk about the project as a whole and then setting a task of modelling a building of choice from around Newcastle. There were many schools from the North East there, including some from Sunderland but the Jefferson pupils kept a cool head and produced a super winning model!

All schools had to stand up at the end of their workshop and present their models to the whole hall (and the judges) explaining how they went about it and skills they had used etc. We won the competition, with all six pupils taking home £15.00 each in Eldon Square vouchers.

Lauren Fradgley said, 'It was a brilliant experience as I got to show



off my creative talents. We succeeded and left with huge smiles on our faces'. Other pupils agreed that as they worked really well together as a team, their efforts paid off. They were happy to be competing and the rivalry kept them on their toes. About half way through, we were quite sure we had the best model but it was only when the judge announced it at the end that we

could 'whoop with winning delight!' Mrs Tripp & Mr Bolam who accompanied us said they were so proud of how we participated in such a mature manner and what a credit we were to our school. Pupils involved were all Year 9's: Carly Durham, Nyasha Mwenye, Mohammed Miah, Lauren Fradgley, Fejiro Okukusie and Daniel McDonald.

Fejiro Okukusie

# Maths @ Centre for Life

Four Jefferson pupils were invited to the Life Centre in Newcastle City Centre along with other pupils from Excelsior Academy and pupils from different schools across the region to

take part in a day of Maths challenges. We took part in lots of activities and some of the puzzles were really hard but we were encouraged to try our best and solve



them. Sometimes we were working alone to do the puzzles and other times we did them in teams. My favourite part of the day was the last puzzle when we had to get everyone on an imaginary plane in the quickest time possible. Can you guess who won?

Dimitar Petleshkov, Year 8

# Remembering!

Another moving Remembrance Service hosted by Jefferson

On 10th November 2012, Jefferson hosted the annual Remembrance Service for local dignitaries and servicemen past and present. Amongst them, the Sherriff of Newcastle enjoyed performances from pupils who proudly represented the school. Performances included 'Please wear a Poppie' by Virginia Johnson, Chaglar Bober and Brandon Rose whilst our very own Mrs Tripp delivered a moving rendition of 'No Man's Land' to an

enthralled audience. The Last Post was played, followed by two minutes silence, to remember those who have fallen for our country. The occasion was described as 'very moving' and 'an absolute joy to witness' (Dean Titterton, CEO, YMCA North Tyneside). Year 7's from across the Academy were invited with all of them wearing Poppies as a mark of respect. A truly memorable and moving occasion was had by all involved.



## Farewell ...

to our PGCE students, Mr Crane, Mr Wilson and Ms Carson

As new, temporary additions to the Jefferson family, we were asked to design and produce a 'creative' wall display, which represented the ethos of Jefferson School. This was great fun, as it allowed us to work collaboratively as a team. In addition to this, it allowed us to work closely with the pupils in Jefferson. We decided to make a 'Creativity Tree', which is life-like in size. It has an amazing 3D-appearance, giving it life and eminence. The pupils created the leaves for the tree and wrote down what creativity meant to them, which gave it a fantastic finishing touch.

Thank you to all staff and pupils for making our training experience here a very memorable one.

# Movember

Mr Bolam, Mr Low, Mr Glenwright, and Mr Krishnan from Jefferson school were joined by Mr Hunt & Mr Dixon for a charity event called Movember. The purpose of this was to make people aware and help funding for testicular cancer & prostate cancer. Staff had to grow a moustache for the whole of November!! Consequently, we were constantly at the centre of jokes made by both staff and pupils!! This was all done in good spirit and the end did justify the means as over £200 was raised. Thanks to all who supported us financially and contributed to the banter!

Mr Bolam



# Creative Day for Primary Schools



In October, Mr Krishnan, Ms Nijaila and Ms Coulson from Jefferson, and other Academy-wide creative staff ran workshops for Excelsior College's link primary schools (Westgate Hill and Moorside). Pupils were treated to professional workshops in Drama, Dance, Steel Pans, African Drumming and Music. Due to its success, in the New Year, we will be offering similar workshops to the other feeder schools. Watch this space.....

# Year 7 boys bake up a storm!

We think that Food Technology lessons are fabulous. In primary school, we did not get a chance to cook. For the last nine weeks, we have been making various muffins and biscuits. Baking in school has inspired us to

do more baking at home over the weekends. Mind, this hasn't gone down very well with our mums!! For our next enterprise day, we are going to arrange a 'Year 7 Bake-Off'. Details to follow.....

Daniel Walker and Connor Hogg



# Shoebox Appeal

*Pupils come up trumps and make a difference by giving generously*

Every year Jefferson School collects toys and games to put in shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. This year each PFL class was asked to make at least 2 shoeboxes and we collected 30 in total to send to children who won't get any presents otherwise. It felt really nice to be helping other people out.

Syed Raza, Year 7



Pictured here are some of the pupils chosen to receive a reward for 100% attendance from September to December.



## Attendance

Our attendance in Jefferson is over 93% so far this year which is up by around 4% on last year. This is due to the hard work not only of staff but of parents who are supporting our aim to ensure pupils are in school every day, enjoying and achieving to the best of their ability.

We like to reward pupils for their attendance and have been using a variety of incentives such as lunch queue jumps for PFL classes and prizes for those with 100% attendance.

We hope that our attendance will continue to improve during 2012 and would like to thank all parents and pupils for their continued support in achieving this goal.

Miss Dunlop, Attendance Manager

## Year 9 Winners

Jozef and I represented Jefferson School in the annual inter school football competition. As we won all our round robin games, we were the eventual winners of the tournament.

Robert Kotlar Year 9



## Important Dates

Academy closes for Christmas

**16th December**

Academy re-opens for Spring Term

**3rd January**

Academy closes for half term

**10th February**

Academy re-opens

**20th February**

Academy closes for Easter

**30th March**

Academy re-opens for Summer Term

**16th April**

May Day

**7th May**

Academy closes for half term

**1st June**

Academy re-opens

**11th June**

Academy closes for Summer Holidays

**20th July**

## Review Days

**30th March**

**28th June**

## Training Days

**2nd March**

**29th June**



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