



# Newsletter Term 1

## Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

Our latest initiative Project SEARCH (the first pilot by a UK Special School) has got off to a very positive start. The scheme involves students in their last year of schooling being based at the Royal United Hospital in Bath supported by Fosse Way and Adult Services staff. The students are engaged in a variety of different internships giving them the opportunity to develop work skills. At the end of the year it is intended they take up permanent paid work. We will give a lot more information about Project SEARCH in the next newsletter.

You will see from this newsletter that improvements to the primary accommodation have now been completed providing much higher quality provision for our pupils and staff.

You may have noticed my absence over the last ten days. I have been a member of a large delegation visiting China with a view to developing links between Chinese and UK special education systems. Potentially some exciting initiatives could in the future grow from this visit.

Lastly, we have been delighted to learn today that Fosse Way School is within the top 5% of Special and Mainstream school for student progress according to the Department for Children, School and Families Achievement and Attainment Tables 2009.

David Gregory



Fosse Way School  
Longfellow Road  
Radstock, Bath.

Term 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date  
21st October 2009

INSET DAYS FOR  
2009 –2010

Term 2

**NONE**

Diary Dates:

Back to School!

**2nd NOVEMBER 2009**

Term 2 Dates

4th Nov 2009—Primary Parents  
Evening

10th Nov 2009—Post 16 Parents  
Evening

20th Nov 2009—Non-Uniform day

3rd Dec 2009—**Children's Bazaar**

9th Dec 2009—Christmas Service

12th Dec—Family Christmas Disco

17th Dec—Christmas Lunch/ School  
Disco

18th December—Awards Assembly,  
Last day of term

Website address

[www.fossewayschool.co.uk](http://www.fossewayschool.co.uk)

## Visit to the Bishops Palace

On Friday 9th October I had the great pleasure of taking my tutor group down to Wells to visit The Bishop's Palace and Gardens. It was a multi purpose trip. The students had the opportunity to learn about the buildings history. They explored the grounds taking time to appreciate the stainless steel sculptures created by the artist Ian Marlow. The students were able to record their own personal experiences using their own camera. A selection of the beautiful photographs which they took are displayed here for your perusal. The students are going to use a selection of their own photographs as a stimulus for creating some pencil sketches during Creative Arts. During the day we also had time to visit Vicars Close and appreciate the external features of Wells Cathedral. Thanks to Pascale and Jenny for supporting with this trip.



## Students complete Woodland Challenge!



At the start of October, 9 students from KS3 set off to Leigh Woods in Bristol for a day of challenges organised by the Orienteering Association. Students had to find a number of fixed points scattered around the beautiful Leigh Woods, a place I would recommend for those wanting a easy accessible Woodland Walk.



**It was a lovely day , the weather was dry and we didn't get lost at all!**

Scott Bratton showed great map reading skills and led the way!

Everyone did really well and we all returned happy but exhausted! Well done to everyone!

*"You mean no one brought a GPS?.just as well we can map read!"*

# FOSSE WAY HOUSE NEWS

We were very pleased to welcome Lawrence and Melissa to Fosse Way House in September. They have both settled in very well and seem to be enjoying all of the activities.



*Tasty fun for all!*

Corey and Thomas are our next new arrivals and we are very happy that they will be joining us as residential students after half term.

We have made the most of the fine evenings this term, with lots of walks and outdoor activities.



*A well earned rest during a walk to Glastonbury*

Our trip to Ammerdown resulted in the students creating their own Turners tower out of biscuits, chocolate and marshmallows, this was very enjoyable and the resulting creation was very sticky- and not exactly healthy! But, everyone took pleasure in eating it as a special treat.



We have had great fun trampolining, a fantastic few evenings rock climbing, and cooked tea in the woods.

We have also enjoyed activities promoting independence, life skills and social and communication skills.

After half term I will be going on maternity leave, I am very pleased that Jason will be taking over as Residential Education Manager until I return. I look forward to hearing all the news whilst I am off, and will be in touch when Baby Burton arrives!

Joanna Burton



## . Post-16 Golf Lessons

We have been having golf lessons as part of Target games in our PE sessions this term. Jon Cowgill, Director of Golf, has been putting us through our paces on the driving range and putting greens. The staff found even hitting the ball very difficult, whereas the students never missed. Their control and finer movements on the greens were commented on and thanks go to Jon for his measured delivery. The **lessons were free of charge as part of the club's Golfmark** accreditation and we look forward to more of the same in the spring.

Jenni Smart



### POST-16 RUN LOCAL CHARITY SHOP

Students from Post-16 are running the PEOPLE Charity Shop in Westfield every Tuesday morning. With the support of a member of Fosse Way Post-16 staff the students are taking delivery of donations, sorting, pricing and displaying them. They are operating



*Manning the till!*



the till and handling money as well as greeting and dealing with customers, which Marc van den Berg does expertly. Marcus Bell is particularly good at acquainting himself with the stock and putting DVDs, CDs and books in alphabetical order. It is hoped that several students in the group will have the opportunity to develop work skills at the shop.

### 3EM / JBI VISIT THE EGG THEATRE !

On the 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 3 EM / JBI and our special guest Georgina Hart , went to the Egg Theatre in Bath for a fantastic treat ! We went to see a play about **the Plague set in the North of England called " We All Fall Down "**. But it was not all doom and gloom ! The students were very, very impressed. Lucy thought it was " brilliant and funny " Megan said " I loved every single part of it ! " and Jonathon said " I think this was the best trip ever ! " .



The Egg Theatre is a really amazing place where they put on plays especially for children. We got some of the best seats, right on the front row. Of course that meant that we were practically *in* the play ! We had actors sitting next to us, climbing over us and even shaking our hands !

We all had a great time, and here are some of the things we had to say about it :

" It was so brilliant. I liked the bit when the man and woman kissed ! " ( Zoe )

" I liked the masks " ( Kevin )

" " It was brilliant. My best bit was seeing Sharon / Karen on the boat " ( Cameron ) ,

" I liked Dr Paracelsus " ( Alihan ) ,

" It was really good ! I liked it when he was doing the tap dancing " ( Jade )

" I liked all of it " ( Gary )

So, as you can see we would all love to go back and see another play at the Egg, which we hope to do soon ! A big thank you to Jenny Robrecht and Julie Skidmore who looked after everyone ! Jas Bilan

# COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD



## TALK TO SHOUT OUT!

Want someone to listen to you?

Want to stop, start, change something today?

Ask your teacher, or put your name on a card and

post it in the Shout Out! box.

## New auto-attendant phone system

Our telephone system now has a new auto-attendance feature that allows you to phone **and report a child's absence and sickness at** any time by selecting one of the options. There is also a facility to leave messages should you be unable to get through in the day time. We hope that this will make contacting the school easier for parents.

## New School Council!

Classes were busy early this month electing new school council reps and we now have a new School Council. This year we intend to meet more often but have slightly shorter meetings. Our first meeting was held this month in the new school library which is a perfect venue for our discussions.

The new members had some training in how to debate issues, and Mr Ellison was roundly outvoted in his test proposal that there be compulsory PE on Friday afternoon for pupils and staff! Fortunately the vote went against him and the students learned about having their say, putting forth an argument and then abiding by a majority vote.

School Council reps will be talking with their classes about ways to make Fosse Way even better! Our first job will be to look at ways to improve lunchtime and break times for every one.



## Summer Play Scheme

Everyone had great fun at the Summer Play scheme this year. Activities ranged from arts & crafts, swimming/canoeing, face painting, cycling, cooking and much much more.



*Dressing up and make-up—always fun!*

The favourite activity by many children/young people who attended over the

summer was swimming with the fun floats and cooking! Hopefully, the play schemes planned for other holiday times will be just as successful!



*Above— fun in the playground and right—expert cooks!*



## SWIMMING GALA

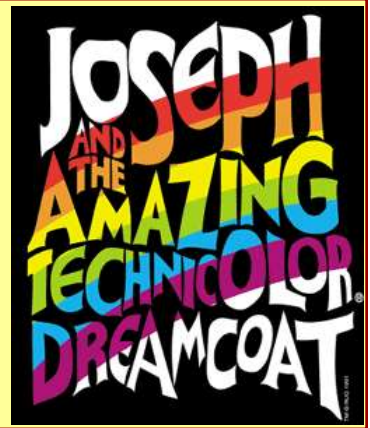
Well done to the Fosse Way Swimming Squad who went to Bath Sports Centre on 7<sup>th</sup> October and competed against 5 other schools. All pupils swam excellent races and there were so many 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places that we managed to win the event.



- Fosse Way 90 points**
- Westhaven 76 points**
- Three Ways 75 points**
- Fairmead 68 points**
- Ralph Allen 51 points**
- Larkrise 44 points**

## POST-16 VISIT TO SEE JOSEPH

Post-16 visited the Theatre Royal in Bath on 8<sup>th</sup> October to see 'Joseph and His Technicolour Dreamcoat' starring Craig Chalmers from the BBC TV show which searched for a 'Joseph'. This was as part of the Expressive and Creative Arts curriculum the students are following. The show was phenomenal and breathtaking. Some students had not been to a theatre performance like this before and were genuinely thrilled by the spectacle. All students behaved impeccably and it was an immensely pleasing experience for all who took part.  
Post-16 Staff



## Sponsored Silence - KS3 EM

During our Enterprise lessons this term we have been researching different charities. We then shortlisted these charities and made a list of those which we thought were most worthy of our fund raising efforts. Each student did a more thorough investigation into at least one of the short listed charities and they then presented this information back to the class. Students were then able to make an informed decision as to the charity that they want the class to support.....and their chosen charity is Marie Curie Cancer Care. This charity



provides specialist nurses to support those patients who are terminally ill with Cancer and other illnesses in their own home.



As part of their fund raising my tutor group are participating in a sponsored silence for 6 hours on Thursday 5th November. If you would like to make a donation to Marie Curie Cancer Care and support KS3 EM with their efforts it would be greatly appreciated. Please send monies into school in an envelope marked 'Sponsored Silence' by Friday 6th November. Thank you. Emma Moreton

## Foundation News—Autumn walks!

In ASD Foundation we have been looking for signs of autumn.



*A diligent leaf collector!*

We went on a walk to look for different coloured leaves, then brought them back to the classroom and made some lovely collages with them. We have learned about how trees drop their leaves and we will be following the seasons.



On the autumn walk!

We have also planted some bulbs in our garden ready for the Spring!

### KS3 EM - Tag Rugby

On Friday 2nd October my wonderful tutor group had the opportunity to represent the good name of Fosse Way School at a Tag Rugby event in North Bristol. It was a really cold Autumnal day but that didn't dampen their team spirit. They put in maximum effort working alongside other students from a number of other schools to develop their tag rugby skills.

Thanks to Pascale and Jenny.R. for supporting.



*Tag Rugby Experts!*

### Victoria Gallery Art!

Once again some of Fosse Way students have had their art selected to be a part of the Bath & North East Somerset Schools Art Exhibition. The exhibition is at the Victoria Art Gallery, Pulteney Bridge, Bath. This a beautiful public gallery open to everyone from 10 Oct until the 1st November entry is free. The exhibition is well worth a visit and



an opportunity to see examples of stunning art from local secondary and special schools.

Well done to

*Stephen Quinn, Oliver Padfield, Scott Dukes, Jack Harrison*

### KS3 Visiting Bath Spa

On the 24th September a group of KS3 pupils visited Bath Spa for a day of sculpture. They walked around the beautiful grounds exploring sculptures created by students. They then created their own sculptures in a similar theme—African Art. It



was a beautiful day and everyone was able to work outside. All the students enjoyed the experience. Many thanks to June Bianchi and the student teachers at Bath Spa University.

*Carol Davis*



*Above left—Hard at work in the sunshine*

*Above Right—A mask in progress*

*Left—another tribal mask*

*Right—A picture taken by one of the pupils in the grounds*



# Primary Area!

Over the holidays there were even more refurbishments and developments at the school, but this time it was mainly in the primary area. When we returned and moved back in, we were delighted with all the extra space in the Foundation and KS1 classes. There is a lot of space, new equipment and furniture and the groups very much enjoy making full use of their new classrooms. They can now have some really nice displays of their work in their own room—the Autumn display is particularly attractive.

We also managed to gain some purpose built therapy and doctors rooms, for therapists coming into the school to work with the children.

Also developed over the holidays, is the new Cafe Gallery—this is still a work in progress but hopefully will be nearing completion soon. This is an exciting project that will be an actual business but will heavily involve pupils from the school.

It was a very busy summer, but everyone in the newly refurbished classrooms agrees that all the work was well worth it!

