

COME TO ICT CLUBS

Some students are already taking advantage of the ICT clubs that are on offer at the school and we would welcome more and more students to be involved.

Cherise Hathaway 8TL says "I never went to an ICT club last year but I try and go every day now if I can. It's loads of fun, I get to learn new skills and I am making a website at the moment. You can also complete your homework or just surf the net. Come and join, it's lots of fun"

ICT club starts at 1.10pm every day. Students just need to get a pass at 12.55pm from IT5 and be ready to join in the fun at 1.10pm.

For Year 11 students there is also a "Catch Up Club" running every Monday at 3.15 – 4.15pm. Just come along to IT 5 if you wish to be involved.

PALATINE HAS TALENT, CHRISTMAS SHOW

10th & 11th December 2008

Over 60 students from year 7 to year 11 were singing, dancing and acting in the annual Palatine Christmas Show. Each night was sold out and the atmosphere electric. The show was also performed to 60+ students from Roseacre on the 12th December.

Audiences enjoyed watching dancing, including a ballet piece and Indian routine, a pantomime of Cinderella and listening to carol singing, Christmas songs and live band music. Well done to all involved – a good time was had by all!

FOND FAREWELLS

At the close of the Autumn Term we say "GOODBYE" to two colleagues. **Ms Mckend** of the English faculty bids her farewells to all at Palatine to take up a new post at Millfield Science and Performing Arts College. On behalf of all staff and pupils we wish Ms Mckend every success.

OTHER NEWS IN BRIEF!

CAREERS EVENING

Thursday 13th November 2008

Students were able to speak with tutors from Blackpool and Fylde college, Blackpool Sixth Form, Navy, RAF, NHS, University of Cumbria, Beneast, North Lancs Training Group, Springfield's Engineering, UCLAN, JTL and Training 2000.

YEAR 7 CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Year 7 have been involved in a christmas card competition. Thanks to everyone who participated and well done to all involved.

POEM PUBLISHED

Hannah Richardson, 10GG has recently had a poem published in a poetry anthology called "A world of difference". Well done to Hannah.

"HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR"

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE

The Science Enterprise Club have been extremely busy. Christmas and birthday cards are on sale in school as well as "super soaps" – an ideal gift!

IMPORTANT DATES!

School closes for Christmas Friday 19th December 2008 at 1pm
School Re-opens Monday 5th January 2009 at 8.35am

Summary of important dates for the remainder of the school year:

Spring Term 2009

Monday 5th January School re-opens to students
Wednesday 21st January Super Learning Day – School closes at 1pm for those students not taking the science exam in the afternoon.
Friday 13th February School closes for Half-term
Monday 23rd February INSET Day 3 – School closed to students
Tuesday 24th February School re-opens to students
Thursday 19th March Super Learning Day – School closes at 1pm
Friday 3rd April School closes for Easter

Summer Term 2009

Monday 20th April School re-opens to students
Monday 4th May May Day (Bank Holiday)
Friday 15th May Super Learning Day – School closes at 1pm
Friday 22nd May School closes for half-term
Monday 1st June School re-opens to students
Friday 3rd July Super Learning Day – School closes at 1pm
Friday 17th July School closes for Summer

We welcome your thoughts

Early in the Spring term all students will be bringing home questionnaires. These are to be completed by parents/students. We welcome your comments and it would be really appreciated if the questionnaires could be completed and returned to the school.

FUTURE EVENTS

Digital Media Awards 2009

The ICT department are entering this year Digital Media Awards. If you would like to get involved in creating an animation and representing the school please see **Miss Schofield**.

Parents Focus Groups Meeting

Parents views are always welcomed. If you would like to come along to our next meeting, please join us at the school at **6.30pm on Thursday 5th February 2009**.

Schools Alive – February 2009

Both Swing choir and Samba Band are performing in "Schools Alive" at the Grand Theatre next February. Please come along!

Year 11 Parents Evening

The parents evening for all Year 11 Students will take place at the school on **Thursday 26th February 2009 at 5.00pm**

Year 9 Options Evening

The parents evening for all Year 9 students will take place on **Wednesday 19th March 2009**.

School Production – April 2009

Palatine is proud to present *The Sound of Music*. Tickets will be available early March next year and the production will take place on the evenings of Wednesday 1st April 09 through to Friday 3rd April 2009. **DON'T MISS IT!**

Year 11 Students

To support students in working towards achieving their English Literature GCSE's, a number of Theatre Trips have been arranged. *Of Mice and Men* – 10th March 2009 and *An Inspector Calls* 6th May 2009.



Palatine News

AUTUMN 2008



VIP VISIT AT PALATINE

On Monday 6th October famous author, Tom Palmer, visited Palatine. Mr Palmer is the author of many current childrens novels including "Foul Play" as part of the "Football Detective" series.

Mr Palmer visited the school on our Super Learning Day focussing on Careers and Enterprise for our year eight students. He talked to the pupils about life as an author and how to write and publicise books. He also took part in a "Penalty Shoot Out" Quiz, which the pupils really enjoyed.

After leading the first session for all the pupils, Mr Palmer went round the

school and worked with small groups of pupils, chatting to them and helping them with their work.

"I really enjoyed meeting Tom Palmer, he was a great inspiration"
Year Eight Pupil

"Thank you for inviting me to your school. I very much enjoyed working with your pupils. I was impressed with how engaged and well behaved they were. They were inquisitive and helpful."

Tom Palmer

SCARLETT FROM EMMERDALE LAUNCHES

"YOUR SPACE"

Your space is a major youth initiative, funded by Bsafe Blackpool Partnership. It engages South Shore young people aged between 11 and 17 years in sports and educational activities. The scheme was launched by Kelsy-Beth Crossley who plays Scarlett in *Emmerdale*. Your space builds on existing provision with Palatine CSC who have had access to an ongoing programme of sporting activities for many months.

Councillor Mary Smith, Mayor of Blackpool, attended the event and watched the Blackpool Scorpions Cheerleading group put on a great demonstration. Afterwards young people, including **Palatine Students** had an opportunity to participate. The successful scheme ran throughout the summer and was well attended.

A SCULPTURE FOR BLACKPOOL

In conjunction with the Arts Council and Blackpool Borough, a group of students from Palatine took part in an Illuminations workshop. They worked alongside the artist Sarah Galloway who also worked with a number of students from other local schools to produce a piece of sculpture. This sculpture reflected Blackpool and particularly the illuminations. The sculpture was unveiled at the 'Sunken Gardens', North Shore by the Mayor of Blackpool in October, and was followed by a reception at the Information Centre in Talbot Square. **Students from Palatine along with Miss Pullen and Mr Cartmell** attended the event that celebrated the innovation and contribution Palatine make to the local community.

Palatine - A Hive of Activity

PALATINE - A HIVE OF SPORTING ACTIVITIES

April makes the grade

Congratulations to **April Oldfield** in Year 9 who attended the Lancashire Girls Hockey trials and deservedly got a place in the squad.

Year 7 Activity

Year 7 pupils have been busy completing a river study during their short time at the school. Pupils have also been climbing every Monday and Tuesday during their extended lessons. All Year 7 students have also been taking part in cycling and table tennis lessons which are being coached by fully qualified coaches.

Year 8 Netball

The netball leagues have already finished and Palatine have done excellently. The Year 8 Netball team have remained undefeated.

Year 9 Boys Finalists

The Year 9 boys got to the final of the Blackpool 5 "a" side at Collegiate.

Curriculum Enrichment Day was a success

Some year 10 pupils were First Aiders for the day and some even ran their own Badminton Festival for Montgomery pupils.

Year 11 Football Team finish Top of the League

Well done to the Year 11 Football team who came top of the league and progress to the semi-final of the Blackpool league.

OUTDOOR CLIMBING YEAR 11 GIRLS

As part of their GCSE in PE, a group of 12 girls from Year 11 attended Borrowdale in the Lake District and were involved in various aspects of Outdoor Climbing. This 2 day residential was the final part of the 6 week programme and everyone who took part did really well. Well done to all involved.



Palatine Success in Lancashire Schools Trampoline

Well done to all students who took part in the competition that was held in November. Special congratulations go to the U13 Boys who won their category.

GROWING SUCCESS

A massive thank you goes to everybody involved in collecting the Morrison's vouchers. The school reached its target of 1800 and an indoor growing kit has been ordered. Plants and vegetables should be on sale through the HERO Enterprise Team early in the summer. Any spare plant pots/compost would be greatly appreciated.



MUSIC

The Swing Choir recently took part in the successful Blackpool Music Service Christmas Show at the Ice Arena on Tuesday 9th December. It was a great event with hundreds of pupils from local schools taking part. The choir have also visited lots of local rest homes – they have been busy entertaining and bringing lots of Christmas spirit to all!

The small choir have been involved in performing a carol, sung in latin. The performance has been taped and will soon be on the internet as part of a Gazette run competition for the best school performance of a carol.

YEAR 10 ENRICHMENT DAY

On Thursday 27th November, the English faculty arranged for 107 pupils from Year 10 to go to the cinema to see *Quantum of Solace* as part of their Enrichment Day. The pupils that attended behaved fantastically and all seemed to really enjoy the trip. On return to the school, pupils wrote reviews of the film for a piece of coursework. **Sam Mason** (10RA) said *"the graphics and effects were brilliant"*. Most of the reviews recommended that others should see the film.

ALIENS HAVE LANDED

Year 8 Aliens day was a great success. All pupils took part in designing aliens, and preparing a newspaper article about their habitats. The winners were **8FT pupils**, some of which were asked to go along to the City Learning Centre and to produce a "wish you were here" style video. Well done to all involved and congratulation to all **pupils in 8FT**.



PRIMARY SATS MORNING AT PALATINE

We have been delighted to offer a number of local primary schools the opportunity to become involved with some very successful SATS sessions focussing on English, Maths and Science.

The mornings have been planned so that the year six pupils enjoy their time at Palatine but also receive help with the essential skills they need to be successful with their end of year tests.

The first morning with Revoe County Primary was a huge success;

"The morning was great! The pupils really enjoyed the sessions and are looking forward to returning to Palatine"
Year Six Teacher

This is just one in a series of projects and schemes run for our local primary schools, and will hopefully help year six children to settle in to secondary school in a comfortable and confident manner.

Year 7 pupils helped out - thank you to all.

ILLUMINAT8

Six students from our School Council represented Palatine at the Illuminat8 Conference held at Blackpool Football Club, run by Blackpool Young People's Council. The purpose of the event was to give young people the opportunity to express their opinions on how Blackpool Council could improve their lives. Three workshops were held to discuss the main issues that young people asked to be sorted out; like bullying, being safe on the streets, under age drinking, gambling, safe places to go in the evenings, cheaper prices for locals at local attractions. All these questions and suggestions will be looked at by "Blackpool's Light" a group dedicated to getting their own and their peers' opinions heard on the nine priorities of the Children and Young Peoples Plan. To find out what's going on near you look at the Blackpool Youth Directory on www.rubothered.co.uk.



HEARING 2 HELP

The main role of the Peer Mentors at Palatine is to offer additional support, especially for the new Year 7 students, encouraging them with school work, helping build their confidence and self-esteem, and promoting positive participation in school life starting with a Year 7 Only after-school club run by the Peer Mentors in the first half-term. Throughout the year Peer Mentors offer a 1:1 listening service called "Hearing 2 Help", where any student can talk privately and confidentially to someone of their own age. The quality work that the Palatine Peer Mentors are doing has been recognised by the Mentoring & Befriending Foundation who now acknowledges school as an Approved Provider.



BBC Children in Need Palatine Students and Staff all worked hard together to raise **£1063.87** towards Children in Need this year. We held a non uniform day and lots of students got involved with additional fund raising activities through sponsorship. Students and staff can feel proud of their efforts towards this very worth while charity.

SEALIFE CENTRE COMPETITION

All of Year 7 pupils were given the opportunity to write a story entitled 'My Encounter with a Sea Monster' during English lessons. The competition was run by Blackpool Sealife Centre and was open to all Blackpool Secondary Schools. Some fantastic entries were submitted and **Thomas Griffiths** in 7CL won overall. Due to **Thomas'** entry being so good, the judges have allowed all of Year 7 at Palatine free entry to the Sealife Centre. The English faculty are now busy arranging a trip for Year 7 to attend in April 2009. **Well done Thomas!**



FIVE GENERATIONS OF MENTORS

Five generations of Mentoring at Palatine got together for this year's Training Day at the West Coast Rock Cafe after a generous offer of a venue from ex-Mayor Robert Wynne. Blackpool Young People's Council Youth Opportunities group funded the day and extra support came from Ai Claims Solutions as this year, two ex-Lead Peer Mentors, **Scott Burnett** and **Stacey Sagar**, both work at Ai. When Scott left Palatine in 2003 he bought a trophy that is now presented on Achievement Evening each year to the Peer Mentor who has made the biggest difference; **Stacey** won it in 2004 and **David Nickson** in 2005. Last year's recipient is the present Lead Peer Mentor, **Martin Pope** and with Learning Mentor Peter Holden (also Peer Mentor Co-ordinator) that makes five generations of mentoring. **Wade Walmsley** was this year's recipient of the award for his total commitment to restructuring the peer mentor recruitment process and for sharing the workload on the training day.



Front row: Louise Riley, Peter Holden, David Nickson. From left to right behind: Katie Husband, Wade Walmsley, Scott Burnett, Martin Pope, Hannah Richardson, Alex Kirkby, Stacey Sagar, James Rae, Mark Ellis, Brian Brown, Matthew Csonge, Jack Kelly. Insert shows Scott, Martin, Wade and Stacey at the 2008 Achievement Evening.

CHESS CLUB

Fourteen students qualified for the 2008 British Land Chess Megafinal at Hodgson High School in Poulton; and out of the 400 entrants, two of our students made it through to the Gigafinal in Manchester. **Aaron Walmsley** (Year 11) and **Jonathan Toth** (Year 9) went with **Peter Holden** (Learning Mentor) for a full day event at the University of Manchester. The competition started at 9.30 on Sunday morning and out of the six games played they did extremely well playing head to head against the best chess juniors in the North West; despite the distraction of thunder and rain all day. Unfortunately neither of them made it through to the Terafinal in Sheffield, only missing out by a point each. **The 2009 competition starts in February in the Year 7 Learning Base during Friday lunch times.**

