

Connexions Support A reminder that Connexions are available in school to give advice and support. This term we will be concentrating on seeing Y11 students to ensure they are making well informed choices for Post16 options. Saturday 28th November we are holding an open morning from 10 am—1pm at our Lichfield centre, address: Venture House, Davidson Road, Lichfield WS14 9DZ. This will be aimed at Y11 students, parents and carers. Please ring or drop in for more details. From December onward we will start working with staff and students to help support Y9 students with their option choices. Connexions Advisors in school this year are Lynne Bateman and Jemma Bowen. Contact us either via school office, email lynne.bateman@cxstaffs.co.uk, or Tel No. 01543 510683

Autumn Half Term 2009

26 - 30.10.09 Half Term Break

05.11.09 Senior Maths Challenge Y12/13
 09.11.09 English GCSE Re-Sit
 10.11.09 6th Form Open Evening
 12.11.09 English GCSE Re-Sit
 16.11.09 Y11 Mentoring Week
 19.11.09 Science Module Exams
 25.11.09 Y9 Sexual Health Day
 01 - 11.12.09 Y11 Mock Exams
 08.12.09 Y12/13 Parents Evening
 14.12.09 Christmas Concert
 17.12.09 Y12/13 Presentation Evening

21.12.09 - 01.01.10 Christmas Break

11.01 - 03.02.10 External Examinations
 13.01.10 Y11 Parents Evening
 25.01.10 Y10 Parents Evening
 11.02.10 Y9 Parents Evening
 12.02.10 Y11 Coursework Deadline

15 - 19.02.10 Half Term Break

02.03.10 Y7 Parents Evening
 03.03.10 Science Module Exams
 10.03.10 Y8 Parents Evening

02 - 14.04.10 Easter Break

15.04.10 INSET
 16.04.10 INSET

Summer Term 2010

During this term Y7,8,10, 11 & 13
 Reports will be issued

03.05.10 Bank Holiday School Closed

11.05 - 25.06 External Examinations

31.05 - 04.06 Half Term

14.06 - 25.06 Y10 Mock Exams
 21.06 - 25.06 KS3 Assessment Week
 07.07.10 Summer Concert
 08.07.10 New Y12 Induction Day
 09.07.10 New Y12 Induction Day
 12.07 - 16.07 Y10/Y12 Work Experience Week
 15.07.10 Summer Showcase
 21.07 - 23.10 Enrichment Days & Music Trip

26.07.10 - 03.09.10 Summer Holiday



Maths & Computing

Nether Stowe School A Mathematics and Computing College

Autumn Newsletter 2009

Dear reader

We began the term by celebrating our success in the recent examinations, especially at KS4. We made real and significant progress in terms of the percentage of students getting 5 A-C grades reaching our highest ever rate of 54% and also in the percentage of students gaining 8 passes, up some 11% from last year. On average, student achieved half a grade higher in every subject compared to last year. We are not at all complacent about our success and there are many areas that we wish to see improve, especially the numbers of students gaining top grades in English and Maths. However, we are justly proud of our progress which results from good teaching, focused preparation in the run up to the exams and tracking pupil progress. We continue to be very grateful for the support of our parents in helping us to help their children.

Over the summer holiday we have been able to complete work to improve the environment of the school. We have created new dining facilities and a self-serve shop where students can select their own sandwiches and salads. It has proved a very successful move. We will shortly be introducing a cashless system whereby staff do not have to handle cash, which should increase the service speed at lunchtime and break time.

We have also opened the "Learning Zone" a new IT centre with modern equipment and furnishings. The use of glass panels has created a very light and airy room very suited to 21st Century learning. The sixth form also have their own area within the zone providing them with an area for independent working throughout the day.

Over the coming weeks you will continue to see improvements to the fabric of the buildings. We have finally made progress with the insurance claim and should have the mobile classrooms back in action soon. We have also been successful in obtaining some additional funding to improve the school reception area. In response to parents requests we will be making this much more open plan with a private area to speak about confidential matters. Please bear with us, as

these alterations are bound to cause some interruptions to the smooth and effective running of the school office.

Thank you for your continued support of Nether Stowe. I have been really heartened by the many positive comments we have received from parents, local organisations and councillors about the work staff and pupils have been doing, both in school and in the wider community.

Ruth Poppleton

PARKINGThe school driveway and car park should NOT be used to drop off or collect your child/ children. If you feel it necessary to bring your vehicle onto the school premises you must ask for permission from Mrs J Evans. Thank you.



Basic Skills Quality Mark

On Monday 13th July we were thrilled to be awarded the prestigious Basic Skills Quality mark.

After a gruelling assessment we were judged to have met the very exacting criteria for the award which celebrates the tremendous hard work of all of our staff in ensuring that children leave Nether Stowe with a firm foundation in all the basic skills. It not only covers numeracy and literacy but ICT and social skills. The assessor was bowled over with the extent to which staff knew their students, providing for different needs and working in partnership with them.

Y7 laid siege to Tamworth Castle as part of their study of Medieval Realms.

The Castle is one of many Motte and Bailey castles constructed during the early Middle Ages to enable William the Conqueror to secure control of England. Our students enjoyed a workshop learning about Medieval warfare, with some donning armour and handling weapons. They all joined in training as a soldier of the time using replica bills and learning how to handle them. Fortunately all escaped with their lives! Students filled in worksheets, stamped coins, rubbed brasses, experienced punishment in the stocks and searched for the castle ghosts!

The staff at the castle once again commented on the good behaviour of the Nether Stowe pupils.



Specialism and Community Update

Over the summer holidays nearly 200 hundred students made use of the Nether Stowe Summer School. Teachers and Albion Foundation staff put on events that included cartoon making and visits to professional sporting facilities. The students had such a wonderful time that this half term we are creating more opportunities for them to engage in different activities

When the students returned in September they will have noticed a few improvements to the ICT facilities including the old pupil study area being transformed into a 21st century teaching space. Equipped with nearly 50 PC's, quiet work areas and consultation room, it is an inspirational learning arena. The PC's employ the latest green technology using less power they have a much smaller carbon footprint. As the only school in the UK to be deploying this technology with the latest server technology from Microsoft, we are working closely with the developers in Israel to support other schools who wish to move forward with the latest technology.

We've started an exciting partnership with Dains Accountants. They have created three job opportunities for our Y11 students to apply for. Even though the students won't gain actual employment they will all gain valuable experience in filling out application forms and attending interviews. The eventual winners will be given the opportunity to complete an extended period of work experience within the company as well as a small prize.

In October we had the official opening of the Family and Business Learning Centre. Students and staff were joined by members of the District council and local business community. Rob Koren (West Bromwich Albion and International footballer) cut the ribbon to this state of the art learning centre. At the start of the next half term I will be inviting you to come to the new Learning Centre to find out about the new online reporting system that we will be using to share student progress with you. There will be a number of sessions that will explain how to access the information via the school learning platform.

Mr Peace

Outstanding performances were given by Jason Pilsbury, Jordan Yearsley, Catherine Feld, Tom Lovell, Jake Birch, Anya Perry, Leika Nell, Joel Stevens and Kieren Shannon when the Y7, 8 and 9 students took part in a fast factors competition. Students had the opportunity to take on members of the maths department where Jason and Jordan defeated Mrs Smith and Mr Bould respectively. Mrs Reynolds, Mr Hipwell and Mr Jay remain undefeated.