

# Jefferson News



July 2011

## A message from Miss Futers



### *What a year!*

*We have had another brilliant year and I am pleased to be able to report to you we have made excellent progress with pupil achievement and we have improved our overall attendance.*

*Jefferson is committed to excellence and of course Jefferson is an exciting and dynamic place to learn, however, none of this is possible without the support of pupils and families and of course the dedicated, inspirational and creative team of staff in Jefferson.*

*This year has been another year when pupils have had so many opportunities to be involved in exciting activities, some of the activities are reported in this newsletter but honestly we do not have enough space for all of the information.*

*As the end of another busy year approaches I would like to thank the continued partnership between pupils, families and staff, it is this which continues to make Excelsior Academy a great place to learn.*

*Have a good summer and I look forward to 2011-2012 being another successful and exciting year.*

## Moorhouse



"I thought Moorhouse was absolutely brilliant! It was the first time I had ever been away from home over night and I was a little bit nervous about going. I turned up at school really early with all of my things I needed for the trip, like my sleeping bag and a change of clothes (because Mr Glenwright said we were going to get muddy!). I saw some of my friends and they too were really nervous but excited. When we arrived at Moorhouse, we were given our rooms by the teachers and then we had 30 minutes just to settle in.

The bedrooms were very basic but they did have bunk beds! I was sharing a room with some of my friends which I was happy about. The activities started at 10 o'clock and they were just brilliant. Throughout the day, we did things like crate stacking, dry-slope sledging, abseiling and buggies! The food was nice too for our tea. After a few hours sleep, we got up for Day 2 and that was just as good as Day 1! We took part in lots of team-building activities which helped me speak to people that I wouldn't normally speak to. Overall, Moorhouse was an excellent trip which I am looking forward to doing again!"

Caitlin Howey

## STAR Events



- \* Duke of Edinburgh
- \* Family Day
- \* Creative Arts Exhibition
- \* Dennis Adusei meets Gyan
- \* Wingrove Assembly
- \* Center Parcs
- \* Nicole Marshall's story
- \* Buggy Malone
- \* Istanbul
- \* Moor House - Caitlin Howey

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The Autumn Term begins on Monday 5th September at 10:00am for Key Stage 3, and 12.30pm for Key Stage 4. We look forward to seeing you in full school uniform and ready to learn. Have a nice holiday!

# Bugsy

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## MALONE

More than 30 pupils from across the Academy have been treading the boards for the annual end of year show. Bowler hats and flapper dresses filled the stage for a show-stopping performance of the classic musical Bugsy Malone.

Director of the show, Ms Nijaila from Jefferson School said: "The end of year show is always a fantastic opportunity for pupils from across the Academy - aged from 11 to 18 - to work together. This year it was very much about letting our sixth-formers go out with a bang as well as encouraging them to nurture the younger talent coming up through the school.

Taking to the stage with well-known show tunes such as My Name Is Tallulah, So You Wanna Be A Boxer? and You Give A Little Love, the cast put on four sell-out performances to Excelsior Academy's ten feeder primary schools as well as parents, carers, fellow pupils and governors.

Mrs Marshall said: "All of the pupils involved have been working on the show since January and it's so rewarding to see the final performance. The cast are a real credit to themselves and I've been really proud to see how they have supported each other over the past six months of rehearsals."





# Creative Arts Exhibition

Jefferson pupils worked alongside pupils from the rest of the Academy, Atkinson Road Primary School, Canning Street Primary School and Haydon Bridge High School to create a variety of fantastic fashion show performances in this year's Creative Arts Exhibition. The show included five fashion performances involving a grand total of 72 models! Hosted by Jefferson pupils, our visitors from Atkinson Road, Canning Street and Haydon Bridge High School joined us at Excelsior for two days to create their costumes and rehearse their catwalk performances. Pupils from all of the schools had a fantastic experience at Excelsior and have bonded strong links to continue working with us in the future. Totalling 3 performances, our pupils performed to the primary school pupils, Excelsior staff and an audience of 250, who were astonished with the high level of professionalism of all of the pupils involved throughout the show. Performances also included music, dance and drama items from



Jefferson's BTEC dance group, Steel Pan players, the Buggy cast and Year 7 drama pupils. Artwork was on display throughout the Academy, including the work of our Year 11 pupils who have now left Jefferson, we are very proud of all of the pupils involved throughout the tireless process of preparation and performance in an excellent show which has had outstanding reviews from the audience.

pupil Comments

'This is my third fashion show at Excelsior, this year I had 3 dresses to model! It was definitely the best show yet.'

- Ife Adegunle

'I have had a great time working with the girls from Haydon Bridge High School and can't wait for them to come again next year'

- Grace Ekeke

'I really enjoyed making my dress for the fashion show, and performing on the catwalk, I already have ideas for the next dress that I want to make'

- Ginny Johnson



# Wingrove Assembly

As part of our ongoing partnership with local feeder primaries, Mr Krishnan and Mr Carville took a contingent of Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils to Wingrove Primary School, to open up their 'RESPECT WEEK' activities by taking a 30 minute assembly for both pupils and parents. Mr Krishnan highlighted the characteristics of being a respectful person both in and out of school. Chloe Maynard, Christina Balfour, Dimitar Petleshkov and I ended the assembly with our rendition of Aretha Franklin's Respect. It went down a storm!

Ife Adegunle



# Family Day



My name is Jenna Lenkucha and I am a teacher from Canada.



Back in May I had the opportunity to join Jefferson School for their annual Family Day. Coincidentally my Mom and brother were both visiting from Canada as well so I thought I'd take advantage of the situation and bring MY FAMILY along to Plessey Woods for Family Day as well.

We had a great time and it was such a privilege to be able to see the kids in an environment outside of the 'school' setting. It was such a great time being able to play football, badminton, rounders, and dance around with all the pupils - we were even lucky enough to get pampered by a few of the older pupils and have our nails done. Even with the dilemma of the rain, it was an amazing time for everyone.



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# Center Parcs



From the 20th to the 24th June I experienced going away to Center Parcs in Nottingham. There were loads of activities including crazy golf, raft building, high ropes, laser combat and cycling. The raft building was amazing. We were placed into two groups and whichever raft floated then that team won. The Laser Combat was great too, we were placed into the red or blue group and given three different missions to complete. Everyone was really competitive and completely involved in the game. Cycling was good fun but hard work, especially for those who had not cycled in a while or rode a bike before!

The accommodation was like home from home, with everything provided. I really enjoyed hanging out with my group in our cabin and had a really good laugh (even though we had to do all of the cleaning and cooking). It was great to have animals around the living accommodation such as squirrels, swans and ducks. Once we had finished our main activities we were allowed free time to go swimming or have a game of pool. I would like to say thank you to my teachers for such a great trip - it was a huge success and everyone really enjoyed it.

By Georgia Hendry (Year 10)

Chloe Ternent

"It was great spending this time with my friends, experiencing new things and having a just a great time overall"

Katie Shaw

"My trip to Center Parcs was a great success and an experience I will never forget"

Dimitar Petlekhov

"I have been on many trips but this has been by far the best yet. The activities were amazing and really adventurous"

Sophie Watson

"I liked the high ropes best, at first I was really scared but I thought, 'let's have a try' and I did it and wasn't scared at all!"



## Pupils Gain Duke of Edinburgh Award

Pictured are some of the pupils who have passed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. They have worked hard over the last twelve months as part of Jefferson School's Foundation Learning.

These pupils have completed a Level One Food Hygiene Certificate, First Aid course, BTEC Workskills qualification and a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. As part of the course the pupils learnt to rock climb, navigate, carry out expeditions and voluntary work for the Newcastle Park Ranger Service.

They have shown good humour, resilience, determination and excellent teamwork throughout the course, this was particularly evident during their final expedition in which they had to walk sixteen miles in some very poor weather conditions. Mr Carville stated, "These pupils are a credit to the Academy and Jefferson School and demonstrated how much it is possible to achieve in such a short space of time, we are extremely proud of them all".



## A samoah Gyan

*My name is Dennis Adusei!*

*I got the opportunity to meet Gyan because Mr Low wrote a letter to Sunderland AFC about me and my sporting achievements since I have been at Excelsior Academy.*

*Sunderland responded to Mr Low's letter by calling him and offering him 5 tickets for the home game against Wigan, Mr Low told me we had free tickets and that we may meet a reserve team player and get a ground tour.*

*Mr Low picked me and my family up from home on the day of the game, when we arrived*

*at the Stadium of Light Mr Low rang the contact there and we waited at the players entrance. I saw a lot of the players coming in and as we saw Sulley Muntari my dad spoke to him in our native language and he smiled and took a picture with us. Andrew from SAFC came and met us and took us on a tour of the ground where everyone was friendly, he got Sulley back out and we had a few photos with him. Andrew led us to the pitch and spoke about my achievements, he told us to sit in the dug out for a family picture. As he made us look towards the goalmouth, Gyan sneaked out and as we turned back around I was so happy as he is a big star back home in Ghana. He presented me with a signed Ghana shirt and spoke to me about home and my life here. Andrew then gave me a bag of SAFC goodies to keep. He showed us where our seats were and we relaxed waiting for the game to start.*

*The atmosphere was amazing and I spotted a Ghana flag across the ground which made me happy. Sunderland went 1-0 down in the 2nd half but within minutes Gyan scored in the goal we were behind, we all jumped up and down and were shouting for him lots. Sunderland scored more goals but with 20minutes left Gyan went down injured, which made us unhappy, we smiled again when we saw Sulley come on as his replacement and nearly scored.*

*I had an amazing day and it was a day I will never forget, Mr Low took the signed shirt and also got the photo signed by Sulley and Gyan and framed it all for me and my family. We now have the shirt hanging up in our livingroom.*





# Istanbul

On June 22nd two staff and four year 9 pupils flew off to Istanbul as part of Jefferson's global dimension programme

The girls, Caitlin Teasdale, Shahd El Habib, Lauren Santos and Megan Mason, set out on a 4 day trip to discover the culture, get to know some of the locals and to sample the cuisine.

After a healthy breakfast on the roof terrace of the Dara Hotel we set out each day to explore the city including: the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and the streets of the old city. Fuelled by kebabs and Turkish delight they haggled successfully for bargains at the Grand Bazaar and although we



were offered a number of camels in exchange for the girls, no deals were struck and we headed out on the tram to Taxim for a taste of the modern side of the city. We watched carpets being woven and interviewed some local retailers and pupils, sketched the

artefacts and exhibits at the museum and took a stroll along the harbour. When it was time to leave the collective response was 'Can't we stay longer?' a clear indication that a good time was had by all.

Ms Robson



# Gordonstoun

The sailing trip in Scotland was a once in a lifetime experience and we both loved it! Whilst sailing the Ocean Spirit of Moray we got to experience and feel the lifestyle of a sailor. It provided lots of opportunities for us including the opportunity to meeting new people from many different backgrounds. It also built up our confidence and communication skills when meeting new people.

During our stay on the boat we had to do many domestic chores as well as cooking for eighteen people. This was very new to us and helped improve our life skills. When we first met everyone on board we were all very nervous and didn't know what to expect, however everyone made us feel welcome and there was a lovely atmosphere which continued throughout the trip.

In conclusion, we loved everything about the trip (apart from feeling seasick). It was a great experience and we loved every minute of it. We would advise anyone who might have this opportunity in the future to take it as it was an all round fantastic experience.

Natalie Morris and Becky Cartwright



# BEST WISHES

Staff and pupils showed their kindness and generosity to Ms Foster by giving her a fabulous maternity sending off. We wish her well leading up to and during the birth of her baby boy:



Riley Daniel Foster

## Pupil Reaches National Final



Newcastle Evening Chronicle - May 26th 2011

A TYNESIDE schoolgirl has reached the final of a national competition.

Nicole Marshall, 16, from Excelsior Academy's Jefferson School, Newcastle, has been long-listed in the Academy Excellence Awards after an

essay she wrote caught the eye.

Nicole's work was inspired by the work of international poet Mario Petruccia. She said: *"I was quite shy about submitting the essay but my teachers have been really encouraging and now I'm so pleased I entered."*

*"I wanted to write my essay about how the arts can help the general public to understand how to make the environment more sustainable."*

*"I centred it around the work of Mario Petruccia because the poems he writes for children will hopefully encourage future generations to act on climate change."*

Almost 50 pupils reached the long-list and their essays will go on to be judged by a panel including Susie Dent, dictionary expert on Countdown.

## Important Dates

Academy opens for Autumn Term  
5th September Phased Induction for students

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Academy closes for half term  
21st October

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Academy re-opens  
31st October

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Academy closes for Christmas  
16th December

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Academy re-opens for Spring Term  
3rd January

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Academy closes for half term  
10th February

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Academy re-opens  
20th February

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Academy closes for Easter  
30th March

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Academy re-opens for Summer Term  
16th April

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May Day  
7th May

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Academy closes for half term  
1st June

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Academy re-opens  
11th June

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Academy closes for Summer Holidays  
20th July

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### Review Days

24th November  
30th March  
28th June

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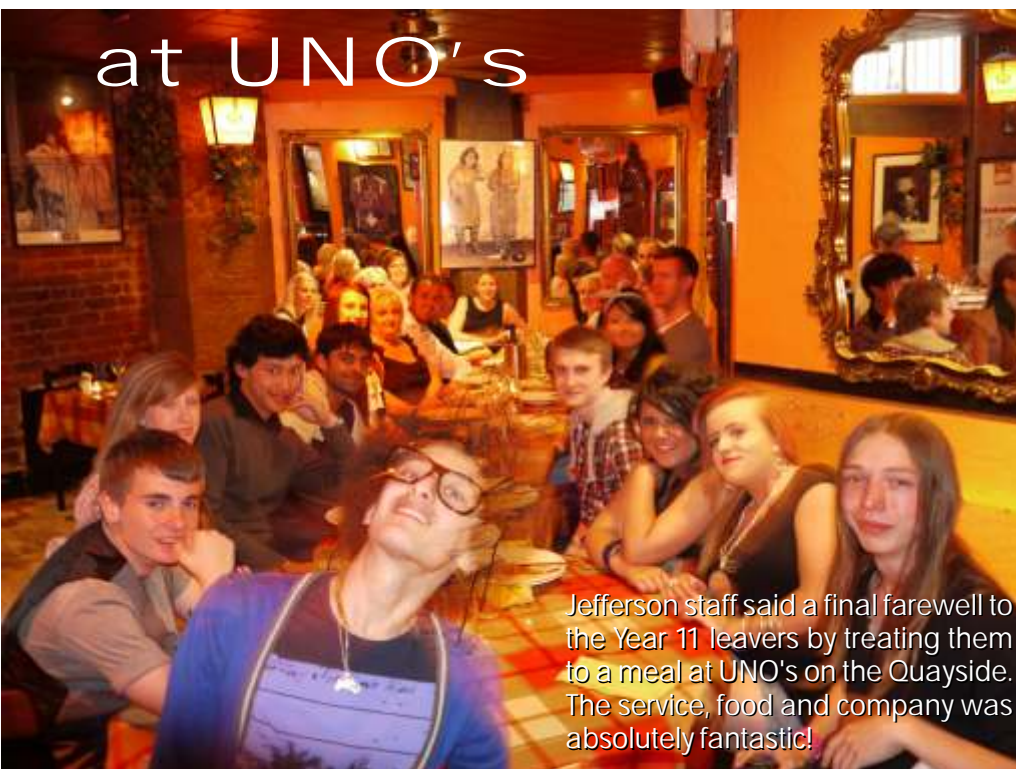
### Training Days

30th September  
25th November  
2nd March  
29th June

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## Year 11 leavers

### at UNO's



Jefferson staff said a final farewell to the Year 11 leavers by treating them to a meal at UNO's on the Quayside. The service, food and company was absolutely fantastic!

## Jefferson Attendance Update

Thanks to the efforts of Jefferson pupils, parents and staff our overall attendance has improved again for the 3rd year in a row!

This is a big achievement and we would like this to continue year after year, which will only be possible with your help and support. If every pupil and family in Jefferson continue to

value the importance of school attendance and ensure pupils attend school every day, we are sure that we can build upon this success.

If there are any attendance issues or concerns you would like to speak to me about, please contact me, Miss Dunlop, on 0191 228 8435.

Thanks again for your support.