



The Young Entrepreneur

By Jason Toward, Adnan Abass
and Matthew Boyle

Issue 2
Summer 2011

Armstrong's Amazing Adventures



Year 9 and 10 at Hawkfirst

Armstrong School attended a residential to Hawkfirst in Kielder. This was a reward for the hard work and good behaviour of the pupils in Armstrong school. Year 7 and Year 8 visited Hawkfirst in the first week of May, with Year 9 and Year 10 visiting the following week. We interviewed the Principal of Armstrong School, Mrs Aitchison, she explained that; *"The benefits the pupils gained included confidence building, teamwork and healthy living. They learned to work together effectively, faced challenging experiences, developed new friendships and strengthened existing friendships."* However, she said *"the most important thing is that everyone enjoyed themselves."* She also said that, *"I think the staff really enjoyed themselves because they participated in the activities and they like being with the pupils outside of the classroom environment."* Armstrong school enjoyed themselves at Hawkfirst and would love to do something similar next year.

**The Circus came to town on
the 19th July**



**Armstrong Charity Fun Day
for Laura Crane in Partnership with NUFC
Congratulations to all who supported and
participated - raising £1250.**



Head Boy and Head Girl

Armstrong School has appointed a new Head Boy and Head Girl. Robert Johnson, Year 10, is Head Boy and Melissa Douglas, Year 11, is Head Girl.



Robert and Melissa, in previous years, have both contributed significantly to school life and have lots of ideas for 2011-2012. They have weekly meetings with Mrs Aitchison, so watch this space for events. We wish them good luck in their posts.

Armstrong Academic Achievement

As we await the summer examination results on the 25th August 2011 we know that 26% of Year 11 pupils have already achieved 5 A* - C's including English and Maths. At Key Stage 3 pupils have made better than expected levels of progress this year; significant gains on their Key Stage 2 entry levels. The pupils have received a rich and varied curriculum that will prepare them for the English Baccalaureate.

Congratulations to Everyone!

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Armstrong Circus How it Began

Mrs Aitchison, Principal of Armstrong School had the idea of having a circus run by all pupils and staff of Armstrong School. Essentially she wanted something different. She said *“Traditionally we have a school production at the end of the year, however, this year we wanted an event which would be fabulous and unforgettable.”*

She continued *“The activities will bring Armstrong together by ensuring that all staff and pupils work together as one team in the spirit of enterprise.”*

After lots of hard work and preparation we interviewed Mrs Aitchison again she said *“I think the pupils and teachers should be proud of themselves. I am looking forward to the circus performance on the 19th of July.”*

Being a Business School, the Circus would not be complete without advertising, merchandise and refreshments. Merchandise being sold included masks and mugs. Posters advertising the Circus performance have also been produced.

We asked a pupil what he thought about Armstrong Circus, he said *“I think it’s a great idea. It will boost the pupils’ confidence to work independently and as a team, as well as making their own decisions. I am looking forward to the performance.”*



Top left : King Cobra
Bottom left: Clowns

Top right: Ring Masters
Bottom right: Armstrong

Circus Day

The day of the circus came around quickly. A high level of nervousness and excitement filled the air. Performers began to question themselves—Will it go smoothly? Will people forget the routines? Will members of groups not turn up? The answer to all of these rhetorical questions was a resounding ‘No’.

What made this performance special was that every pupil was expected to take part; for many this pushed them out of their comfort zone.

All of the lessons learned about team work over the previous twelve months in preparing for the big day came to fruition in spectacular fashion. One pupil said *“This experience has been unique and one I shall never forget.”*



Above left: Fashion Models prepare for Catwalk.
Above right: Demolition Dancers rehearse.

Huge Thanks

A fantastic time was had by all at the circus. Everyone worked together and all the hard work and effort paid off.

The sports hall was set up as a circus marquee. This added to the atmosphere and one pupil said *“It felt like that you were in a real marquee watching a real live circus.”*

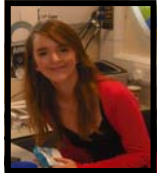
So what will be next for Armstrong School? We can’t wait to find out!

Thanks to all parents, carers, family and friends for their support.



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Get To Know Your Teacher Miss Moat



Miss Moat has now been at school for one year. She gave us an insight into her life. Miss Moat went to an all girl school. When she attended school she didn't enjoy P.E. At a younger age she wanted to be a Barrister and studied Law at Northumbria University. However, after teaching maths for a year, she enjoyed it and decided to become a maths teacher.

She has now been a teaching maths for five years and really enjoys working at Excelsior Academy.

Miss Moat loves cats and has got two called Foxy and Sooty. Foxy and Sooty are 3 years old. She likes spicy food, her favourite being chicken madras. She enjoys listening to 70s music and Amy Winehouse. Her favourite films are "Stand by Me" and "The Wizard of OZ. She also loves watching darts!

Miss Moat's hobbies include shopping; she has enjoyed this for the last 21 years. She likes reading and watching her boyfriend play cricket.

Armstrong Angels

Armstrong Angels  are a girls attendance group from Year 7 to Year 9. The group is run by Miss Harrison and Mrs Murdy. It started in the summer term and has been a huge success. Ten girls who have achieved 100% attendance are on their way to London to see the sites and visit a West End theatre. Congratulations to everyone.



Kingswood Triumphs Once Again

A group of Key Stage 3 and 4 boys from Armstrong School went on a two day residential to Kingswood Activity Centre. The trip was organised by Mr Hunt and Mr Fernando as a reward for the boys contribution to Armstrong School throughout 2010 and 2011.

These brave boys took part in various activities such as abseiling, rock climbing, 3g swing, survival, aero ball, team challenge, zip line and other activities. At the beginning many were afraid of heights, however, through encouragement they became brave enough to take on any challenge and were very proud of what they had achieved.

We interviewed Jonathan McCrudden to ask what he thought about the residential: "My favourite activity was the Leap of Faith because it was terrifying but it was also exciting at the same time. I had a great time and hope that I will get the chance to go to Kingswood again."





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Enterprise Continues In Armstrong

Schmeh is a business run by five young entrepreneurs in Armstrong School. The group, who are selling personalised mugs for £5, was set up by Courtney Walton, Ibrahim Sayid, Jack, Dickinson Samuel Kankuni and Thomas Daglish with the help of Mr Farrah and Newcastle City Council.



Following a successful presentation of a business plan, Newcastle City Council gave the pupils £2000 to set up a printing business for personalised mugs and T-shirts. So far the business has gone well with orders now from the NUFC foundation. Courtney stated, *"We will hopefully make enough money to re-invest in a new business venture and continue the business well into the future."*

These items make wonderful gifts for birthdays and special occasions. They can be purchased by contacting Armstrong School.

Year 11 Work Experience 11th – 15th July

On the 11th of July, all of Armstrong's new Year 11 pupils went on work experience which included dental clinics, hairdressers, electrical services, Revenue and Customs, and Northern Rail.

Several pupils told us about their placements. David Gray and Mark McCoy were painting and decorating at Gosforth Pool with Newcastle City Council, they said that *"this was a really good example of what the world of work is like. It also gave us an idea of what we want to do in the future and what courses you need to take for different jobs."*

We Were Sailing

On the 4th July 2011 a group of year 10 pupils participated in a once - in - a - lifetime sailing trip around the west coast of Scotland. Three pupils were chosen from each of Excelsior's Schools and two from Gordonstoun, the host School. Christopher Brown, Steven Boyle and Alistair Cann attended from Armstrong School.

Dr McAlpine, a teacher and seasoned sailor said *"It was something new, and challenging. Everyone had a fantastic time and worked well as a team."* She summed up the experience as *"awesome."*

The pupils enjoyed themselves. Mr MacDonald, who also joined the trip said *"they were exhausted when they returned."* Pupils should be proud of themselves for being brave enough to take on this amazing, and unique sport.



Excelsior at Sea



Important Dates

18th August A- level and AS- level Results 9am
25th August GCSE Results 9am
Return to school on Monday 5th September 2011
10am –12pm Key Stage 3
12:30pm—2:30pm Key Stage 4
Enjoy your holidays!