



EXCELSIOR COLLEGE NEWS

July 2011

"We're on the web" - www.excelsiornewcastle.org.uk

'ASPIRE, COMMIT, EXCEL'

Excelsior College held its annual Celebration Evening on Tuesday 21st June 2011. Students, parents and staff enjoyed an evening of entertainment and prize giving and received a warm welcome from our head boy Callum Beadle-Taylor and head girl Soenem Waheed.



Achievement and Effort prizes were awarded for Level 2 students and also AS/A2 students who reached their potential throughout the year. There were also awards for 100% attendance, Community Volunteering, Commitment to Pupil Voice, the Geoff Younger Award and a category which the students chose themselves - the Best Dressed Student Award!

Students who received more than one award were Daniel Kerr and Danny Cook, lots of friendly rivalry between the pair! Stacey Knutsen, Robyn Derby, Craig Spence, Jordan Welsh, Radafina Petleshkova, Bilkish Begum, Rebecca Curran, and Navid Mehraban also received more than one award for their positive attitude and commitment to learning. There was also an award for the most improved student over the year which was received by Robert Boyle.

After the prize giving a fabulous buffet was provided for students and guests, the evening then continued with dancing and music. Everyone had a great time and had obviously made every effort to look their best on the night. After fond and tearful farewells some of the older students decided to travel into town and continue their celebrations well into the evening!

A fantastic time was had by all!

A message from the Excelsior College Director



What a brilliant year 2010-2011 has been for the College and the students. The number of students progressing from Year 13 to University has more than doubled and for the first time we will have students with two or more A grades at Advanced Level, we have come a long way in a short period of time.

I am incredibly proud of the work my staff do to prepare our students to become fulfilled, aspiring citizens. The students are very clear about where they want to be, how they are going to get there and what they need to achieve to take the next step on the path to their dreams.

The College motto is Aspire, Commit, Excel. For those students who will in the summer receive their results and progress to University, Apprenticeships and the world of work I applaud their achievements. It is only because they followed the motto and aspired to do great things, committed to the work and they managed to excel. I wish everyone of them success in the future and trust that they will always be ambassadors for the Academy.



Excelsior Embraces

Europe

Excelsior College has been involved in a Comenius Project for the last two years which sadly has now been completed. Students have visited Sweden, France, Greece, Poland, Spain and Portugal over the last two years before hosting 42 foreign students and staff for a week in March and then a final visit to Naples in Italy in May.

The visit in March was an enormous success with students from Europe astounded at the amazing building and wonderful opportunities the Excelsior College students have compared to that in their own countries.

George Pamlidis, a student from Greece said 'I am very sad to be leaving Newcastle, I have had the best time of my life and I think the Excelsior students have been the best hosts of all of the countries we have visited. I wish I could stay here, everyone is so nice and always very happy, how can I apply to be a student here?'

The students spent the entire week involved in joint activities and showing the students what it is like to be a student at Excelsior, sharing the culture, the music and the traditions with them too. The fish and chips and mushy peas were a great success although they were less impressed with their efforts to cook Yorkshire Puddings!

'When we first met each other on the Monday we were all very nervous but although we were all from different countries and backgrounds by the end of the week all we saw was what we had in common - a magnificent experience and one I will remember for the rest of my life' said Chloe Nielsen.



Induction Day

On Friday 24th May all students hoping to enter Excelsior College in September were invited to participate in a fun induction day. Steven Shaw from Hadrian School organised the event for the College and aimed to help the students focus on the skills, knowledge and attitude needed to be successful in the sixth form.

The new cohort of students was split into teams and they had to carry out a range of tasks, some of which were very challenging! They had great support from the student associates in school and staff from the College. The main focus of the day was for the teams to construct picnic benches and raised beds to create a new outside space for the sixth form. They had to work co-operatively in their own teams and with other groups to share resources and tools. The students were rewarded with a hearty BBQ after the successful completion of their picnic bench and raised bed.

Andrea Scrimshaw said 'It was really hard work and there were some teams out to sabotage you, but we did it and it was fun'. The students then had to deliver a presentation on the skills they had used and the attitude needed to succeed in sixth form.

'It was great to see our students getting their hands dirty and grafting' commented Mrs Ruffle. 'They have a good idea of what kind of challenges we have in store for them next year' added Mr Wilson.



Broomley Grange

All year 12 students were given the opportunity to visit Broomley Grange Outdoor Centre just outside Stocksfield. The bus left at 9 am on a slightly overcast damp morning with a group of slightly apprehensive students.

Upon arrival the students were split into groups of ten, they then went through a series of warm-up exercises and were kitted out with any safety equipment required. Then the fun began as the groups each took turns in using the climbing wall, high ropes course, crate stacking, zip wire, assault course and archery.

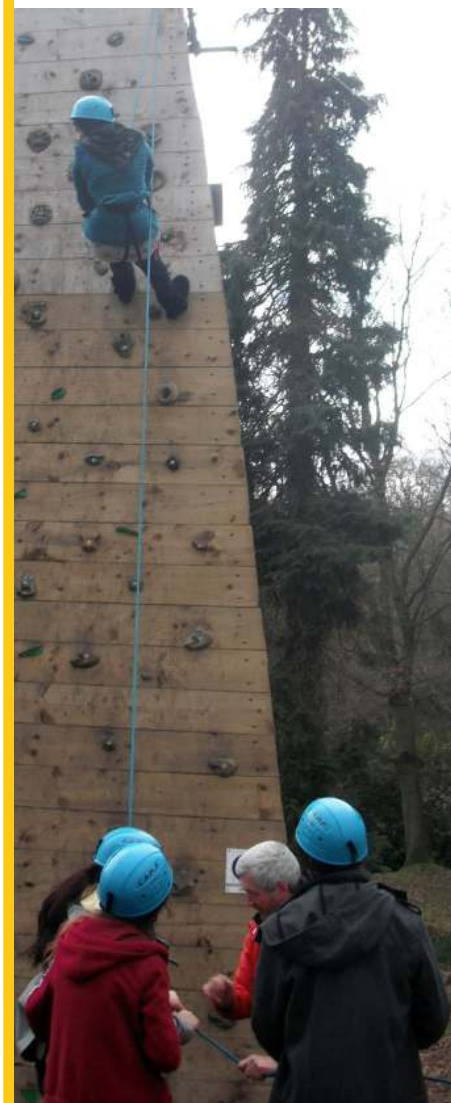
They battled through a variety of weather conditions which included wind, rain and snow!!!! Some students were later found drying out huddled around a heater in the lunch area. During lunch the students were entertained by Mike Graham's (Mrs Tiffin's dad) rope tricks before returning to complete or repeat any remaining activities. A good day was had by all.

Educational Visits

This year BTEC students were lucky enough to take part in a wide variety of visits. Countryside and Environment students visited Alnmouth to research the coastline and Seaton Sluice to carry out Dune Grass planting and to build steps leading from the car park to the beach.

They also visited Walbottle Brickworks as part of their Countryside Recreation Unit and visited a local farm to learn about crops and farm animals were they able to handle the newly born lambs.

Animal Care students visited City Farm at Byker and helped to look after goats, sheep, pigs and chickens. They also visited neighbouring school Walbottle Campus where they were introduced to Mrs MacKay and her range of exotic animals. They gained experience in handling large animals during their visit to Stepney Bank Stables. All year they looked after our school's chickens and rabbits.



The Final Curtain

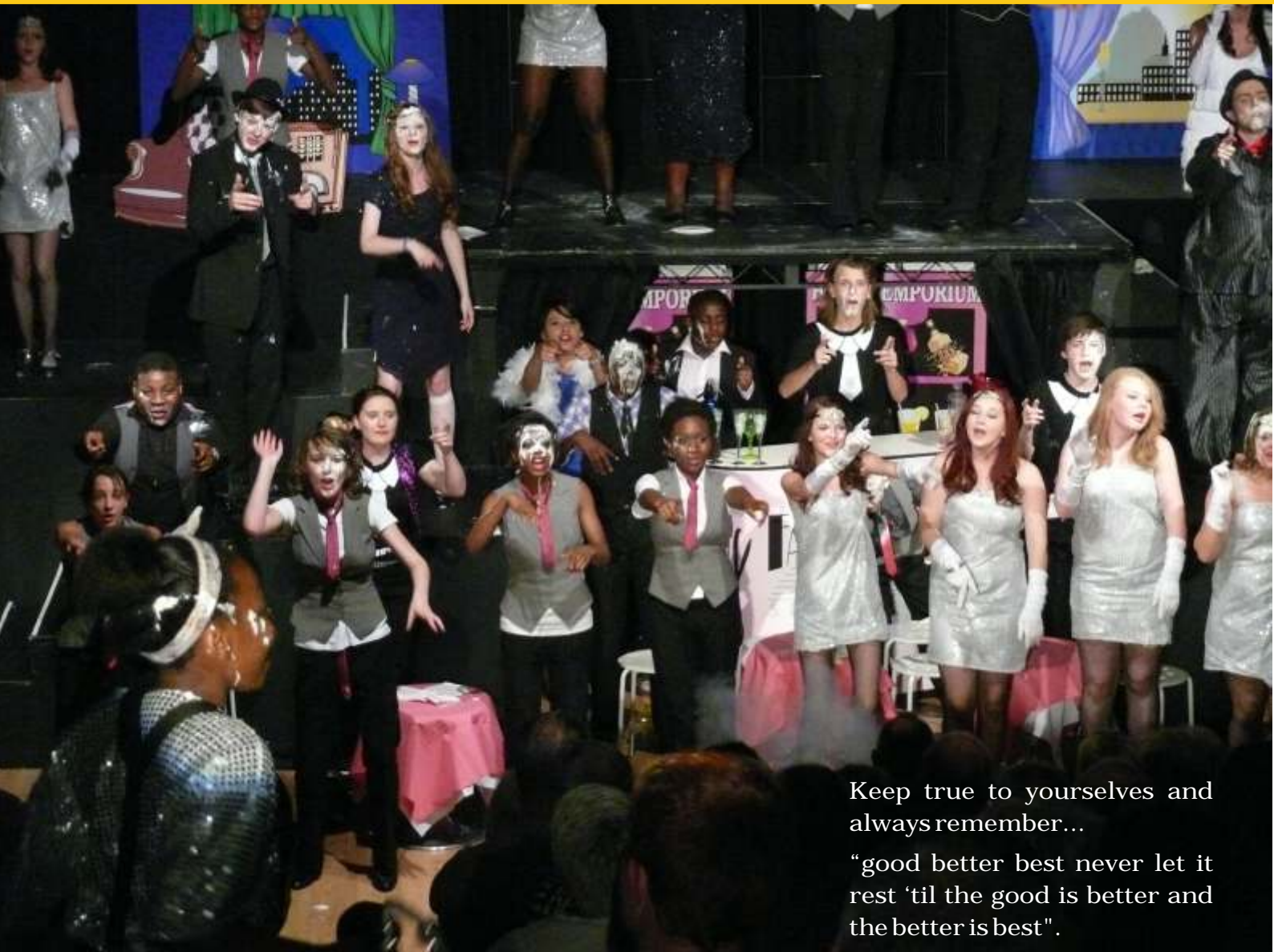


*'You give a little love
And it all comes back to you
You know you're gonna be
remembered
For the things that you say
and do'*

There wasn't a dry eye in the house when Tallulah (Natalie Morton) and Bugsy Malone (Callum Beadle-Taylor) entertained us all with their final performance - the fantastic production of the musical comedy Bugsy Malone.

With both laughter and tears our amazing artistes finally had to say goodbye! Year 13 drama students Radafina Petleshkova, Laura Crane, Ahmed Chowdhury, Natalie Morton and Callum-Beadle Taylor have kept us on the edge of our seats during their time in Excelsior College. These rising stars have amused and delighted audiences, worked on set design, hair, make up and costume, supported backstage and even created their own stunning performances with alacrity and grace.

Miss Nijaila and Mrs Knox say *"It is with heavy hearts that we have to say goodbye to pupils who can only be described as being 'the best'. Seeing them grow through the years has been a pleasure, they have not only expressed a love for theatre and performance but also have been held in great esteem by both of us. They have worked hard to achieve their greatest potential and supported both of us at challenging and demanding times. They are a wonderful group who have become more than the pupils we teach, they have become mature, loyal adults who have left a mark on our hearts forever. We wish them every success and are in no doubt that we will be seeing them again very soon on stage or screen."*



Keep true to yourselves and
always remember...

"good better best never let it
rest 'til the good is better and
the better is best".

Fabulous Fashion



Well done and congratulations for a stunning performance during this year's fashion show!

Students from the College have worked tirelessly to create a magnificent celebration of success and showcase their magnificent creations.

Miss Coulson says 'Students have worked extremely hard to create and present an excellent fashion show performance which was enjoyed by over 200 spectators! We were also joined by students from our primary feeder schools and Haydon Bridge High School who collaborated in the

show. All of the students thoroughly enjoyed working together and our 6th form students have set an outstanding example for the younger students. Miss Warner and I have had a great time working with the students. We would like to say goodbye and good luck to Year 13 students Kiran, Khadiza, Chelsea, Jamie, Emmanuel and Nathan - all the best for the future and please keep in touch!'



Media Studies Students Make History



The AS Media Studies class has been making history recording for the future the views of local residents living in the Riverside Dene area of Newcastle. This partnership with the local residents and Newcastle City Council will ensure that there is a permanent record of life before the refurbishment of the area and the improvement when the work is completed.

The students have been helping the local residents celebrate the regeneration of the area by creating media resources for the marketing of the project to the local community. They also interviewed the residents and recorded past and present life experiences in the area. They took photographs of the area and will record the demolition of the towers and put this to film as a permanent record for future generations.

Shelton Dube, one of the students involved in the work, said 'It was great talking to the residents who had so many memories of how the area was long before I was even born. It is good that we can hear these stories and keep them along with pictures of the refurbishment, after all this is history in the making'.

Excelling at Excelsior

Nineteen students are nervously awaiting A level results day on August 18th. They have all been offered places at university provided they achieve grades which will give them sufficient UCAS points. This is a big step for them and in some cases they will be the first person in their family to actually go to university.

They have applied for a wide variety of courses including Business Management, Drama, Environmental Management, English & History, French & International Business, Games Development, Geography, Health & Social Care, ICT, Psychology, Sports Coaching and Sport & Exercise Science.

All have chosen to attend local universities and continue living at home; more than half have overcome their prejudices about 'Mackems' and will be studying at Sunderland University. Clearly, the cost of going to

university is a big concern and the College staff have worked hard to find alternative sources of financial assistance. As a result of their efforts, 7 students have been awarded grants to cover the entire cost of their course fees and another 4 students have won Scholarships of £1000 for each of the 3 years they will be at university.

Higher Education requires ability and a lot of hard work both to get there and to complete the course. We hope all 19 students make the grade this summer and wish them every success in the future.

Contribution to the Community Sports Success!



Excelsior College students are actively involved in the community and act as positive role models for younger children but a special mention must be made for one of our hugely successful ambassadors.

Rebecca Hendry came to us as a shy retiring student but after studying sport in the College her confidence has grown and her talent is manifold. She has blossomed into a self assured, inspiring and dedicated sports leader

with a succession of awards for her work in the community.

Rebecca is Assistant Coach for the KS3 Girls Football Team, a qualified FA coach through the Hat Trick Project, and has completed her netball coaching qualification so she can also develop this in the lower schools. Her awards include:

- ▶ The Northumberland FA Volunteer of the Year Award
- ▶ West Gate Juniors Football Club Outstanding Achievement Award for her management of the U12 Girls team and their promotion in the league
- ▶ Nomination for the North East Volunteer of the Year Award by Street Games, a charity which uses sport to affect disadvantaged youngsters
- ▶ Street Games National Award in appreciation of her contribution to Girls' Sport
- ▶ Recognition as a 'Local Hero' taking part in an advertising campaign with Coca-Cola in preparation for the Olympic games

In addition to all this laudable work Rebecca was invited to Sports Unlimited to make a funding application to raise funds to manage WAGS which is an idea for a project to deliver 'Women and Girls Soccer' into seven local primary schools on behalf of Hat Trick. She was the only person in the country who was granted more than the maximum allowance for the scheme. The panel was so impressed by her delivery of the presentation it granted her further funds to take the project into all 10 primary schools in the local area.

WELL DONE REBECCA!

Important Dates

Examination Results 2011	Autumn Half Term break	24-28 October
GCE/Level 3 OCR & BTEC 9.00	Autmun Term ends	16 December
18 August	Spring Term begins	3 January
GCSE/Level 2 BTEC 9.00	Spring Half term	13-17 February
25 August	Spring Term ends	30 March
Start of Term - September 2011	Summer Term begins	16th April
Year 13 Enrollment	Summer Half Term break	4-8 June
5-6 September	Summer Term ends	6th July
Year 13 Classes start	Training Days	College
12 September	30th September	Parents' Evening
Year 12 Enrollment	25th November	4.00-6.00pm
7-9 September	2nd March	Wed 11 January
Year 12 Induction	29th June	
12 September		
Year 12 Classes start		
13 September		
College Review Days		
24th November		
30th March		

Stacey Knutsen writes



I am interested in a career in journalism or some aspect of media so for my work experience I spent two days with 'MDA', a Public Relations company based at the Milkhope Centre. My first morning was spent writing press releases in a lovely office in the middle of nowhere. It was a fun, enjoyable experience which I finished much quicker than expected. Later in the day I went with Laura, one of the staff, on a tour of the other businesses at the Milkhope Centre, to collect signatures for a petition.

During my second day I visited Proctor & Gamble in Cramlington and discussed upcoming stories MDA could write about them for local newspapers. We then headed back to the office where I worked on a few more press releases and created a document for the groups link with Tesco giving a roundup of recent events within the local economy.

Overall I had an enjoyable two days, learnt some new skills, gained in confidence and worked well with a lovely group of people. They are trying to arrange a placement for me at the Chronicle during the summer holidays. I really hope it works out as I'd definitely love to repeat the experience.